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Intercom, Volume 5, No. 3, May-June 1969

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Vol. 5 #3

Published Semi-spasmodically By

THE IOWA GROTTO
National Speleological Society

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Volume V

Issue 3

May — June

1969

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IOWA GROTTO INTERCOM
P. O. Box 228
Iowa City, 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.

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COVER PICTURE: Jack Stellmack, President of the NSS, posing with the Iowa Grotto sweatshirt which was presented to him at the 20th Anniversary of the Iowa Grotto.



IOWA GROTTO
National Speleological Society
P. O. Box 228
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Chairman - - - - - Dave Jagnow
Vice-Chairman - - Loren McVey
Sec'y-Treas.- - - - Tom Hruska

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SAFETY RULES FOR CAVE DIVING

These rules are in no way to be considered official or complete. They are simply the result of the experience gained by members of the Iowa Grotto. It should also be noted that these rules are not concerned with the problems of diving in deep water where pressure and decompression are problems, but of horizontal diving only.

1. The first rule of cave diving is don't.
2. However, when rule #1 fails, one should first be an experienced caver and secondly an experienced diver.
3. Do not at any time take foolish risks.
4. When exploring new sections of an underground cave, have the lead person secured to a safety line that in turn is secured to the outside or a previously explored section of the cave.
5. Have a good underwater light source with a back-up light that is easily accessible.
6. A hard hat or some type of head protection is recommended.
7. Use only a single hose regulator.
8. Periodically check your equipment such as tanks and regulators for any defects.
9. The use of an air pressure gauge that is easily read at all times is also recommended, especially for exploratory trips.
10. The most important rule is to relax, move slowly, breathe normally, and do not under any circumstances panic.

IOWA GROTTTO 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Thomas Hruska

May 3-4, 1969

The Iowa Grotto of the National Speleological Society celebrated the twentieth anniversary of its founding on May 3 & 4, 1969. The celebration was headquartered at the Dubuque County Fairgrounds, five miles west of Dubuque, Iowa. One hundred seven people, from eight different states, attended the weekend activities. Ninety-nine of the people attended the Saturday night banquet to hear NSS President, Jack Stellmack.

The first guests began arriving 4 o'clock Friday afternoon. Jack Stellmack arrived by Ozark Airlines at about 4:30 P.M. He was greeted at the airport by several Iowa Grotto members and taken to the fairgrounds to join the other spelunkers. The steady trickle of arriving cavers continued all through the evening and into the early morning hours. As each new guest arrived, old acquaintances were renewed or new ones were made. Many of the cavers at the fairgrounds stayed up until about 3 o'clock talking about any subject that came to mind.

Saturday morning arrived and so did most of the guests. Many of the cavers that attended the celebration arrived between 6:00 and 9:00 A.M. By midmorning, some of the trips to Iowa caves had departed from the fairgrounds. Caving trips continued to leave until midafternoon. Trip reports of the cave trips appear elsewhere in this publication.

The last of the guests arrived Saturday evening, in time for the banquet. Starting about 6:30 P.M., there was a mass migration from the fairgrounds to Robert's Smorgastable in downtown Dubuque. At 7 o'clock, the group started through the smorgasboard serving line. Each person had a choice of beef, ham, chicken, and/or fish. Many different kinds of salads plus potatoes and vegetables were available.

After the banquet tables had been cleared, a program was given by several speakers. Rick Lewis, Master of Ceremonies, opened the program and read the following telegram addressed to Jack Stellmack from the founder of the Iowa Grotto:

