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Vol. 5 #2

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THE IOWA GROTTO
National Speleological Society

I N T E R C O M



Volume V Issue 2
March — April 1969

FUTURE NSS SLIDE LECTURES

August 27:

Caving Techniques - By John Dyas Parker

This slide-lecture was originally prepared by Mr. Parker several years ago to acquaint NSS members with safe caving techniques-- from crawling to climbing. Caving methods and equipment are continually improving and this slide series has now been revised by the NSS Safety Chairman. An excellent program to acquaint new NSS members and grottos with the methods of safe caving.

CLIMBING AND CAVING DEFINITIONS

Reprinted from The Netherworld News, 4/62

Hard hat -----	Holds up your NSS number.
Carbide Lamp -----	Automatic cigarette lighter and stuck caver mover.
Helictite -----	The prime example of indecision.
Cave map -----	Mass confusion, published.
Prussik knot -----	A unique knot that tightens when it should slip and slips when it should hold.
Damp cave -----	Cave in which the moisture level does not exceed four feet.
Rocks -----	Called so climbers will look up in time to get hit in the face.
Off belay -----	Call used in answer to the call "falling".
Ice Axe -----	An ornament found on the walls of all climbers' homes.
Piton -----	An iron stake layed into a crack in a wall to give moral support.
Body rappel -----	A medieval torture recently adapted for use by cavers and climbers.
Descending bar ----	The tavern half way down the mountain.
5th class climb ---	Summiting the bar stool under severe conditions.
6th class climb ---	Summiting the bar stool under direct aid.
Glissade -----	"Gee, and I thought I slipped!"

GROTTO MINUTES - AT A GLANCE

Thomas Hruska, Secretary

Regular Meeting March 12, 1969

Room 3407 Called to order: 7:35 PM Adjourned: 8:30 PM
Attendance: 16 members & 4 guests Treasury: \$32.81
Iowa Grotto will submit a resolution to Congress of Grottos.
Twentieth Anniversary announcement appeared in Internal
Organization Newsletter. Cave register at Rising Street is
full. Walt Mauer plans a trip for March 15. Four trip
reports were given. A demonstration of knot tying was given.

Regular Meeting March 26, 1969

Room 3407 Called to order: 7:40 PM Adjourned: 8:30 PM
Attendance: 17 members & 5 guests Treasury: \$31.81
Steve Henke is planning to make a movie including Iowa
cave scenes. Iowa Grotto submitted a resolution to Congress
of Grottos. Spring MVOR will be April 26 & 27. Climbing
sessions will start again soon. Jim Hedges sent a letter
announcing his two week cave trip in Iowa. Slide show on
Bustamante was shown.

Regular Meeting April 9, 1969

Room 3407 Attendance: 8 members & 1 guest
No official meeting was held.

Regular Meeting April 23, 1969

Room 3407 Called to order: 7:35 PM Adjourned: 8:20 PM
Attendance: 19 members & 8 guests Treasury: \$124.81
Arm patches and decals available from grotto. Grotto will
pay part of purchase price for a new rope to replace one
damaged by Campus Life. "Cave Iowa" buttons have been ordered.
Resolution for Congress of Grottos rejected. About fifty
reservations already received for twentieth anniversary on
May 3 & 4. Future trips, Glenwood in one or two months and
Wordens before the anniversary. Loren McVey gave report on
trip to Glenwood. Slide show, "An Introduction to North-
western Vulcanospeleology" was shown.

GROTTO MINUTES - CONTINUED

Regular Meeting May 14, 1969

Room 3407 Called to order: 7:40 PM Adjourned: 9:25 PM
Attendance: 12 members & 1 guest Treasury: \$88.68
"Cave Iowa" buttons ready about end of month. Jack Stellmack sent post card expressing how he enjoyed the anniversary celebration. Gadabouts still active at Parsons College. Delegates and alternates were elected for the Congress of Grottos. Future trips, Marti wants to go to Dubuque and some grotto members proposed a Christmas trip to Mexico. Twentieth anniversary attended by 107 people from eight states. Many trip reports were given. Slide show, the "C3 Expedition" was shown.

Regular Meeting May 28, 1969

Front steps Called to order: 7:45 PM Adjourned: 8:30 PM
Attendance: 9 members & 1 guest Treasury: \$96.18
Small attendance because of semester finals. "Cave Iowa" buttons for sale from Marti Barber or Walt Mauer. Future trips, to Indiana on August 9 & 10 and a one week trip to northern Iowa in late August.

