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Intercom, Volume 5, No. 1, January-February 1969

Dave Nicholson

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Vol. 5 #1

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THE IOWA GROTTO

National Speleological Society

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Volume V Issue 1

January — February 1969

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IOWA GROTTO INTERCOM
212 Fifth Street
Coralville, Iowa 52240

The INTERCOM is printed in six issues each year by the Iowa Grotto, NSS. Subscriptions are two dollars for six issues, or free in exchange for similar publications of other grottoes.

INTERCOM STAFF

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Lithophotography: John Johnson
Artwork: Dave Jagnow

COVER PICTURE: Tom Hruska back lighting ice formations in Ewing Diggings north of Dubuque during the Christmas trip January 3-5, 1969.



IOWA GROTTO
National Speleological Society
212 Fifth Street
Coralville, Iowa 52240

Chairman - - - - Dave Jagnow
Vice-Chairman - - - Rob Hanson
Sec'y-Treas.- - - - Tom Hruska

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15, 1969.....NSS Resolutions Deadline
April 12, 1969.....Rescue Seminar, Meramec, Mo.
April 15, 1969.....Banquet Reservation Deadline
April 19, 1969.....NSS Photo Salon Deadline
April 26, 1969.....MVOR
May 3 & 4.....20th Anniversary Celebration
June 15-21.....NSS Convention, Lovell, Wyoming
July 16-20.....Howard County Fair
August 12-17.....Dubuque County Fair

FUTURE NSS SLIDE LECTURES

March 26, 1969 Bustamante --- A really beautiful program that reaches far into Mexico. This program, prepared by the Texas Grotto, is a must for cavers interested in the trip made in the summer of 1964 during the National Convention.

April 23, 1969 Florida Caver --- By Florida Speleological Society. This program covers in depth many of the caves of this diving area.

May 28, 1969 C-3 Expedition - Kentucky --- In 1954, the National Speleological Society organized an expedition to explore and scientifically investigate what is believed to be one of the largest cave systems in the United States -- Floyd Collin's Crystal Cave. This slide-lecture is an exciting and interesting account of this expedition. The very fine illustrations were contributed by members of the expedition.

GROTTO MINUTES - AT A GLANCE

Thomas Hruska, Secretary

Regular Meeting January 8, 1969

Room 3400 Called to order: 7:30 PM Adjourned: 9:20 PM
Attendance: 14 members & 1 guest Treasury: \$60.34
Dave Jagnow is making a fill-in-the-blank cave report form. Iowa Grotto will lead a Boy Scout trip on Feb. 8. Methodist Youth Fellowship, Riverside, Iowa, wants to go caving. Plans being made for 20th Anniversary celebration in Dubuque, Iowa, on May 3 & 4. Trip reports on the Christmas trip were given.

Regular Meeting January 22, 1969

Room 3407 Called to order: 8:00 PM Adjourned: 9:25 PM
Attendance: 16 members & 5 guests Treasury: \$39.34
Five grotto members are taking Advanced First Aid course. Many letters have been written to find a guest speaker and facilities for the 20th Anniversary. Dave Nicholson gave trip report on trip to Durango, Iowa. Future trips include: Guttenburg on Jan. 28, Dave Young's deep cave lead on Feb. 1, and Scout trip on Feb. 8. Slide show, "Exploration of Overholt" was shown.

Regular Meeting February 12, 1969

Room 3407 Called to order: 7:35 PM Adjourned: 8:30 PM
Attendance: 15 members & 5 guests Treasury: \$44.08
Grotto is invited to exhibit at Howard County Fair, July 16-20. Spring MVOR will be April 26 & 27 in central Missouri. NSS President Stellmack will be guest speaker for the 20th Anniversary. Intercom subscription up to \$2 (member's rate unchanged). Intercom will be printed at end of every second month. Trip report given on Boy Scout trip to Dubuque. Future trips to Dubuque (non-caving) and Guttenburg. Slide show, "Caving in Utah" was shown.

GROTTO MINUTES -CONTINUED

Regular Meeting February 26, 1969

Room 3400 Called to order: 7:35PM Adjourned: 8:35 PM
Attendance: 15 members and 5 guests Treasury: \$46.08
Intercom will be distributed at the next meeting. Whipsey
Shaft not yet open for anniversary (still trying).
Anniversary banquet at Robert's Smorgastable in Dubuque.
Trip report given on midnight trip to Monticello. Dave
Nicholson building rappel racks and Swiss seats for sale..
Future trip to Dubuque on March 1&2.

Error

Steve Barnett

Cucumber Cave and Empty Cave, described in the
INTERCOM, Vol. III, Issue 5 & 6, Page 34, had been previously
described in the IOWA CAVE BOOK, 6:B-16,17, as the Canton
Ice Cave (53). The latter name, having precedence of
several years, is to be preferred; the other names should
be dropped.

The cave(s) have formed in a breakdown zone near the
foot of a large hill. The upper one, consisting of two
branching fissures (formerly described as Empty Cave),
contains no ice. The lower crevice, (Cucumber Cave),
barely twenty feet long, is often floored with ice.

There is an apparent disparity in that two cave
names are being replaced by one, Canton Ice Cave (53). The
larger cave warrants this formal name. The smaller crevice
due to its physical proximity, genetic similarity, and
especially short length, should not be listed by a different
name.

- - small cave retains ice, but not Ice - -

IOWA GROTTTO 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Tom Hruska

Twenty years ago this coming May, the Iowa Grotto was founded by a group of cavers in Iowa City, Iowa. Under the leadership of William Petrie, the Iowa City Grotto was chartered as the 19th local chapter of the National Speleological Society on May 3, 1949. Exactly twenty years later, on May 3, 1969, the Iowa Grotto plans to celebrate its anniversary with a banquet in Dubuque, Iowa. The Iowa Grotto invites you to join us for the occasion.

The celebration begins on Friday afternoon, May 2, 1969. Early arriving guests can register their attendance at the Dubuque County Fair Grounds, the official camp ground for the weekend. Camping, Trailer, and restroom facilities are available. During the evening, a campfire and songfest will pass the time.