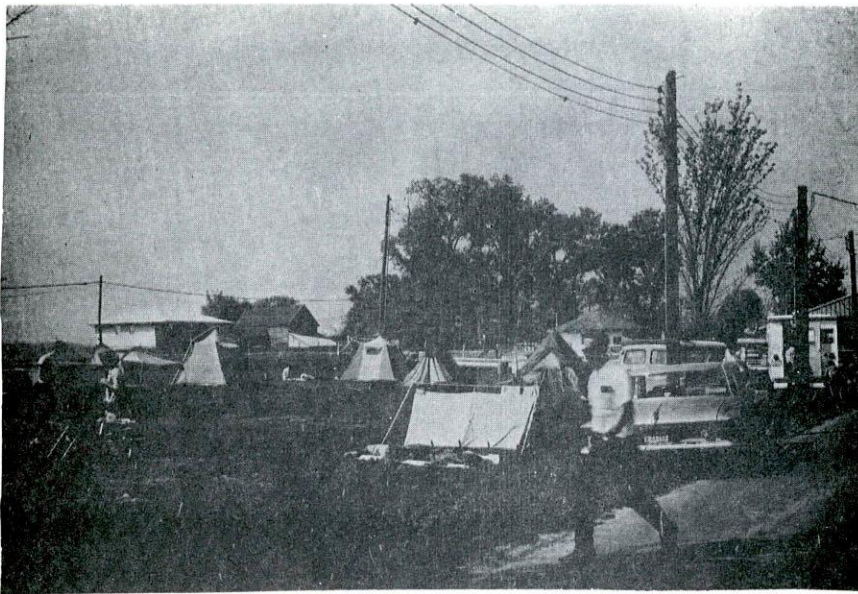
Congratulations to Tom Hruska and the Iowa Grotto in their twentieth anniversary celebration. Sorry we could not attend, but we certainly wish them and all

participants our very best for a top notch celebration and continued success in the years ahead. When the proceedings are written we hope to see many old friends and charter members listed among the attendees. Best wishes to all.

Connie and Bill Petrie

Dave Jagnow, Chairman of the Iowa Grotto, presented Jack with a sweat shirt with the Iowa Grotto emblem on the front and back. Mr. Everett Alton introduced the guest speaker, Jack Stellmack, President of the NSS. Jack gave a slide lecture on "My Seventeen Years in the NSS." His program lasted about one hour. It related how his activities as a caver have taken him to many countries to make many friends. Caving has also led him to a very wonderful life not to mention participation in a sport that is enjoyed by only one person in fifty thousand.

Following the banquet, most of the people went to the 4-H building at the Dubuque County Fairgrounds to see slide shows. St. Louis University Grotto presented an interesting slide program with a music and narration sound track that can only be described as different. Dave Jagnow presented his color slides of Coldwater Cave in northern Iowa. Many people didn't believe that this cave could be in Iowa. "Biff" Biffle closed the slide program with his pictures of the Spring MVOR in MIssouri.



A look at the campgrounds. Dubuque County Fairgrounds.

Everyone migrated to the campground for a campfire after the slide show. A campfire was built in the center of a circular concrete foundation of a silo. The onlookers sat on the inside of the foundation, using it as a backrest. Talking, singing, and guitar playing passed the time. Some of the cavers enjoyed liquid refreshments. The campfire broke up about 2 o'clock on Sunday morning.

Daylight on Sunday morning saw no activity. By midmorning, some people were up and cave trips were being planned. Several trips were taken before the guests began leaving.

Everyone had left the anniversary by midafternoon on Sunday. Jack Stellmack left on an Ozark plane about 1 o'clock. The other guests left by automobile. At 3:00 P.M., only a few Iowa Grotto members were left at the campground. They were cleaning up the paper and cans that were left on the grounds. By 3:30 P.M., everybody was gone and the twentieth anniversary of the Iowa Grotto was gone forever except in our memories.

HISTORY OF THE IOWA GROTTO

Thomas Hruska

Founding

Ever had a hankering to explore caves? If so you will probably be interested in a new organization soon to be formed on the SUI campus.

The preceding paragraph is the opening lines of a newspaper article from the April 12, 1949, issue of the Daily Iowan, a university paper from the State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. In this article, William Petrie, a college student from Arlington, Virginia, announced his intent to arouse interest in forming an SUI grotto of the National Speleological Society.

The first organizational meeting was held on Tuesday, April 19, 1949, in room 206 of the geology building on the SUI campus. This meeting was attended by about twenty people.

The proposed constitution for the Iowa City Grotto was

received by the National Speleological Society on May 9, 1949. The charter officers were Bill Petrie, Chairman; Herb Kane, Secretary-Treasurer; and Carl Hinrichs, Quartermaster.

On May 23, 1949, Mr. William Stephenson, Executive Vice-President of the NSS, wrote a letter to Bill Petrie to announce that the charter for the Iowa City Grotto had been approved. This made the Iowa City Grotto the nineteenth grotto to be founded as part of the National Speleological Society.

The newly founded group made trips to many caves in Iowa and some caves in Missouri and Wisconsin. The trip to Missouri was covered in a local newspaper at Hannibal.