Regular Meeting June 11, 1969

Room 3400 Called to order: 7:40 PM Adjourned: 8:50 PM
Attendance: 6 members & 2 guests Treasury: \$102.18
Grotto attendance in summer slump. Future trip to Guttenburg on June 21 & 22. Dave Jagnow gave trip report on trip to Coldwater. Slide show, "Into the Depths of Fern" was shown.

Regular Meeting June 25, 1969

Room 3407 Called to order: 7:40 PM Adjourned: 8:40 PM
Attendance: 9 members & 5 guests Treasury: \$107.18
Grotto will buy projector lamp for projector borrowed from Al Jagnow. Loren McVey still plans one week trip to northern Iowa. Trip reports on Rising Street and Engleken caves. Dave Jagnow presented map of Coldwater. Future trips, Black Hills of South Dakota on July 4-6 and an undetermined location on July 13 & 14. Stream tracing with dye was discussed. Steve Barnett reported the location of sandstone cave. John Johnson reported on NSS convention and Congress of Grottos. Slide show, "Into the Depths of Fern" was shown for second time.

ANDERSON AND CAVE CANEM

Thomas Hruska

March 1, 1969

Thomas Hruska, Robert Hruska, Dave Nicholson

On Saturday morning, the three of us left Cedar Rapids for the Clarence Anderson farm, five miles West of St. Olaf, Iowa. We arrived at the farm in mid-morning and spoke to Mr. Anderson and his son.

After receiving Mr. Anderson's permission to enter his caves, we went in search of Anderson Cave. Most of the ravine was searched without finding the cave entrance. About forty-five minutes later, we abandoned our search and moved to Cave Canem.

Cave Canem was located further up the road in a deep land depression, about two hundred feet to the West of the road. We had to walk down the sides of the depression, a depth of about thirty feet, to reach the entrance of the cave. The entrance is a sixty foot deep shaft that is about six feet in diameter. Approximately one-half of the top of the shaft is covered by a rock overhang similar to a small shelter cave.

Dave and I descended while my father remained top-side to take survey notes by telephone. Our descent was made with rappel racks on 7/16 inch Sampson. At the bottom, I discovered that I had forgotten to bring my foot jumar for an inchworm ascent. Dave said, "That's OK, you can use mine." Then Dave discovered that he didn't have his either. We both climbed to the top of the entrance using our chest jumars with the rope looped under our feet with single hitch tied above the jumar to work like the foot jumar.

After checking our equipment, we dropped into Cave Canem for the second time. On this trip into the cave, we did some surveying with a compass and steel tape. Both sides of the cave were entered, but only the right side was mapped.

We signed the register after prying the "push-penny" out of the bushing on the end of the register container. This was necessary because the aluminum pipe had corroded and we couldn't unscrew the bushing. We made an uneventful climb back to daylight.

After leaving Cave Canem, we returned to the Anderson farm to check out. We told Mr. Anderson that we couldn't find Anderson Cave, so he volunteered to show us where it was at. He directed us to a shallow depression about seventy-five feet West of the road and about one-eighth of a mile Southeast of Cave Canem. The entrance was blocked by ice and snow, preventing us from entering the cave. We thanked Mr. Anderson and left for home late in the afternoon.

(Anyone going to Cave Canem might be on the look-out for a steel toe plate left in the left passage.... I would like it before my shoe wears out!!! Editor)



Tom Hruska signing the register
in Cave Canem

TRIP REPORT WINNESHIEK COUNTY

James (Ed) Smith

April 12-13, 1969

Loren McVey, Jim McGee, James Smith

After one false start (returning 15 miles to pick up a forgotten compass that was later found in the car) Smith and McVey left Cedar Falls at 0800 and arrived at the McGee farm at 0930. The party first checked some sinks at the SE corner of the intersection at NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 29, 100N, 9W. The third sink eastward is open and can be entered by determined cavers. Since the sink lies only a few hundred yards East of the well that is sunk into Coldwater Cave, the party of cavers were determined. It is about 15' from the top of the sink to the opening and another 20' to the bottom of the cave. The opening has a very irregular shape that does not conform to the human body. Future visitors take heed of the well earned name: Rupture Alley Cave. At the bottom of the shaft, the cave runs westerly about 4 feet and due East approximately 30' continuing as a crack. Twenty-one feet from the shaft a crevice goes down on the left side of the passage but it is not enterable. The passage is about 7' high and 3' wide except where breakdown and mud have raised the floor. Apparently the cave had never been entered before and the owner, Sylvester Carolan, confirmed this.

