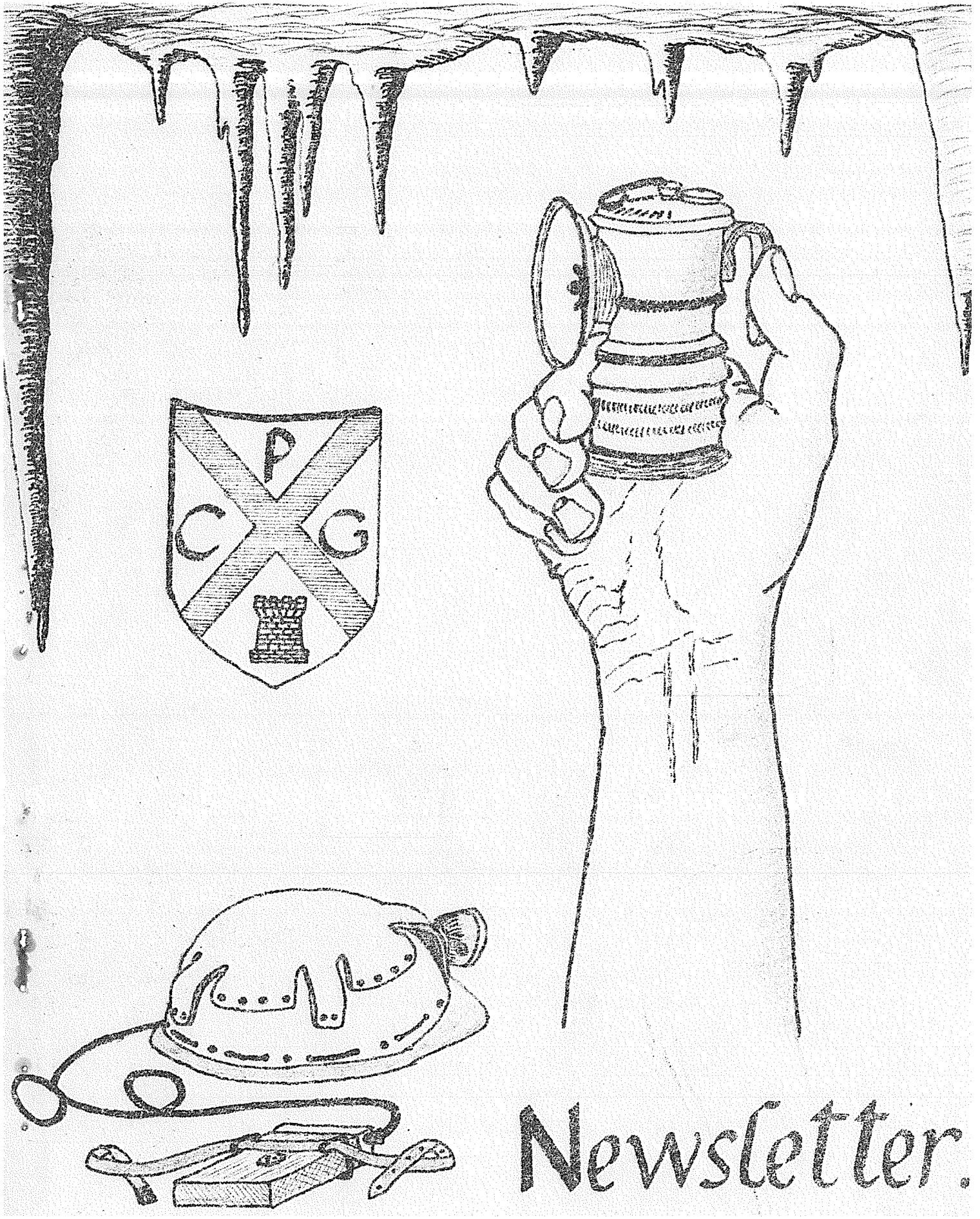


Newsletter.

PLYMOUTH CAVING GROUP.

Newsletter and Bulletin. Number Twelve.

June - July 1964.

Future Meets.

