

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER 1962

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1. THE TUNNEL CAVE PROJECT

Two abortive attempts to get the Tunnel Cave Shaft completed this summer had made those of us concerned with the project all the more determined on an all out effort some time before Christmas '62. December 8th/9th was chosen, as the chances of dry weather at this time of year are high.

The plan was as follows:-

1. The week-end of December 1st/2nd would be spent getting all heavy equipment, other than the compressor, up the hill to the site. Lifting tackle would be erected and tested ready for December 8th.
2. The compressor would be picked up from either Swansea or Cardiff, depending on which one we could get and taken up to Penwyllt on Friday December 7th.
3. A team of three or four persons would then be required on Friday afternoon to get the compressor up to the site and start drilling. Eight vertical holes each 4ft. deep and $1\frac{3}{8}$ " diameter would be drilled around the edges of the floor and four holes of similar dimension would be drilled on the diagonals nearly to meet approx-

imately under the centre of the shaft. The centre holes would each be charged with $1\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. of 'tree lifter' and a No.0 delay detonator, the edge holes with 1 lb. and a No.2 delay detonator. All twelve detonators would then be wired in series, so that when fired the centre would be blown out first and the sides blown into the cavity.

4. Whilst this was being done the Mountain Rescue Team would ~~erect~~ a 160 lb. mess tent for us near the site. (Not too near)

5. This first round should be fired at 8 p.m. by which time there would be sufficient people at Penwyllt to man the lifting gear and haul out 3 to 4 tons of rubble.

6. Drilling would begin again on Saturday morning and blasting take place at about 10 a.m. A fresh team would then lift out the rubble ready for what should then be the final round.

7. At about 3 p.m. on Saturday we should be probing with 6ft. drill rods for the aven. Once located we would then blast the top of the aven to the bottom of the aven.

8. Retire to the Gwyn Arms.

9. Spend Sunday getting the equipment back down the hill.

All very nice, but all very dependent on the weather. The tackle was taken up and erected on December 1st and 2nd., and a swinging derrick, the pride of the engineering department was erected over the shaft. A telephone line was laid from the site down to the road.

The following Friday the compressor arrived and was taken up in Charles' Land Rover. A second Land Rover belonging to and driven by Bill Clarke brought up the rest of the gear. The first round was fired at 8 p.m. and the first clearing team started work right away, finishing at 3.30 a.m. Saturday. The swinging derrick turned out to be 'dodgey' and was pulled down and replaced by a conventional tripod. The mess tent had been supplied and erected as planned. It was 'all systems go'.

The drilling team in Dingle's Land Rover were back on the site at 8 a.m. and then our troubles started. The first round had cracked the floor and this kept jamming the drill bit, so 2 ft. had to be chipped out and cleared. A road breaker was brought up, but by the time it arrived the job had been done by hand. It was now 2 p.m. and the weather all morning had been bloody awful. Rain and wind had chilled everybody and goon suits were essential. The track to the site was thick with mud and it was impossible to get even Land Rovers up to the site. Water in the petrol kept stopping the compressor and when it was going, it was using juice at the rate of 2 gallons per hour. I must admit I

was for calling the operation off, but every thing was bogged down so we decided we might as well stay and carry on.

Drilling restarted at 3 p.m. and by 6 p.m. the second round was fired. The shuttering was damaged but soon repaired and clearing the rubble then took us to 10 p.m. At 10 p.m. another team left the Gwyn Arms, half way through the 58th verse of The Ball of Kirriemuir and ready to chip out the bottom of the shaft and start drilling again. The weather all through the night was worse than ever, the compressor fuel system had to be taken apart and dried and it was 8 a.m. before the bottom of the shaft was ready for drilling.

By this time Bill Birchenough was biting his finger nails - we were six feet from his maximum estimate. The weather cleared and at 8.50 a.m. we started drilling again. This time we were aiming for the top of the aven - we hoped. Two foot rod down without trouble and we changed to the 4 ft. rod. The strata seemed kinder to the bit and we went down at a foot per minute. The 4ft. rod was changed for a 6ft. rod and we were on our way down for the final count.

