

TEXAS SPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY

THE CAVES OF FAR-WEST TEXAS

VOLUME IV NUMBER 2
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TEXAS SPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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TEXAS SPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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THE CAVES OF FAR WEST TEXAS

James R. Reddell and Ronald G. Fieseler
Editors

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As always, many people have made considerable contributions to the production of this issue of the TSS. We wish in particular to thank the following cavers for contributing reports, maps, or biological specimens which were used in the preparation of this report: Dwight Deal, James Estes, Ruben (Bud) Frank, Scott Harden, Grainger Hunt, Tony Mollhagen, Ron Ralph, Bill Russell, Robert Schroeder, Lee Skinner, A. Richard Smith, and Mike Wharton. Mr. Michael E. Whalen of the El Paso Centennial Museum very generously made available maps and descriptions of archeological caves in El Paso County. Mr. Ron Kerbo of the Guadalupe Mountains National Park kindly provided us with maps and descriptions of the known caves of the park. And, finally, although a member of the TSS staff, Carl Kunath must be thanked for drafting essentially all of the maps used in this issue.

The following biologists provided identifications of fauna collected in the caves of this region: Thomas C. Barr, Jr., carabid beetles; Richard C. Froeschner, hemipterans, W. J. Gertsch, spiders; R. D. Gordon, meloid and coccinellid beetles; Theodore H. Hubbell, crickets; John M. Kingsolver, dermestid and trogid beetles; Tony Mollhagen, bats; F. D. Parker, bees; T. J. Spilman, tenebrionid beetles; R. E. Warner, curculionid beetles; and R. E. White, chrysomelid beetles.

GENERAL CAVE AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE PRESERVATION POLICY CARLSBAD CAVERNS AND GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARKS

1. The locations of caves and archeological sites found in Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks will not be disclosed to the general public except at the discretion of the Superintendent. The reason for this policy is to further strengthen protection of these resources from unauthorized entry and vandalism. If any exceptions to this policy are felt necessary, they should be submitted to the Superintendent in writing for consideration.

2. Special Regulations provide:

"With the exception of regular trips into Carlsbad Caverns and New Cave under the guidance or supervision of employees of the National Park Service, no person shall enter any cave or undeveloped part or passageway of any cave situated within Carlsbad Caverns or Guadalupe Mountains National Park without prior permission of the Superintendent in writing.

"Such permission will be granted only to individuals representing recognized scientific or educational institutions engaged in investigations which have demonstrable value to the National Park Service in its management and understanding of cave resources."

INTRODUCTION

This issue of the Texas Speleological Survey includes all of the known caves in El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, and Presidio Counties and all of the caves, exclusive of the gypsum plain, known for Culberson County. In addition, it includes many doubtful caves and many rumored caves. We have included only those shelters which have been given the name "cave" and are referred to in published reports as "caves." The incredible number of shelters in the mountains of West Texas makes an attempt to include these an overwhelming task and one of only incidental interest to cavers.

Although the majority of the caves included in this issue are small, a few are of significance because of their size and/or depth. Most notable, perhaps, are Helms West Well and Plateau Cave which rank among the deepest caves in the state. Others such as the caves at Balmorhea in Jeff Davis County have long and interesting histories. Many of the caves, also, are of considerable archeological or paleontological interest.

Cave exploration in Far West Texas began with the Indians and was continued by the earliest settlers and travellers in this region. Time did not allow as full a search of early literature as would be needed to fully document the history of the caves of this area, but still many of the early accounts have been cited.

There has never been a serious attempt to locate caves in this part of the state. Caves have been found, with only a few exceptions, by people interested in them for other reasons. Many were located originally by geologists and their reports led cavers to the caves. Others were found quite incidentally by biologists or archeologists, who also were involved to some extent in caving. Because of this incidental approach to gathering information, many of the cave descriptions and locations are very unsatisfactory. Many of the caves are not located on the county location maps, for this reason. The caves in the Guadalupe Mountains National Park are not located in accordance with National Park Service policy. This policy is included following the acknowledgments and should be carefully read and heeded by anyone wishing to cave in the park.

No geology section has been included with this issue because of the incredible complexity of Far West Texas. To properly prepare a geologic report on so vast an area would require an incredible amount of time and would even then be woefully inadequate. Caves occur not only in limestones of many different formations and geologic ages, but in almost every other conceivable type of rock, ranging from conglomerates to rhyolites.

The most promising areas in Far West Texas for finding new caves are in the large, sparsely inhabited and difficult of access, mountain ranges. Persistent rumors of large, deep caves throughout this area are not merely the wild tales of treasure hunters nor the wishful thinking of cavers. The existence of caves such as Plateau Cave and Helms West Well indicate that significant caves do exist and that more will be found. We have no doubt that the persistent caver will some day find a large, deep cave system somewhere in what still remains a near-wilderness.

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| 1. | Bloy's Pit | Kent | 110' | 50' | 1 |
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| *3. | Cheveros Cave | GMNP | 100' | 70' | 2 |
| *4. | Collapse Dome Cave | GMNP | 100' (?) | 50' | 2 |
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| | | | | | |
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Rumors

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| Unnamed cave | Davis Mtns. | | | 90 |

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| | | | | |
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Doubtful Caves and Shelters

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* Caves marked with an asterisk are not located on the location maps.

ALTERNATE NAMES:

Anthony Cave - Mongue Cave
Balmorhea Cave No. 1- Kingston's Dry Cave No. 3
Balmorhea Caves Nos. 1 and 2 - Kingston's Dry Cave No. 1-2
Balmorhea Cave No. 3 - Kingston's Dry Cave No. 1-2; Kingston's Wet Cave
Balmorhea Water Cave - Kingston's Wet Cave
Barlow Cave - Von Streeruwitz' Magnetic Hole
Bat Cave - Diablo Bat Cave
Beatrice's Cave - Cueva de Beatriz
Coates Blowhole - Eagle Mountains Cave
Council Chamber Cave - Comanche Cave
500-Foot Cave - Plateau Cave
Flea Cave - Eagle Mountains Cave
Goatshed Cave - Windlass Cave
Gold Cave - Plateau Cave
Hueco Mountains Shaft - Helms West Well
Hueco Sink - Helms West Well
Indian Cave - Williams Cave
Kent Bat Cave - Windlass Cave
Mask Cave - Cueva de las Mascaras
McAdoo Bat Cave - Diablo Bat Cave
Phantom Cave - Kingston's Dry Cave No. 1-2
Phantom Lake Cave - Kingston's Dry Cave No. 1-2; Kingston's Wet Cave
Skunk Cave - Powderkeg Cave
Three-Hole Cave - Cueva de las Tres Tinajitas
Windless Cave - Windlass Cave

Culberson County

BLOYS' PIT

Culberson County #1

Kent 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Reynolds Cattle Co.

Description: Three sink entrances in dirt descend through sandstone into limestone, where at a depth of about 50 ft several mud-choked crawls lead off, all of which quickly end. The total length of the cave is about 110 ft and it receives much floodwater.

History: It was explored on August 7, 1962, by Nick Lucas, O. Estes, and Grainger Hunt.

Ref: G. Hunt

BOTTOM CAVE

Culberson County #2

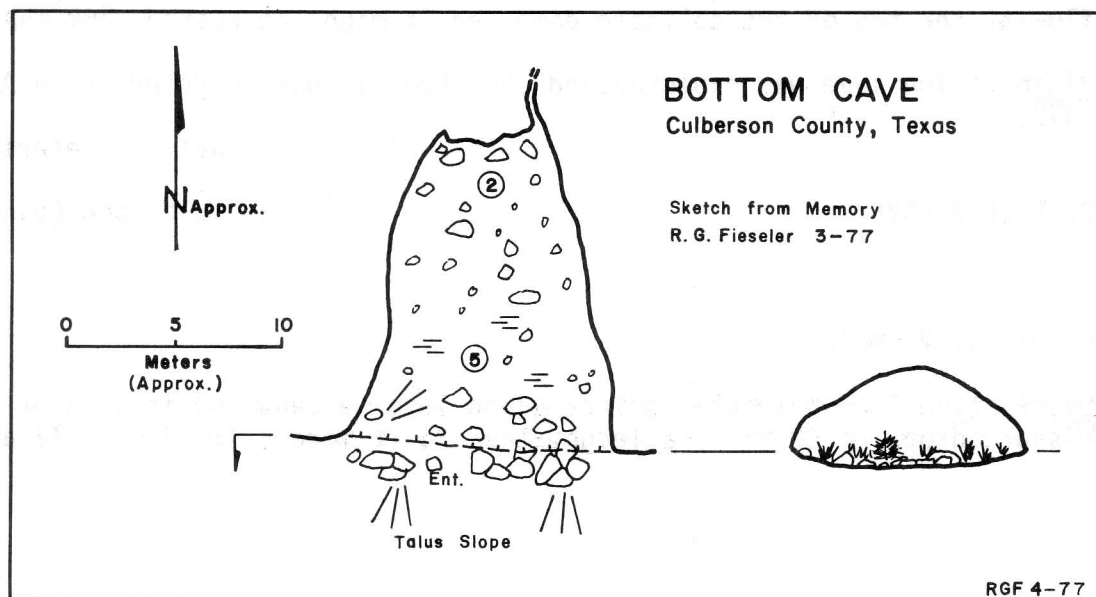
Guadalupe Peak 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: The large arch-shaped entrance measures about 5 to 7 m high and 10 to 15 m wide. The rock-strewn floor is dry and covered with dirt, organic debris, and animal droppings. The cave narrows and eventually becomes choked off except for a squeeze to the right which also ends after a very short distance. The total length of the cave is only 20 to 25 m and it is basically level, although it rises slightly near the back.

History: This cave is associated with the old stories of the Sublett Mine. If one sights along two old nails in a large tree at the bottom of the canyon, they line up with this cave, causing some to believe that this is the treasure cave of the old legends. Adding credence to this is the fact that two relatively large solution pockets are located directly above this cave, giving an unnatural appearance to the view--as if they were placed there by the hand of man as a sign or for some other reason. The cave was explored by Ronald G. Fieseler and Tom Meador in July 1967.

Ref: R. Fieseler.



CHEVEROS CAVE (GUMO C-12)

Culberson County #3

Guadalupe Peak 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: The entrance to Cheveros Cave is an almost circular sink 30 ft in diameter and dropping 15 ft. At the bottom of the sinkhole a passage trending N 80° E extends for 40 ft to a 55 ft deep drop. At the bottom of this drop a horizontal passage extends for 60 ft. The cave has water rounded cobble floors with flowstone and popcorn on the walls. Several chockstone groups are located in the fissure-type drop. See map, page 3.

Biology: Bats (Plecotus townsendii and Eptesicus fuscus) have been seen in the upper level and the bottom level contains much insect life and appears to be a good salamander habitat.

History: The cave was mapped by Charlie Peterson on an unknown date. Nothing else is known of the history of this cave.

Ref: C. Peterson

COLLAPSE DOME CAVE (GUMO C-11)

Culberson County #4

Guadalupe Peak 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: This cave is entered by a shelter-like opening. After about 20 ft two joint-controlled passages lead off. The passage to the left extends a short distance to a four-way intersection. It is not known if these passages quickly end or not. The main passage extends an additional 20 ft while descending 20 ft in two separate drops. At this point the passage intersects a collapse dome. This dome is "one sided" and drops another 30 ft before pinching down. The joint passage and dome are almost a uniform 3 ft wide. The cave is very dry and dusty with few formations except flowstone. No equipment is needed to explore it. There is air flow at the top of the collapse dome and it might be pushed. See map, page 4.

History: The cave was explored and sketched by Charlie Peterson on April 7, 1973.

Ref: C. Peterson

COLLIER'S CAVE

Culberson County #5

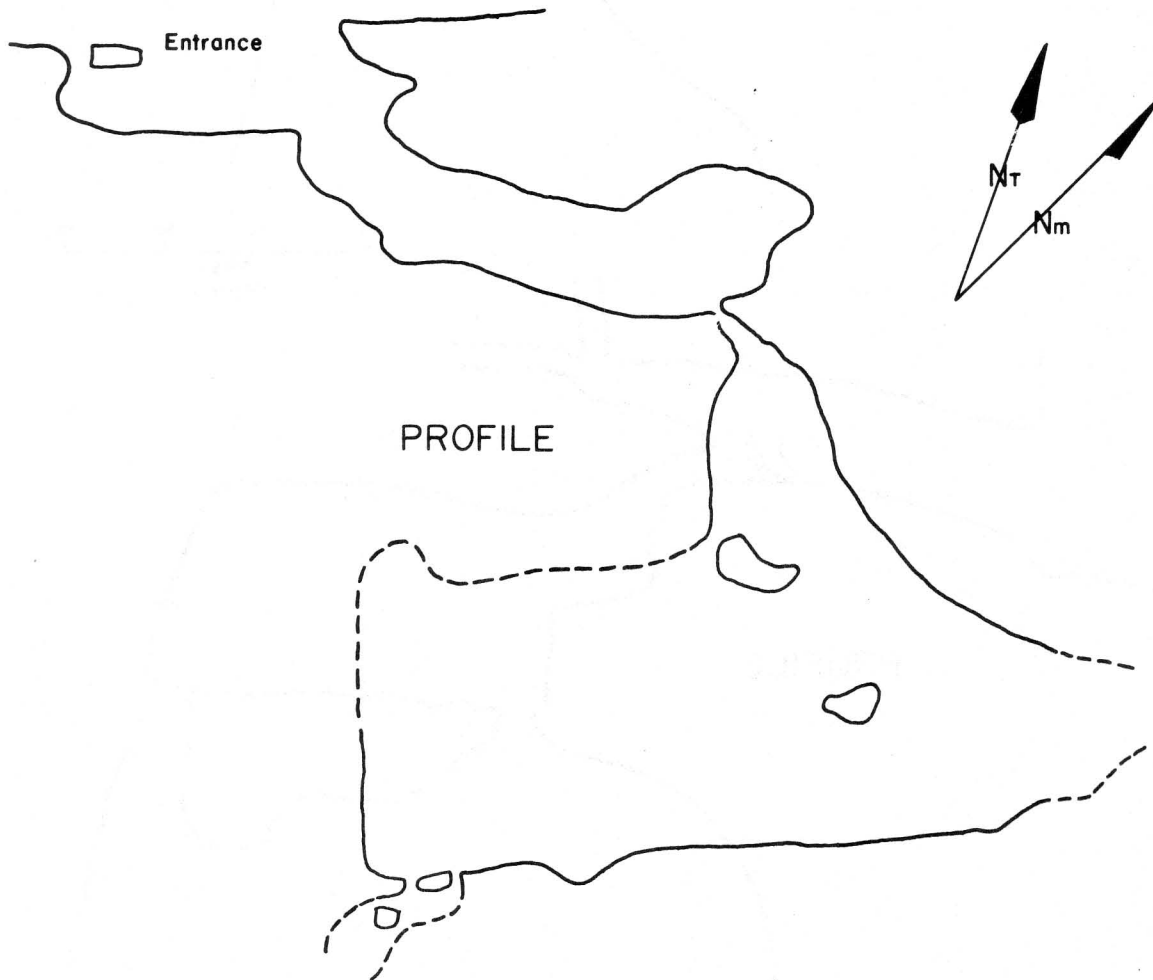
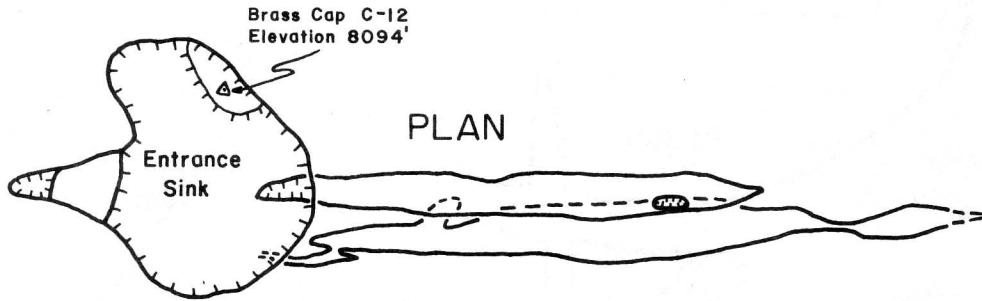
Owner: J. V. McAdoo

Description: The entrance is located on level ground and is an 8 by 15 ft fissure dropping 20 ft to a ledge, then 35 ft more. Two domes, 12 and 15 ft

CHEVEROS CAVE

Culberson County, Texas

HAND-HELD BRUNTON & TAPE SURVEY
CHARLIE PETERSON



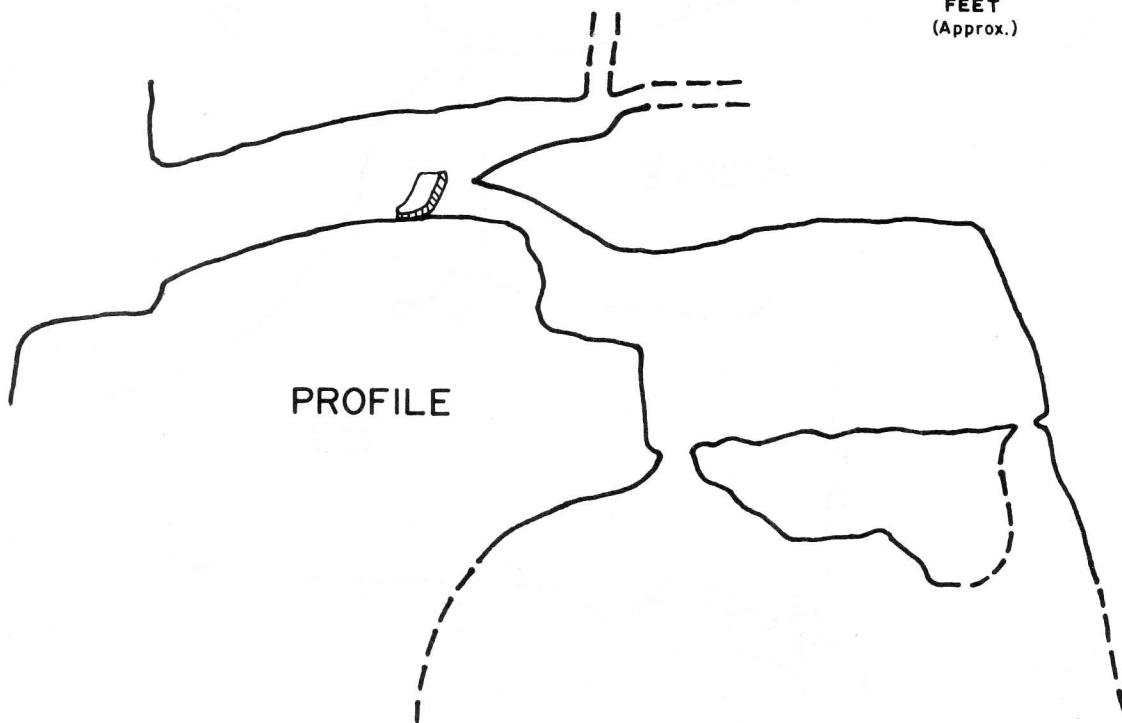
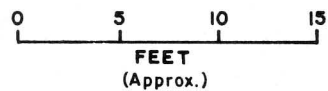
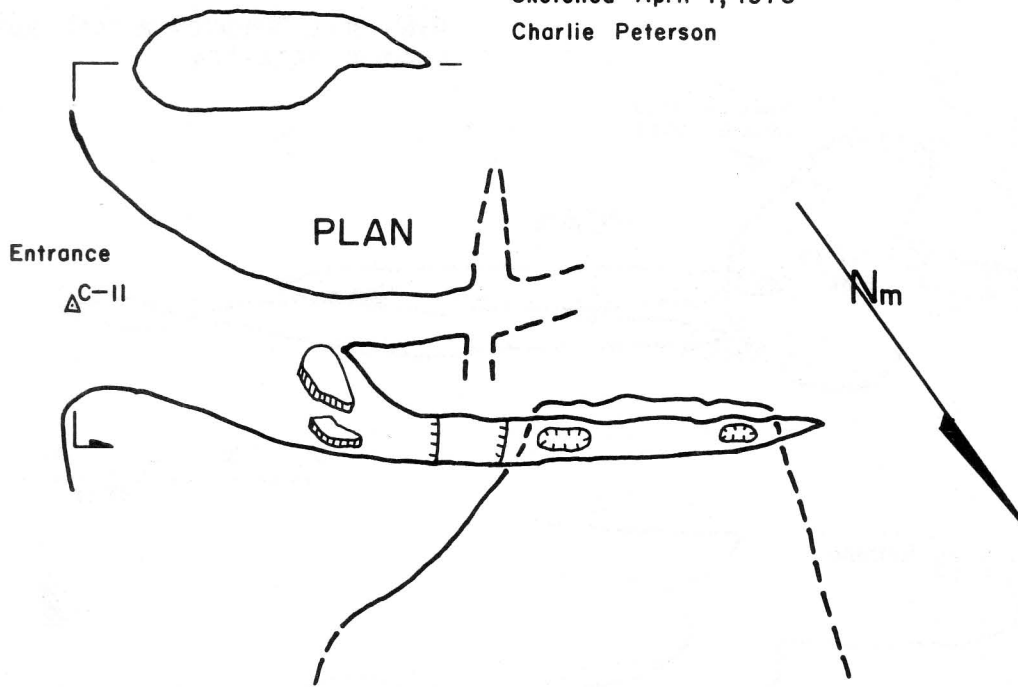
RGF 4-77

COLLAPSE-DOME CAVE

Culberson County, Texas

Sketched April 4, 1973

Charlie Peterson



RGF 4-77

high, occur in this area, as do a couple of crawls ending in silt and guano fill. The main passage extends down a gentle slope to a narrow squeeze into a passage about 180 ft long. Near the middle of this passage there are a couple of small sinks which are connected by a squeezeway about 30 ft long. Directly above this there is a difficult 30 ft chimney. The cave contains much breakdown and silt-guano fill in the passages and there are a few live formations near the end of the cave. It is a total of 278 ft long and 73 ft deep. See map, page 6.

History: The cave has been known locally for more than 30 years and is rumored to have been the hideout of a band of outlaws. The Texas Rangers are reported to have had to go into the cave to get them. It was explored and mapped on 24 March 1968 by Rod Crowder and Elbert Bassham.

Bibliography: Bassham, E. 1968. Diablo Bat Cave - Collier's Cave. Texas Caver, 13:68, 74.

Bassham, E. 1971. Cave surveying techniques. El Paso Archaeol. Soc. Handbook Ser., 1. 12 p.

Ref: TSS files

CROSS CAVE

Culberson County #6

Panther Canyon 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: J. B. Foster

Description: The entrance to Cross Cave is located in the Apache Mountains and is 60 ft high by 150 ft wide. This leads down a slope into a chamber about 180 ft long. Small dry formations occur on the ceiling and walls and small mounds of flowstone are on the floor. A crawlway from the room is too clogged with breakdown to allow an entrance. See map, page 7.

History: The cave was explored on September 19, 1959, by James Estes and Dorothy Haynes. A 12 inch by 8 inch cross was found carved on a large stone.

Bibliography: Haynes, D. 1959. Cross Cave--of the Apache Mountains. Texas Caver, 4:10.

U. S. Geological Survey. 1970. Panther Canyon Quadrangle. 7.5 Minute Series.

Wood, J. W. 1965. Geology of Apache Mountains, Trans-Pecos Texas. Ph.D. Dissertation. Austin: University of Texas. xv + 241 p.

Ref: TSS files

DIABLO BAT CAVE (BAT CAVE) (MCADOO BAT CAVE)

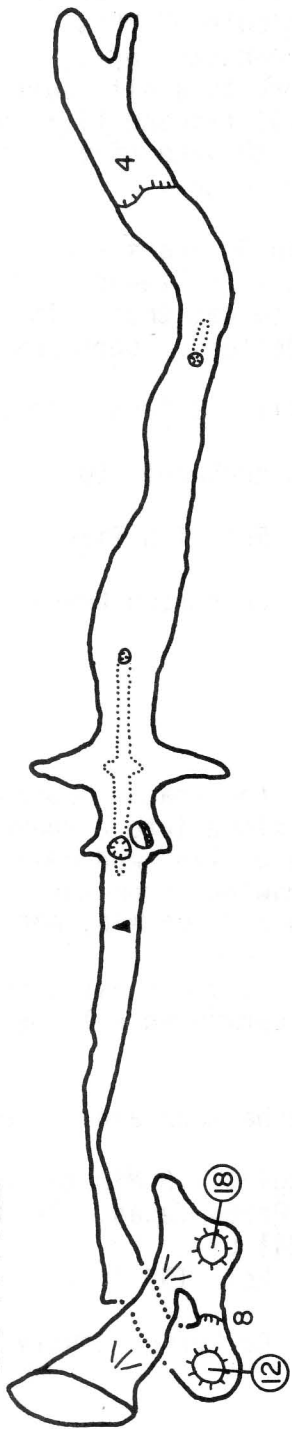
Culberson County #7

Sheep Peak 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: J. V. McAdoo

Description: The entrance to the cave is a 50 by 30 ft opening looking out over the valley fronting the Sierra Diablos. The entrance room is about 150 ft long and tapers to the back. When the cave was mapped there was

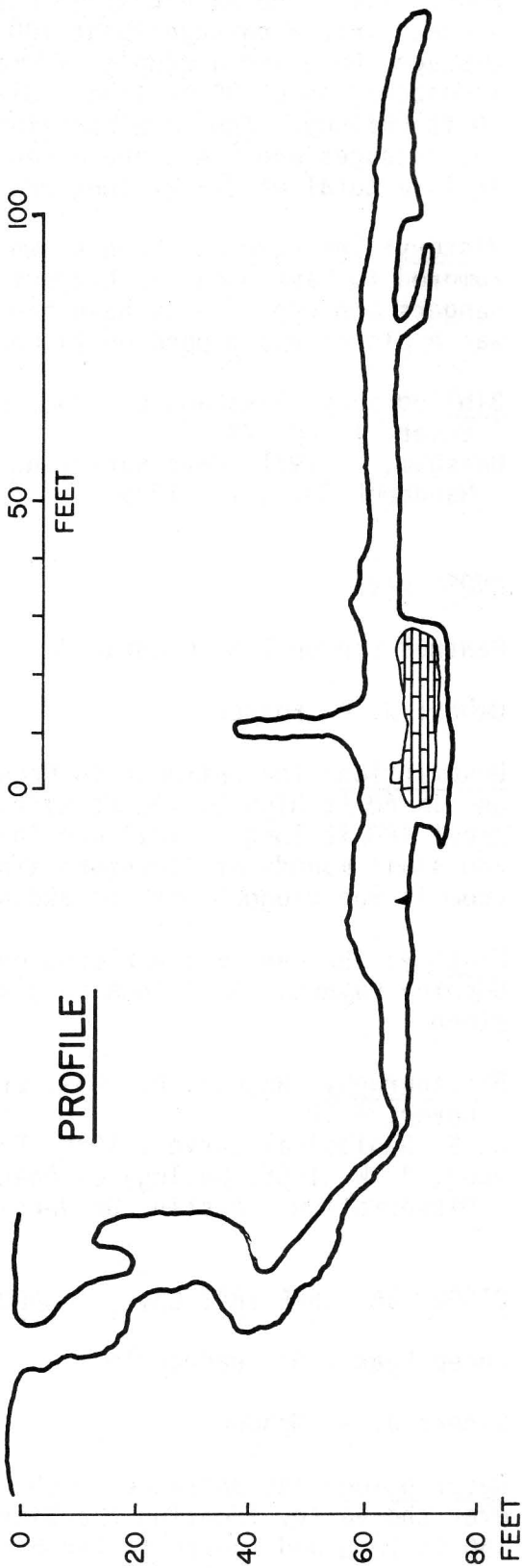
ENTRANCE



COLLIER'S CAVE

CULBERSON COUNTY (?), TEXAS

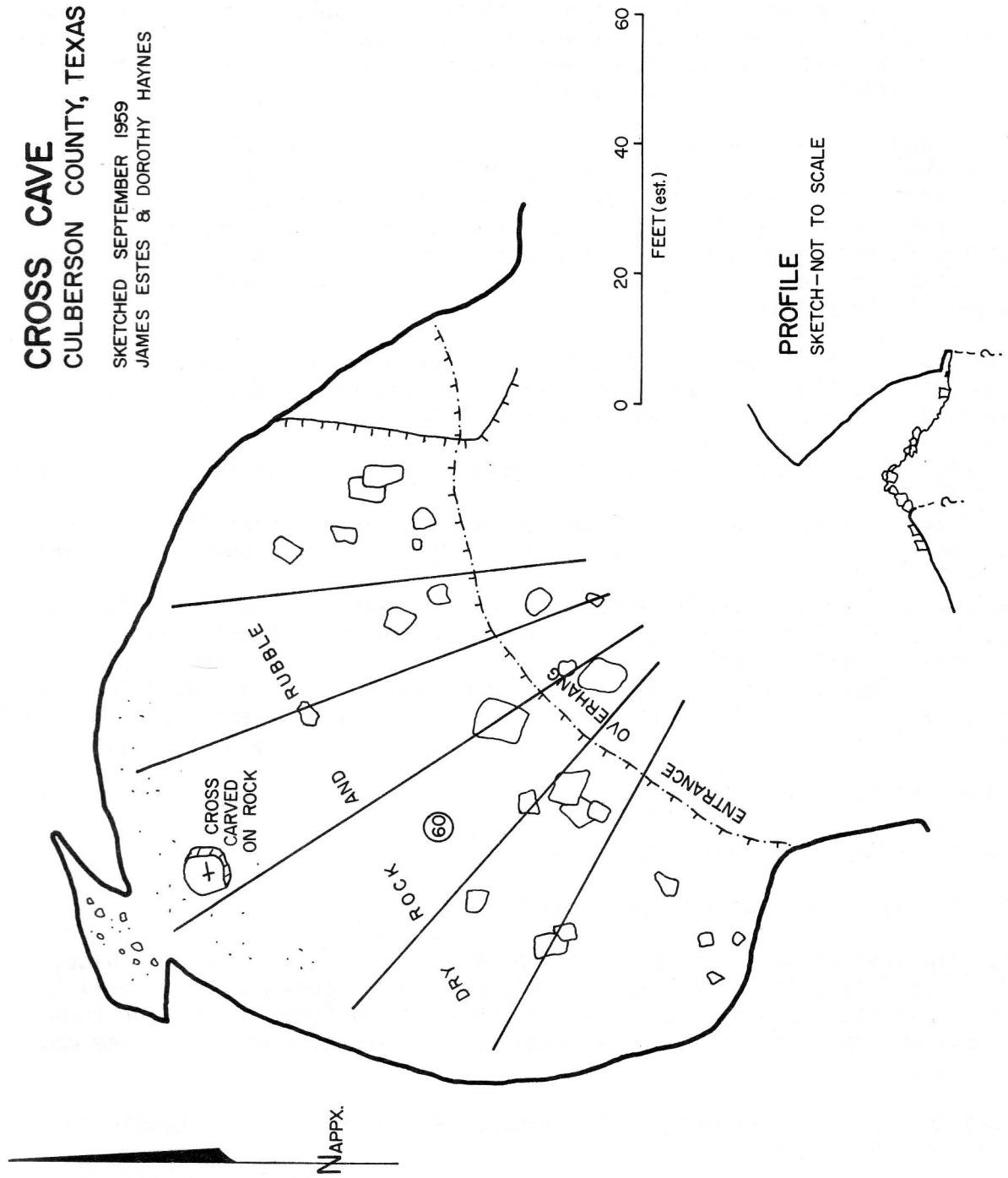
SURVEYED BY R. CROWDER, E. BASSHAM 3-24-68



CEK 8-76

CROSS CAVE CULBERSON COUNTY, TEXAS

SKETCHED SEPTEMBER 1959
JAMES ESTES & DOROTHY HAYNES



CEK 10-76

some guano and many dead bats lying on the floor. Two passages lead out from this room. One to the right extends about 50 ft before ending, while the other is reached by a difficult climb. At the top of this climb, a small passage leads to a drop to a 60 ft long room. The floor of this room leads steeply upward over breakdown. Near the back of this room four passages lead off. One to the left squeezes out in gypsum formations, one straight ahead is small and ends after 8 ft, one up to the left gets very small in gypsum formations and may have possibilities, and one to the right goes into a calcite formation area and has a lead on the other side of a 2-inch column. See map, page 9.

Archeology: This cave, reported by A. T. Jackson (1938) as Site No. 6 in Hudspeth County, was excavated by the West Texas Historical and Scientific Society in 1933. The cave contained large numbers of sandals, corn cobs, and other artifacts. It appears to have been inhabited by Basket Makers. Pictographs within the cave mouth include representations of humans, animals, and geometric designs. With two exceptions, they appear to be prehistoric.

History: The cave has been locally known for many years--probably since the first settlers arrived in the area. It was explored and mapped on March 24, 1968, by Rod Crowder and Elbert Bassham.

