

THE CAVE OF DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS

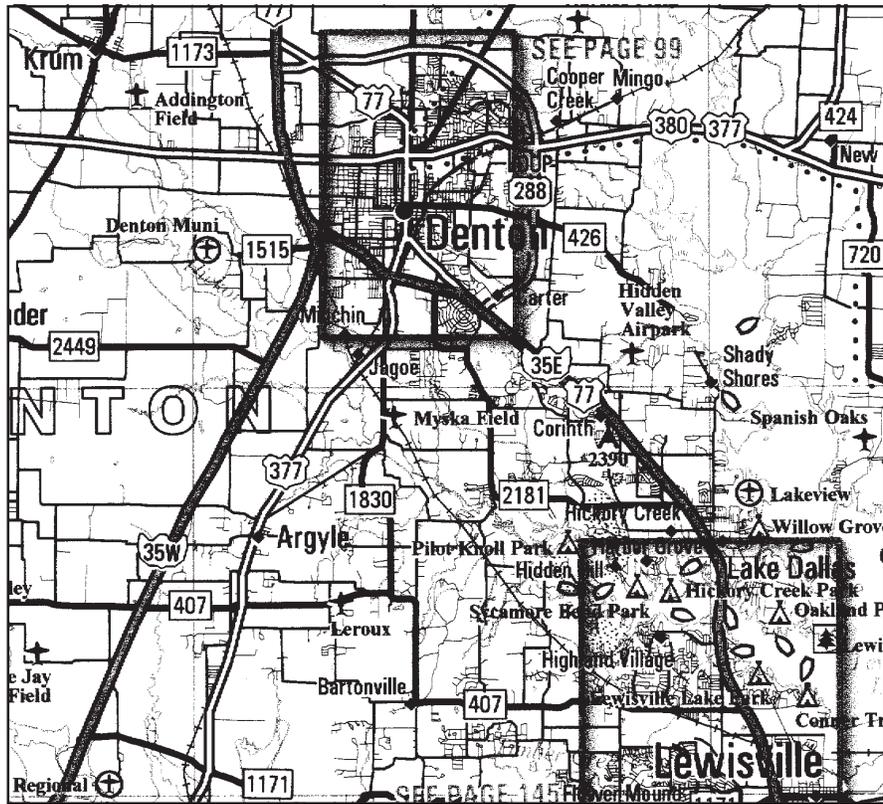
**by Ronnie Fieseler
and Michael Moody**

**Second Edition
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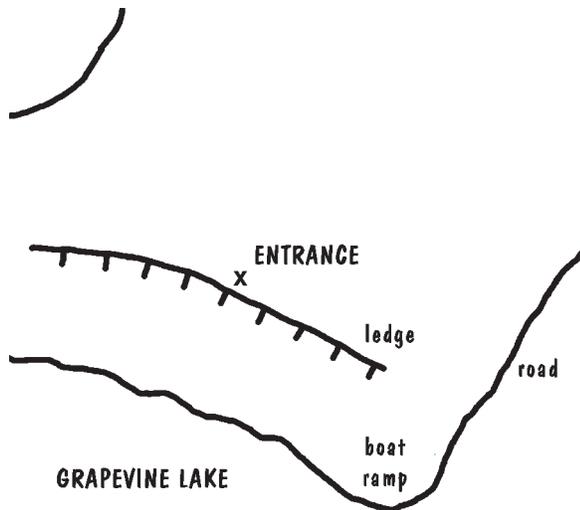
GEOLOGY

Denton County is speleologically uninteresting except for a small area in the southern part of the county. This area, along the north shore of Grapevine Lake, contains outcroppings of red sandstone. It is in this outcropping that the cave is located. The cave is formed by water eroding away the sandstone along joints. It is likely that there has been some erosion by wind at the entrance. Water enters the cave near the rear where the passage is near the surface. The floor is a loose sand supporting this theory.



No other caves have been located in this outcropping, or in the rest of the county.

FIGURE 1. -- LOCATION MAP



CAVES OF DENTON COUNTY

LIST OF CAVES

| Name | Length | Depth | Page |
|------------------|---------|---------|------|
| 1. Sam Bass Cave | 50 feet | +8 feet | 3 |

CAVES KNOWN BY OTHER NAMES

1. Bolo Point Cave = Sam Bass Cave
2. Infamous Grapevine Cave = Sam Bass Cave

NOTE: Maps in this edition redrafted 10 January 1999 by TSS Editor Jim "Crash" Kennedy.

SAM BASS CAVE

Owner: Corp of Engineers (Grapevine Lake)

Description: The cave has two entrances under an overhanging ledge, which lead into a low room four or five feet high. Two passages leave this room, each going about twenty feet. The right passage is a crawl leading slightly upwards before becoming too small. The left passage is a crawl which opens up into a room about five feet high. Roots protrude from the ceiling. The passage continues steeply up, ending in a small room before becoming too small. At this point you are about eight feet above the entrance. The entrance floor is covered with sand and some small breakdown.