Five feet down and we hit an air space. Warm air came up the drill hole when the compressor was shut off. A second 5 ft. hole was drilled 1 ft. away from the first and this too went through. The drilling was then taken over by Dingle and Denis Bound and the final round was charged. It didn't go through to the aven but jammed. However we were through and it ought not to take long to clear the last of the rubble. The compressor was loaded back on to Charles' Land Rover and Dingle's vehicle was loaded with everything else. They were then both got down with the aid of ropes and the weight of twenty or more helpers.

I've not mentioned many names as there were so many club members and visitors working on the project. Everybody worked like the clappers and it was first class club effort. Bill Birchenough can now rest at night knowing that his ruddy caveometer works.

The big question now is what project of this nature next?
The Hot Air Mines? Pwll Byfre? D.Y.O.?

Clive Jones.

2. NOTES FROM 'COELION CYMRU'

The title of this contribution says what it means. The above is a book (in Welsh) about myths etc., and was brought to my notice by Serfiah Lewis, who translated the chapter on Caves for me. In view of the preliminary description of Ogor Cil-yr-Ychen in a recent number of the newsletter it was thought that some notes from the above work may be of interest to the members. Obviously, the slant is archaeological and it is hoped that all the bones found will be brought to the club and not sent direct to the editor or the Times.

In discussing Owain Lawgoch (Owain of the Red Hand), a romantic Welshman (no comment) who sometimes substituted for Arthur himself in tales of the cave, the author points out that Owain and his men are supposed to lie in Ogor Myrddin in Carmarthenshire. This tradition is also connected with a cave called Ogor Owain near Llandebie. According to Sir John Rees' 'Celtic Folklore', Arthur and his men were trapped in this cave and died of starvation. The author continues 'In 1813 the bones of several very big men were found in the cave. But Mr. T.H. Lewis of Llandybie says that there was never a tradition that anyone had found human bones in Ogor Owain in 1813, but in Ogor Pant-y-Llyn. Near the hill called 'Y Dinas' is another hill called 'Craig Derwyddion' and in 1813 quarrymen working on this hill broke into an unrecorded cave and it was in this cave, Ogor Pant-y-Llyn that the skulls were found. The hill called 'Y Dinas' lies about a mile north of the village of Llandebie and on its slopes a cave was found recently and named Ogor-y-Dinas. The cave is no longer there (1938) as quarrying has destroyed a large part of the slope'.

The point is - are Ogor Cil-yr-Ychen and Ogor Pant-y-Llyn one and the same cave? Or, is there at least one other cave in the area called Ogor Pant-y-Llyn? Is there any record of this? But, please remember, if these two are the same cave, MAKE SURE WHEN YOU ENTER THAT YOU ARE NOT PUTTING YOUR HUGE SWEATY FEET ON DEAD MEN'S BONES. IF ANY ONE SEES ANYTHING LIKE BONE, BLACK SOIL OR POTTERY JUST INSIDE THIS CAVE LEAVE IN SITU AND DROP US A LINE. This applies to any cave of course. Any comments about these two names please?

Something for the Divers is also mentioned in this book. The author says, 'Ogor-y-Graig Shiagus lies at the bottom of the parish of Ysgeifion (N. Wales?), but is not covered by an artificial lake. Two gentlemen from Nannerch say that they entered the cave in their youth and it was a large, long cavern and at its end was a chamber called Arthur's Parlour. Legend says that Arthur rested there after the battle of Caer Moel Arthur.'

Something also for Bill Birch or our Cardigan members. Does anyone know where this is - the hidden treasure of Castell Faen Grach? The author's directions are as follows - 'Castell Faen Grach is near Pant-ar-fynach - looking west a peak rises in front of cwm Rheidol on

the side of Mynyddbach, and at the foot of the peak facing the main road is a farm called Tyn-y-Castell. THE CAVE IS ON THIS FARM!'. Pass over the treasure - an ideal place for radio cave detectors I should think.