Bibliography: Anonymous. 1963. Unchecked Texas caving areas. Texas Caver, 8:65.
Bassham, E. 1968. Diablo Bat Cave - Collier's Cave. Texas Caver, 13:68, 74.
Jackson, A. T. 1938. Picture-writing of Texas Indians. Univ. Texas Publ., 3809. 490 p.
Smith, A. R. 1968. Distribution of caves in Texas. Texas Caver, 13:3-6.
Smith, V. J. 1933. Archaeological field work in North America during 1932. Texas. American Anthropol., n.s., 35:507.
U. S. Geological Survey. 1964. Sheep Peak Quadrangle. 7.5 Minute Series.
Widener, D. L., ed. 1959. Texas Cave Survey. Speleo Digest, 1958(1):296-320.
Ref: TSS files

GUMO CAVE C-09

Culberson County #8

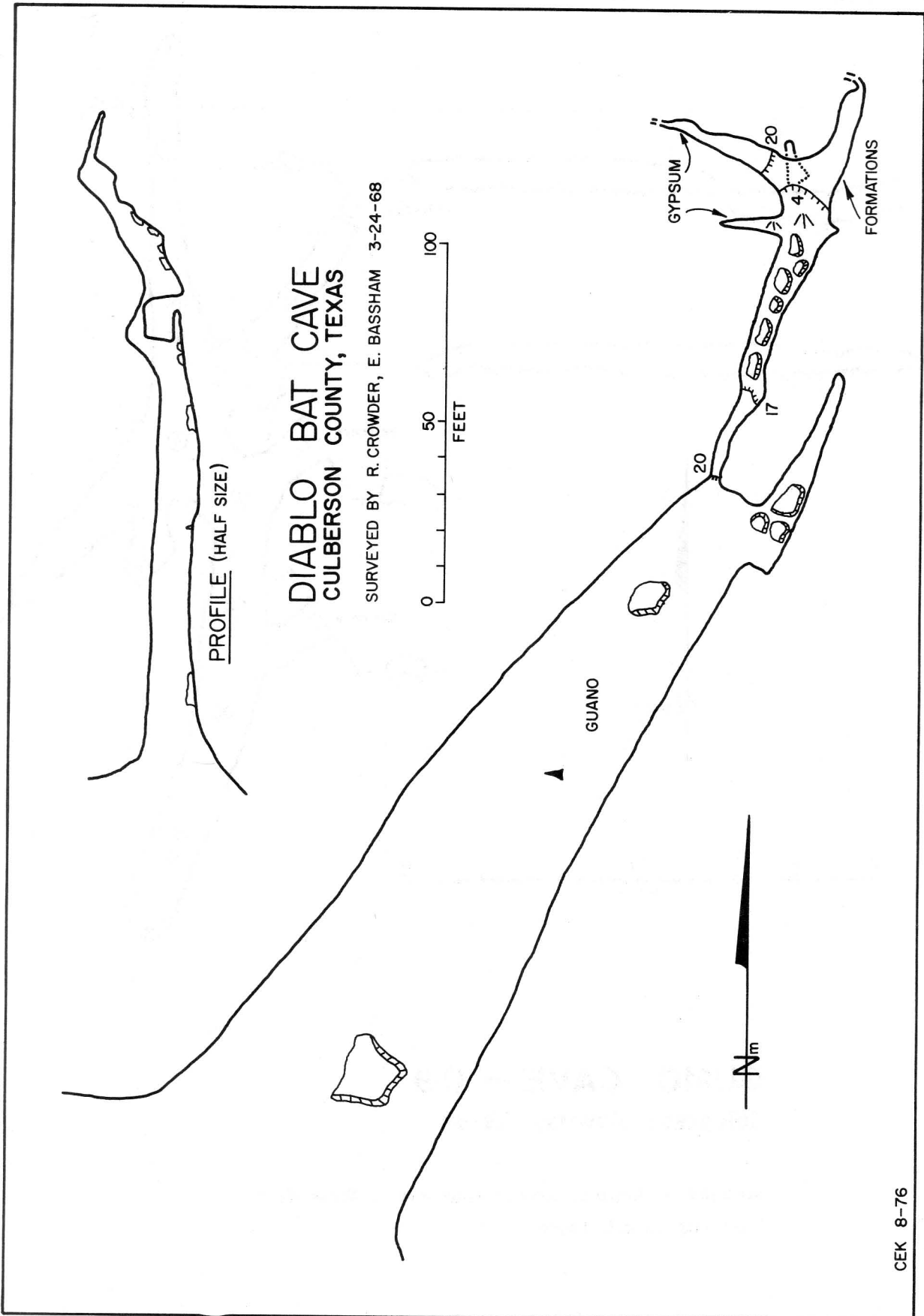
Guadalupe Peak 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

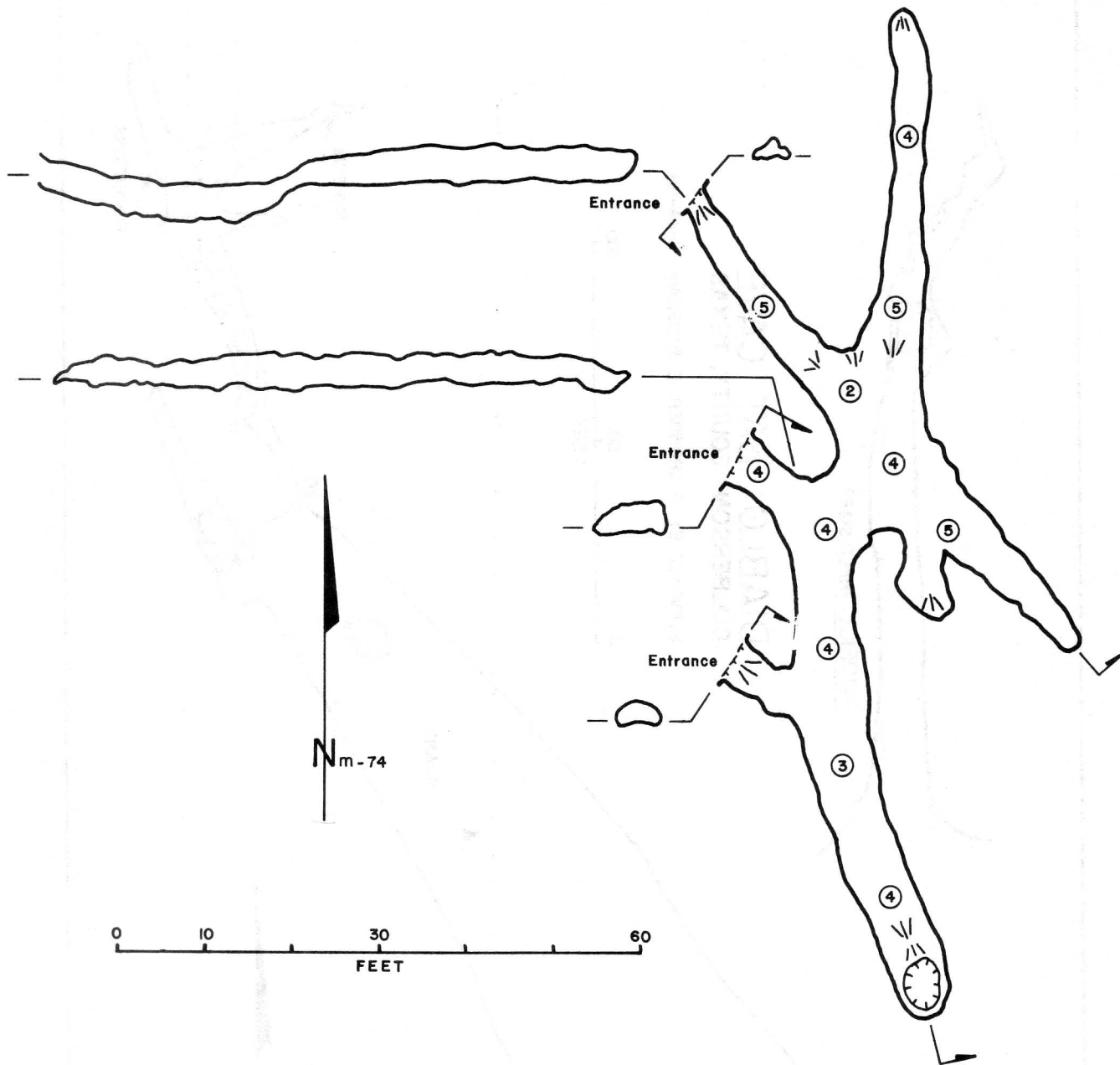
Description: The main entrance to the cave is 3 ft high and 18 ft wide. Two other entrances also lead into the cave which consists of several short passages with a total of about 200 ft. The floor is dry and formed almost entirely of silt. It is frequently utilized by animals. See map, page 10.

History: The cave was mapped in January 1974 by Steve Webb, Donnie Moore, and Lloyd E. Logan.

Ref: C. Peterson



CEK 8-76



GUMO CAVE — 09
Culberson County, Texas

Surveyed by Lloyd E. Logan, Dennis Moore, Steve Webb
 From map by L.E. Logan

HEGLER GOAT CAVE (GUMO C-02)

Culberson County #9

Guadalupe Peak 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: This cave is entered by a 10 ft high, 60 ft wide opening. A slope leads down into a chamber approximately 200 ft long, 120 ft wide, and up to 35 ft high. There is some breakdown near the entrance and a broken drapery formation at the back along the left wall. No passages lead from this room. See map, page 12.

History: This cave was explored on Easter morning by a group of deaf Boy Scouts. The Scouts who entered the cave were Zane Owen, Jarrell Barrow, Robbie Bowen, Larry Yanez, and George Finch. They found bottles, jars, plates, cans, lanterns, buckets, a shovel, a pick axe, a hatchet, a pot, and a fire place in the cave. The most recent names on the cave wall were accompanied by a 1939 date. The cave was sketched by George Martin following their discovery and an investigation by National Park personnel.

Bibliography: Joyce, C. 197 . Deaf scouts climb mountain summit. Austin newspaper.

Ref: TSS files

HUNTER'S WELL (GUMO C-03)

Culberson County #10

Guadalupe Peak 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

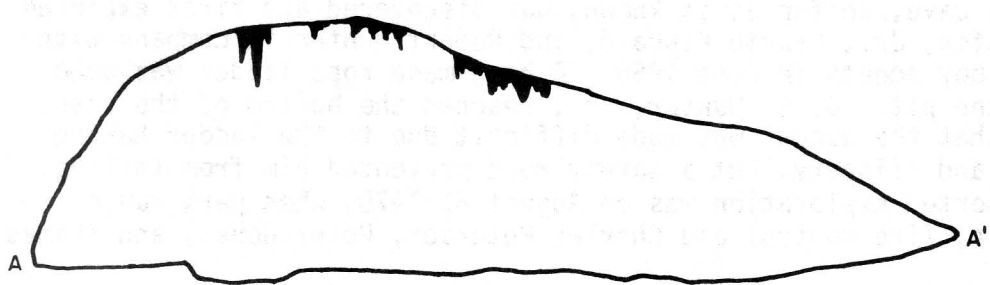
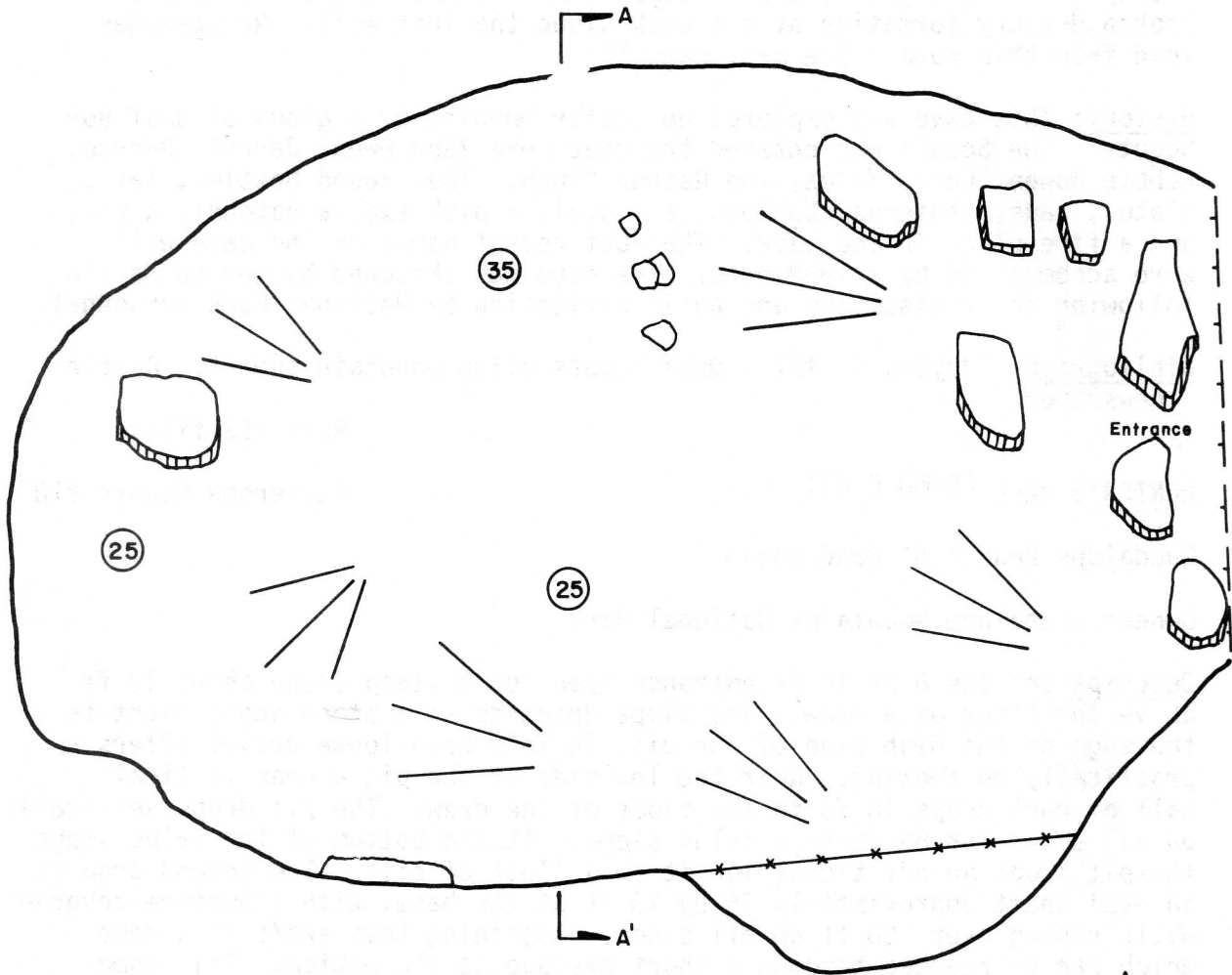
Description: The 8 by 10 ft entrance opens on a steep slope about 10 ft above the floor of a draw. The slope descends at a steep angle right to the edge of the high side of the pit; in this area loose gravel offers practically no footing. Near the low side of the pit a near vertical wall of rock drops 10 ft to the floor of the draw. The pit drops vertically on all sides for 85 ft to a talus slope. At the bottom of the talus slope the pit drops an additional 140 ft to a floor of silt. The second drop is an oval shaft approximately 36 by 18 ft at the base, with flowstone-covered walls rising over 100 ft on all sides. Adjoining this shaft is a dome which can be reached through a short passage at the bottom. This dome is about 15 by 6 ft and about 70 ft high. The only leads in the cave are openings high in the wall of the main shaft. The total depth of the cave is 225 ft. See map, page 14.

History: The cave, so far as is known, was discovered and first explored by J. C. Hunter, Jr., Laurie Kincaid, and Robert Hunter in company with a number of boy scouts in June 1955. A home-made rope ladder was used to descend the pit. J. C. Hunter, Jr., reached the bottom of the cave. He reports that the ascent was made difficult due to the ladder having become damp and slippery, but a safety rope prevented him from falling. The next reported exploration was on August 6, 1970, when park ranger George Martin, fire control aid Charles Peterson, Peter Jones, and Thomas

HEGLER GOAT CAVE

Culberson County, Texas

From Sketch by George Martin



RGF 4-77

Meador located the pit and descended to the bottom using a rappel-prusik technique. The cave was mapped at this time.

Ref: George Martin

LITTLE HUNTER'S WELL CAVE (GUMO C-10)

Culberson County #11

Guadalupe Peak 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: This cave is a 2 by 3 ft pit near the crest of a sloping ridge. The obscure entrance is in a very slight depression and almost hidden by vegetation. It drops 40 ft and has no side passages. Although the first 15 foot drop is climbable with difficulty, the second requires equipment. The cave is dry and small.

History: This cave was explored by Charlie Peterson on January 22, 1974.

Ref: C. Peterson

LOST CANTEEN CAVE

Culberson County #12

Guadalupe Peak 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: This cave is basically an irregularly-shaped solution pocket on the side of a cliff. Small crawlway protuberances extend from the entrance area for short distances. It was not completely explored due to lack of time, but it is felt that it will not be extensive. It is in excess of 25 ft long.

History: The cave was discovered and explored by Ronald G. Fieseler and Tom Meador in July 1967. It is named for a canteen which was lost at or near the cave.

Ref: R. G. Fieseler

LOWER SLOTH CAVE (GUMO C-05)

Culberson County #13

Guadalupe Peak 7.5' Quadrangle

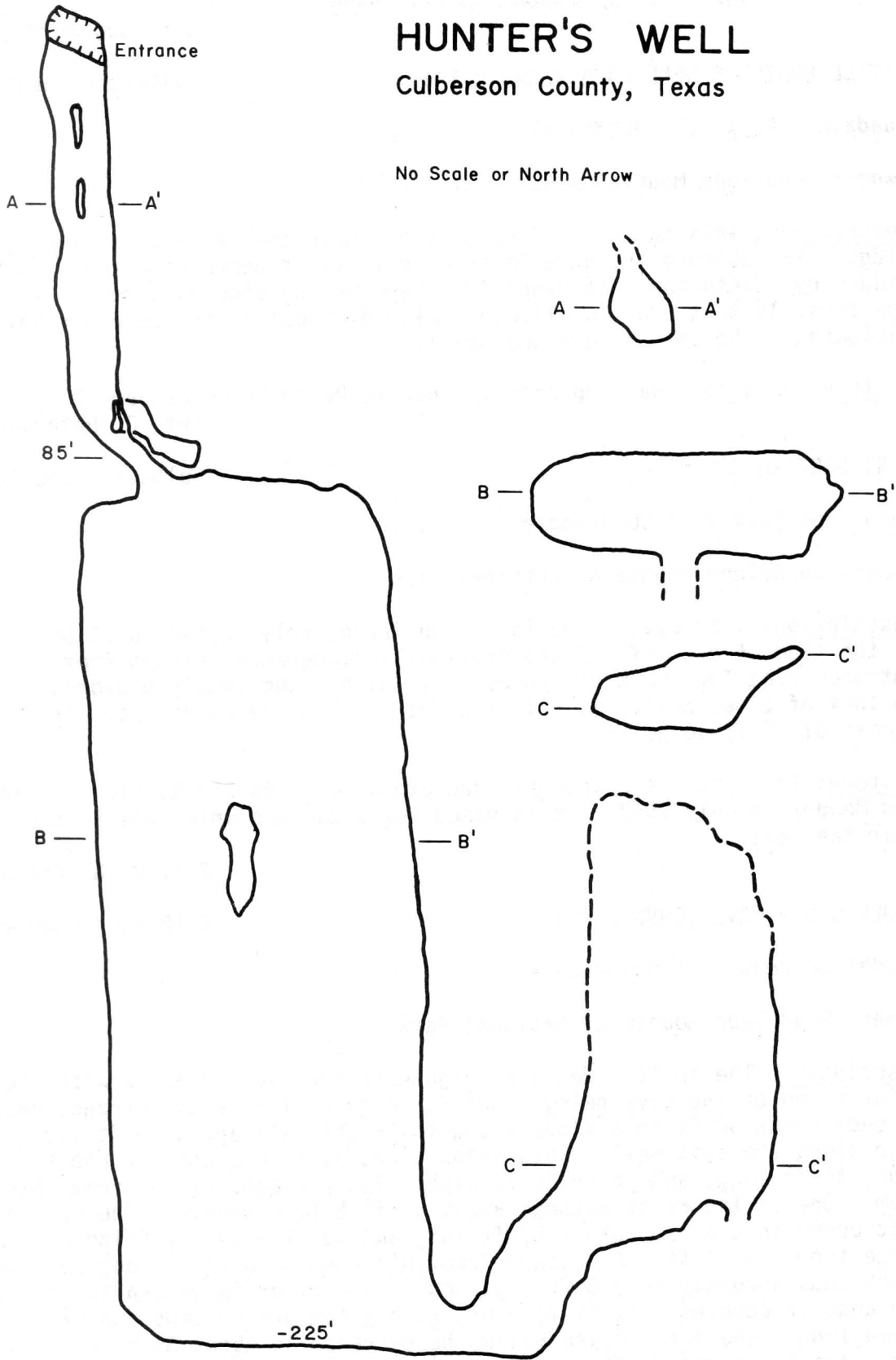
Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: The 15 ft wide, 5 ft high entrance faces N 30° W with the major trend of the cave being S 30° E. A generally level entrance passage extends about 50 ft to a slope along the right wall and a 35 ft vertical drop along the left wall. This leads directly into a chamber about 50 ft wide, 40 ft long, and up to 20 ft high. Two passages extend from this room. One to the right extends about 50 ft before ending. One on the left opens into a room about 60 ft long and 45 ft wide. Ceiling heights range from 2 to 7 ft. A passage from this room is a 50 ft long crawlway which ends abruptly in a 6 ft high dome. The floor is generally of silt and angular cobbles. It is very dry with a few dry columns and other formations. The total depth below the entrance is about 35 ft and the total length is about 500 ft. See map, page 16.

HUNTER'S WELL

Culberson County, Texas

No Scale or North Arrow



Paleontology: Lower Sloth Cave is of considerable importance due to the presence in it of sloth dung. This is one of the few known localities for this in the United States. No details of the paleontological finds in the cave are available, but dung collected in the cave has been dated at $11,590 \pm 230$ years before the present.

History: The cave was mapped in February 1974 by Steve Webb, Dennis Moore, and Lloyd E. Logan.

Ref: C. Peterson

MAJESTIC ICE CAVE (GUMO C-14)

Culberson County #14

Guadalupe Peak 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: The entrance to Majestic Ice Cave is a half-moon shaped opening about 35 ft wide and 12 ft high. A large boulder sits in the entrance. Ice stalagmites and stalactites were present in the entrance area when it was explored. Green stalagmites (due to plant activity) grow near the entrance. The cave consists basically of a sloping shaft about 30 ft in diameter and rising at a 60° angle. The slope extends up approximately 150 ft. Several leads at a level of about 100 ft were checked and found not to be of any consequence. The cave is heavily decorated with huge flowstone formations. Air temperature was 60° F at a level of about 100 ft above the entrance, while soil temperature was 58° F. See map, page 17.

History: The cave was first explored on April 5, 1973, by Peter M. Jones, Tony Guck, and Richard L. Breisch. There was no evidence of previous explorations. At this time a sketch map of the cave was drawn. The cave was revisited on September 29, 1973, by "CRF" and the high leads explored.

Ref: R. Breisch

MYSTERY LIGHT CAVE (GUMO C-04)

Culberson County #15

Guadalupe Peak 7.5' Quadrangle

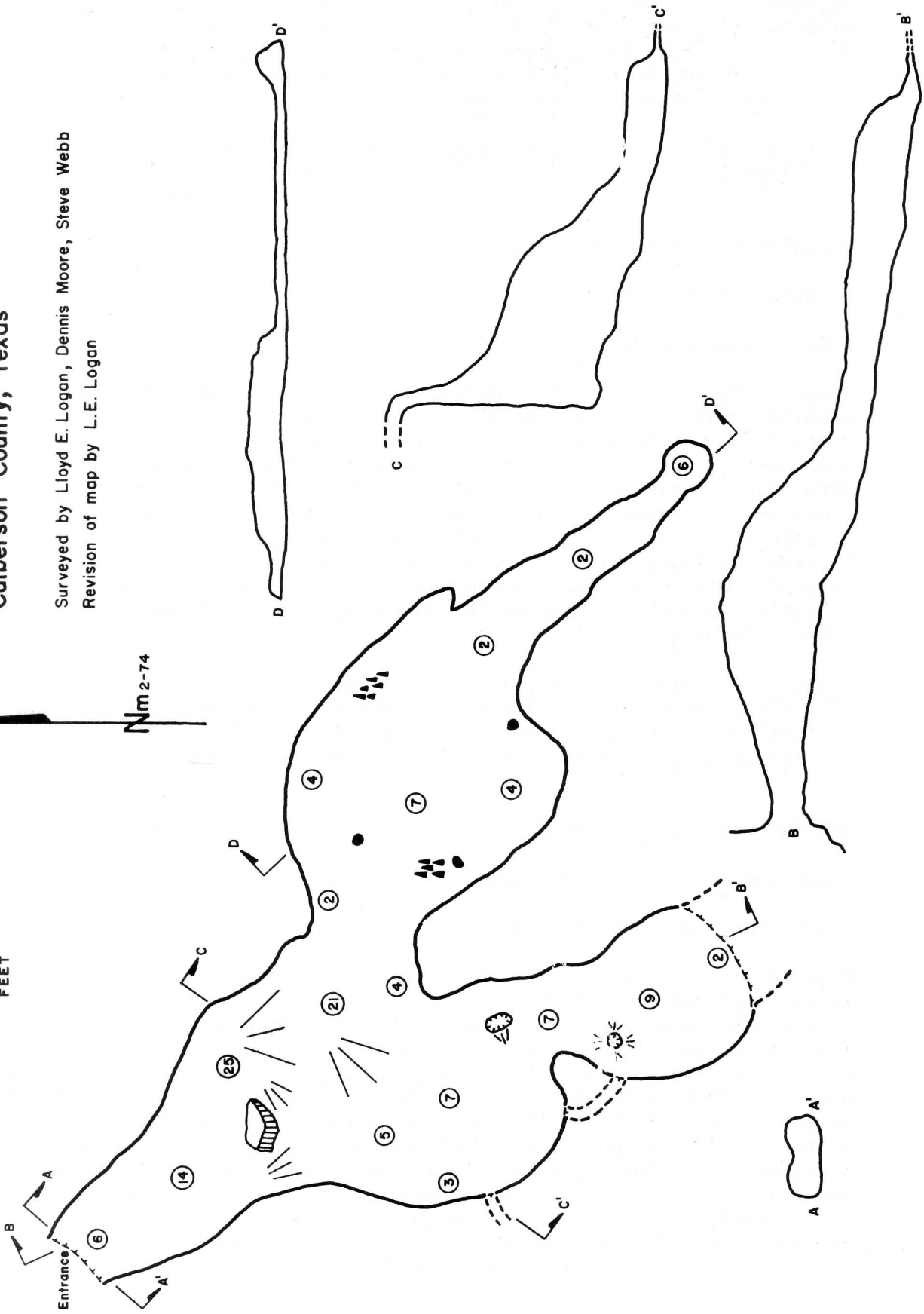
Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: The entrance to this cave is 2 ft high and 4 ft wide. A talus slope descends 20 ft to a small room, the floor of which is covered with dry loose dirt to an unknown depth. To the left of this room a pit drops to a lower level. It is possible to climb part of the way down the pit by crawling through a low passageway and climbing out onto a balcony about 15 ft below the floor of the room. A rope, however, is needed to descend another 15 ft to the top of a narrow canyon passage. The floor of the canyon passage descends very steeply for about 50 ft to a flowstone blockade. It is possible to chimney over the blockade and continue for a short distance before the passage terminates in a steep slope rising to the ceiling. There are a few side passages and crawlways leading from various levels in the cave, but none were investigated.

LOWER SLOTH CAVE

Culberson County, Texas

Surveyed by Lloyd E. Logan, Dennis Moore, Steve Webb
Revision of map by L.E. Logan

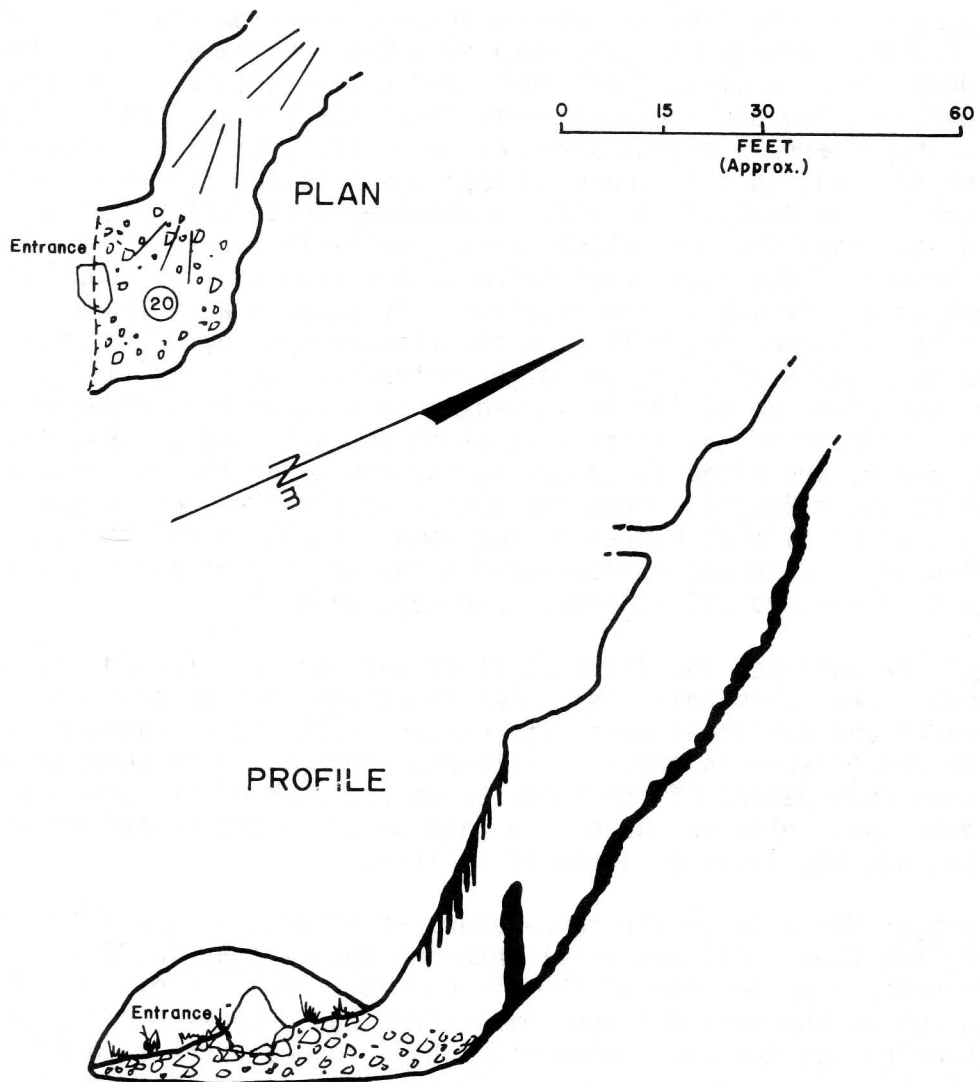


RGF 4-77

MAJESTIC ICE CAVE

Culberson County, Texas

Sketched April 5, 1973



RGF 4-77

History: The cave was presumably explored by National Park personnel, but no details are available. At the time of the exploration of this cave several objects were found. A large screen with sticks for handles, a scoope, a trowel, wire pegs, a frying pan, and four sacahuista beds were all found in the first room. A flashlight still burning at the bottom of the pit gave the cave its name.

Ref: GMNP files

PLATEAU CAVE (500 FOOT CAVE) (GOLD CAVE)

Culberson County #16

Plateau 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Blue Chip Realty, Southwest Sunsites, Inc. (Harold Gross, president)

Description: Plateau Cave is entered through a narrow slit about 10 ft long. A slope through and over very unstable looking sandstone boulders leads down, makes a direct left turn, and after another 10 ft terminates in an easily climbable vertical shaft about 30 ft deep. At the bottom of this drop there is a room about 60 by 25 ft. The floor slopes steeply downward and ends in a drainage passage which is now filled with mud. To the right as you descend the shaft a crawlway leads off. It rapidly opens up to a stairway-like ramp which makes a hair-pin turn and goes down again. At the bottom of the "stairway" there is a narrow fissure about 10 ft long and less than 3 ft wide. The "stairway" is covered with loose rocks which are easily dislodged and roll into the fissure opening. The fissure is located at a depth of 82 ft below the entrance. It is initially rather narrow, but after about 100 ft it widens to several feet wider than at the top. Descent of the fissure is along one wall and several steeply sloping ledges are encountered during the course of the descent, which is a total of about 240 ft. From the bottom of the fissure a slope leads down to a short climbable drop to the lowest point in the cave, where it ends abruptly. Although not surveyed below the top of the fissure, the cave is an estimated 345 ft deep. See map, page 21.

Geology: The entrance and first 25 ft of the cave are formed in the Boracho Sandstone. From this point the Yates Sandstone lies unconformably beneath the Boracho and continues until its contact with the El Capitan Limestone, in which the fissure is formed. Although there has been considerable solution enlargement of the Yates Sandstone part of the cave (including small domes and solution tubes) the cave probably originated through collapse into the fissure in the El Capitan.

Meteorology: The outside air temperature at 11:00 a.m. was 92^o F, with air entering the cave. Air was still entering the cave at 12:00 a.m. when the air temperature at the top of the pit was 73^o. By 3:00 p.m. air had begun to blow out of the cave and the temperature had dropped to 70^o; with air still blowing out the cave temperature had dropped further to 67^o by 5:00 p.m. At this time a high wind was blowing outside of the cave and rain was falling to the east.

Biology: The cave is extremely dry and has a rather limited fauna. The following is a list of all species identified from the cave:

Spiders - Masoncus consecta (Gertsch and Davis) - accidental
Achaearanea porteri (Banks) - troglophile
 Cave crickets - Ceuthophilus (Ceuthophilus) variegatus Scudder - troglaxene
 True crickets - Gryllus sp. - accidental
 Hister beetles - Undetermined genus and species - troglophile (?)
 Dung beetles - Aphodius aemulus Horn - troglaxene
 Darkling beetles - Eleodes sp. - troglaxene
 Porcupine - Erethizon dorsatum (Linnaeus) - troglaxene

History: Although locally known for many years and rumored to contain treasure, no early accounts of its exploration are available. Winter (1951) investigated part of the cave and reported on its geology. The first exploration by cavers was in the spring of 1962 by Carl E. Kunath and other members of the Sul Ross Speleological Society. He descended the fissure to a depth of about 150 ft, but did not reach the bottom of the cave. In the summer of 1963 Grainger Hunt of Alpine, James Reddell, and William Russell returned to the cave. The cave was mapped to the top of the fissure and Russell descended the drop and explored the cave to its end. The only other recorded explorations of the cave occurred in November of 1974 and are closely associated with the rumored treasure. It was reported that the last train robbery in Texas was made between Kent and Van Horn near the entrance to Plateau Cave. Four armed men with several bags of gold took refuge in the cave. A gun battle between the robbers and lawmen ensued, with the result that three of the outlaws were killed. The fourth was captured, but he reportedly made the statement, "You got me but you'll never get the gold!" A thorough search of the cave revealed no gold. With this tale in mind, it is easy to envision the wild sequence of events which took place at Plateau Cave early in November 1974. On Saturday, November 2nd, Culberson County Sheriff Richard Upchurch was notified that a man was stuck in the cave. Attempts by members of the sheriff's office to rescue the man failed, so that it was necessary to call on volunteer rescuers from Eddy County, New Mexico. Mauricino Suarez was rescued from the cave. His four companions, Ignacio Urias, Jaime Tarango, Adam Enriques, and Juan Hinojos, had been able to escape safely. The explorers reported that they had seen a number of money bags with the date 1903 stamped on them. A squabble arose between the explorers and the alleged owners of the cave over the possession of the "treasure." It became necessary for the local judge to place peace officers to guard the cave entrance. The president of Southwest Sunsites, Mr. Harold Gross, flew from Los Angeles to represent the cave owners. Before the frenzy was over the State of Texas (claiming rights to any treasure by state law), the University of Texas, and other claimants to the property were involved in plans for legal action. In the meantime Van Horn was converted to a town struck by "gold fever." People from far distances descended on the town. On November 10th a group of cavers, led by John Brady, from the University of Texas at El Paso, entered the cave. In addition to Brady, the group included Wynn Anderson, executive assistant to the UTEP president; Art Harris, of the UTEP biology department; Ignacio Urias, Jaime Tarango, Adam Enriques, and Mauricino Suarez from the first exploration team. During a six hour exploration in which the bottom of the cave was reached no treasure was found, although garbage was seen. Fearing legal action, the owners of the land dynamited the entrance shut in January 1975.

- Bibliography: Anonymous. 1974a. All that glitters... San Angelo Standard, November 12, 1974, p. 3A.
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- Anonymous. 1974e. Treasure! Mystery, confusion in Van Horn. San Angelo Standard-Times, November 7, 1974.
- Anonymous. 1974f. Treasure/Van Horn spelunkers file claim. San Angelo Times, November 7, 1974.
- Anonymous. 1974g. UTEP officials will enter Van Horn cave to remove treasure, artifacts. San Angelo Standard-Times, November 1974.
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- Winter, C. V. 1951. Geologic structure of part of Boracho Quadrangle, Culberson County, Texas. M. A. Thesis. Austin: University of Texas.
Ref: TSS files

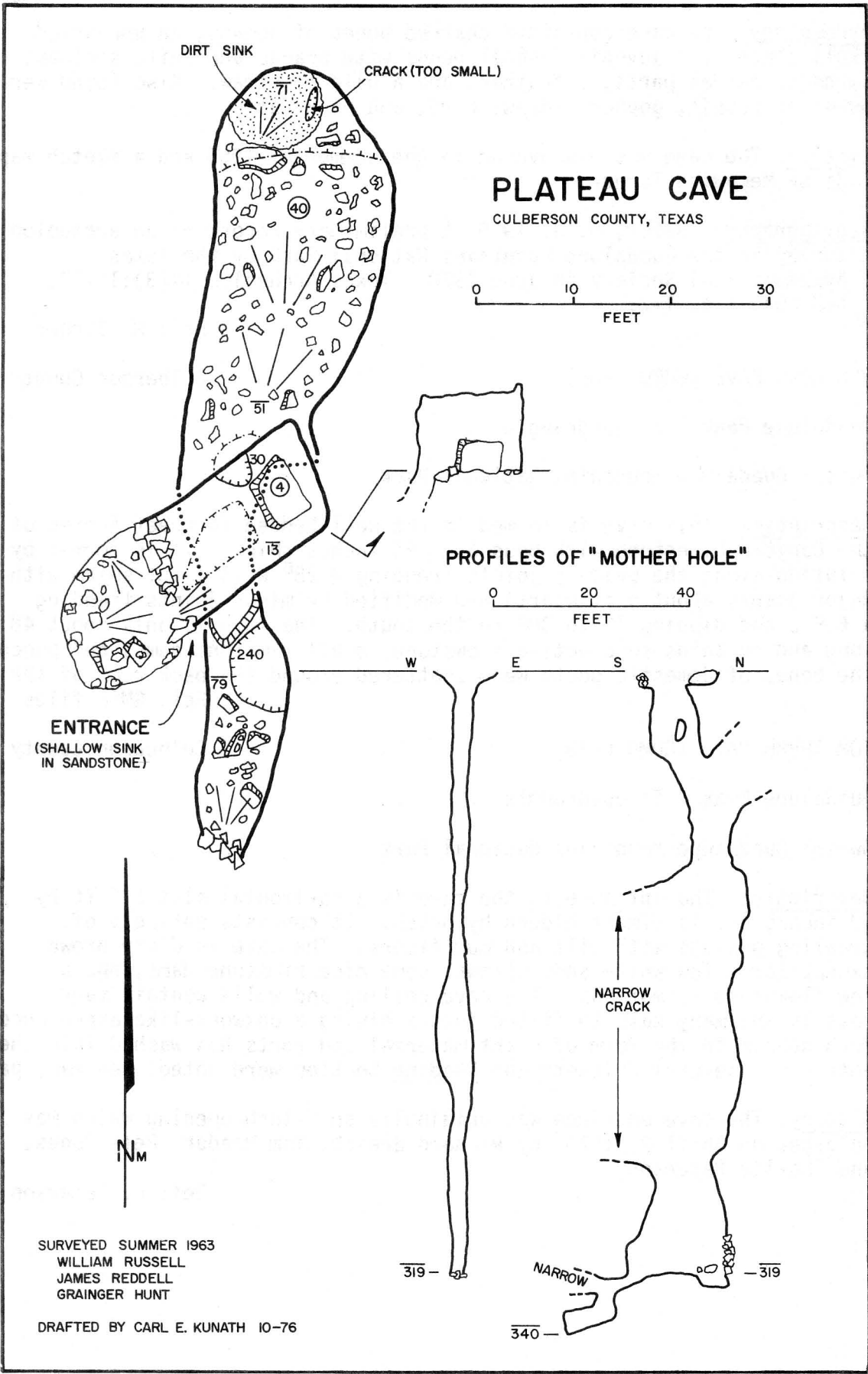
PRATT CAVE (GUMO C-07)

Culberson County #17

Guadalupe Peak 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: A 3 ft high, 6 ft wide entrance extends for 6 ft to the base of a 9 ft high dome. Beyond this dome the cave continues an additional 20 ft before pinching out. A 4 ft high passage at the top of the dome was not entered due to archeological excavations being conducted below the dome, but it was reported to lead to little passage. See map, page 23.



