

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SPELAEOLOGICAL SOCIETYCICULAR TO MEMBERS

(1968-9, No.3 February)

Ireland Clare, Easter 1969.

A small party is going over during the Easter Vac. It is open to any member to join and there is at present one seat vacant in the one car so far being taken. The party leaves on April 1st. (Fishguard 1400) and gets back to Bristol on April 9th. (0600). The party is staying at Keane's Hotel in Lisdoonvarna.

The main object of the trip is the tracing of cave waters. In particular it is hoped to trace the streams on the west side of Knockauns. Another attempt will be made to trace the Coolagh River Cave and also Cullaun 5. This ought to involve quite a lot of caving.

Irish Mega-Flood.

Stop press. News has just been received from Mrs. Keane about a flood that was "a champion in the Olympic Class". This was on Dec. 24th. 1968. "----the like of this has never been seen or heard ---- August 1967 was only a (quaint Irish expression) next to this". Obviously our flood measurements are now outdated. At Leminagh Castle (S. Kilfenora, on the road to the Fergus River Cave) a bus was submerged to half way up its side on the main road where flooding has not been known to occur before. At Kilcorney depression a Volkswagen was caught on the road and totally submerged even over its extended aerial. "It did not reappear till Dec. 27th."

Here is an extra job for Easter, to map in the extent of the floods. Did it overflow into Poll-an-Ionian? What happened at Polldonough and Polldonough South? Did it overflow the road at C5 and at the Doolin Road Sink?

PROCEEDINGS.

The issue in the press marks the beginning of a new volume, 12. The Editorial Committee considered at length the question of a change in page size to one of the same height but about 2.5 - 3.0 cm. wider. The wider page has some advantages for illustrations, particularly for archaeological drawings and plates and is nowadays the popular size. An examination of several archaeological journals with this size of page showed that many illustrations did not take up the full page width and others were wastefully drawn to take up more space than was necessary.

The decision was taken that the page size for volume 12 should not be changed but that the matter should be reconsidered at the completion of the volume.

The design of the cover is to be changed. Other minor changes will be introduced in the general layout. A standard set of rules for contributors was roughed out and when complete will be circulated to members.

The next issue of Proceedings will contain various "Jubilee Contributions" and it is hoped to have it ready before March 22nd. This will bring the issue date back to what it was intended to be some years ago. Papers for publication in the 1970 edition must be received not later than Dec. 31st. 1969 to permit publication in April 1970.

The Caves of Northwest Clare.

This book has already been published (David and Charles). Don't forget to ask your local library to get a copy even if you have your own copy. If you are in University see that the University gets a copy.

MANOR FARM.

A complete history of the dig including a comprehensive survey showing the latest shaft is to appear in the Jubilee issue of Proceedings. Since M.G.N. departed to Canada, progress at the dig has been painfully slow. Shoring had to be put into the boulder ruckle before any further advance could be made and this is now in place. Full scale digging will resume on Saturday 15th. Feb. Any volunteers??

Fifth International Congress of Speleology.

This is to take place at Stuttgart on Sept 27th. 1969. The meeting consists of papers read at Stuttgart from Sept. 22nd.-26th. After that there are excursions to various parts of Germany and into Austria. A small British contingent will be going. The last date for application to attend is Feb. 28th. 1969. The excursions are always well worth while and the one that includes Austria takes in the Eisreishöhle and other caves in the Salzburg area. Conference fee DM 60. Excursions and hotel accomodation costs vary according to choice. It has not yet been decided how the British contingent will travel to Stuttgart. If you are interested write at once to Prof. E.K.Tratman, c/o UBSS, who has further information.

Snails from streams and pools in caves at Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare, Ireland.

In C.R.G..Trans. 1968,10(3),141 is an account of the discovery of some snails in Upper Poulmagollum and Upper Poulolva. Signs are listed that the snails found the caves unsuitable to live in and hence, it may be deduced that they are not true troglobites. This is to be expected when, for instance, in Upper Poulolva the roof of the cave is never more than 4 metres under the surface of the limestone and the cave is flushed with water every time it rains, through numerous small and large channels. The report merely confirms the view expressed elsewhere already that the fauna, in the main, of the Clare caves around Lisdoonvarna will be that of the surface pools and streams.

Little Neath River Cave.

The survey of LNRC 5 and 6 is progressing well and the whole of the high level route from sump 4 to sump 6 has now been covered. One interesting fact to emerge from the survey data was that during the flood of October 27/28th. last, water backed up to a level of 52ft. above sump 6. This suggests that sump 6 is the end of the streamway for practical purposes for it is known to be at least 40ft. deep. The LNRC water has now been traced definitely to Pwll Du and the rising in the river bed near it. Both of these are at a similar level to sump 6.

Further diving trips are planned for Sunday March 9th. and the w/c of April 26/27th. Anyone who would like to help on these is asked to contact the writer.

P. Standing

African Section of the U.B.S.S?

The latest member to depart for another continent is Dave Savago. He has taken a two year teaching post in Kenya, on the eastern shores of Lake Victoria. Dave has been involved in many of the Society's discoveries over the last few years - notably the Little Neath River Cave, G.B. Ladder Dig Series and Gaffers Gulch streamway in Cullaun 1. In the cave diving world he was featured for the discovery of Wookoy 18, Swildons 10-12, Stoke 8 and Spring Trap 2 and he started several UBSS members on their cave diving careers. His loss will be felt by both the UBSS and the CDG.

F.A.S.

Archaeology by Marianne.

So far this term our field - surveys have proved quite successful. A total of 7 volunteers have surveyed two fields near the airport, in varying degrees of cold and wet. Enthusiasm is high, which compensates for the lack of any very spectacular concentration of finds. The first field yielded a great deal of eighteenth century domestic pottery, a surprising amount of flint flakes for the area, and a cartwheel - penny, dated 1792. The second field contained much more flint, including a core, six microliths which may indicate mesolithic occupation and a fine leaf - shaped arrow - head of neolithic date. This last find makes the whole series of surveys worth while, even if we do not find anything else all term.

For those who are interested, we meet in the country bus station at twelve noon every Sunday for the 374 bus. We then work for about $\frac{3}{4}$ hour before adjourning to the local pub for a lunch of scrumpy and bread and cheese, though last week we were driven to drinking second - rate coffee at extortionist prices in the airport, as we didn't realise that Somerset pubs close at 2p.m. We will not make the same mistake again. If you do consider coming, wear boots or you will be in serious danger of getting trench - feet. We will be pleased to see anyone who is willing to help, especially those with transport.

Marianne

Sessional Meetings.

The last meeting was cancelled at rather short notice due to the sudden illness of the lecturer's wife. Apologies to those who still turned up. The remaining meetings will be held as announced in the last circular i.e.

Dr. MacQueen - " Assyria " Friday, 14th. Feb.

Prof. E.K.Tratman - " Early Mendip Caving " Monday 3rd. March

Sales of Publications. - Will you Help?

Although sales of publications over the last two years have been higher than ever before your librarian is very anxious to extend sales further and get Proceedings running on a really sound financial basis. There are three ways in which you can help.

1. By extending your run of Proceedings back to the earlier days of the Society. Most of the post - war back numbers are still available at very reasonable prices,

1969

U.B.S.S.CIRCULAR

and a list of contents will be sent on application.

- 2. By pestering your local Reference Library to subscribe to Proceedings.
- 3. By mentioning the Society's publications to your caving friends. Remember that off - prints of many caving and archaeological articles are still available and again a list is available on application.

Hon. Librarian