The author talks about two other caves. Someone should look for a cave near Craig-y-Ddinas at Llantrisant, Glamorgan, associated with King Arthur (the first Royal Caver). He also mentions another cave in N. Wales, on the top of Moel Hiraddug and on the borders of the parishes of Dyserth and Gwm. It is reputed to be the home of Owain Lawgoch.

Any comments about these entries will be welcome. Any bones will be kept carefully and fully exploited. Any treasure will, of course, be given to the Club.

Derrick Webley (with much help from
Serfiah Lewis)
39 Heol Isaf, Radyr, Glamorganshire.

Note: for those interested, the book is by Evan Isaac and was published at Aberystwyth in 1938.

3. POST RAILWAY - PENWYLLT 1862-1962

Some of the stones in the walls of our H.Q. have an odd hole in them. They were once the sleepers of a mineral tramway from Colbran to Brecon. This old track is, I believe, the foundation of Powell Street, Penwyllt and can be traced along the hillside to the bwlch and beyond. It was the Brecon Forest or Claypons Tramway and was incorporated in 1862 as the Dulas Valley Mineral Railway, later changed to the Neath Brecon Railway.

The Fairly Articulated locos were designed for this line, but after short service they were shipped abroad. The two tank engines "double heading" the last crowded (yes crowded!) trains on Saturday, 13th October '62 were reminiscent of Fairly's great efforts to deal with the sharp curves and steep gradients through the mountains.

During Adelina Patti's residence, believe it or not, fast Dining Car expresses steamed non-stop from such places as Birmingham, New Street Station to Craig-y-Nos (Penwyllt). In those days it wasn't even known for Penwyllt bricks, but Madam Patti's theatre was a Glyndebourne half a century before its time.

Back to the line; the railway came next under 'Midland' control and in 1921 under the Great Western Railway. After national-

isation it was part of British Railways Western Region. Now passenger services will stop at Colbran and from there to our H.Q. the line will be degraded to a mineral track once more, whilst beyond the lines will be ripped up. Steam took over from horses but was never here ousted by the stinking Diesel engine

On that last Saturday night, a group of cavers lit a bonfire and waved and waved to the engine drivers like a bunch of kids. The railway hadn't been much use to cavers but it had put Penwyllt on the map, built (in part) the walls of nine cottages and a Sunday School. Now with the Sunday School picture of the Broad and the Narrow Paths still preserved it makes one wonder. They never did have those Sunday trains - it's the line that's gone to Hell.

W.H. Little.

Refs: 1957 Barrie D.S. The Brecon and Merthyr Railway.
1960 " " Railways to Brecon 1. Railway Magazine May, 1960.

4. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN WATER TRACING METHODS

The characteristics essential for a useful method of tracing underground water in limestone areas have been stated by many workers (1,2,3) Many methods have been used including inorganic salts (4), dyes (4,9,10), bacteria (4), spores (11,12) and radio active chemicals (4,5). Automatic detection systems have been devised for each of these methods. Until recently fluorescein dye without any automatic detection system has been the most frequently used method almost to the exclusion of all others. Recently several new methods have been developed each using a detector system. Below I give details where I know them of these new methods and I include details of the use of adsorbent charcoal as detector with fluorescein dye. This is not a comparison of the methods simply a statement of the details.

Fluorescein - Charcoal Adsorption Method (4)

A small amount of the dye, fluorescein sodium salt, is placed into the sink. Four ounces are sufficient for most cases but for those who wish to be more accurate see appendix 1. Detectors consisting of a few dozen granules of 10-12 mesh adsorbent coco-nut charcoal in a cloth bag are anchored in the rapid part of all likely risings. A simple test is needed to determine whether or not the dye has been adsorbed onto the detector. A few grains are removed and placed into a white dish. Just cover with a few drops of the test solution which is 5% Potassium Hydroxide in ethyl alcohol and allow to stand for half an hour. Any fluorescein

onto
adsorbed / the charcoal will appear on the surface of the granules.
A few fresh granules should be included for comparison.

Rhodamine B. - Tannin Mordanted Cotton Method.

This is a first rate method developed by T.K. Marston (9) and the Bradford Pothole Club. It has enjoyed considerable success in the North (6) and at Agen Allwedd (7).