Bill Petrie sent a letter to William Stephenson requesting that the charter certificate list May 3, 1949, as the date of the beginning of the Iowa City Grotto. As a result, May 3 is now accepted as the official date for the founding of the Iowa Grotto.

Name Change

In the spring of 1950, the Iowa City Grotto changed its name to Iowa Grotto. On April 27, 1950, Bill Petrie wrote a letter to William Stephenson, Chairman of the Grottos Committee, requesting that the name of the Iowa City Grotto be changed to a simpler form, the Iowa Grotto.

Mr. Stephenson wrote:

It is all right with the National Office to change the name of the Grotto if you wish to do so. However, it has been our experience that grotto names that took in too large a territory eventually have to be changed to take in a smaller area.

In spite of this, the name of the grotto was changed to the Iowa Grotto in early May 1950.

Deactivation

The black ages for the Iowa Grotto came with the deactivation in the summer of 1954. On April 28, 1954, Betty A. Yoe, a member of the Grotto Committee, wrote to Earl Carter, Chairman of the Iowa Grotto, inquiring why

the grotto had not submitted a report for the period ending March 1, 1954. No reply was written.

Several months later, Bill Halliday, Chairman of the Grotto Committee, wrote:

Due to your difficulty in recent months in grotto organization, the loss of many Iowa City NSS memberships, and the present delinquency of the Iowa City Grotto, your regional committeeman has recommended inactivation of the Iowa City Grotto.

(Dr. Halliday was still using the old grotto name.)

Iowa Grotto Chairman, Earl Carter, wrote the following reply to Dr. Halliday:

It is with a great deal of reluctance that I inform you that the Iowa Grotto should be placed on the inactive list, because I have been hoping to get the Grotto going again, in spite of the fact that I have very little time to work with it. Almost all of the former members of the Grotto, many of them State University of Iowa students, are no longer in Iowa City. I have been hoping to be able to find the time to get the Grotto active again with new members, as well as the few former members who are still here. But people that I have talked with about it are very busy with other things.

Mr. Carter also informed Dr. Halliday that all grotto property had been left in his care.

On July 15, 1954, Dr. Halliday notified Earl Carter that the Iowa Grotto was now officially listed as an inactive grotto of the National Speleological Society.

Reorganization

The year 1957 saw the come back of the Iowa Grotto. During the summer of 1956, Mr. Richard A. Watson wrote to the NSS requesting the C-3 slide show to present at a meeting of prospective grotto members. This slide show was presented in September, 1956. Mr. "Red" Watson wrote letters to the known NSS members in Iowa announcing the attempt to reorganize the Iowa Grotto.

On Thursday, October 25, 1956, a group of cavers decided to reorganize the Iowa Grotto. A cave trip was

planned for the following Sunday to Kemmling Cave near Dubuque, Iowa. A second trip was planned for Sunday, November 4, 1956, to Spook Cave near McGregor, Iowa. Six people went on the trip to Kemmling. The following week, about ten people went on the trip to Spook Cave. Interest continued to grow slowly.

By the time March, 1957, rolled around, Red Watson had found enough NSS members that the Iowa Grotto could move forward in high gear toward its reorganization. A new constitution was drawn up by the NSS members in Iowa. This same group elected an executive committee of James Hedges, Chairman; Earl Carter, Vice-Chairman; James Copley, Secretary; and Arthur Purlong, Treasurer.

James Hedges submitted a copy of the new constitution, the officers of the executive committee, and the names of the nine NSS members that formed the charter members of the reorganized grotto on April 27, 1957.

In June, an article of the Iowa Grotto Constitution was rewritten at the request of the chairman of the Grottos Committee of the NSS. This revised constitution was submitted on June 12, 1957.

After almost one whole year of work to reorganize the Iowa Grotto, Elizabeth M. Sabatinos, Chairman of the Grottos Committee, informed Jim Hedges "that the reactivation of the Iowa Grotto is hereby affirmed." This letter was dated June 27, 1957.

The Iowa Grotto received its new charter certificate in the summer of the following year. The certificate was presented on July 1, 1958, but it listed June 4, 1957, as the date of the reorganization. Thus, the Iowa Grotto came to life for the second time.

Iowa Cave Book

The spring of 1957 saw the coming of the first major publication of the Iowa Grotto. This publication was the Iowa Cave Book. Chairman James Hedges founded the publication and did the editing. The ICB remained the official publication of the Iowa Grotto for seven years.