Archeology: The cave contained charred bones of humans, an uncharred skull plate of a juvenile, shell beads with orange and white stripes, cordage, sandal parts, a feather, and a pile of straw. Also found were bones of rabbit, gopher, shrew, bird, and pack rat.

History: The cave was discovered in the summer of 1965 and a sketch map made by Merydith Turner.

Bibliography: Shafer, H. J. 1970. A preliminary report of an archeological survey in the Guadalupe Mountains National Park by the Texas Archeological Society in June 1970. Texas Archeol., 14(3):10-17, [23-29], fig. 1-7.

Ref: M. Turner

RED HORN CAVE (GUMO C-06)

Culberson County #18

Guadalupe Peak 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: This cave is formed in the well-bedded forereef facies of the Capitan Limestone with beds 3 to 24 inches thick. It is formed by solution along the primary joints trending N 28° W (a joint swarm with major joints about 5 ft apart) and modified by minor joints trending N 65° E and dipping 78 to 80° to the south. The cave is only about 48 ft long and contains some active flowstone, small rimstone dams, and popcorn. The bones of domestic goats were scattered around the back room of the cave.

Ref: GMNP files

TOM THUMB CAVE (GUMO C-13)

Culberson County #19

Guadalupe Peak 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: The entrance to the cave is a horizontal slot 2.5 ft by 10 inches and is almost hidden by brush. It consists entirely of crawling passage with silt and mud floors. The cave is dirty brown except for a few white soda straws, some nice rimstone dams, and a few flowstone formations. The cave ceiling and walls contain many fossils and many calcite-filled joints giving a boxwork-like appearance. Much debris in the form of plant material and roots has washed into the entrance. Several crickets and Rhadine beetles were noted. See map, page 24.

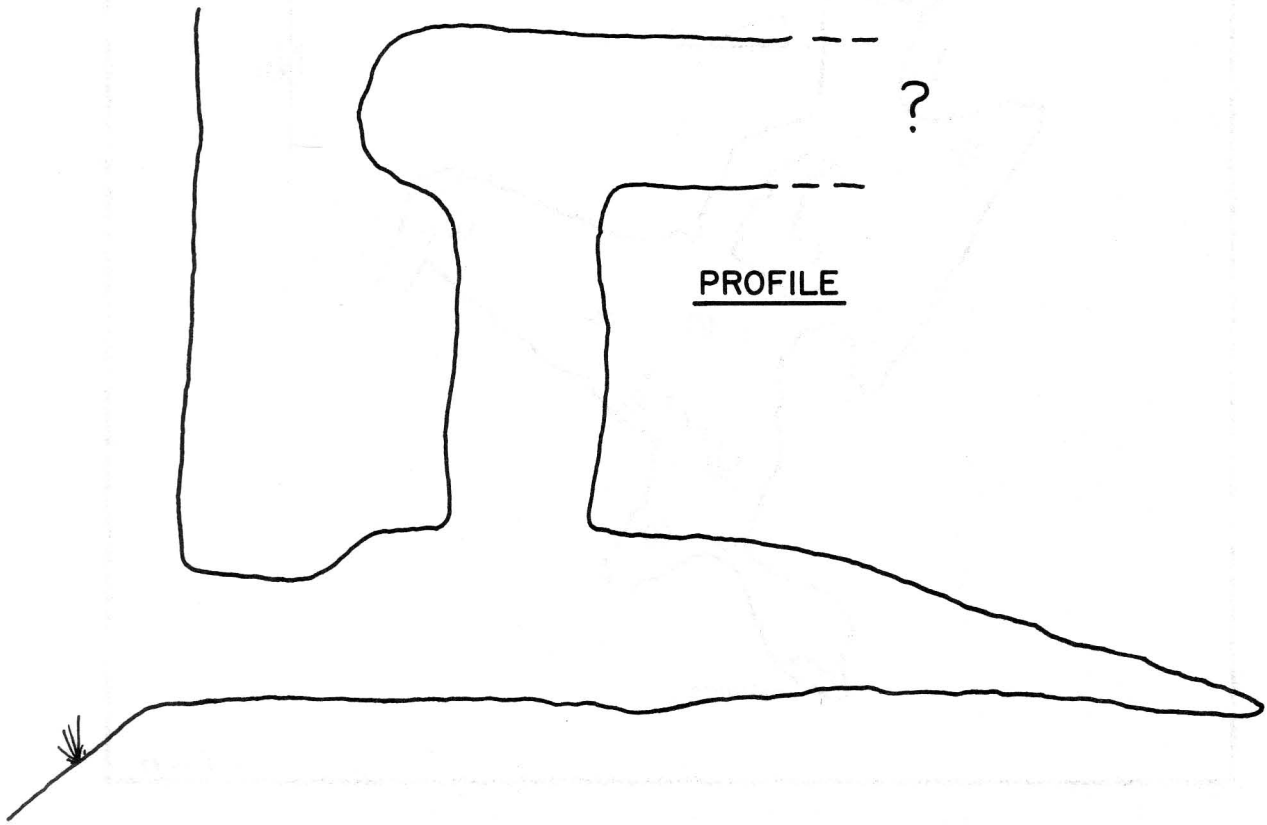
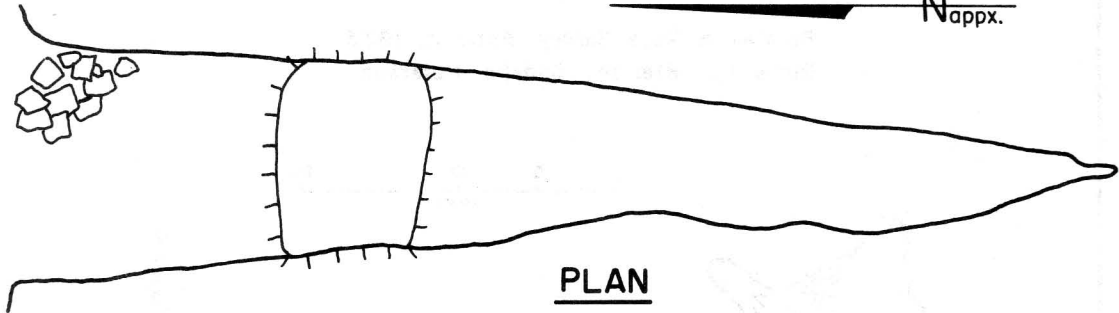
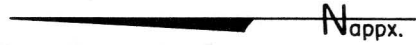
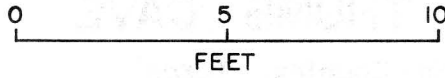
History: The cave entrance was originally an 8-inch opening which was enlarged on April 2, 1973, by Richard Breish, Tom Meador, Pete Jones, and Charlie Peterson.

Ref: C. Peterson

PRATT CAVE

CULBERSON COUNTY, TEXAS

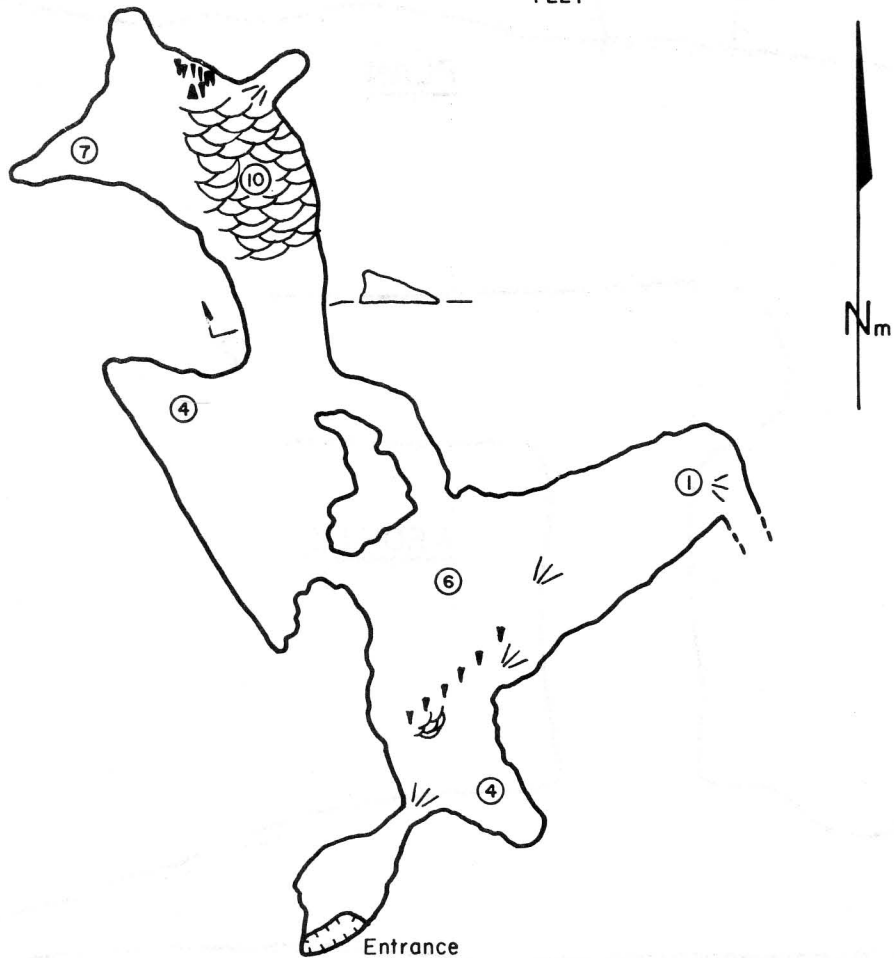
SKETCHED BY MERYDITH TURNER 1965
DRAFTED BY CEK 8-76



TOM THUMB CAVE

Culberson Country, Texas

Brunton & Tape Survey April 2, 1973
Richard L. Breisch, Charlie Peterson



RGF 4-77

UPPER SLOTH CAVE (GUMO C-08)

Culberson County #20

Guadalupe Peak 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: The cave entrance is about 30 ft wide and 10 ft high. This leads back into a shelter-like room about 80 ft long and 40 ft wide. A small narrow 20 ft high passage extends to the right about 40 ft inside the entrance. It ends after about 20 ft. At the back of the room a 15 ft wide, 40 ft long passage leads off. The level floor contains deep silt mixed with angular cobbles. The cave has been trenched in several places with the removed material piled just outside the cave entrance. The cave is very dry and contains no secondary formations. See map, page 26.

Archeology: Much burnt rock was found on the floor and in the silt, but no flint chips were found. It appears to have been a desirable winter shelter since it faces south.

Paleontology: The cave floor exhibited much usage by goat and deer. Sloth dung was also recovered from the silt. This has been dated at $10,670 \pm 140$ years, $11,020 \pm 180$ years, $10,780 \pm 140$ years. Artiodactyl fecal pellets were dated at $11,760 \pm 610$ years. No details of other paleontological materials is presently available.

Biology: A single specimen of Plecotus townsendii pallescens Miller was collected on 7 August 1939 by University of Nebraska paleontologists.

History: In addition to the 7 August 1939 excavation by the University of Nebraska it has been studied in more detail recently by Lloyd Logan of Texas Tech University. The cave was mapped in February 1974 by Steve Webb, Dennis Moore, and Lloyd E. Logan.

Bibliography: Davis, W. B. 1940. Mammals of the Guadalupe Mountains of western Texas. Occ. Pap. Mus. Zool., Louisiana State Univ., 7:69-84.
Davis, W. B., and J. L. Robertson, Jr. 1944. The mammals of Culberson County, Texas. J. Mammal., 25:262.
Reddell, J. R. 1967. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. III. Vertebrata. Texas J. Sci., 19:184-226.

Ref: GMNP files

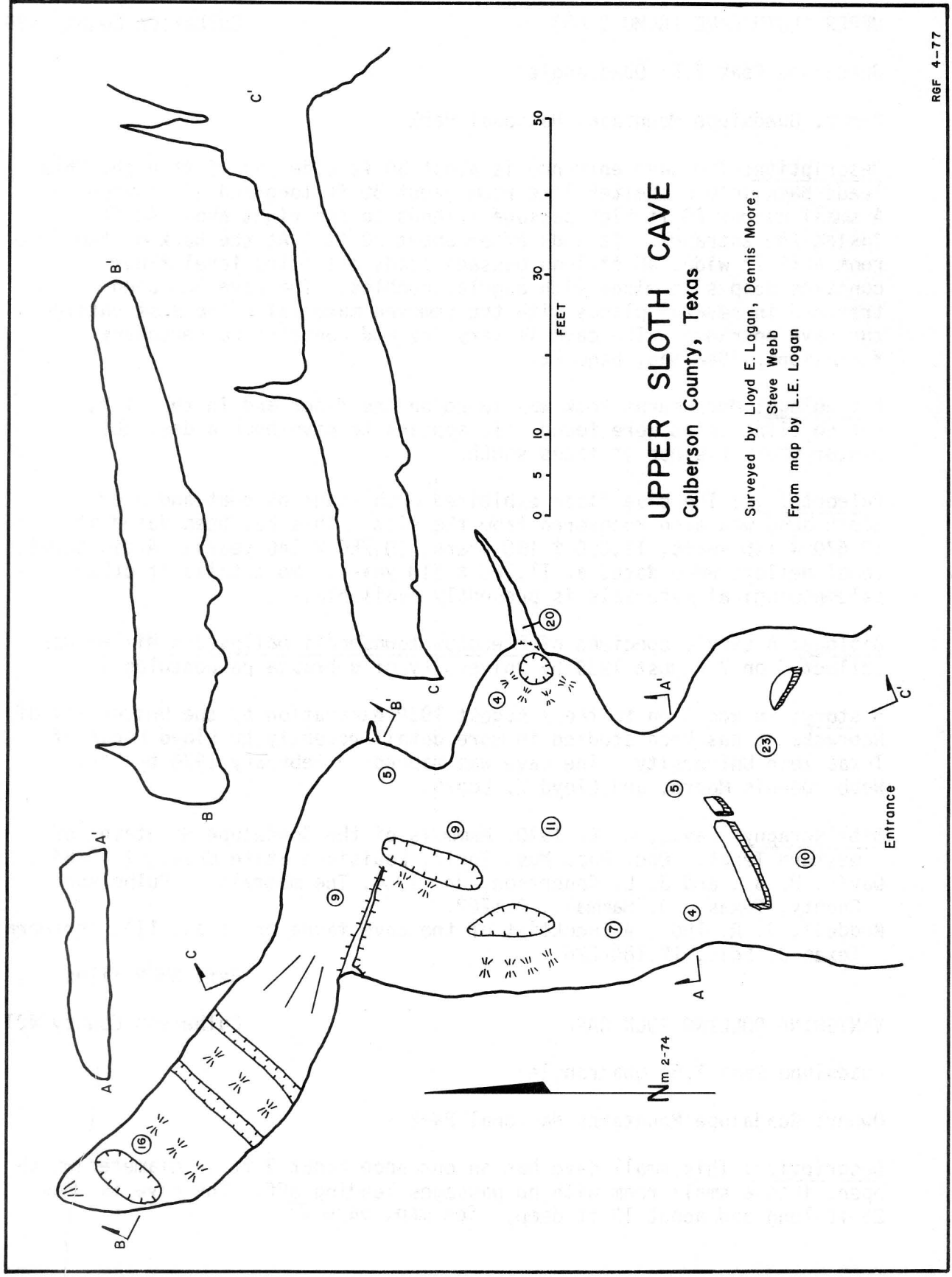
VANISHING ROLLING ROCK CAVE

Culberson County #21

Guadalupe Peak 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: This small cave has an entrance about 3 ft in diameter which opens into a small room with no passages leading off. The cave is about 25 ft long and about 10 ft deep. See map, page 27.

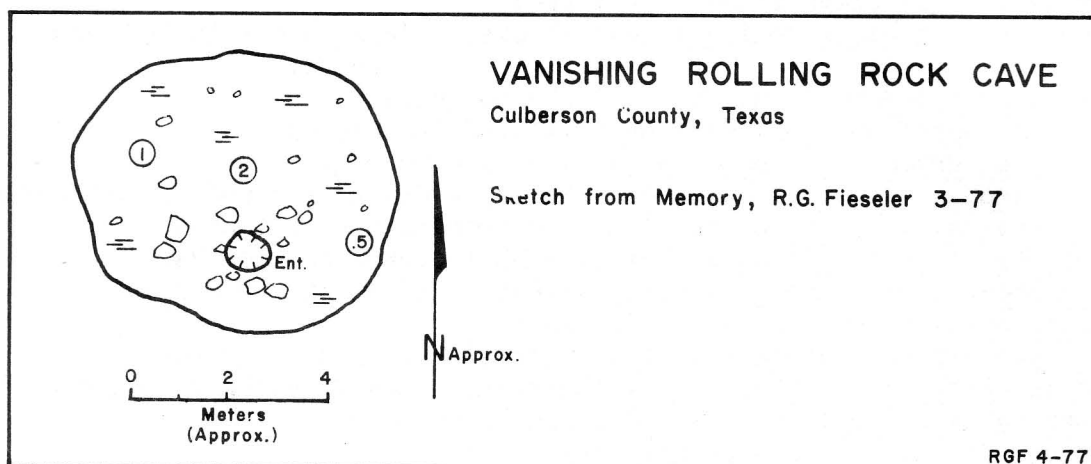


UPPER SLOTH CAVE
Culberson County, Texas

Surveyed by Lloyd E. Logan, Dennis Moore,
Steve Webb
From map by L.E. Logan

History: The cave was discovered by Ronald G. Fieseler and Tom Meador in July 1967 when a rock knocked loose during the descent of the mountain rolled into the cave entrance. It was not entered but a view from the entrance indicates that no passages lead from the bottom.

Ref: R. Fieseler



WILLIAMS CAVE (Indian Cave) (GUMO C-01)

Culberson County #22

Guadalupe Peak 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: The cave entrance faces east. Portions of the roof have fallen so that rocks and spalls were intermingled with the very fine dust that covers the floor of the cave. The dimensions of the cave are roughly 40 ft wide at the entrance, just under the overhang, and 48 ft from this point to the rear wall. The back part of the cave is bilobed, a partition of rock extending out into the cave about 13 ft. The floor is irregular. At the entrance a layer of caliche, limestone, and gypsum had formed beginning at the north wall and extending across the entrance to the south wall. This layer was near the surface at the northern end but approximately 6 ft below the surface at the southern end. The layer continued sloping down and back to near the middle of the cave where it ended abruptly. Nothing organic could be detected in any part of the caliche. A test hole was dug and the caliche estimated to be 8 ft deep at the entrance close to the north wall. The rock floor of the cave sloped up toward the rear at an angle of 20°, so that originally the two lobes were completely filled-in with debris and deposit.

Archeology: Three burials were found in the cave, including three of children and one of an adult. Other archeological materials recovered included bone scrapers, a bone awl, a scraper, a tube bead, a possible whistle, flat grinding metates, grinding manos, flake scrapers, projectile points, knives, various wood artifacts, beads, part of a necklace or rattle, a possible pendant, balls of paint, sandals, cordage, basketry, netting, matting, bags, primitive flint corn, and other food stuffs. The culture belongs to that of the Hueco Cave Dweller.

Paleontology: The cave is an important paleontological site and the following is a faunal list of species identified from the cave:

- Iguanidae genus and species - lizard
- Meleagris gallopavo Linnaeus - turkey
- Lepus californicus texianus (Waterhouse) - Texas Black-tailed Jack Rabbit
- Sylvilagus auduboni (Baird) - Little Cottontail
- Cynomys gunnisoni (Baird) - White-tailed Prairie Dog
- Citellus grammurus grammurus (Say) - Rock Squirrel
- Cratogeomys castanops castanops (Baird) - Chestnut-faced Pocket Gopher
- Perognathus intermedius Merriam - Intermediate Pocket Mouse
- Neotoma albigula albigula Hartley - White-throated Wood Rat
- Erethizon epixanthum epixanthum Brandt - Yellow-haired Porcupine
- *Canis dirus Leidy - Extinct Dire Wolf
- Urocyon cinereoargenteus scotti (Mearns) - Arizona Gray Fox
- +Felis oregonensis hippolestes (Merriam) - Rocky Mountain Cougar or Puma
- Lynx rufus baileyi Merriam - Plateau Bobcat
- +Ursus horribilis Ord - Grizzly Bear
- Odocoileus virginianus macrourus (Rafinesque) - Plains White-tailed Deer
- +Odocoileus virginianus (Boddaert) - Virginia Deer
- +Odocoileus hemionus macrotis (Say) - Rocky Mountain Mule Deer
- +Cervus merriami Nelson - Arizona Wapiti
- +Antilocapra americana americana (Ord) - Pronghorn Antelope
- +Ovis canadensis auduboni Merriam - Bighorn Sheep
- Ovis canadensis texianus Bailey - Texas Big Horn
- *Equus semiplicatus Cope - Extinct Horse
- *Nothrotherium shastense Sinclair - Extinct Ground Sloth (dung only)

In the above list * indicates an extinct species, while + indicates a species which is now significantly removed from the present range. The ground sloth dung has been dated at $11,850 \pm 170$ years and $12,100 \pm 210$ years.

History: Several people had dug away the top 3 ft of deposit and removed most of the archeological material. The ceiling was black from fire, but it was learned that the owner had set fire to the accumulated cactus and cattle dung in about 1930. The cave was excavated in 1934 by Edgar B. Howard, Loren Eiseley, and John B. Townsend, III, from the University Museum of Philadelphia and R. M. Burnet and Shafter Ward of Carlsbad, New Mexico. In the summer of 1935 additional excavations were made by Mr. and Mrs. Richard G. L. Ayer of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and Mr. Walter Beal of Frijole, Texas. It was revisited on June 15, 1970, at which time observations were made of the deposits and additional paleontological materials removed, presumably by Lloyd E. Logan and members of the National Park Service.

Bibliography: Ayer, M. Y. 1936. The archaeological and faunal material from Williams Cave, Guadalupe Mountains, Texas. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 88:598-618, pl. 15.

U. S. Geological Survey. 1949. Guadalupe Peak Quadrangle, reprinted.
Ref: TSS files

WINDLASS CAVE (Windless Cave) (Goatshed Cave)
(Kent Bat Cave)

Culberson County #23

Iron Mountain 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Drake Ranch (Bryant, lessee)

Description: The entrance to Windlass Cave is an oval opening on the gently sloping side of a hill about which is strewn the remains of an old windlass and other paraphernalia used in an early attempt to mine calcite from the cave. The 8 ft long opening drops about 10 ft to a ledge and then an additional 15 ft to a large natural bridge. A descent of about 15 ft along the northwest side of this bridge leads into a chamber which slopes up over small rubble and guano. This northwestern extension of the cave is about 70 ft long, 25 to 35 ft wide, and up to 30 ft high. It gradually tapers towards the back and ends in a narrow low passage extending only a few feet. A guano test pit 2.5 ft deep has been dug in the floor of the passage. To the southeast from the entrance it is possible to walk under the natural bridge and enter an extension of the same chamber which extended to the northwest. This part of the room is 80 ft long, 30 to 35 ft wide, and 20 to 40 ft high. There are a few small formations in this area and the floor is covered with rubble and guano. An alcove on the left side at the back of the room is a flowstone slope. Along the back right wall a 4 ft opening leads for about 10 ft to a 6 ft drop into a sloping 7 ft high, 5 to 10 ft wide passage. A 3 ft high duckunder leads for about 10 ft into a large chamber aligned EW. This chamber extends about 25 ft to the left (E) to an abrupt end, but to the right (W) it extends for about 50 ft before narrowing abruptly. It averages 35 ft wide and ranges in height from 4 ft along the walls to 14 ft near the center of the room. Along the east end there is much guano-veneered flowstone, while most of the floor is covered with guano and breakdown. To the west the cave gradually narrows until it becomes a 5 ft wide opening. This immediately opens into a 20 ft long, 12 ft wide, 8 to 12 ft high, breakdown-floored chamber. At the end of this room the ceiling drops to 4 ft and the cave ends in an 8 ft high dome at the deepest point in the cave (76 ft). See map, page 31.

Geology: The cave is formed in Tansill Limestone of Permian Age. A large vein of impressive calcite crystals were found in the entrance area.

Biology: A small collection of invertebrates has been made in the cave. These include cave crickets, Ceuthophilus (Ceuthophilus) conicaudus Hubbell and C. (Geotettix) carlsbadensis Caudell; carabid beetles, Rhadine longicollis Benedict; and other unidentified insects. The record of R. longicollis is of interest in being the southernmost record for this species described from Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico. The cave is also inhabited by cave swallows, Petrochelidon fulva pallida Nelson, and unidentified bats.

History: The cave is among the better known in the vicinity of Kent. It has been mined for guano at an unknown date and Mr. J. W. Drake attempted to mine calcite from it in 1942. It was first reported by C. L. R. Holt in 1951, but it is not known if he entered the cave. The first visit to the cave by cavers was in the summer of 1960 when it was visited by James Estes and Gerald Roberts of the Abilene Grotto. They returned during the same

summer and together with Kenneth Thompson and Gene Bishop of Midland fully explored and mapped the cave. During the summer of 1963 Bill Russell and James Reddell also visited and prepared a general map of the cave. Two trips in late 1964 and early 1965 were made by members of the Trans-Pecos Speleological Society, including Elbert Bassham, Robert Schroeder, Walter Russell, Frank Lichnovsky, and Gring Huggins. They reportedly mapped the cave also, but this map has not appeared in print. On June 30, 1967, a careful brunton and tape survey of the cave was made by John Fish, A. Richard Smith, and James Reddell.

- Bibliography: Anonymous. 1961. Windlass Cave. Texas Caver, 6:3.
Anonymous. 1964. News: Trans-Pecos Speleological Society. Texas Caver, 9:162-163.
Anonymous. 1965a. News: Trans-Pecos Speleological Society. Texas Caver, 10:23.
Anonymous. 1965b. News: Trans-Pecos Speleological Society. Texas Caver, 10:41.
Anonymous. 1961. Geology of Kent Station Area, Culberson and Jeff Davis Counties, Texas. M. A. Thesis. Austin: University of Texas.
Reddell, J. R. 1966. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. II. Insecta. Texas J. Sci., 18:25-56.
Reddell, J. R. 1967. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. III. Vertebrata. Texas J. Sci., 19:184-226.
Reddell, J. R. 1970. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. V. Additional records of Insecta. Texas J. Sci., 22:47-65.
Reddell, J. R. 1970a. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. VI. Additional records of Vertebrata. Texas J. Sci., 22:139-158.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED CAVE

Culberson County #24

Guadalupe Peak 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: From the tall, crack-like entrance a passage extends for a few meters to a steep, upward sloping wall, covered with dust, dirt, and old dry flowstone. Unexplored fissures lead upward from the top of this slope. The cave is over 20 m long and extends upwards for about 10 m.

History: The cave was discovered and explored by Ronald G. Fieseler, Pete Lindsley, Norman Robinson, and Jackie Robinson in June 1967.

Ref: R. G. Fieseler

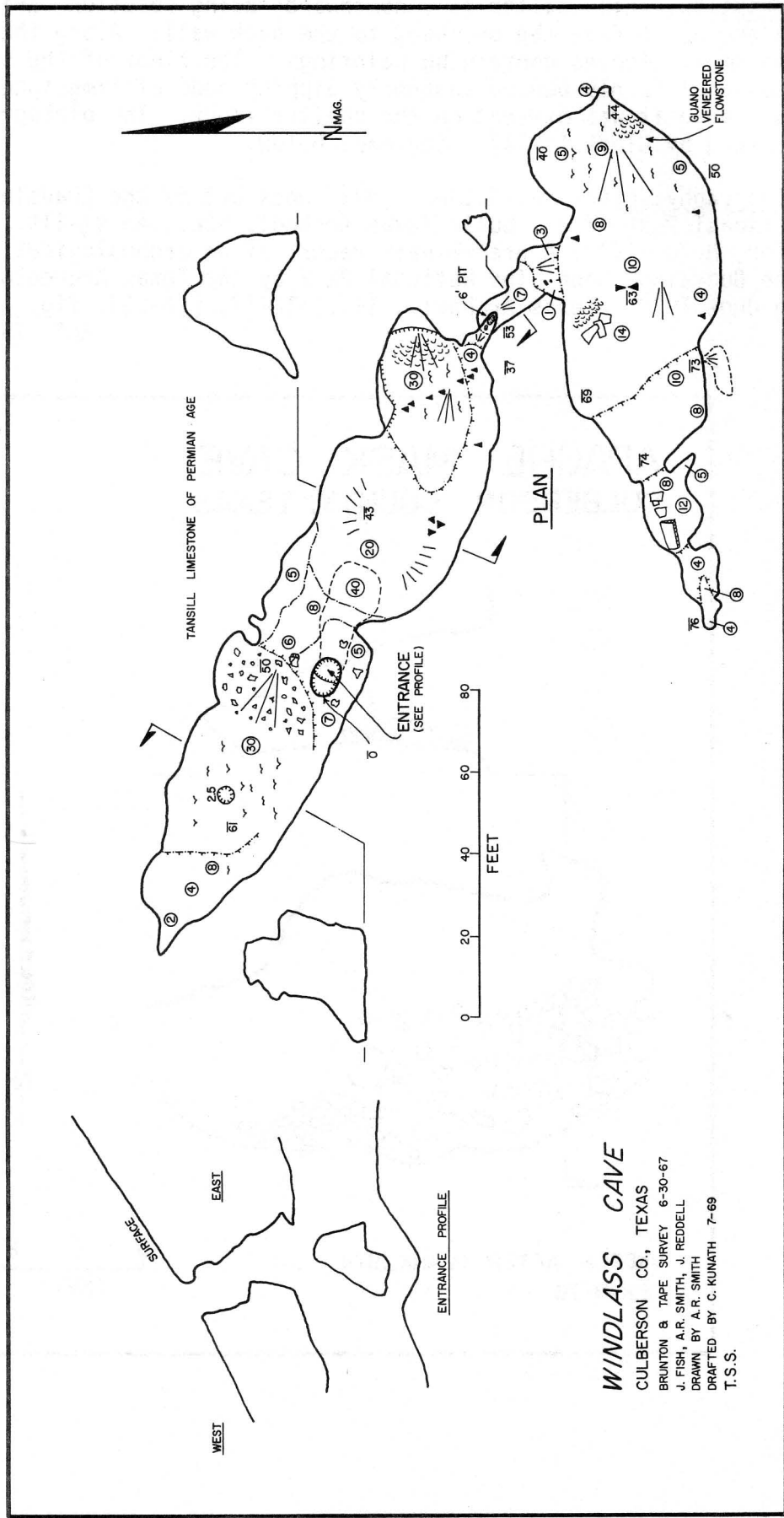
DOUBTFUL CAVES AND SHELTERS

APACHE MASK CAVE (41CU24)

Culberson County #1a

Guadalupe Peak 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

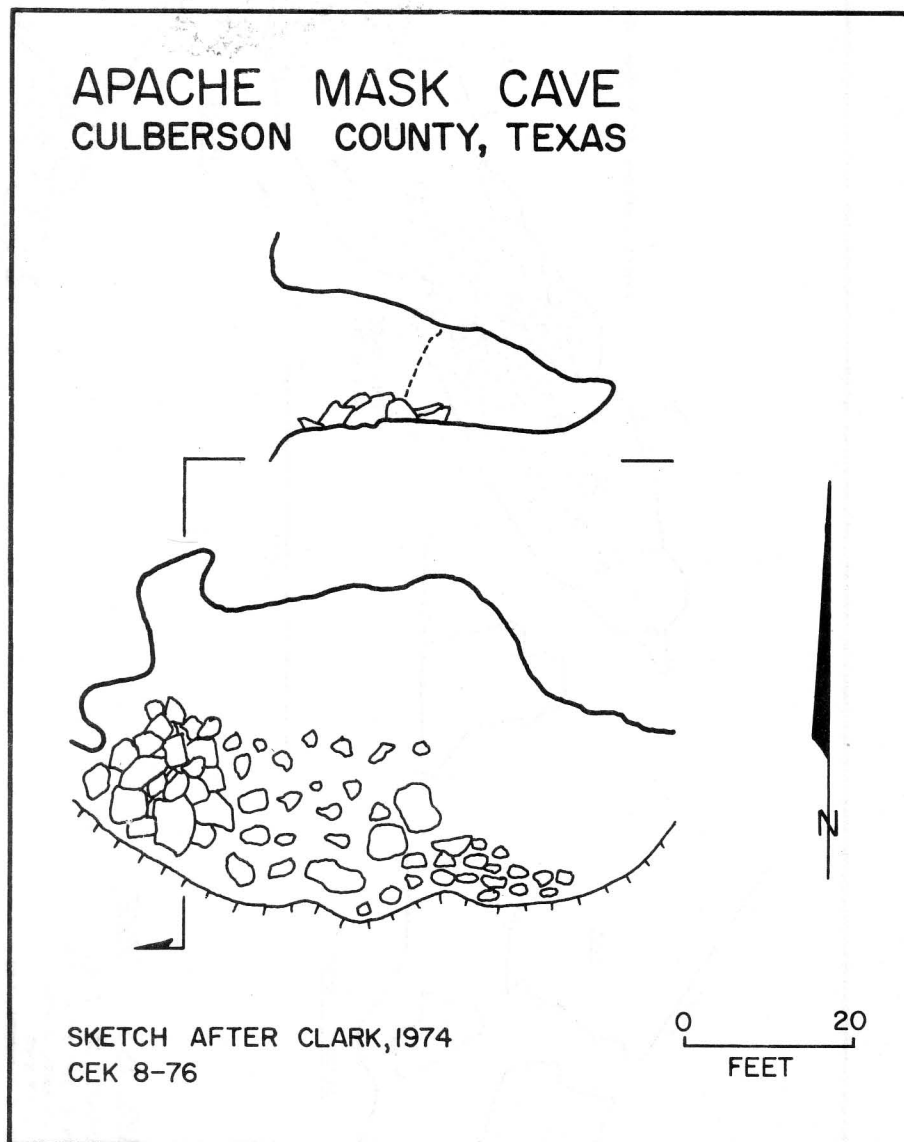


Description: This shelter is a southward-facing solution cavity about 50 ft wide and 30 ft from the overhang to the back wall. Along the back wall are three small alcoves containing paintings. The floor of the shelter is composed of thinly-bedded southerly dipping beds of limestone. No cultural refuse deposit was present on the shelter floor. The pictographs are described by Clark (1974). See map, below.

Bibliography: Clark, J. W., Jr. 1974. Rock art of the Guadalupe Mountains National Park Area. Bull. Texas Archeol. Soc., 45:97-119.

Shafer, H. J. 1970. A preliminary report of an archeological survey in the Guadalupe Mountains National Park by the Texas Archeological Society in June 1970. Texas Archeol., 14(3):10-17, [23-29], fig. 1-7.

