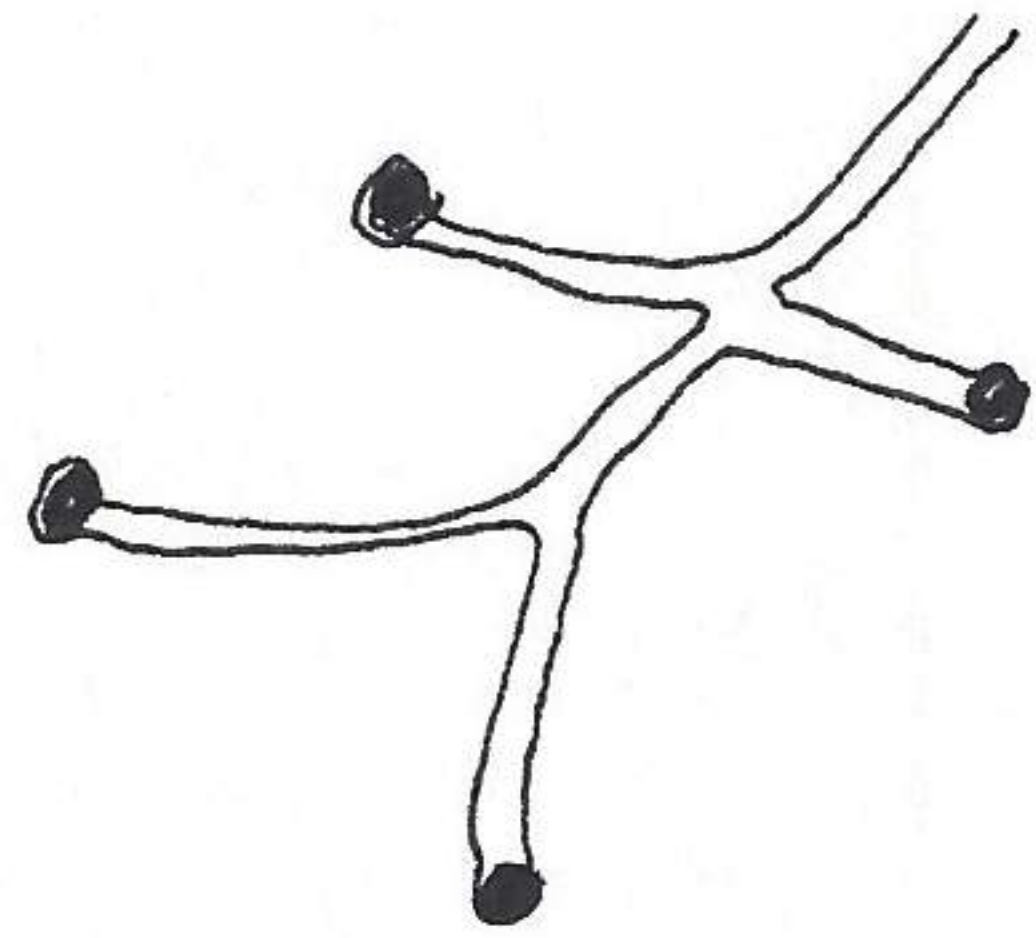
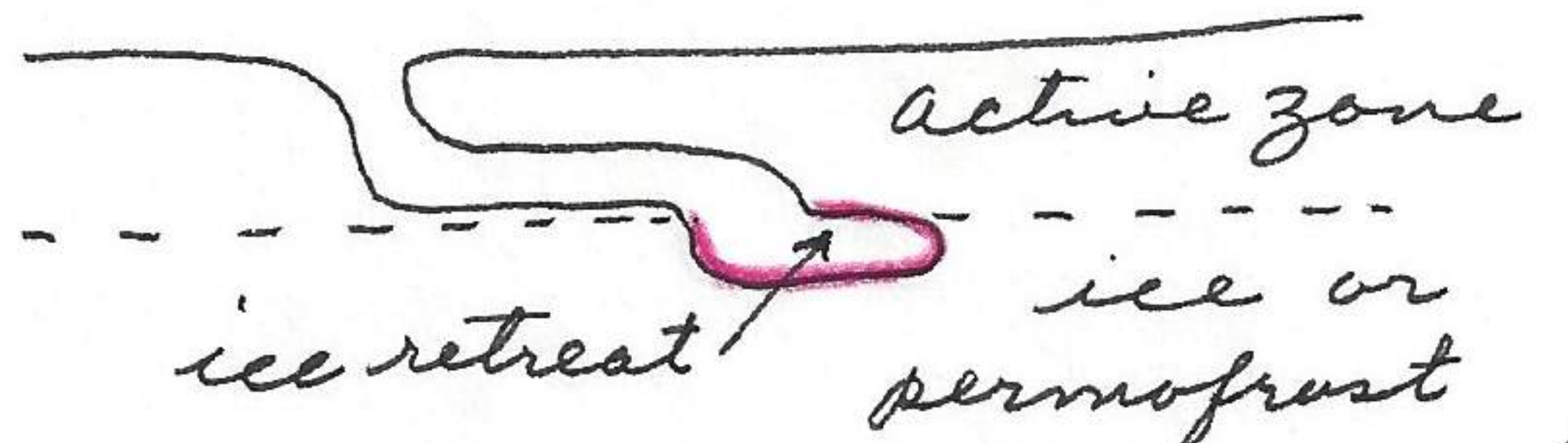


were in ice retreats even though grass nests were available. These ice retreats are generally a blind alley and just large enough for the body of the animal. Several of these retreats were actively being constructed in the ice. The only reason, outside of temperature control would be the escape of lemming from large mammals digging predators, when a lemming is found it is generally associated with well beaten paths radiating in several directions from the ground hole and numerous droppings and green fecal pellets are found near the entrance. Unused nests can be told from used ones by the condition of the runway and tunnel entrance. Grass lining of chambers nearly always confined to sides and bottom of chamber. Holes dug in active layer of tundra range from 400 mm to shallow 70 mm or less. Four such new diggings (in tundra mat & clay) were associated together



surface runways  
and holes

Some lemming in least expected places and in unused holes. No evidence of lemming under snow but well established runways in some areas. 1/2 mile of ground searching resulted in capture of 15 lemming and probably 5 times this number not excavated. Practically every raised polygon had lemming and every other one a nest and occupied. Lemmings

were easiest acquired in intermediate mound about 1 1/2 feet high as tunnels were easily exposed below surface of tundra. The higher (1 meter mounds) had too deep and extensive and interconnecting runways for practical excavation



Best area for digging lemming as tundra is shallow and close to permafrost

The high mounds are stabilized areas whereas the intermediate mounds are overflow areas for increased population numbers.