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Scott Dankof

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# INTERCOM

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**Iowa Grotto Meetings:** are the fourth Wednesday of each month, third Wednesday in December at 7:30 p.m. in room 125 or thereabouts of Trowbridge Hall on the campus of the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

**Cover Photo:** Lowell Burkhead at the 1976 Iowa Grotto Picnic  
Photo by Bill Hart

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**IOWA GROTTO**  
National Speleological Society  
P. O. Box 228  
Iowa City, Iowa 52244

Chairman - - - - - Mike Lace  
Vice Chairman - - - - Ed Klausner  
Secretary Treasurer - - Phil LaRue

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Issue 1

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# IOWA GROTTO MINUTES

January 23, 2002

Regular Meeting

The meeting of the Iowa Grotto was called to order by Chairman Mike Lace at 7:30 p.m. There were seven members present. Minutes from the December meeting were read and approved. A treasurer's report was given which showed balances of \$747.67 in the Coldwater fund; \$546.26 in the General fund; and \$118.72 in petty cash. TRIP REPORTS: Mike Lace reported on his trip to the Puerto Rican mainland with Chris Beck, John Lovaas and Pat Kambesis, where four caves were mapped. He then reported on the trips at Coldwater Cave: Mike Nelson, with assistance from Jim Roberts, did a cave dive at one more sump; Mark Jones, Mike L. and Larry Welch did some survey work beyond the big nasty, making Coldwater Cave the 32nd largest cave in the United States. Chris Beck, Scott Dankof, Jim Elliott, Randy Morris, with the Rock River Grotto, and Doug Schmuecker went on a photography trip. Ed Klausner reported on the year end trip in December to Fayette Co., bringing the survey total for 2001 to one hundred caves. He then reported on his trip to Coldwater with Mark Jones and Larry Welch for some survey work at the slot passage and Tom Sawyer Dome. Greg McCarty reported on his November trip to Floyd Co. where he did some digging in various sinkholes. He returned in December for more digging and to collect g.p.s. coordinates. He returned earlier this month to Floyd Co. with Deb for further work. FUTURE TRIPS: See the January Hotline and N.S.S. News for details. OLD BUSINESS: Volume III of the Cave Map Book is available for \$25.00. Republished Intercom back issues are available. Contact Phil LaRue for details. Officers for 2002, are Mike L., Chairperson, Ed K., Vice-chairperson and Phil L., Secretary/Treasurer. Scott D. is still looking for material to be used in the issue dedicated to Lowell Burkhead. Lowell Burkhead's estate was sold intact to Greg McCarty's sister. There will be a spring auction on Lowell's equipment. New Business: Intercom deadline is March 1st, 2002. Don Koch has retired from the State Geology Office. Bill Green has retired from the State Archeologist's Office. Lester Teslow, long time grotto member, has passed away. Greg McCarty discussed the length of the Grotto meetings. Some months, the meetings are so short that members who must travel some distance to attend may not find the meeting worth the bother. He requested more programs and advertising the meeting location and date to encourage better attendance. With no additional new business, the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m..

# IOWA GROTTO MINUTES

February 27, 2002

Regular Meeting

The meeting of the Iowa Grotto was called to order by Chairman Mike Lace, at 7:59 p.m., after a slide program on Mike's recent trip to Puerto Rico. There were nine members and three guests present: Charlie Knight, and Dennis and Chad Vanourny. Minutes from the January 2002, meeting were read and approved. A treasurer's report was given which showed balances of \$747.67 in the Coldwater fund; \$676.26 in the General fund; and \$118.72 in Petty Cash. TRIP REPORTS: Ed Klausner reported on the two trips to Jones Co., with Gary Engh, Mike Lace, Phil LaRue and Elizabeth Miller where eleven caves were surveyed. He then reported on the trip to Fayette Co., with Mike L. where two caves were surveyed. He concluded his report on a trip to Mammoth Cave Nat'l Park, Kentucky, with Pat Kambesis, where Proctor Cave and Hidden River Cave were visited. Ed reported that their party became temporarily lost due to an incomplete survey while in Hidden River Cave. He also reported that Roppel Cave and Shannon Grove Cave were visited outside of the park. Mike L. reported on the trip into Coldwater Cave, where Mark Jones and Larry Welch did some additional survey work in the eastern area. At present, the cave is 137 feet short of sixteen miles. Greg McCarty reported on the trip that he and Deb took to Maquoketa Caves State Park to properly locate Bar Bell Cave. No bats were observed while visiting Rainy Day Cave. On another trip, he and Deb checked on the entrance to Deep Misery Cave, and they looked for Rain Drain Sink. G.P.S. coordinates were collected at the spring in Osage Spring Park. FUTURE TRIPS: See the February Hotline and N.S.S. News for details. Charlie Winterwood and Greg

McCarty will be leading a group from the Sierra Club into Soward's Cave, Fayette Co.. A trip is planned to Engelkin's Cave in March or April. OLD BUSINESS: Volume III of the Cave Map Book is available for \$25.00. Republished Intercom back issues are available. Contact Phil LaRue for details. NEW BUSINESS: Intercom deadline is March 1st, 2002. Tom Hruska has donated several books to the Grotto library, including original copies of the Iowa Cave Book. The Putnam Museum, Davenport, will be showing "Amazing Caves" at the IMAX Theatre, March 16th thru July 12th, 2002. With no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m..

#### Editors note

These first few reports are part of the Lowell Burkhead Memorial Issue. Thanks to those of you who sent stories and photos. Ed..