The publication became an authority on caves and

caving in the upper Mississippi Valley. Articles written by authors in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin were printed. The subject matter of these articles varied from reports of trips to caves in these states to technical reports on the cave sciences.

The ICB changed format several times during its first three years of existence. The publication began with separate departments for each type of report. Part way through the first year, the departments were dropped in favor of consecutive pagination. In 1958 and 1959, the format continued with consecutively numbered pages. The final format was adopted with the beginning of volume four in 1960. It was a departmentalized format with consecutively numbered pages in each department.

The Iowa Cave Index began as part of the ICB. It was a list of caves including locations and descriptions among other information. The Index remained part of the Iowa Cave Book until the sixth edition when it became a completely separate publication.

The Iowa Cave Book was doomed to wither and die as the grotto members moved out of the area in 1963. For the next two years, the Iowa Grotto didn't publish a newsletter.

Activities Slump

During the years of 1962 and 1963, the Iowa Grotto activities came to a near standstill. In the summer of 1960, Jim Hedges had to resign as grotto chairman when he enlisted in the Marines. In the summer and fall of 1961, the secretary-treasurer and then the chairman resigned for personal reasons. This left Dan Ver Ploeg as the new chairman of the Iowa Grotto. Dan was handicapped in his position as grotto chairman because he was living in Madison, Wisconsin.

One business meeting was held in 1962. This was in December. The grotto membership was getting diversified and the members were losing interest as a result. Dan Ver Ploeg was reelected as chairman for 1963.

In December, 1963, another annual business meeting was held. The members present decided that the Iowa Grotto

was no longer serving a function as a grotto of the NSS. Deactivation was discussed, but formal action was postponed until June 1, 1964. No elections of officers was held, but Dan Ver Ploeg continued as acting chairman.

Early in 1964, a group of people interested in caving started meeting in Iowa City, Iowa, under the name "Iowa Grotto." The group continued to grow under the leadership of David Morehouse and Dr. Donald McDonald. The group soon elected officers: Dr. McDonald, Chairman; Dave Morehouse, Vice-Chairman; Albert Jagnow, Recording Secretary-Treasurer; and George Hedges, Corresponding Secretary-Librarian.

On March 8, 1964, the acting secretary-treasurer of the official Iowa Grotto, Robert Henshaw, wrote a form letter to all former officers and members of the Iowa Grotto, introducing this rapidly growing group in Iowa City. He listed the qualifications of the officers and some of the new members. He further recommended that the official Iowa Grotto be turned over to this group in Iowa City, Iowa.

Dan Ver Ploeg, Iowa Grotto Acting Chairman, wrote a letter to Dr. McDonald suggesting that his group should take over the official Iowa Grotto. Before this could be done, however, the officers of the Iowa City group had to become NSS members. Mr. Ver Ploeg sent NSS membership blanks to the new officers and they submitted them.

The Iowa Grotto was officially transferred to the Iowa City group before the June 1, 1964, deadline.

Intercom

George Hedges, the brother of the former grotto chairman, started publishing a new Iowa Grotto publication in March, 1965. The newsletter was printed under the name of Intercom. It was published "semi-spasmodically" even though it was supposed to be a bimonthly.

The Intercom was founded as an authority of Iowa Grotto activities. Trip reports, special events, future activities, minutes, and membership lists were included. Articles from other than grotto members were usually limited to announcements of special events.

The style of the Intercom made several steps on its way to the present form. It started as a purple ditto newsletter, sometimes known as the "purple horror." This style was used for the first two years. Volume three came out using black ditto. This was much nicer looking than the previous issues. Multilith printing was used for the first time beginning with volume four in 1968. Pictures were added to the publication starting with volume five. With the printing of volume five, the Intercom had a distribution of about one hundred twenty-five copies.

