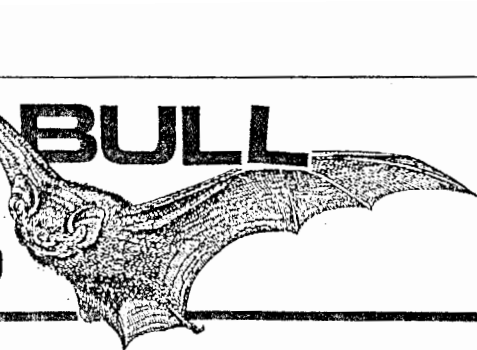


THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTTO



VOLUME 5 NUMBER 5

MAY 1990



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THE MAVERICK BULL is the monthly newsletter of THE MAVERICK GROTTO, an internal organization in the National Speleological Society (NSS 6-322). The editors invite all cavers to submit articles, news, maps, cartoons, art, and photographs. If the material is to be returned, a self-addressed, stamped envelope should accompany it. Items should be of interest to cavers and be non-political in nature.

Internal organizations of the National Speleological Society may reprint any item (unless copyrights belong to author as will be stated in byline) first appearing in **THE MAVERICK BULL**, if proper credit is given and a complete copy of the publication is delivered to THE MAVERICK GROTTO address at the time of publication. Other organizations should contact the grotto at the address herein.

EXCHANGES: THE MAVERICK GROTTO, will exchange newsletters with other grottos. Contact any officer.

COMPLIMENTARY NEWSLETTERS: THE MAVERICK GROTTO will provide complimentary newsletters to persons or organizations who provide cave access (i.e. landowners) or otherwise provide assistance to cavers. The Grotto will also provide three free issues to persons interested in becoming members.

MEMBERSHIP POLICY: Any caver with interests, beliefs, and actions consistent with the purposes of THE MAVERICK GROTTO and the National Speleological Society is eligible for membership. Acceptance of new members is based on payment of dues and a mandatory three trip requirement with at least three different grotto members. These three members shall act as sponsors. At least one sponsor must attend the meeting at which the membership vote is taken. A two-thirds majority vote of the members present will be required for acceptance.

MEETINGS: Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month, at SMOKEY'S RIBS, 5300 East Lancaster, Fort Worth. It is a little less than one mile west of Loop 820 East and next door to a K Mart. The time is 7:00 P.M., and the food is good.

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CAVE RESCUE: Call Collect 512-686-0234

CALENDAR

Ongoing	Monthly work trip to Colorado Bend State Park --- Weekend of the second Saturday of each month
May 4-6	TSA Spring Convention --- on Frio River just south of Concan in south Texas
May 8	Maverick Grotto Meeting
May 12-13	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip
May 25-28	Possible trip to Fitton Cave in Arkansas --- Contact Mark Porter
May 25 - June 3	Work trip to Three-Mile-Hill in the Guads --- Contact Corky Corcoran
June 9-10	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip
June 12	Maverick Grotto Meeting
June 16-23	NCRC Texas Seminar on Cave Rescue Operations and Management in Colorado Bend State Park and in the town of San Saba
June 22-24	TSA Survey Project at Powell's Cave, Menard County
July 10	Maverick Grotto Meeting
July 14-15	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip
July 9-13	NSS Convention at Yreka, California
Fall	2nd International Speleological Congress in Monterrey, Mexico

ON THE COVER

Each month we publish a cave photograph or map on the cover of each month's newsletter. It may not be the best quality of reproduction, but it beats nothing! Send any suggested maps or photos to the editor. Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope if you wish the item to be returned to you.

This month, our Cover Caver is Pooch Amy, on rappell in the vertical entrance to Sand Cave on McKittrick Hill, New Mexico.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING

The Maverick Grotto met on Tuesday 10 April 1990 for its regular monthly meeting. Chairman Dale Ellison called the meeting to order and recognized a first-time visitor, Mike Pearson.

The grotto elected two new members: the father-son team of Wojciech and Rafal Kedzierski. Wojciech (pronounced Voy-check) is a biochemist from Poland. His son Rafal (call him Ralph) is a student at Irving High School. They are particularly interested in surveying and in the processes of cave formation. We welcome them both to the grotto!