Saturday morning, registration will continue as the grotto members organize trips to the caves in the general area. This will include caves with 100 foot deep sinkholes and caves of historical value. Many of these caves in and around Dubuque were mined for lead in the Nineteenth Century. Some of the mining relics remain in the places where they were abandoned. All cave trips will leave from the fair grounds.

The guests that desire to stay clean or take it easy may visit some of Dubuque's many tourist attractions. These attractions include the Julien Dubuque Monument (for whom the city was named), the old Shot Tower, the famous Fourth Street Elevator, and the Hamm House (a historical museum). Crystal Lake Cave, a commercial cave with an easy walking tour, is located five miles south of Dubuque.

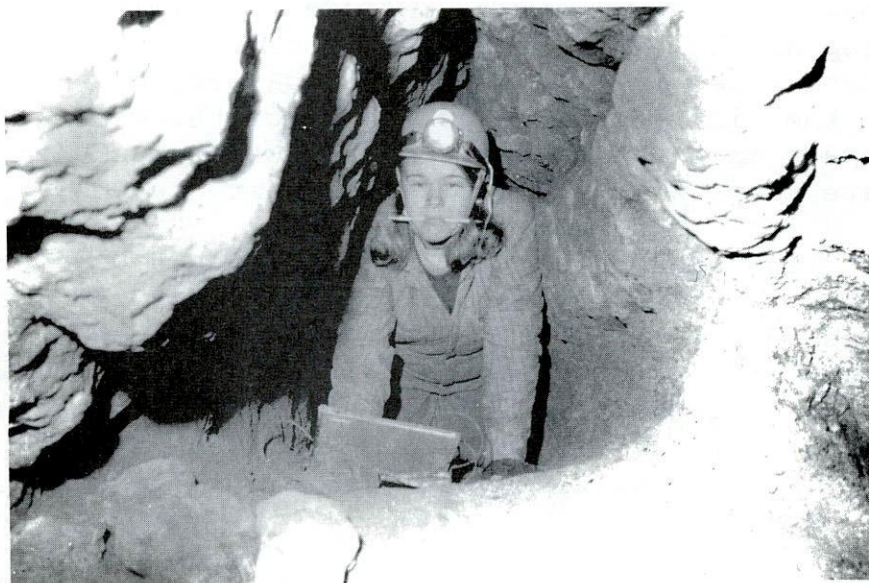
The feature events of the celebration will be the banquet and guest speaker on Saturday evening, May 3, 1969. The banquet will start at 7 PM at Robert's Smorgastable in downtown Dubuque. Jack Stellmack, president of the NSS will present a slide-lecture entitled " My Seventeen Years in the NSS ", following the meal. Advance reservations are required for the banquet. Everyone planning to attend the banquet should send their name,

address, and \$2.25 per person to the Iowa Grotto before the April 15, 1969, reservation deadline. After that date, reservations cannot be guaranteed, but every effort will be made to provide seating space at the banquet.

Following the banquet, there will be another campfire at the camp grounds at the Dubuque County Fair Grounds.

Sunday morning, May 4, 1969, will see more Grotto organized caving trips.

Everyone desiring additional information or banquet reservations should write to the Iowa Grotto as soon as possible. We are looking forward to a large turn out for this special occasion.



Surveying in Rising Street Lead Mine

TORGAC CAVE (NEW MEXICO)

Dave Jagnow

October 24-29, 1968

Dave Jagnow

One of the most interesting caving trips I have ever taken was to Torgac Cave, New Mexico. The purpose of the trip was two-fold: To get together with some of the Southwest cavers I met at the NSS Convention, one in particular; and to do some "real caving" for a change.

With the aid of my outstretched thumb, I left Iowa City at 7:30 Thursday morning, and arrived in Albuquerque by 8:30 AM Friday. My destination was Ann DuChene's "museum", and I was dropped off right at the door. That morning I met Becky Rohwer who gave me a quick tour of the University of New Mexico before leaving for Torgac. Around 4:00 PM we piled into the back of John MacClean's pick-up truck and left Albuquerque, collecting cavers here and there. The normally three hour drive was accompanied by as many car and truck troubles as a typical Iowa trip, and we finally arrived at the cave at 1:30 Saturday morning.

Torgac Cave is a large gypsum cave located well out on the rolling desert southeast of Albuquerque. Entrance is gained through several large sinks. After making your way downward for possibly one-hundred feet through breakdown, you enter the large, beautifully decorated passages. The cave offers a large variety: huge gypsum formations, delicate gypsum flowers, knee deep bat guano, one room the size of a football field, some crawling, but no Iowa cave mud. In several sections of the cave you could work your way through vast three dimensional mazes of breakdown. This created a very strange feeling because for a change, I was in a cave where I could actually get lost.

On this trip, we discovered that Torgac has recently been vandalized. A trail of broken formations led to the entrance where they had been carried out to sell. Because of this, all entrances except the most difficult one were sealed off in an attempt to stop vandalism.

Much of Saturday and Sunday was spent in Torgac-- surveying, exploring, and photographing the cave. Cavers from several Southwestern states showed up that weekend, and everyone had a great time. After finding a couple new caves Sunday afternoon, we broke camp and returned to Albuquerque that evening. Monday morning my thumb again went to work. I arrived back at Iowa City at 3:30 Tuesday afternoon, ending a most rewarding and unforgettable trip.

NORTHEAST CAVE LEADS

Rob Hanson

November 30 - December 1, 1968

Dave Jagnow, Rob Hanson, Loren McVey, Rick Smith, Steve Scarff, Ed Johnson, Jim McGee, Bob Wenthold

The members departed Iowa City early Saturday morning in Jagnow's sardine can. The purpose of this trip to the Northland of Iowa was to check some leads in Lima, Iowa, and survey several caves in Winneshiek County.

