

Illinois Spoonplugger

January 2014

December 12, 2013 - Christmas Party

Jim and Janice Duplex, Craig and Jenny Hubbard, Jim Perillo, Gino Testone and his wife, Scott Duff and Bob Roels were in attendance. There was a somber moment to remember, Larry Petri, and Bob Roels Sr. who passed away this year. As always the food and company was great. We hope to see more members at the Christmas party next year.



Our Deepest Sympathies, Jim Duplex

This has been a sad year for the club with the passing of active members Dolores Perillo and Larry Petri, and founding members Bob Roels Sr. and Mike Moran. Dolores Perillo made many fishing trips with Jim and regularly attended the Christmas Party. Bob Roels Sr.'s home was the meeting location when the club began and he is remembered for his commitment to Spoonplugging and his willingness to help newcomers. Larry Petri was one of the early members of the club. He was often referred to as the "go to guy" for mapping and was known for his on the water intensity. Mike Moran a founding club member and close friend of Buck and enjoyed spreading the word about Spoonplugging. Dolores, Bob Sr., Larry, and Mike will be missed We extend our condolences to the families of Dolores, Bob Sr., Larry, and Mike.

Dolores Perillo

Frank and Dolores regularly fished Heidecke Lake for walleye and stripers and made frequent visits to Whitewater Lake for northern pike and largemouth bass. Dolores was regularly in attendance at our annual Christmas party and her absence this year was noted.



Bob Roels Sr.

My dad loved to fish especially with his family. Prior to the start of the club his family fishing pictures were often in the year end edition of the NSOA. My Dad and I were original members of the club and many of you may not be aware his home was the meeting place for the first years of the club. The club helped all the initial members move beyond trolling spoonplugs to mapping, working structures thoroughly, and casting. He made club outings a success by starting a lunch where all met to share depth and speed controls, so all could be successful. He believed spoonplugging must be shared to have a future and even after he left the club he gave away many green books (not the pamphlet) and took interested persons on spoonplugging trip to Lake Geneva.

He loved fishing but in his late fifties the side effects of required prescriptions medication limited the use of his hands, but did not interfere with his other passion



sailing. He was a creative fisherman and the bass in the picture was caught trolling a small rapala along an emerging pad edge with a line length no more than 10 feet. Line length and rod height were adjusted to keep the plug clear of the weeds. He caught several large bass that day, and thereafter until the weeds grew to the surface. It was one of his last fishing trips. He was a very good at solving a fishing problem.

LASTING MEMORIES, Frank Cipria

For the longest time, I'd always wanted to fish but never had the chance. In 1968, I finally started fishing with my brother and, with the exception of catching a few panfish, we never had much luck. One day in 1975, I was talking fishing in the office of the print shop where I worked. The secretary told me about her son, Larry Petri, and mentioned that he'd experienced the same poor results until about 3 years ago. Then he got into a new type of fishing, Spoonplugging, and was having some very good results. She said he was a member of the North Riverside Fishing Club.



I immediately asked if she could introduce us and we met at the next meeting of the Riverside club. After talking for a bit, Larry told me to meet him at his house the next day at 3 PM. It was a Friday and we headed up to Channel Lake on the Fox Chain in northern Illinois. When we got to the lake, there was heavy cloud cover with thunder and lightning off in the distance. We made a few passes in the shallows and immediately got into the fish, 4 northern pike. The weather rolled in on top of us and ended our fishing for the day. Then and there, Larry made a believer out of me that Spoonplugging was the way to go; for the next twenty years, we were friends and fishing partners.

Back in 1975, I had a 12' boat, a car topper that we fished in all across southern Wisconsin and Indiana. In the late 70's, the Petri and Cipria families went on a week's vacation to Kentucky Lake. This was the first time I'd ever fished a reservoir. Unforgiving stumps and snags were everywhere and we lost most of our Spoonplugs but this is where Larry landed his first 7 lb. largemouth.

One summer weekend in 1978, we made plans to fish a lake in southern Wisconsin. Larry called and said that the front would be coming through and we'd be better off picking a different lake. We changed plans and drove to Pine Lake in the town of La Porte, Indiana. We rented a boat and in the bait shop we recognized a picture of a guy with a big stringer of northern pike. It was Don Nichols, an experienced Spoonplugger and good friend of Buck Perry. It didn't take us long before we got into some fantastic fishing. It turned out to be some the best fishing we'd ever had, and it lasted for the entire day.

The following year, 1979, we discovered Tippecanoe Lake in Indiana. The lake is 130' deep and the water color at the time was very good with weeds to 12'. This was the best lake we fished for all species, especially for northern pike.

Larry Petri was the most dedicated Spoonplugger, teacher, and friend that I ever fished with. Thank you, Larry for everything you did to help me become a better Spoonplugger.



Your Spoonplugging partner, Frank Cipria

Larry Petri Memories, Phil Szafranski, Pics from Frank Cipria

Approximately 20 years ago I met Larry at the first club meeting I attended. I quickly recognized that when Larry was to say something, you better listen if you were serious about Spoonplugging. Larry was one of the few individuals that offered no variance in Buck's teachings. His interpretation and delivery of Spoonplugging knowledge was by the book and on point.

