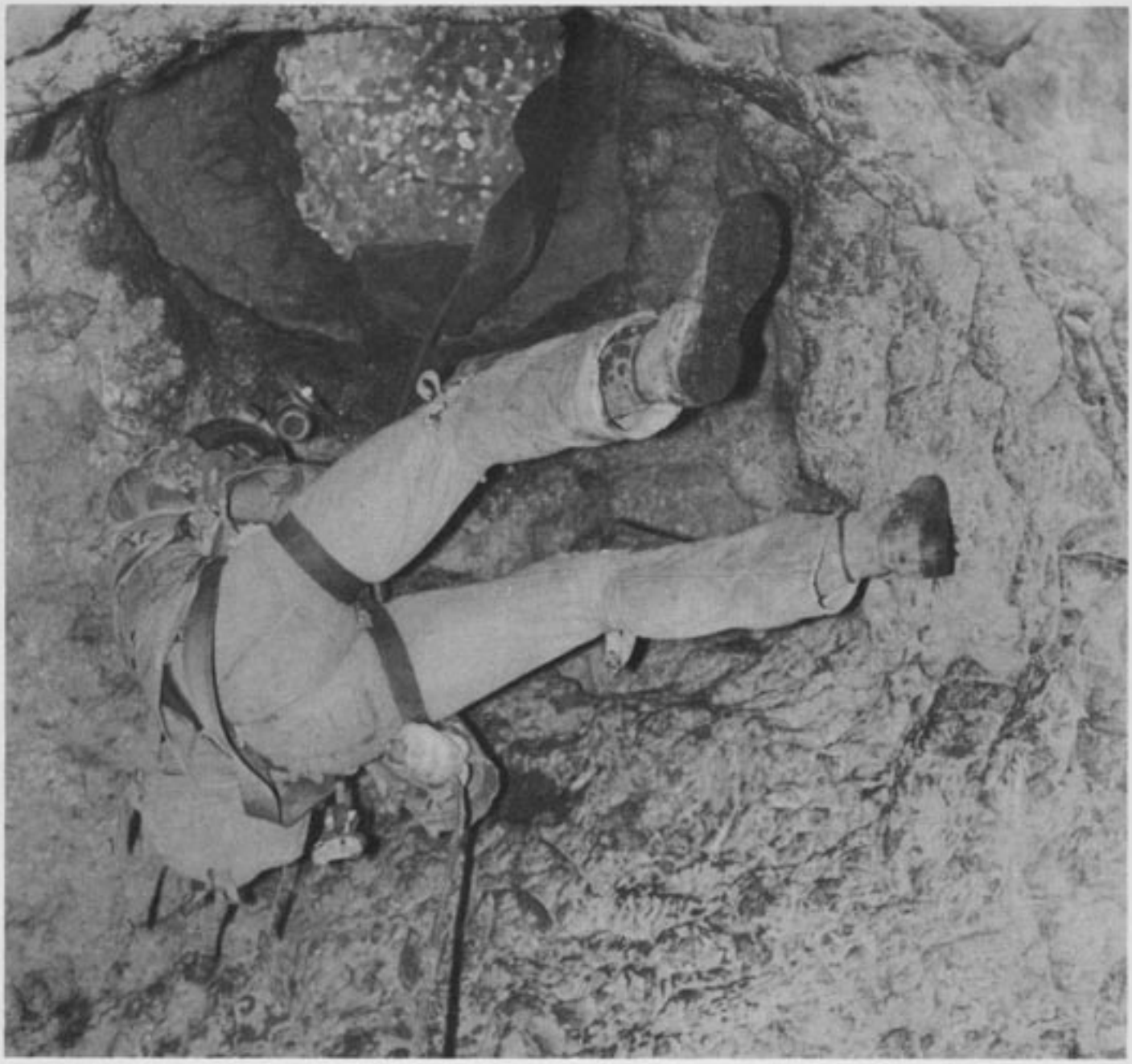
PHOLEOS

WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY

SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 5(1) 1985



THE WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Wittenberg University Speleological Society is a chartered internal organization of the National Speleological Society, Inc. The Grotto received its charter in April 1980 and is dedicated to the advancement of speleology, to cave conservation and preservation, and to the safety of all persons entering the spelean domain.

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PHOLEOS

THE WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Number 1 January, 1985

GROTTO ADDRESS

c/o H.H. Hobbs III
Department of Biology
P.O. Box 720

Wittenberg University
Springfield, Ohio 45501
(513) 327-7029

SUBSCRIPTION RATE

1 Volume $4.00 (2 issues)
Single issue $2.00
Send to Grotto Address

EXCHANGES
Exchanges with other grottos and caving groups are encouraged. Please mail to Grotto address.

MEETINGS

Wedensday evening, 7:00 p.m., Room 206, Science Building, Wittenberg University Springfield, Ohio.

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FRONT COVER: Rappell into Fredritz Pit, Wyandot County, Ohio. Photo by M. Flynn

Editors Note

Greetings cavers and welcome to the fifth volume of the Wittenberg University Speleological Society's official journal, Pholeos. This issue is dedicated to the seemingly monumental feat of five years of continuous publication. As editor, I feel obligated to say "Thanks" to my predecessors, who are really the ones responsible for this accomplishment. Please note: this is the fifth anniversery issue of Pholeos. Volume 4(2), also a fifth anniversery issue, was in celebration of W.U.S.S. having survived and prospered for five years. There has been some confusion, which I hope now has been cleared up.

While looking through the past five years of Pholeos, it was learned that several cave maps were very poorly reproduced.
As a way of rectifying this mistake, included are reprints of: Underground River Cave, Frost Cave, Reif's Cave, Kindt's I Cave, Morrison's Cave (Volume 1(1 and 2)), and Indian Trail Caverns (Volume 2(2)).

Also appearing are reprints of much of the outstanding poetry and artwork that has appeared in the past. Enjoy.

Attention all past W.U.S.S. members. Two caves that have been in the works for what seems to be eternity have recently been completed: Freelands and Horn Hollow. They <u>will</u> appear in the next issue, Volume 5(2). Hang on just a little bit longer!

Ohio Cave Legislation

In recent years a need has been seen for formal protection of caves. Many states such as Kentucky and Tennessee have passed cave protection legislation. Ohio, although rumored to have some elementary legislation, currently offers no protection for caves, or the biota within. A committee of The Wittenberg Speleological Society has just finished the final revisions of a proposed bill to be set before the Ohio legislature later this year. The bill is part a growing movement toward the protection of this valuable natural resource. I have been informed that a similar bill is to come before the United States Congress later this year. Caves are too frequently used as dumping grounds for garbage, dead livestock, and chemical waste. For further information, or a copy of the bill, please send a stamped self addressed business sized envelope to the grotto address atten: William Freund.

Literature Review

<u>American caves And Caving: Techniques, Pleasures, and Safeguards of Modern cave Exploration</u>,
William R. Halliday, M.D.,
Barnes and Noble Books,
New York, Revised Edition,
1982, 348 pp., indexed.
reviewed by
Terence J. Madigan

<u>American Caves And Caving</u> is to caving what <u>Chilton's Guide</u> is to auto mechanics. It is the most comprehensive book of safe, practical caving techniques I have ever seen. This book, a cavers cyclopedia, describes how all types of caves are formed, in addition to safe ways to explore them. It also warns of hazards that exist, and how to avoid them. Since the author of this book is both a caver and a doctor, his advice on first aid and cave hazards is both practicle and sound.

The book is fully illustrated with photographs, charts, and drawings. The section on lamps (carbide and electric), and the section ropes and rope techniques, are worth the price of the book alone.

The reference value of this book is high, but what I found to be the most enjoyable aspect is that it is both easy and enjoyable reading, not boring drivel.