Arriving in Lima, we walked a high ridge along the Volga River on the Bass property. Three small holes were found and entered. After the exploration, a field survey was made and sketch maps were drawn up on the caves (named "Bass-Ackwards I, II, III", SE/NE/SE/14/93N/8W). After a raid on the Lima general store and a quick lunch, we departed for Winneshiek County.

We arrived at the Ray McGee farm in the early afternoon and found Jim McGee and Bob Wenthold in the middle of a field sandbagging a creek, carrying the Cresco sewage system. A culvert has been placed over a hole that the stream had opened and was flowing into since last summer (1968). The sandbagging was the final step in diverting the stream so that the large hole could be entered.

After the stream had been diverted, Jim, Bob, and I climbed into the 10' deep hole and entered a crevice 6'

high and 3' wide with occasional 10' ceilings, running NE-SW. The crevice ends in a dirt fill nearly under the edge of State Highway 139, 100' from the entrance. The rest of the members of the group entered and saw this beautiful, large, Iowa cave, with it's dirt ceiling, dirt walls, mud floor, no formations, dirty rocks, dirty sticks, and dirty dirt. The cave was then surveyed, photographed, and named the "Flush", after it's creator. Thus a fourth new cave has been entered this trip (SE/SE/NE/18/99N/10W).

Additional information on Flush Cave (food for thought); the wells in the surrounding eastern area, around 900' deep, have been polluted since late summer, and several members of the Grotto can testify to this pollution (like a week of disentary ain't cool!). Also if the fill at the end of the cave is road fill, the crevice may continue on the other side of the highway. The major crevices in NE Iowa run E-W, so this is not a major crevice, but there may be one close if the wells to the east are polluted. By the sound of the area, farmers are going to close this hole (no loss), and we can get help opening it up somewhere else (like on the otherside of the road - shades of the Cresco Fairgrounds Cave).

Well, back to our heros... After supper, Saturday night, Loren, Rick, Steve, and Ed visited Skunk Cave and signed the register, while Dave, Jim, and I were nearly getting killed in an automobile accident.

Sunday morning our carload of clowns set out for another newly explored cave - Landswerk Cave (SW/SE/NE/29/99N/10W), West of Kendallville in Winneshiek County. This cave was one of the leads gained from the Howard County Fair last summer. It's an interesting, easy cave, with much breakdown on the floor, the walls are covered by dried up flowstone and some vandalism has taken place. The cave itself is another crevice, 200' long with ceiling height varying from 4' to 13' and width of 4'. The crevice is local with no choice of further pushing. The cave was surveyed and photographed.

Next our crew visited Marlow Cave (SE/NW/NE/33/100N/9W) and surveyed it. Marlow Cave, named after the

property owner, is a shelter cave with 50' of passage. It is extremely rotten as huge chunks of ceiling can be pulled off into your lap (a little info for you masochists in the audience).

Driving East in Winneshiek after this, we visited two other caves that we had learned of through the Howard County Fair. Highlandville Cave (SW/NE/SW/33/100N/7W) and the other cave (still unnamed) 200' to the northeast were explored. In the first trip to these caves (Sept. '68), some side passages looked pushable, or at least diggable, so attempts were made on this trip to push these passages. While Steve, Rick, and Ed dug in the passages, Loren, Dave, and I surveyed. The cave has a low ceiling throughout and looks like it may have once been an active spring. It has many formations, mostly stalagmites, some columns, and one room 30' in diameter with its entire ceiling covered with delicate, confused helictites. After the survey was completed, and the digging given up, our group visited the other cave for a few minutes, then departed for home, via our Dodge toboggan, through a rather heavy snowstorm.

Sliding home late Sunday night, we left a busy weekend behind us, with 8 caves (or holes, whichever you prefer) explored and 673' of passageway surveyed in 4 caves. For the Iowa Grotto, that ain't bad!

MACCABE CREVICE

Loren L. McVey

January 3-5, 1969

Loren McVey, Dave Jagnow, Frank Nidey, Frank Bussey, Rolley Glasgow

Over the Christmas trip to Dubuque we managed to drop into a couple of previously unknown caves. One of these was MacCabe Crevise, located in the new Becker's Quarry in Dubuque. This cave was first located by Dave Jagnow. At the time his only light source was a book of matches

and he really couldn't tell much about the cave. At a later date, when others went back to check out the cave in hopes that it might lead into Levens Mine or Sunflower, the entrance was found blocked by large slabs of rock that had been blasted loose from the quarry.

On the night of January 4, Dave Frank Nidey, Frank Bussey, Rolly, and I decided we would look into the matter again. When we got there we found the entrance quite clear, though it was small enough that we had to crawl in. However, after getting inside, we found the cave was high enough to walk upright and a couple of feet wide. We proceeded inside for about 15' when we ran into a pit. The pit was about 5' by 3' and about 20 to 25 feet deep. Before checking it out we decided to check out the rest of cave. The cave ran for about 65' more and then came to an abrupt end. The cave passage was wide enough and high enough in all places to either walk or stoop through. We then went back to take a closer look at the pit. Frank Nidey dropped down and reported there was no passage off the bottom of the pit. So after spending a little time free climbing up and down the pit, we headed out.

MAZE CAVE

Dave Nicholson

January 18, 1969

Dave Nicholson, Joe Nicholson, Gary Flickinger

This trip, like most, was planned on the spur of the moment. We left Cedar Rapids about 2030 and arrived in Dubuque at 2200. Since I was the only one who had ever been to Maze Cave (once in the daytime) considerable effort was spent in locating the correct turn-off from Hwy 3 North of Drango.

After wandering around the hillside for 45 minutes, the correct shaft was located and rigged for descent. Since Gary had not done very much vertical work with the type of equipment I was using and had not been asleep for

the past two days, he decided to drive into Dubuque and get some food while Joe and I explored the cave. The main reason for this trip was to explore the two passages passed up on the previous trip and to test the use of color slide film in my Kodak Instamatic Camera in a cave environment.