Twentieth Anniversary

In May, 1969, the Iowa Grotto celebrated its twentieth anniversary at Dubuque, Iowa. A transcript of activities appears elsewhere in this publication.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Jack Stellmack
(as told to T. Hruska)



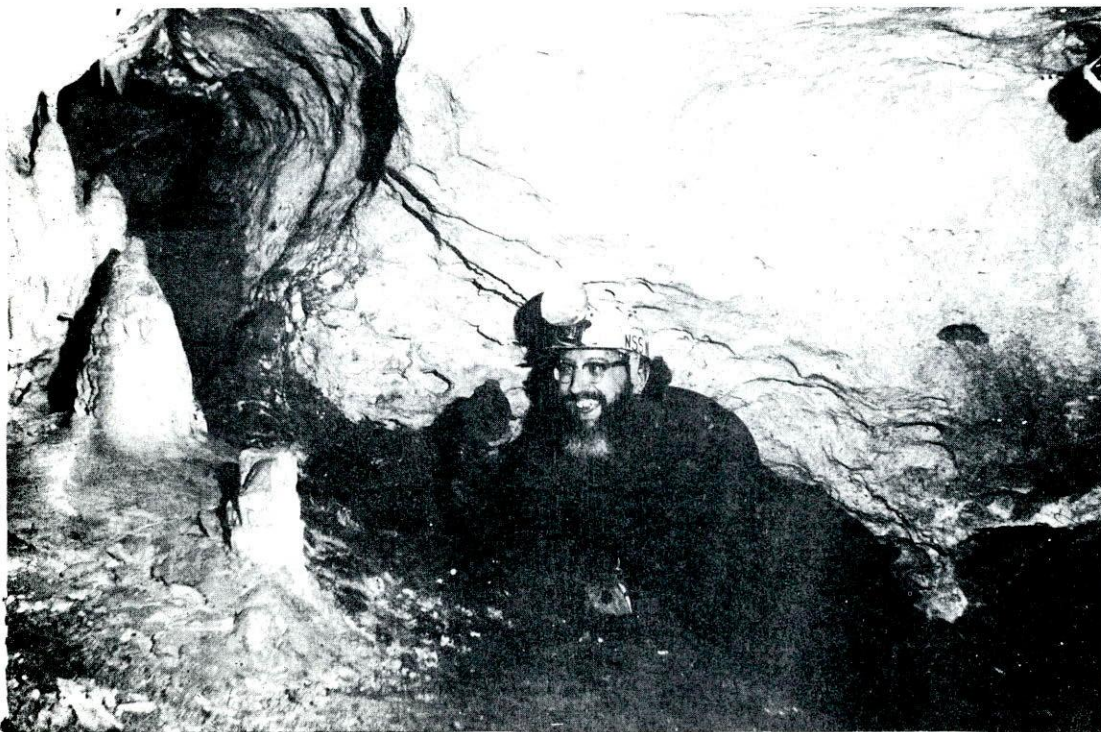
Jack Stellmack, President of the NSS, gave a telephone report to this writer concerning the twentieth anniversary celebration of the Iowa Grotto. When asked about the weekend, Jack said, "I enjoyed the whole weekend, I really did. One of the high points of the weekend for me was the tour around the city on Saturday morning. It's a memory of Dubuque as a holey city, 'cause it's like a piece of Swiss cheese. I can see where people can really get hung up on the historical

Jack Stellmack, President of the NSS.

aspects of caving in the area. One of these days, I would very much like to have a board meeting in Dubuque. I think the people would enjoy the trip out there, just to see some of the country."

On Saturday, May 3, Jack went on the cave trip to Engelken Cave near New Vienna, Iowa. Concerning this trip, he said, "You can quote me for saying I never got so muddy, so quickly, for so little. No, actually it was a pretty neat little cave. It was just crawling through that pile of glop at the entrance. That was sort of a fun trip, actually. I've been muddier than that." John Johnson took a picture of Jack laying on the floor in Englelken Cave. When Jack learned that the picture would be printed in the anniversary issue of the Intercom, he said, "That will help show people that I do go caving. Even in Iowa."

Jack gave the following report concerning the sweatshirt that he received at the banquet on Saturday night. "Do you know where I first wore it? In a place called Lost Cave, in New Mexico. It is a little wild cave just outside, on the edge of town, of Carlsbad, New Mexico. I was out there over



Jack in Engelken Cave

Labor Day weekend. That weekend the Southwest Region was having their fall regional meeting which I went out for. It turned real rainy; miserable, miserable weather. They were going to have a big dinner on the beach along the river, but because of the weather they moved the whole thing inside, into this Lost Cave. Since it was in a cave and a little bit on the chilly side, I wanted to wear something and I happened to take along the Iowa Grotto sweatshirt. Ellis Rolfs, who is chairman of the Southwest region, introduced me as the representative from Iowa. That's the first time I wore the sweatshirt. It got worn in a cave in New Mexico."