Trip Report

by Tom Keller

On Friday September 21, 1984, Horton Hobbs and I returned to Carter County, Kentucky. That evening we went into Bat Cave, to continue work on the Clubs' survey. I found it quite interesting to see the number of bats that were already present in the cave (only a fraction of the peak winter population). After two hours, we returned to the entrance, to meet up with Roger and Mary Cruser. We then continued to survey, and finished up by taking a quick tour through the cave.

Saturday morning we met John Kreitzburg from the Columbus American Youth Hostels. He took us through a cave that his group has been surveying. Canyon Cave, as it's known, is quite interesting and atypical of the caves in the area. The obstacle that held our interest was a 40 foot (approx.) rappell that is about 50 meters in from the entrance. For Roger, Mary, and I, it was our first in-cave rappell (For Mary, it was her first rappell of any sort). The cave then continues for several miles. The passage varies from tight belly-crawls to tall canyons. We were unable to see the entire cave, and I, for one, would like to return to see those portions of the cave that we missed.

On Sunday, we returned to Bat Cave, and continued to check the survey connections between the upper and lower levels. Although the Club has been working on Bat Cave for several years, we can give no definite date for completion and publication of the survey. We are hampered by the fact that the cave is protected as a hibernaculum for the endangered Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), and access is limited to the warmer months of late spring, summer, and early fall. As a student grotto, our prime caving season is in the fall, winter, and early spring.

My First Caving Trip

Story by Tim Yates

I guess I can describe myself as outgoing and adventurous. I mean, I have done some rock climbing and hiking before. I have also been in a few commercial caves and caverns. Well, when I went with the Wittenberg caving club for the first time, I thought that I knew what I was doing. I also thought that it would be fun and easy. It turned out that I was right about one of them: It was fun, but it was not really easy. It wasn't really what I expected because I pictured the caves we would be going through as being pretty big. By big, I mean large enough to walk through, or at least large enough to crawl through on our hands and knees. It ended up that we spent much of our time crawling on our stomachs.

Of the seven of us that went on the trip, five of us were first timers. The other two were club veterans Chip Freund and Mark Pender. Since we were beginners, they took us to an easy cave in Adams County, known as Cedar Forks. It took us a little while to find it, but once we did, we packed up and in we went.

We had fun exploring the cave. It was a new experience for me alright. We saw a few salamanders, as well as some animal bones. One unique thing we saw was a dead crayfish that was covered by mold. It looked like a web was over it. Yet another new experience for me was crawling on my stomach through mud and water. I was a little hesitant at first, but after seeing everyone else go through it...

It seemed like we all had a good time. We newcomers learned a little about cave mapping. By eyeing the compass on other equipment, you can take measurements of the cave. We also learned how to clean and start the carbide lamps. The next time I go I am wearing kneepads! My legs were sore for two days!

The trip made a good impression on me. When I got back I told some of my friends about it, and they said that they would like to go on one sometime. I told them that anyone could come, even if they have no experience. (I sure didn't!) There was one problem with my first caving trip; it was only for one day!

Cedar Forks - Fall 1984

" Expose Yourself to CAVING! "

SMALL "JAMAS" AND "SPILJAS" IN KENTUCKY AND OHIO

by
H. H. Hobbs III

Serbo-Croat is the principal language of Yugoslavia and, interestingly, in this renowned karst area, there is no native name for "cave" (Roglic 1965). The Yugoslavs employ the term "jama" for a hollow development in a vertical sense and they use the word "spilja" from the classical Latin ("spelunca") for "cave." Jamas are associated usually with deep karst while spiljas are typical of shallow karst. In this article the definition of "jama" is stretched to include shallow vertical caves, thus the reader is exposed to two rarely used terms describing karst features.

The first "jama" to be portrayed is Rhododendron Pit (Fig. 1), a sizeable but inconspicuous opening located on the east slope of Horn Hollow, Carter County, Kentucky. The entrance is quite picturesque, surrounded by a luxurious growth of Rhododendron (or Rosebay) (Rhododendron catawbiense Michx). The pit has a maximum depth of 13m and is approximately 5m in diameter at its widest point. A stream issues from a small opening on the west side of the pit about 2m beneath the surface, plunges to the floor, and disappears among the cobbles and boulders overlying the pitted limestone.

A cave north of Rhododendron Pit swallows the stream flowing through Horn Hollow and it is likely that the waters entering Rhododenron Pit flow into this subterranean stream; no positive dye tests have been made.

Good rig points are available, however, a hand line may be used to enter the pit from the west side. A short but nice free-fall drop can be negotiated from the northeast side of the opening.

The remaining jamas described were entered and mapped 5 August 1984 by members of WUSS (P. Cruser, R. Cruser, H. Hobbs, T. Madigan). All entrances are found in small sinkholes and the caves are virtually expanded joints in the dolomitic bedrock. Unfortunately, two of the three have been partially plugged by surface debris and are not particularly interesting as karst features.

Carcass Pit (Crypt) (Fig. 2) is a well-named solutional feature, having received numerous corpses of farm animals for many years. Descent into the odious pit may be made by a rappell or can be free-climbed. The cave is developed along an expanded joint oriented generally E - W (112 degrees) and the bedrock is conspicuously cross-bedded; fossil remnants of crinoids and bryozoans are readily visible. The entrance is approximately 7m long with a maximum width of 0.75m; maximum depth of the pit is slightly less than 5m. The only organisms observed in the cave were those associated with the "ripe" carcass of a calf! Luther (1972:93) gave a very brief description of this "fissure" cave.

The entrance to Thirty-Foot Pit (Fig. 3) is located 10.2m SW of Carcass Pit and is also mentioned by Luther (1972:94). Of the three Ohio pits described herein, this is by far the most interesting. Like Carcass Pit, Thirty-Foot Pit is a fissure-type cave with a maximum depth of 15m. The joint on which this "jama" is formed is orineted NW - SE (322.6 degrees). A tree located immediately adjacent to the opening provides a good rig point for a rope. The top 3.5m are narrow (approximately 0.4m wide) but beneath this level the slot expands to 1m. A small "room" is reached 10.6m below the surface where much organic debris (sticks, leaves) has accumulated. A small opening in the floor extends downward another 4.5m but access can be gained only by a very small person. A return trip is planned to attempt to enter this lowest level. The spider, Meta menardi (Latr.), was the only organism observed in the cave 5 August 1984.

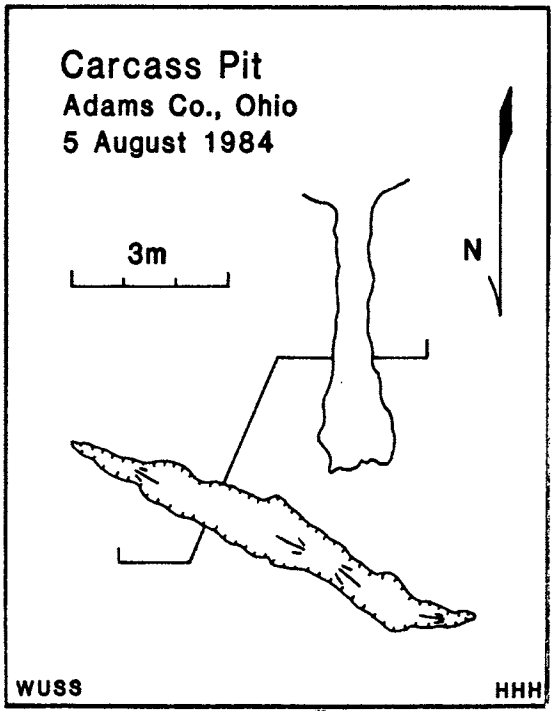
Alpha Pit (Fig. 4) is located to the south of Carcass and Thirty-Foot Pits. The opening is 2.2m by 1.5m at its greatest dimension. The orientation of this enlarged joint is E - W (97.2 degrees). Approximately halfway down this 6.5m climbable drop, the passage constricts to 0.5m wide and then immediately expands to over 1m in width. Much surface debris (leaves, sticks, soil) has plugged the pit and a tree remnant is wedged vertically in the passage. This material is relatively easy to remove but the passage constricts and further digging may prove to be a futile effort.