It was more than a year after joining the club before I had the honor of fishing with Larry. Our first time out Larry wanted me to be at his home at 4:30 AM because we were heading to Michigan. That first outing produced no fish but Larry asked me 30 days later to join him again. I could not pass this up, so I again was at his home at 4:30 AM. This time we fished a local power plant and within the first hour caught a small bass. Larry immediately anchored up and we were into a mix school of Largemouth and Smallmouth bass. Larry's first cast hooked a bass that had to be better than 20 inches. I can still visualize it jumping out of the water and throwing the Spoonplug. I believe we boated 10 fish before the action stopped from the specific spot. We did not leave the anchored position and began fan casting around the boat. It was not long before I hooked a fish behind the boat and we were into them again. This all lasted for about 30 minutes and no additional fish were taken. It was now noon and Larry suggested traveling to the Illinois Chain of Lakes and within 2 hours we were again launching. Our first pass produced a pike nearing 40 inches. Larry then circled around and repeated the pass again and the next 3 passes produced pike with another being 38 inches. This 14 hour day before returning home will never be forgotten by me.

I will always remember Larry as an individual that would be relentless on the water. Anytime you planned on being out with Larry, expect the day to be long with very little down time of lures being out of the water. I also had the opportunity to be with Larry on multiple overnight trips. One trip in particular reinforced the importance of speed control. While fishing a power plant lake in early June, Larry and I found speeds in excess of 10 MPH would trigger cats to strike the lure. Although we boated nearly 30 cats, we finally hit a small bass and the first word from Larry was to "Anchor". For whatever reason I still remember his Spoonplugging discipline came forth with an immediate request for me to anchor the boat because of catching a 12 inch bass.



I also remember Larry having a great deal of respect and admiration for Terry O'Malley. There was no doubt of where Larry stood regarding Terry's contribution to Spoonplugging. I remember him telling me of stories involving travels to Northern Wisconsin with his wife. I still get motivated while thinking about them. I could offer more but I know that individuals lose focus after reading 600 words and I am now at 533.

A few humorous stories about Larry!

- Larry on a club fishing trip forgot to call his wife on their 20th wedding anniversary. Oops! We were glad Larry was still able to go fishing after that.
- When other boats were in the way of a trolling pass or working a contact point Larry would ask the pleasure boat to move. It was impossible to hide from the pleasure boat passengers glares in his spoonplugger boat.
- You took turns eating lunch so you did not miss a movement.
- His spoonplugs were labeled. He fished a Chartreuse with black dots and you fished YELLOW or Brass. If there were dots or scallops on your yellow plug, it was a problem!
- Mysteriously a marker on Pewaukee thrown on a point we had caught several muskies disappeared. Larry's response when questioned what happened to the marker was "Did you get shoreline sightings"? I am sure he did.

- Larry almost dragged his new spoonplugger boat up the concrete launch when he sped from the ramp and the bow rope caught the trailer side guides. Luckily the rope snapped with a LOUD POP. I jumped in the water and stopped the boat before it hit the concrete ramp. And then saw the stern filling with water through the drain hole. The drain plug was nowhere to be found, so kneeling in the flooded boat I stuffed my thumb in the drain hole, and held on to the dock with my other hand. Finally Larry arrived holding a foot long piece of rope, asked "What the loud bang" and "Why are you kneeling in my flooded boat"? He was surprised I could not find the drain plug inside the boat compartment filled with other stuff sealed in a zip-lock bag.

Mike Moran



The first Illinois Spoonplugger's meeting was held at Mike Moran's home and the club was named by Mike and Bob Fischrup later that night. Mike introduced Rich Wehrman, a long time and very successful spoonplugger, who shared his knowledge and experience at a time when we were all stuck at a plateau. (Ask Wayne about Rich) About the same time Buck privately recognized Mike as a teacher when Mike was the only person to get 100% Buck's NSOA test and their friendship developed. Mike was instrumental in getting Buck as speaker at Walleyes Unlimited, coming to a club outing at Lake Pepin, and doing the Rosemont sport show with Geri, and Buck's Baits. Mike was actively involved in most National Outings and ways willing to share Spoonplugging to anyone interested. Jerry Borst was one of those persons. Mike was also a member of Northern Illinois Spoonpluggers, and helped Terry O'Malley when he was still up north.

Mike had a knack for having his student catch a fish at the right time. My first trip Mike he talked me through the process of straining a structure using straight line trolling passes and I caught my first 6.5 pound LM at 25 feet. No other fish were caught that day. At the National Spoonplugger Jamboree at Lake Chickamauga he demonstrated the basics of spoonplugging to a complete novice and on the final pass onto structure from the deep water with a long line she caught a 4+ pound bass when big fish were few and far between. Buck told him exactly how to make the pass onto that structure.



Polar Bear Outing never happened and Hard Water is upon us!

It is time to take inventory of all your fishing and boating equipment, and repair, fix, replace, or purchase as necessary. I know at least one member has expressed an interest in the custom spoonplugger rod Bill Beck of Madison built for Gino. Bill is quite busy and did not think he would have the time to build others, but if anyone wants to build the rod themselves the 6 foot solid fiberglass rod blank model # 261250 is from Jann's Netcraft. The blanks are about \$13. The expense is time and parts. A through blank cork handle kit is around \$25. A Foam EVA handle kit is cheaper. Guides and tip top could be as low as \$7 or as high as \$50 for best quality guides. Is anyone interested? If you are replacing a rod you can use the guides from your old rod to save a few bucks.

Treasurer's Request - PAY DUES!

Time to pay the \$20 annual dues are due! Bring your check or cash to the next meeting. Checks must be made out to James Taylor! If you cannot attend, please mail to James Taylor, 1367 Loch Lomond Dr., Crystal Lake IL 60014. If you want to pay for the Winter Jamboree at the same time admission is \$30.