Ref: TSS files



BEAR CAVE (41CU14)

Culberson County #2a

Owner:

Description: This low shallow shelter containing pictographs is located in the Delaware Mountains.

Bibliography: Clark, J. W., Jr. 1974. Rock art of the Guadalupe Mountains National Park Area. Bull. Texas Archeol. Soc., 45:97-119.
Phelps, A. L. 1974. An analysis of the ceramics of the Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Bull. Texas Archeol. Soc., 45:121-150.

Ref: TSS files

MCKITTRICK CANYON CAVE

Culberson County #3a

Guadalupe Peak 7.5' Quadrangle (?)

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: This is reported to be a small cave, little more than a deep shelter. It may be one of the other caves now known from McKittrick Canyon.

History: This cave was explored during Christmas 1952 by J. D. McClung, Bennie Pearson, Jerry Chastain, and Carroll Slemaker.

Bibliography: Slemaker, C. 1953. Texas group adds four caves to state list. Natl. Speleol. Soc. News, 11(3):4-5.

Ref: C. Slemaker

SMITH CAVE (41CU15)

Culberson County #4a

Guadalupe Peak 7.5' Quadrangle (?)

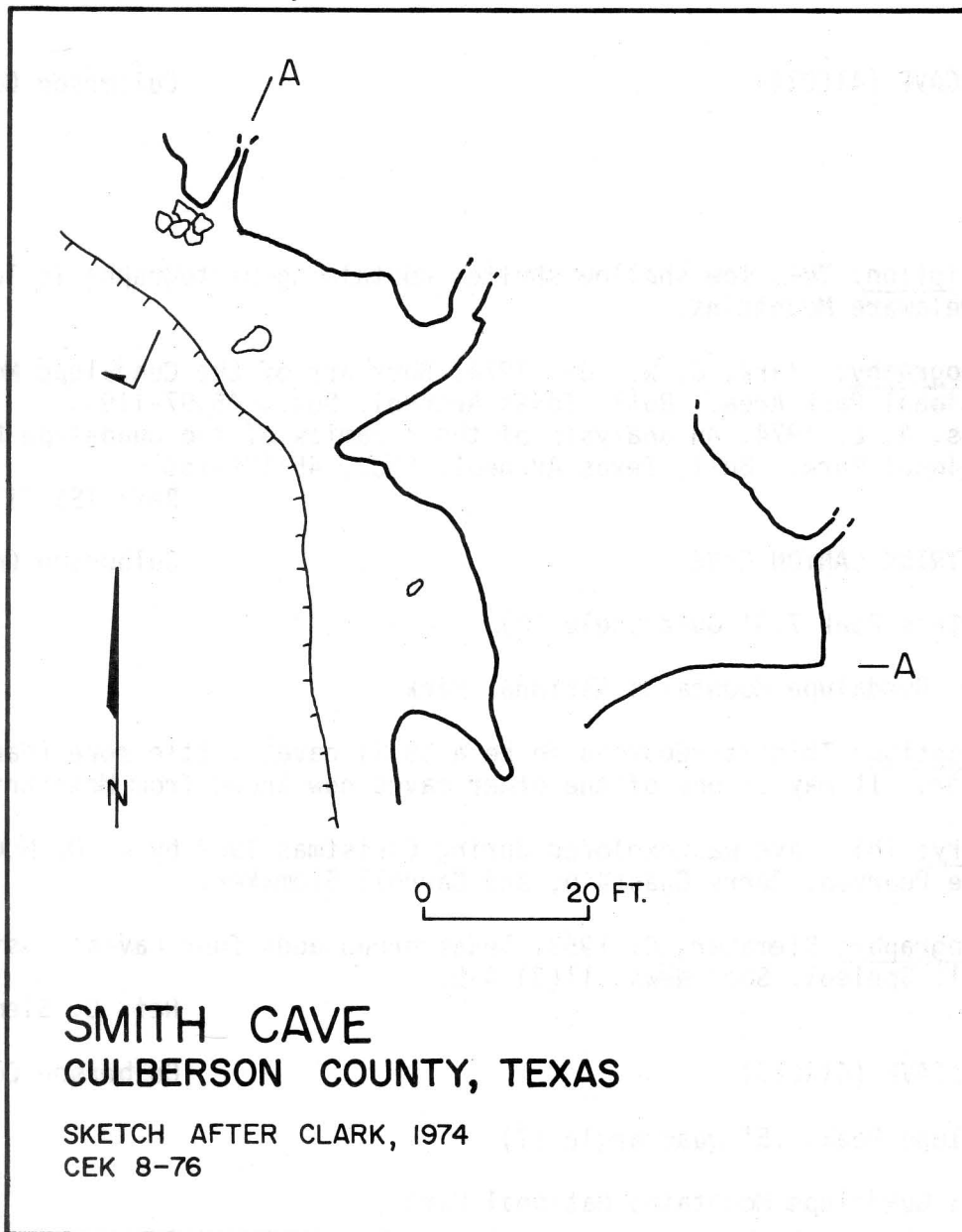
Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: Smith Cave consists of two open chambers each containing red monochrome pictographs. It is a shallow shelter about 60 ft wide and 20 ft from the overhang to the back wall of the shelter. One small alcove extends an additional 10 ft. The ceiling height ranges from up to 20 ft at the overhang to 5 ft at the back of the shelter. A map of the shelter and description of its pictographs has been published by Clark (1974). This cave is identical to that reported by Jackson (1938) as Site #17. See map, page 34.

Bibliography: Clark, J. W., Jr. 1974. Rock art of the Guadalupe Mountains National Park Area. Bull. Texas Archeol. Soc., 45:97-119.
Jackson, A. T. 1938. Picture-writing of Texas Indians. Univ. Texas Publ., 3809. 490 p.

Shafer, H. J. 1970. A preliminary report of an archeological survey in the Guadalupe Mountains National Park by the Texas Archeological Society in June 1970. Texas Archeol., 14(3):10-17, [23-29], fig. 1-7.

Ref: TSS files



SULPHURETTED HYDROGEN CAVE

Culberson County #5a

Owner:

Description: A spring flows through a small cave, the sides of which are covered with small crystals of pure sulphur, and the air within the cave is heavily laden with sulphuretted hydrogen. This cave is reported to be of small dimensions, not over a few cubic feet.

Bibliography: Skeats, E. M. 1902. Report of E. M. Skeats, p. 29-38. In: Report of Progress for 1901. Sulphur, oil and quicksilver in Trans-Pecos Texas. Univ. Texas Mineral Survey Bull., 2. 43 p.

Ref: TSS files

RUMORS

BEAR CANYON CAVE

Culberson County

Guadalupe Peak 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: "A cave with stone-work across the entrance can be seen half way up the SW wall of Bear Canyon."

Bibliography: Corcoran, J. J., III. 1965. Rumoured cave locations in Culberson County, Texas. Southwestern Cavers, 4:87.

Ref: TSS files

MCKITTRICK CANYON CAVE

Culberson County

Guadalupe Peak 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: "An opening can be seen in the northeast wall of McKittrick Canyon near the bottom of the upper bands of rock, very near the New Mexico - Texas state line."

Bibliography: Corcoran, J. J., III. 1965. Rumoured cave locations in Culberson County, Texas. Southwestern Cavers, 4:87.

Ref: TSS files

PATTERSON POTHOLE

Culberson County

Guadalupe Peak 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: "On Guadalupe Peak Quad. about 4 miles south of the airway beacon."

Bibliography: Corcoran, J. J., III. 1965. Rumoured cave locations in Culberson County, Texas. Southwestern Cavers, 4:87.

Ref: TSS files

PINE SPRING CAVE

Culberson County

Guadalupe Peak 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: "An entrance is reported in the north wall of Pine Spring Canyon on a sharp ridge about 1-1/2 miles from the mouth of the canyon, about 500' from the top."

Bibliography: Corcoran, J. J., III. 1965. Rumoured cave locations in Culberson County, Texas. Southwestern Cavers, 4:87.

Ref: TSS files

POTHOLE (CAVE?) #1

Culberson County

Guadalupe Peak 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: "A pothole is reported about 1/2 mile east of an airway beacon in the Delaware Mtns. on the 31⁰ 50' grid line (Guad. Pk. Tex. Quad.)."

Bibliography: Corcoran, J. J., III. 1965. Rumoured cave locations in Culberson County, Texas. Southwestern Cavers, 4:87.

Ref: TSS files

POTHOLE #2

Culberson County

Guadalupe Peak 15' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: "3/4 mile south of Patterson Pothole."

Bibliography: Corcoran, J. J., III. 1965. Rumoured cave locations in Culberson County, Texas. Southwestern Cavers, 4:87.

Ref: TSS files

RADER CAVE (Radier Cave)

Culberson County

Guadalupe Peak 15' Quadrangle

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: "A deep cave is reported on Rader Ridge between Smith Canyon and Bell Canyon, about 5 miles east and slightly north of Guadalupe Peak."

Bibliography: Corcoran, J. J., III. 1965. Rumoured cave locations in Culberson County, Texas. Southwestern Cavers, 4:87.

Ref: TSS files

SUBLETT MINE

Culberson County

Owner: Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Description: One of the most enduring of all Texas treasure legends is that known as the Sublett Mine. The story has been told by several people, including J. Frank Dobie in Coronado's Children, Marvin Hunter (1916), and Mildred Carson Muller (1966). The mine is reputed to be a cave in which gold occurs in large nuggets; gold even lies around the entrance ready for the taking. It was supposed to have been found by Ben Sublett who lived in Odessa and spent most of his time in the Guadalupe Mountains.

According to the story the cave is located at the tip of the Guadalupe, presumably in the vicinity of Guadalupe Peak. "Old Ben" one day appeared at Abe Williams' saloon with sacks full of gold. From that day on, whenever he needed money, he would disappear for several days and return with more gold. According to some stories Sublett died without ever revealing the location of the mine, but according to others he took his young son, Ross, to it, but he could never remember where it was except that it was a cave. Sublett also is supposed to have told its location to Mike Wilson, who found the mine and brought back as much gold as he could carry. A three week long drunk erased the location from his mind and he could never find the gold cave again. Other tales of gold mines and caves in the Guadalupe exist, but they have all become inextricably bound with the most famous of all, the Sublett Mine.

Bibliography: Dobie, J. F. 1930. Coronado's children. New York: Grossett & Dunlap. xiv + 367 p.

Hunter, M. 1916. Mysterious gold mine of the Guadalupe Mountains. Hunter's Frontier Mag., 1(7):177-179. Reprinted in: J. F. Dobie, ed., Legends of Texas, p. 67-72. Hatboro, Pennsylvania: Folklore Assoc., Inc. 1924. Reprinted, 1964.

Muller, M. C. 1966. Sublett's Cave of Gold. Frontier Times, 40(1):43, 60-61. Ref: TSS files

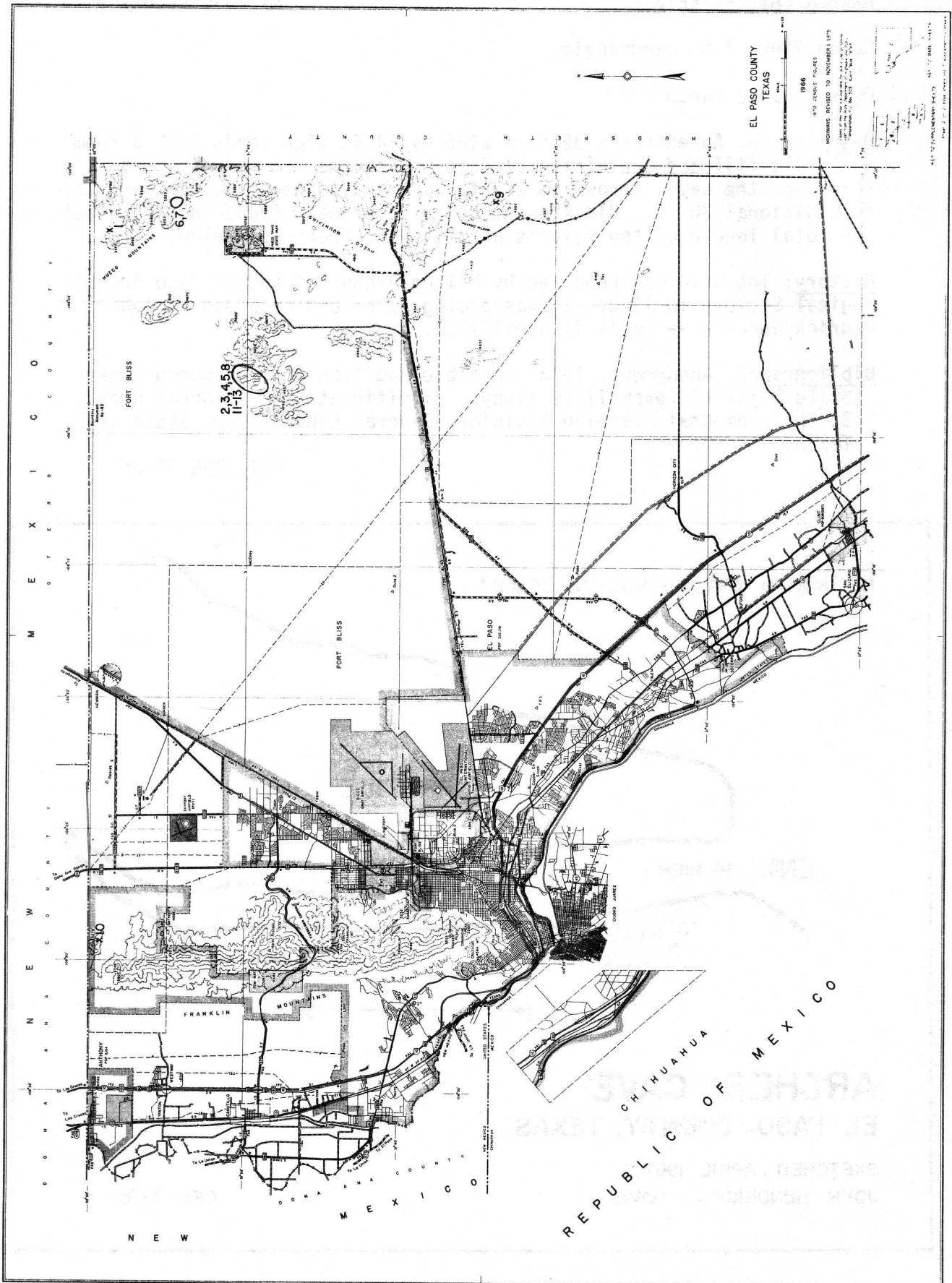
WATER CAVE

Culberson County

Owner: Aikens place

Description: This is reported to be a cave from which water is pumped. It is presumably located a few miles south of Kent.

Ref: Jack Graves,
Uvalde



EL PASO COUNTY
TEXAS

1966
1953 CENSUS FIGURES
HIGHWAYS ROUTED TO NOVEMBER 1965

EL PASO COUNTY TEXAS 72

NEW MEXICO

EL PASO

REPUBLIC OF MEXICO
CHIHUAHUA

NEW

ARCHER CAVE (41EP13)

El Paso County #1

Hueco Tanks 7.5' Quadrangle

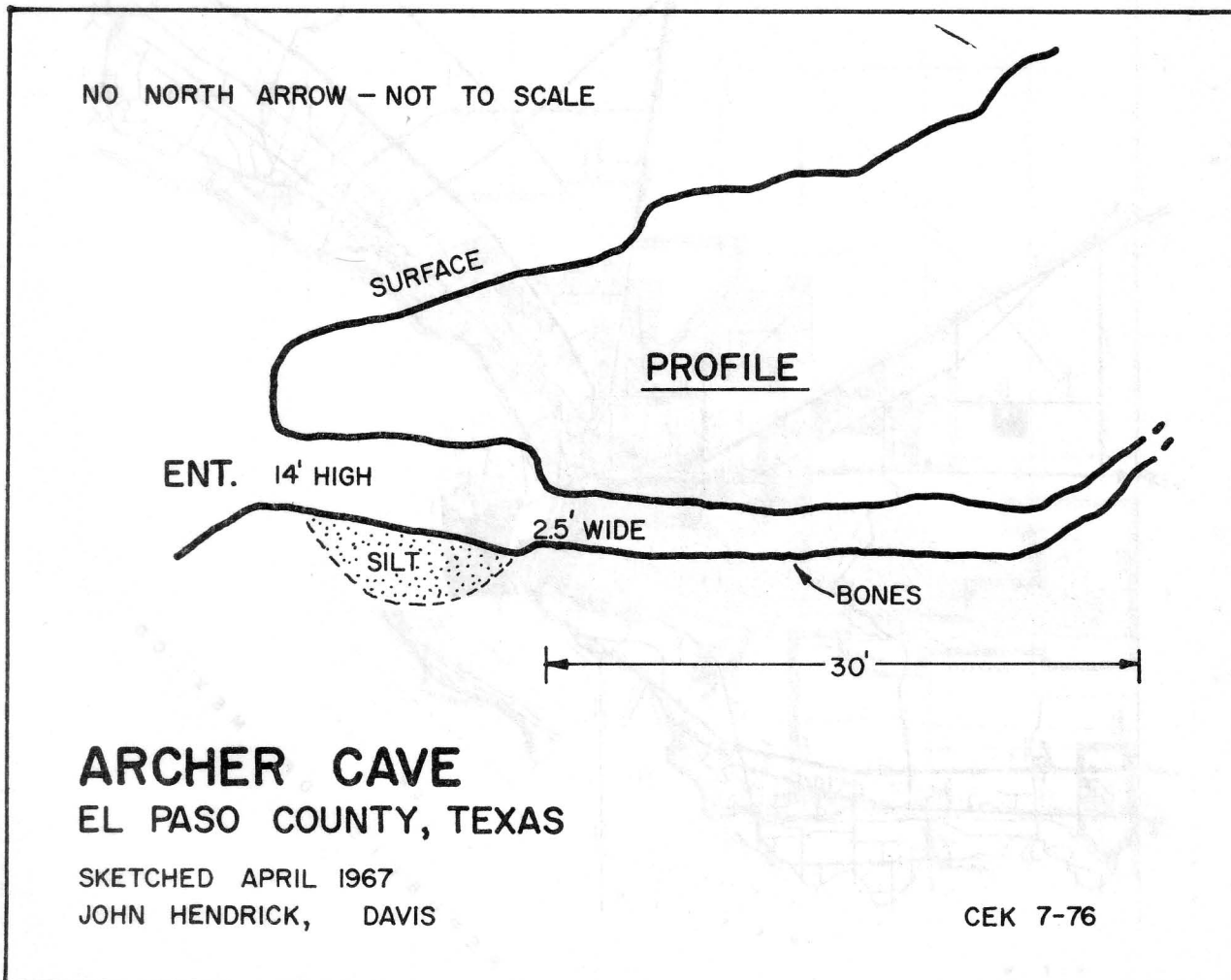
Owner: Davis Ranch

Description: An entrance 36.6 ft wide by 14 ft high leads into a room with silt fill and containing El Paso polychrome pot sherds. From this room the cave narrows to 2.5 ft wide and becomes too narrow after an additional 30 ft. Pleistocene camel bones were found in the tunnel. The total length of the cave is about 45 ft. (See map, below)

History: The cave was reported by Milton Archer of the El Paso Archeological Society in 1963. It was photographed and recorded by John Hedrick and ----- Davis in April 1967.

Bibliography: Anonymous. 1973. Possible additions to the Hueco Tanks State Park---A feasibility study. Significant Natural Areas Rept., 3, Environmental Planning Division, General Land Office, State of Texas.

Ref: TSS files



CAVE 4

El Paso County #2

Owner: Charles M. Newman

Description: The entrance to this cave is 13 ft wide and 8 to 10 ft high. The roof is horizontal and the floor almost level. It is about 25 ft long. The floor contained 1 to 2 ft of clean dust and sand fill with no Indian artifacts.

Bibliography: Cosgrove, C. B. 1947. Caves of the Upper Gila and Hueco areas in New Mexico and Texas. Pap. Peabody Mus. American Archaeol. and Ethnol., Harvard Univ., 24(2):33-40. Reprinted in: Bull. Natl. Speleol. Soc., 10:79-83. 1948.

Ref: TSS files

CAVE 5 (SITE 4:182b,c?)

El Paso County #3

Owner: Charles M. Newman

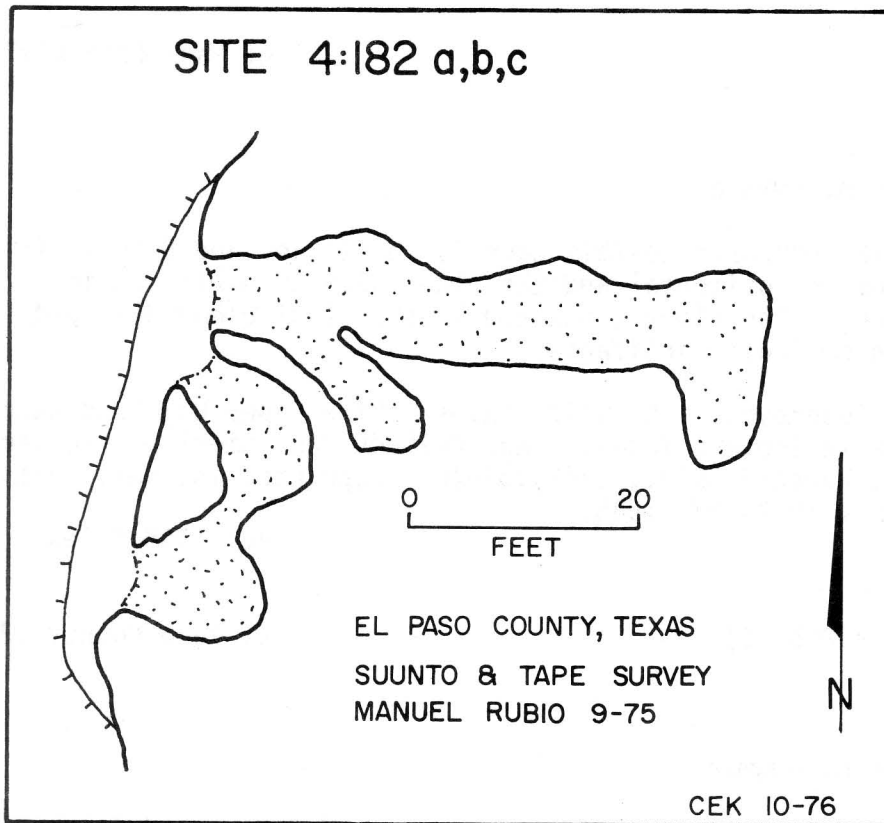
Description: This cave is located to the east of Cave 4 and is entered by an oblong rectangular opening 20 ft wide and 7 to 8 ft high. Cosgrove (1947) reports that it "had originally been 51 ft deep, with a fairly horizontal ceiling; but the back half of the ceiling had fallen, depositing a slide of rock on the middle third of the level entrance and leaving at the back an irregular bench, measuring 20 by 32 feet. Above this fall the maximum ceiling height was 10 feet. The tops of the boulders were 17 feet above the level front floor of the cave, and so close to the rear edge of that portion of the ceiling still remaining in position that the opening between afforded only a narrow entrance into the space behind, which was left vacant by the fall." Whalen (1976) identifies Cave 5 with his Site 4:182b,c, but the map of the cave by Rubio shows only a single passage about 30 ft long with two openings at each end. The cave was mapped by Manuel Rubio in September 1975. See map, page 42.

Archeology: The cave was investigated by Cosgrove, who recovered artifacts indicating that the cave had been inhabited by both Basketmaker and Pueblo. Whalen's investigation revealed that it is now too badly disturbed and vandalized to merit further study.

Bibliography: Cosgrove, C. B. 1947. Caves of the Upper Gila and Hueco areas in New Mexico and Texas. Pap. Peabody Mus. American Archaeol. and Ethnol., Harvard Univ., 24(2):33-40. Reprinted in: Bull. Natl. Speleol. Soc., 10:79-83. 1948.

Whalen, M. E. 1976. Settlement patterns of the eastern Hueco Bolson. El Paso: El Paso Centennial Museum of the Univ. Texas at El Paso.

Ref: TSS files



CAVE 6 (SITE 4:182a)

El Paso County #4

Owner: Charles M. Newman

Description: This cave is reported by Cosgrove (1947) as being east of Cave 5 and to consist of "an arched opening 11 feet wide and 8 feet high, which quickly narrows to a horizontal drift or tunnel, averaging 6 to 7 feet in diameter and pinching out to terminate in a crevice 41 feet from the entrance. The floor of the tunnel was level and covered with a shallow deposit of sand, dust, and thin spalls from the roof." The map of the cave by Rubio (see above) is in fairly close agreement with this description, but shows a 10 ft long side passage about 10 ft from the cave entrance. The cave was mapped in September 1975 by Manuel Rubio.

Archeology: Cosgrove recovered artifacts of the Basket-maker. Whalen found the cave to be badly vandalized and disturbed, with little or no excavation potential.

Bibliography: Cosgrove, C. B. 1947. Caves of the Upper Gila and Hueco areas in New Mexico and Texas. Pap. Peabody Mus. American Archaeol. and Ethnol., Harvard Univ., 24(2):33-40. Reprinted in part in: Bull. Natl. Speleol. Soc., 10:79-83. 1948.

Whalen, M. E. 1976. Settlement patterns of the eastern Hueco Bolson.
El Paso: El Paso Centennial Museum of the Univ. Texas at El Paso.
Ref: TSS files

CAVE 7 (SITE 4:183)

El Paso County #5

Owner: Charles M. Newman

Description: This cave is east of Cave 6. Cosgrove (1947) reports that "it has a triangular entrance 15 feet wide by 7 feet high, opening into an irregularly outlined circular chamber 26 to 27 feet in diameter. The domed roof is 19 to 20 feet above the basin-shaped floor. The fill, 1 1/2 to 2 feet of dry dust, sand, and some stone, had been dug over by others. Leading from this chamber toward the northwest was a tunnel 32 feet long ending in a small circular pocket. The tunnel, 5 feet high, was half filled with dirt upon which was trash brought in by rats." The cave was mapped in September 1975 by Douglas Brethauer. His map shows the cave to be a total of about 60 ft long, but they did not reach the end described by Cosgrove. See map, below.

Archeology: Cosgrove (1947) reports that most of the artifacts found were Pueblo, with only a few Basket-maker artifacts being present. Whalen (1976) reports that the cave is too badly disturbed and vandalized to offer any excavation potential.

Bibliography: Cosgrove, C. B. 1947. Caves of the Upper Gila and Hueco areas in New Mexico and Texas. Pap. Peabody Mus. American Archaeol. and Ethnol., Harvard Univ., 24(2):33-40. Reprinted in part in: Bull. Natl. Speleol. Soc., 10:79-83. 1948.

Whalen, M. E. 1976. Settlement patterns of the eastern Hueco Bolson.
El Paso: El Paso Centennial Mus., Univ. Texas at El Paso.
Ref: TSS files

CAVE 9

El Paso County #6

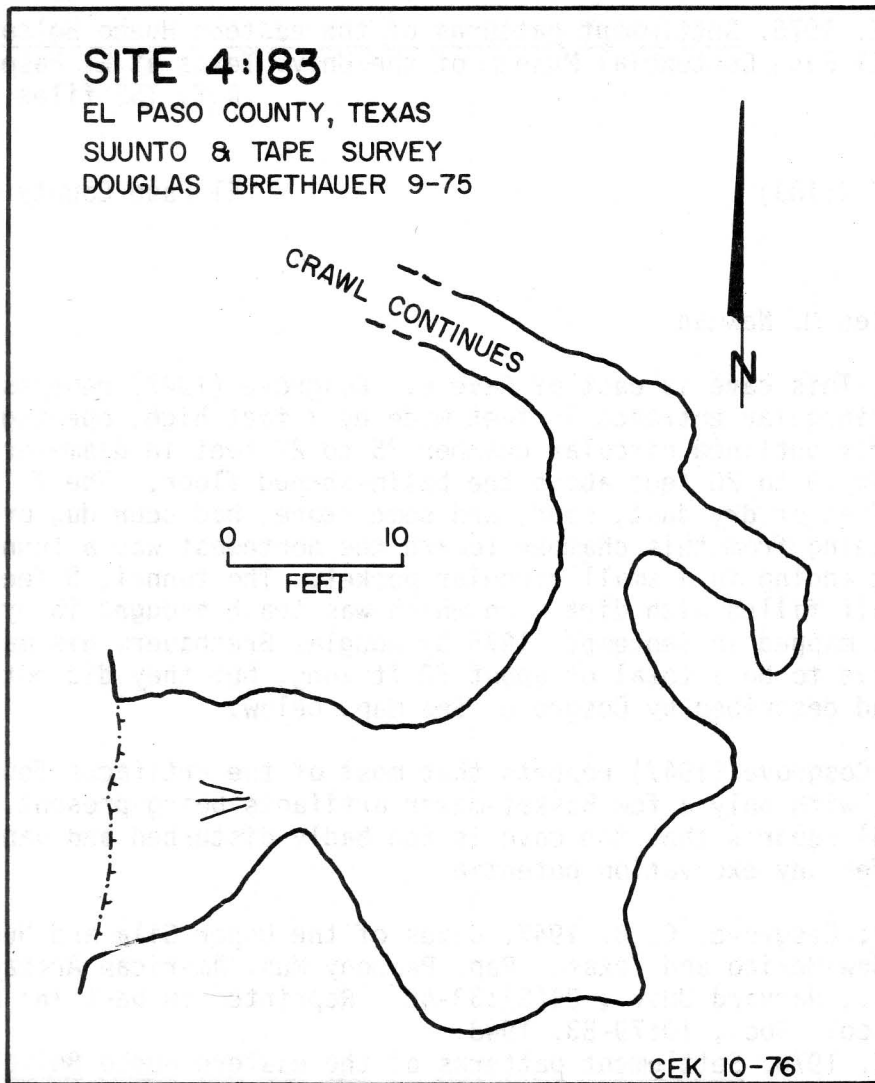
Owner: Charles M. Newman

Description: Cosgrove (1947) reports, "Cave 9, facing southeast... is a rough cleft in the rocks 35 feet deep, with a dangerous roof and, in the sloping floor, a series of benches or level spaces left when the cliff-face slipped and settled.

Archeology: Cosgrove recovered artifacts of the Pueblo period from this cave.

Bibliography: Cosgrove, C. B. 1947. Caves of the Upper Gila and Hueco areas in New Mexico and Texas. Pap. Peabody Mus. American Archaeol. and Ethnol., Harvard Univ., 24(2):33-40. Reprinted in part in: Bull. Natl. Speleol. Soc., 10:79-83. 1948.

Ref: TSS files



CAVE 10

Owner: Charles M. Newman

Description: Cosgrove (1947) reports that this cave, "is 55 feet deep, with a finely arched opening 30 feet wide and 14 feet high. The exposure is to the west. The sandstone floor is somewhat moist..."

Archeology: Due to the moisture most of the perishable objects were decayed. A few Pueblo period artifacts were recovered.

Bibliography: Cosgrove, C. B. 1947. Caves of the Upper Gila and Hueco areas in New Mexico and Texas. Pap. Peabody Mus. American Archaeol. and Ethnol., Harvard Univ., 24(2):33-40. Reprinted in part in: Bull. Natl. Speleol. Soc., 10:79-83. 1948.

Ref: TSS files

Owner: Charles M. Newman

Description: Ceremonial Cave is reported on in detail by Cosgrove (1947). He reports that "the entrance is 27 feet wide, 15 feet high; depth from overhang of line, 90 feet; maximum width, 41 1/2 feet. The roof of this cave, as in nearly all in this district, was smooth, showing no recent falls of heavy stone. Below the refuse and lying on a yellow sandy fill were flocks of a friable, crystalline formation that had sloughed from the roof long ago." Cosgrove includes with his report a map of this and the three small, nearby caves. Ceremonial Cave was also mapped by Rick Kelly in September 1975. Both maps are included on page 46.

Archeology: Ceremonial Cave is an extremely important archeological site. It contained up to 5 ft of deposits, which were very rich in Pueblo and Basket-maker artifacts. The remains of more than 900 sandals were found by Cosgrove during his excavations, and many others doubtless had already been removed. The cave was unquestionably used for ceremonial purposes.

Bibliography: Anonymous. 1937. Ceremonial Cave El Paso. Picturesque Southwest, 1(1):24.

Alves, E. E. 1930. Shelter caves of the El Paso District. Bull. Texas Archeol. and Paleontol. Soc., 2:64-68.

Alves, E. E. 1932. Perishable artifacts of the Hueco caves. West Texas Hist. and Sci. Soc. Publ., 4:20-23.

Brook, V. R. 1966. Cruciform artifacts from the vicinity of El Paso, Texas. American Antiquity, 31(4):574-575.

Cosgrove, C. B. 1947. Caves of the Upper Gila and Hueco areas in New Mexico and Texas. Pap. Peabody Mus. American Archaeol. and Ethnol., Harvard Univ., 24(2):33-40. Reprinted in part in: Bull. Natl. Speleol. Soc., 10:79-83. 1948.

Greer, J. W., and R. A. Benfer. 1962. Langtry Creek Burial Cave, Val Verde County, Texas. Bull. Texas Archeol. Soc., 33:229-251.

Jackson, A. T. 1948. West Texas caves and shelters. Bull. Natl. Speleol. Soc., 10:69-76.

Reddell, J. R. 1961. Texas Speleological Survey. Texas Caver, 6:53-54.

Sayles, E. B. 1941. Some Texas cave dweller artifacts. Bull. Texas Archeol. and Paleontol. Soc., 13:163-168, pl. 29.

Whalen, M. E. 1976. Settlement patterns of the eastern Hueco Bolson. El Paso: El Paso Centennial Mus., Univ. Texas at El Paso.