The dye, Rhodamine B 500%, is again used by the ounce. As with all methods the amount will depend on flow rate, distance, volume etc., and only an approximate idea of the weight of dye needed can be obtained, but tests have shown that half a pound will give a positive result under quite adverse conditions. The detectors are pieces of white cotton 18" x 4". Any clean, old white cotton cloth will do. They are soaked in distilled water, just enough to cover them, to which has been added 0.75 grammes of tannic acid for each piece of cloth. Simmer for one hour, cool overnight and squeeze out the excess liquid. Do not wash. Transfer to a similar amount of distilled water containing 0.5 grammes of tartar emetic (poisonous) for each piece. Soak overnight then squeeze out the excess liquid, wash and dry. The detectors are now ready to be anchored in the risings. Rhodamine B stains these cotton pieces pink so that inspection will normally show whether the dye has passed that way. Unfortunately iron colours them dark blue or black masking any pink that might be present. If this happens, soak the iron contaminated piece in a solution of 7.0 grammes of E.D.T.A., di sodium salt, in 200 mls of distilled water. A fresh solution must be used for each. The iron having been complexed off, the presence or absence of the pink colouration can be seen.

Durazol Orange - Nylon Method

This method has been used successfully (10) by the B.N.S. in the Llangattog area. Large amounts of the dye are needed, from one to twelve pounds being used. The detectors are strips of scoured nylon which are visibly dyed by the Durazol Orange. Any clean, white nylon cloth will do.

Lycopodium Spores - Plankton Net Method.

This method was devised by Mayr (11) and used by Zöt (12, 13). The spores of *Lycopodium Cleavatum* are introduced into the sink and fine plankton nets fixed at all likely risings. For further details read Mayr's paper.

Appendix 1.

The recommended (4) weight of fluorescein is 10 grammes for every 1,000 gallons / min. per mile. To obtain the approximate flow rate (16) find a suitably uniform stretch of the stream and measure its

cross sectional area. Next, time a floating orange down this stretch making sure that it is in the main current. The flow rate in gallons/min. is equal to 4.66 x the area in square feet x the velocity in feet per minute. The unknowns in water tracing will have a considerable influence on the required quantity of dye so that any reasonable guess at the volume of water sinking will be just as useful.

Appendix 2.

All the dyes have been examined for possible toxic effect of water life. All were found to be harmless (9,10,15).

Appendix 3.

The chemicals, other than the dyes, can be bought through most chemist's shops or direct from B.D.H., Poole, Dorset. The dyes can be obtained from I.C.I. Dyestuffs Div. Hexagon House, Blackley, Manchester 9. The costs listed below are only approximate and do not include delivery charges.

Fluorescein sodium dye	17/- per lb.
Potassium hydroxide	2/- per 100 grammes.
Ethyl alcohol	12/- " " "
Coconut charcoal	1/- " " "
Tannic acid	6/- " " "
Tartar emetic	5/- " " "
E.D.T.A. disodium salt	11/- " " "
Rhodamine B. 500%	25/- " lb.

References.

1. Tracing underground water, A. Mason-Williams, C.R.G., N/L 79-80, p.4-7
2. Water testing, Bottomley, Jowett and Myers, C.R.G., N/L. 27, p.5.
3. British Caving, (1953), Myers, p.152.
4. Evaluation of ground water tracing methods used in speleology, J.L.Haas, The British Caver, Vol.34, (1962), 26-40.
5. Use of the radioactive isotope Tritium in underground water tracing D.B. Smith, British Caver, Vol.35, 56-57.
6. An improved method of tracing underground water using Rhodamine B, T.K. Marston and T. Schofield, C.R.G., N/L 84, p.4-13.
7. Field tests of the Rhodamine method in Ogof Agen Allwedd, I. Holmes, C.R.G., N/L 84, p.14. British Caver, Vol.35, 67. Hereford Caving Club, N/L No.14.
8. Rhodamine B water tracing technique, D. Leitch, C.R.G., N/L 84, p.15-16. The British Caver, Vol.35, p.68. Hereford C.C., N/L No.14.
9. A new and improved method of water tracing, T. Marston, Bradford Pothole Club, Bulletin, Vol.3., No.3., p.11.
10. Water tracing using Durazol Orange and Nylon detectors, M. Davies, C.R.G., N/L 84, p.16-19.
11. Neue wege zur erforschung von quellen und karstwassern, mitt, Hohlenkomm, 1953, (1), 1954, A. Mayr.

