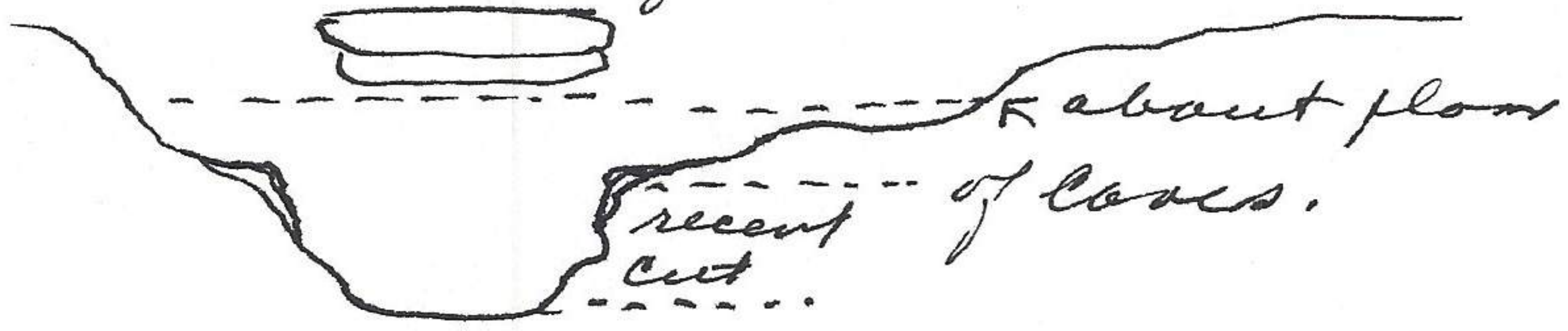


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Seminole Canyon State Park, Val Verde Co., Texas

