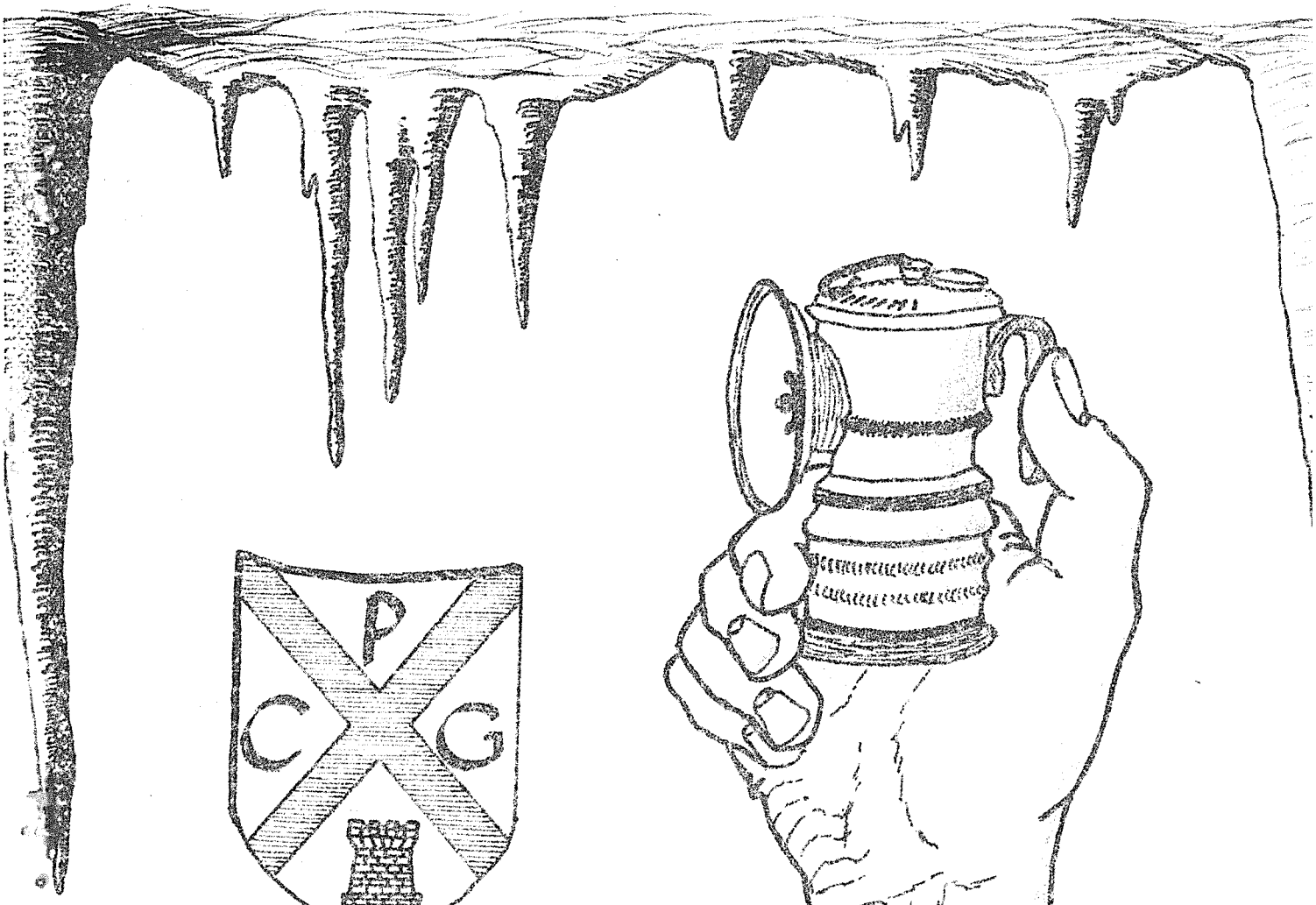
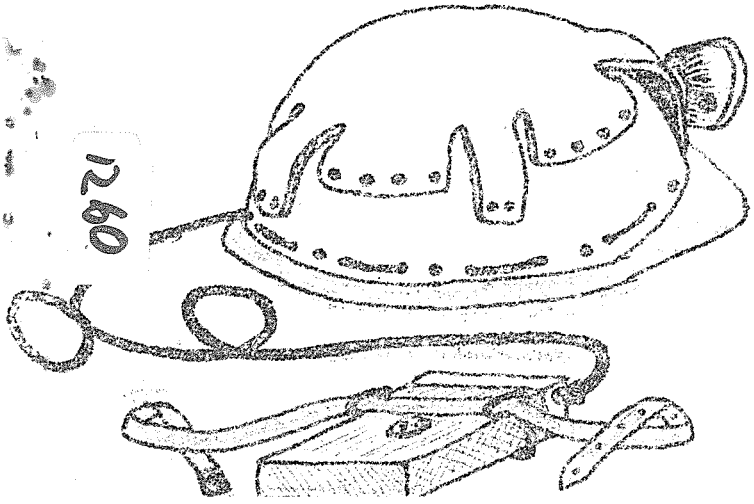




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Newsletter.