12. Neue ergebnisse der karsthydrologie, J. Zotl, Erdkunde, XI, Heft 2, (1957).
13. Use of lycopodium spores for tracing underground water, Zotl, 3rd International Speleological Congress.
14. Note on the use of spores for water tracing, G.T. Warwick, C.R.G. N/L 68-69.
15. Warning note on Rhodamine B, J. Aspin, C.R.G., N/L 84, p.19.
16. Chemical methods for the study of river pollution, Fishery investigation, Series 1, Vol. IV, No.2. H.M.S.O. London, 1940.

John Hartwel.

5. TOOTH CAVE

An Interim Report - 1962.

It may be forgiven if the author has been hesitant about putting pen to paper about the archaeological goings on at Tooth Cave this year. First of all, because the three people largely involved, John Harvey, Roy Morgan and the writer find it difficult to agree about anything. Since two of us are outrageous liars and embellishers of the Tooth, it is exceedingly difficult to arrive at an honest assessment of our undoubted achievements.

The door for instance - the word, for a start, causes conflicts, because two of the members use the term gate. It might not be well known that this item was manufactured by two of the above and their friends and is composed of motorcycle parts and concrete - so strong is it, that after its making in Swansea, great difficulty was experienced in getting it to the site. I believe it broke the back of Roy's van. However, they put the door up and fitted it with an ingenious lock and key arrangement which has one disadvantage - someone has to stay in the cave from one week-end to the next to unlock it. No true estimate of the door can be given since the description would vary with the individual. For me, it is a square grey functional blot in the limestone wall which has made the entrance less photogenic: for Roy it is alright; Harvey on the other hand, at Lascaux this summer, tended to draw invidious comparisons between the two structures. He felt that the Swansea group could have fitted out Lascaux with a more suitable hinged monstrosity and could have sold the bronze to finance other, more liquid, activities of the members. This preamble however, is to state, that the facts outlined below have been largely agreed upon by the three members - myself using my casting vote in all disagreements. Since, both disagreed with each other on all points, the views expressed here must be largely my own.

We would like to record our thanks to Bill Clarke for his engin-

eering achievement in providing and fixing us up with a Dexion Bridge to allow us to enter the chamber in the cave, and cavers to enter the inner recesses without putting their big feet on the past. Perhaps a few general remarks on the cave might be permitted for those people who have previously read the Morgan and Harvey article on this cave. The 'beautiful ornamented chamber, the walls completely covered with calcite formations' I shall call Chamber 1, and for convenience sake I shall call the other burial area, Chamber 2.

Our first task, in order to facilitate caving movement without damage to the bones, was to excavate the passage leading to the 'entrance series' (Harvey and Morgan terminology). This has been completed and has produced more human bones, some flint flakes and middle Bronze Age pottery fragments. Here the bones were in excellent condition (note Harvey and Morgan's assessment in 1961) and so well preserved in the calcite that they had to be hit out with hammer and chisel. The bones were dispersed in some confusion, even though a whole limb appeared to be in position. While most of the human remains are cemented into a stony and muddy breccia, most of the animal bone seems not to be cemented. This might suggest that the animal bone is later than the human, but this cannot be proved, since the human remains are on that side of the chamber in which calcification is more intense - due to an oozing wet wall. The possibility that the stones on and around the bones were a deliberate deposition, cannot be ruled out. It seems to me that they well might be a chance accumulation of material since the bones were deposited. The disorder of the bones, taken with the stony mess, suggests to me chance movement and sorting by flooding in the passage, since the bones were placed there in 1,200 B.C. (approx.) The bones lie on a calcited stone floor - a stream bed (Morgan and Harvey disagree) and to prove my point, under this layer is a few feet of a sandy soil (which has been mechanically analysed). The soil is a flood loam - giving one a picture of periods of flooding and drying out in the passage. Pollen analysis of this soil produced only a few fern spores. A few water vole bones were also found in this layer. The result of this chamber's excavation, is that at least two human burials had been placed there together with flint flakes and an Overhanging Rim Urn. While the burials normally associated with this kind of pottery are cremations in this case, the burials were by inhumation.