In addition to the small jamas described above, a Lilluputian spilja is also mentioned, Merrit Hollow Cave (Fig. 5). This very tiny spring cave is located in a 3m high dolomite outcrop alongside a tributary of Turkey Creek in Meigs Township, Adams County, Ohio. The entrance is 5m wide and 1.5m high and is covered with lichens and ferns. The total horizontal length of the cave is 10m; most of its length is traversed as a "belly-crawl." Although small, this cave is well decorated with speleothems (flowstone, helectites, popcorn, soda straws, and stalactites). Flatworms (Turbellaria) and amphipods (both pigmented) were observed in the stream on 4 August 1984.

Literature Cited

Luther, Warren. 1972. Preliminary report on caves of Adams Co., Ohio. COG Squeaks, 15(10):92-95, 104, 105.

Roglic, J. 1965. The depth of the fissure circulation of water and the evolution of subterranean cavities in the Dinaric Karst. Prob. Speleol. Res., Proc. Inter. Speleol. Conf. Brno, 1964, 25-36 (Prague).



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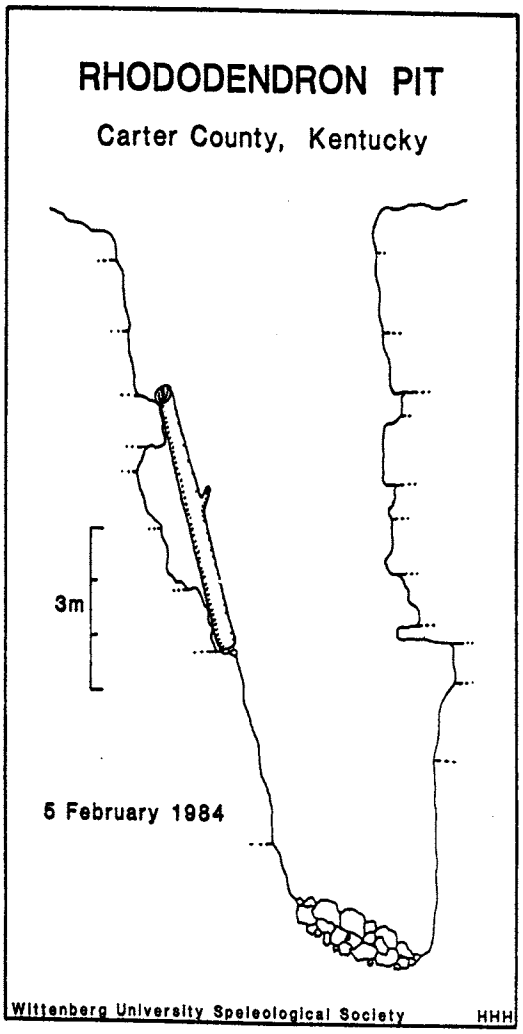

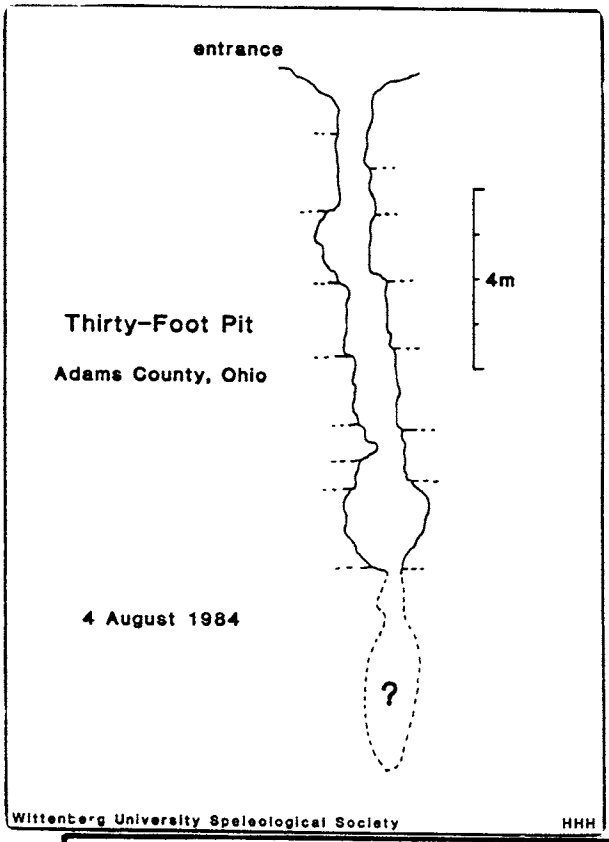

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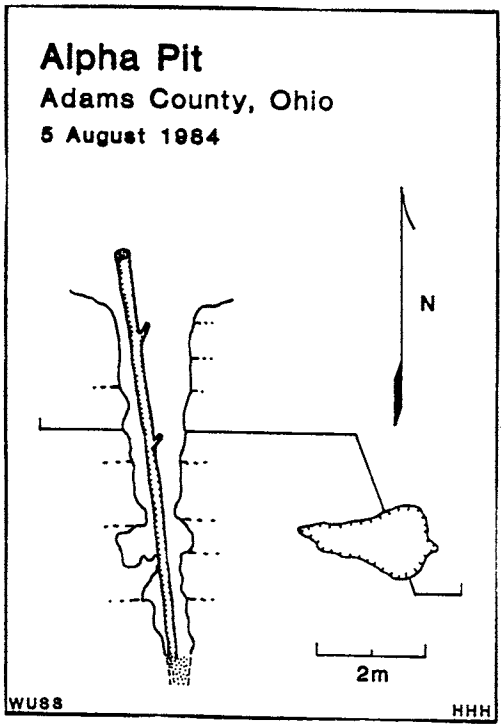