Other Stuff

Musky Show at Harper on January 10-12. Admission is \$10. A 3 day pass is \$20. Special prices on banana plugs for club members (see Gino for details).

Walleyes Unlimited Speaker is **Joel Ballweg**, a **Lake Wisconsin** Guide at the January 28th - Illinois Meeting, at Gurnee American Legion, 749 Milwaukee Ave., Gurnee, IL 60031. Guest fee is \$5.00. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM. Ballweg's Guide Service, LLC specializes in walleyes, saugers & crappies on Lake Wisconsin & the Wisconsin River. Joel will be talking to us about the spring to summer period for walleyes on Lake Wisconsin & the Wisconsin River. Joel spoke at the Wisconsin meeting last year and was very well received. For more information Joel go to: <http://www.lakewisconsinfishing.com>



How Do You Measure On The Water Results? Phil Szafranski



Earlier in the year I wrote about a week long trip fishing new water. The 7800 acre lowland reservoir produced nearly triple digit fish count for the first trip. We returned to this body of water again in September for a week. This time we caught approximately 35 fish, which was approximately one-third of the initial result. Not only was the catch rate much lower, we also experienced smaller overall size to the fish. Based on results, how would you rate the trip? Is fish count a major factor in determining Spoonplugging success or failure? What other factors would you consider before determining a final comparison between the two outings? Before reading on, I ask that you take a moment to reflect on your criteria before I offer my thoughts!

Weather and Water Comparisons

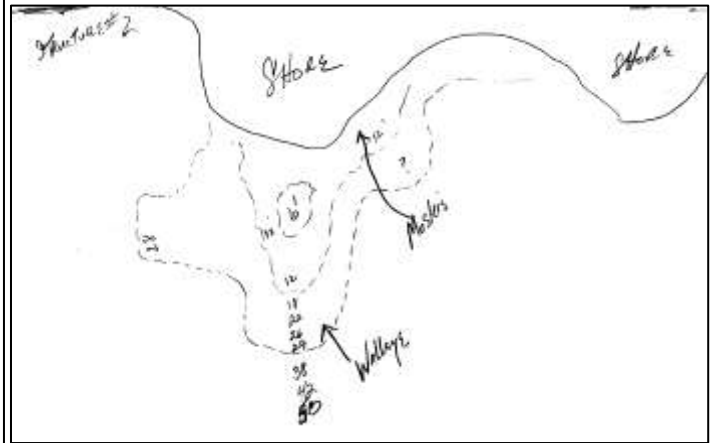
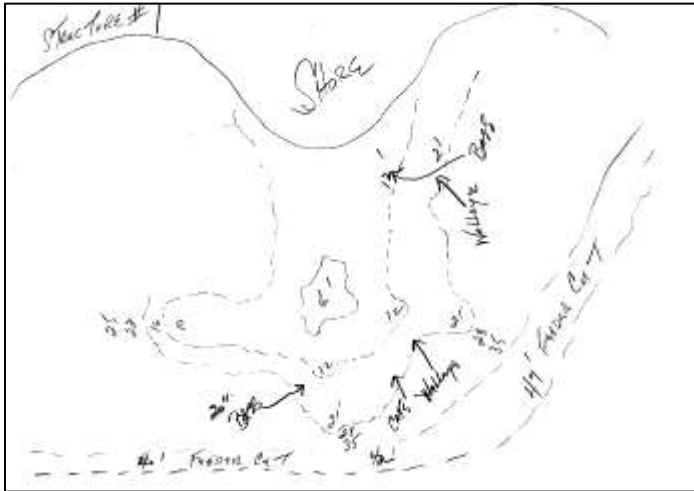
The above images reflect the difference between the two trips. The two images on the left have cloud cover that remained with us for a minimum of three consecutive days. Images on the right have us under blue-bird skies for the entire week, with the exception of Wednesday having clouds appear for the first time and build for 24 hours and then totally dissipate. Both weather conditions offered levels of stability but fish movements did vary dramatically. The first trip had more stragglers available, along with stronger movements. The September trip offered few stragglers and shorter and deeper movements from the fish. Three foot water color in September was good but did not compare to less than one foot earlier in the year.

My Reflections

- Although our catch did not match the first trip, I believe Bill and I did a better job in applying Spoonplugging knowledge and presentation of lures discipline. The September trip forced us to work deeper on the structures, along with anchoring and casting more than in June. We found most of the adult fish for each species below 20 feet and some at the 30 foot depth. (Walleye, Bass and Crappie)
- The second trip gave us the opportunity to find two additional productive structures we had not fished before. We also located a feature that offers possibilities but did not produce a fish. This feature crowns at 28 feet and will need to be checked on future trips going forward for walleye and muskie.

- We did experience two movements each day. The short morning movements started between 8:30AM and 11AM each day. If you did not contact a fish by 11AM, you would not see the fish again until 5PM. Total darkness arrived at 7:30PM.
- The tougher conditions require a greater discipline and focus when on the water. Sloppy depth and speed control will make a tough condition worst by further reducing your catch. Being on productive structure and exercising patience is critical to contacting fish. This situation can also reinforce valuable Spoonplugging lessons provided by Buck.

Maps of the New Structures Fished



Have a Happy and Safe New Year!