You will remember, at least anyone who reads a newspaper will, that a skull was found in Chamber 1, and it is in this chamber we have now begun to dig. Just like the other chamber, the floor, especially the southern side is covered with a stony debris, with here and there small candlestick-like stals., to the foot of a boulder choke which presumably conceals the original entrance. Work has started on this side and careful sifting of the mud and stone still goes on. So far the finds are exciting in number and quantity. As well as human bone material - two lower jaws and another skull, we have found bone implements. Perhaps the most outstanding so far is a bone needle, 4½" long with a neatly punched hole at its base. The point is as sharp as the day it was made. Nearby

a whole flint scraper was found of a good Bronze Age type and a bone knife. This latter object could be called a spatula, or a pottery smoother. The really important thing so far, is that the bone implements are in really good condition - far better than many of the objects found in the open air. The bone finds are of interest because they do help to support an Early Middle Bronze Age date for the occupation. The bone needle is an object which has been recorded in barrows with Bronze Age burials - three times previously in Wales - but only one survives - a poorer example than ours (all agree here). The bone knife (or spatula) has parallels in England in Iron Age contexts so the Tooth Cave find puts back the date for the use of these objects into the Bronze Age. The floor in which they have been found has masses of charcoal embedded in the clay and between the stones and so a definite suspicion is forming that we are coming near to a domestic occupation area. One further point about cave history might be recorded. The bone needle was found under one of the stal candlesticks, so that must have formed after the Bronze Age.

There is little more to add at the moment since the excavation continues. All the bones have been sent to the Duckworth Anthropological Laboratory at Cambridge where they are being studied by a comparative human anatomist. It is hoped that a complete survey of the cave will be started soon. This will be an important step forward.

Derrick Webley.

6. CLUB NEWS

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY.

At a meeting of the Cave Science Sub-Committee it was felt that some form of geophysical survey should be undertaken as soon as possible. It would be of the greatest help if any member who (a) has at his disposal any geophysical survey equipment or (b) has any knowledge of the methods of geophysical survey, would write as soon as possible to G.T. Jefferson, 6 Rhwbina Hill, Rhwbina, Cardiff.

CAVE RESCUE FORMS

A number of the recently issued cave rescue forms have not been returned. Will the members concerned return them as soon as possible.

HEADQUARTER FEES.

A number of members are causing our Mr. Hawes a considerable amount of extra work by not paying their H.Q. fees on demand. In the future the committee will consider withdrawing the facilities of the H.Q. from members with fees outstanding.

CAVING HOLIDAYS AND EXPEDITIONS.

A number of people are planning trips to Continental caving regions. To make sure that maximum use is made of club equipment and foreign contacts the committee are prepared to help any members with the planning of such trips. If anyone planning or wishing to join a trip would write to the Hon. Sec. with the relevant details then some co-ordination of effort can be attained.

This does not only apply to caving holidays abroad. Last summer a number of people spent their holidays at Penwyllt, but were unable to tackle any worthwhile project because they were not there in strong enough parties. If you do intend caving at Penwyllt during your summer holidays and would like to contact other members with the same idea, please write to the Hon. Secretary.

NEW MEMBERS.

We welcome the following new members:-

Penelope Tutt, 7 Axminster Road, Roath, Cardiff.
P. Rossiter, 2 Rhodesian Cottages, Cove Road, Fleet, Hants.
A. Salmoni 28 Frewer Avenue, Fairwater, Cardiff.
D. Bryn Thomas, Garth Field, Mumbery Hill, Wargrave, Berks.
Frank and Sidney Bauguley, 15 Elm Grove, Aberdare, Glamorganshire.