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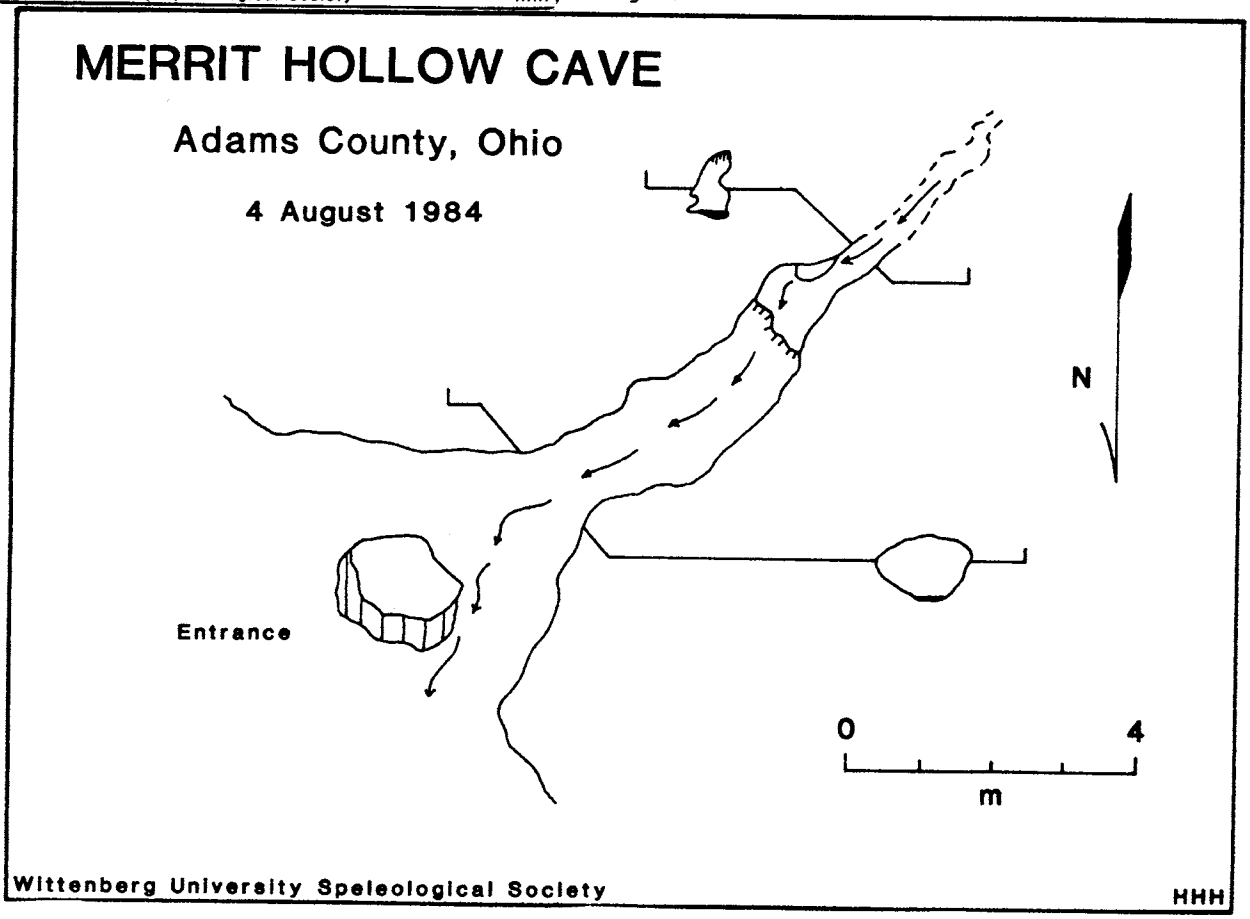


Guide to Caves Published in Pholeos Fall 1980 to Spring 1984

The following is a county by county list of caves surveyed by members of the Wittenberg University Speleological Society. Each of these caves has been described, mapped, and published in the Club's official journal, Pholeos. Each entry gives the caves name, its measurement of Total Horizontal Cave, and the issue of Pholeos that it has been published in.

Ohio Caves

Adams County

1. Black Run Cave: T.H.C.: -- Volume 1(1 and 2)
2. Fern Cave: T.H.C.: 18 meters. Volume 1(1 and 2).
3. Morrison's Cave: T.H.C.: -- Volume 1(1 and 2).
4. Preston Caves I, II, III: Volume 2(1). I: T.H.C.: 14 meters. II: T.H.C.: 15 meters. III: T.H.C.: 43 meters.
5. Devil's Den Cave: T.H.C.: 130 meters. Volume 2(1).
6. Bartlett's Cave: T.H.C.: 25 meters. Volume 3(2).
7. Lost Pack Cave: T.H.C.: 10 meters. Volume 3(2).
8. Hawk Cave: T.H.C.: 15 meters. Volume 3(2).
9. Cedar Fork Cave: T.H.C.: 210 meters. Volume 4(2).
10. Lost Comb Cave: T.H.C.: -- Volume 4(2).

Clark County

1. Keith's Fracture Cave: T.H.C.: 12 meters. Volume 1(1 and 2).
2. Simpson's Cave: T.H.C.: 16.5 meters. Volume 2(2).
3. Ferncliff Cave: T.H.C.: 11 meters. Volume 3(2).
4. Crevice Cave: T.H.C.: 9.2 meters. Volume 3(2).
5. Buck Creek Blowing Cave I and II: I: T.H.C.: 7.5 meters. II: T.H.C.: 6 meters. Volume 3(2).

Geauga County

1. Leaning Cave: T.H.C.: --. Volumes 3(1) and 3(2).
2. Chesterland Cave: T.H.C.: --. Volumes 3(1) and 3(2).
3. Extension Cave: T.H.C.: --. Volumes 3(1) and 3(2).
4. South Gorge Cave: T.H.C.: --. Volumes 3(1) and 3(2).

Greene County

1. Spider Cave: T.H.C.: 9.9 meters. Volume 3(2).

Highland County

1. Dry Cave: T.H.C.: 70 meters. Volume 1(1 and 2).
2. Kessler's Cave: T.H.C.: 128 meters. Volume 1(1 and 2).
3. McKimie Cave: T.H.C.: 70.8 meters. Volume 3(1).
4. Witches Cave: T.H.C.: 55.5 meters. Volume 3(1).
5. Cave of the Springs: T.H.C.: 246 meters. Volume 3(1).
6. Phantom Cave: T.H.C.: 74 meters. Volume 3(1).
7. Dancing Cave: T.H.C.: 66 meters. Volume 3(1).
8. Bear Cave: T.H.C.: 61 meters. Volume 3(1).
9. Marble Cave: T.H.C.: 33 meters. Volume 3(1).
10. Fairy Grotto: T.H.C.: 9 meters. Volume 3(1).

11. Cliff Cave: T.H.C.: 11 meters. Volume 3(1).

12. Tepee Grotto: T.H.C.: 10 meters. Volume 3(1).

13. Raccoon Cave: T.H.C.: 9 meters. Volume 3(1).

14. Gator Cave: T.H.C.: 14 meters. Volume 3(1).

15. Alpha Cave: T.H.C.: 10 meters. Volume 3(1).

16. Pseudo Cave: T.H.C.: 13 meters. Volume 3(1).

17. Devil's Ice Box: T.H.C.: 9 meters. Volume 3(1).

18. Hidden Cave: T.H.C.: 4 meters. Volume 3(1).

19. One Shot Cave: T.H.C.: 6 meters. Volume 3(1).

20. Ellison's and Funnel Caves: T.H.C.: 31 meters. Volume 3(1).

21. Dare Cave: T.H.C.: -- Volume 3(1).

22. Tunnel Cave: T.H.C.: 6 meters. Volume 3(1).

23. Hole-in-the-Wall Cave: T.H.C.: 2.27 meters. Volume 3(2).

24. Fool's Rappell Cave: T.H.C.: 6.95 meters. Volume 3(2).

Miami County

1. Thompsom Cave: T.H.C.: 15 meters. Volume 1(1 and 2).

2. Charleston Falls Cave: T.H.C.: --. Volume 3(2).

Ottawa County

1. Kindt's I Cave: T.H.C.: -- Volume 1(1 and 2).

Pike County

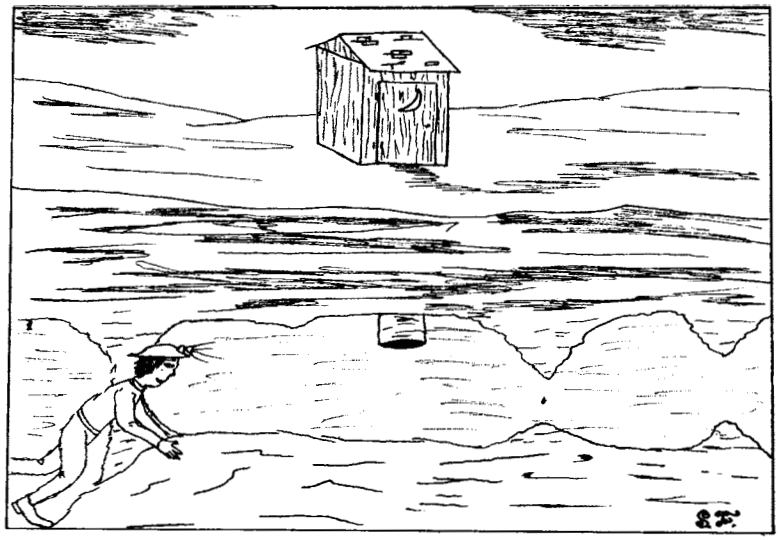
1. Frost Cave: T.H.C.: -- Volume 1(1 and 2).