PLYMOUTH CAVING GROUP.

Newsletter Number 8. Jan 1964.

Future Meets.

Saturday, Feb. 8th.	Moor walk visiting old mines en route. 8.45 bus from Bretonside. Leader J. Percival.
Sunday, Feb. 23rd.	Cliffords Cave. 10.30 bus. from Bretonside. Leader R. Bray.
[illegible], March 1st.	[illegible] Caves.
Saturday, March 7th.	Yealmptons Caves. bus. Leader P. Nottle.

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Competition Results.

The new cover for Newsletters was designed by L. Fletcher. In it he used the club emblem designed by Miss M. Percival. Both of these receive free membership for 1964. The number of entries for the competition was rather small, only three entries coming from outside the committee, but, even so, the committee had a hard job to decide which one to accept.

Radford Cave.

One of the 'Ten Caving Commandments' seems to have been forgotten in Radford - Thou shalt not leave litter in caves. We are all aware that other people, other than P.C.G., use the cave and we are not accusing any particular persons, but if P.C.G. members bring out litter, which may not even be theirs, the cave will look a lot cleaner and will, ofcourse, maintain its beauty longer. Thankyou.

Radford Publication.

The first of the detailed cave publications is in the process of arrangement and the Editor would like to receive any photos of the cave which members may have. The actual copies will be returned but it is essential that a negative be supplied. It seems, at present, that it will consist of about 20 sides of print, 2 pages of photos, one small survey of Haw Cave and two large surveys of Radford. The publication will be issued with the April Newsletter.

Outward Bound.

The Plymouth Youth Committees give each year two scholarships for boys and girls (4 in all) at Outward Bound Schools. The courses are at Aberdovey, Wales between 25th July and 20th August and at Rhowniar, Nr. Aberdovey between 27th July and 22nd August and

BY-LAWS

1. Each member attending a club meet shall pay a 6d meet subscription.

2. The annual subscription for those under 15 years of age- 5/-
   Full time students between 15 and 18- 10/-
   Otherwise,- 12/6

3. Before full membership can be accepted, the person must posess a safety helmet of an approved design.

4. Lifelines shall be used on all pitches where considered necessary by the leader.

5. Transport of tackle should be at the Group's expense.

6. Particulars of all club meets shall be circulated in writing in advance of the meets to all club members.

7. Any non-member using tackle will be charged 6d tackle fee. Borrowing of tackle shall be as per "Tackle Rules".

8. Every club member shall be entitled to receive one copy of all P.C.G. newsletters free of charge. Other publications and additional copies of newsletters will be available to both members and non-members at a cost to be decided by the committee.

9. The Recorder and the Secretary of the P.C.G. shall be responsible for filing at least one copy of each Group publication.

Dog Rescue

Following an appeal bt the R.S.P.C.A., R Bray, P Price and P.Nottle went to Church Lane shaft at Bere Alston on Saturday December 14th. to search for a dog which had fallen down a shaft on the previous Sunday. Searches had already been made by the Marines without success.

R.Bray descended the shaft but found it too dangerous to continue after the first 60 ft.. P.Price descended a neighbouring shaft to a depth of 50ft. before he ran out of ladder. The bottom of this shaft was still a long way down and it seemed to be filled with water. Another attempt was made this time using an adit at Wei Quay which it was hoped would end up under the shaft. The passage was low and narrow and waist deep in water and after about 400 yds a roof fall stopped further progress. No trace of the dog could be found so the R.S.P.C.A. called off the search.

The rescue was reported in the local press at the time though the PCG changed its name to the Plymouth Potholing Club !