Sunday, July 19th. Cattedown. Further exploration at the Bone Rift. Leader P.Price. Meeting at 10 am at Cattedown Corner.

Saturday, August 8th. Reed's Cave, Buckfastleigh. Leader J.Percival. 10.30 am bus from Bretonside. Bus fare etc. about 6/-.

Sunday, August 23rd. Lady Virtuous Copper Mine. Leader Pat Evans. 9.50am bus from Bretonside. Bus fare etc. about 3/6.

Saturday - Sunday September 19th - 20th. Working and camping weekend at the Pengelly Cave Research Centre at Buckfastleigh. Leader J.Percival. 10.30 am bus from Bretonside. Bus fare about 6/-.

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Fully Paid up Member.

Mrs P.Oxenford of the Bungalow, Double Waters, Buckland Monachorum is now fully paid up for 1964.

Money raising scheme.

Jeff. Percival has a scheme for raising the Group's finances, it involves the selling of cards, the competition type where people give a donation. It needs no previous experience and all who can help should contact Jeff..

It is regreted that certain members of the DSS. mi s-understood a statemer with regards to the DSS boat trip and the P.D.R.C meeting. Editor regrets

CLUB HEADQUARTERS.

The Club has been lucky in aquiring a room at Virginia House so that regular weekly meeting may be held.It has been de cided that each Friday evening,beginning July 17th.,members will meet at about 7.30 for a social gathering.At present a lot of work needs to be done decorating the premises so all that can lend a hand are asked to come - bring your own paint brush. The room is under the present Tackle Store and will hold some thirty persons with ease.

Addition to tackle.

We have been very lucky in being given 36 feet of aluminium tubing and clamps which have been cut up so that they may be used as a Maypole. It is hoped that members will make full use of it.

Advertisement.

Don't just go underground - go UNDERWATER as well ! Don't be a square nut in a round hole all your life - become wet as well. Seriously,though,Aqualung diving is the fastest growing sport in the World and with good reason.Whether you're diving on Wrecks,or just plain weeds you'll find it the most rewarding sport ever. The British Sub - Aqua Club: Plymouth Sound Branch is now taking new members,expert or beginners.

Details from M.J.Wood,8,Gifford Place,Mutley,Plymouth or Rod. Leonard. Remember - GET WET !

EQUIPMENT.

Tope's at the Barbican have now in stock -

Carbide lamps and spares.

Glass fibre helmets,red,blue,green,yellow,white.

Tricunies,clinkers,triple hobs,star muggers.

Krabs and waist lengths.

"Cave Disease." by Rod. Bray.

With 'Ollie' Lloyd's recent bout of Weil's Disease,which he caught while caving at Stoke Lane on Mendip,still fresh in the memory,my attention was drawn naturally to an article in the local paper which described how a'Cave Disease' had killed 6 people in South Africa

and that two Johannesburg doctors has found 62 cases of the lung infection (Histoplasmosis) in spelaeologists.

Delving further into the facts I find that histoplasmosis is a disease caused by a fungus called Histoplasma Capsulatum which is present in soil and other organic debris particularly around chicken houses and has been found in association with bat dung. The disease c n be confused with T.B. since it has an acute respiratory form but occasionally a rapid fatal infection can involve the spleen liver and other organs.

I find,however,that Dr O.Lloyd on Mendip has carried out research into the disease and has found NO trace of it in this country. I believe that temperature control is necessary for the disease to spread,it's too cold in G.B. for this to happen.

Krabs in Caving by Sandy Seabrook

This article is a brief summary of the use of krabs in caving, their use and misuse.

Krabs,or snap links as they are sometimes called,are used a an attachement to join two 'Bodies' together,usually a rope to a person tackle or rock.There are many types of krabs on the market at present,mainly German and Austrian but with a few British and French also available.Shapes vary but one major difference in krabs is the gate screw - underground they are not always the best as the screw thread ofens fills with mud and makes it impossible to either open or close.

All krabs have one thing in common - the manufacturers stated breaking strain,all of which are greatly exagerated.This conclusion was reached by the British Mountaineering Council who have tested most of the currently available models.I quote some of their test results.