2. Hannah Cave: T.H.C.: 33.2 meters. Volume 3(2).

3. Dry Bone Cave: T.H.C.: 42 meters. Volume 4(1).

4. Hackleshin Cave: T.H.C.: 83 meters. Volume 4(1).

Outhouse Cave



Ross County

1. Buckskin Cave I: T.H.C.: 83 meters. Volume 1(1 and 2).
2. Reif's Cave: T.H.C.: 145 meters. Volume 1(1 and 2).
3. Skull Cave: T.H.C.: -- Volume 1(1 and 2).
4. Trimmer's Cave: T.H.C.: 38 meters. Volume 2(1).
5. Buckskin Cave II: T.H.C.: 45 meters. Volume 2(2).

Shelby County

1. Miami River Cave: T.H.C.: 54 meters. Volume 1(1 and 2).

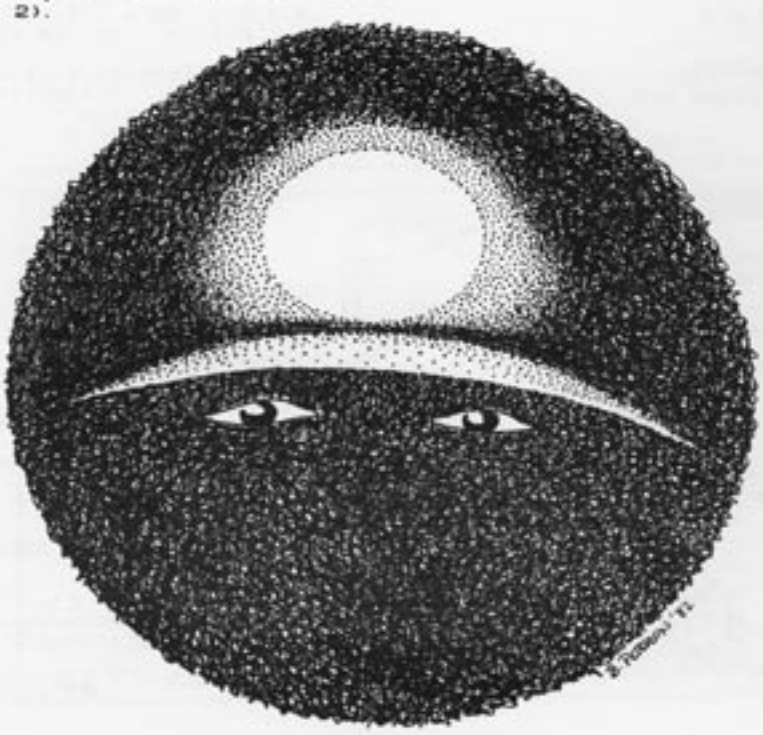
Wyandot County

1. Fredritz Pit: Depth: 10 meters. Volume 1(1 and 2).
2. Underground River Cave: T.H.C.: 31 meters. Depth: 19 meters. Volume 1(1 and 2).
3. Indian Trail Caverns: T.H.C.: 182 meters. Volume 2(2).

Kentucky Caves

Carter County

1. Laurel Cave: T.H.C.: 1091 meters. Volume 2(1).
2. Saltpetre-Moon Cave System: T.H.C.: 3005 meters. Volume 4(1).
3. X-Cave: T.H.C.: -- Volume 4(2).



Poetry...

Down

Hidden gateway to darkness beyond, down we slither through the narrow throat. Warm carbide glow, black curtain of night nudged aside.

Silken dry dust billows up with each movement, parched throat and watered eyes. Course air rasps deep through my lungs, teeth grinding gritty.

Bats hang benignly from their hard rock niches, water trickles sweetly far off, muffled through thick walls. And deeper we push.

Down, deep down, deep in the bowels of this cave, air lies still and heavy.

Moisture laden vapor flows thickly through nostrils. Breath issues forth like fog, with each exhausted gasp.

Clammy wetness permeates the walls, seeping coolness through layers of clothing. Moist clay clings slimy to flowing rock, and still we crawl on.

Eight inches low, our bodies fill the passage. Countless tons lay heavy upon my tortured body, enfolding womb of living stone.

Up we corkscrew squeeze, up to volcano room above.

From the guts of earth we burst forth. Fragrant breezes envelop me, I breath the moonlight, I drink the air.

Michael Flynn

Inner Voices

Lights extinguished, we stand motionless in the darkness. Silence at first, but then come the sounds. Sweet sounds of lightly flowing water, dancing, filling our ears with songs of clear crystal. Chandelier crystal, chiming in harmony.

Deep sounds of massive torrent, rumbling far off. I feel it. The pressure beats upon my skin, sounds of blood pulsing, unrelentless, unceasing.

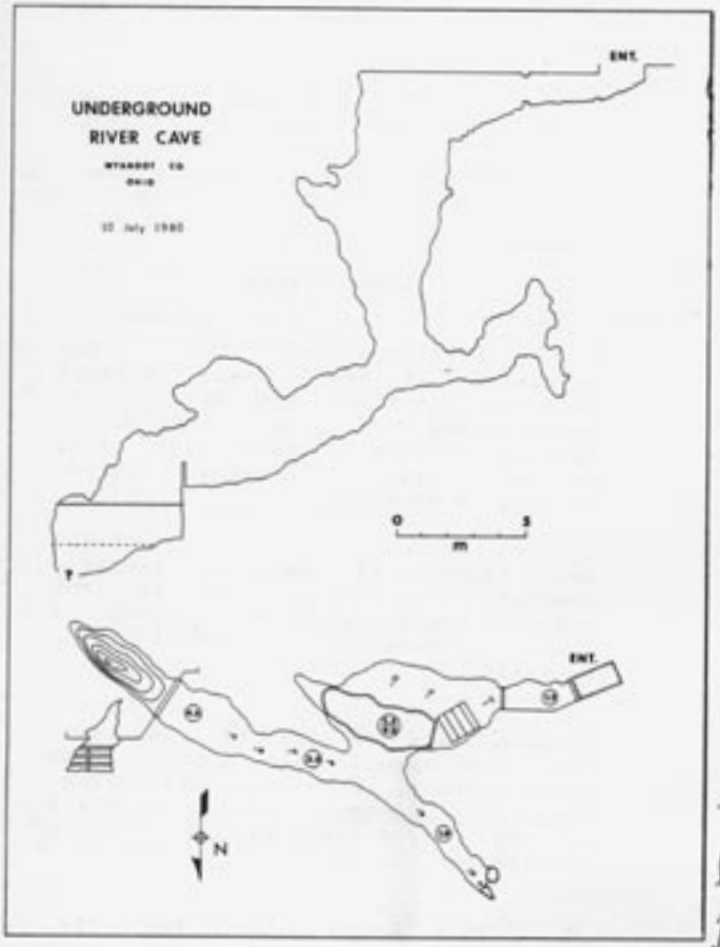
Someone slaps the side of the boat. The cave shouts with a roar, great huge cannons, Echoing, resounding. Boom, Boom, Boommm, racing through the caverns, speeding through every passage, on and on.

Low rumble like thunder far off, muffled, on and on.