#### REAL CAVERS?

By Ed Klausner

Rich Feltes and I joined Lowell and I think Bob Walstrom and Paul Miller several years ago in Floyd County to see if we could break into a small opening at the bottom of a new sinkhole. The opening was rather small and looked as if it would take quite a bit of work to enlarge. Lowell looked at me and said, "A REAL caver could get in there". Of course, this had the proper effect and we were quickly at the entrance. Rich and I did manage to finally get into this small, tight cave. Lowell, in the meantime, took out a sandwich and ate while he watched us struggling. Later, he took a nap. The cave was named Two Hours Digging, although it actually took us longer than two hours. It was close to Two Days Digging and the name seemed appropriate. Without Lowell's "encouragement", we may never have surveyed this 21 foot cave.

#### Grotto Picnic Chili

Lowell Burkhead

Approximately equal parts - Brooks Chili Hot Beans  
Hunts Tomato Sauce  
(half regular and half with peppers and onions)  
Ground beef, very lean  
Amounts optional to taste - Chili powder  
Chopped onions  
Garlic  
Salt

Dump the beans and tomato sauce in a large covered pan and start to heat. Put the chopped onions in a skillet and cover with the ground beef. Cover and place on low heat. It shouldn't be hot enough to fry or even boil, just hot enough to bubble gently after it starts to steam. When the beef has lost its red color on the outside, mash with a fork and mix in the cooked out water. Cover and continue to simmer until there is no more pink beef. The slower the beef can be cooked, the better. When it's done, mash again if necessary and mix with the beans and tomato sauce. Do not drain the beef. Add the chili powder and garlic. Simmer, stirring occasionally, until the grease comes to the top and will no longer stir down. This should take anywhere from 30 minutes to 1 and 1/2 hours according to the heat setting. Remove from heat and stir in salt to taste. Allow to cool and then refrigerate. Serve hot one to two days later or freeze for later use. It can be eaten fresh after its made but is not as good.



## A Lowell Burkhead Story

By Larry Welch

I've had a lot of associations with Lowell over the years, mostly about caving, but I can't say that I actually went on a lot of cave trips with Lowell. I haven't caved much outside of Coldwater in the last decade, and what trips Lowell took during the same span were done elsewhere. We were pleasantly surprised to see him at Coldwater party month this year, and he was semi-famous for a handful of other activities that took place at the Coldwater Compound despite not caving there recently. In particular, there is one dent on the side of the cave shack for which Lowell was responsible, and some of the Lowell-Bruce Foyer repartee is very memorable - mostly Lowell giving Bruce grief. Of course, giving people grief is one of the things that Lowell was best at. Lowell also gained a claim to fame during the construction of the bunks at the Coldwater shack, where he managed to inspire an intemperate outburst by Dave DeVries over his comments about Dave's carpentry skills. I'm sure Lowell went caving at Coldwater sometime during my time up there, but I honestly can't remember anything other than some of the incidents that took place on the surface.

Back when I lived in Iowa, I went on a lot of grotto trips to places other than Coldwater. This correlated to the years just after I joined the grotto back in 1986, yet Lowell was not a very active caver during this time span. He had suffered diabetic complications not long before, and he was still learning to treat the disease at this point in time. With Lowell, treating diabetes was not just a matter of listening to what the doctor told him, but Lowell in fact was an active decision-maker regarding his treatment as well. Some of the therapeutic regimens were not ones that seemed sensible to most (including his doctor), but after all it was his body and who were we to scoff at his innovations. Well meaning folks would at times suggest that Lowell should not be playing doctor (my wife Beth comes to mind), but he always had a firm rebuttal to support his actions.

Even during this lull in his caving career, Lowell was often brought out of the woodwork by an Iowa Grotto trip to April Cave. April was Lowell's baby. Although he missed the April discovery trip, that was not a great loss because the cave was of little consequence at that time. It was a beautiful locale and a picturesque entrance, but the cave barely went 50 feet before being blocked by a rock choke. Lowell spearheaded the breakthrough trip that pounded through the rock choke to find that the cave continued beyond. There was big cave back there - more than a mile of its main passage was probed when a crew with wetsuits finally had a good look beyond the choke.

April was suddenly a large and significant cave. While others scampered ahead to check leads and then moved on to other projects, Lowell took the long view and got in on the ground floor of the April Cave survey. He established a good relationship with the cave owners, and was the closest liaison the grotto had with them for years afterward. Anyone who has bellycrawled into the stream entrance of April will recognize that its survey was a significant undertaking. Along with Mike Bounk, Gary Engh, Gwenne Engh, and a handful of others, Lowell pushed the main passage survey all the way to the sump in a series of epic trips. Lowell's specialty was reading the compass, at which Gwenne described him as being the "past master".

Those who were in on these early survey trips also formed strong bonds with each other. These were hard trips. All of the entry passage would have been hard to survey under the best of circumstances. Much of the early survey was done before there was a road down to the spring, so a long slog to and from the cave was necessary. Some of these trips were done in the winter, to capitalize on low water levels. At times the cave was sucking, and the cold winter air was transported back to where the survey crew was laying in the water. Exiting the cave in winter meant hiking up the hill and through the woods with an armor of ice forming over the caver's body, a potentially dangerous situation. The survey project also had a bit of mystique to it, since it was a "secret" cave. The entrance was not gated for the early part of the survey, yet the cave was located relatively close to a popular fishing area and the well-known and oft-visited Glenwood Cave. As well, published trip reports from the discovery of the cave described in detail how to find it. To help keep vandals out of this pristine wonderland, and to minimize



scooping from other cavers, the "Yankee" project was coined to help maintain secrecy. Although he would probably have denied it, I think Lowell kind of enjoyed the whole "secret cave" era.