Make	Weight	Breaking load Min.	Manufacturers' figure	Price.
P.Allain	2½ oz	2,330 lb.	3,360 lb	13/6
Hiatt	5 oz	3,681 lb.	6,620 lb	10/6
Stubai	4½ oz	1,700 lb.	2,300 lb	8/9
Stubai	8 oz	3,400 lb	4,750 lb	23/6

There is a new model on the market known as the 'Carbine', sold originally for anchoring boats. I have personally tested models over the last year and am very satisfied with them. The breaking load for this model is 2,500 lbs which compares favorably with the 4 oz. Stubai, but the cost is a mere 2/6d. A slightly larger model, selling for 4/6, is chromed and hence reduces corrosion problems. A model similar to this was tested by tying a boulder of about 1 cwt to it, making one end fast, and throwing the boulder over a drop of a good 10 feet. After this treatment it was still possible to open the gate with one finger, even though two adults were hanging on the boulder.

It is hoped that this information will be of interest to cavers and help in their decision as to which krab is best.

(Sandy tells me that he will supply a chromed krab together with a waist length to members of the P.C.G. for a cost of 6/-. All krabs will be checked over before sale. Any person wishing to take advantage of this offer should send the cash to me. Editor)

Newscuttings.

Will any member who has newscuttings, or sees one in the papers, please send a copy of the cutting, together with the necessary reference data to Bob. Jeffery who is making a collection for the group?

WANTED Any old picture frames to hold photographs etc. so that we can exibit them in the Club Room. Also wanted timber, paint and labour. Book shelves needed. Please help if you can. Thank you.

Report on the P.C.G. Meet to the Pengelly Cave Research Centre

Leader: J.F. Percival. Sunday, March 22nd.

As nobody caught the 10.30 No.129 bus from Bretonside bus station it could be said that no one attended the meet, and therefore that no meet report can be written. However, a great deal of work was done by P.C.G. members at the Centre over the working fortnight and therefore the turnout on the meet is not so disappoi ing as it appears on first sight.

The P.C.G. members who worked at the centre were as follows: Rod Bray, Colin Bryson, John Collings, Roger Hooper, Denis Jeffrey Terry Marston, Phil Nottle, Jeff Percival and Pete Price.

Rod Bray and Denis Jeffrey worked for most of the time with John Perkins finding levels for Tom Lumm and Colin Bristow who were using a resistivity method for finding unknown caves under th field above the quarry. Something, certainly, has been discovered by this survey, but a great deal of work on figures and graphs has to be carried out before anything more can be said. Many of the P.C.G. workers helped in this survey doing the tedious job of electrode moving.

Other work carried out with the help of our members was the laying of drains under the yard out to the quarry, the levelling of the yard and car-park and also the extending of the car park. One window has now been fitted into the museum and another is to go in soon.

Much work was also put into tidying up the place by laying turf and kerb stones around the edge of the carpark, surfacing the carpark with ash to cover the mud and cleaning up the entrance to Joint Mitnor cave.

Phil Nottle and myself assisted Jeffrey Kinns, a photographer from London, to take photographs of the bats and spiders in some o the Quarry's caves and also took Ken Watkins around Reed's cave so that he could see the cave and plan what to photograph when the fi of the Centre is made in a few weeks.

Pete Price also did some scientific work when he went to Torb caves with Antony Sutcliffe and Dr. Kowalski, a Polish zoologist, to take specimens of cave deposits to be examined later for rodent remains.

Altogether a lot of interesting work was carried out and many other cavers from all over Britain were told about the P.C.G. but it would seem a shame that just because the Easter working fortnight is over that all work should cease. The Centre depends on local support to exist and members of P.C.G. can help a lot in this way. More guides to the Centre and to Reed's Cave are needed and people who take an interest in the Centre could volunteer for these posts if they wished.

However, what are more important are people who are willing to support the Centre either by going up to work or by joining the Association which supports the centre. Cavers in Plymouth have a great opportunity to become part of this national project and I hope many will.