The entrance to this cave is an abandoned mine shaft approximately 90 feet deep. There are plenty of good sized trees near the opening for rope anchors. At the bottom of the shaft are three passages. Facing into the small room, the two passages on the right are short dead ends. The passage on the left goes through a maze network and eventually comes out in the main passage of what seems to be a mined passage 8 feet high and 15 feet wide. There are several short crawlways off of this main passage which either dead end or rejoin the main passage. This main passage is quite long, covering a distance of perhaps 400 feet. Evidence of an entrance in the side of the hill was found near the end of this big passage, although it is now closed. Several bats were found and photographed in this main passage. The most interesting thing about this cave other than the entrance is the large amount of lead ore still left in the walls and ceiling. A large sample (a solid chunk weighing about 15 pounds) was removed for eventual placement in the Hamm House.

After two hours of exploring and photographing, it was decided enough had been done for one night and the long climb out was started. It took both Joe and I about 15 minutes each to climb the 90 foot free drop from the 50 degree temperatures in the cave to the 10 degree temperature outside. Upon our return to the car, we found a cold Gary and eight warm hamburgers waiting. The hamburgers never said a word, but quickly disappeared.

Live better electrically. DFN

RISING STREET CAVE

Dave Jagnow

February 8, 1969

Dave Jagnow, Marti Barber, Loren McVey, Walt Mauer,
Allen Swenson

It was black at 6:00 AM, February 8. The five slightly sleepy IG members boarded a school bus in front of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, along with 24 noisy scouts, and 4 dads from Troop 203. By 7:00 we finally left Iowa City behind, rumbling toward Rising Street Cave on slippery highways.

The scoutmaster, Dick Boldra, had asked the Iowa Grotto for assistance in planning a one-day caving trip. We had prepared the scouts a week in advance with a slide lecture stressing typical Iowa mud and crawling. By 10:00 the troop's bus finally slide into Dubuque after numerous problems. We promptly divided into four groups and headed toward the cave. The entrance pit had been plugged with sawed-up tree limbs, and these were quickly removed to gain access.

The next 4 hours were spent exploring slightly over half the cave. At this point the majority of the scouts exited to the bus, and Loren and I led a handful of the better scouts back to the IG cave resgister... through the tightest, prettiest, and most dangerous passages. All of these scouts made the traverse across the 30 foot pit and were rewarded by their signatures on the register and several pieces of my beef jerky.

After six hours, the last group was safely out of the cave. The majority of the scouts throughly enjoyed the escapade, and we experienced only minor problems in handling the scouts. However, major problems were encountered with the dads. Three of the four dads were physically out of shape. One of the four gave up after about 1/3 of the way into the cave, and was slowly assisted out by the other two. After leading the scouts farther into the cave, I returned to the dads who needed help climbing out of the ice covered entrance. With the aid of the handline and a lot of

pushing and pulling, the three dads were safely out. Around 4:30 PM the bus started toward home and a well deserved meal at Monticello -- the only meal we IG members had that day!

The trip was a success, but touched upon a couple serious problems for consideration: (1) Should the scouts be caving? (2) We need closer examination of cavers' total qualifications before placing them in the various caving environments.

Having worked with several different troop in the Iowa City area, it is my opinion that caving should be reserved for the Explorer Scouts and generally scouts 14-15 years of age or older. This is essentially the NSS policy for scouts. Older scouts are better able to take care of themselves, enjoy the caving more than younger scouts, and are generally supervised by adults who are in good physical condition. However, if a troop decides to go caving anyway, we should assist them in planning and executing the trip in an attempt to avoid disaster.

The second problem is just an extension of the first--how do we determine what people are qualified for the type of caving that is planned? I am probably the guiltiest of trip leaders because I often take unqualified people into caves and use the cave as a learning experience--teaching them right on the spot. Others advocate giving all the training before entering the caving situation. The question is: Where do you draw the line between a good learning situation (in the cave), and just plain unsafe caving? Any opinions?

In reference to the article above, I would be very glad to publish anything anyone has to say on the subject of training. Except for the small amount of work done on the cliffs of Iowa City and the First Aid Classes, there are no training programs in existence for cavers. Perhaps we should require members to pass tests determining their ability to perform under certain conditions before allowing them to enter particular types of caves! Ed.

CLEAN-UP TIME

Anonymous

It was February 15. As I drove toward the laundromat I was extremely proud of myself. It had been only one week since the Rising Street caving trip, and already I was going to wash my coveralls. However, I realized that actually the only reason I was doing the work so early was that the ropes had started to thaw out, distributing bits of Rising Street throughout my trunk.

As I walked through the doorway, I immediately spotted the owner of the laundromat-motel complex doing the motels Saturday morning wash. Likewise he spotted me. I tried to act inconspicuous, but my frozen wad of coveralls and the plastic bag of mud covered boots I carried didn't help any. The "Cave New Mexico" T-shirt I wore didn't help either. He tried to smile at me but couldn't, and went about his business trying to ignore me.

My frozen coveralls clattered into the sink like a rock. After five minutes of hot water, the trogsuit began to relax and unfold. Another five minutes rendered the trogsuit limp and helpless. One by one the pockets were emptied...candle, film cans of carbide, spare water bottle, flashlight, waterproof matches, pen and pencil, frozen gloves, baggies, one soggy bage of spent carbide, bits of rock collected while bellycrawling... endless emptying...and finally one last precious stick on beef jerky--now rather soggy. The jerky helped fill the hole that should have been reserved for breakfast, and also supplied a source of entertainment as I watched the peoples' reactions as I devoured the soggy beef.

Now the plunging motion began, and the mire of Rising Street belched forth in an attempt to clog the drain. How could one pair of coveralls hold so much filth? After half an hour, Rising Street was conquered. The rinse water was now translucent and the coveralls were distinguishable from the mud. One final rinse, and they were placed in the nearby washer.

After a quick trip to the car, I returned with 120' of mud-caked Goldline. I had coiled it tightly

so it could go directly into the washer, having decided it would be too difficult to wash and wring out in the sink. In the mean time, a woman had entered with a basket of throw rugs, and was using the washers beside me. As I approached my washer the woman's face turned to horror. From that moment on, I was under constant surveillance from the corner of her eye. I soon realized she was the owner's wife! Apparently she hadn't seen the Iowa Grotto emblem on the side of my car, or she would have been forewarned.