The joint "Rites of Spring" party with the DFW Grotto took place over the weekend of 6-8 April at the M&W Ranch near Glen Rose. The grotto had agreed to split costs with the DFW group. So a motion was made and passed to pay \$36 to the DFW Grotto and \$33 to Steve Dalton for expenses incurred. Steve was very generous in asking for only partial reimbursement. He also donated \$15 worth of party supplies to the grotto. Treasurer Teresa White will be sending out those checks.

Russell Hill and Donna Anderson have completed the first portion of computerizing the library listings. That project will continue, and will be finished sometime in late 1990.

Donna Anderson announced that cave ballad entries are due in to the NSS by 1 May.

Ernest Parker's rappelling course is taking place the 3rd and 4th weekends in April at Lake Mineral Wells State Park.

Butch Fralia announced that the Earth Day cleanup will take place at Colorado Bend State Park on 21-22 April.

Jay Jorden informed us that the TSA Spring convention will take place on 4-6 May in south Texas. (See details later in this newsletter).

TRIP REPORTS:

Jay Jorden told us about his participation in the Lechugilla Cave Project, one of only two major expeditions scheduled for this year. (The Lechugilla Precision Survey Project, however, is planning six additional trips. Details in the March Maverick Bull). Jay said that National Geographic is doing a \$30,000 photo survey of the cave. They are planning a big article in a future issue on Lechugilla Cave.

Dale Ellison told us about the recent grotto trip to River Styx Cave. Dale discovered a new cave entrance, and lots of going passage. Unfortunately he also discovered a den of rattlesnakes in that passage, so further exploration will have to wait for a future trip to the area. Part of the group crossed the river to check out Salt Spring Cave. A new cave ballad was even composed on the trip. The words appear elsewhere in this issue.

Don Denton described his ongoing survey work (with others from the Wichita Falls area) on Conical Sink, a gypsum cave near Childress.

The meeting adjourned, and was followed by a slide program. First Don Denton and then Jay Jorden showed their slides and shared their experiences in the caves (and pubs) of England, Wales and Scotland from their trip last November.

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

Our newest member, Ralph Kedzierski recently won "Second Best of Fair" at the Irving ISD's Science Fair held 23-24 February 1990. Ralph's winning entry was on "The Formation of Limestone Caves". Among other things, he examined how temperature affected the solubility of limestone. Hopefully, we will someday see some of the results from his experiments printed in the Maverick Bull.

DROPPED FROM MEMBERSHIP

The following former members of the Maverick Grotto have been dropped from membership for non-payment of dues. Payment of \$10 dues for 1990 will reinstate them as members in good standing.

Richard Dushman
Mark & Pam Porter
Quinta Wilkinson
Chris Williams

OVERDUE ITEMS FROM THE LIBRARY

Maverick Grotto librarian reported the following items overdue at the April meeting. Please return them as soon as possible.

Advanced Rockcraft, and Basic Rockcraft:
checked out by Jean Might.

The World of Caves: checked out by Cindy Hamner.

THE MAVERICK BULL GETS NOTICED

Actually, it would be more accurate to say that Butch Fralia has gotten noticed. The most recent issue of the D.C. Speleograph (that's the publication of the D.C. Grotto in Washington) printed an article on "Bad Air Underground". Much of it was paraphrased from the article Butch wrote on bad air in the February 1990 Maverick Bull.

Congratulations, Butch. Your efforts are getting national notice.

THE RITES OF SPRING PARTY

About 35 members of the D/FW and Maverick Grottoes gathered on the banks of the Brazos over the weekend of 7-8 April. The object apparently was to see just how much fun they could have without a cave anywhere nearby. And the answer obviously was, a whole lot! Steve Dalton brought a trailer-load of firewood and a grill to cook 20 pounds of fajitas. Russell Hill brought a truck-load of wood and a case of wine. Troy and Rachel Shelton brought the all-important keg, all iced-down, along with the fajita meat. Bobby Moore showed up with a canoe and a very popular portable sauna. The official organizer, that party animal Dave "Cave" McClung finally arrived, and acres of ground were covered with tents and campers.