If anyone wishes to know more they need only write or speak to any member of the committee and then, I hope, be encouraged to take a greater interest in this very worthwhile project.

Meet Report - Cattedown - Saturday, April 4th.

Leader: T.J. Collings.
Deputy Leaders: L. Fletcher, R. Lake.

Other Members present: S. Seabrook, P. Harris, D. Harris, M. Row. C. Stone, B. Jenkin, T. Martin, P. King, T. Barbour. D. Ashton, P. Martin, D. Hurrell, R. Johns, T. Marston, R. Elli

We were once again pleased to see our Cornish friends at this meet.

It was decided to carry out some exploratory work on this meet, three main projects being in mind.

Lou Fletcher and a team of about 6 set about widening a rift, Ivy Rift, which had been found recently but was too tight to enter. Bob Lake and his team went to Gentles Cave to examine a possible extension in the roof and I intended to examine a hole high up in the Bone Rift.

We all set out with our respective teams and I, before examining the Bone Rift, took a small party through Pigeon. The hole in Bone Rift was examined with Sandy Seabrook attempting unsuccessfully to reach it. We found, however, that from a neighbouring high point we could look into the hole and were very surprised to see in the entrance a pigeon sitting on a nest which contained two eggs. The passage was much too small to enter.

Bob Lake's team had no luck with Gentles and Lou's team managed to clear the entrance to the Rift, but found it too small to enter more than a few feet.

Although few new finds had been made in this meet, much necessary work had been carried out, but there is still a lot to do.

Walkham Valley Mines - Saturday 2nd May, 1964.

Leader: M. Bond.

Members present: R. Bray, R. Lennard, M. Glanville, C. Emms, H. Browning, M. Sodergren, R. Jones.

The party met at Magpie Bridge at 9.45 a.m. To reach the first adit we walked up the stream that joins the Walkham at the far end of the parking field. A little way past the railway viaduct part of the stream flows from the adit.

Within a few yards of entering the adit, the water was waist deep and freezing, but it became shallower further in. About halfway along the tunnel takes a sharp turn to the right. Here we found a small alcove beautifully decorated with mud formations. Shortly after this the stream is lost and we were able to walk on a dry floor for 20-30 yards. Along this stretch we found what appeared to be a pile of china clay. The stream was encountered for the remainder of the tunnel. Along this last section is a straw stalactite over a foot long. The rails on the floor are still intact for the whole 200 yards of the adit.

We next walked down river to the other viaduct. Here two flooded adits were visited. These had been entered on a previous meet. They were both very short, so we carried on down river for a further quarter of a mile until we came to a deep trench that runs up the hill, almost from the river. At the bottom of the lower section of this trench is the partly submerged remains of the old pump housing. We followed the traverse around the side of the lower trench and entered a large sloping gallery. At the far end is a hole in the floor about 20 feet deep. This was descended by ladder but the passages below were flooded to roof level. To get further in we crawled across a narrow crumbling ledge beside the hole. This brought us into another large gallery, also with a hole in the floor which was flooded and appeared to connect with the other. Two sloping passages go off to the right of this chamber, but are flooded after a few yards.

We went higher up the hill to investigate the top end of the trench. Here it deepens into a 70 ft. shaft with water at the bottom. About 30 feet down is a ledge from which a small flooded chamber can be entered.

While this shaft was being deladdered two more adits were entered higher up the hill. The first, a little to the east of the shaft, was 10 feet long and dry. The other, to the west of the shaft, was 70 feet long and thigh deep in water.

We then continued down river and entered the mine believed to be called Wheal Robert, though there is some uncertainty about this name. A stream was found to be running through the mine and the shaft near the entrance which we had hoped to ladder, was half-full of water - very different from when we had been there eight months earlier. We walked on along the passage for a few hundred feet until we were stopped by a roof fall. We then returned to daylight.

We arrived back at Magpie Bridge at about 4 o'clock.

R E G I S T R A T I O N O F D I G S .

Will members please note that when carrying out a dig, either under ground or on the surface, it should be duly registered with the Recorder, Rod. Bray. A report on the progress of the dig should be given and it is very important to know wether a dig has been abandoned or not.