As the machines spewed forth their brown suds, an old man approached me. "Find any gold in them caves?" he asked. After a brief conversation, he just couldn't see why I went into caves. He was sure I must be after the gold. At the time, I couldn't figure out why I went caving either.

Finally the machines stopped and I threw everything into the dryer for ten minutes--not to dry the clothes and rope, but to knock loose most of the sand that still clung to the fibers. Again the lady's face turned pale as she glanced at the sand and mud remaining in my two washers. I immediately found a rag and after several minutes managed to wipe out most of the obvious grit.

As I left the laundromat, I could feel the questioning stares of many watchful eyes, and I pitted the next person to use my washers on her clean white sheets. This story is true, but the name has been deleted to protect the guilty.

MIDNIGHT MISERY

Walt Mauer

February 12, 1969

Walt Mauer, Larry Fattig, John Johnson, Marti Barber

On the evening of February 12, after the Grotto meeting was completed, four intrepid cavers decided to go to Monticello to enter a cave John knew of. After hurried preparations, we left the city at about 10:00 PM. We arrived at the entrance to Painted Rock Park at about 11:45. We suited up and ventured into the 10° cold for the mile walk to the cave entrance. The cave is located

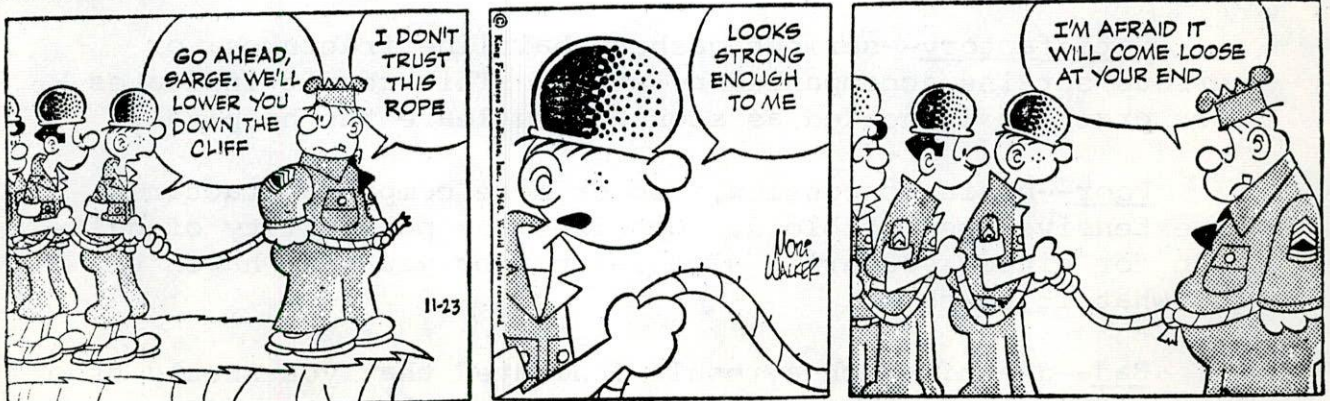
about fifty feet above the river level in the side of the hill, near a rather large rock formation. There is a road to within about fifty yards of the cave and it, the cave, appears to be quite often frequented.

We entered the cave and stayed in for about 1½ hours. That is to say Marti and Larry stayed in. John and I remained in a small room just inside the entryway trying to determine why I blacked out while negotiating a crawlway. We came to the conclusion that I am not eating correctly, so..., if anyone cares to feed me, CALL! We were rejoined by Marti and Larry and returned to John's jeep. The cave, an unimpressive 380' switchback crawlway, is rocky, very tight in some places, and cold. However, it was all we could get to when the urge struck. The return trip was completed without incident by about 3:00 AM Thursday.

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BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



REMEMBER: Always use a secure tie-off, and double check it!

OWENS' FREE FALL TECHNIQUE

(The author, Harry Owens, had an experience in 1959 involving a fall in Mossy Cave which prompted the following essay, taken from a letter to James Hedges, Oct. 26, 1959. Ed.)

As most of you know, there are several ways of entering a master cave, such as: hot-pants rappel, rappel, and, if you want to rough it, hand-over-hand. On a recent caving expedition, I devised a method so novel that it had to be placed in a separate category.

I call it the Owens Free Fall Technique. The steps to the efficient learning of this method are as follows: (1) turn so your back is to the entrance of the cave, (2) select an object (preferably a cobweb) and gaze intently at it, (3) back up. Although the method is simplicity itself to learn, a little practice should be utilized before classifying yourself among those few masters of the art. I suggest starting with a modest drop of 5-10 feet. If the results of these attempts are satisfactory, slowly work up to 25-30 feet. Jumps farther than the latter become increasingly dangerous for some reason or another. The results are a direct indication of your progress. They are as follows:

Excellent--escaping without injury to body or mind or having minor scratches and bruises accompanied by fright and perhaps momentary unconsciousness. If you have such results, attempt to descend five feet lower the next time.

Satisfactory--serious gashes, hairline fractures, or serious sprains accompanied by shock. This result indicates more practice is needed as soon as you leave the hospital.

Poor--brain concussion, two or more compound fractures or extensive loss of blood. Consider the possibility of quitting for either you are a slow learner or you just haven't got what it takes.

Bad--death. Such a result indicated that you should stop immediately as further attempts may be fatal.

(Anyone seriously trying to use the above technique deserves the results! Ed.)

THE VERTICAL DROP

David Nicholson

In this new column, I will attempt to present information pertaining to vertical climbing in connection with caving. Some of the topics to be covered will be: Where to obtain climbing equipment, what equipment is necessary, various techniques for using equipment, and the care and maintenance of equipment. Also, any little tips and tidbits of information will be passed on to the readers. Any contributions are welcome.

* * * * *

Listed below are addresses where items of interest to cavers can be obtained. Also given is the general type of items sold by each dealer.