SOUTH WALES-----XMAS 1963

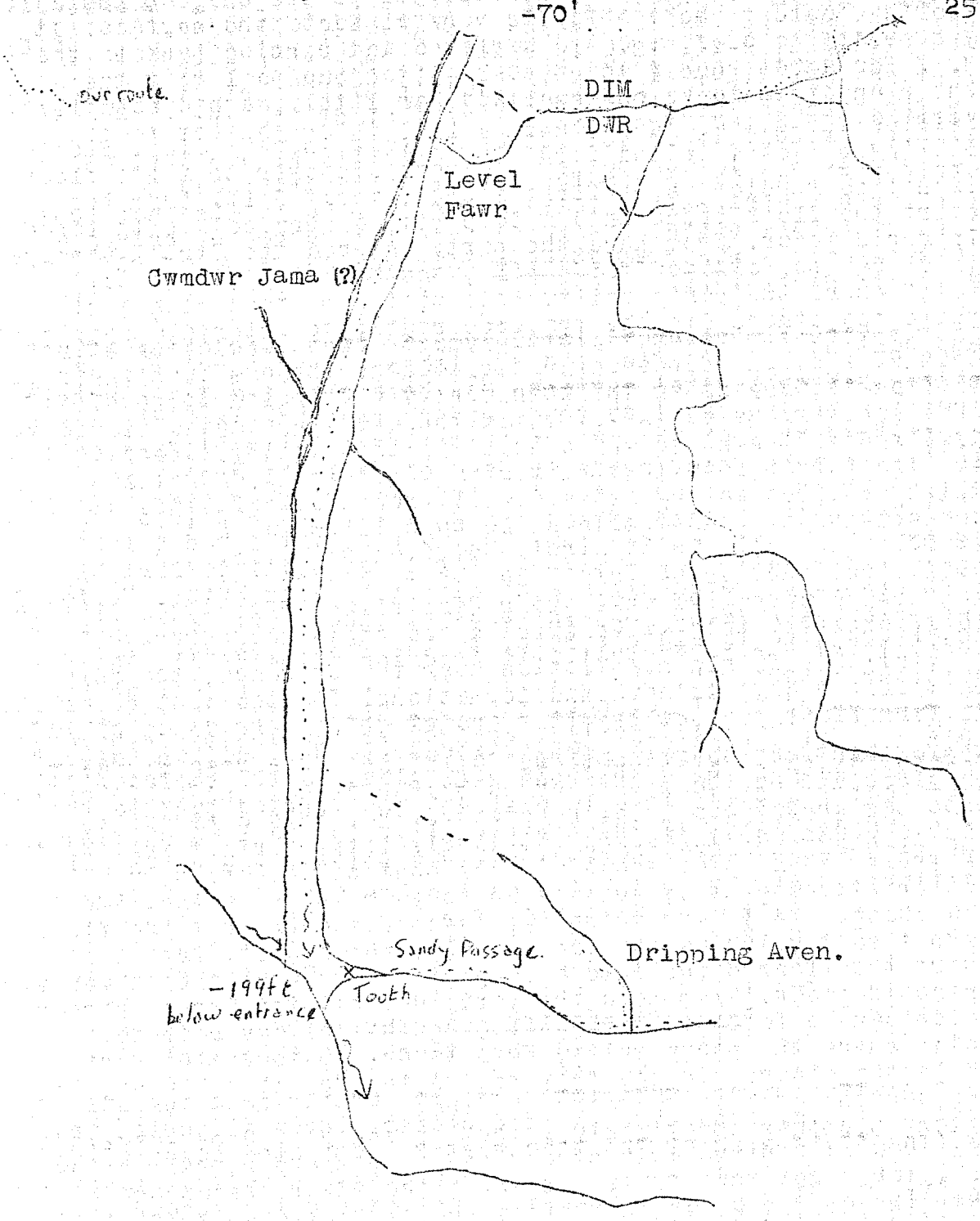
Mike Lummis and I left Plymouth on the Saturday after Xmas at 9 a.m. and headed up the country through Taunton and Bristol to Gloucester and then west via Chepstow to Cardiff where we were to meet a P.C.G. member, Dick Harding. We arrived in Cardiff at 4.45 p.m. and spent an interesting ½ hour trying to find Dick's home (interesting as we found out that the Welsh appeared to be obsessed with traffic lights, as out of 14 persons asked for directions, 13 said 'When you get to the traffic lights'). Despite these difficulties, however, we arrived at Dick's, had some tea and were given some maps and sent on our went. After leaving Cardiff and getting completely lost somewhere between Pontypridd and Aberdare we arrived at Penwyllt at 9 p.m. and met Neil Anderson a friend of Dick, and a member of S.W.C.C.