Jack closed his report with this comment, "It was a pretty full weekend, I thought."

FRIDAY NIGHT

Loren McVey

On the first night of the Anniversary, that is, Friday the 2nd, Larry Fattig and I managed to talk Dave Jagnow into driving up to Glenwood Cave to see if the water level would be low enough to permit any trips to it the next two days. At first Jag was not too happy about the idea of going all night and not getting any sleep, however, by promising that Larry or I would drive back and by a process of constant badgering we finally convinced Dave that it was a good idea to run up and check things out.

So about 12 o'clock Dave Jagnow, Larry Fattig, Marti Barber (Jean Lehman), and I headed for Glenwood. Larry and I, the instigators of the trip slept most of the way up. That is until about 3 o'clock when we were all awakened by a sudden stoppage of motion. We woke up but still were not fully aware of our surroundings. We opened the doors to get out thinking we must be there and stepped into about 8" of mud. We were stuck.

It seems that all the roads coming into Glenwood from the south were torn up and under construction--that is nothing but dirt road beds and of course there had been heavy spring rains. However, rather than go a few miles out of our way--and all of you know Jag and his cavemobile--Dave decided to plod on through. It really had been smooth sailing for

a while--only deep ruts and ponds of water in the middle of the road--until we hit the mud hole.

For about the next hour we worked to extricate ourselves from the mud. By pulling up fence posts to use and scavaging anything that looked like it might help and with a little digging, we finally managed to get out. (We then decided to take the long way.)

Sometime in the wee morning hours we finally arrived at Glenwood. And sure enough it was completely flooded. We were a little disappointed to have taken this long drive for nothing, so we decided to look at April which is only a hop and a jump away. We then proceeded across the open fields and through the woods to April Cave. We had more or less just decided to look at it since going in means crawling or duck-walking through rather cold water, but upon getting there we all decided to go in.

The entrance was really beautiful, what with the waterfall and the early spring wild flowers and the daylight was just beginning to appear--really quite beautiful. Anyway we went back to the end of the cave where it sumps (some 100 feet) and then headed out. The walk back to the car was just spectacular. We were walking in the open flood plain of the stream and the grass was soaked with dew so that our paths through the grass showed up as artistic lines in the early morning sun which was just popping over the horizon. It was a beautiful sunrise, well worth the long drive up.

From here we headed back, finally arriving at the campgrounds about 8:00, just in time to go out on the Saturday morning trips.

SPIRAL CAVE

Dave Nicholson

May 3, 1969

Dave Nicholson, Sue Epley, Joe Nicholson, Ed Smith, Claude Penny

The object of this trip was to introduce the other members of the group to one of Iowa's maze caves. This particular cave had been mined for lead in the 1880's and had

been abandoned since. After rigging a line to a nearby tree, everyone descended the twenty-foot entrance shaft using a body rappel. This shaft can be chimneyed if desired. The cave derives its name from the passage type, namely it spirals downward in a twenty foot circle to a total depth of approximately one hundred and fifty feet. By taking the left passage off the bottom of the shaft (as you stand facing into the cave), one after another, we slid to the bottom of the cave in a sitting position. The last ten feet must be negotiated with care as it drops straight down. After climbing down this pit, Claude proceeded to explore the crawl-way passages which continue horizontally from the last pit.

On the way out, Sue was going feet first through a low spot in the passage and pulled a large block of crumbly clay down on her face. She then spit out mud almost continuously on the way out.

Future exploration of this cave should be done cautiously as the ceiling and walls are very loose and crumbly.

ENGLEKIN CAVE

Walt Mauer

May 3, 1969

Walt Mauer, Alan Swenson, John Johnson, Jack Stellmack, and out-of-staters.

In the interest of proving that "Uncle" Jack Stellmack had been in Iowa and that he had entered and explored an Iowa cave, it fell upon John Johnson and myself to persuade Jack to join us in a trip to Englekin Cave, and photograph him therein. We began badgering Jack about going caving at about 9:30 Saturday morning. At 2:30 that afternoon, he finally consented, more to relieve himself of our nagging insistence than because of enthusiasm we generated about the cave. We stopped at the fairgrounds to pickup our gear and ended up picking up 7 more cavers. We departed from the campground around 4:00 in the afternoon. Due to the banquet that evening we determined that this would have to be a rather quick trip. Keeping this foremost in his mind, Johnson tried

to set a new land speed record for four wheel drive vehicles. He was severely hampered insofar as the second car did not know where the cave was and John couldn't exceed 75 miles per hour. In a short time we arrived at the cave site none the worse for wear but slightly concerned about John's sanity and our safety. This concern was heightened when I slammed the car door on Jack's hand. Fortunately no real damage was inflicted.