The emplacement of the gate ended the secret project, but was a major undertaking itself. Anyone who has gone through it will have marveled at its construction and installation, and also will have cursed Lowell for putting it in such a damn uncomfortable spot. Those unlucky souls who have had to open the lock will have cursed Lowell for putting it in such an inaccessible spot. He would always point out, rightly, that it made it almost impossible for someone to take the lock off with a cutting torch. It also made it almost impossible for someone to take the lock off with the key. It required a person to grovel in the stream and fiddle about with a lock that is around the corner and out of sight while their chin was soaking in the stream. Yes, Lowell really did that gate right.

Even if he wasn't planning on a wetsuit trip, Lowell went on the April expeditions. He liked to spend time picking berries in the forest or chatting with the Teslows, and often talked Lester into taking us to check some leads at neighboring farms after we got out of April. Lowell was a cog in the April Cave survey effort, even when he wasn't going into the cave.

Lowell had a 3-legged dog named Babe during the late 1980's, who got around amazingly well given her situation. This was no crippled dog - one visit to the Burkhead homestead to view the animal carcasses that she had left behind in the yard would convince you of that. Babe liked to roam and run free, but April Cave was one of the few places where she didn't have this luxury. Lester had swans on the pond at the time, and they were very feisty and territorial. To keep the trespassers out, he had his dog Lucky chained up down by the pond, and he was just mean and nasty. Babe knew that she was on foreign turf here, so she was much less active than usual.

On one particular April trip, Lowell had decided that he was feeling well enough to go into the cave. I don't remember many details about the day or even who all was on the trip, but I do recall that Lowell had his wetsuit on and was making arrangements for Babe to be comfortable while he was in the cave. We had gotten the gate open and were beginning the long crawl into the cave. Several hundred feet in, there was a bit of commotion. Lowell was somewhere near the head of the column of cavers, and from the rear Babe came galloping past us. She had decided that she didn't want to be outside waiting by herself, so she had followed us into the cave. She didn't have a light on, but that didn't seem to be slowing her down even though we were well beyond the twilight zone. Ten minutes later, both Lowell and the dog came past us going back out of the cave. She had apparently gone past Lowell too, and he had had a time of it getting her turned around and headed back out. Babe didn't seem to be bothered by the cold water or the darkness. We waited for awhile for Lowell to rejoin us, but he never did come back in the cave for whatever reason. I guess that Babe must not have been around during his earlier April surveying days, so was hopelessly confused to see him crawl into the cave entrance. In any case, seeing a 3-legged dog that far into April Cave was one of the stranger things that I have seen over the years. If I remember correctly, Lowell only made it into April Cave one more time, and that was the famous trip where he was accosted by little green men in the cave. I'm hoping that either Mike Lace or Stacey Cyphert will detail this one, as they were his companions on the trip. I don't remember what Babe did during this trip, but I'm guessing that she might have been left at home.

We'll miss Lowell. He was a lot of different things, but dull was never one of them.

#### CONSOLATION CAVING

Chisel Cave, Floyd County, IA

6 January, 2002

Gary Engh, Ed Klausner, Elizabeth Miller, Paul Miller, Bob Wahlstrom

By Ed Klausner

While many of the regular weekend crew (Mike Lace, Chris Beck, John Lovaas, and Pat Kambesis) were in Puerto Rico caving in shorts, the rest of us were left with



Iowa winter caving. What better way to spend a cold, windy January day than walk around the flat (i.e. unprotected) areas of Floyd County.

After checking in with a landowner near the Cedar River, he related that he had a piece of property along the river with steep bluffs and a spring or two. In addition, he owned a flat area with some sinkholes. Gary, Elizabeth and I opted for the river while Bob and Paul checked on two obvious sinks near the house. The sinks were plugged, so Bob and Paul met up with us near the river. We too, had no luck and after a long hike, decided to drive to the northern end of this landowner's field and work south.

The first few sinkholes were plugged, but we soon found a mostly open one. After a little work with a hammer and chisel, we were able to crawl in. There was almost no depth to this cave, or for that matter, length. It was 16.5 feet long and was solutional. Under the breakdown near the entrance, a continuation of the passage could be seen that most likely led to another sinkhole entrance about 8 feet away. Elizabeth ascertained that that sinkhole had a small passage going towards the newly named Chisel Cave. I suppose that with a few day's work, Chisel Cave could be extended an additional 8 feet, but we decided to leave that for someone else. Bob and Paul worked their way further south and found that the sinkhole area ended in a grove of trees.

The last stop of the day was an adjacent field with lots of sinkholes. We had found several caves here in the past, such as Twicea Cave, Decorated Chamber, and Algal Mounds. Greg McCarty has been working in the area, although we did not visit any of his dig sites. We didn't find any new openings before we got too cold and all headed home.

We found that a GPS would have been very valuable in a large flat area such as this. With no ridges, valleys, streams, etc. to use as a reference, it was difficult to tell exactly which sinkhole was which. Unfortunately, none of us had a GPS along, so that will have to wait for a later date.

#### FIVE IN A ROW

Tozer, Two Horse, Sally Sox, High Pocket, and Calamity Caves  
Jackson County, IA  
20 January, 2002  
Gary Engh and Ed Klausner

By Ed Klausner

The number of times we had stopped at a landowner's house to ask about a reported cave was getting to be a joke between Gary and me. We couldn't remember if this was the fourth or fifth time, but we figured we'd try again and then go somewhere else when they weren't home. Much to our surprise, someone was home and we got permission and directions to one known small cave.

