

In Clearing Stumps

By Record Staff Writer

HANOVER—An underground cave about 17 feet deep, under about 30 inches of top soil, has been discovered on the farm of Allan Poechman of Brant Township.

Discovery of the cave was made after Mr. Poechman decided to clear out the bush on eight acres of land at the rear of his property because the Dutch elm disease had taken a toll of many hardwood trees.

All the trees were removed last winter. Mr. Poechman hired a construction firm to get rid of the stumps before planting grain in the fertile field.

The underground cave was discovered at the root of a large tree stump when a 20,000 ton bulldozer broke through the top soil.

Residents who have lived all their lives in the area doubt that the cave had been used by pioneers as a storage place because the nearest home that they can remember was at least 60 rods away.

The terrain of the land from the Poechman farm, located about 1½ miles south of here, to the hamlet of Karlsruhe is rock base.

On some sections of the Poechman farm the rock is nearer the surface. Mr. Poechman can recall his father selling rock at a \$1 a load to building contractors.

The hole, however, is believed not to be man-made.

Mr. Poechman plans to fill the cave with stone to use as a natural drain for the field.



CAVE ENTRANCE—Alan Poechman, RR 2, Walkerton, stands in entrance of cave discovered while clearing tree stumps from his farm field. Depth of cave is 17 feet.