Ref: TSS files

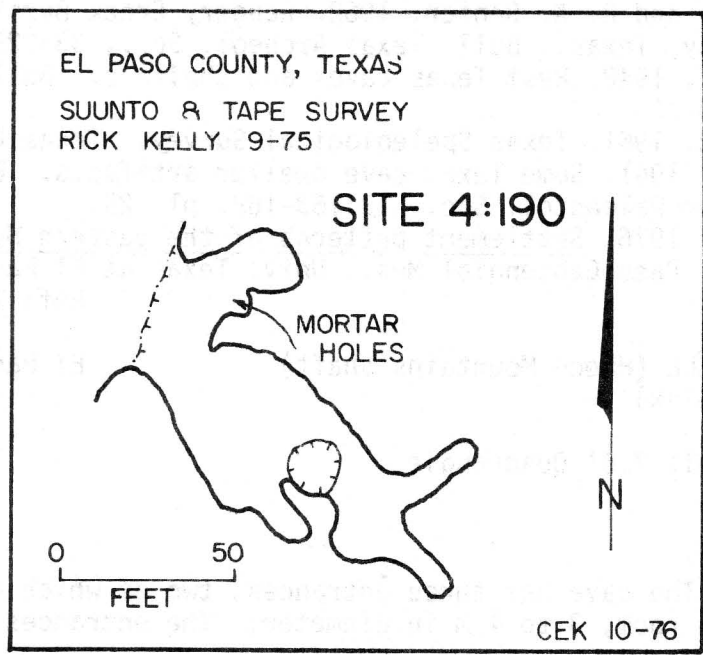
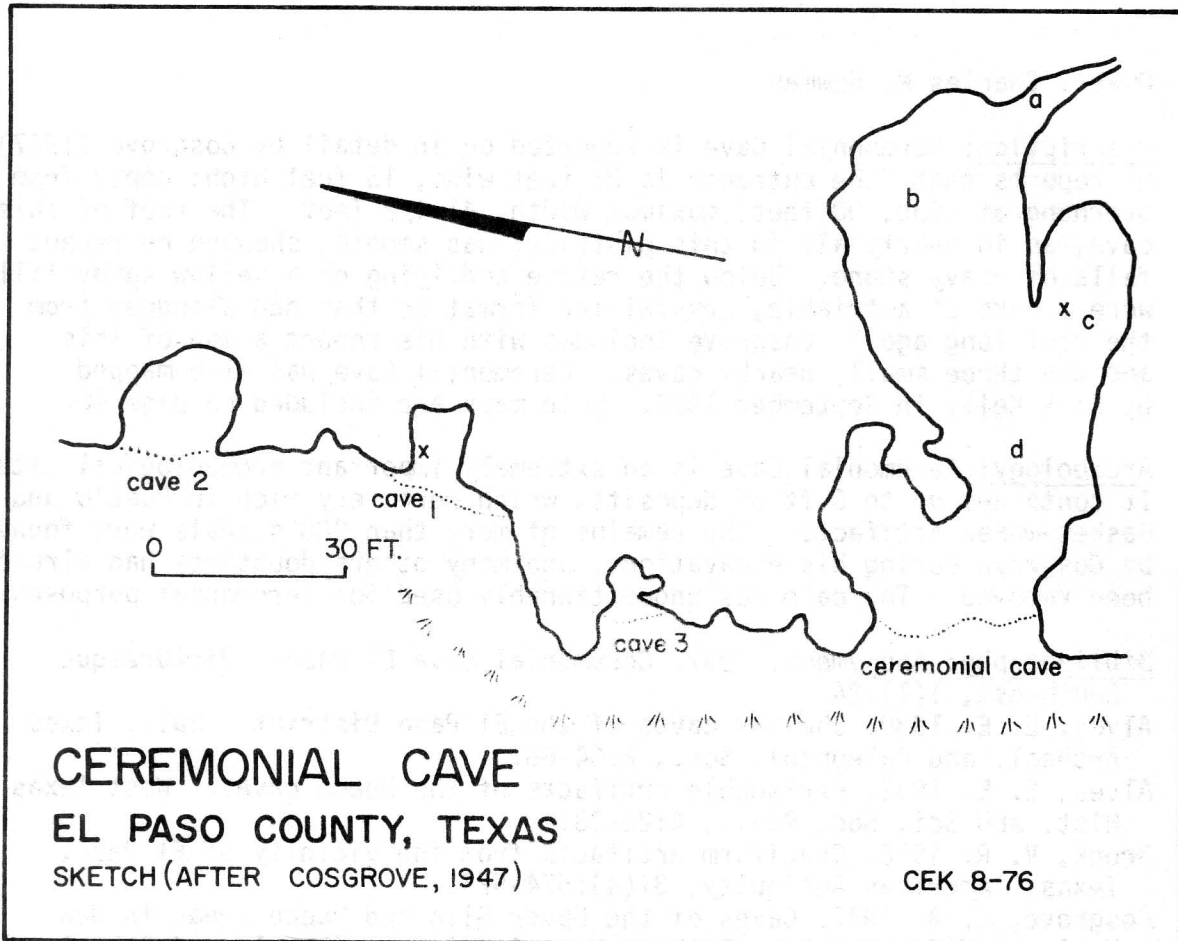
HELMS WEST WELL (Hueco Mountains Shaft)
(Hueco Sink)

El Paso County #9

Helms West Well 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Helms

Description: The cave has three entrances, two of which extend into a 1 to 2 m high room, 3 to 4 m in diameter. The entrances almost



immediately join in a 2 to 4 m wide crevice that drops 10 m past a couple of tiny, floor-level leads to an 11.6 m drop that is followed by a steeply sloping floor which ends at the edge of the longest drop, which is 29 m deep. The elevation at this ledge is -36.7 m. Directly ahead, an inaccessible passage heads up and out of sight. A large rock is wedged in the crevice part way into the lead. At the bottom of the drop a steep slope is soon followed by an 11 m drop, with the crevice at the bottom going both ways. Downslope the crevice continues to the bottom of the cave at -96 m (-314.976 feet). In the other direction the crevice slopes up to a high, unclimbable lead. Assorted pieces of what may have been some sort of winching device were found scattered throughout the crevice, as were bones and dessicated animal bodies. See map, page 48.

History: The area about the cave entrance was inhabited by Indians and they may have ventured into the entrance area. The existence of what appear to be parts of a winch indicate that the cave may have been entered by local ranchers or treasure hunters. The first person, however, who is known to have descended the drop to the bottom was Bill Cuddington in the summer of 1960. Bill Russell and others accompanied him but did not reach the bottom of the cave. Members of the White Sands Grotto (El Paso) reported a plan to visit the cave (Anonymous, 1962) but no record of their trip is available. On June 6, 1971, Chuck Ridpath and Dan Watson partially explored the cave, at which time a rattlesnake was encountered. On February 9, 1976, Doug Rhodes, Jeff Kirn, Bob Hendrickson, and Fred Fitzwater explored the cave to the bottom. It was mapped on July 12, 1976, by Bruce Andrews, John Brady, Dwight Deal, Ben Everett, Rick Longbreak, and Ron Ralph.

Bibliography: Anonymous. 1961. Texas' deepest caves. Texas Caver, 6:6.
Anonymous. 1962. News: White Sands. Texas Caver, 7:105-106.
Fieseler, R., and R. Ralph. 1976. Helm's West Well. Texas Caver, 21:182-183.
Fitzwater, F. 1976. Helm's West Well. Southwestern Caver, 3(2):13.
Watson, D. 1971. Trip report. Texas Caver, 16:128.

Ref: TSS files

MONGUE CAVE (Anthony Cave)

El Paso County #9

Canutillo 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: City of El Paso

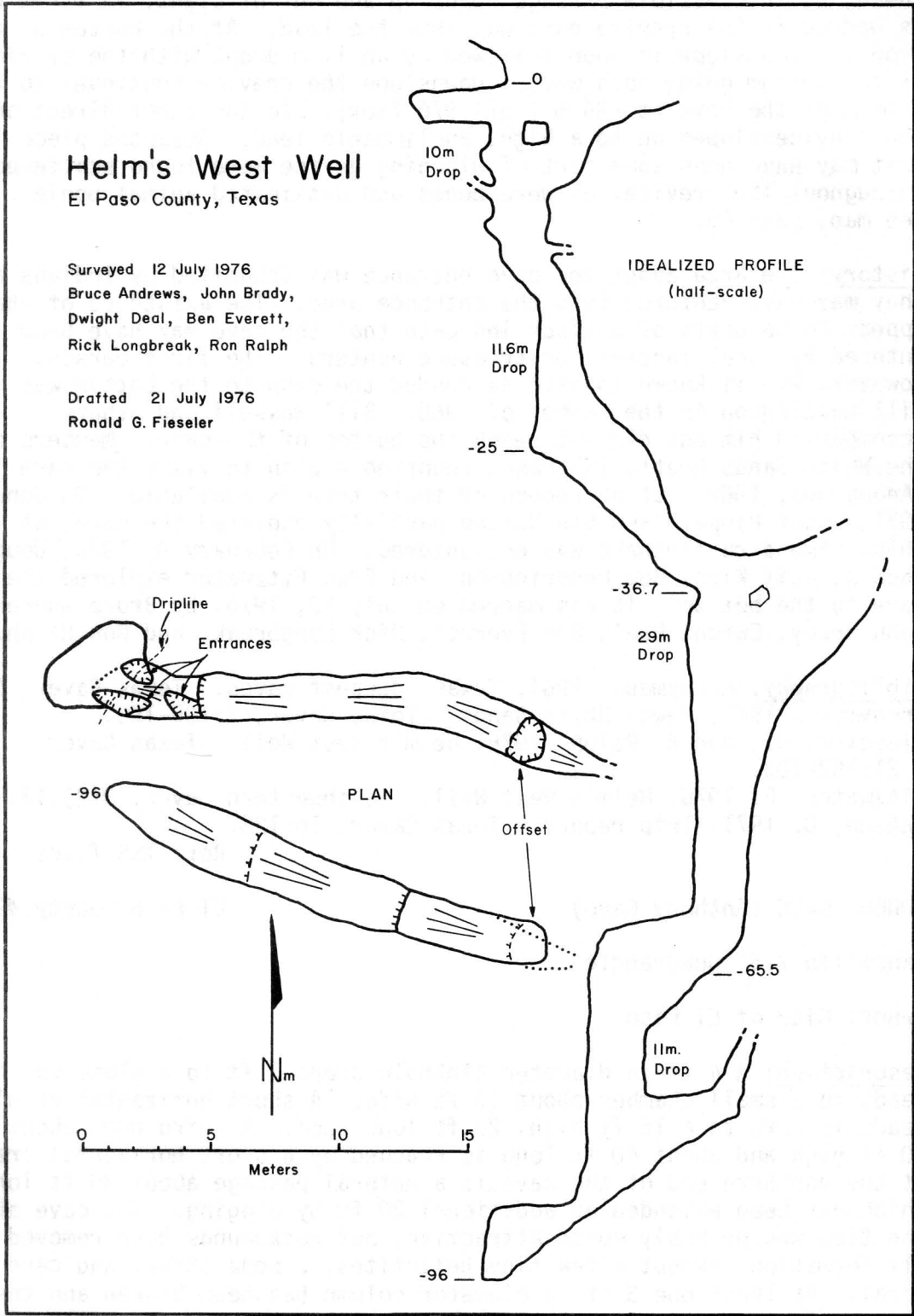
Description: A 4 ft in diameter sinkhole drops 7 ft to a slope which leads to a small chamber about 13 ft wide. A short horizontal crawl leads in turn to a 15 ft high, 25 ft long room. A third room about 20 ft high and about 40 ft long is reached by a short horizontal crawl. At the northern end of the cave is a natural passage about 30 ft long, which has been extended an additional 20 ft by digging. The cave at one time was probably quite attractive, but rockhounds have removed all formations except a few tiny helictites, a soda straw, and cave coral. At least one 3 ft in diameter column has been broken and the stumps of others remain. There is one small rimstone pool containing water. See map, page 50.

Helm's West Well

El Paso County, Texas

Surveyed 12 July 1976
Bruce Andrews, John Brady,
Dwight Deal, Ben Everett,
Rick Longbreak, Ron Ralph

Drafted 21 July 1976
Ronald G. Fieseler



Geology: The cave is reported by Hamm (196) to be formed in a flinty limestone-sandstone series of the Permian Hueco (?) formation. The beds dip about 50° west. "The cave appears to have developed along a limestone-sandstone fault contact... All the known rooms and crawlways are roughly along the north trending formational strike line. Prominent east-west joints are visible in the sandstone ceiling of the largest room... The tunnel begins in limestone but about 20 ft. in there is a fault contact with sandstone. The fault trends east-west and dips about 15° north - I believe this sandstone is the same sandstone visible on the ceiling of the big room. The sandstone is very fine-grained and contains numerous lenses of conglomerate. The conglomerate contains pebble size, angular fragments (which indicates the material hasn't been transported far) of flint, limestone, siltstone, and a granitic rock, all of which are found, in situ, in the Franklin Mountains."

Paleontology: Smartt (1972) and Porter (in press) have reported on excavations in the cave. The presence of several species no longer present in the area of the cave indicates that conditions were more mesic and/or cooler than now exist in the Franklin Mountains. The following is a faunal list of species reported from the cave:

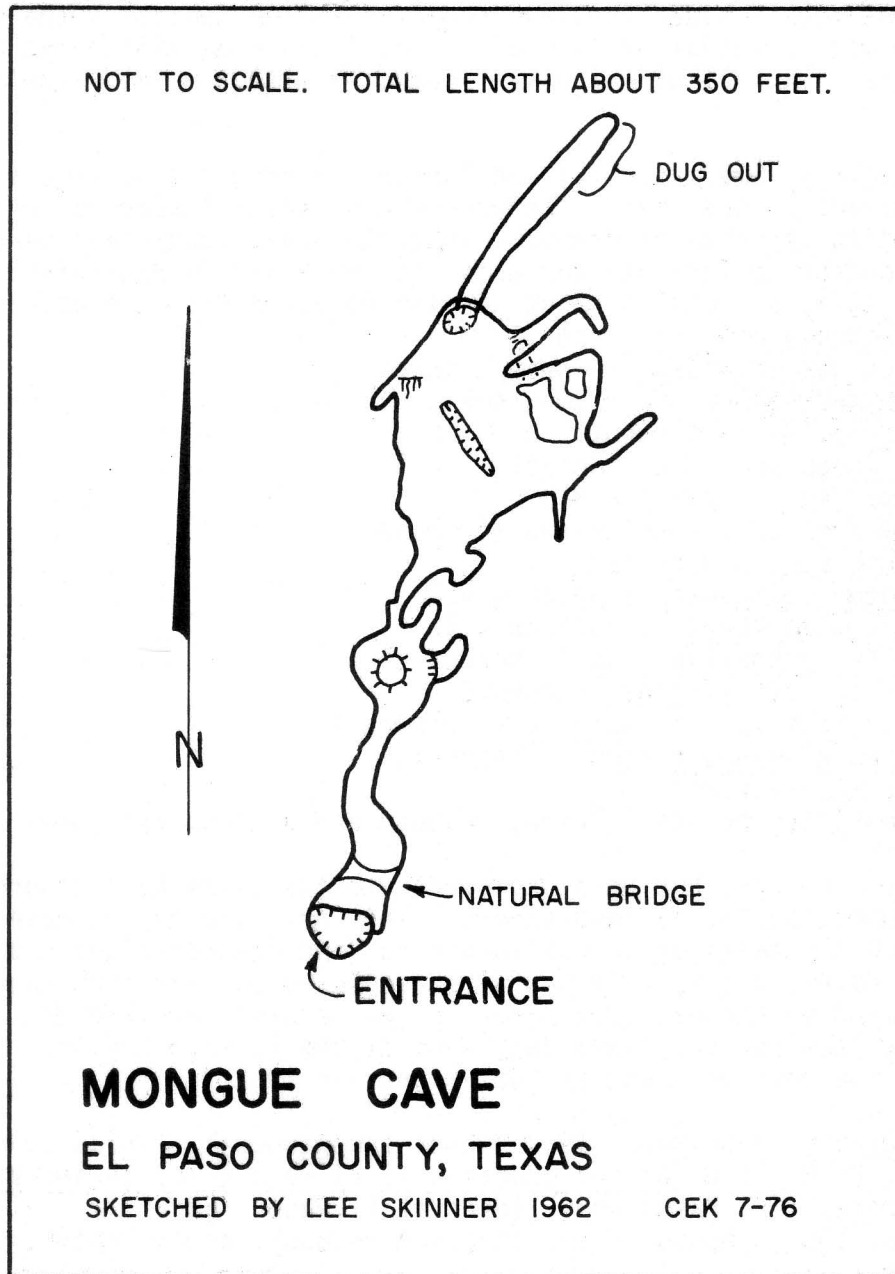
Gastrocopta procera -- snail
Notiosorex crawfordi -- desert shrew
Sorex merriami -- Merriam's shrew
Lepus sp. -- jack rabbit
Sylvilagus sp. -- cottontail
Cynomys sp. -- prairie dog
Peromyscus sp. -- white-footed mouse
Neotoma sp. -- wood rat
Microtus mexicanus -- Mexican vole
Microtus montanus -- montane vole
Microtus pennsylvanicus -- meadow vole
Canis sp. cf. latrans -- coyote
Bassariscus sp. cf. astutus -- ringtail
Urocyon cinereoargenteus -- gray fox
Equus sp. -- horse
unidentified herptile, bird, rodent, and artiodactyl bones

History: The cave has been explored numerous times by treasure hunters, rockhounds, and local adventurers. This may also be the cave which inspired the tales of an outlaw hideout and counterfeiter's den (see Outlaw Caves, below). It was first explored by cavers on August 24, 196 , by Doug Rhodes, Jack Cisarik, Lee Skinner, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Childs, "two novices," and Jack Hamm of the El Paso Grotto. A sketch map of the cave was made by Lee Skinner in 1962.

Bibliography: Anonymous. 1962. News: Independents. Texas Caver, 7:35.
Binion, C. H. 1970. An introduction to El Paso's scenic and historic landmarks. El Paso: Univ. Texas at El Paso. 62 p.
Hamm, J. 196 . Mongue Cave, Texas--A reconnaissance report. Southwestern Caver,
Porter, L. S. W. (in press). Pleistocene vertebrates of the Franklin Mountains. Texas Natural Areas Survey, Austin.
Skinner, L. 1962. Mongue Cave. Texas Caver, 7:36. Reprinted in part in: Speleo Digest, 1962(1):95. 1964.

Smartt, R. A. 1972. Late Pleistocene and Recent Microtus from southcentral and southwestern New Mexico. M. S. Thesis. El Paso: Univ. Texas at El Paso. 99 p.

Ref: TSS files



PICTURE CAVE (SITE 4:178) -- TUNNEL 1

El Paso County #10

Owner: Charles M. Newman (1930's)

Description: This cave is the southernmost of several passages extending from the back of the long, shallow shelter generally referred to as Picture Cave. This shelter extends along the cliff for more than 100 ft. Tunnel 1 consists of a passage about 10 ft wide and 30 ft long. Midway along its length a 3 ft long tunnel opens into a second, smaller passage about 5 ft wide and 25 ft long, which also opens onto the back wall of the shelter. See map, page 53.

Archeology: Material recovered from Picture Cave has not been listed with respect to which tunnel it was removed. Cosgrove (1947) reports artifacts of Pueblo and Basket-maker Cultures. Material recovered included corncobs, El Paso Polychrome sherds, cordage, a gourd rattle, a bone awl, wooden dart foreshafts, fragments of fur cloth, toe sandals, a piece of checkerweave yucca-leaf mat, and a fragment of hair ornament.

History: Picture Cave was first investigated by C. B. Cosgrove in the early 1930's. He had been notified of the site by Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Alves of El Paso. The cave was also visited by Victor Smith who copied the pictures. He found more pictures than did Cosgrove, indicating that he probably visited the site in the late 1920's. Picture Cave was also investigated by Kay Sutherland and Tom and Cindy Martin, at which time a rough map of the cave was prepared.

Bibliography: Cosgrove, C. B. 1947. Caves of the Upper Gila and Hueco Areas in New Mexico and Texas. Pap. Peabody Mus. American Archaeol. Ethnol., Harvard Univ., 24(2). xv + 181 p., fig. 49-149. Reprinted in part under the title, "Hueco Mt. Caves," in: Bull. Natl. Speleol. Soc., 10:79-84. 1948.

Jackson, A. T. 1938. Picture-writing of Texas Indians. Univ. Texas Publ., 3809. xxv + 490 p.

Roberts, F. H. H., Jr. 1929. Recent archaeological developments in the vicinity of El Paso, Texas. Smithsonian Misc. Coll., 81(7):1-14.

Sutherland, K. 1976. A survey of "Picture Cave" in the Hueco Mountains, Texas. The Artifact, 14(2):1-32.

Whalen, M. E. 1976. Settlement patterns of the eastern Hueco Bolson. El Paso Centennial Mus. Univ. Texas at El Paso.

Ref: TSS files

PICTURE CAVE (SITE 4:178) -- TUNNEL 2

El Paso County #11

Owner: Charles M. Newman (1930's)

Description: This cave is the northernmost in a wider part of the shelter. It consists of a 10 ft wide opening which extends for 25 ft. A short distance inside the opening a small tunnel to the left extends for about 15 ft and also opens into the back of the shelter. See map, page 53.

Archeology: In addition to the material list for Picture Cave - Tunnel 1, Tunnel 2 and the shelter area in front of it contains numerous pictographs. The first person to study these was Victor Smith in the 1920's. Cosgrove also drew many of them, but was unable to find as many as Smith. An extensive study of the pictographs was made by Sutherland (1976) and she drew them. Her report indicates that they have suffered considerably from aging and from vandalism.

History: See Picture Cave - Tunnel 1 above.

Bibliography: See Picture Cave - Tunnel 1 above.

Ref: TSS files

PICTURE CAVE - Tunnel 3

El Paso County #12

Owner: Charles M. Newman (1930's)

Description: This cave is separated from the main Picture Cave shelter area by about 15 ft. It consists of a 10 ft wide passage about 30 ft long, gradually tapering to the back. See map, page 53.

Archeology: See Picture Cave - Tunnel 1.

History: See Picture Cave - Tunnel 1.

Bibliography: See Picture Cave - Tunnel 1.

Ref: TSS files

SITE 4:114

El Paso County #13

Owner:

Description: The entrance to this unnamed cave is an 8 ft wide, 8 ft high opening at the back of a 30 ft wide shelter. It consists of a single 35 ft long passage, sloping steeply up and tapering to less than 2 ft wide at the back. See map, page 54.

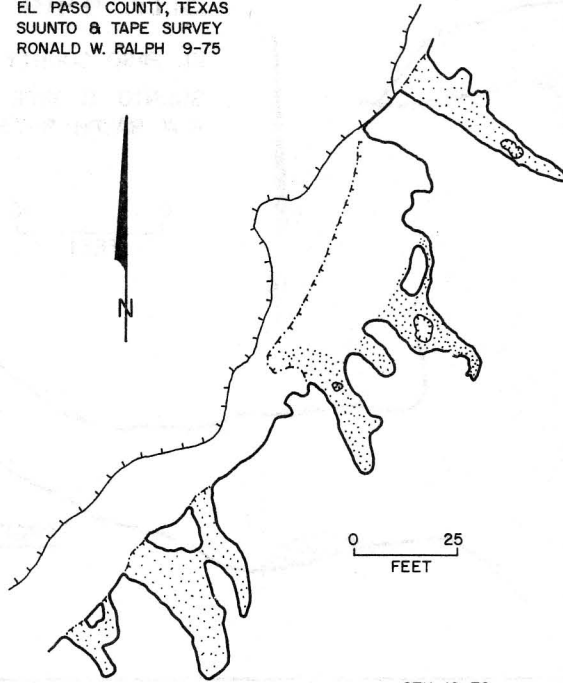
Archeology: Whalen (1976) reports that this cave has more than 40 cm of deposit. He found unspecific brownware sherds and animal bone, but the site is very heavily vandalized.

Bibliography: Whalen, M. E. 1976. Settlement patterns of the eastern Hueco Bolson. El Paso Centennial Museum, Univ. Texas at El Paso.

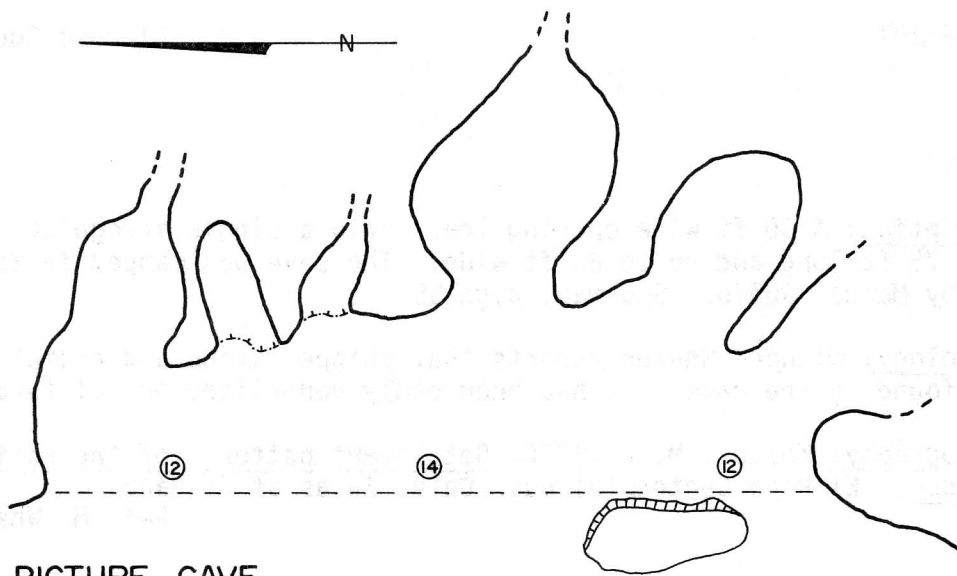
Ref: M. Whalen

PICTURE CAVE (SITE 4:178)

EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS
SUUNTO & TAPE SURVEY
RONALD W. RALPH 9-75



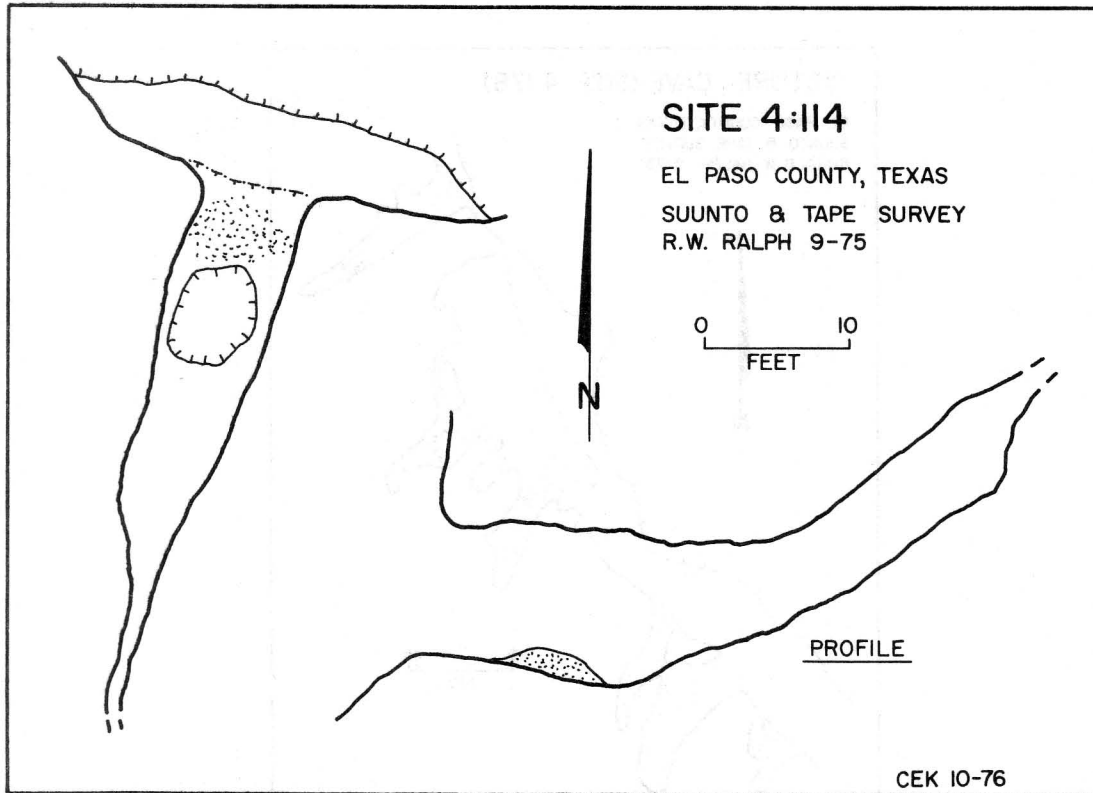
CEK 10-76



PICTURE CAVE
EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS

DRAWN BY TOM MARTIN 6-23-74
CEK 8-76

0 20 FT.



SITE 4:181

El Paso County #14

Owner:

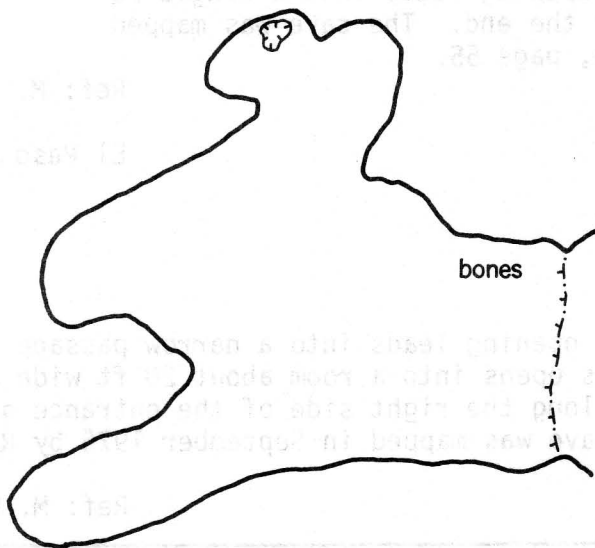
Description: A 30 ft wide opening leads into a single irregular chamber about 75 ft long and up to 60 ft wide. The cave was mapped in September 1975 by Manuel Rubio. See map, page 55.

Archeology: Michael Whalen reports that chipped stone and animal bone were found in the cave. It had been badly vandalized and disturbed.

Bibliography: Whalen, M. E. 1976. Settlement patterns of the eastern Hueco Bolson. El Paso Centennial Mus. Univ. Texas at El Paso.

Ref: M. Whalen

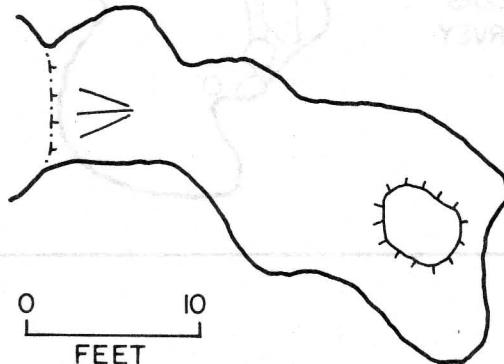
SITE 4:181



EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS
SUUNTO & TAPE SURVEYS
MANUEL RUBIO 9-75



SITE 4:187



CEK 10-76

SITE 4:187

El Paso County #15

Owner:

Description: A 6 ft wide opening leads into a single passage about 30 ft long. A dome occurs near the end. The cave was mapped in September 1975 by Manuel Rubio. See map, page 55.

Ref: M. Whalen

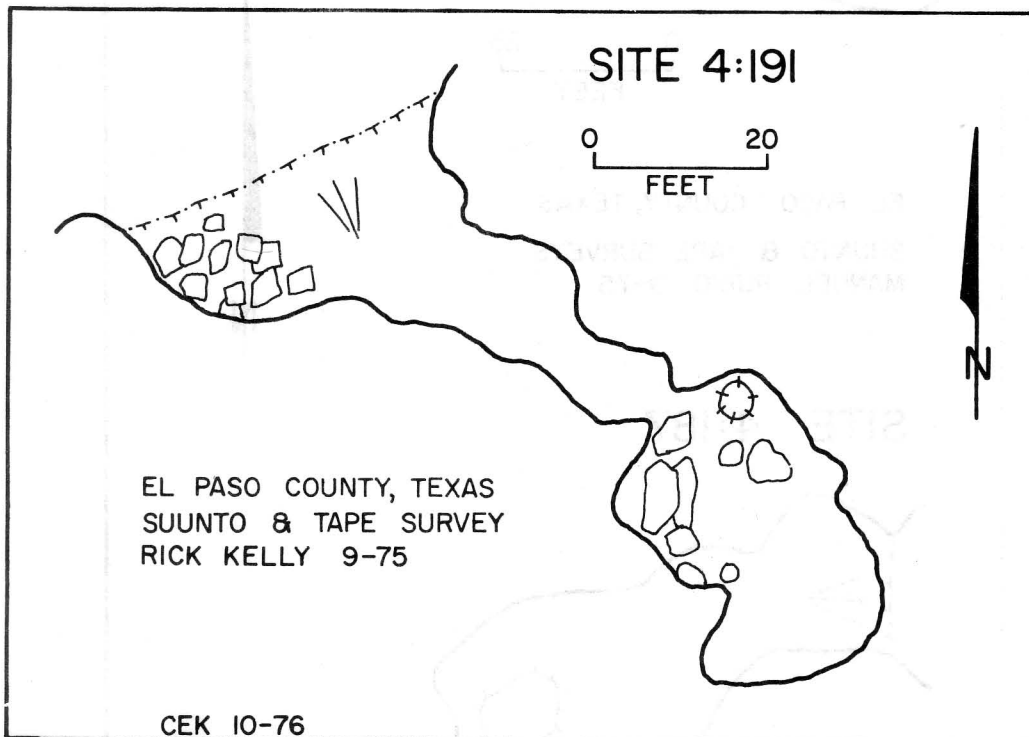
SITE 4:191

El Paso County #16

Owner:

Description: A 40 ft wide opening leads into a narrow passage about 8 ft wide and 30 ft long. This opens into a room about 20 ft wide and 30 ft long. Breakdown occurs along the right side of the entrance area and in the final room. The cave was mapped in September 1975 by Rick Kelly. See map, below.

Ref: M. Whalen



Owner:

Description: Two separate caves occur at Site 4:192. One is entered by a passage about 5 ft wide from the back of a shallow, irregular shelter. This passage leads after about 10 ft into a room about 15 ft in diameter, with two domes (7 and 10 ft high). To the right a passage slopes up, extends about 6 ft, turns sharply to the left and ends in a dome after about 10 ft. The cave was mapped in September 1975 by Ronald W. Ralph. See map, page 58.

Ref: R. Ralph

SITE 4:192

El Paso County #18

Owner:

Description: Two entrances, one about 10 ft wide and the other about 25 ft wide, lead into passages which connect to form a single passage about 10 ft wide and about 50 ft long. The cave was mapped in September 1975 by Ronald W. Ralph. See map, page 58.

Ref: R. Ralph

SITE 4:195

El Paso County #19

Owner:

Description: A 15 ft wide entrance leads into a 6 ft high, 15 ft wide passage about 10 ft long. This opens to form a chamber about 10 by 25 ft with a 2 ft deep pit dug in the floor. A 2 ft high passage leads from this room, but appears from the map to become too small to continue. The cave was mapped in September 1975 by Ronald W. Ralph and M. Taylor. See map, page 59.

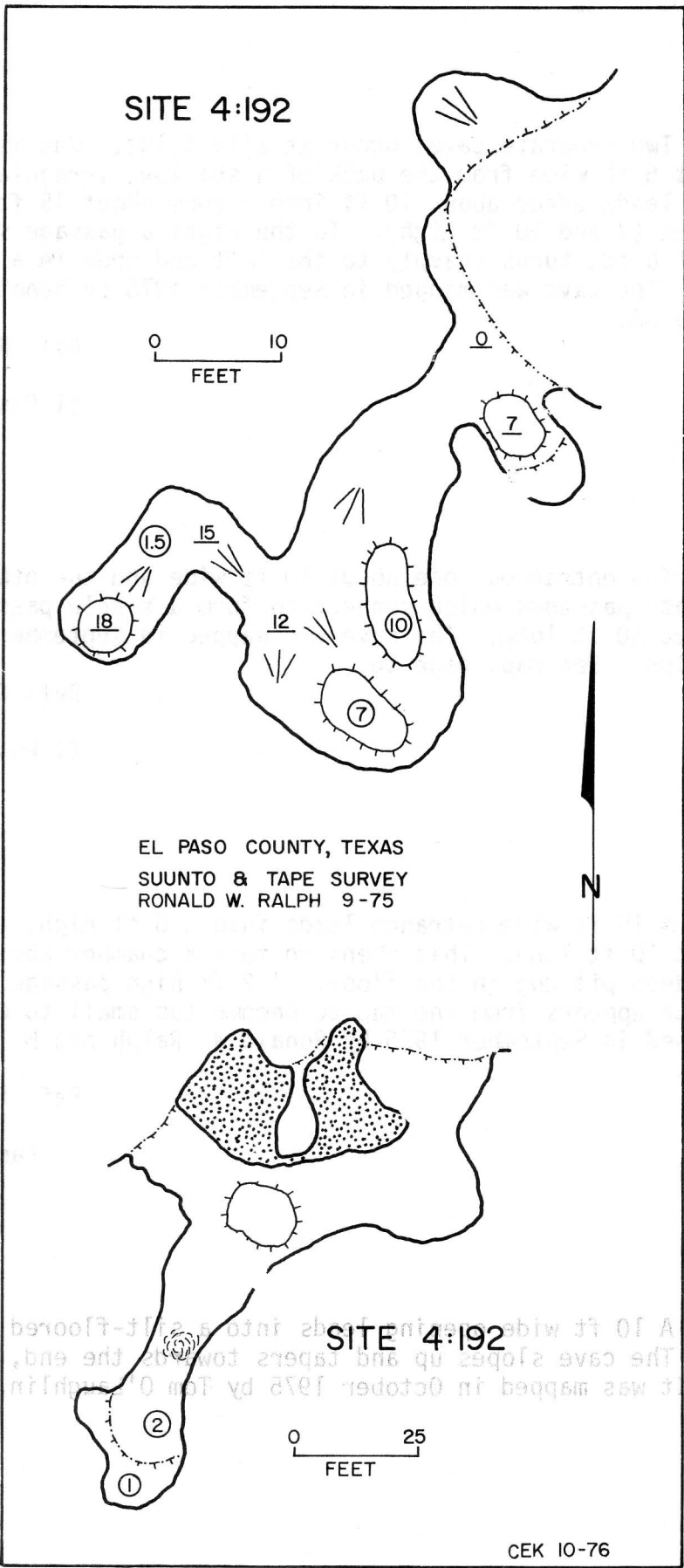
Ref: R. Ralph

SITE 4:210

El Paso County #20

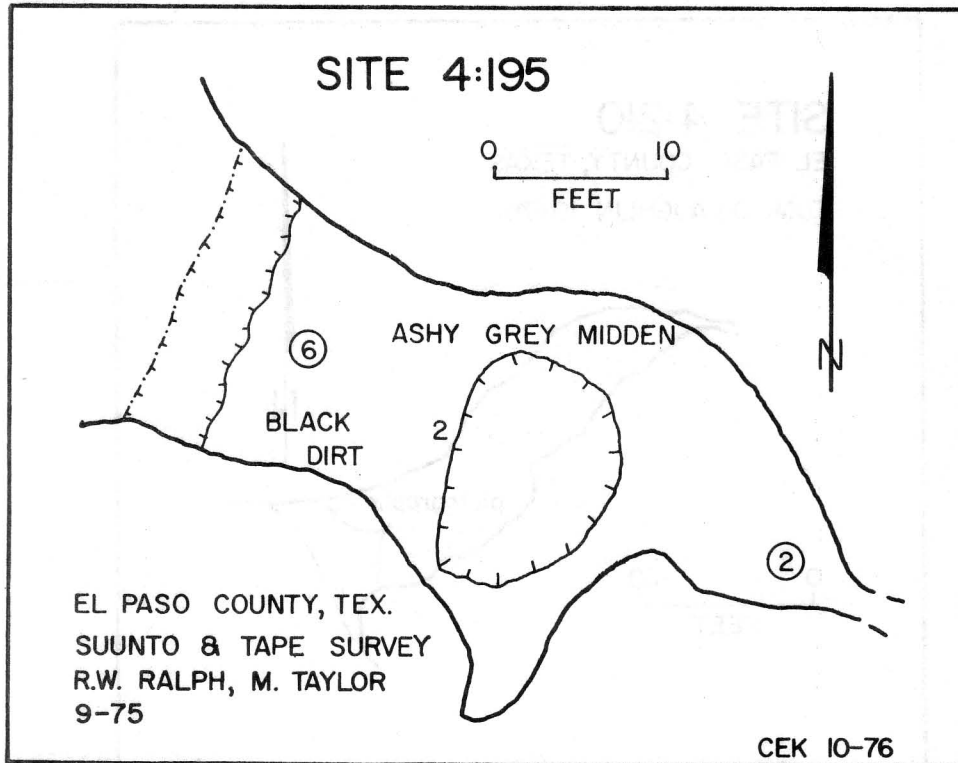
Owner:

Description: A 10 ft wide opening leads into a silt-floored passage about 45 ft long. The cave slopes up and tapers towards the end, finally becoming too small. It was mapped in October 1975 by Tom O'Laughlin. See map, page 60.