*Alp Sport, Inc. P.O. Box 1081 Boulder, Colorado 80302	Light weight camping and cold weather gear
Atlas Sports Shop 8th & E. Sts., N.W. Washington, D.C.	Climbing, caving, and camping
*Alaska Sleeping Bag Company 701 N.W. Dawson Way Beaverton, Oregon 97005	Sleeping bags, boots, clothing, cold weather gear
*Eddie Bauer 417 East Pine St. Seattle, Washington 98122	Cold weather gear and down clothing and sleeping bags
L.L. Bean, Inc. Freeport, Maine	Hunting, fishing, and spelunking
*Camp & Trail Outfitters 122 Chambers Street New York, New York	Camping, climbing, and spelunking
Coleman Company Wichita, Kansas	Coolers, stoves, lanterns

Corcoran, Inc. Zero Canton Street Stoughton, Massachusetts	Fishing, hunting, camping
*Himalayan Industries Rural Route One Grayling, Michigan 49738	Backpacking
*Holubar Box 7 Boulder, Colorado 80302	Climbing, camping, cold weather gear
*Kelty Mfg. Co. P.O. Box 3453 Clendale, California 91201	Pack frams and bags
Peter Limmer & Sons Intervale, New Hampshire	Climbing
Niresk Industries, Inc. 210 S. Desplaines Street Chicago, Illinois 60611	Lanterns, stoves, tents
*Recreational Equipment, Inc. 1525 11th Avenue Seattle, Washington 98122	Camping, climbing, spelunking (co-operative company - member- ship requires (\$1.00) for yearly rebate)
Remington's 11230 Georgia Avenue Wheaton, Maryland	Climbing, caving, camping
*The Ski Hut 1615 University Ave. Berkeley, California 94703	Camping, climbing, caving
*Trailwise 1615 University Ave. Berkely 3, California	Climbing, camping, skies

*indicates up-to-date addresses

It is suggested that you send for some of these catalogs by mailing a postcard. After you get several of these catalogs, you can then decide what equipment you think you need.

ACETYLENE ALLEY

Dave Jagnow

The name of this new Intercom column is really a gas! Appropriately named(?), this column will serve as the collecting point for all kinds of gems and junk--depending on your point of view--liberally seasoned with inane, inapt, inarticulate, incalculable, incandescent and incompetent remarks. (Look those up in your Funk & Wagnalls!)

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Congratulations to James Hedges and Steward Peck, active cavers and former members of the Iowa Grotto who gained the honorary position of "Fellows of the NSS" at the 1968 NSS Convention in Springfield, Missouri.

Also, many congratulations to Larry Matthews (Ed.) and all those who help in compiling the NSS News. The January issue represented the new 8½ x 11 format, and was composed of an impressive 24 pages of excellent caving news--a pub. well worth the NSS dues hike to \$10. Keep up the good work!

Bruise record bruised: On her first (and last) trip to Rising Street Cave, Kathy Hutton broke the bruise record with 52 bruises on one trip! (What part of the body is that?)

Who belongs to the black pair of socks and the gray plastic flashlight in Jagnow's trunk? The owners were lost on the Xmas trip to Dubuque.

ADVANCED FIRST AID INSTRUCTION

Do you know what to do if a rabid dog is chewing on your left ear?... a steamroller is parked on your right foot?... a red hot crowbar is protruding from your belly button? If you are not sure, you too could use some Red Cross Advanced First Aid Training. Some of us who survived the Standard First Aid Course, or who otherwise have a first aid certificate, are presently attending the advanced course. Another Standard Course is starting soon. Anyone wanting more information about first aid instruction or the Iowa Grotto Cave Rescue Unit should contact John Johnson, 1822 G St., Iowa City, Iowa

WANT ADS

WANTED:

Accident.to help the first aid class practice. Anything up to and including Chapter 13.

FOR SALE:

One pair of kneepads. \$2.00 Contact Dave Jagnow

Rappel-racks. Six-bar racks made from high-strength tool-steel with replaceable break-bars. Racks can not be bought commercially. \$12.50 One week delivery. Contact Dave Nicholson

Tourist-cooker. Contains Seva stove, 2½ qt. pot, 1½ qt. pot, frying pan, lid, handle, two piece wind screen. Very good lightweight set, designed for mountearing. Used only on one trip. \$12.50 Contact Dave Nicholson

Aluminum fuel bottle. Sturdy round bottle with screw cap and gasket. Suitable for use with stove above. \$1.00 Contact Dave Nicholson