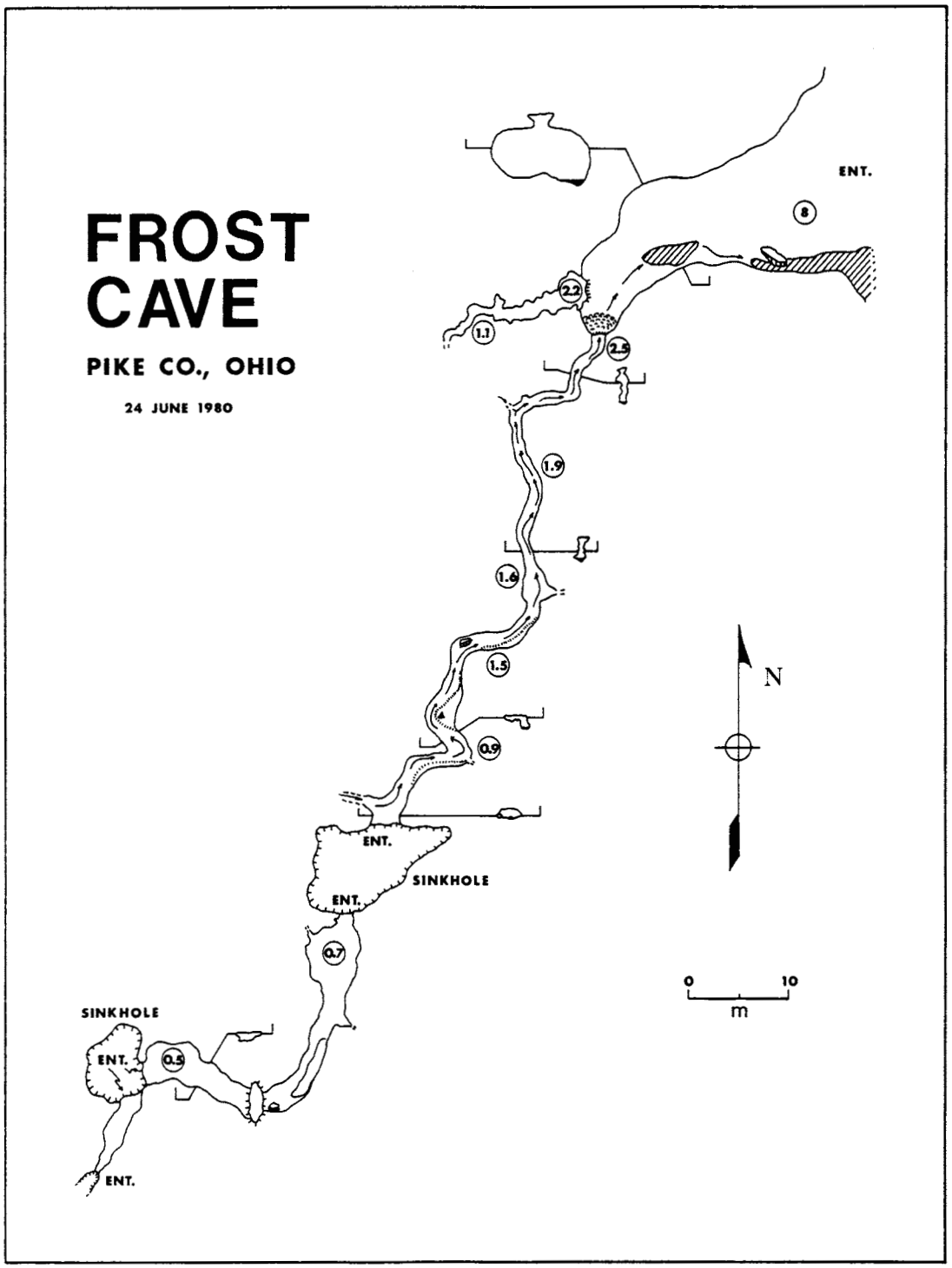
Michael Flynn

Down Under

How can I explain
Why I am driven underground
Where my body shares secrets with the damp or dusty earth
When I could be hiking in the sunshine or going for a country drive.
What primordial chord has been struck?