Description: A 10 ft wide opening leads into a half-floored passage about 45 ft long. The cave slopes up and tapers toward the end, finally becoming too small to map. It was mapped in October 1975 by Tom O'Connell. See map, page 60.

CEK 10-76



Archeology: Whalen (1976) reports that this site contained up to 30 cm of deposit. He also mentions that El Paso Polychrome sherds, knots, and animal bone were found in the cave. Pictographs occur immediately within the cave entrance. The site, however, has been vandalized and disturbed.

Bibliography: Whalen, M. E. 1976. Settlement patterns of the eastern Hueco Bolson. El Paso Centennial Mus. Univ. Texas at El Paso.

Ref: M. Whalen

DOUBTFUL CAVES AND SHELTERS

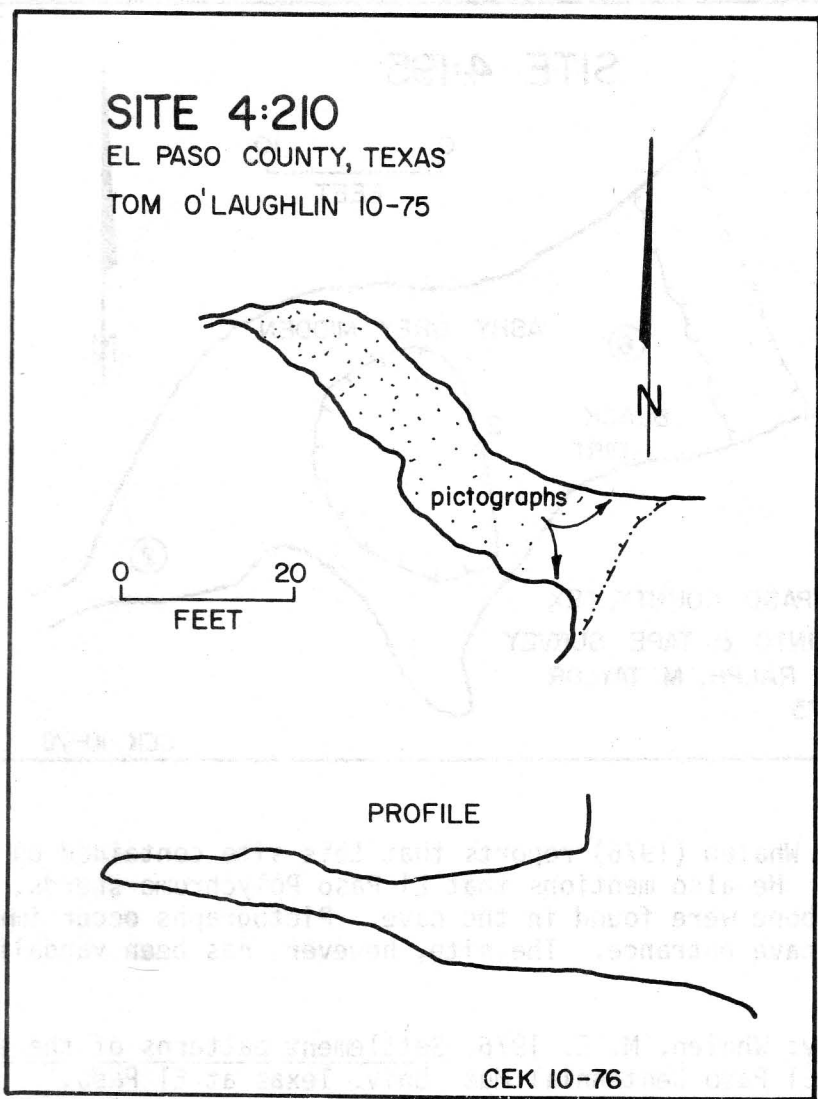
CAVE 1 (SITE 4:300)

El Paso County #1a

Owner: Charles M. Newman (1930's)

Description: A rectangular entrance 6 ft high and 8 ft wide leads into a passage 12 ft long. The level floor was covered with about 2 ft of dust and sand containing leaves. See map, page 46.

Archeology: The cave was excavated by C. B. Cosgrove in 1928. He found a number of artifacts and the bodies of an adult male and a very young infant wrapped in fur-cloth blankets and accompanied by baskets.



Bibliography: Cosgrove, C. B. 1947. Caves of the Upper Gila and Hueco Areas in New Mexico and Texas. Pap. Peabody Mus. American Archaeol. Ethnol., Harvard Univ., 24(2). xv + 181 p., fig. 49-149. Reprinted in part under the title, "Hueco Mt. Caves," in: Bull. Natl. Speleol. Soc., 10:79-84. 1948.

Whalen, M. E. 1976. Settlement patterns of the eastern Hueco Bolson. El Paso Centennial Mus. Univ. Texas at El Paso.

Ref: TSS files

CAVE 2 (SITE 4:193)

El Paso County #2a

Owner: Charles M. Newman (1930's)

Description: A 16 ft wide, 6 ft high opening leads into a 14 ft long shelter. See map, page 46.

Archeology: The cave was excavated by C. B. Cosgrove in 1928. Artifacts found included basketry, sandals, a bone awl, and a planting stick. Also present were pictographs. The cave is badly vandalized and disturbed.

Bibliography: Cosgrove, C. B. 1947. Caves of the Upper Gila and Hueco Areas in New Mexico and Texas. Pap. Peabody Mus. American Archaeol. Ethnol., Harvard Univ., 24(2). xv + 181 p., fig. 49-149. Reprinted in part under the title, "Hueco Mt. Caves," in: Bull. Natl. Speleol. Soc., 10:79-84. 1948.

Whalen, M. E. 1976. Settlement patterns of the eastern Hueco Bolson. El Paso Centennial Mus. Univ. Texas at El Paso.

Ref: TSS files

CAVE 3

El Paso County #3a

Owner: Charles M. Newman (1930's)

Description: This is no more than a small pocket extending back into the cliff for 7 ft. It contained some rubbish which yielded a single sandal. See map, page 46.

Bibliography: Cosgrove, C. B. 1947. Caves of the Upper Gila and Hueco Areas in New Mexico and Texas. Pap. Peabody Mus. American Archaeol. Ethnol., Harvard Univ., 24(2). xv + 181 p., fig. 49-149. Reprinted in part under the title, "Hueco Mt. Caves," in: Bull. Natl. Speleol. Soc., 10:79-84. 1948.

Ref: TSS files

CAVE 8 (SITE 4:218)

El Paso County #4a

Owner: Charles M. Newman (1930's)

Description: This is a cleft in the conglomerate, formed by water tunnelling through from the bench above. It faces south and is high above the bed of the canyon.

Archeology: The cave contained El Paso Polychrome sherds, cordage, netting, arrow foreshafts, a prayer stick, shell beads, stone beads, and turquoise. It was investigated by C. B. Cosgrove in 1928 and by Michael Whalen in 1976.

Bibliography: Cosgrove, C. B. 1947. Caves of the Upper Gila and Hueco Areas in New Mexico and Texas. Pap. Peabody Mus. American Archaeol. Ethnol., Harvard Univ., 24(2). xv + 181 p., fig. 49-149. Reprinted in part under the title, "Hueco Mt. Caves," in: Bull. Natl. Speleol. Soc., 10:79-84. 1948.

Whalen, M. E. 1976. Settlement patterns in the eastern Hueco Bolson. El Paso Centennial Mus., Univ. Texas at El Paso.

Ref: TSS files

CAVE 8A

El Paso County #5a

Owner: Charles M. Newman (1930's)

Description: A 6 ft high opening with a boulder partially screening it
Leads into a passage 12 ft wide and 19 ft deep.

Archeology: The cave was investigated by C. B. Cosgrove in 1928. Artifacts
recovered from the cave were of Pueblo culture.

Bibliography: Cosgrove, C. B. 1947. Caves of the Upper Gila and Hueco
Areas in New Mexico and Texas. Pap. Peabody Mus. American Archaeol.
Ethnol., Harvard Univ., 24(2). xv + 181 p., fig. 49-149. Reprinted
in part under the title, "Hueco Mt. Caves," in: Bull. Natl. Speleol.
Soc., 10:79-84. 1948.

Ref: TSS files

MCKELLIGON CANYON CAVE

El Paso County #6a

Owner: City of El Paso

Description: This locally well-known place is, however, only 10 ft long.
Ref: L. H. Skinner

TWIN CAVES (41EP31)

El Paso County #7a

Owner: Hot Wells Cattle Co.

Description: This is reported as being two caves with a common shelter
entrance. Some artifacts were collected from the northernmost cave by
A. M. Woolsey in 1936. Nothing else is known of it.

Bibliography: Anonymous. 1973. Possible additions to the Hueco Tanks State
Park---A feasibility study. Significant Natural Areas Report No. 3,
Environmental Planning Division, General Land Office, State of Texas.

Ref: TSS files

CAVES OF HUECO TANKS

Numerous caves are known to be located in the Hueco Tanks State Park,
but they have not been investigated by members of the Texas Speleological
Survey staff and little reliable information is available on them. They
are all formed in massive talus deposits and many will doubtless prove to
be caves by the TSS definition. The following is a brief summary of what
is known about the named caves. The bibliography following is only a
selection of the more significant references to this locality.

- Bibliography: Bartlett, J. 1854. Personal narratives of explorations and incidents in Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora, and Chihuahua. United States-Mexican Boundary Commission, 1950-53, New York.
- Bilbo, M. 1972. Inventory of rock art at Hueco Tanks. Anthropol. Club of Univ. Texas at El Paso, Repts. 1, 2, 3.
- Binion, C. H. 1970. An introduction to El Paso's scenic and historic landmarks. El Paso: Univ. Texas at El Paso. 62 p.
- Crimmins, M. L. 1929. An archaeological survey of the El Paso District. Bull. Texas Archaeol. and Paleontol. Soc., 1:36-42.
- Crimmins, M. L. 1931. The pictographs at the Hueco Tanks. Bull. Texas Archaeol. and Paleontol. Soc., 3:24-30.
- Davis, J. V., and K. S. Tones. 1974. A rock art inventory at Hueco Tanks State Park, Texas. El Paso Archaeol. Soc. Spec. Rept., 12. 114 p.
- Jackson, A. T. 1938. Picture-writing of Texas Indians. Univ. Texas Publ., 3809. xxv + 490 p.
- Jackson, A. T. 1948. West Texas caves and shelters. Bull. Natl. Speleol. Soc., 10:69-76.
- Kirkland, F. 1940. Pictographs of Indian masks at Hueco Tanks. Bull. Texas Archaeol. and Paleontol. Soc., 12:9-29.
- Kirkland, F., and W. W. Newcomb. The rock art of Texas Indians. Austin: Univ. Texas Press. xiv + 239 p.
- Mugno, M. 1970. The Hueco Tanks. Texas Highways, 17(9):10-17.
- Tones, K., and M. Hill. 1972. An unrecorded rock art cave at Hueco Tanks State Park. The Artifact, 10(4).

CUEVA DE BEATRIZ (Beatrice's Cave)

El Paso County #8a

Hueco Tanks 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: State of Texas

Description: Binion (1970) reports that is "a sooty cave a few steps from site No. 17-D. Years ago, according to Pablo Silvas, the cave was walled to provide a dwelling for a woman called Beatrice who kept goats. She had come from the north somewhere and was probably an Apache."

Bibliography: Binion, C. H. 1970. An introduction to El Paso's scenic and historic landmarks. El Paso: Univ. Texas at El Paso. 62 p.

Ref: TSS files

BLADDER CAVE

El Paso County #9a

Hueco Tanks 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: State of Texas

Description: This is reported by Davis and Tones (1974) to be a "large cavern." Nothing else is known of it.

Bibliography: Davis, J. V., and K. S. Tones. 1974. A rock art inventory at Hueco Tanks State Park, Texas. El Paso Archaeol. Soc. Spec. Rept., 12. 114 p.

Ref: TSS files

CAVE-LIKE-A-CHURCH

El Paso County #10a

Hueco Tanks 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: State of Texas

Description: Binion (1970) reports that "the cavern's beautifully stained walls can shelter a small congregation. There is even a place for the preacher above the powdered-rock floor, and a corridor beyond it leads to a 'vestry.'"

Bibliography: Binion, C. H. 1970. An introduction to El Paso's scenic and historic landmarks. El Paso: Univ. Texas at El Paso. 62 p.

Ref: TSS files

COMANCHE CAVE (Council Chamber Cave)

El Paso County #11a

Hueco Tanks 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: State of Texas

Description: No adequate description of this famous cave is available. There is supposed to be a crevice which connects to the top of the cliff. Binion (1970) also states that "the visitor can climb a slope... and peer into a well used by thirsty travelers for centuries, or millenia. A century-old sign there (relatively recent) proclaims to fellow North American pioneers, 'Watter hear.'" The cave is also supposed to be the largest in the park.

History: John Russell Bartlett, the Chief of the American-Mexican Boundary Commission, reported that the Indians held councils in the cave. The cave has been visited by untold numbers of people, since it was the most reliable source of water in the area. Its name is derived from a story (with several variations) of a group of Kiowa braves who took refuge in the park. They were pinned down until, after ten days, they squeezed through the crevice to the top of the cliff. The cave contains numerous pictographs, including some of the more spectacular at Hueco Tanks.

Bibliography: Bartlett, J. 1854. Personal narratives of explorations and incidents in Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora, and Chihuahua.

United States-Mexican Boundary Commission, 1950-53, New York.

Binion, C. H. 1970. An introduction to El Paso's scenic and historic landmarks. El Paso: Univ. Texas at El Paso. 62 p.

Crimmins, M. L. 1931. The pictographs at the Hueco Tanks. Bull. Texas Archaeol. and Paleontol. Soc., 3:24-30.

Kirkland, F., and W. W. Newcomb. The rock art of Texas Indians. Austin: Univ. Texas Press. xiv + 239 p.

Ref: TSS files

CAVE KIVA

Hueco Tanks 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: State of Texas

Description: This is referred to as a "remarkable cave" by Davis and Toness. It was described by Toness and Hill (1972) but a copy of this paper has not become available for this report.

Bibliography: Davis, J. V., and K. S. Toness. 1974. A rock art inventory at Hueco Tanks State Park, Texas. El Paso Archaeol. Soc. Spec. Rept., 12. 114 p.

Toness, K., and M. Hill. 1972. An unrecorded rock art cave at Hueco Tanks State Park. The Artifact, 10(4).

Ref: TSS files

CUEVA DEL LEON

El Paso County #13a

Hueco Tanks 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: State of Texas

Description: Binion (1970) reports that "the main entrance to La Cueva del Leon is hidden by bushes at the base of the cliff which towers above site No. 19-D. It has a room whose walls appear to rise two hundred feet, and is difficult to beat for eeriness. The visitor climbs to a sort of mezzanine in the large room where a corridor branches south along a tilted fault. Though he can also climb to a sort of balcony, it is fun to follow the dimly lit corridor which opens into a small room after fifty feet. Another fifty feet along the narrow corridor takes the explorer to a sunlit shelf above the base of the cliff." The cave is named for mountain lions sighted in the cave and its vicinity by Tigua Indians.

Bibliography: Binion, C. H. 1970. An introduction to El Paso's scenic and historic landmarks. El Paso: Univ. Texas at El Paso. 62 p.

Ref: TSS files

CUEVA DE LAS MASCARAS (Cave of Masks) (Mask Cave)

El Paso County #14a

Hueco Tanks 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: State of Texas

Description: No description of this cave is available. It is one of the more significant pictograph sites in the park.

Bibliography: Binion, C. H. 1970. An introduction to El Paso's scenic and historic landmarks. El Paso: Univ. Texas at El Paso. 62 p.

Davis, J. V., and K. S. Toness. 1974. A rock art inventory at Hueco Tanks State Park, Texas. El Paso Archaeol. Soc. Spec. Rept., 12. 114 p.

Jackson, A. T. 1938. Picture-writing of Texas Indians. Univ. Texas Publ., 3809. xxv + 490 p.
Kirkland, F. 1940. Pictographs of Indian masks at Hueco Tanks. Bull. Texas Archaeol. and Paléontol. Soc., 12:9-29.
Kirkland, F., and W. W. Newcomb. 1967. The rock art of Texas Indians. Austin: Univ. Texas Press. xiv + 239 p.

Ref: TSS files

SKY-LIT CAVERN

El Paso County #15a

Hueco Tanks 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: State of Texas

Description: Binion (1970) reports that this is "an extra-large sky-lit cavern."

Bibliography: Binion, C. H. 1970. An introduction to El Paso's scenic and historic landmarks. El Paso: Univ. Texas at El Paso. 62 p.

Ref: TSS files

CUEVA DE LAS TRES TINAJAS (Three-Hole Cave)

El Paso County #16a

Hueco Tanks 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: State of Texas

Description: Binion (1970) reports that this cave "is named for the grinding pits in a rock table inside it. The cave is a picnic spot near pictograph site No. 19-D."

Bibliography: Binion, C. H. 1970. An introduction to El Paso's scenic and historic landmarks. El Paso: Univ. Texas at El Paso. 62 p.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED CAVE

El Paso County #17a

Hueco Tanks 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: State of Texas

Description: Binion (1970) reports this as "the only cave in the park known to have bats has an extraordinary corridor which follows a fault line, and is found at the very southern tip of the Amphitheatre. It has been said that the light filtering through its narrow ceiling openings, perhaps fifty feet overhead, suggest light in a cathedral. A fallen boulder blocks the long, sculptured corridor, but one can crawl under it and progress to the dimly-lit end."

Bibliography: Binion, C. H. 1970. An introduction to El Paso's scenic and historic landmarks. El Paso: Univ. Texas at El Paso. 62 p.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED CAVE

El Paso County #18a

Hueco Tanks 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: State of Texas

Description: This is reported by Binion (1970) as being "a small cave at site no. 13."

Bibliography: Binion, C. H. 1970. An introduction to El Paso's scenic and historic landmarks. El Paso: Univ. Texas at El Paso. 62 p.

Ref: TSS files

RUMORS

AZTEC CAVES

El Paso County

Owner: City of El Paso

Description: Binion (1970) reports that the Aztec caves "of prehistoric interest are high above the north end of Tom Mays Memorial Park, easily accessible from a fossil-rich picnic area, and linked to Cottonwood Spring by a deer trail. Aztec Caves were named by early El Pasoans who credited the Aztecs with all prehistoric doings in the region." The following account from the El Paso Herald, March 29, 1890, and quoted by Binion (1970) is all of the additional information available on this locality: "In company with Col. J. Fisher Satterthwaite, Professor Longuemare of the Bullion, and L. C. Chriss, a reporter of the Herald left on Thursday morning last for a visit to the Aztec Caves, situated in the center of the Mount Franklin range about twelve miles (in a direct line) north of El Paso.... The opening faces north, and would easily admit two-six horse coaches abreast.... An excavation eight feet deep near the center of the largest cave revealed three feet of bat deposit, eighteen inches of ashes and fine cinders, and three-and-a-half feet of disintegrated and large and small fragments of limestone--a material foreign to the place and rock in which it is found. The bottom of the excavation is still in this fragmentary lime. Some footwear made of the fiber of the cactus or the palm, a few fragmentary bones (some distinctively human) have been found...."

Bibliography: Binion, C. H. 1970. An introduction to El Paso's scenic and historic landmarks. El Paso: Univ. Texas at El Paso. 62 p.

Ref: TSS files

OUTLAW CAVES

El Paso County

Owner: City of El Paso

Description: Broaddus (in press), citing the El Paso Times for July 30, 1950, and December 2, 1887, reports that "in the late 1880's, a United States Deputy Marshal reported that a gang of train robbers were using the Franklin Mountains as a hideout. It appears that these outlaws found three caves on the west side of the mountain some five miles north of El Paso. When a group of law officers arrived at the caves they found clothes, books and a counterfeiting machine, but no money or robbers. Through the years there were reports that these caves had been discovered and the money seen scattered on the cavern floor, but when the finder returned to the Franklin Mountains, he could not discover the location of the cave."

Bibliography: Binion, C. H. 1970. An introduction to El Paso's scenic and historic landmarks. El Paso: Univ. Texas at El Paso. 62 p.
Broaddus, J. M. (in press). Historical survey of the Franklin Mountains. Texas Natural Areas Survey.

Ref: TSS files

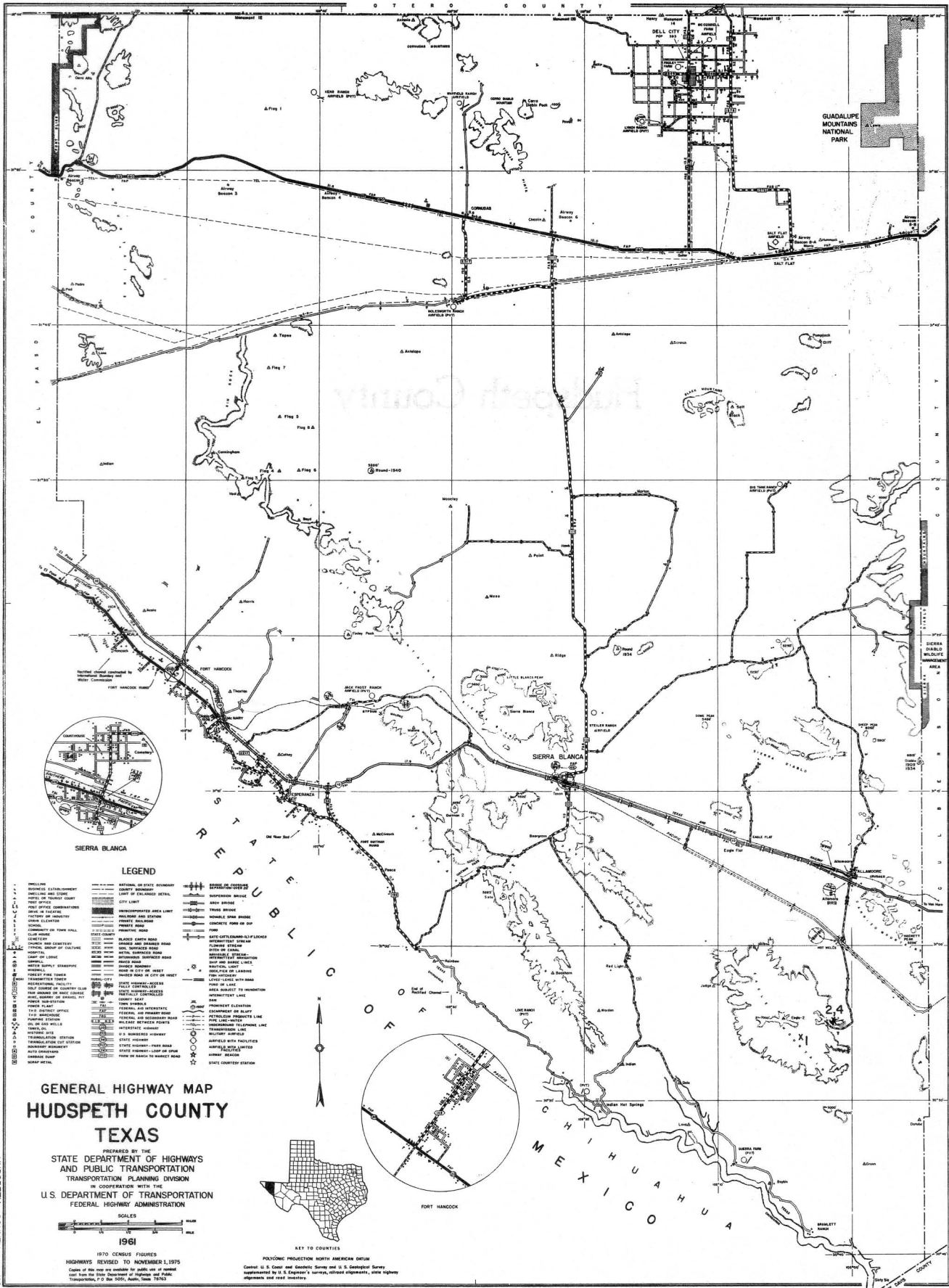
SLIM, THE BANDIT CHIEF'S CAVE

El Paso County

Owner: City of El Paso

Description: Binion (1970) reports, "Three people are said to have seen the inside of a cave used by 'Slim, the Bandit Chief' after the turn of the century to hide his loot and the bodies of the pals he murdered. A sheepherder stumbled upon it, and then in 1931 it was found by retired railroad man John L. Chester... Sergeant Wilson, a convalescing soldier in the U. S. Army, was invited to the cave by Slim himself in 1905. Sergeant Wilson said he and Slim began walking at 8:30 a.m. along an Indian trail from the state line near Anthony Gap. They passed the 'boneyard' and under Anthony's Nose, reaching the brush-covered cave entrance against the face of a bluff in a westside canyon at 1:30 in the afternoon. Wilson said that the tunnel-shaped cave was about 150 feet deep, and the floor sounded hollow. It is said that John Chester was the last to see the cave, and that he reported finding money in it. But he died suddenly without having disclosed its location..."

Bibliography: Binion, C. H. 1970. An introduction to El Paso's scenic and historic landmarks. El Paso: Univ. Texas at El Paso. 62 p.
Ref: TSS files

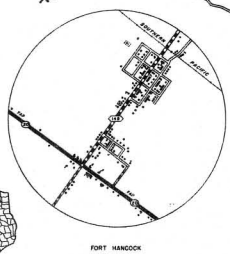


**GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP
HUDSPETH COUNTY
TEXAS**

PREPARED BY THE
STATE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION
IN COOPERATION WITH THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

1961
1970 CENSUS FIGURES
HIGHWAYS REVISED TO NOVEMBER 1, 1975

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HUDSPETH COUNTY TEXAS 116

EAGLE BLUFF CAVE

Hudspeth County #1

Eagle Mountains NE 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Hank Avery

Description: This is a 20 to 25 ft high, 50 ft long cave containing bat guano. It is formed in rhyolite at the base of Eagle Bluff.

Bibliography: Underwood, J. R., Jr. 1962. Geology of Eagle Mountains and vicinity, Trans Pecos, Texas. Ph.D. Dissertation. Austin: University of Texas. 560 p.

Ref: TSS files

EAGLE MOUNTAINS CAVE (Coates Blowhole) (Flea Cave)

Hudspeth County #2

Eagle Mountains NE 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Hank Avery

Description: The entrance to this cave is in the top of a small sink high on the south side of a small knob. An opening 1 ft wide, 2 ft high, and 3 ft long leads into a room floored with breakdown and sloping steeply down. This chamber is approximately 8 ft high and 50 ft in diameter. To the right from the entrance a passage 4 ft high, with a few wet formations on the ceiling, extends about 20 ft before branching. An upper level passage with much loose and dangerous breakdown extends to the right, while a lower level passage 6 ft high extends about 100 ft to a 25 ft drop into a room also intersected by the upper level passage. This room is about 50 ft high, 100 ft long, and 75 ft wide. A "fault" is seen in the left wall of this room, sloping diagonally downward toward the north end of the cave. It appears as a band about a foot wide and is darker in color. At the back of this room the cave narrows and a short passage leads into a room about 15 ft high and 25 ft in diameter. A muddy dome is found on the right of the room. A possible lead along the left wall was dug in but no passage was found. See sketch map, page 72.

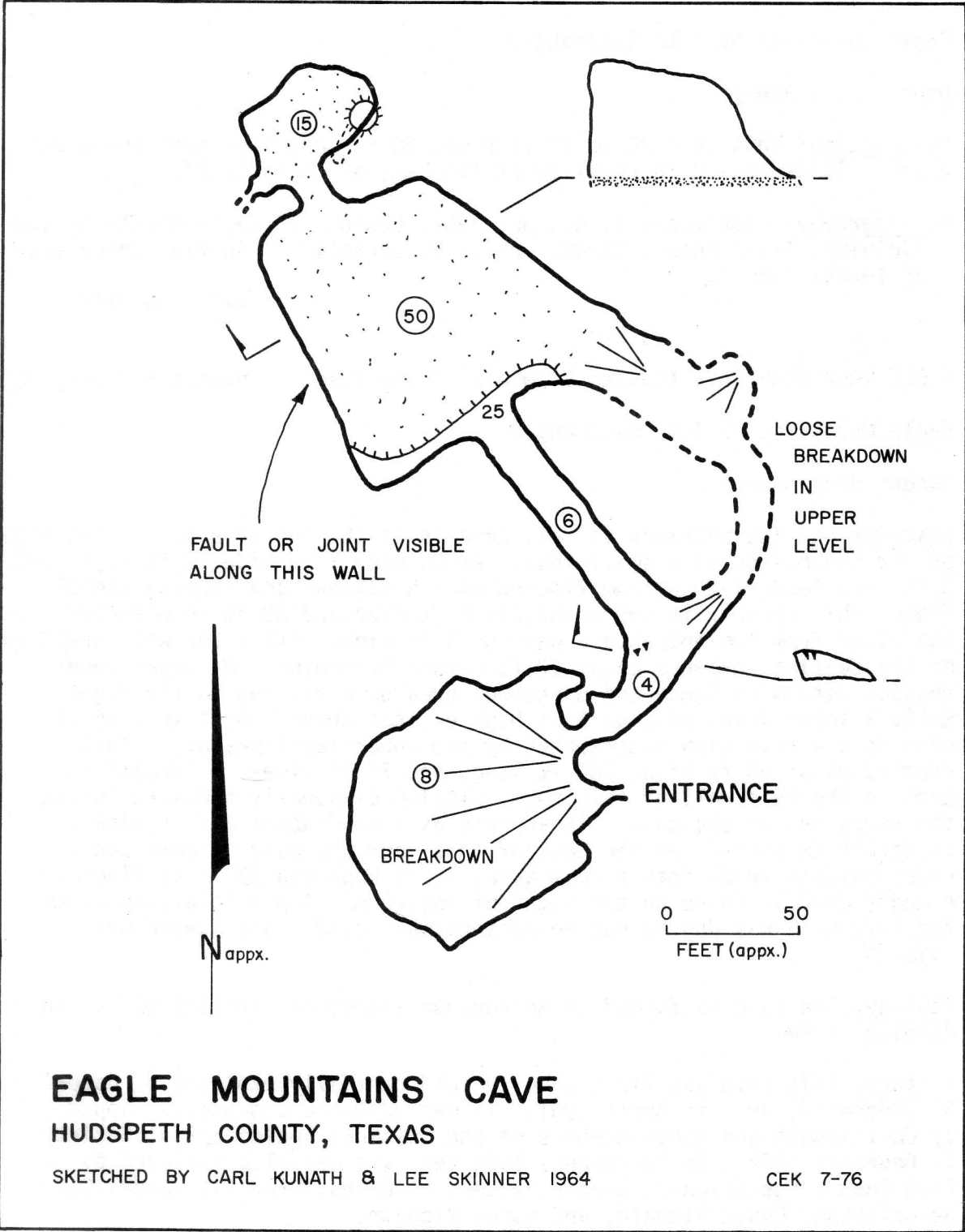
Geology: The cave is formed in Georgetown limestone striking S25⁰E and dipping 55⁰SW.

History: This cave was first reported and partially explored by James R. Underwood, Jr., in April 1961. It was explored and sketch-mapped by Carl Kunath and other members of the Sul Ross Speleological Society in February 1962. On 19 January 1964 the cave was also explored by Doug Rhode, Lee Skinner, Dennis Becker, Al Oakes, Fred Fitzwater, Buzz Hendrickson, Chuck Ridpath, and Karen Ridpath.

Bibliography: Ridpath, K. 1964. Eagle Mountain Cave. Southwestern Cavers, 3(2):11.

Underwood, J. R., Jr. 1962. Geology of Eagle Mountains and vicinity, Trans Pecos, Texas. Ph.D. Dissertation. Austin: University of Texas. 560 p.

Ref: TSS files



NEELEY'S BAT CAVE

Hudspeth County #3

Owner:

Description: The entrance to the cave is a 25 ft sink in conglomerate, while the cave proper is formed in limestone. A cable ladder and a timber across the deep, loose-sided sink is needed to enter the cave. The entrance drops into a room, from which a tight bellycrawl leads to a second room. A high dome in the second room was not checked. The cave contains a considerable amount of dry, powdery guano.

History: The cave was explored on 12 January 1964 by Lee Skinner, Doug Rhodes, Fred Fitzwater, and Bob Hendrickson.

Bibliography: Chess, L. A. 1964. Neeley's Bat Cave. Southwestern Cavers, 3(1):9.
Ridpath, K. 1964. Eagle Mountain Cave. Southwestern Cavers, 3(2):11.
Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED CAVE NEAR FLEA CAVE

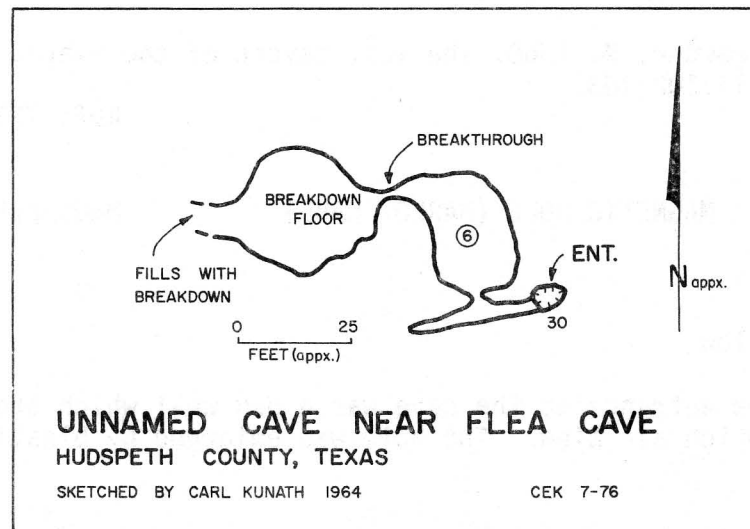
Hudspeth County #4

Eagle Mountains NE 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: Hank Avery

Description: A 30 ft chimneyable drop leads into a passage about 25 ft long. Midway along this passage a hole to the right leads into a 6 ft high room about 20 ft wide and 30 ft long. A hole on the left was broken through to lead into an upper level room 30 ft in diameter and floored with breakdown. This room narrows and ends in breakdown near Flea Cave (=Eagle Mountains Cave). See sketch map, below.