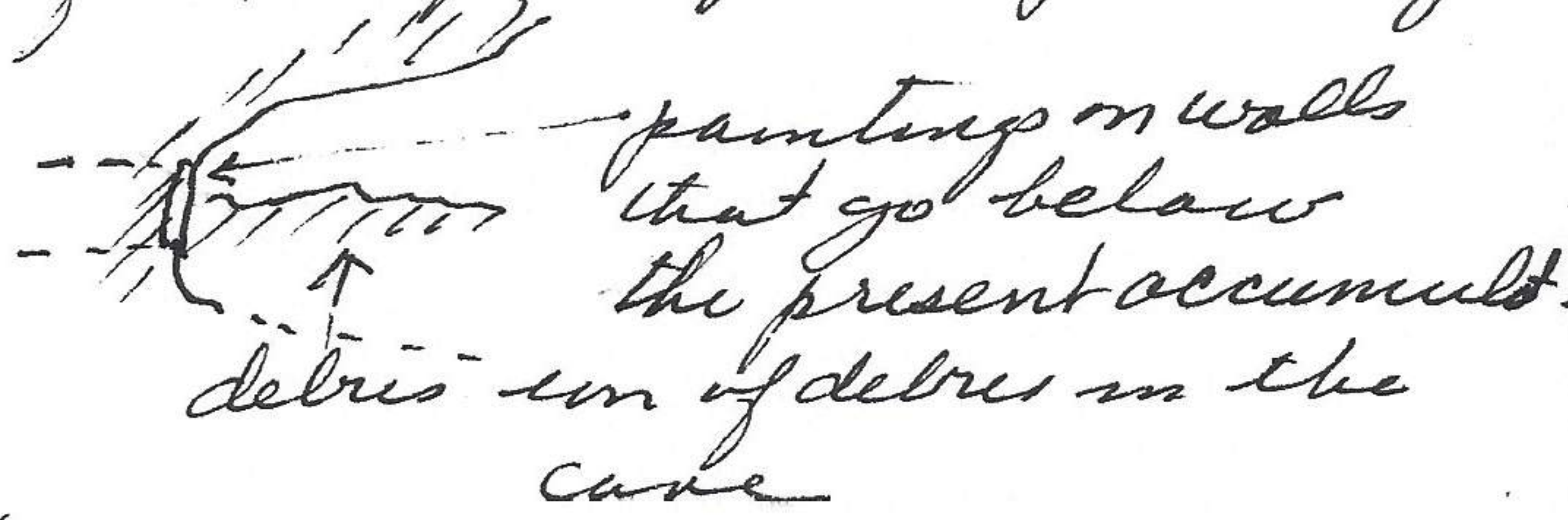
May 17, 1983

Made trip to cave below visitor center with Ranger. Trail to bottom of canyon 200 feet with steep steps thru cross-anal banks to bottom of canyon.

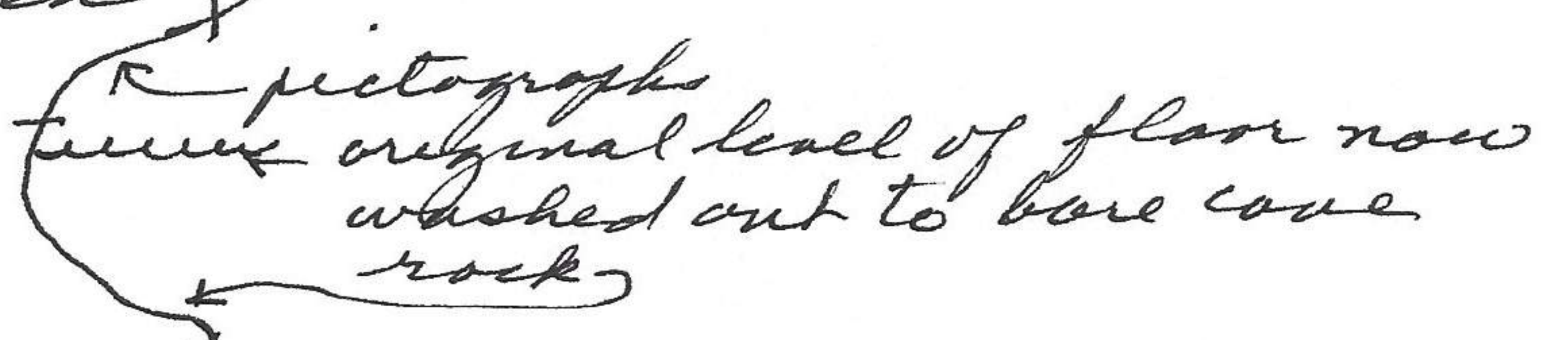


The floor of Canyon is smooth up 10-15' of sides, all in solid Cretaceous limestone. This river must be antecedent

to uplift, recent cut may have been done in late Pleistocene. The fauna and flora is a mixture of Texas Hill Country, Tamaulipas Thorn Shrub and Chihuahuan Desert. The vegetation is sparse and the canyon is deep. In Fate Bell Cave observed pictographs 8000 (2000-10000) years old. Early man visited area 12000 years ago and hunted elephants, bison, camel & horse. Climate then more moderate than today and supported lush vegetation and included pine, juniper, oak woodlands with grasses on uplands. No rock painting as old as early man in cave. By 8500 years ago the area had a climatic change like today, and a new culture appeared that produced the pictographs. Some caves have faded colors from superimposed painting and these on floor level.



Some caves have had these dry debris floors completely wash out by high floods and the pictographs have been left high on the walls.



Took following photos:

- 830517-1 young rattlesnake.
- 830517-2 pictographs on wall in Fate Bell Cave, long triangular figures.
- 830517-3 Long triangular figure
- 830517-4 curved lines
- 830517-5 rock cavities and Annette in cave.
- 830517-6 up Canyon from cave

At mouth of cave was a purple finch. Black vulture soared in canyon.

Returned to Information Center and met Nick Chavez a ranger.