O.F.D. LEADERS.

The following members have been elected to the O.F.D. Leaders List:-

B. Hughes, Colin Baglin, Hugh Lloyd, Don Thomson, Edgar Harwood
Trefor Woodford.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Mr. & Mrs. R. Gregory, 32 The Rise, Llanishen, Cardiff.
Seaton Phillips, c/o Mrs. Underwood, Intake house, Hexam, North^{D.}
Marion Pennant, Bryn Cemlyn, Glanllwyd, Dolgellay, Merionethshire.
R.H.C. Basham, 26 Overdale, Ashtead, Surrey.
Bob Powell, 198 Manley Hill Road, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.
Trevor Woodford, 6 Hurst Park Avenue, Cambridge.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Mr. & Mrs Bob Gregory on the birth of a daughter - Jayne-
in August '62.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF LIBRARY MATERIAL - DECEMBER 1962.

All items marked* require a £1 deposit. Postage is to be paid by the Borrower.

- Axbridge Caving Group. Newsletters, October, November.
*British Nylon Spinners Speleological Society, 'Signpost' cuttings.
*Cave Research Group. Newsletter No.85.
*Cave research Group. Occ. Pub. No.8.
Wire rope splicing by N. Pratchett.
Chelsea Spel. Soc. Vol.4, Nos. 11, 12, Vol. 5. Nos. 1,2.
*Craven Pothole Club. Journal. Vol.3 No.2.
Cuba.
*N.S.S. News. Vol 20 No.8. Pts.1 and 2.
*S.W.C.C. Newsletter No.41.
Westminster Spel. Group. Bulletin. Oct./Nov.
*Yorkshire Rambler's Club Journal. 1962. Vol.9. No.31.
*More Years Under the Earth by N. Casteret.

D.W.Jenkins
Hon. Records Officer.

- Hon. Secretary.....Clive Jone, Llandough Castle, Llandough, Nr. Gowbridge, Glam.
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The following article was received too late for inclusion in the list of contents:-

THE LATEST FROM CWM DWR

(The Wind of Chance)

Sunday, December 30th '62, 10 a.m. A blizzard blew through every crack in Penwyllit, froze the water mains, blew the fire into the Common Room (underfloor draught - very modern) and sent seven of us scurrying for the sewage piped security of Cwm Dwr. Even this was not a complete escape from Siberia Sunday, for the draught, sucking into the shaft, brought with it a shattering of ice and deposited snow over the boulders in the main chamber down to the stream. And what a draught; it shrieked down blasted passage, extracting every ounce of warmth from the seven steaming bodies: then pointing fingers of scorn, disappeared down the stream passage and Dim Dwr, to join the main Ffynnon Ddu draught on its way to the blow holes above the Byfre.

No pleasant crawl through the sand of Dim Dwr to-day to blot the sodden bodies of the soaking seven. A few weeks ago, Noah Hawes had sailed in with his fleet to dig out the Cwm Dwr drain and they, in their infinite wisdom, had diverted the stream from its rightful course down and into Dim Dwr. Bills Clarke and Birchenough and Richard Barr had that same night put the stream right and gone through the new sumps, laid eight pounds of stuffing in the cracks at the end of the dig and blasted their regards through to O.F.D.2.

By 11 a.m. the seven were strung out to remove the rubble. The first at the face kicking back the deads and unscrewing the loose rock. The second scooping rubble into a tray and dragging it back for 30 ft. to No.3. who took it to the sand pit, where it was bucketed up by the other four and pushed into every available space. One hour and one retired with 'heart ache', but by 2.30 p.m. all the rubble was clear and three remained to lay the next charge. Twenty sticks of explosive were moulded into two lumps of 3 and 2 pounds, loaded into the crack, covered in mud, joined with cortex and the cortex fixed to the detonator. The wire was taken back to blasted passage and another seasonal greeting went bowling just around the corner into Ffynnon Ddu 2.

Two of the seven went back to view the damage. Three more glorious feet of passage had been created and the wind howled around the next corner. If you want to know what the enthusiasts know - there's only one way to find out.

Clive Jones.