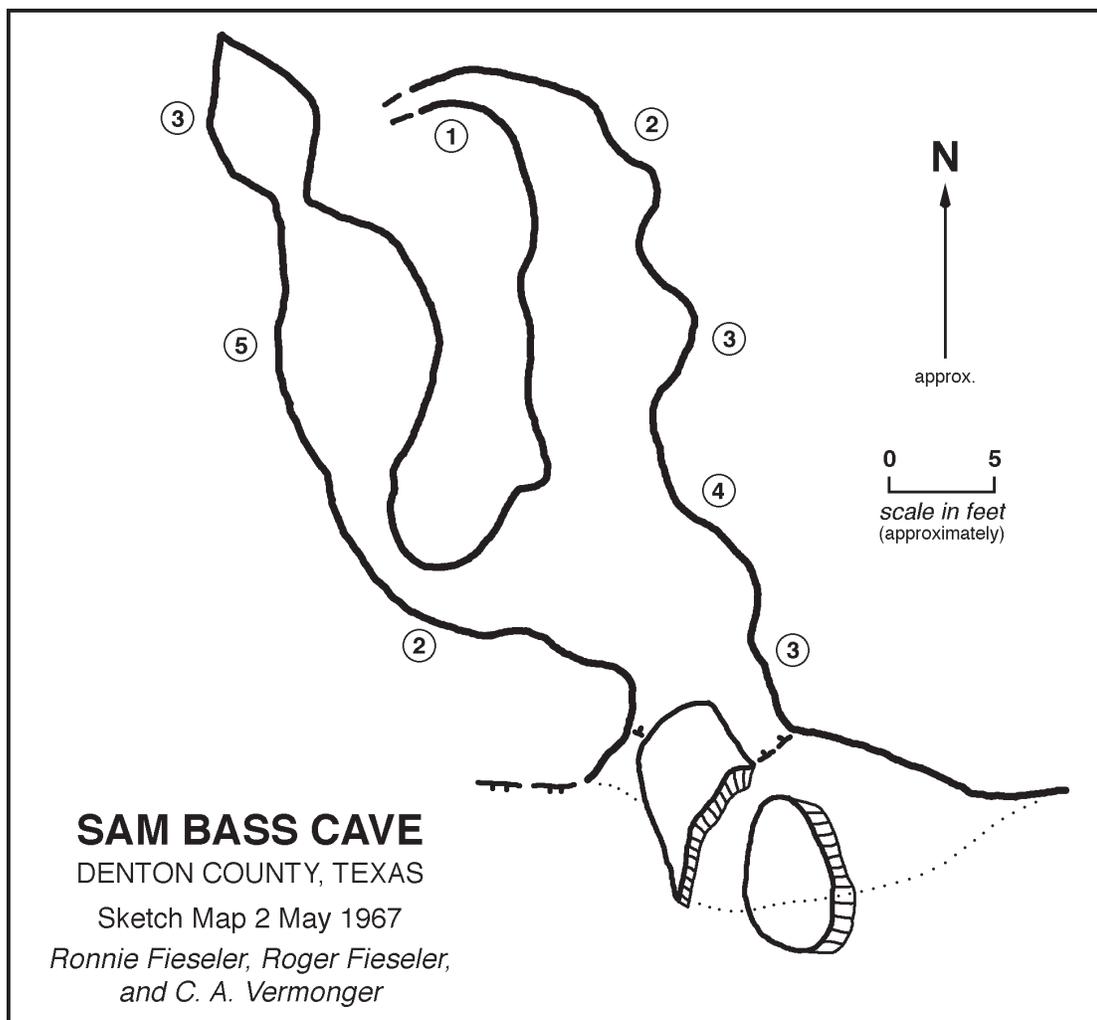
The walls are much vandalized with carvings, writings, etc. The floor is littered with various

organic materials.

History: The cave has been well known locally for many years. It has been visited by picnickers, hikers, etc. visiting Grapevine Lake. It was first visited by cavers May 2, 1967 by Ronnie Fieseler, Roger Fieseler, and C. A. Vermonger. At this time it was sketch mapped. The next trip was in November 1969 by Ronnie and Terry Fieseler. They discovered the overhang had collapsed (blasted?) and covered the two entrances. It was noted that the smaller entrance could probably be reopened with a couple hours of digging, but no attempt was made.

Rumor has it that the cave contained the relapsing fever tick. Rumor also has it that this is one of Sam Bass' old hideouts and money caches, but this is unlikely.

FIGURE 2. -- SAM BASS CAVE MAP



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