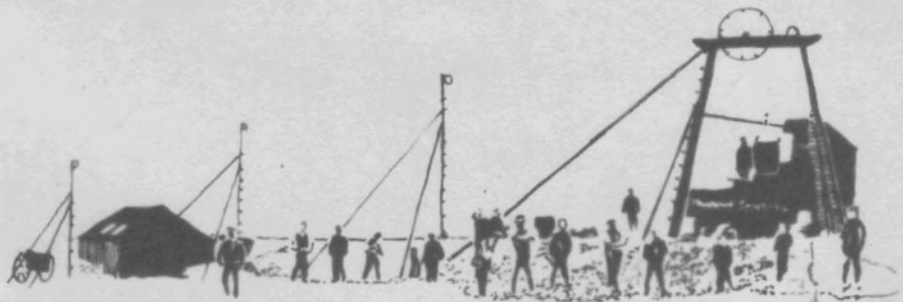


YORKSHIRE UNDERGROUND RESEARCH TEAM

newsletter



"LOOKS A LIKELY PLACE" - some notes on a possible extension to the Stump Cross-Mongo Gill System, Greenhow Hill. by W.J.N. Rhodes.

"One thing is certain-only a fraction of Stump Cross is known. A concerted effort by an organised party during the winter months can count on success; there is no "if" about it. Take a shovel, dig in Stump Cross, and open up a passage."

The above paragraph appeared in an article by Len Cook written for the C. P.C. Journal of 1950.

Since then a great deal more cave has been discovered and Stump Cross and Mongo Gill linked together (albeit from the Mongo Gill end) thus proving the validity of the first statement without in any way altering it.

The rest of the paragraph was perhaps a trifle optimistic. It is impossible to move more than a hundred feet in Stump Cross without coming across evidence of someone who took a shovel - dug - and instead of opening up a passage, merely half blocked the existing ones! Unfortunately things aren't so simple. It would perhaps have been better if Len had rephrased his last sentence to read: "Carefully select a place to dig, then take a shovel etc....."

The key word being, "select". That someday this cave system will be doubled or trebled is a belief shared by many more apart from myself. There are so many passages, large and small, that end in mud, sand or boulders that it is impertinent to think that one of them isn't the key to another big extension. The only problem is to select, for "a concerted effort", the one with the most likely chance of success.

After many fruitless digs, including one "likely place"* which took us the best part of the summer of 1964 and ended against a solid wall, it is unlikely that any suggestions of mine with regard to a winter dig will be met with anything but scepticism. However, after much "studying", underground, on the surface and of the survey, I believe there is one place where the points "for" far outweigh those "against". This is the boulder choked end (complete with draught) of a passage in Stump Cross rarely visited - unless by mistake. I refer to the Gothic Gallery.

The average person's acquaintance with this passage is when, for the first time he is leading the way to the Stream Passage, and takes the wrong turning because it appears to be the main way on. A cursory glance at the survey and/or a physical examination soon reveals that far from merely appearing to be the main way, the Gothic Gallery is the main passage.

On leaving Raistrick's Cavern the series of joints and tubes down which the Stream is reached are of comparatively recent age.

Apart from the first fifty feet or so, where the main influence seems to be the large joint on which Raistrick's was formed, the Gallery is a wide, low bedding cave so similar in characteristics to the main Heaven-Mongo Gill east-

*Cooks Dig: Details of this and other digs in Stump Cross-Mongo Gill will be given in a forthcoming article.