After suiting Jack in my "Iowa Grotto" coveralls and taking his picture a half dozen times we headed toward the cave. John needed a bit more time to adjust his gear so I led the way down the culvert into the cave. Having never been any farther into this cave than three feet, I was a poor one to lead and sure enough, I went the wrong way at the bottom of the culvert and led the group to the right. Johnson quickly directed me in the correct direction and I met up with the famous Englekin squeeze. If you think that I had trouble worming through, you should have seen Jack. The closest thing to his situation is that of a three inch round pickle in a two and a half inch jar. STUCK. We managed to



Jack--after Englekin Cave

wiggle Jack free and took what can be described as a running tour of the cave. John took a series of pictures and the group headed out for the return trip and banquet. John's Jeep fairly flew from the cave to the campground and the the banquet hall in Dubuque. We arrived just in time to get everything lined up for slide presentations and Jack's talk. I'm sure that everyone involved in the trip will agree with Jack's comment to the effect that "No wonder you people here in Iowa think you haven't any caves, you're too busy speedin' around to find 'em." Well, you could take that to mean he was unimpressed by our Iowa caves' size, but I think he was referring to their generally overlooked beauty.

EWING DIGGINGS

Steve Scarff

May 3, 1969

Rick Smith, Steve Scarff, 2 members of Rock River S.S.

On Saturday morning, May 3, we left the Iowa Grotto 20th Anniversary campsite at the Dubuque Fairgrounds and headed for some caves near Durango.

After walking past the smaller entrance to Ewing Diggings without seeing it, we found it on the second pass. We made a quick trip through to the other entrance and back again.

On the way back, we descended into Spiral Cave using a cable ladder. Harold Herrington and some other people were already in the cave. After crawling through a lot of the cave, we climbed back out.

After checking out a couple more little holes in the area, we headed back to the campsite. The whole trip took about 4 or 5 hours.

NOTICE: the Intercom needs trip reports; so get them in !

COLOSSAL COMPOST AND DEVIL'S THROAT

Loren McVey

May 3, 1969

Dave Jagnow, Larry Fattig, Eric Smith, Frank Niddy, Loren McVey, Jean Lehman, plus out-of staters.

On Saturday morning, May 3, after Dave Jagnow finally got most of the out-of-state people headed off in various directions to several Iowa caves, the above listed members of the Iowa Grotto plus some out-of-state cavers left the fairgrounds for Colossal Compost and the other pit caves in the area. We arrived at Colossal Compost a little after noon. Some of the out-of-state people immediately began rigging up for a rappel into the cave. In the meanwhile, Dave Jagnow rigged up a cable ladder and belay line for a partial descent into the pit and entrance into the side passage. I was first down and after a little effort I managed to squeeze into the side passage which is about 60 feet above the bottom of the pit. Due to a lack of time and the fact that I had a little trouble finding the register, Frank Niddy and I were the only two who managed to get into the side passage that day. The rest of the members from the Iowa Grotto were anxious to get into Devil's Throat which lies perhaps a mile away. So after Frank and I made our exit, the Iowa Grotto took off for Devil's Throat, leaving the out-of-state cavers to enjoy the rappel into the pits around Colossal Compost. Upon leaving we recommended to the out-of-state cavers that the most exciting part was to make the entrance into the side passage. We found out later that they had apparently looked the situation over and decided against the undertaking.