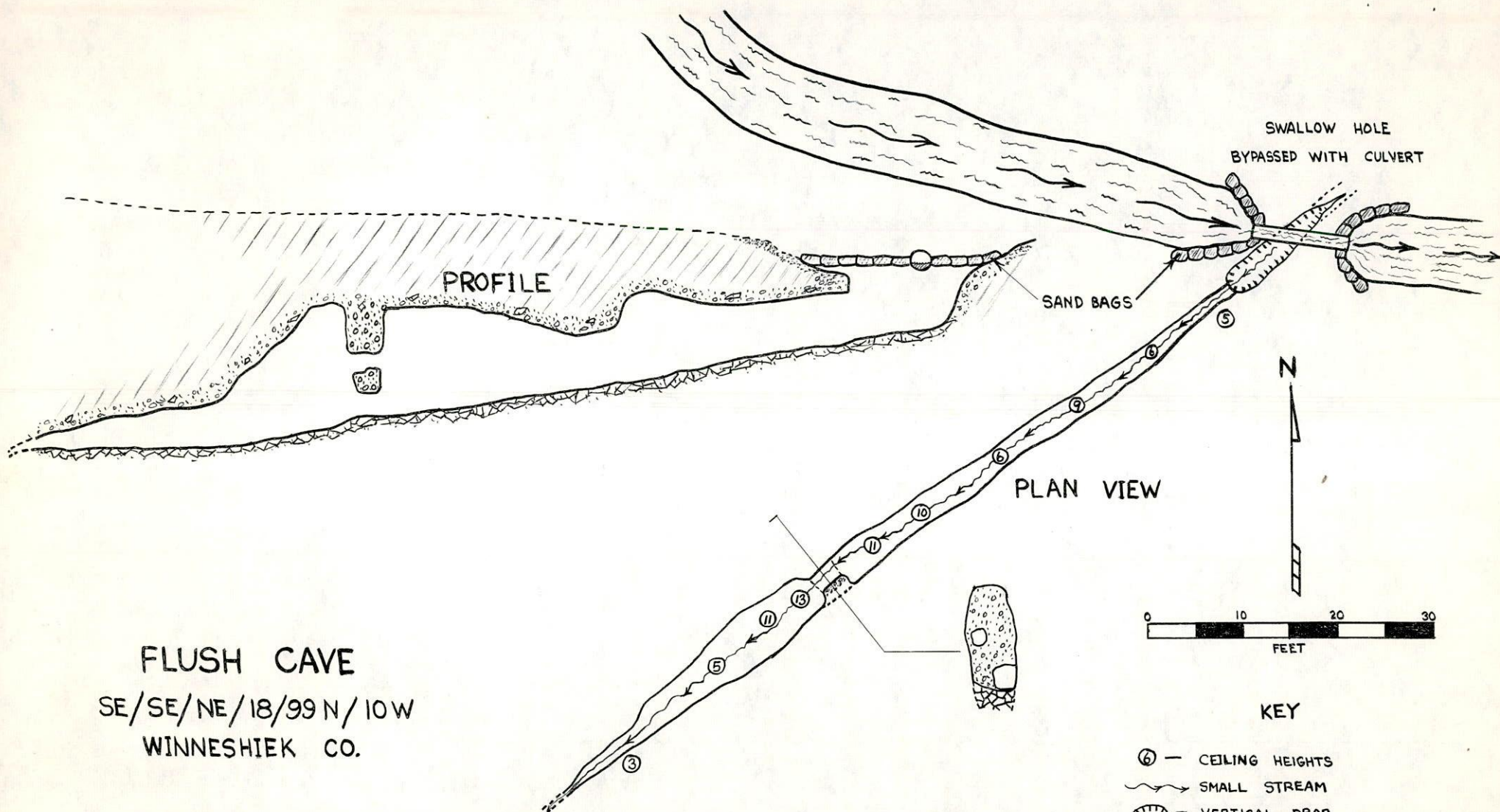
Wineskin. A novel, handy way of carrying liquids. May be poured or squirted, and has a plastic lining so as not to color the flavor of the liquid being carried. \$2.00 Contact Dave Nicholson

Shock cord loops for tents. \$.10 each, (\$.15 new cost) Contact Dave Nicholson

Tape recorder. Panasonic, AC-DC, portable, two speed, recorder with dynamic microphone. New price \$60. Will sell for \$40.00. Contact Dave Nicholson

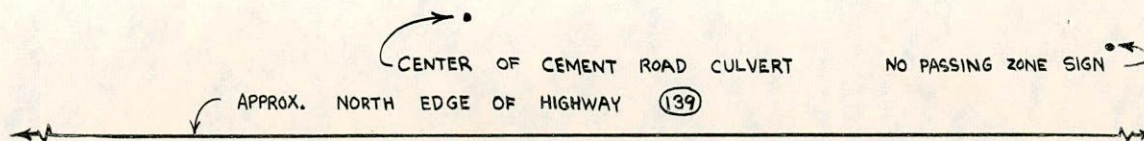
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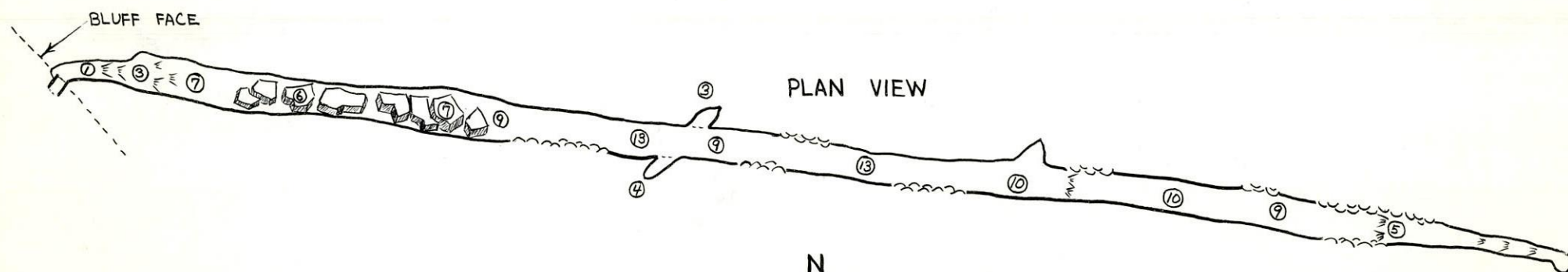
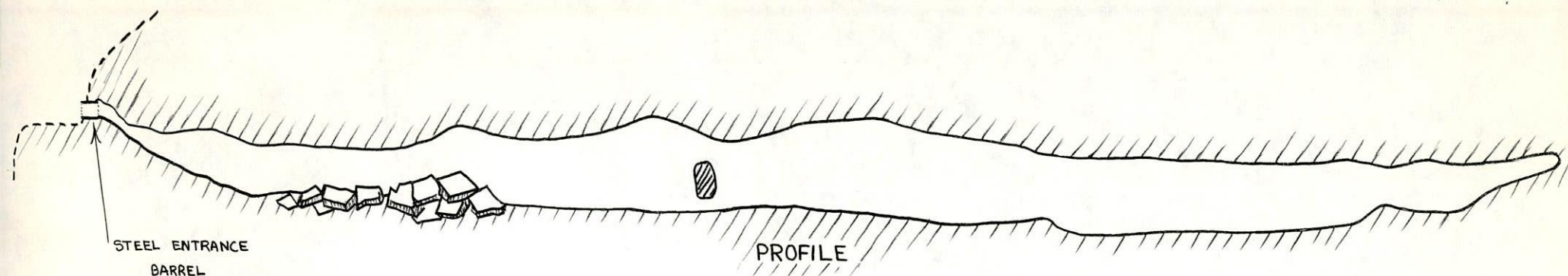
You to can take out your frustrations on the unsuspecting reader! Send in your latest gems of wisdom, local gossip, long forgotten bits of knowledge, rumors---start your own rumors---c/o INTERCOM TRASH, 212 Fifth Street, Coralville, Iowa 52240.



