Thursday April 9th /89/

3:10 in cave — Sampson's Palace Route / trip

Mr D. L. Downs came over from Capt. Willard about 10:00 o'clock this morning. He & Capt. Willard said that "the report about Schofield trying to sell Wind Cave" is unfounded. At 12:30 M. D. L. Downs & started in the cave to see the Geode Hall branch of the Sampson's Palace Route. When we got to Fallen Flats we got off on an exploring trip. At the North West corner of this room we found an open passage leading to the North West. We followed this passage about 300 or 400 feet but it got so small that we abaded the exploration until we had more time. We found 3 or 4 magnificent rooms & plenty of Geodes. We came back to the main passage and did not explore any more until we got to the next room South East of the Fallen Flats. Here we found a passage leading to the North. We got about 30 or 40 feet in this direction when I told Mr. Downs to wait for me while I explored a passage leading to the right. I went about 1,000 feet (due East) through a massive oven & came to a place had sand in the bottom but it was muddy on the walls. I found a passage leading to the left & followed it into two or three fine rooms but there was mud on the walls & floor. I thought that I heard a stream of water but was not sure. When we got back to Mr Downs, we started due North through a beautiful passage with a few small rooms. We came back to the main passage & followed it to the first room this side of Geode Hall. We lit up the room with a red light and then started to the entrance, arriving there at 3:40 P.M.. Mr. Downs went over to Capt. Willards night & take the map of the cave to Custer with him tomorrow