REVISED: 3 JUNE, 1987

LASALLE LAKE INFORMATION:
(LOCATED AT ILLINOI)
ILLINOI STATE PARK
P.O. BOX 160
GARELLES, IL 61341
815/795-4171

FIRE DEPARTMENT
CALL 911

AMBULANCE
CALL 911

COUNTY SHERIFF
815/433-2161

ILLINOIS STATE POLICE
815/224-1150

STARVED ROCK STATE PARK
P.O. BOX 1116
UTICA, IL 61373
815/667-4726

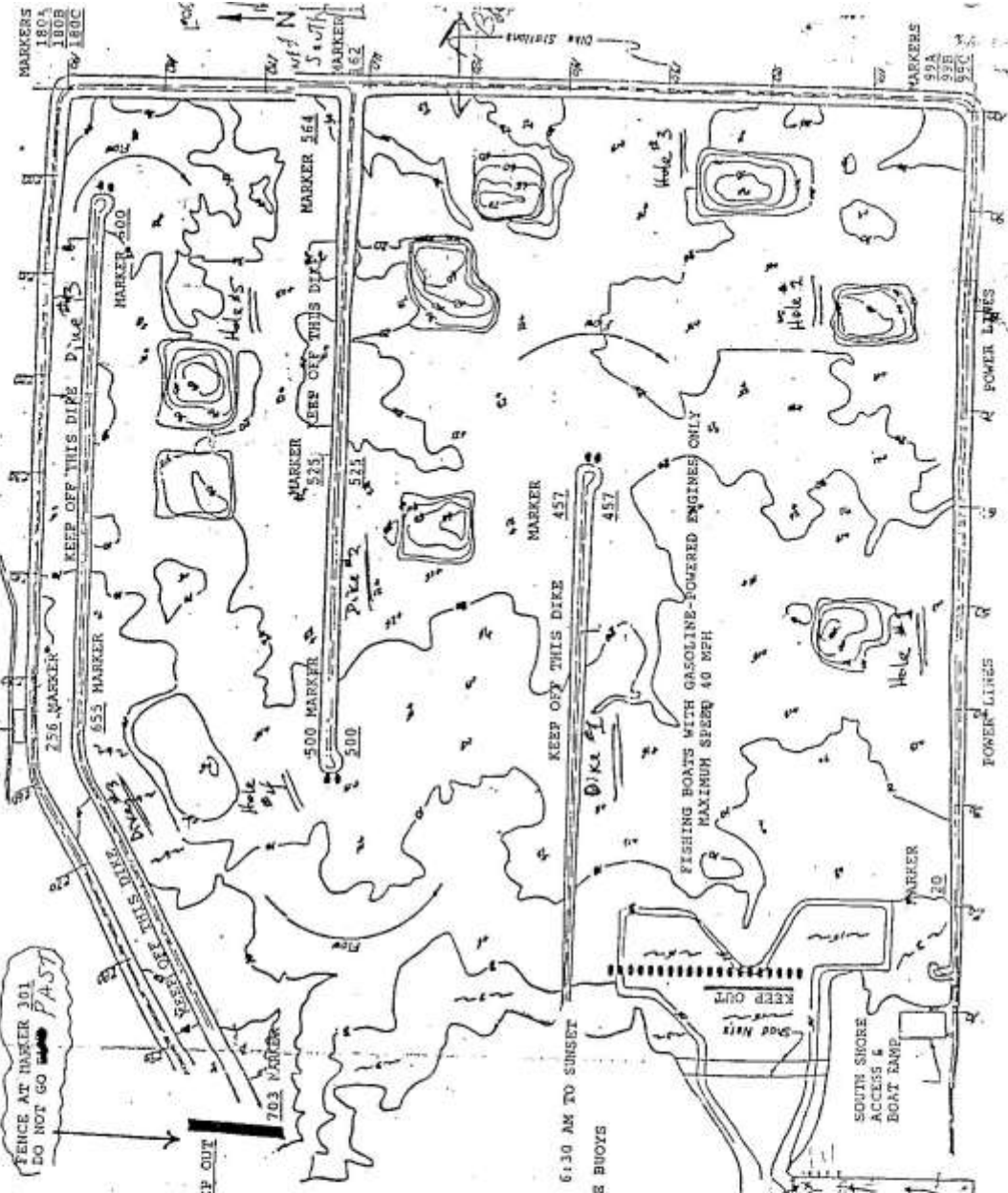
DISTRICT FISHERIES BIOLOGIST
CASTLE ROCK STATE PARK
R.R.#2
OREGON, IL 61061
815/712-6184

THIS LAKE IS:
OPEN: ~~APPROXIMATELY 6:30 AM TO SUNSET~~
CLOSED: ~~APPROXIMATELY 6:30 AM TO SUNSET~~

HOURS:
SOUTH ENTRANCE - 6 AM TO SUNSET
NORTH ENTRANCE (BANK FISHING ONLY) 6:30 AM TO SUNSET
RESTRICTED AREAS MARKED WITH ORANGE BUOYS
SHOWN ON MAP WITH:

NORTH SHORE ACCESS
OPEN 6:30 AM TO SUNSET

FENCE AT MARKER 301
DO NOT GO ~~PAST~~

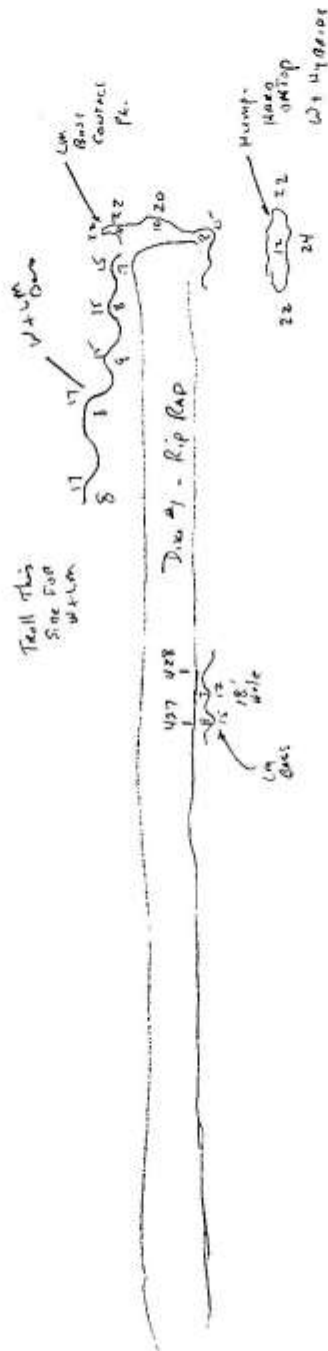


Enlarged Diagram of South Shore Parking Lot

FOLLOW ARROWS WHEN PARKING AND LEAVING LOT

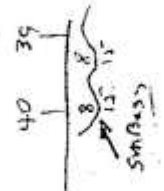
ACCESS BEYOND IS POINT

Subject Dike #1 - Rip Rap
North of Launch Ramp

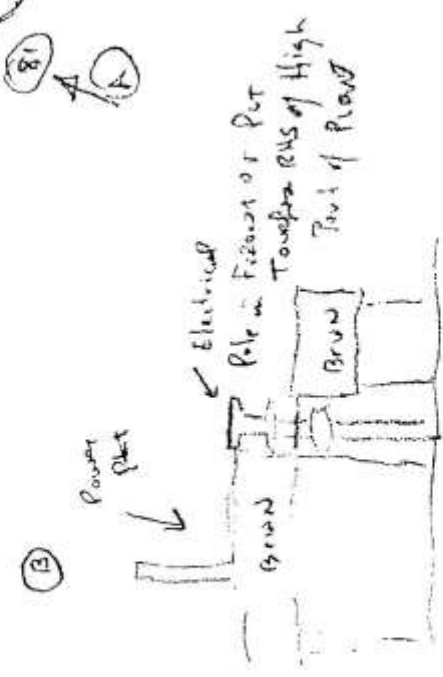
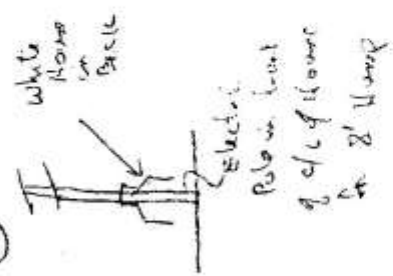
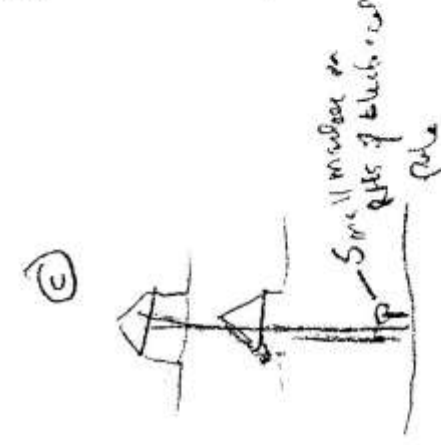
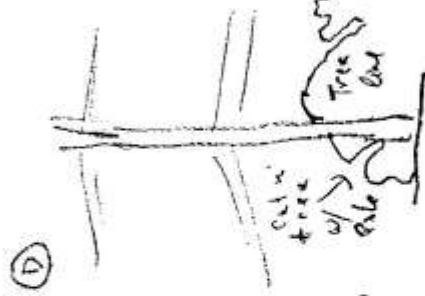
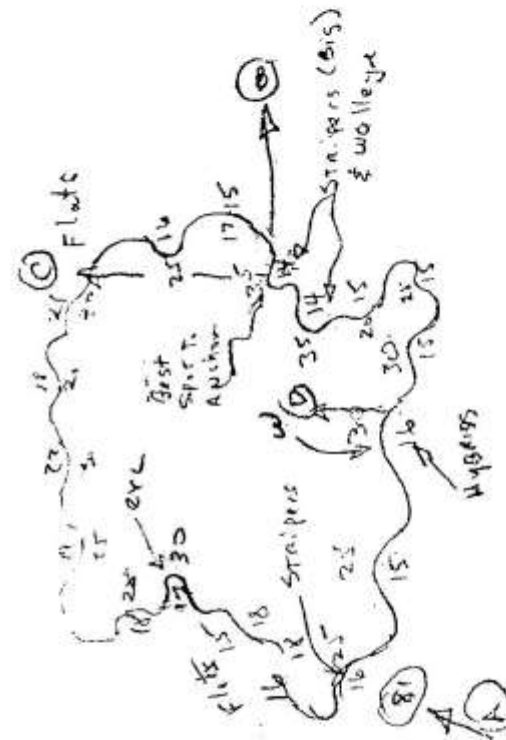