Mr. R. E. Knox has several large sinks near the center of section 29. He stated that one has a large crevice that a large rock has been dropped into. The party was not able to find any open sinks, but one was still snow filled and may have been the sink in question. This lead should be checked again.

The party checked the spring at Marlow Cave in hopes of finding it low enough to enter. The water however was high enough to leave only about three inches of air space.

The original purpose of the trip was to visit Glenwood Cave. McVey attempted to waterproof a pair of cotton underwear by dipping it into a waterproofing solution obtained from a dry-cleaners. The material itself was extremely water repellent however the open weave of the thermal underwear provided adequate circulation of water over the skin to insure against overheating in the warm spring waters of Winneshiek County. Smith sprayed aerosol water repellent on

a sweat suit. It was not as satisfactory a repellent as that used by McVey. Had the former type of waterproofing been applied to a sweat suit, a suitable wet suit might be improvised. A word of caution. A wet sweat suit can absorb about 25 pounds of water, which is a lot of dead weight to carry in any cave. McGee had warned Smith and McVey the night before that Glenwood was flooded to the ceiling, but the party checked the entrance anyway. The entrance crawlway was completely flooded. The party scouted the land above the cave and found several sinks. One large sink has a pond, but a smaller adjacent sink is draining. It may feed the stream passage in Glenwood. In hopes of finding cave entrances at springs, the cavers then followed the creek downstream going West through section 34. Two small springs were found, one that might be enterable by a small determined caver if it were completely dry. A third spring issued from a cave similar to Glenwood. It is approximately in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec 34, T97N, R7W, on the North side of the creek up a small branch. It is the first branch of the creek that one comes to when traveling East from the Glenwood cave road. The cave opening is as large as that of Glenwood and very beautiful. A spring about the size of the one at Glenwood issues from the cave and goes over a waterfall below the cave entrance. Later, about 2300, McVey and Smith returned to the cave to explore it. Past the large entrance room one enters a low tunnel and crawls through the stream to a small room about 6' high and 6' wide, through a few more feet of tunnel to another room about the same size. At the end of this room is a large piece of breakdown that almost blocks the passage. The stream runs under the block and one can pass over the rock, but immediately beyond it there is a siphon. This room also has a 20' crawlway off one side. The passage seems fairly deep in the siphon and if the water level drops, as it undoubtedly will, it may go on. The cave was traversable for 75' from dripline to siphon. The cave was tentatively named April Cave unless a local name is common.

About a dozen large sinks are in the hill above April Cave and some are very promising although they must be dug.

Apparently Glenwood Cave has been commercialized at one time. The owner of the land above the cave states that he was told that boats took visitors into the cave about thirty years ago. Supposedly a Mr. Jack Tellford at the Freeport Grocery Store was a guide and has some photographs. This lead may produce important information as to Glenwood's history.

Sunday Smith and McVey checked sinks in sections 19 and 30 of 100N,9W North of Coldwater Cave. One recent sink in the North half of section 30 is about 50' across and is swallowing a great amount of earth, but no rock is visible. There is a small sink in the SE corner of section 19 near the intersection but it has no opening. A very promising sink was found in SE,SE,SE,Sec 25,100N,10W. It is approximately 70' x 35' and about 15' deep. It is open and draining. An almost round hole 3' in diameter drops 5' into rock before it becomes plugged with silt. It may be promising to dig. However, a dead cow in a bad state of decomposition lies 2' from the opening. It undoubtedly gives a unique flavor to the water in Coldwater Cave.

YOU BEGIN TO WONDER WHEN...

...the trip leader asks if you can swim.

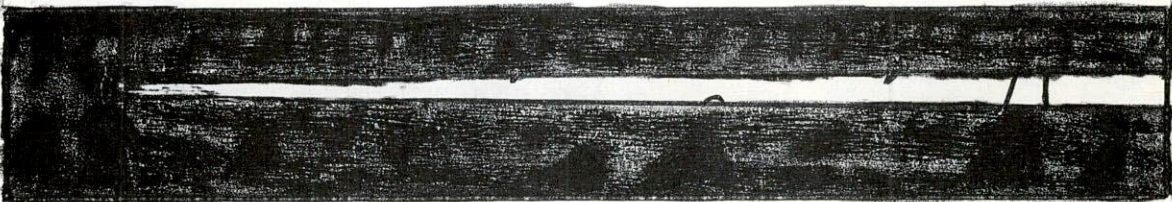
...two hundred feet of rope is put in the car when the cave was described as "an easy horizontal cave."