Saturday evening Don Metzner and Troy Shelton grilled the meticulously marinated fajita meat. With tortillas, salsa and cheese, the fajitas all disappeared in a hurry. Afterwards, Bruce and Donna Anderson provided a hot, home-made cobbler for dessert. Then with most of the food gone, the revelers had to resort to liquid refreshment. And there was enough of that to keep the party going strong till nearly dawn. And with temperatures cooling rapidly after dark, the sauna proved a popular place throughout the night. No wonder members of the two grottoes look forward eagerly to the arrival of Spring each year.

CAVE RESCUE SEMINAR

The National Cave Rescue Commission of the NSS will present a symposium on Cave Rescue Operations and Management at San Saba, Texas, with fieldwork at Colorado Bend State Park. It will take place 16-23 June 1990.

Details on the course were published in last month's newsletter on page 11.

TSA SURVEY PROJECT

The continuation of the TSA Survey Project at Powell's Cave will take place 22-24 June 1990 in Menard County. For more details, contact Terry Holsinger at (512) 476-9031 or George Veni at (512) 558-4403.

POSSIBLE ARKANSAS TRIP
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

This is not official yet. But Mark Porter is thinking about making a trip to Fitton Cave in Arkansas over Memorial Day weekend (25-28 May). If you're interested call Mark and help plan the trip. (214) 271-8147

UPCOMING GUADS TRIP

Corky Corcoran is now planning a trip to the Guadalupe Mountains in New Mexico. This will be a work trip on Three-Mile-Hill. This may include work in Blowing Cave or Hell Below Cave. Exactly which caves are ultimately involved will depend on Jerry Trout, the National Forest ranger in charge of the project.

You can come over Memorial Day Weekend (25-28 May) or the following weekend (1-3 June). Or you can do like Corky. He will be there both weekends and the week in between.

If you would like to participate, call Corky. It's easiest to reach him at work: 1-800-537-0683.

(Editor's Note: The following cave ballad was written by Stephen Jung, after the recent grotto trip to River Styx Cave. It is sung to the tune of "Ghost Riders in the Sky".)

GHOST CAVERS UNDERGROUND

Dale strode into camp, bright that fateful day.
He said, "I found a new cave and its right along the way."
Donna jumped up and grabbed her own cap.
Yelled, screamed, and hollered, wakin' Steve from his nap.

Yippie Ki Yay, Yippee Ki Yo
Ghost Cavers Underground.

Dale, Donna, Steve and James marched out of camp that day.
Picked up Amy, Butch and Ellen right along the way.
Huffin' and puffin' up hills and over cliffs.
Not one of us wanted to take any more of this.

Yippie Ki Yay, Yippie Ki Yo
Ghost Cavers Underground.

Amy said, "Show me a rattlesnake today."
Dale couldn't keep it in. He said, "There's one right along the way."
At the cave mouth, Dale jumps right in,
Yellin', chunkin' rocks, lookin' for the snakes' big grin.

Yippie Ki Yay, Yippie Ki Yo
Ghost Cavers Underground.

Donna, Steve and James are the next ones in.
That mother snake bites Dale on the chin.
Amy sticks in her head
And in fifteen minutes they're all dead.

Yippie Ki Yay, Yippie Ki Yo
Ghost Cavers Underground.

Their spirits fit through cracks their bodies never could.
That bitch-from-hell snake was just protecting her brood.
The spirits floated through two feet of wall
And discovered a cavern a hundred feet tall.

Yippie Ki Yay, Yippie Ki Yo
Ghost Cavers Underground.

Now don't you ever be 'fraid of those hodads.
The ghost cavers are a-watchin', now you can be real glad.
But don't follow them right underground.
They're the best cavers all around.

Yippie Ki Yay, Yippie Ki Yo
Ghost Riders Underground.

1990 LISTING OF MEMBERS OF THE MAVERICK GROTTO
AND SUBSCRIBERS TO THE MAVERICK BULL

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Please advise the editors of any errors in the above list,
as well as any new changes of address or phone numbers.

The following article along with the map on the next page are reprinted from the 26 April 1990 issue of The OZTOL Caver, the newsletter of the Dallas/Fort Worth Grotto.

Manley's Madness

by Greg Mooty, assisted by
Woodrow Thomas

I can remember it now, like it was only yesterday ...