The first stretch of rock we came to was full of holes. The first several turned out to be the entrances of solutional pockets that were too short to survey, although they gave us hope that there would be at least a few legitimate caves nearby. We soon found a wide shelter cave that was 18 feet deep with a sinkhole entrance at the back. Tozer Cave was surveyed, although we did not name any caves until the end of the day.

The next find was a small solutional hole that narrowed a foot or so from the entrance and looked as if it may be impassible. Once I stuck my head in far enough to see that there was a room ahead, I decided it was worth the effort to try to get past the constriction. The room had an 8 ½ foot ceiling and was about 3 feet wide. Gary shot instrument in from the entrance and I surveyed the rest of the cave alone while Gary looked for additional entrances along the rock face. The cave, Two Horse Cave, turned out to be T shaped with the left branch of the T quickly choked by breakdown. The right hand side was 17 feet long before it, too, was breakdown choked. The total surveyed length was 23 feet. The cave even had an inactive stalactite.

Gary found what was probably the cave described by the landowner on a point of the bluff. There was an 8-foot climb to a solutional tube. Sally Sox Cave was only 19 feet long, but it was a complicated, multilevel cave with an upper entrance. The upper area had a 7-foot ceiling.

High Pocket Cave had a 19-foot climb to a solutional tube that formed a T. The climb was worth it as there was 40 feet of cave with dried flowstone.

The last find of the day was a short solutional cave near the bottom of the cliff face. It was 15 feet long with some small inactive stalactites. This cave was tentatively named Calamity Jane Cave, but shortened to Calamity Cave.

We walked the rest of the property without finding any additional caves. Names for the caves were suggested by the landowner, who owned two horses - Calamity Jane and Susie Sox.

#### JONES COUNTY GATEWAY

Gateway, Southern Exposure, Nothing Fancy, Spider Dome, Quick Shot, Room With a View Caves  
By Ed Klausner  
Jones County  
27 January, 2002  
Gary Engh, Ed Klausner, Phil LaRue, Mike Lace, and Elizabeth Miller

Elizabeth and I met Mike, Gary and Phil in Temple Hill on an unusually warm January morning. Our first few stops at landowners turned out to be disappointing as none were home. We decided to look at a stretch of land with exposed rock for which we had already obtained landowner permission. It was a nice hike, but no caves.

In the afternoon, we returned to one of the first landowner's houses and got permission to walk his land. It was worth the wait. As soon as we entered a valley behind his house, we found a solutional cave with a wide shelter entrance that we later named Gateway Cave, as it was a gateway to the other caves in this beautiful valley. Elizabeth, Gary and I stayed to survey this cave while Mike and Phil continued ridgewalking. This cave had a joint controlled passage at the back with flowstone, fossils, abundant popcorn, and a stalactite. Total survey length was 45 feet.

While surveying Gateway Cave, we heard Mike's yell of amazement as he found the next cave - Southern Exposure Cave. It was a wide shelter cave, about 35 feet across and had a walk-in opening 21 ½ feet deep. The back ceiling was about 12 feet high.

While Gary, Elizabeth and I walked one side of the valley, Mike and Phil walked the other side. They found and surveyed Nothing Fancy Cave, a slip joint cave with a solutional, joint controlled passage that was surveyed to 39.6 feet.

Gary next found a nice two-entranced cave that formed a "U". It was tight, but you could do a door-to-door in this 33-½ foot solutional cave. The two small domes had insects and spiders, thus the name, Spider Dome Cave.

While we were surveying Spider Dome Cave, Mike was surveying a small (17 foot) solutional cave across the side valley, while Phil was digging open a cave high on the opposite cliff face. Mike surveyed Quick Shot alone. He then went to Phil's dig with Gary and they surveyed Room With A View Cave. This was a solutional cave in crumbly rock. There was an upper level, giving this cave a total surveyed length of 29.6 feet.

It was getting late in the day, but Gary talked to a landowner on adjacent property and got us permission to search for caves. We found ice thick enough to support our weight and crossed to the opposite side. There were lots of suggestive shadows. Mike sprinted to one and found a shelter cave that we will have to survey some other time since there is a lot of rock left in the area that will certainly yield more caves.

#### FROST AVENUE

Proctor Cave section of Mammoth Cave  
16 February, 2002  
Bob Hoke, Ed Klausner, Erik Sikora and Jason Walz  
By Ed Klausner



I had expected to be working on the small cave project on the first day of the CRF February expedition, but there weren't enough people around with vertical gear, so Pat Kambesis got a group together for a Proctor trip with two objectives. The first was to see what it would take to rig a rope into Bivalve Boulevard and the second was going to the end of the northern portion of Frost Avenue to sketch the vertical relief.

Jason was the only member of the group who had never been through the Proctor Crawl, but he was an experienced caver and worked for the park service at Mammoth. There were a few things about going through the crawl that made the one-hour belly crawl easier. Tethering my pack to my ankle rather than my belt made dragging my pack easier. It seemed to get stuck less often and was easier to free when it did get stuck. Removing my Mega and replacing it with a smaller profile LED light also made the trip easier as I could turn my head in more places without the larger profile Mega. The four of us stayed fairly close together and we could hear each other complaining.

Once through the crawl, we came to a narrow, wet canyon passage. Highlights here were several blind crayfish and one pigmented salamander. I remembered the location of Bivalve Boulevard from a previous trip and we spent some time discussing how to rig the drop. It had been rigged previously, but abandoned when another way down to the river was discovered. There is still more to survey on Bivalve Boulevard and hopefully it will lead to new passages. It is pretty tight and will require small people with vertical gear.