... the people who told you how much fun the trip would be don't show up.

...everyone else arrives with a wet suit.

...you are told that the group will go in one entrance and out another; and then you learn the connection has never been made.

Reprinted from The Huntsville Grotto Newsletter, Vol. IX, #10



Nothing like an electric lamp.

GOOD NEWS FOR IOWA CAVERS!

James Hedges

The following "Act" was passed by the last (61st) session of the Iowa legislature. It is applicable to cavers, because we usually arrive uninvited at "our" caves. According to this act, land owners are not responsible for the safety of people who use their land for recreational or scientific pursuits, uninvited, and without charge.

I suppose that if a malevolent caver (or his/her parents) wanted to claim that caves, per se, were attractive nuisances, this act could be held not to apply to cavers. But, I suggest that if used in good will, this act can help us to gain access to caves, and to keep the access which we already have. It might be a good idea if more states were encouraged to enact this kind of legislation. Perhaps some already have.

AN ACT

TO ENCOURAGE LANDOWNERS TO MAKE LAND AND WATER AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC BY LIMITING LIABILITY IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. The purpose of this Act is to encourage private owners of land to make land and water areas available to the public for recreational purposes by limiting their liability toward persons entering thereon for such purposes.

Section 2. As used in this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Land" means land used for agricultural purposes, including marshlands, timber, grasslands, and the privately owned roads, water, water courses, private ways and buildings, structures and machinery or equipment appurtenant thereto.

2. "Holder" means the possessor of a fee interest, a tenant, lessee, occupant or person in control of the premises; provided, however, holder shall not mean the state of Iowa, its political subdivisions, or any public body or any agencies, departments, boards or commissions thereof.

3. "Recreational purpose" means the following or any combination thereof: hunting, fishing, swimming, boating, camping, picnicking, hiking, pleasure driving, nature study, water skiing, winter sports, and viewing or enjoying historical, archeological, scenic, or scientific sites while going to and from or actually engaged therein.

4. "Charge" means any consideration, the admission price or fee asked in return for invitation or permission to enter or go upon the land.

Section 3. Except as specifically recognized by or provided in section six (6) of this Act, an owner of land owes no duty of care to keep the premises safe for entry or use by others for recreational purposes, or to give any warning of a dangerous condition, use, structure, or activity on such premises to persons entering for such purposes.

Section 4. Except as specifically recognized by or provided in section six (6) of this Act, a holder of land who either directly or indirectly invites or permits without charge any person to use such property for recreational purposes does not thereby:

1. Extend any assurance that the premises are safe for any purpose.

2. Confer upon such person the legal status of an invitee or licensee to whom the duty of care is owed.

3. Assume responsibility for or incur liability for any injury to person or property caused by a act or omission of such persons.

Section 5. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, the provisions of section three (3) and four (4) of this Act shall be deemed applicable to the duties and liability of an owner of land leased, or any interest or right therein transfered to, or the subject of any agreement with, the United States or any agency thereof, or the state of any agency or subdivision thereof, for recreational purposes.

Section 6. Nothing in this Act limits in any way any liability which otherwise exists:

1. For willful or malicious failure to guard or warn against a dangerous condition, use, structure, or activity,

2. For injury suffered in any case where the owner of land charges the person or persons who enter or go on the land for the recreational use thereof, except that in the case of land or any interest or right therein, leased or transfered to, or the subject of any agreement with, the United States, or any agency thereof or the state or any agency thereof or subdivision thereof, any consideration received by the holder for such lease, interest, right or agreement, shall not be deemed a charge within the meaning of this section.

Section 7. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to:

1. Create a duty of care or ground of liability for injury to persons or property.

2. Relieve any person using the land of another for recreational purposes from any obligation which he may have in the absence of this Act to exercise care in the use of such land and in his activities thereon, or from the legal consequences of failure to employ such care.