The next morning at 11 o'clock we left Penwyllt for Ogof Ffynnon Ddu, a magnificent cave with more than 4000 ft. of passage. The original entrance has been closed and a new entrance was engineered into the system. From this entrance we went via Cathedral Passage to Pluto's Bath, a right angled bend in the passage which seems an easy obstacle to cross, you either straddle it or get wet up to your knees wading. Should you choose the latter method you soon discover that the floor is not so regular as it first seemed, about 6 ft. from the start the floor opens into a deep pit, a very cold bath for our intrepid wader. From here the party entered the Stream passage, which can be followed for ¼ mile, and walked upstream to a point where the party split, Neil taking me to Eagles Nest while the others did the traverse route. We entered a deep pool and continued up it to where the roof came within a foot of the water which was itself only a foot or so deep. Soon we were at Eagles Nest and the main stream could be heard roaring below. We climbed down the 60 ft. or so to the river beside one of the pots, scour holes, in the stream bed. We moved upstream to Lowe's Chain and waited for the rest of the party which did not arrive. Moving back downstream I stumbled and sat in one of the shallower pools. By this time any doubts that I had before I made my wet suit were banished, for I was still comfortably warm although thoroughly soaked with very cold water. We found the main party again and went back via the Toast Rack Passage, an alternative to Pluto's Bath, to the main passage. From here we visited a fairly new section near the entrance, the only part of the cave to have mud formations. The two most remarkable formations were stalagmites around which were cones of mud. From here it was only a short distance to the end, an insecure-looking boulder choke which is very close to the surface. It was about 2 o'clock when we surfaced and hurried back to the H.Q. for a hot shower and a meal. After the meal we examined the plan of the cave and realized how little we had actually visited.

CWMDWR QUARRY CAVE.
Craig -Y- Nos. Swansea Valley.
South Wales.

Sketch Plan.

Scale about 50' to an inch.



That evening everybody left except Mike and I, and two blokes, Arthur and Roy, from Hull University, and together we made arrangements to visit Cwmdwr Quarry Cave, the larger part of which has only recently been discovered.

About 11 o'clock the following morning we told the people inthe middle cottage where we were going and set off for Cwmdwr which is only a few hundred yards from the H.Q. in an abandoned quarry. The entrance was excavated through soil and boulders and was made safe by building a concrete shaft. We secured our 25 ft. electron ladder to a frame over the hole and descended; about 15 ft. down the tube levelled out and one was forced to lay on one's back with the ladder on top. At the bottom we found ourselves in a chamber with a sandy floor and three possible routes leading off. We knew from the plan in Penwyllt that two of them joined together in a short distance and that the third was a dead end at a boulder choke. We chose the most likely looking passage and carried on. Within a few feet another way came in from the left and we knew we were going the correct way. The floor dropped suddenly into a tall, narrow rift with a plastic water pipe running along the floor and draining somebody's dig. A small stream joined us as the roof lowered and the floor changed from sand to pebbles. Soon the roof was so low that we had to lay flat out and crawl in the chilly water. Past here the roof lifted, the stream left us and the sandy floor returned and we made fast progress in the narrow passage until once more the roof lowered and we forced to crawl. This crawl took us some 10 mins. or so to get through and was the most comfortable crawl I have ever done although the sand did tend to stick to our wet boiler suits rather thickly especially where the roof height decreased to some 15 inches or so.

As we threaded our way through the hole in the boulders at the end of the crawl we were totally unprepared for what lay ahead. We were in a magnificent passage some 20 ft. wide and approaching 50 ft. and in places, 80 ft. high. Immediately in fromt of us were some sand formations and as we went along the passage, which continues for several hundred feet, we saw some beautiful cascades, pure white, embellishing the otherwise colourless walls, with white stalagmite flows spreading out from where they reached the ground. At first these were mistaken for waterfalls as we could hear the roar of water somewhere ahead, but this proved to be from a small side grotto, and although the water could be seen, it could not be followed. We carried on along this passage until the roof lowered and the way on became not so easy to find through a jumble of boulders. Another sandy passage joined here and we continued up it until it split and one branch closed and the other, Past Dripping Aven, became fairly narrow and headed back towards the main passage. Back at the junction Mike scarped around in the sand and found a tooth, an incisor, very worn but still identifiable From here we went on out, stopping only to examine some side passages and surfaced at 3 p.m.

The next day we had intended to do Pantmawr Pot, an

interesting system some 3800 ft. long with an easy entrance pitch of 80 ft. but heavy rain and mist put us off, for although the system is little affected by flooding, the pot is 4 miles from Penwyllt across open moorland and is difficult to find at the best of times, and almost impossible im mist and rain. So we all decided to leave a day early and head for home. We left Penwyllt at 11 a.m. and Mike drove continuously for 8½ hours back to Plymouth via Gloucester a tough job indeed after a weekend's most enjoyable caving and the first of what I hope will be many trips to Wales and other caving regions.

R.C.BRAY

Editor T.J.Collings,27,Queens Road,Lipson,Plymouth.