History: The cave was explored by Carl Kunath, Grainger Hunt, and other members of the Sul Ross Speleological Society in February 1962.
Ref: TSS files



RUMORS

HUDSPETH COUNTY SHAFT

Hudspeth County

Owner:

Description: "A dissolution cavern near Sierra Blanca, Texas known as Hudspeth County Shaft, is as yet unexplored. Its extent is little known beyond the fact that there is a drop of some 150 feet at the opening which appears to open in a large underground chamber" (Stickle, 1937).

Bibliography: Jackson, A. T. 1948. West Texas caves and shelters. Bull. Natl. Speleol. Soc., 10:69-76.
Stickle, A. W. 1937. Caves and caverns, p. 118-122. In: A. W. Stickle, ed., The State of Texas Book. Austin: Texas Bur. Res. and Publicity.
Widener, D. L. 1959. Texas Cave Survey. SpeleoDigest, 1958(1):296-320.
Ref: TSS files

LOST CAVERN OF THE SIERRA DIABLOS

Hudspeth County

Owner:

Description: The entrance was originally very small but was enlarged by moving rocks to about 4 to 6 ft. A vertical drop leads into a large chamber an estimated 300 ft below the surface. The cave width at the bottom was about 100 ft and a second passage dropped on down for an unknown distance. The cave was reported to have live formations.

History: The cave was reportedly first explored by Mr. Leah and his son, Tom Ellison, and George ----- in 1941. An attempt in the spring of 1968 by Elbert Bassham, Graydon Hicks, Rod Crowder, and George ----- to relocate the entrance failed.

Bibliography: Crowder, R. 1968. The lost cavern of the Sierra Diablos. Texas Caver, 13:102-103.

Ref: TSS files

VON STREERUWITZ' MAGNETIC HOLE (BARLOW CAVE)

Hudspeth County

Owner: John Barlow

Description: The entrance to the cave was a dug well which broke into a cavity from which air blew. The hole was enlarged by blasting,

revealing a sheer, deep shaft. Curious magnetic properties are reported associated with the hole, which was known as the "magnetic well," and the state geologist, Von Streeruwitz, spent a considerable amount of time investigating the area. Supposedly 4000 ft of rope was lowered into the hole. The entrance was reportedly closed by timbers and large rocks. The cave is located in or near Grayton Sink, a very large, shallow basin underlain by a thick alluvial deposit.

Bibliography: Anonymous. 1932. Texas unfathomed pit may be world's biggest cave. Houston Chronicle, Feb. 28, 1932.

Anonymous. 1938. Well digging led to discovery of many caverns over Texas. Houston Chronicle, Jan. 23, 1938.

Russell, B., and C. Rogers. 1974. Von Streeruwitz's Magnetic Hole. Texas Caver, 19:157.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED CAVE

Hudspeth County

Owner:

Description: This is rumored to be a 400 ft deep pit with a very loose ceiling. It was supposedly explored by the University of Texas.

Ref: David Smith

Jeff Davis County

DESCRIPTION: This is rumored to be a 400 ft deep pit with a very loose
bottom. It was supposedly explored by the University of Texas
-Prof. David Smith

BLOYS CAMP CAVE

Jeff Davis County #1

Owner:

Description: This cave is a crevice about 60 to 80 ft long with an upper and lower entrance. The roof of the crevice is formed of large slabs and boulders. It was visited by Tony R. Mollhagen who made a collection of invertebrates and bats. The cave is well-known to the meeting participants of the camp, particularly the younger set, in whom the sap is starting to run.

Biology: A linyphiid spider (Jalapyphantes puebla Gertsch and Davis), and Townsend's Big-eared Bat (Plecotus townsendii pallescens Miller) have been collected in the cave.

Ref: T. Mollhagen

BUCK SINKHOLE

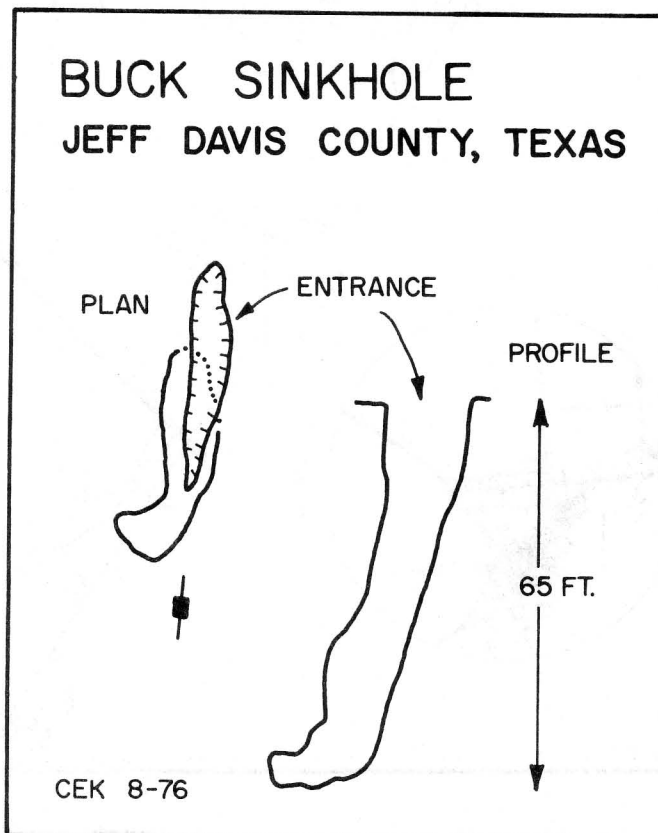
Jeff Davis County #2

Owner:

Description: This is a 65 ft deep sinkhole formed as the result of joint enlargement. The surface opening is about 15 ft by 25 ft long, and the hole gradually narrows toward the bottom. Equipment is required for the drop. A barrel full of dirt and about 50 ft of 3/4" steel cable was removed from the cave, allowing access into a 10 ft in diameter, 1 ft high lower room. See sketch map, below.

History: The cave was first visited by Carl Kunath, Ron Griffith, Grainger Hunt, and other members of the Sul Ross Speleological Society in the spring of 1962. A return trip was made in the fall of 1962 and the digging done. The cave was revisited in January 1964, but it was found to more plugged than ever.

Ref: TSS files



CAVE OF THE WINDS

Jeff Davis County #3

Ft. Davis 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: State of Texas (?)

Description: This is a talus cave formed by breakdown blocks in a cliff above the town of Ft. Davis. It is at least 25 ft long and was explored by William H. Russell.

Ref: W. Russell

GARRETT DRAW CAVE

Jeff Davis County #4

Owner:

Description: This is reported to be a cave 25 or more feet deep that has developed along a joint plane in Buda Limestone along the side of Falls Canyon. Old settlers report that the remains of several Indians were found in the cave.

Bibliography: Brundrett, J. L. 1955. Cretaceous stratigraphy of northeastern front of Davis Mountains, Jeff Davis County, Texas. M. A. Thesis. Austin: University of Texas.

Ref: TSS files

GOAT CAVE

Jeff Davis County #5

Little Aguja Mountain 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: The entrance to this dry cave is 12 ft wide and 7 to 8 ft high. Inside, the ceiling rises to 15 ft and the cave ends abruptly after 30 ft. It was explored by A. Richard Smith in about 1954 and by Mike Warton in 1964. It is formed in Tertiary volcanics (probably tuffs).

Ref: A. R. Smith,
M. Warton

HARRIS RANCH CAVE

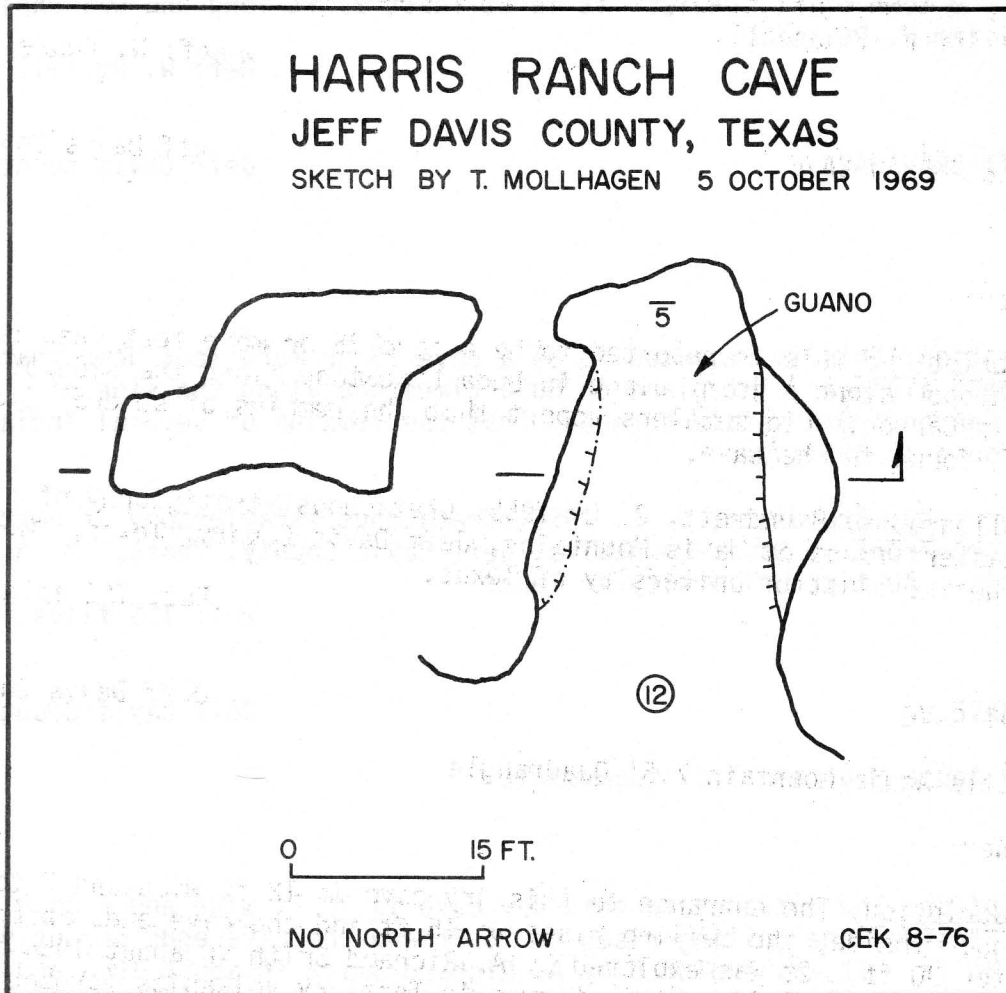
Jeff Davis County #6

Owner: Harris Ranch

Description: The cave is entered by a 15 ft wide, 12 ft high opening. The floor rises 5 ft from the entrance to the back of the cave, which is 37 ft from the opening. A ledge runs along part of the right wall. The floor is largely covered with bat guano. It was explored on 5 October 1969 by Tony R. Mollhagen. See sketch map, page 80.

Biology: Five species of bat were collected in the cave by Tony R. Mollhagen. They have been identified as Antrozous pallidus (LeConte), Myotis thysanodes thysanodes Miller, Myotis velifer incautus (Allen), Plecotus townsendii pallescens (Miller), and Tadarida brasiliensis mexicana (Saussure).

Ref: T. Mollhagen



KINGSTON'S DRY CAVE NO. 1-2 (Phantom Lake Cave)
(Phantom Cave) (Balmorhea Cave No. 3)
(Balmorhea Dry Caves Nos. 1 and 2)

Jeff Davis County #7

Toyahvale 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: J. E. Kingston

Description: The main entrances are two small holes in the bottom of a shallow sink about 20 ft long and 5 ft wide. These holes drop 20 ft as climbable cracks to a small mound of breakdown. To the north there is a small low-ceilinged room with a passage leading to the east for about 50 ft before becoming too small. To the west the passage extends a few feet to a good-sized room which is partially filled with large breakdown

which reaches to the ceiling in places. A small hole on the right side of this room is the easiest route to the rest of the cave. After working through the breakdown at the lower right side of this room for about 75 ft, a large room is reached, and the character of the passage changes abruptly. Whereas the passage was formerly 20 ft high and 25 ft wide and floored with massive breakdown and dirt, it now changes to a fissure-type passage 25 ft high and 10 ft wide which is floored with smooth stream-cobbles of golf-ball size. The passage continues in this manner for 200 ft before pinching-out in breakdown. About 50 ft before the end, however, a passage forks off directly left as if following a set of minor joints. This passage is similar to the 150 ft just before it, but is smaller. About 35 ft down this passage, a side passage to the right is encountered. This is a tight fissure which parallels the main passage and leads after 75 ft to the Waterfall Room. Here, in a room 6 ft high, 3 ft wide, and 20 ft long, water gushes from a slit in the rear wall. The water is about 2 ft deep in the room and siphons under a ledge along the right wall. The waterfall is actually a spring, and apparently flows about 20 gpm, although no measurements were made. The main passage continues 50 ft past the waterfall passage, bends to the left, then to the left again, and finally narrows to a squeeze just barely large enough to get through. Five feet past this squeeze the passage ends in a stagnant pool of water, but by climbing up 10 ft over a breakdown plug and down again to another pool, one may continue another 50 ft to a "T" intersection. To the left it extends 75 ft as a 4 ft high, 4 ft wide passage before lowering to 1 ft and pinching out in dirt fill. To the right after 25 ft a very small squeeze is encountered, and 15 ft past this, the second entrance is reached. See map, page 83.

History: The cave was probably discovered in 1855 or 1856 with the discovery of Phantom Lake. General Zenas Randall Bliss reports that water from Kingston's Wet Cave sank into a cave, which is presumably the source of the waterfall in this cave. The first recorded exploration is that described by Carl Clayton in a letter to Bob Hudson on 5 November 1949. He explored the cave back to the waterfall room, but did not go beyond this point. Don Widener in the Texas Cave Survey reports that it was assumed that the two entrances connected because a dead chicken in the west entrance was smelled in the east portion of the cave. Mr. Kingston also reported that as a child he would frequently go in one entrance and exit through the other. The cave was partially mapped in the 1950's by "R. H." A. Richard Smith visited the cave in the late 1950's. The east entrance was entered by Carl Kunath and other members of the Sul Ross Speleological Society in March 1962, but they thought the cave ended in the tight squeeze past the waterfall passage. In January 1964 the same group visited the cave and excavated the silted-in passage between the two entrances. They noted that there were no dates on the walls of the western part of the cave after 1955 and speculated that no trips had been made there since then.

Geology: The presence of large stream cobbles in parts of the cave indicate that a sizable stream once ran through the cave. This cave and Kingston's Dry Cave No. 3 follow a strong set of joints which trend NW and a weaker set which trend SW. It is probable that the two caves were connected at some time as they have both have passages leading toward each other but end in breakdown as they approach the surface. An imaginary line

connecting the two caves lies directly on top of a 5 ft high, 50 ft long wall situated about midway between the two entrances and which is probably formed by the collapse of one wall and ceiling of the passage. Many side passages in the main cave lead to the SW, but end quickly in breakdown. Normal surface erosion has apparently been the cause of these abrupt endings, as these passages run toward the edge of the hill and approach the surface. For map showing the interrelationships of the three Kingston caves, see page 84.

Biology: The cave is inhabited by a few bats. A weasel family with dead chickens was noted in the cave in 1957. Hubbell (1936) reported that Dr. Carl L. Hubbs collected eleven specimens of cave cricket, Ceuthophilus (Geotettix) carlsbadensis Caudell, from an unnamed cave near Phantom Lake. These almost certainly came from this cave. A collection of crickets from the cave was made on 14 March 1964 by Robert C. Schroeder. In addition to C. (G.) carlsbadensis, he obtained specimens of C. (C.) conicaudus Hubbell. Mites parasitic on the crickets are trombidids representative of a new genus and species. A skunk has also been observed in the cave.

Bibliography: Anonymous. 1947. Region 4 field trip, Davis Mountains and Balmorhea, June 8 & 9. Texas Ornithol. Soc. News., 5(7):2-3.

Anonymous. 1964. News: Sul Ross College, Alpine, Texas. Texas Caver, 9:24-25.

Baker, C. L., and W. F. Bowman. 1917. Geologic exploration of the southeastern front range of Trans-Pecos Texas. Univ. Texas Bull., 1753:61-177.

Bliss, Z. R. n.d. Reminiscences of Zenas R. Bliss. Typescript in the Archives of the University of Texas, Austin.

Hubbell, T. H. 1936. Monographic revision of the genus Ceuthophilus (Orthoptera, Gryllacrididae, Rhaphidophorinae). Univ. Florida Biol. Sci. Ser., 2(1):1-551, pl. 1-38.

Hubbell, T. H. 1948. Rare cave crickets. Bull. Natl. Speleol. Soc., 10:117.

Meador, J. T. 1965. Phantom Lake Cave. Texas Caver, 10:11.

Reddell, J. R. 1966. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. II. Insecta. Texas J. Sci., 18:25-56.

Reddell, J. R. 1967. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. III. Vertebrata. Texas J. Sci., 19:184-226.

Scobee, B. 1963. Fort Davis, Texas: 1583-1960. Privately printed.

Stickle, A. W. 1937. Caves and caverns, p. 118-122. In: A. W. Stickle, ed., The State of Texas Book. Austin: Texas Bur. Res. and Publicity.

Ref: TSS files

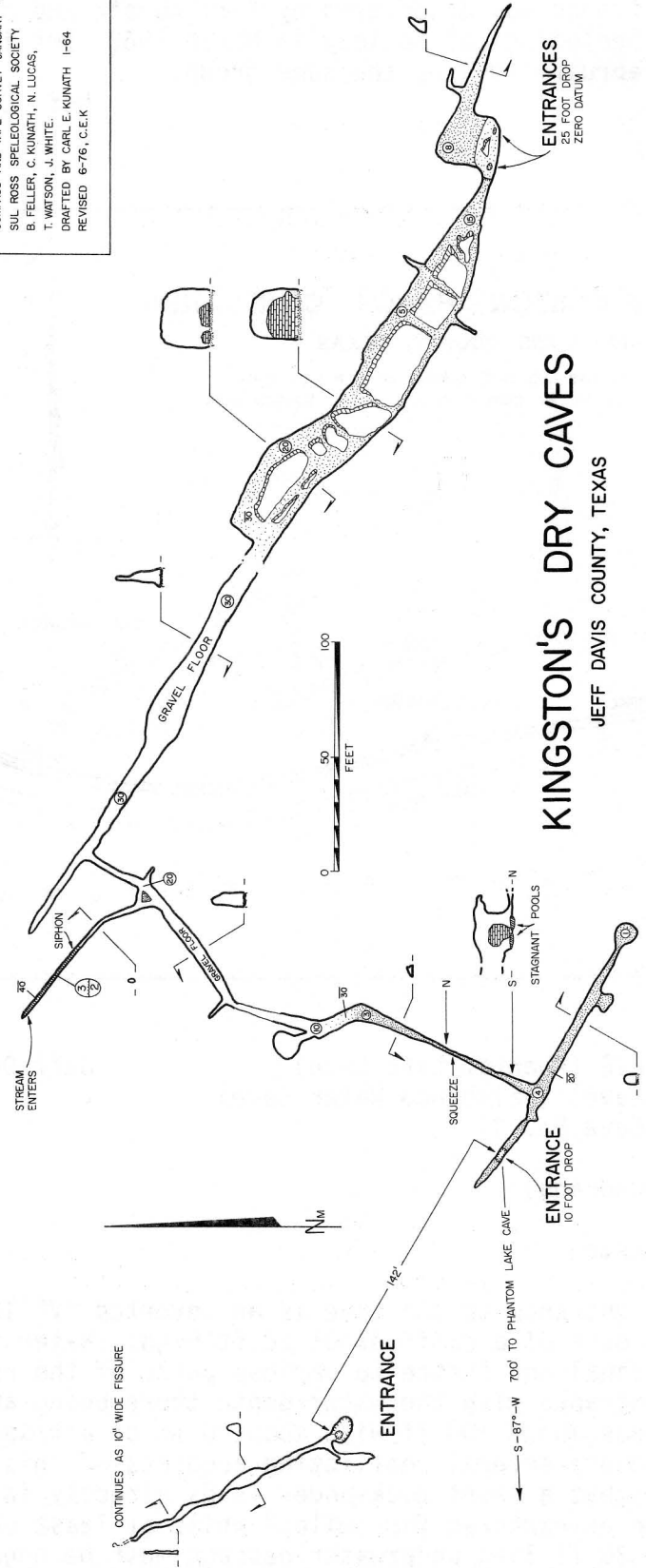
KINGSTON'S DRY CAVE NO. 3 (Balmorhea Cave No. 1) Jeff Davis County #8

Toyahvale 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: J. E. Kingston

Description: The entrance is a small sink 145 ft NW of the western entrance to Kingston's Dry Cave No. 1-2. A small passage slopes down gently for about 25 ft and then opens into a room big enough to stand in. The passage continues in a straight line, but begins to narrow and rise at the same time until it becomes too narrow to follow when about 100 ft from the entrance. A rattlesnake was found in the entrance in March 1962.

COMPASS AND TAPE SURVEY JANUARY 4, 1964
 SUL ROSS SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
 B. FELLER, C. KUMATH, N. LUCIAS,
 T. WATSON, J. WHITE
 DRAFTED BY CARL E. KUMATH 1-64
 REVISED 6-76, C.E.K.

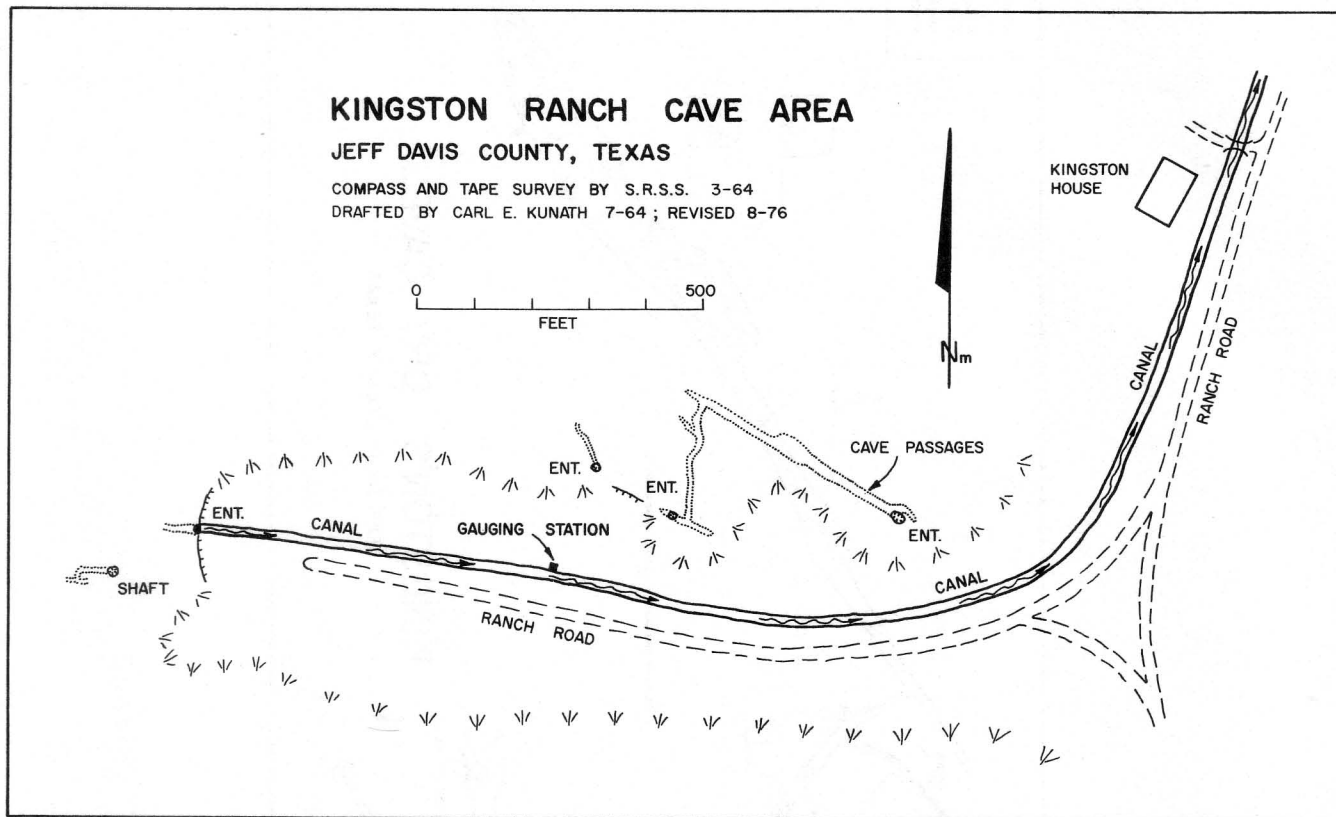


KINGSTON'S DRY CAVES

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

History: This entrance was discovered by Carl Kunath and other members of the Sul Ross Speleological Society in March 1962, but it was not explored until February 1964 by the same group.

Ref: C. Kunath



KINGSTON'S WET CAVE (Phantom Lake Cave)
 (Balmorhea Cave) (Balmorhea Water Cave)
 (Balmorhea Cave No. 3)

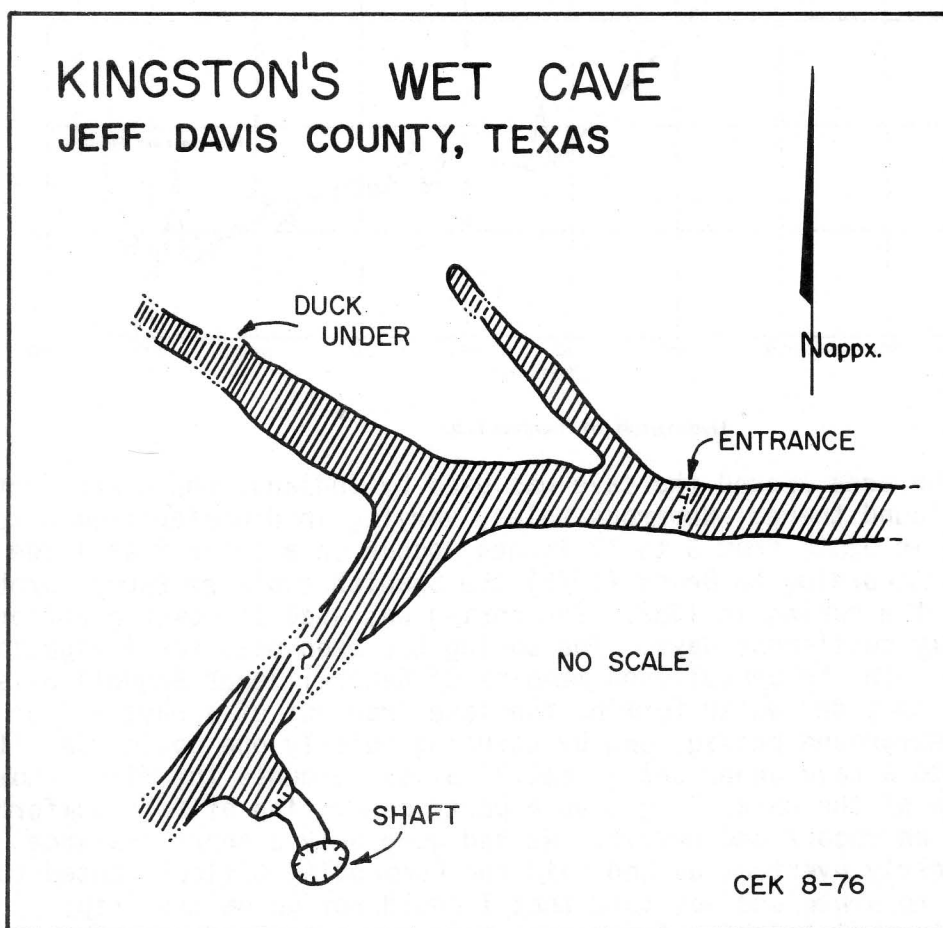
Jeff Davis County #9

Toyahvale 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner: J. E. Kingston

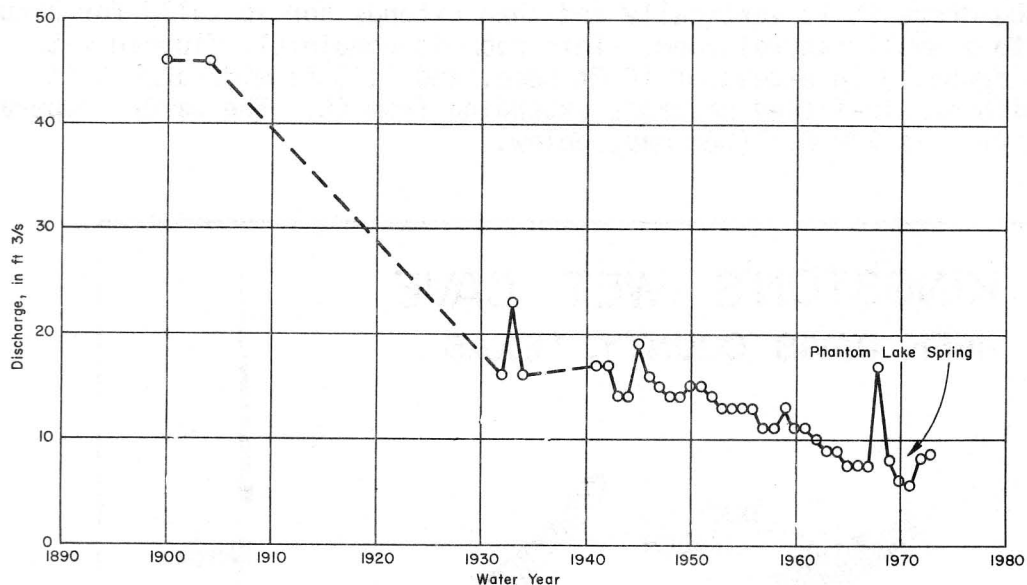
Description: The entrance to the cave is an inverted "V" 15 ft high and 7 ft wide at the base of a cliff about 20 ft high. Water flows from the entrance into a canal and thence to various parts of the ranch. A stream flows from the entrance with the water depth there being about 2.5 ft. The passage extends about 100 ft with about 6 ft of air space before siphoning. There are several conflicting accounts of this cave. It is reported by some that a short duck-under leads directly into an air-filled passage which can be explored for "miles" while at least one other account indicates that a 30 ft long underwater passage must be negotiated before an air-filled chamber is encountered. An account by a geologist stationed at James Connally Air Force Base states that he and others waded through the water for several hundred yards. A mile or a little less from the

entrance they came to a point where it was necessary to swim under a ledge for 10 ft or so before emerging into an air-filled passage again. They continued for a considerable distance further to a point about 2000 yards from the entrance without having reached an end. This latter account may be the result of confusion as to which cave they were in, but it is also possible that during a prolonged drought the water level in the cave is sufficiently low to permit a person to enter the cave for great distances. A group of cavers from the University of Texas, using aqualungs, explored an underwater side passage for 200 ft. They reported it to be 20 ft in diameter. A man-made shaft on the hill behind the entrance drops 25 ft vertically and then extends horizontally for about 30 ft to a small natural room. This room is completely flooded with water, probably in excess of 10 ft deep, and is 5 ft wide and 15 ft long with no air-filled passages extending from it. The water temperature in the cave is 77° F. (See map, below)



Biology: Trout are reported to have been seeded in the entrance room, while "cave shrimp" have reportedly been seen in the cave. Robert C. Schroeder collected camel crickets here on 14 March 1964. They have been identified as Ceuthophilus (Ceuthophilus) conicaudus Hubbell and C. (Geotettix) carlsbadensis Caudell. Mites parasitic on the crickets belong to a new genus and species in the family Trombidiidae.

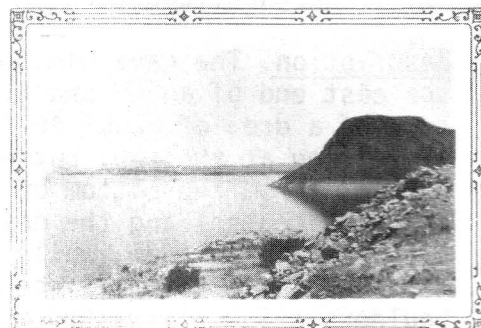
Hydrology: Extensive irrigation pumping of ground water in the Balmorhea area has resulted in a drop of the spring discharge from 46 cfs in 1900 to 7.1 cfs in 1973. Brune (1975) has discussed the hydrology of the spring, "Rainfall causes a large increase in flow and suspended sediment, and a large decrease in dissolved-solids and temperature. For example, on April 28, 1971, with a flow of 5.7 cfs, the concentration of dissolved solids was 2,250 milligrams per liter. On October 7, 1932, following a rain, a flow of 82 cfs and dissolved-solids concentration of 144 mg/l were found. These relationships indicate that recharge is from a relatively small, nearby area." The following hydrograph outlines the water flow since 1900.



Hydrograph of Phantom Lake

History: The area around the cave was used by Indians, whose artifacts have been found there. Numerous holes, varying in diameter from 6 to 12 inches and in depth from 3 to 12 inches, occur on a large flat ledge near the cave. According to Brune (1975) the Spanish explorer Espejo probably stopped at the spring in 1582. The spring was used to power a cotton gin in early settlement days. The spring has been used for irrigation since 1853. In the unpublished memoirs of General Zenas Randall Bliss he reports that the water forming the lake "ran out of a cave and on into an underground passage and by standing quietly one could hear it pouring into a cave under one's feet." Bliss recounts the first known exploration of the cave: "I got up a party consisting of Col. Bumford, Capt. Lee, an escort and myself. We had gone only a short distance when an orderly overtook us and said the Commanding Officer wanted to see me. I returned and was told that I could not go on the trip. I was terribly disappointed, for I had gone to a great deal of trouble to get things ready for the excursion. A party had tried to explore the cave from which the stream ran, but the water was so deep they had to swim and the canteens on which they had placed lighted candles tipped over and left them in darkness... I had prepared long boards with holes in which to stick the candles, and we had intended to go to the end of the cave if possible..." The cave has doubtless been explored hundreds of times during the following 110 years. Phantom Lake itself was a favorite

excursion site for swimmers and picnickers and its stock of bass brought numerous fishermen. The earthquake of August 16, 1931, caused the water of the lake to turn yellow and roll. (See the following photo for a picture of Phantom Lake in the 1930's.) By the late 1950's the water level in the lake had dropped to such an extent that it was essentially dry. The cave was first brought to the attention of cavers in a letter to Bob Hudson from Carl Clayton in November 1949. On 10 September 1956 Sam Goldwater, Fred Berner, and Dave Kyser of the University of Texas Speleological Society explored the cave using aqualungs. In June 1957 two boys from Odessa drowned in the cave. Following this tragedy a gate was placed over the entrance. A. Richard Smith visited the cave in the late 1950's. The cave was visited by Carl Kunath and other members of the Sul Ross Speleological Society in March 1962. They prepared the area map above, showing the relationships of this cave to the canals and the other caves in the area.



- Bibliography: Anonymous. 1956. Balmorhea Cave. *Texas Caver*, 1(10):5.
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 Anonymous. 1962. T.S.A. convention report. *Texas Caver*, 7:119-121.
 Anonymous. 1976. Plentiful water drew man to Balmorhea area. *Pecos Enterprise*, July 30, 1976, page 6-C.
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 Meador, J. T. 1965. Phantom Lake Cave. *Texas Caver*, 10:11.
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 Reddell, J. R. 1966. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. II. Insecta. *Texas J. Sci.*, 18:25-56.
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 Stickle, A. W. 1937. Caves and caverns, p. 118-122. In: A. W. Stickle, ed., *The State of Texas Book*. Austin: Texas Bur. Res. and Publicity.
 White, W. N., H. S. Gale, and S. S. Nye. 1941. Geology and ground-water resources of the Balmorhea Area, western Texas. *United States Geol. Surv. Water-Supply Pap.*, 849-C:83-146.
 Widener, D. L., ed. [1958]. Jeff Davis County. *Texas Cave Survey*, 1(6):49-51.
 Widener, D. L., ed. 1959. Texas Cave Survey. *SpeleoDigest*, 1958(1): 296-320.