3. Amend, repeal, or modify the common law doctrine of attractive nuisance.

SONGS FOR THE SINGING CAVER

Gory, Gory, Rockclimbers
(Tune: Battle Hymn of the Republic)

- I "Will it go around the chalkstone?" called the belayer,
looking up.
Our hero feebly answered "Yes," and slowly inched on up.
He was trying to drive a piton when his foothold crumbled out,
And he ain't gonna climb no more.
- Chorus: Gory, gory, what a hell-of-a-way to die, (3 times)
Oh, he ain't gonna climb no more.
- II He slid right down the chimney and he quickly gathered speed,
He shot past the belayer who'd forgot the climber's creed,
An anchor to a piton would've been all he'd ever need,
Oh, he ain't gonna climb no more.
- III The belayer felt the rope pull taut and tried to let it run,
But it jerked him from position and he knew his time had come,
He left the ledge behind him and it shot up toward the sun,
Oh, he ain't gonna climb no more.
- IV They sped on down the chimney and they passed the southern col,
They had such good exposure it made a glorious fall,
They slithered over a friction pitch and sped on down the wall,
Oh, they ain't gonna climb no more.
- V The days they'd lived and loved and laughed kept running thru
their minds,
They thought about the girls back home, the ones they'd left
behind,
They thought about the ranger too, and wondered what he'd find,
Oh, they ain't gonna climb no more.
- VI A medic in the vally watched them through his telescope,
And as they neared the bottom, his eyes grew bright with hope,
For it had been a week or more since the parting of the rope,
Oh, they ain't gonna climb no more.
- VII One had the rope around his neck and the pitons thru his spleen,
An ice-ax in the rucksack had split the other's bean,
The trails of red marked their descent as they neared the
slopes of green,
Oh, they ain't gonna climb no more.

VIII They hit the ground, the sound was SPLAT!! The blood went
spurting high,
Their comrades were heard to say, "What a colorful way to die!"
As they lay there rolling in the welter of their gore,
Oh, they ain't gonna climb no more.

IX There was blood upon the rucksacks, there were brains upon the
ropes,
Intestines were entwined across the green and grassy slopes,
We picked them up in a lunch pail after salvaging the rope,
Oh, they ain't gonna climb no more.

ROCK OF AGES

Rock or Ages, zorched by we, let us make a map of thee,
By the compass and the tape, we shall soon determine shape,
Of the cave wherin you be, Rock of Ages, zorched by we,

As we draw this fleeting breath, 'though a cave-in caused our
death,

Now we gaze from clouds above, down upon the caves we love,
Future cavers beware of thee, Rock of Ages zorched by we.

THEY'VE BEEN WORKING ON THEIR CAVE MAP

They've been working on their cave map, all the livelong day,
They've been working on their cave map, just a crawlin' all the way.
Can't you hear us bats a singin' "Please leave us alone!"
Can't you hear us bats a singin' "Cavers, please go home!"

Go home, go home, Cavers please go ho-o-me,
Go home, go home, And please leave us alone!

There's someone in the passage beside us. Someone's in the
passage we kno-o-o-ow,
Someone's in the passage beside us Chewin' on a Tootsie Roll.

CARBIDE TROUBLE-SHOOTING GUIDE

<u>Trouble</u>	<u>Remedy</u>
lamp will not light -----	Check water and carbide-refill if necessary. Check water tube to see whether drops from water container enter bottom. Blow through water-filler cap to unblock. Inspect gasket and seats. Clean seats, replace gasket if old and worn. Check for dirt, cracks and chips. Clean or replace tip, press firmly into place. Check felt. Wring out thoroughly if wet, or replace if worn or brittle. Check for holes in any part of lamp. Solder all holes shut.
lamp lights but burns --- irregularly	Check tip for dirt, cracks or chips. Clean or replace tip, press firmly into place. Check felt. Wring out thoroughly if wet. Replace if worn or brittle. Check water and carbide; refill if necessary. Make sure that carbide container is screwed firmly into place.
Flame around carbide ---- container gasket	Inspect gasket. Replace if necessary. Clean seats, threads and gaskets. Screw carbide container firmly into place.
Flame burns around ----- ceramic tip	Check for grit in tip seat. Check or replace tip; press firmly into place. Clean tip hole. Check fit of tip into seat. Press firmly into place.
Water flow into carbide - container, cannot be regulated.	Check to see that water-regulator lever turns water regulator at end of water tube. If not, solder lever to regulator or replace top or lamp.
Water spurts from tip --- or filler cap vent hole	Decrease flow of water into carbide container. Wait a few moments before relighting.