Prepared by the NSS Conservation Committee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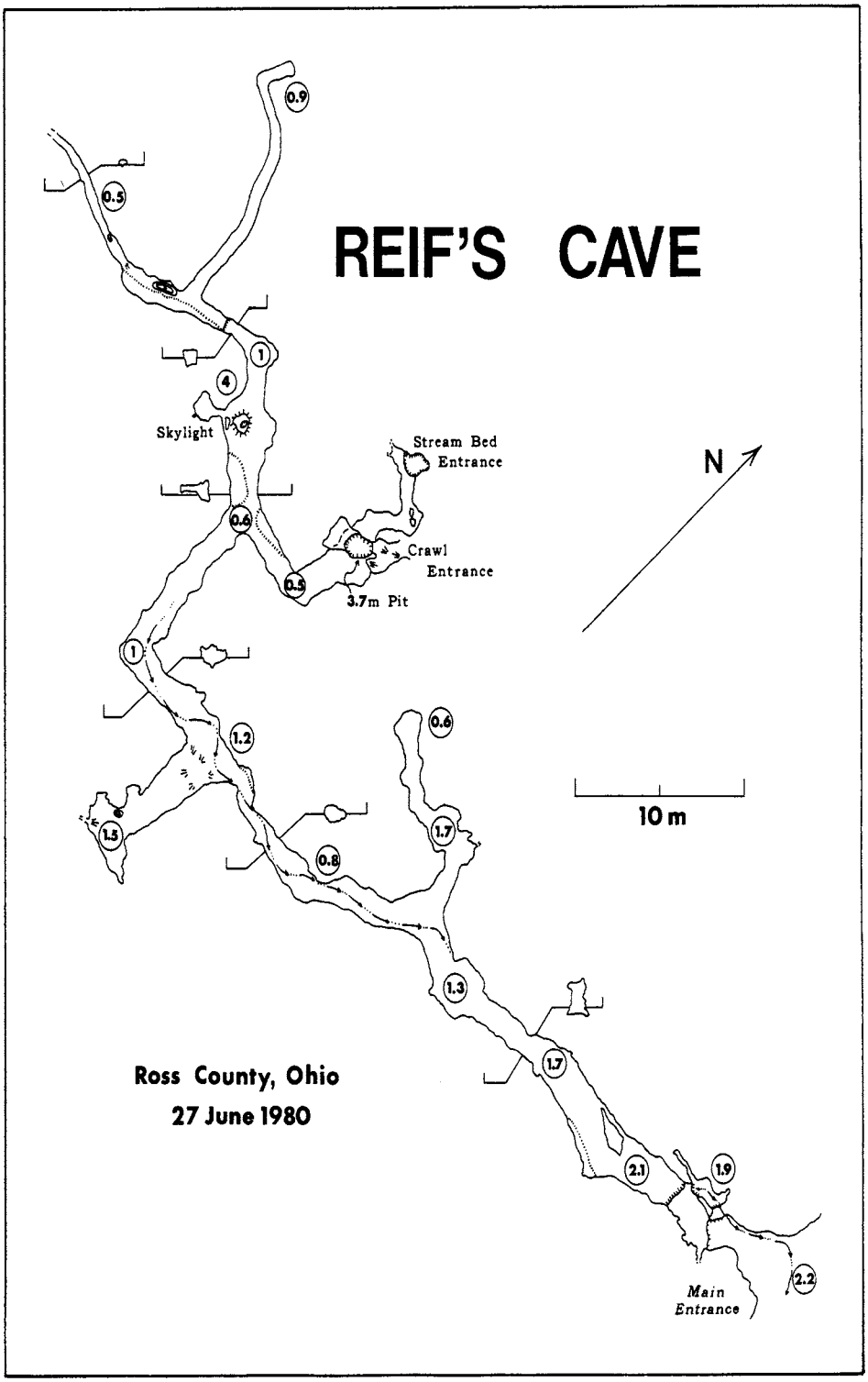
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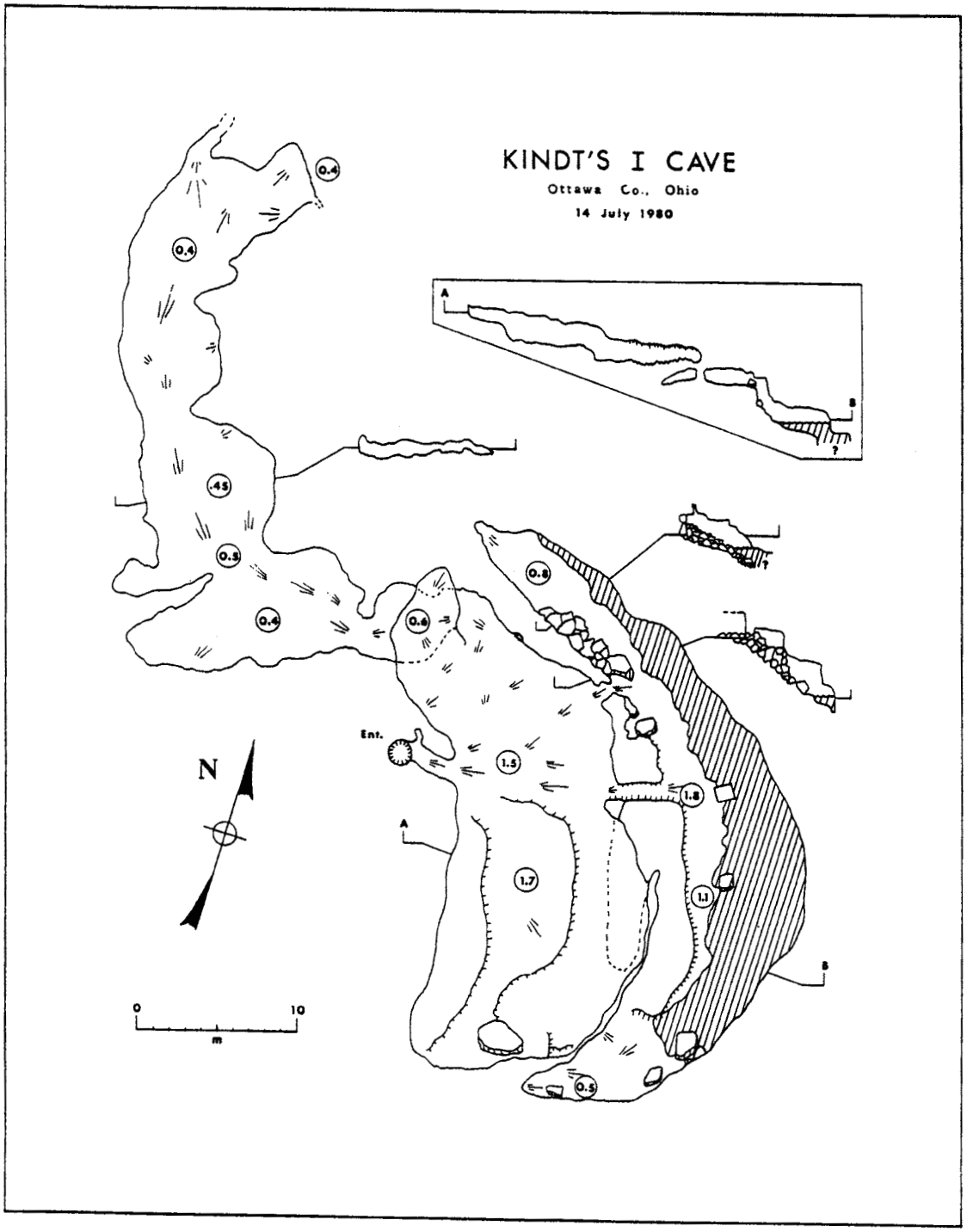
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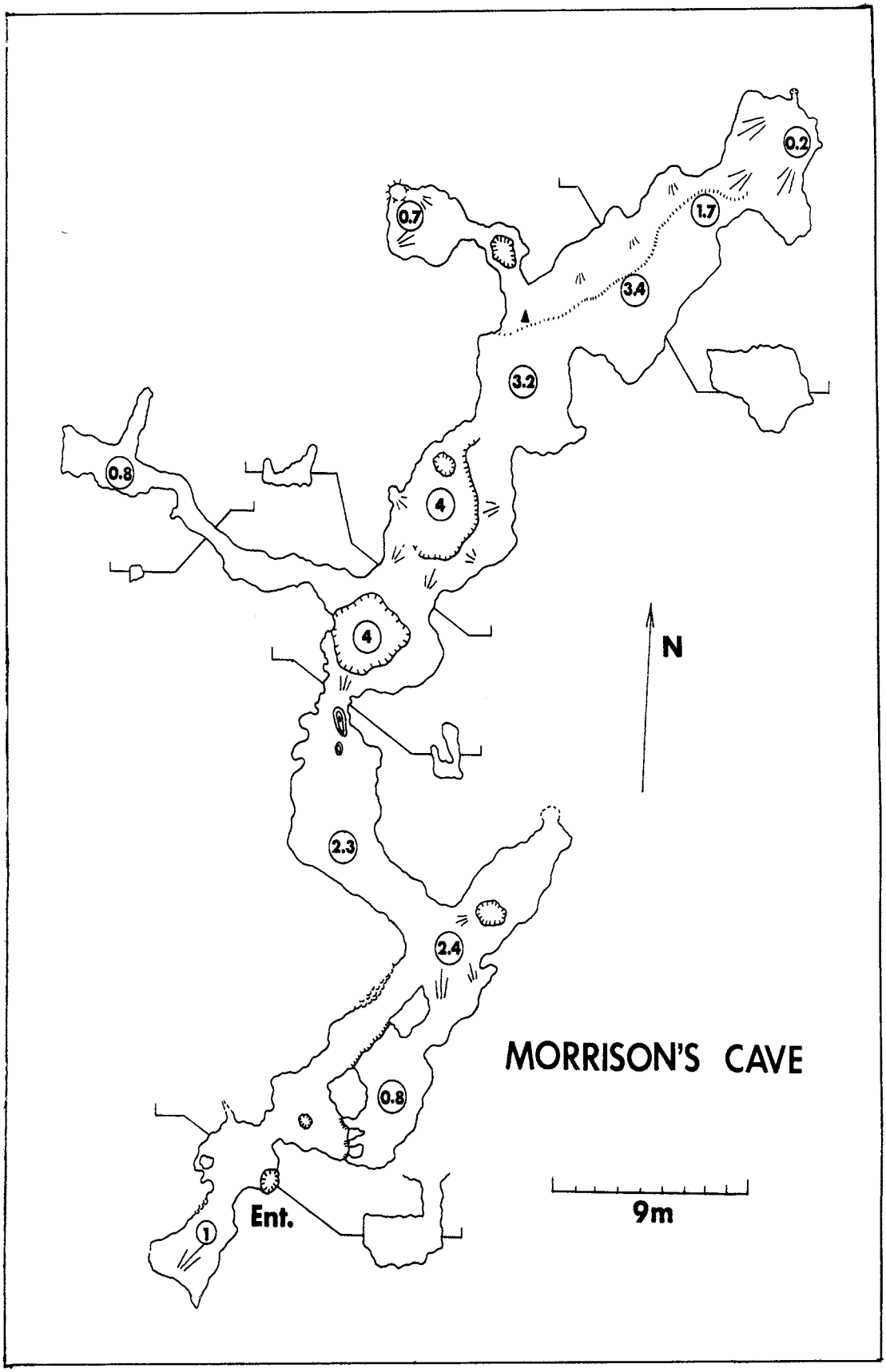
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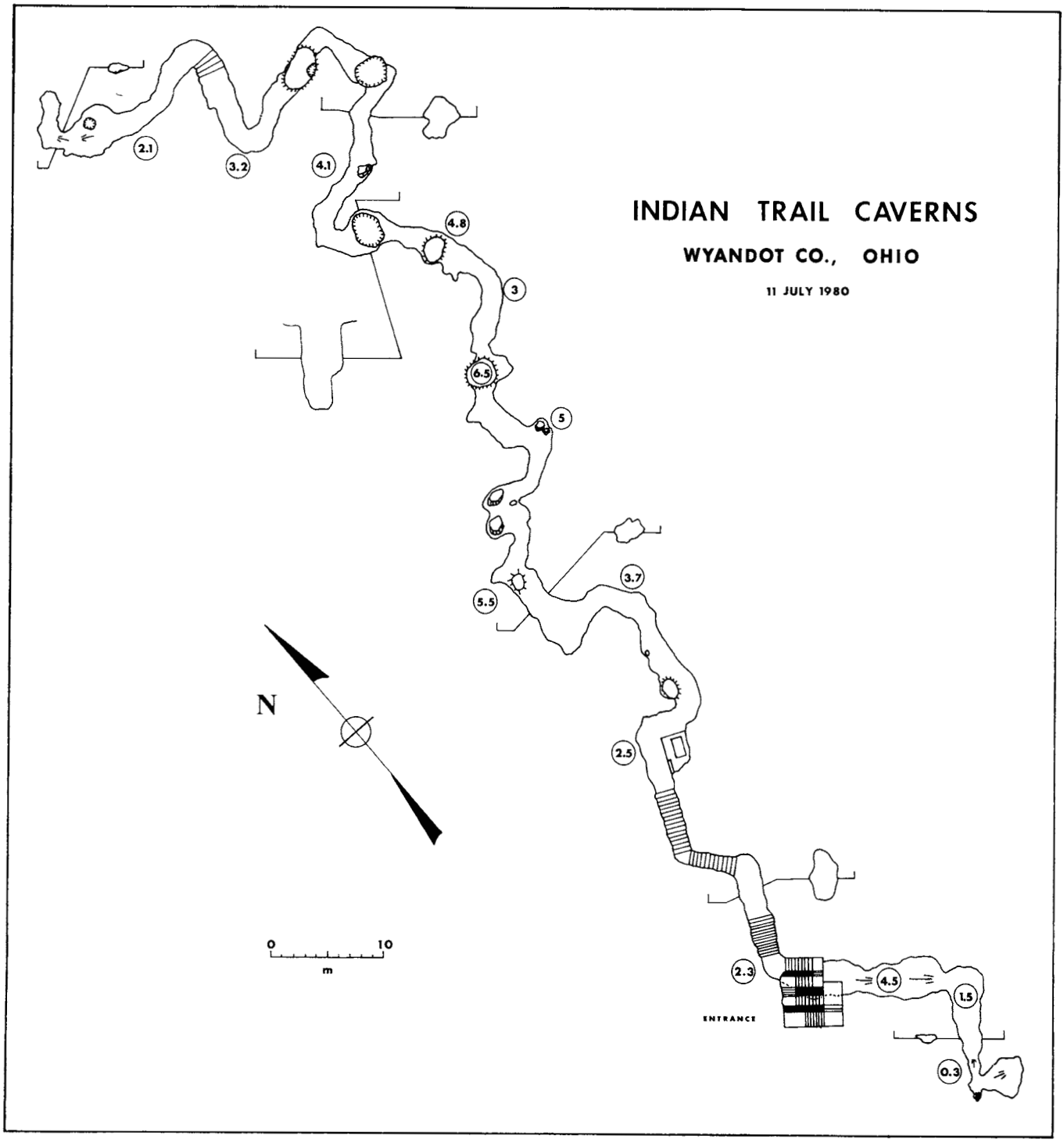
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Coming soon to a Pholeos near you...