On our way to the north end of Frost Avenue, we took a slight detour and went south along Frost Avenue to take some pictures. In the next several hundred feet we saw many different types of gypsum formations: flowers, angel hair, cotton, beards, and snow. The walls, ceiling and floor are so covered with these formations that it looks like frost.

We tore ourselves away from our gawking and proceeded north to a slot where we dropped down to another northern passage. We came to a room that was described as small with the passage continuing above the entrance. The passage did indeed continue above where you entered the room, but the notes neglected to say that it was size restricted. Jason couldn't fit, no matter how hard he tried. Erik and I pushed through while Bob waited with Jason. We went down a few hundred feet of passage gathering the information needed on the vertical relief without ever coming to the end of the passage. We decided not to go further because we didn't want to split the group up for any length of time.

On the way back, we took a few more pictures along Frost Avenue and turned our minds off for the long crawl back. All in all, it was a 12-hour trip.

#### GHOST TOWN

Downward Twist, Foundation, Unnamed, Phil's Elbow, and Abandoned Caves

Jones County

By Ed Klausner

23 February, 2002

Gary Engh, Ed Klausner, Mike Lace, Phil LaRue, and Elizabeth Miller

Our destination for this fine February day was the valley that contained an abandoned town in Jones County. We had mapped several caves north of the town, but hadn't had time to finish walking the valley. On that trip, we also hadn't had a camera to take entrance pictures, so we took pictures of the previously surveyed caves on our way to the new area to be walked. Our first cave turned out to be a small solutional tube next to Nothing Fancy Cave. It would have been easy to pass by as it was a small, uninviting opening. Once inside, I could actually sit up and turn around. Phil shot compass and clino into the sit up area. The passage made a right turn, so Phil handed me the instruments and I read instrument to the final station. Phil named this Downward Twist Cave.

Our next cave was a large solutional shelter that was 41 feet long. It had a desiccated cow in the middle. In one of the two pockets in the back, we found several small stalactites, stalagmites, draperies and flowstone. This cave was high on the cliff and offered a nice view of the valley below. This cave has yet



to be named. Mike sketched while the rest of us either helped with the survey or admired the dead cow.

Close by, we found another solutional cave that required three shots to survey. Total length was 31.5 feet. Unfortunately, this cave only had a small amount of flowstone. I sketched while the others helped with the survey or investigated the abandoned buildings nearby. We named this cave Foundation Cave due to its proximity to a building foundation.

The last cave on the west side of the stream was a talus cave. It would have been easy to skip it, but it was 26 feet long and just too big to ignore. I sketched again while Gary used Phil's elbow as a survey station. It just had to be named Phil's Elbow Cave.

We came to a property line and crossed to the other side of the stream. The rock on the other side was not as productive and we only found one shelter cave that was wide, but pretty low. Abandoned Cave was 20.5 feet long, but only 1 to 2 feet high along most of its length. Elizabeth helped me survey it while Mike, Gary, and Phil continued ridgewalking.

We located one additional cave (in fact, we had found it on our previous trip, but hadn't surveyed it). It will be our starting point for a future trip where we continue heading north along the valley that has thus far given us 11 caves.

#### LONG WAY AROUND

Hidden River Cave, Kentucky  
17 February, 2002  
Bob Hoke, Ed Klausner and Jason Walz

By Ed Klausner

Pat Kambesis wanted some sediment samples taken along the Fractal River in Hidden River Cave. Hidden River Cave is owned by the ACCA (American Cave Conservation Association) and they recently entered into an agreement with the CRF allowing CRF members into Hidden River Cave for surveying and other scientific work. Since Pat was the expedition leader for the February CRF expedition, she couldn't go caving. Instead, she gave us a map of the route to Fractal River. There were some snorts from people going on other trips who knew Hidden River. They thought we would have problems finding the route with only a hand drawn map.

Once inside the cave, we set off towards Sunset Dome along the main trunk passage. The dome was huge. One strange sound we heard was a low rumbling. This turned out to be a train going through the town of Horse Cave above. Hidden River Cave is in the middle of the town of Horse Cave.

The map had two passages leading off from Sunset Dome. We easily found the sumped passage along the north wall. Our passage was along the southeast and was supposed to be hard to find. When we found a hole in the floor almost an hour later, we followed it to the T intersection indicated on Pat's map. The only problem was that we were supposed to be in walking passage, not crawling passage. We had some additional doubts when we were in a flat out belly crawl, but attributed that to Pat's selective memory. There were several climb-downs that we knew would be tricky to get back up if we were wet and muddy. Surprise, we got wet and muddy.

Part of the route was through a nice cherty stream canyon passage. We expected to see several passages off to the right that led to a maze, but didn't see any passages until we got to another T intersection. After the second T-junction, things started looking like we were really in the wrong area. We climbed down 12-15 feet to an intersection, but there was no mud bank to walk on as indicated on the map, and the passage degenerated into a belly crawl through a stream that smelled like petroleum. At least we did see some blind cavefish. We were looking for a slot passage 5-6 feet up a mudbank on the right hand wall and were obviously in the wrong passage. We retreated to Sunset Dome after some buffoonery getting up the mud slopes. Exiting the cave was amusing, as we had to walk through the town of Horse Cave covered in mud and then changed in a public parking lot.

Once back at the CRF headquarters, we found that there was a third passage off Sunset Dome, but Pat hadn't drawn it in as it was difficult to find and she didn't think we'd find it. It turns out that the route we were following was the old way to the Fractal River, but was much longer and more complicated. The passage we



were looking for was discovered later and became the route of choice to the Fractal River area. At least we had a good tour of the cave.