Subject Hole # 1 Between
40 & 50 MARKERS ON SHORE

Stripers, Wallage
June - 1989
July - 1990

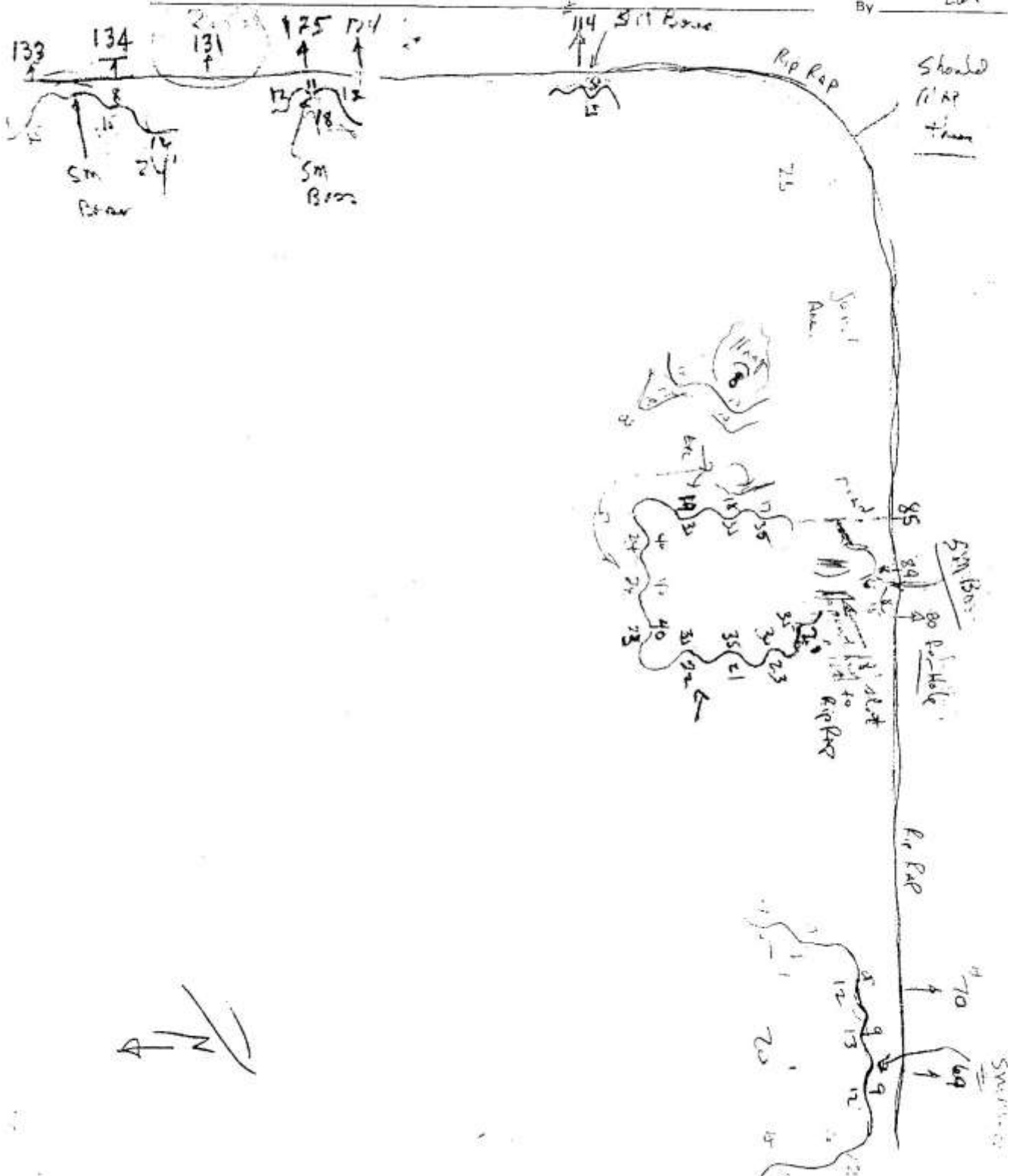


Hole along All Round
the 250's w/w.m. & 700/800's



Subject

Hole # 2 & EAST Rip RAP



Engineering Chart

32-592 (rev. 1-74)
Item #40-08650

Sheet No. 4 of 01

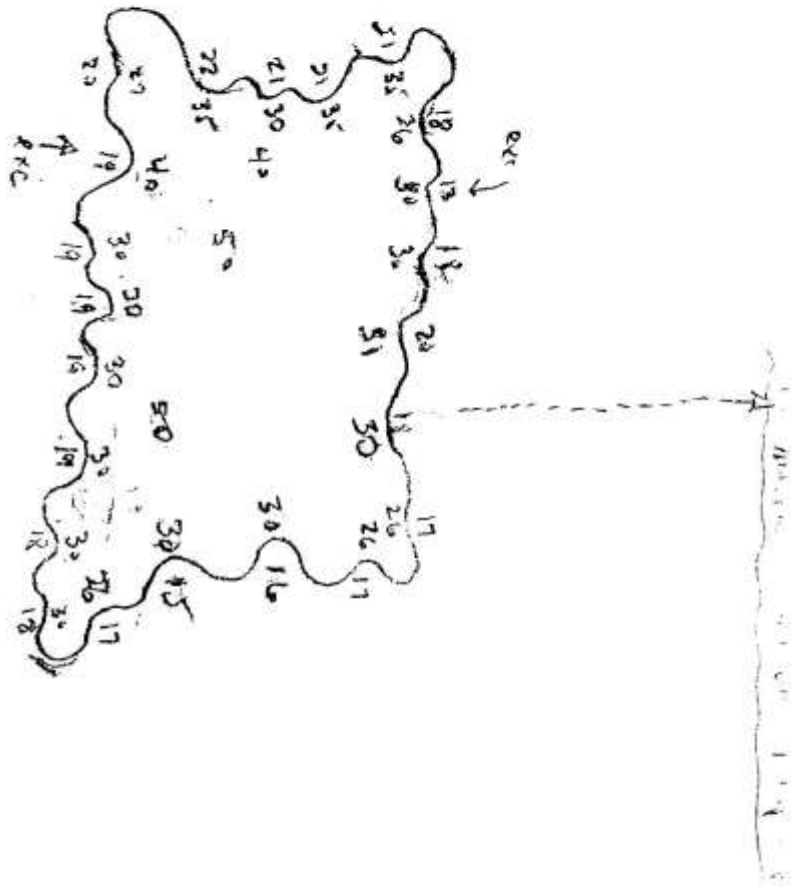
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App. _____