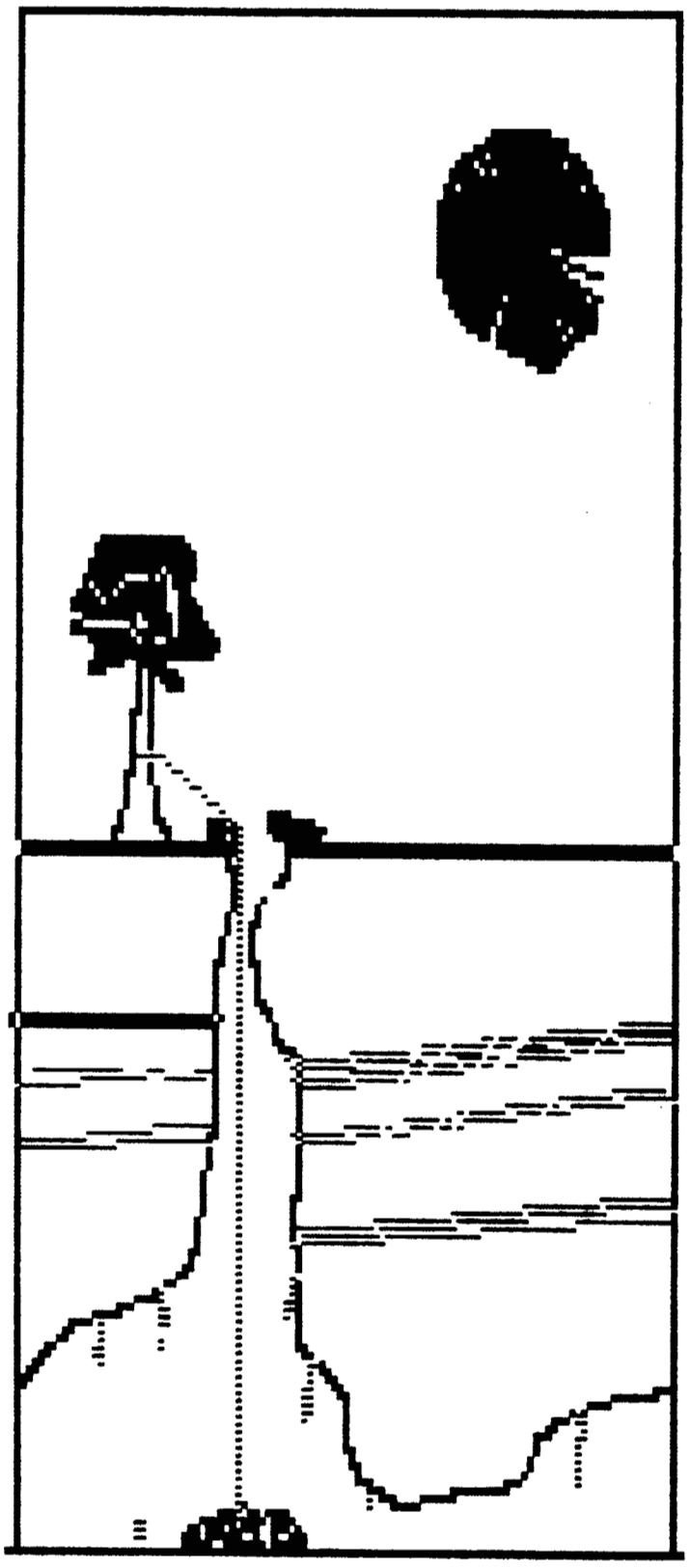
Horn Hollow Cave System

Freelands Cave

In the past, Pholeos has taken you to such exotic places as the Bahamas. Next issue, we will be taking you to sunny Bermuda.

Shut up and take your bath!

Looking downstream, main level of Bat Cave.



Computer Generated Pit Cave... The Dawning of a New Era.