#### ROPPEL RESURVEY

Roppel Cave section of Mammoth Cave  
19 February, 2002  
Pat Kambesis and Ed Klausner

By Ed Klausner

Pat had an afternoon class in Bowling Green and it was getting to be time for me to head back to Iowa. A few hours of surveying in Roppel Cave fit into both our schedules, so we drove the short distance to the entrance blasted open by Dave Weller. There are four sturdy ladders to help the descent through the dome leading down to Downy Avenue. The view from the ladders is pretty impressive.

On Downey Avenue, we hiked about 1000 feet to a breakdown room that was to be the start of our survey. Along the way, we passed a small pool with a clump of flatworms. We carefully avoided the pool so we wouldn't cloud the water. The picture I took of the flatworms didn't come out well since they were quite small. I would need a macro lens to improve the quality of the picture.

When we reached the breakdown room, Pat got ready to sketch, while I looked around the room to see where the various passages exited the room. There were four lower level passages and two high leads. We surveyed our way around the room and picked one of the lower passages to sketch. This passage pinched out after 30 or 40 feet. One of the other lower level passages was wide, but only a few feet high. There was an obvious cairn part way down the passage and we tied our survey into it. Although it had no survey station marked, it is obviously a station and Jim Borden will know the designation so it can be tied into the existing survey. This passage continued low for a short way and then intersected with a much larger passage. Unfortunately, we didn't have the time to continue surveying. There is a lot to do in Roppel and since it is outside the park, survey teams of four are not required. The advantage of this area for surveying is that it is close to the door, so a team with just a few hours can still accomplish something.

#### NOT IN IOWA ANYMORE

Sharon Grove Cave, Todd County, Kentucky  
18 February, 2002  
Pat Kambesis, Ed Klausner, Rolland Moore

By Ed Klausner

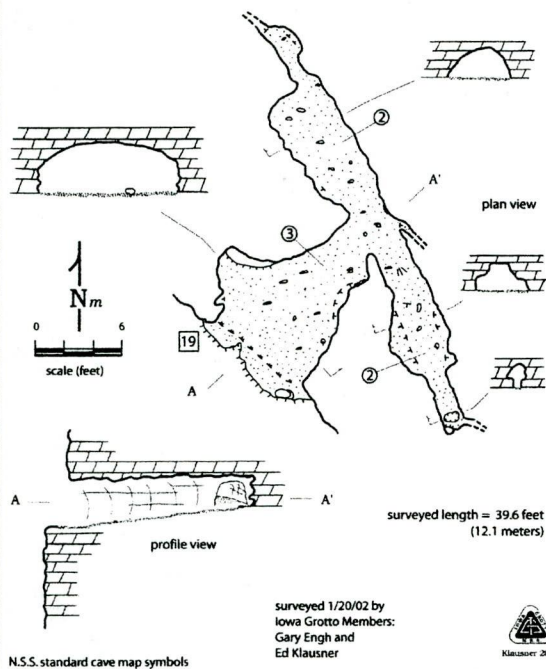
I was able to stay a few days after the CRF expedition and Pat Kambesis had a little time away from school for some additional caving. Rolland Moore, a student at Western Kentucky University, had a few hours also, so we were off to western Kentucky to go caving. Pat came across Sharon Grove Cave during a field trip at WKU. After some checking, she discovered that if it had been mapped, the map was lost. We had no trouble locating the cave and began surveying. I sketched plan and profile, Rolland did cross sections and helped with tape, Pat did lead tape, instrument, and kept us in line.

There was a large entrance section that was 15 or so feet high and a bit over 50 feet wide with a stream running down the center. After the entrance section, the stream passage continued, although the passage was only 3-4 feet wide. We surveyed two loops. Each was an overflow passage 6 or so feet off the stream floor and 30-40 feet long. We passed several side leads along the way that will have to be surveyed. We stopped after 400 feet of survey before setting a recoverable station and heading back to the entrance. The passage showed no signs of getting smaller when we stopped. The ceiling height was 10 feet.

For several reasons, I knew I wasn't in Iowa anymore. It isn't often in Iowa that you find a 15 X 50-foot entrance leading to hundreds of feet of walking passage. A small cave of this size in Kentucky is hardly worth noticing. Remarkably, the cave noises in Kentucky are amazingly similar to Iowa: "Hurry up", "Aren't you finished yet", "Did you get that rock", "Glacial Ed", etc.