Ref: TSS files

LIMPIA CREEK RATTLESNAKE CAVE

Jeff Davis County #10

Ft. Davis 30' Quadrangle

Owner: Margaret Lee (Lea?)

Description: The cave has three entrances spaced about 4 ft apart along the east end of an EW crack. The entrance drop is about 5 ft to the edge of a drop of about 40 ft. This drops into a pit 10 ft wide and 15 ft long at the top, but enlarging to 30 ft long and 15 ft wide at the bottom. From the bottom of the pit two small crawlways extend along the EW crack controlling the development of the cave. The one to the east goes to a small room, while the one to the south pinches down to an 8 inch hole. The small room to the east is half-filled with lava boulders evidently washed into the cave when Limpia Creek was at a higher level. The cave is formed in Upper Cretaceous limestone. Seven rattlesnakes, Crotalus sp., were killed in the cave when it was explored by Bill Russell and Roger Sorrells. The total depth of the cave is 45 ft and the total length is 50 ft.

Bibliography: Reddell, J. R. 1967. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. III. Vertebrata. Texas J. Sci., 19:184-226.

Ref: TSS files

POWDERKEG CAVE (SKUNK CAVE)

Jeff Davis County #11

Antelope Flat 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: This cave is a solution-widened joint dipping approximately 75° N and striking almost due E-W. The entrance is 30 ft long and 15 ft wide and the pit drops an estimated 35 ft. It was not explored because of lack of equipment. It was reported by A. Richard Smith in 1962.

Biology: A skunk and a ringtail cat, Bassariscus astutus (Lichtenstein), have been observed in the cave.

Bibliography: Reddell, J. R. 1970. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. VI. Additional records of Vertebrata. Texas J. Sci., 22:139-158.

Ref: TSS files

ROCK PILE TALUS CAVE

Jeff Davis County #12

Owner: State of Texas

Description: This is the longest of several talus caves formed by igneous boulders larger than houses. It was entered for about 100 ft and had several entrances. Pallid (?) bats and guano deposits were noted. It was explored by Scott and M. Harden on 8/5/71.

Ref: S. Harden

DOUBTFUL CAVES

UNNAMED CAVE

Jeff Davis County #1a

Big Aguja Mountain 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: Nothing is known of this cave, which is marked on the topographic map.

Ref: TSS files

MUSQUIZ CANYON SHELTER CAVE

Jeff Davis County #2a

Owner:

Description: This cave is reported to continue some 60 ft back from the surface and was apparently used by the Indians. It is not known if the cave is merely a shelter or not.

Bibliography: Stickle, A. W. 1937. Caves and caverns, p. 118-122. In: A. W. Stickle, ed., The State of Texas Book. Austin: Texas Bur. Res. and Publicity.

Ref: TSS files

RUMORS

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY CAVE

Jeff Davis County

Owner:

Description: "Reportedly one of Texas' greater caves. Only partially explored it is said to contain lakes with blind fish, though no specimens have been taken. A solution and erosion system, large rooms and great formations are reported." (Jackson, 1948)

Bibliography: Jackson, A. T. 1948. West Texas caves and shelters. Bull. Natl. Speleol. Soc., 10:69-76.
Widener, D. L. [1958]. Jeff Davis County. Texas Cave Survey, 1(6):49-51.
Widener, D. L. 1959. Texas Cave Survey. SpeleoDigest, 1958(1):296-320.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED CAVE

Jeff Davis County

Owner:

Description: This is reported to be a cave in igneous rock visible for 7 miles near the top of a mountain. It was reportedly explored for some distance, according to a Ft. Davis State Park ranger.

Ref: Scott Harden

UNNAMED CAVE

Jeff Davis County

Owner: State of Texas

Description: Following a big blast in rock in the Davis Mountains during work on the Davis Mountains State Park Highway, workmen reportedly uncovered a 6 inch wide crevice in the stone, from which a brisk current of air came for several days.

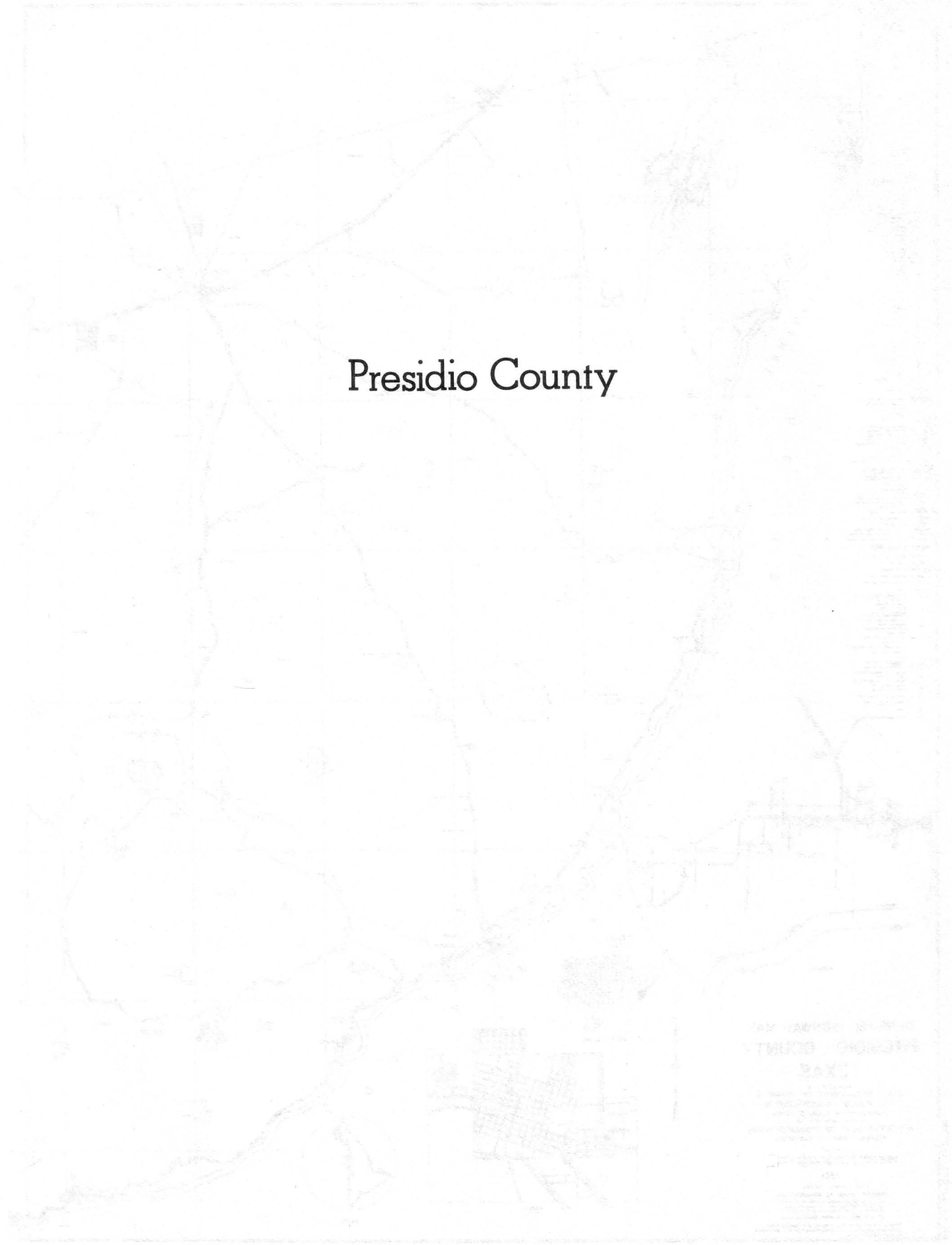
Bibliography: Stickle, A. W. 1937. Caves and caverns, p. 118-122. In: A. W. Stickle, ed., The State of Texas Book. Austin: Texas Bur. Res. and Publicity.

Ref: TSS files

100000

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Presidio County



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
 CENTER FOR HISTORICAL ARCHIVES
 2010
 PRESIDIO COUNTY, TEXAS
 1880
 THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
 CENTER FOR HISTORICAL ARCHIVES
 2010

BIG HILL CAVE

Presidio County #1

Owner:

Description: The entrance to the cave is 10 ft high, 3 ft wide, and can be seen as a rectangular slot from an overlook. The cave was explored for about 40 ft to the end of light by Scott Harden 8/9/71. It is formed in an unknown type of igneous rock.

Ref: S. Harden

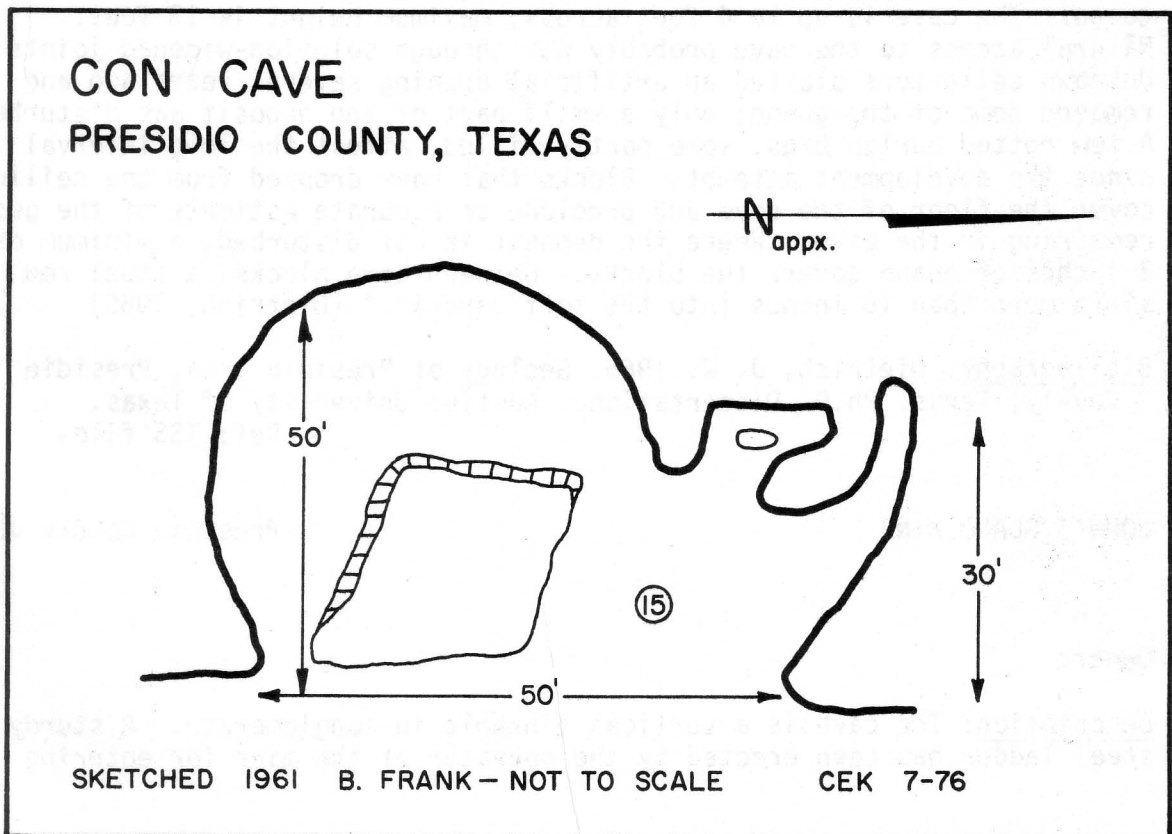
CON CAVE

Presidio County #2

Owner: Albert Chambers

Description: A 50 ft wide, 15 ft high entrance leads back into a room 15 ft high. On the north end a 30 ft long alcove extends back. Near the south end of the cave a 20 by 20 ft piece of breakdown has fallen. The cave was reported by Joe Greene in July 1961 and was explored and mapped by Bud Frank in July 1961. It is formed in Oligocene rhyolite. See map below.

Bibliography: Russell, W. H. 1968. Texas speleifers. Texas Caver, 13:69. Ref: B. Frank



FRESNO MINE CAVES

Presidio County #3

Owner:

Description: No detailed description of the cavities in the Fresno Mine is available, but it was reported by Yates and Thompson (1959) that much of the material removed from the mine came from cavern fills, up to 50 ft or more down into the limestone. The map of the Fresno Mine shows three separate open cavities at the 59 ft level of the mine. A fourth open cavity at this same level is shown as a sloping cave passage extending upwards. No idea is given as to the actual dimensions of these openings, but the scale of the map indicates that they easily fall within the definition of a cave as given by the TSS.

Bibliography: Yates, R. G., and G. A. Thompson. 1959. Geology and quick-silver deposits of the Terlingua District, Texas. United States Geol. Survey Prof. Pap., 312:85, pl. 11.

Ref: TSS files

GUANO CAVE

Presidio County #4

Owner:

Description: "A circular cave in limestone-cobble conglomerate between basalt lava flows in the Rawls Formation contains a small deposit of guano. The cave is up to 4 feet across; maximum height is 15 feet. Natural access to the cave probably was through solution-widened joints. Unknown collectors blasted an artificial opening several years ago and removed some of the guano; only a small part of the deposit was disturbed. A few rotted burlap bags, some partly filled, attest the long interval since the development attempt. Blocks that have dropped from the ceiling cover the floor of the cave and preclude an accurate estimate of the guano remaining in the cave. Where the deposit is not disturbed, a minimum of 3 inches of guano covers the blocks. Between some blocks, a steel rod sinks more than 18 inches into the soft deposit." (Dietrich, 1965)

Bibliography: Dietrich, J. W. 1965. Geology of Presidio area, Presidio County, Texas. Ph.D. Dissertation. Austin: University of Texas.

Ref: TSS files

JOHN'S GUANO MINE

Presidio County #5

Owner:

Description: The cave is a vertical sinkhole in conglomerate. A sturdy steel ladder has been erected by the operator of the mine for entering

the cave. The cave entrance measures 8 ft in diameter, but the cave bells out considerably until the floor is reached at a depth of 122 ft. A 30 ft hill of guano and breakdown is centered in the cave. The walls are dark brown to black, with a few light-colored patches where sections of it have peeled off. The cave is very dry and movement of any sort stirs up a cloud of fine dust. One small 30 ft passage juts in an upward direction from the lower part of the room. See map, page 96.

Geology: The cave is probably formed in lower Tertiary volcanics which are collapsing into a solution cavity in the thick-bedded Cretaceous Loma Plata limestone.

Biology: The cave is now inhabited by very few bats, although the large guano deposits indicate that it once harbored a large colony. A single Little Brown Bat and several Townsend's Big-eared Bats were observed in the cave when it was explored on 29-31 July 1971 by Tony Mollhagen, Dede Armentrout, and Brian Chapman of Texas Tech University. They also made a collection of invertebrates. A complete list of species which have been identified from the cave follows:

- Spiders - Physocyclus enaulus Crosby -- troglophile
- Misumenops coloradensis Gertsch -- accidental
- True bugs - Scolopocerus granulatus Barber -- accidental
- Brochymena quadripustulata (Fabricius) -- accidental
- Prionosoma podopioides Uhler -- accidental
- Zelus socius Uhler -- troglaxene (?)
- Bees - Perdita sp. -- accidental or troglaxene
- Beetles - Coccinellidae - Hippodamia convergens Guerin -- accidental
- Curculionidae - Onychobaris mystica Casey -- accidental
- Dermestidae - Dermestes carnivorus F. -- troglophile
- Meloidae - Pyrota postica LeConte -- accidental
- Tenebrionidae - Cryptoglossa mexicana mexicana Champion -- probably a troglaxene
- Eleodes sp. -- probably a troglaxene
- Trogidae - Omorgus carinatus Loomis -- probably a troglaxene
- Whipsnake - Masticophis taeniatus (Hallowell) -- accidental
- Cave Swallow - Petrochelidon fulva pallida Nelson -- troglaxene
- Little Brown Bat - Myotis velifer incautus (Allen) -- troglaxene
- Townsend's Big-eared Bat - Plecotus townsendii pallescens Miller -- troglaxene

History: Nothing is known of when the cave began to be mined for guano. It was explored on April 16, 1961, by John Lanier, George Gray, James Estes, Tom Meador, Ray Archibald, and Don Axford, at which time the cave was mapped. The only trip recorded was that of Mollhagen, Armentrout, and Chapman mentioned above.

Bibliography: Anonymous. 1961. Abilene Grotto checks Presidio Co. caves. Texas Caver, 6:47-48.

Mollhagen, T. 1971. Trip report: 29-31 July 1971. Texas Caver, 16:183.

Reddell, J. R. 1961. Texas Speleological Survey. Texas Caver, 6:53-54.

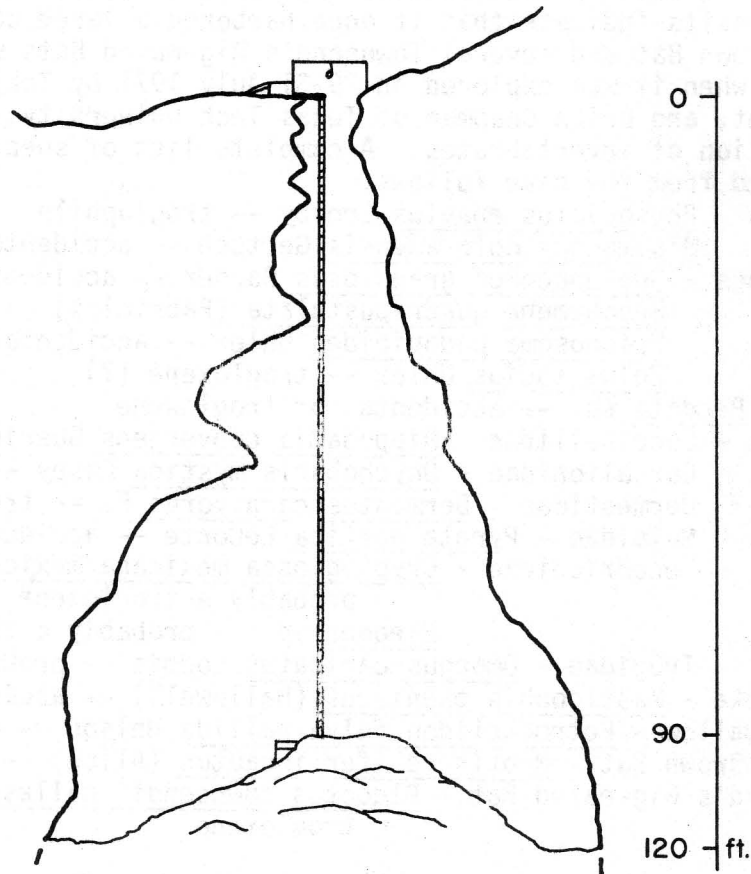
----- . 1967. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. III. Vertebrata. Texas J. Sci., 19:184-226.

----- . 1970. A checklist of the cave fauna of Texas. VI. Additional records of Vertebrata. Texas J. Sci., 22:139-158.

Ref: TSS files

JOHN'S GUANO MINE

PRESIDIO COUNTY, TEXAS



SKETCH BY JAMES ESTES

16 APRIL 1961

NO SCALE

NO NORTH ARROW

CEK II-76

OCOTILLO CAVE

Presidio County #6

Terlingua-Chisos Mountains Quadrangle

Owner: Mr. Anderson

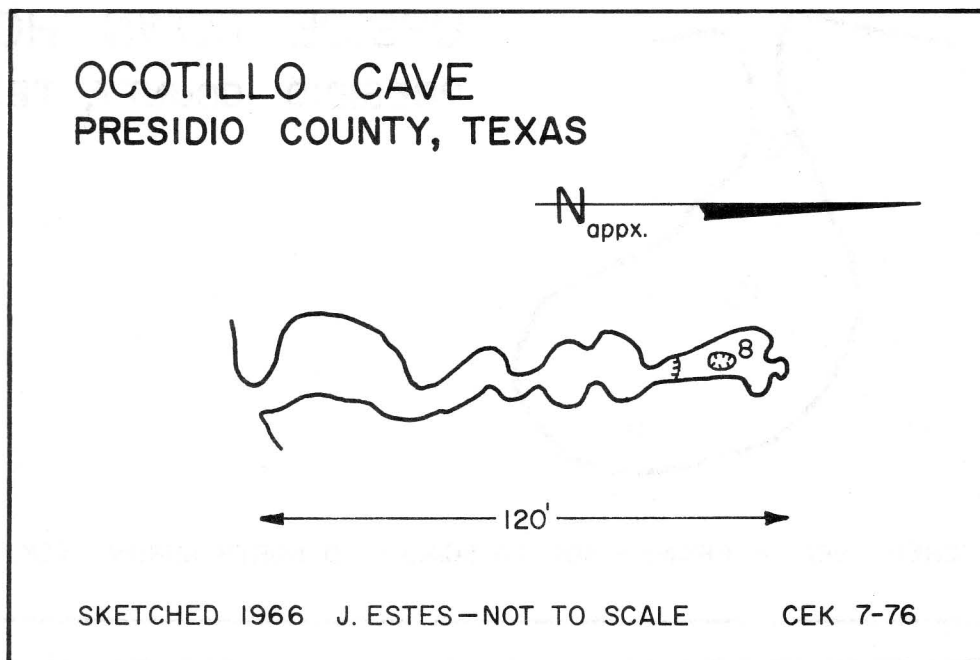
Description: The entrance to Ocotillo Cave is a 10 to 15 ft wide, 10 ft high opening at the base of a cliff. After about 10 ft the passage narrows to about 5 ft and lowers to 4-5 ft. The cave then opens into the Entrance Room. This room is about 15 to 20 ft wide, 20 to 30 ft long, and floored with guano-encrusted breakdown. The walls and ceilings are covered with a blackish substance, apparently soot. Several yucca and ocotillo stalks litter the entrance area. Four of them were wedged upright in the breakdown of the Entrance Room. Three of these were bent over against the cave roof, while the fourth had 3 to 4 crudely cut notches in it and was only about 3-4 ft long. The Entrance Room smelled strongly of bats and burnt wood or guano. In the back of the Entrance Room a 2 to 3 ft high, 4 to 5 ft wide crawl twists around to a small room in which the air is fresher and the walls clean. It is necessary to scale the cave wall for 10 ft to enter a passage which leads into the 20 to 30 ft long, 10 ft wide Pit Room. An 8 ft deep pit was not explored, but no air flow was detected. The cave terminates in a small room at the end of the Pit Room. The total length of the cave is 120 ft. See map below.

Geology: The cave is formed in the Santa Elena or Del Carmen formations of Cretaceous age. Steeply dipping bedding-planes can be seen in the Pit Room. The beds are 1/2 to 2 ft thick.

History: The cave was visited and sketch-mapped by James Estes, Bob Crisman, and Tom Meador on 1 January 1966.

Bibliography: Estes, J. 1968. The Solitario-new caving frontier? Texas Caver, 13:45-47.

Ref: J. Estes



PRESIDIO MINE CAVES

Presidio County

Owner: American Metal Company of Texas

Description: Numerous open fissures were encountered during mining operations in the Presidio Mine. No detailed description of these cavities is available, but they have been reported by Ross as occurring on the 600 ft level. They are stated to be, "at some places in close contact, at others several feet apart. The height of the openings is locally several score feet." Most of the walls also are covered with botryoidal masses of calcite crystals.

Bibliography: Ross, C. P. 1943. Geology and ore deposits of the Shafter Mining District, Presidio County, Texas. United States Geol. Survey Bull., 928-B:45-125, pl. 6-12.

Ref: TSS files

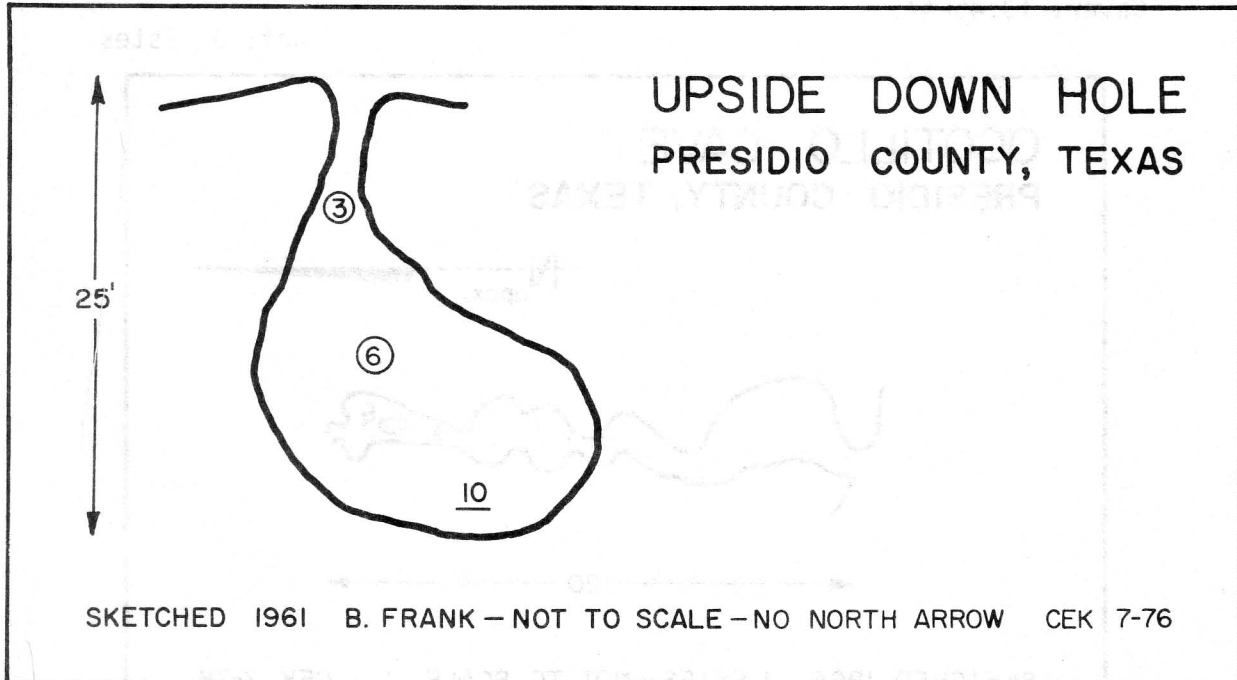
UPSIDE DOWN HOLE

Presidio County #8

Owner: Albert Chambers

Description: This cave is entered by a 3 ft in diameter opening which slopes up into a room 6 ft high. The total length of the cave is 25 ft, while the end of the cave is 10 ft above the entrance. It is developed in Oligocene rhyolite. It was explored in July 1961 by Bud Frank. See map below.

Ref: B.Frank



Owner: University of Texas

Description: The main entrance to this cave is an opening 4 ft high and about 10 ft wide located on a cliff face. Three other openings, one of which may be too small for a human to use, also lead into the single chamber. This room is 150 ft long, 30 ft wide, and 2 to 5 ft high. It slopes down along the back into an alcove 15 ft wide and 100 ft long with a ceiling height of 20 ft above flowstone and guano. Two crawls from the entrance chamber become too low after a few feet. Large breakdown blocks cover the area in front of three of the entrances and breakdown is abundant along the wall of the cave facing the cliff. See map, page 100.

History: The cave was explored and mapped by Dwight Deal, Robert Schroeder, and Dick Cochran on 20 March 1972.

Ref: D. Deal

UNNAMED CAVE

Presidio County #10

Owner:

Description: This is a fissure located on the right side of a cliff-base formed of pinkish-brown igneous rock. The entrance was about 2 ft wide and 8 ft high. The crevice could be explored for about 30 ft horizontally and 15 ft vertically before becoming too narrow. Exploration was quite hazardous because of the crumbly, highly brittle rock. It was explored in April 1961 by Bart Crisman, George Gray, James Estes, Ray Archibald, Tom Meador, and John Lanier.

Bibliography: Anonymous. 1961. Abilene Grotto checks Presidio Co. caves. *Texas Caver*, 6:47-48.

Meador, T. 1961. Photos. *Texas Caver*, 6:44-45.

Ref: J. Estes

DOUBTFUL CAVES AND SHELTERS

GLASSCOCK CAVE

Presidio County #1a

Owner:

Description: This is a shallow natural cave used at one time by Indians. The cave contains a few pictographs and once contained a deposit which

SHORT & SWEET

Presidio County, Texas

Surveyed 20 March 1972

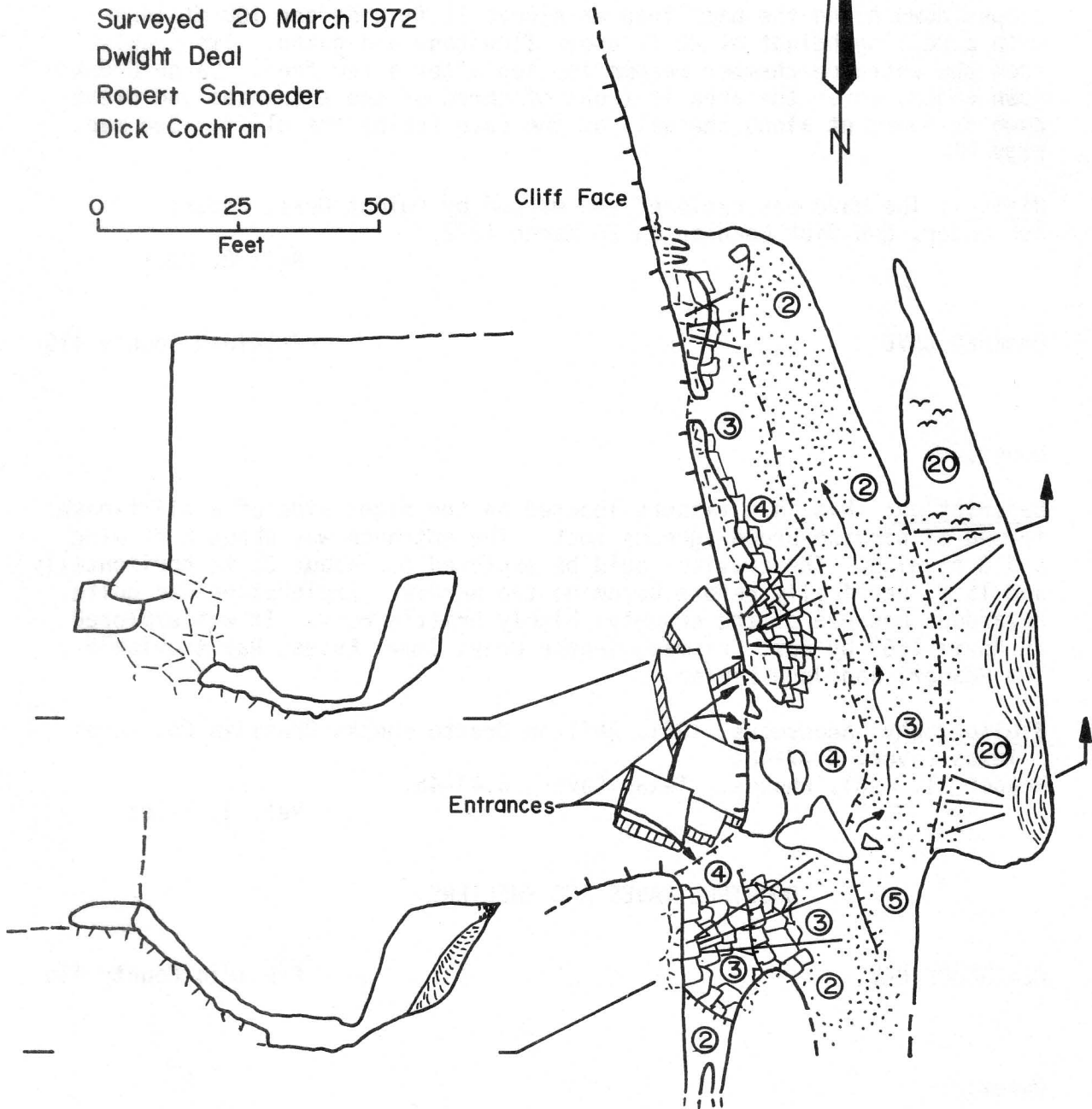
Dwight Deal

Robert Schroeder

Dick Cochran



Cliff Face



may have contained artifacts, but these were plundered before it could be studied. Immediately below the opening is a shallow nitrate prospect.

Bibliography: Jackson, A. T. 1948. West Texas caves and shelters. Bull. Natl. Speleol. Soc., 10:69-76.

Mansfield, G. R., and L. Boardman. 1932. Nitrate deposits of the United States. United States Geol. Survey Bull., 838:85-94.

Ref: TSS files

HIPPIE CAVE

Presidio County #2a

Redford SE 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: This is marked as "cave" on the topographic map. It is a shelter 12 ft high, 15 ft wide, and only 6 to 8 ft long. A large boulder lies in the entrance. The cave is formed in volcanic conglomerate.

History: An Austin hippie lived in the cave with five dogs and millions of fleas for two years (intermittently).

Ref: D. Deal

KNIGHT CAVE

Presidio County #3a

Owner: Mollie B. Knight

Description: This cave is entered by an opening 4 ft wide, which was partially excavated. A hands-and-knees crawl over sharp cactus spines carried in by pack rats led to the main chamber of the cave. The floor of the cave is covered in fine dust. Excavations for Indian artifacts resulted in the removal of tons of rock and earth. This cave is almost certainly a true cave, but the above description is too vague to verify this suspicion.

History: This cave was reportedly discovered when Mr. Knight chased a fox into the opening in 1923. The cave was excavated in May 1931 by Frank M. Setzler of the Smithsonian Institution.

Bibliography: Dorsey, H. W. 1928. Archaeological field work in North America during 1931. Texas. American Anthropol., n.s., 30:519.

Harris, A. H. 1971. Use of Texas caves by terrestrial mammals, p. 117-121.

In: E. L. Lundelius and B. H. Slaughter, eds., Natural history of Texas caves. Dallas: Gulf Nat. Hist.

Jackson, A. T. 1948. West Texas caves and shelters. Bull. Natl. Speleol. Soc., 10:69-76.

Setzler, F. M. 1935. A prehistoric cave culture in southwestern Texas. American Anthropol., n.s., 37:104-110.

Ref: TSS files

LOS PORTALES CAVE

Presidio County #4a

The Solitario 7.5' Quadrangle

Owner:

Description: This is marked as "cave" on the topographic map, but it is a large double shelter with three large arches as seen from Fresno Canyon. The shelter floor slopes up, providing no room for habitation.

Ref: D. Deal

UNNAMED CAVE

Presidio County #5a

Owner:

Description: Lampert (1953) has a photograph of a "karst feature" in the upper member of the Finlay formation. The entrance faces west and appears to lead into a cave, rather than a shelter.

Bibliography: Lampert, L. M. 1953. Stratigraphy of Presidio Area, Presidio County, Trans-Pecos, Texas. M. A. Thesis. Austin: University of Texas. viii + 97 p.

Ref: TSS files

RUMORS AND LEADS

GREENWOOD CAVE

Presidio County

Owner: Mrs. Hart Greenwood

Description: Nothing is known of this cave which is reached by taking the turnoff to the ranch between Marfa and Shafter on the east side of the highway. The cave is reported to be a 2 mile horse-back ride from the ranch.

Ref: TSS files

PANTHER PEAK CAVE

Presidio County

Owner:

Description: This cave is reported to be located at headwaters in the Black Hills, 35 miles east of Presidio and 10 miles north of the Rio Grande.

Ref: Frank Mills

SAN ESTEBAN CAVE

Presidio County

Owner:

Description: This cave is reported to have been inhabited by Old Man Stowe, the line rider for a large range 12 miles east of Marfa. Stowe kept several polecats as pets, but they were shot by two cowboys who stayed in the cave. Other legends, some fabricated entirely, have been told of the cave and are related by Duckworth (1928).

Bibliography: Duckworth, K. 1928. W. W. Bogel, jurist and cattleman. Frontier Times, 5:238-239.

Ref: TSS files

THREADGILL CAVE

Presidio County

Owner:

Description: This cave is reported to be located on Segunda Creek 18 miles northwest of Lajitas.

Ref: TSS files

UNNAMED CAVE

Presidio County

Owner: Santa Fe Railroad

Description: This is rumored to be an underground stream 12 ft below the surface which is inhabited by 3 inch long, eyed but blind fish with horns on their heads for boring in mud. It is supposed to have been found during excavation for a bridge abutment over the second crossing of the Santa Fe on Alameda Creek south of Alpine (Houston Post, 23 Feb. 1930).

Ref: TSS files