The year was 1981. Woodrow Thomas had called to tell me that there was a real limestone solution cave in Palo Pinto County, within an hour and a half's drive of Dallas! I had been caving all of about six months at this time and was ready to jump into anything resembling a hole. Back then, I was in my young and foolish years (some people would claim that I still am). Woodrow, Mike Ponder and I planned our escapade for the following weekend. Woodrow had mentioned something about water in the cave and about having to crawl a little.

We met Eric Spears, a D/FW Grotto member who lives in Mineral Wells. He gave us directions to the cave. Eric was working on a car that weekend and he declined our invitation to join us (he knew better).

We found the entrance to the cave with ease. There is a metal cap above the entrance to the cave inscribed with a 1971 date and R.R.C.A. (Red River Caving Association - a now defunct organization). Literature documenting cave trips indicates that cavers have been visiting the cave since the late sixties. (Please see *History of Manley's Water Hole* on page 8.)

None of us had wetsuits back then and Mike and I did not have kneepads. Fearlessly, we crawled into the small entrance on that bright sunny day.

For the North Texas area, Manley's Water Hole is a long cave. It is not a big cave. Manley's issues large volumes of water during heavy rains and should not be entered if the weather is threatening. The cave is joint controlled and you find yourself making many ninety degree turns following the passage. We crawled over a rock and gravel floor damn near to the end of the main passage that day.

The passage is three to six feet wide at the start of the cave, but narrows down near its ends. The "Big Room" at the intersection of the first side passage is all of eight feet in diameter. The ceiling is generally a good two feet high with some spots almost high enough to allow duck-walking; OK, maybe high enough for Donna Anderson to duck-walk. There was even one long section where you could get out of the water. The water averaged six to eighteen inches deep with a couple of three foot deep "pools". This first Manley's experience lasted well over an hour and left me cold, wet and with sore knees. Even though Manley's is the closest cave to Dallas, I did not return for quite some time.

Last summer, Woodrow suggested that we return to Manley's to complete a hanging survey that had barely been started four years ago. Eight years had dulled the memory

of my first (and I thought last) trip to this cave. Woodrow obtained the data from the original survey which had been done in September of 1985 by Gerald Saulsberry, Terry Holsinger and Jay Jordan. They had surveyed the "easy stuff". The "A" survey covered the first 600 feet of the cave. The team averaged almost fifty feet per shot.

Woodrow, John Brooks and I returned to Manley's on the 30th of July last year. Our "B" survey picked up where the first team had left the "A" hanging, right before a low air space in the cave. We spent six hours in the cave, setting fourteen stations for a total of about 400 feet of passage. We surveyed through the "Ear Wash" to the "Squeeze". On this trip, Woodrow pushed into the first right hand passage only to experience bad air about fifteen feet into the passage where it drops down over a small dam. He also had his knee pads destroyed on this trip. Unfortunately, these were omens of future trips. We left the cave fairly exhausted and figured we could knock it out in just one more trip!

Woodrow and I conned Don Metzner for our third person on the next survey trip which occurred on October 8th. We completed the "B" survey logging 137 feet in eight stations from the "Squeeze" to the end of the main passage. Danger Don pushed it through the "Tight Spot" to the bitter end. Oh yes, you can stand up at the end of the cave; of course, you can barely turn around in this tight area. On this five hour cave trip, I lost a Minimag and the cave ate Don's small Tekna light. Woodrow's camera box leaked enough to get water in his camera and ruin many of his slides. On our way out of the cave, I crawled into the first side lead and tested the air quality using a Bic lighter. The lighter ceased to ignite after the drop-down where Woodrow had previously experienced bad air.

Our last trip fittingly occurred on New Year's Eve, December 31st. We had run out of volunteers (suckers), so we enlisted the aid of a fairly novice caver, but otherwise genuinely gonzo individual. Chuck Harris, Woodrow and I completed the survey in an amazingly short four hour trip. With Chuck setting point, we logged 181 feet in the "C" survey (the side passage off of the main "trunk" at the "Ear Wash"). Chuck pushed the "C" survey passage to its end through some very tight stuff we named "Chuck's Challenge" right on the spot. He also found a large femur bone in this passage.