Date 8/9/92

By LWP

Subject Hole 3 - OFF EAST Rip RAP



Engineering Chart

32-592 (rev. 1-74)
Item #40-06660

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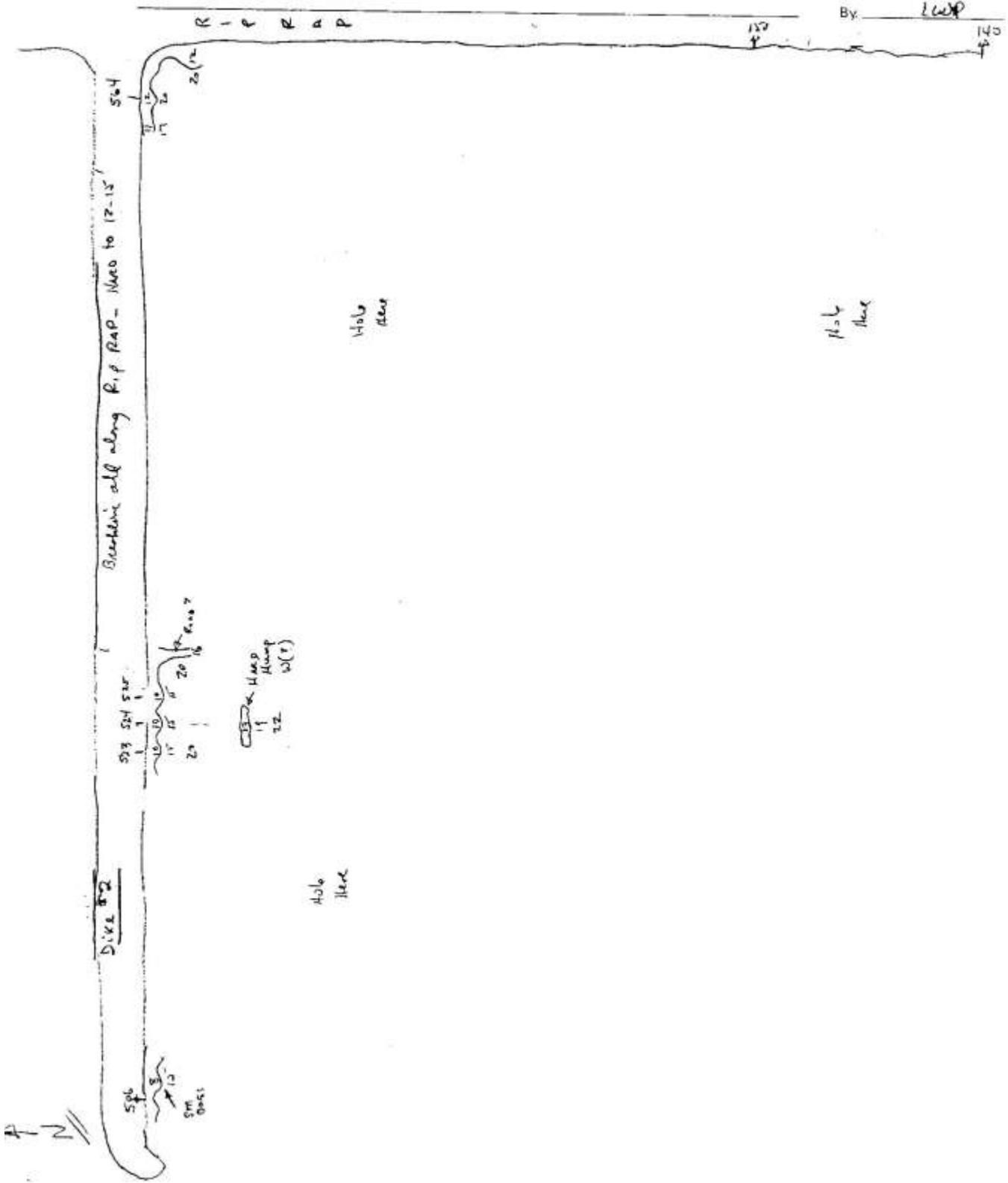
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Date 8/3/90