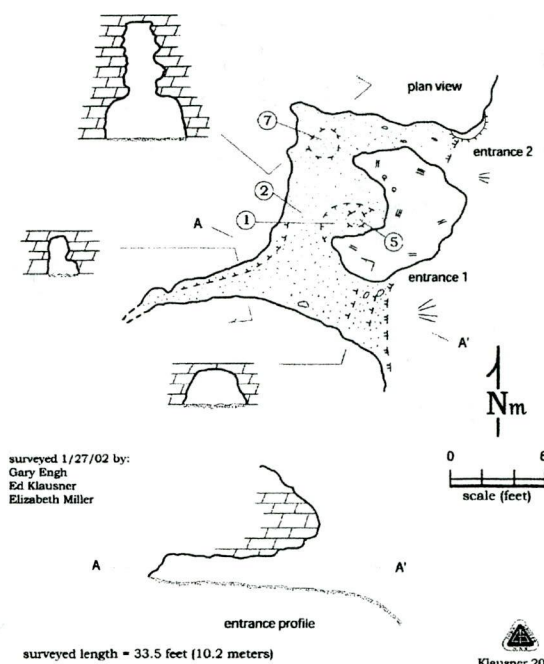
## High Pocket Cave

Jackson County, Iowa



## Spider Dome Cave

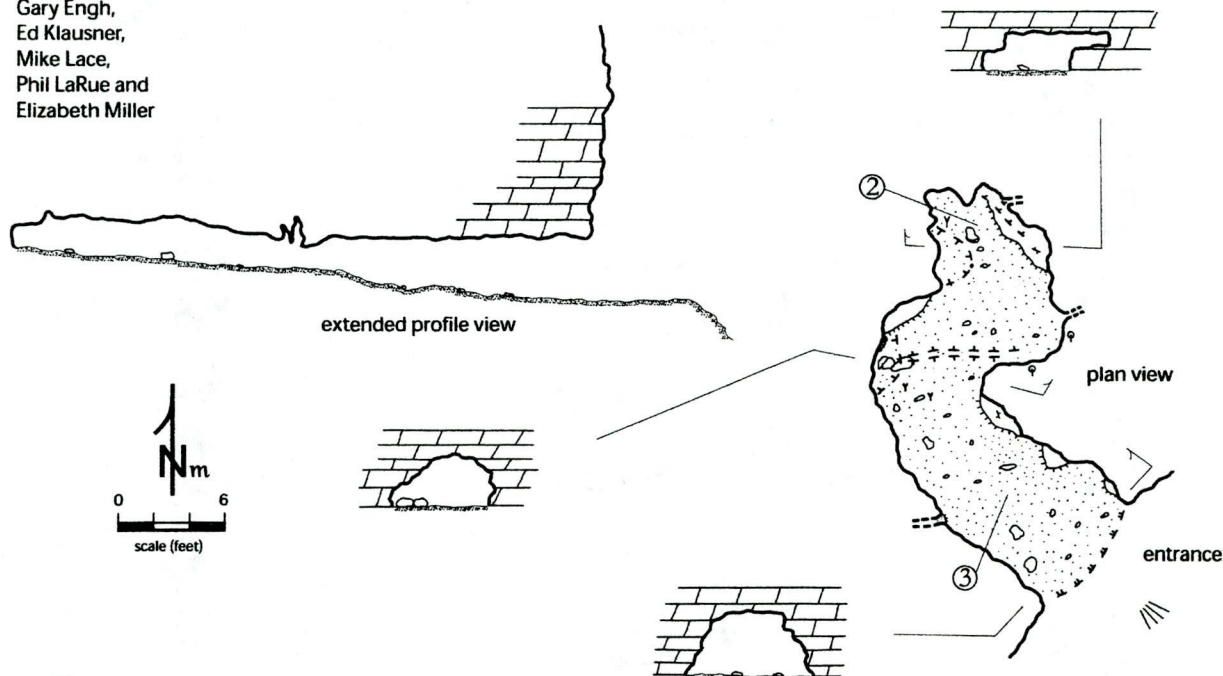
Jones County, Iowa



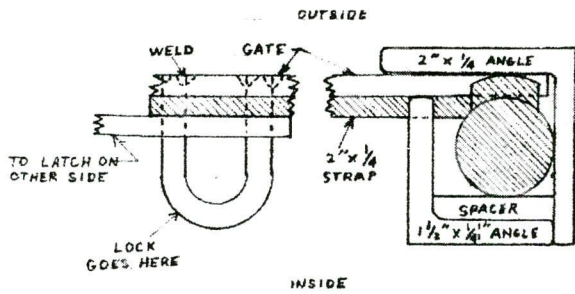
## Foundation Cave

Jones County, Iowa

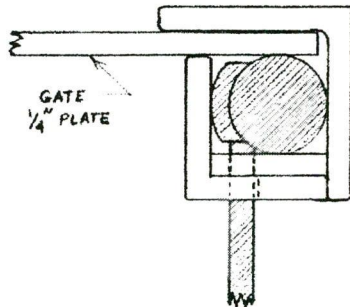
surveyed 2/23/02 by:  
Gary Engh,  
Ed Klausner,  
Mike Lace,  
Phil LaRue and  
Elizabeth Miller