Please remember to leave a abondoned dig tidy and as near to the state in which is was found as is possible.

Baker's Pit Meet - Sunday, 24th May, 1964.

Leader: Rod Leonard.
Party: Terry Barbour, Hugh Browning, Lou Fletcher, Bob Lake, Gerald Wood (all members of the P C.G.). Brian Collister, Dennis Horrell, Rod Jones, Philip Martin, Martyn Sodergren, Roger White (Provisional Members) and Colin Emms (Guest).

Lou, Bob and I took out the required tackle from V.H. soon after 10 a.m. and rejoined the main party in time to catch the 10.30 a.m. bus. A would-be guest, John Cook, unfortunately just missed the bus. The group was met by Hugh and Colin at Buckfastleigh car-park and then proceeded to Cresthill, where Mr. Reed let me have the necessary keys. Mike Bond, who was working on the premises, collected the 'changing fees' while we lunched and changed. The party left for Baker's at 12.55 p.m., but as we had to wait for a large army group to surface, it was 1.30 before everyone had been lifelined down the entrance shaft and the gate locked. After craftily leaving a large candle near the entrance, I led the party (after an unplanned tour of the 'Maze' and 'Boulder Hall'!) to 'Crystal Corridor' via 'the Drips'. Such was the size of the party that the time-lag between myself and the rear-guard for entry into the 'Corridor' was over 15 mins.! (As Lou and I were the only ones to even vaguely know the system, it was inadvisable to split the very large proportion of inexperienced members into smaller groups). After inspecting "Buckingham's" rift, the group was led by Lou back to the 'Boulder Hall' via the 'Man-hole'. With a certain amount of difficulty I located the entrance to the Dutchoven Tunnel and then proceeded down the 'Mud-Pot' and on to the 'Judges Chamber'. After discussing the first 'Baker's' accident the party returned to 'Boulder Hall', where Lou slipped and cut his hand. While first-aid was being administered, the more energetic members explored the 'Drain'. As some of the younger and less experienced cavers were showing signs of fatigue, the party returned to the rather diminished candle - but not before Martyn had suffered the same fate as Lou. The cave gate was eventually locked shortly after 4 p.m. After changing and washingI returned the keys and the group 'killed' time until 7.16 p.m., the early bus having just been missed. The only thing to spoil our enjoyable day's caving was the bus which broke down en route, forcing us to wait 30 minutes for a replacement.

R.L.

Meet Report

Cave Rescue Practice at Lady Virtuous Copper Mine on Saturday, 6th June, 1964.

Leader: T.J. Collings.
Deputy: P. Nottle.

Other Members present: R.C. Bray, H. Browning, T. Barbour, L. Fletcher, R. Lake, R. Jeffery. R. Leonard, M. Wood, R. Hooper and C. Pollitt.

This meet was held on the day following a meeting at Virginia House, where members had the opportunity to examine and be shown how to use, the rescue kit. Some 16 persons were at this meeting and the stretcher and telephones were demonstrated. I found myself the victim being lowered some 30 ft. out of a 2nd floor window and was pleasantly surprised at the comfort of the stretcher. The telephones were checke and it was found that all 1,000 ft. of cable was satisfactory.

Saturday was a shocker. It rained all day and we were pleased to see the turn out numbers. The bus timetable, having been changed since the time of the bus was written in the Newsletter, was 30 mins out so that members en route were warned of the delay. The whole party arrived at Lady Virtuous at about 10.45 and managed to change without getting too wet.

Terry Barbour 'volunteered' to be the victim and M. Wood said he would act as surface telephone operator. For the rescue procedure underground, R.C. Bray was appointed leader. Rod picked a fine spot for the accident, a narrow ledge about 6' long and 2 ft. wide above the Lake. The two Bobs, i.e. Lake and Jeffery, set about laying the telephone line and Hugh Browning and Rod Leonard lay the candle line.