FLUSH CAVE
SE/SE/NE/18/99 N/10W
WINNESHIEK CO.

TAPE AND COMPASS SURVEY 11/30/68
BY: DAVID JAGNOW
ROB HANSON
JIM MCGEE et. al.

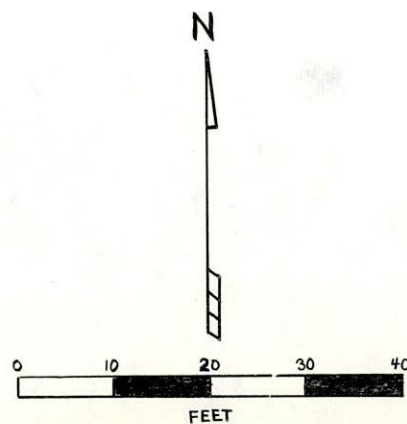




LANDSWERK CAVE

SW/SE/NE/ 29/100 N/ 10 W
WINNESHIEK COUNTY

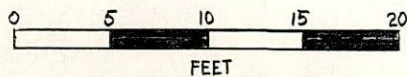
TAPE AND COMPASS SURVEY 12/1/68
BY: DAVID JAGNOW, ROB HANSON
LOREN McVEY, ED JOHNSON
STEVE SCARFF, RICK SMITH



KEY

- ⑩ — CEILING HEIGHTS
- — — FLOWSTONE COVERED WALLS
- — — BLOCK BREAKDOWN
- — — SLOPE (LINES DIVERGE DOWN SLOPE)

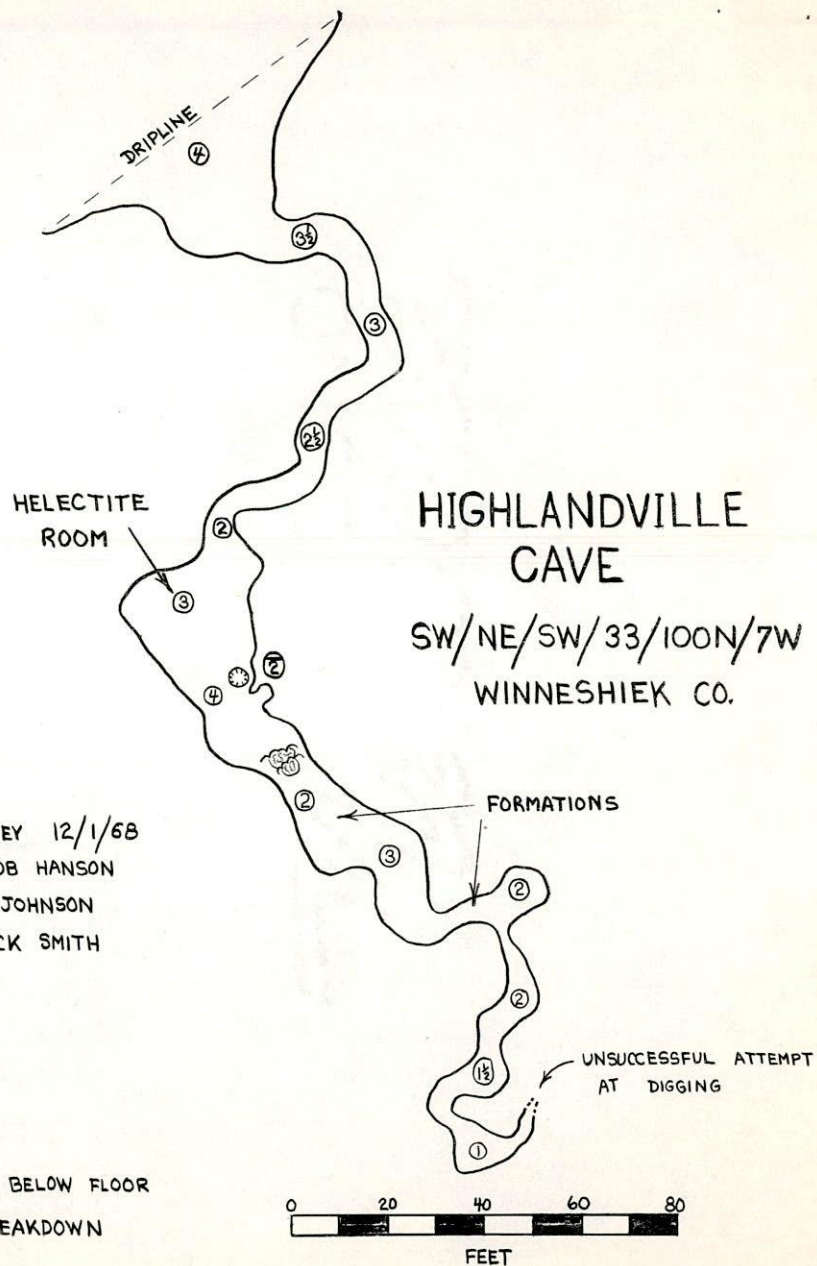
MARLOW
CAVE
SE/NW/NE/33/100N/9W
WINNESHIEK CO.



TAPE AND COMPASS SURVEY 12/1/68
BY: DAVID JAGNOW, ROB HANSON
LOREN MCVEY, ED JOHNSON
STEVE SCARFF, RICK SMITH

KEY

- ③ - CEILING HEIGHTS
- ☼ - PIT
- ② - DEPTH BELOW FLOOR
- ⌂ - CHIP OR SLAB BREAKDOWN
- ☁ - RIMSTONE POOLS



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