We got another thirty feet in the "D" survey of the previous bad air side passage. Fortunately for us, the Bic stayed lit this time. Also Chuck stated that there is a possible hammer lead at the end of the "D" survey. Woodrow hypothesizes that this lead goes to an overflow resurgence on the surface Northwest of the entrance. We decided the lead was BLFAG (better left for another generation). The only casualty this trip was a pair of coveralls I was wearing over my wetsuit.

There are a lot of rumors about Manley's, some of which are: the cave goes under the adjacent highway (which is true) and that you can hear traffic overhead (which I doubt); the cave ends in breakdown (not really); if you go far enough, the cave opens up to walking passage (try barely standing passage).

Total mapped passage is 1311 feet, making this a long cave indeed, for the North Texas area. Now that the cave has been mapped, I doubt that I will be returning to it any time soon. Who knows, in another eight years I may have forgotten how much "fun" it really is!

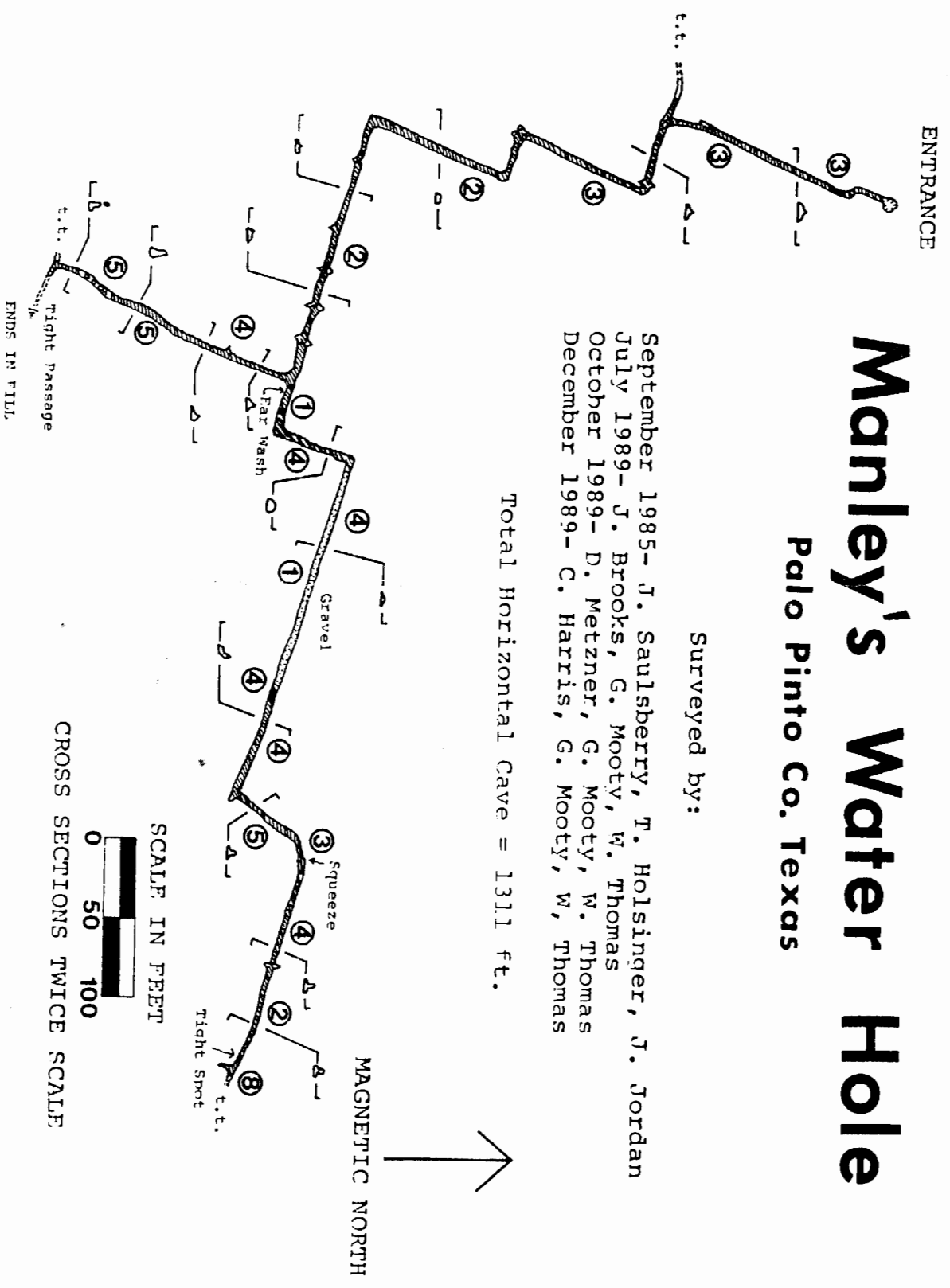
Manley's Water Hole

Palo Pinto Co. Texas

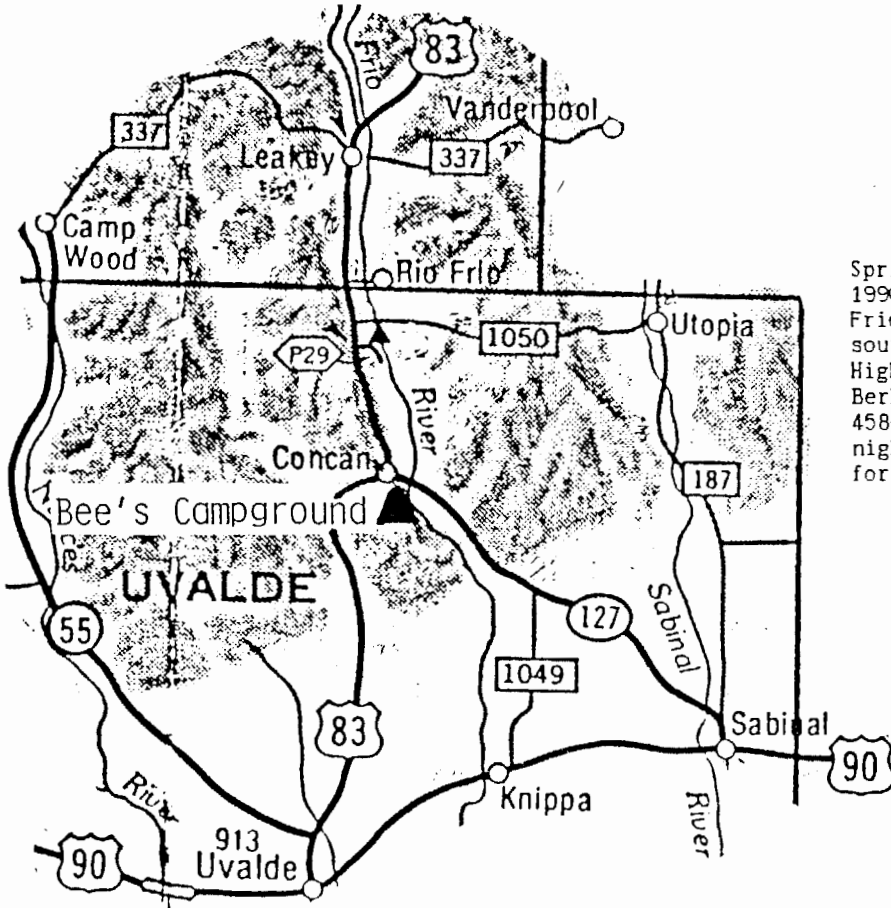
Surveyed by:

September 1985- J. Saulsberry, T. Holsinger, J. Jordan
July 1989- J. Brooks, G. Mooty, W. Thomas
October 1989- D. Metzner, G. Mooty, W. Thomas
December 1989- C. Harris, G. Mooty, W. Thomas

Total Horizontal Cave = 1311 ft.



CARTOGRAPHY BY WOODROW THOMAS COMPUTER ASSISTANCE BY GREG MOOTY



TSA SPRING CONVENTION

Details have now been finalized on the TSA Spring Convention. It will take place 4-6 May 1990 at Bee's Campground, some 52 acres on the Frio River in Uvalde County. It is located just south of the little town of Concan, off State Highway 127. For more information, call Cathy Berkeley at (512) 826-4732 or Joe Ivey at (512) 458-8760. Registration, which includes a Saturday night Barbeque dinner, is \$12 for TSA members, \$15 for non-members, and \$8 for kids 12 and under.