By LWP

Subject Dike #2 - NORTH OF Dike #1



Engineering Chart

32-592 (rev. 1-74)
Item #40-06650

Sheet No. 6 Of

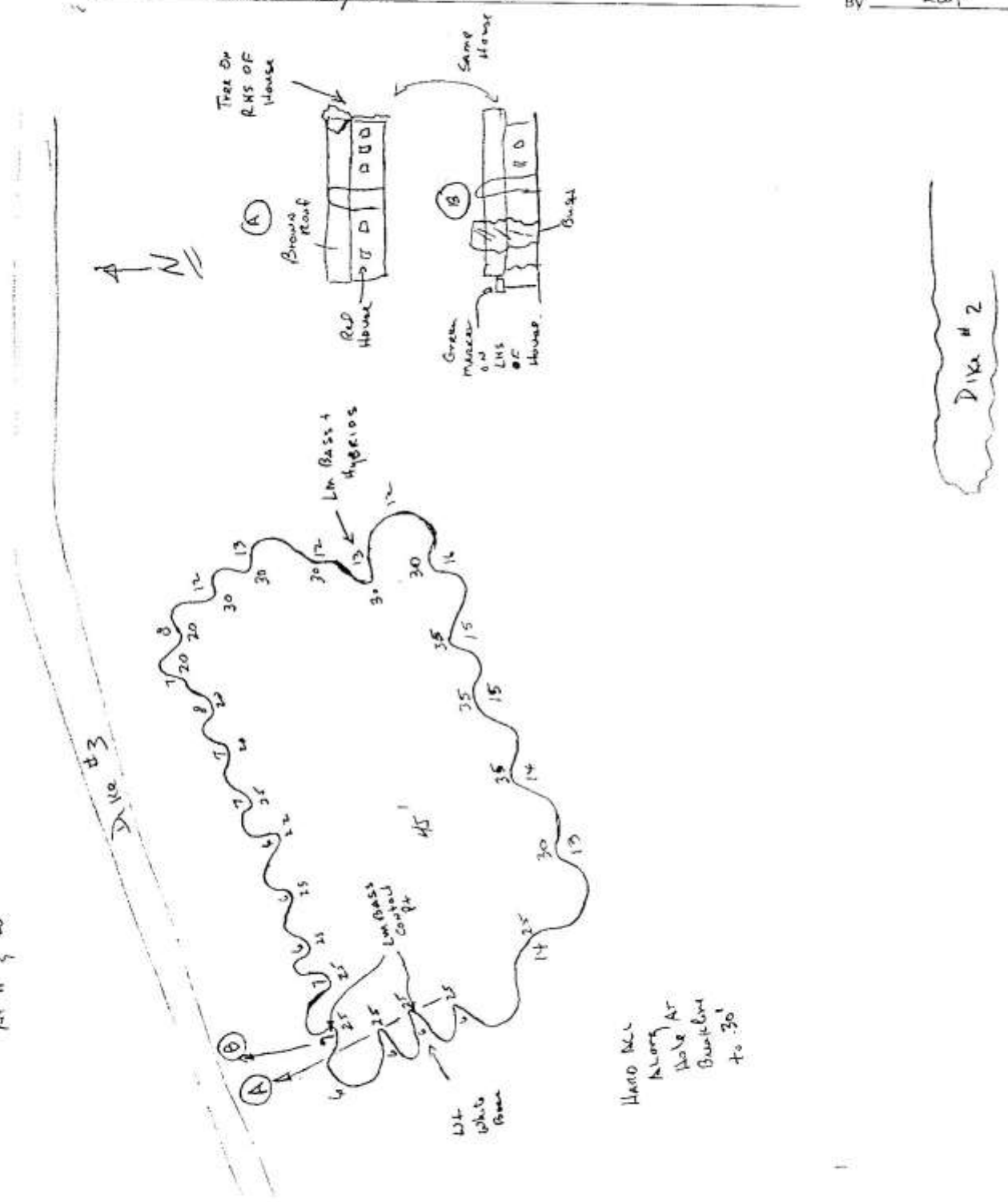
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Date 8/9/60

By LWP

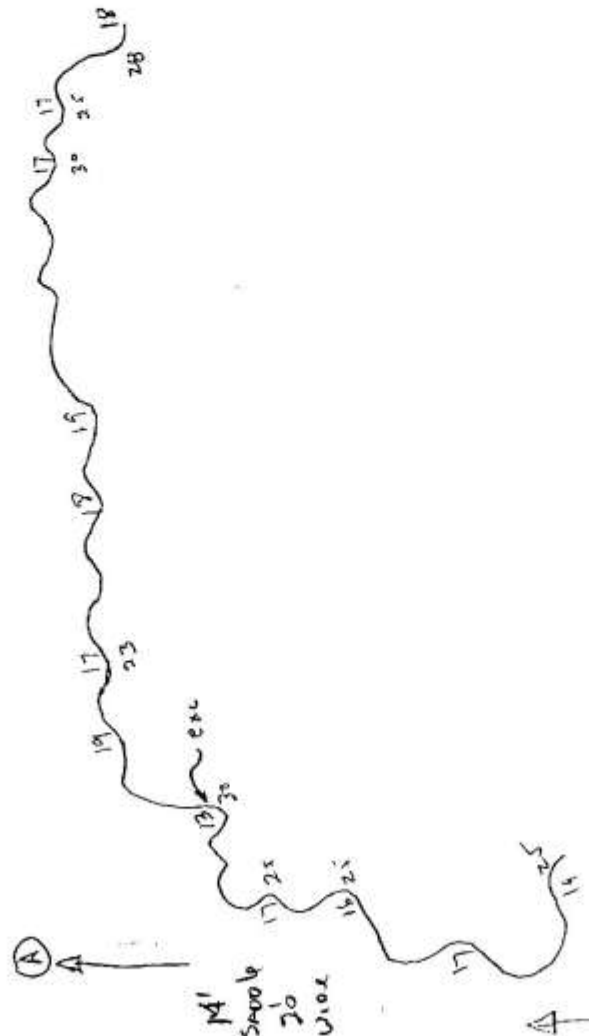
Subject Hole #4
NORTH - Beyond Dike #2



Subject Hole #5 - (PARTIAL) ALONG DIKE #3
IN NORTH PART OF LASALLE



HEADS ALL ALONG BENCHLINE



M' Spool
20
Viox

Complete
Mixing
Time