The first trouble was with the telephones, it was found that a defect had formed in the first 300' length. This was replaced and after this no troubles with the phones were experienced. Transferring the 'body' over the Lake looked as if it might cause some trouble but by means of persons jamming themselves in the roof and also in the water, Terry was transported across it quite easily. The next obstacle was a short sharp flooded passage about 6' long , 3' high and 18" of water; once again this was covered without any real difficulty. We wondered about the procedure for the 'Long Paddle' and had a 'lilo' in case it was necessary, but once again no trouble was experienced and Terry arrived at the surface with a damp tail. This part of the rescue took just over the hour.

To complete the rescue the 'body' was carried up the track and down to the river again by a rather devious route so that we could practise carrying the stretcher over rough ground. At the end of the practice we asked Terry if he had been comfortable all through the rescue. His only complaints, that of slight rubbing down the middle of the spine and the handles across his waist, would have been minimised if he had been wrapped in a blanket.

Lunch was had by all and afterwards I took R. Hooper, Rod Leonard and Clive Pollitt for a quick trip around Lady V. At 2.30 I had to leave for a while and P. Nottle, who had just arrived, turned u

The following article appeared in "The Guardian" on Monday May 18th, 1964 and we are grateful for their permission to print it.

CONGESTED PLEASURES

"Whit Week is often the pleasantest holiday time of the year, especially to active countrygoers. It is usually not too hot; it is commonly not too wet. Woods and fields still have the freshness of youth. The flies have not reached their August form. To those who enjoy basking on sand or in water, Whit Week may sometimes (if hardly this time) seem a little austere. To those who prefer walking or climbing, sailing or golf, there is not a better season.

There is apt to be one drawback; too many other people. The more adventurous recreations call for space. Their virtue is flawed in a crowd. The more popular they become, the less pleasure they may yield. As Mr. Michael Dower said in his recent and memorable lecture to the Town Planning Institute, many of the most favoured places are "already used in season to the peak of their present capacity." To go to the beaches, or the Broads, or to Windermere or Dovedale or Land's End (to cite some of his instances) and find them as populous as the city robs them of much of their charm. To sail in congested waters, or wait on every tee for a clear fairway, is a weariness to the spirit.

Not all the country pleasures call for solitude. Many can be enjoyed gregariously, if the pressure is not too great. Sports like sailing and riding may wilt in a mob, but they are companionable in themsleves. The trouble is that the demand threatens to outrun the facilities for them. Mr. Dower has suggested that there ought to be "numerous limited areas, wholly or largely devoted to intensive recreation," some of them close to or even penetrating the towns. At the national parks conference last week Sir Keith Joseph, the Minister of Housing and Local Government, made some encouraging references to Mr. Dower's idea, and envisaged such recreation areas being organised under the general oversight of "the National Parks Commission or a similar body".

"A similar body" seems the likelier alternative. The National Parks Commission would need drastic changes in structure and composition if it was to organise such a chain of recreation areas, although such changes could be made. Nor would the choice of the supervisory body be the only problem. The commission works through planning authorities, especially but not only the ten national park boards and committees. What would be the corresponding bodies required to organise and run the several recreation areas? Would it be a job for the local authority, for a voluntary society, for somebody like Mr. Butlin, or for a local branch of a national body?

This was not the only reference which Sir Keith Joseph made to a possible broadening of the National Parks Commission's work. Listing the various categories of land to which special measures for amenity are applied, he protested against the resulting "compartmentalising" of the

country, and wondered whether it was right to limit the commission to its present scope. "Have we not in the commission the seed of a body with wider scope - the interests of the countryside as a whole?" A rather similar proposal was made some years ago in the Labour Party pamphlet, "Leisure for Living," to the effect that the commission "should become the chief agency for the use of public funds for preserving and promoting enjoyment of the beauty of the countryside, functioning in much the same way as the Arts Council" - that is, with funds to distribute. The pamphlet went on to suggest that the commission might itself provide or support such enterprises as centres for adventure training, which are now sustained either by private bodies or by local authorities. "Recreation areas" would be a variant on this idea."

Edited and published by T.J.Collings,27,Queens Rd.,Lipson,Plymouth.



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