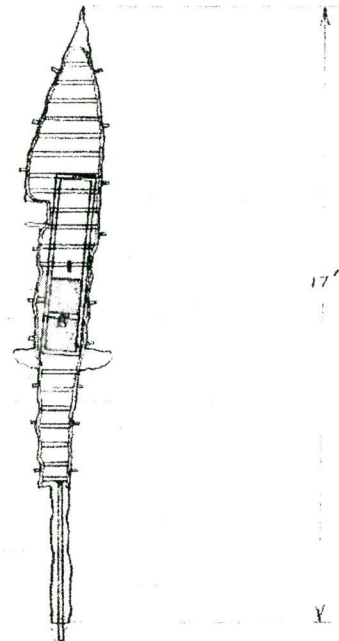


GATE AND LATCH  
LOCKED CONDITION



GATE AND LATCH  
UNLOCKED CONDITION

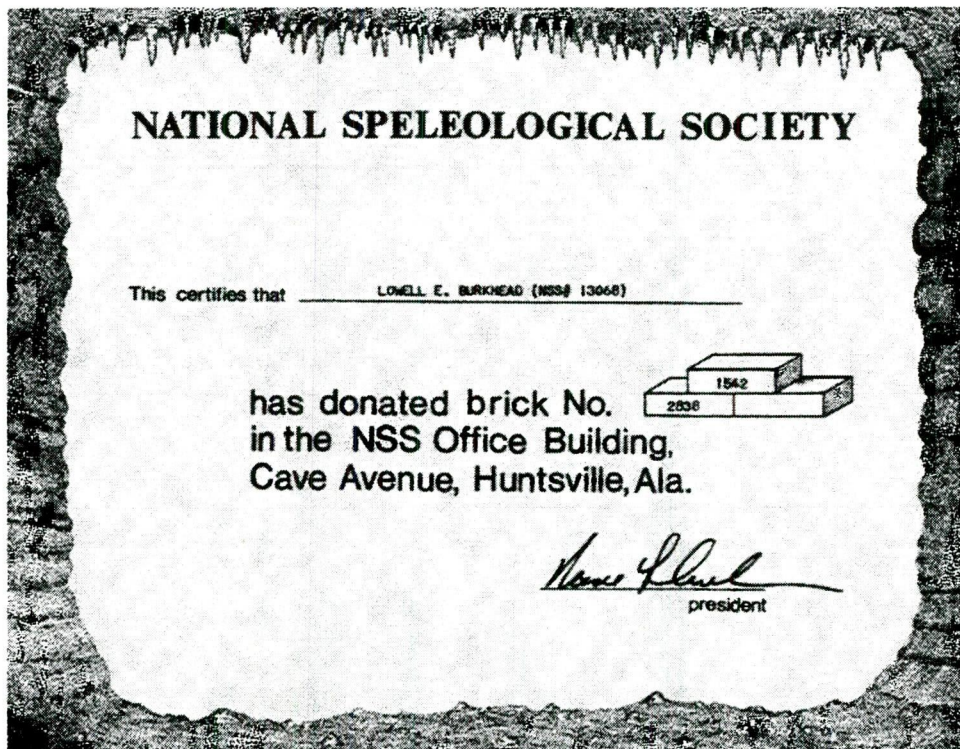
VIEW FROM INSIDE CAVE.  
GATE APPROX. 20' INTO  
CAVE FROM ENTRANCE



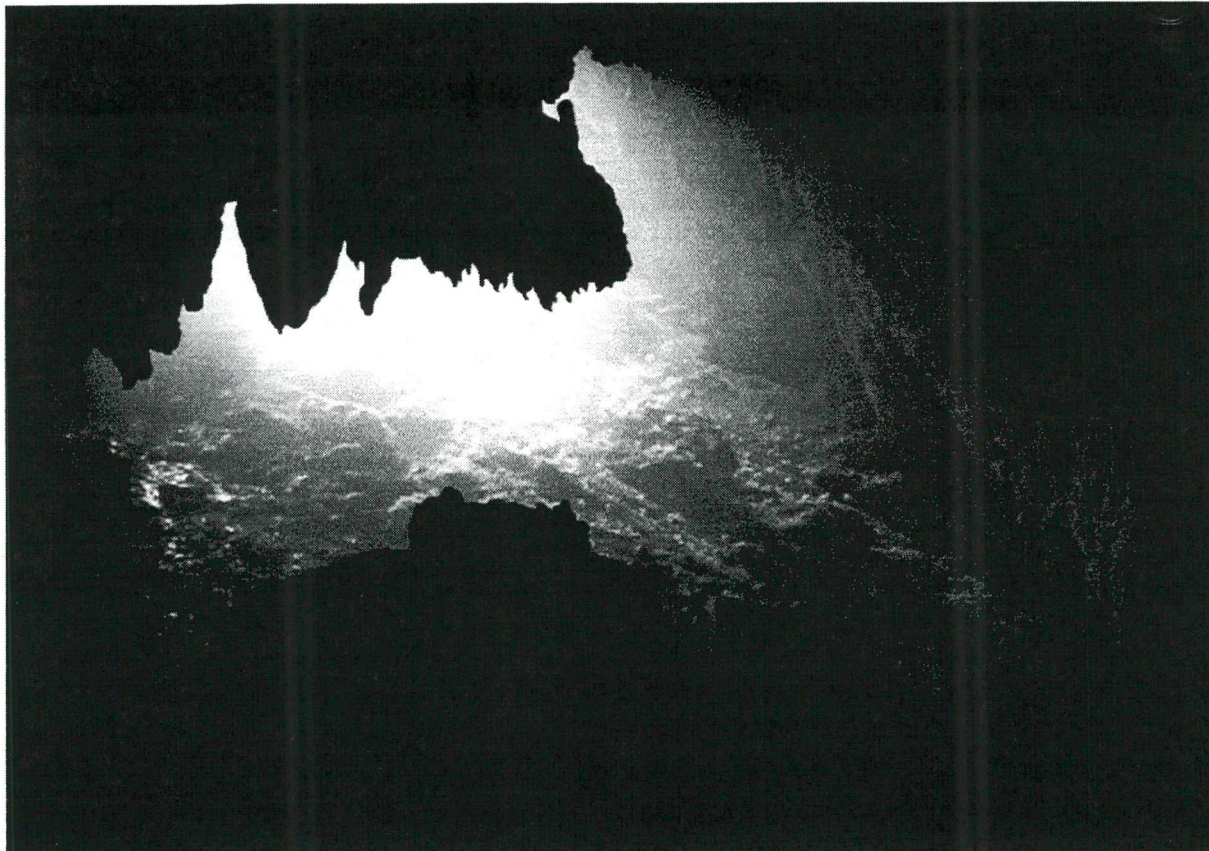
SKUNK CAVE  
PROPOSED GATE  
DRAWING SHOWS PASSAGE  
CROSS SECTION WITH GATE  
SCALE  $\frac{3}{8}'' = 1'$   
10-24-78 L. Burkhead

10-24-78 L. Burkhead

Plans drawn by Lowell for cave gating project







**Entrance of Cueva Evaporada, Puerto Rico. Photo by Mike Lace**



**Gypsum formations in Proctor Cave Ky. Photo by Ed Klausner**