Meanwhile, the Iowa Grotto was making preparations to drop the 80-some feet into Devil's Throat. We rigged cable ladders and quickly descended to the bottom, there to be met by some of the stickiest, gooiest, wettest, muddiest mud in the whole state of Iowa. If you stood in one place for more than a minute you were in up to your knees, and it took you the next five minutes to extricate yourself. Our intention had been to see and possibly explore the reported horizontal passage off the bottom. All we found was a narrow passage a couple of inches high. Dave tried to push in and finding the passage too small spent the next 20-30 minutes digging out the passage. Then Frank Niddy managed to push in about 10 feet until he ran into a large rock which obstructed the

passageway. He was wedged in so tightly and the mud was so sticky that he could not even begin to remove himself, so Dave crawled in after him, grabbed ahold of his feet, started to pull and found out that the mud was holding him down too. Larry and Eric grabbed one foot and I grabbed the other foot. After pulling for a few minutes we finally started to make some progress and after a few more minutes had pulled everyone from the mess. Dave and Frank were covered with mud from head to foot and the rest of us were not much better off. This made climbing up the cable ladder much more exciting. We finally got out, went to the owner's house and washed up, then jumped in the car, sped back to the fairgrounds, changed clothes, and hurried on to Robert's Smorgasboard just in time for the banquet, thus ending another day of caving for the Iowa Grotto.

WEIGANDS CAVE

Loren McVey

May 3, 1969

Larry Fattig, Loren McVey, Ron Rogers, and Chris Armev

On the second night of the Anniversary, that is Saturday night, Larry and I tried our damndest to get a caving trip organized. However, it seems that by 11:00 P.M.--after the slide shows--most people were caved out (in?) for the day. Finally we managed to get Jag's car and two other cavers, Ron and Chris, to join us. Finally around midnight we left the campgrounds for Wiegands Cave.

The cave is located in Dubuque just across the street from Becker Quarry Cave (closed to us now.) The entrance was found with no difficulty as it is a huge opening in an old quarry. We headed back for the two pits in the cave. Larry, Ron and I descended into the pit by using a body rappel on the 3/8 inch Goldline. (Let me recommend that for pits of this depth--50 ft.--a body rappel not be tried unless the line is much heavier or the caver has a very thick hide.) We checked out the few feet of lower passage and then all chimneyed back up. Larry shot the rest of the cave while the rest of waited for him. We then headed out.

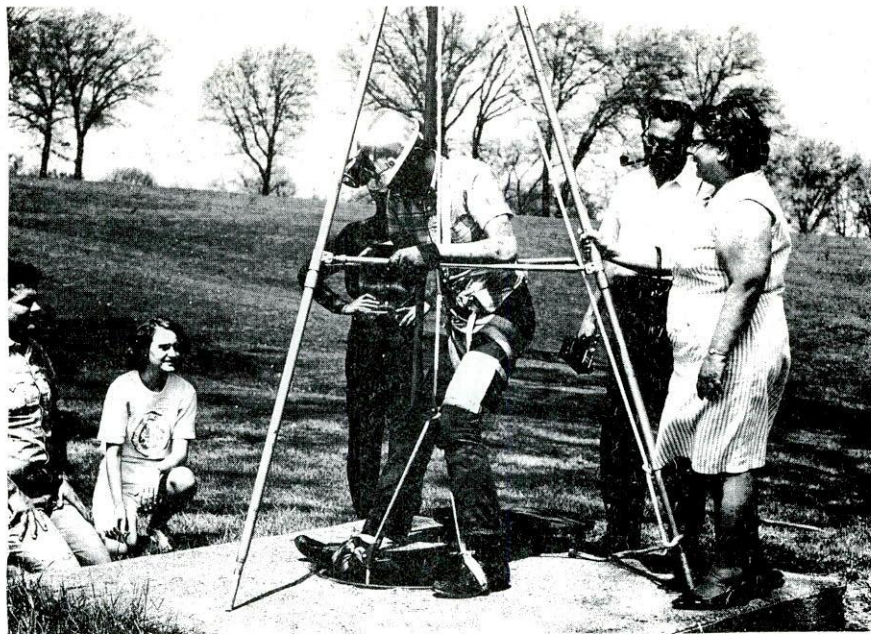
On the way back to the campgrounds we suddenly heard

this terrible grinding noise. Larry stuck his head out the door and found that the muffler was dragging just a wee bit. We only had a couple of miles to go to the fairgrounds so we decided to just keep going. The noise was terrific and at 3:00 in the morning I was expecting to get picked at any moment. I was afraid to look back myself, but everyone told me that we were shooting sparks for about 10 to 15 feet. We finally pulled in about 3:30 A.M.

Dave's muffler was shot.



Walt Mauer showing the effects of caving on the underside of a car.



Preparing for a descent into Rose Shaft

ROSE SHAFT

Thomas Hruska

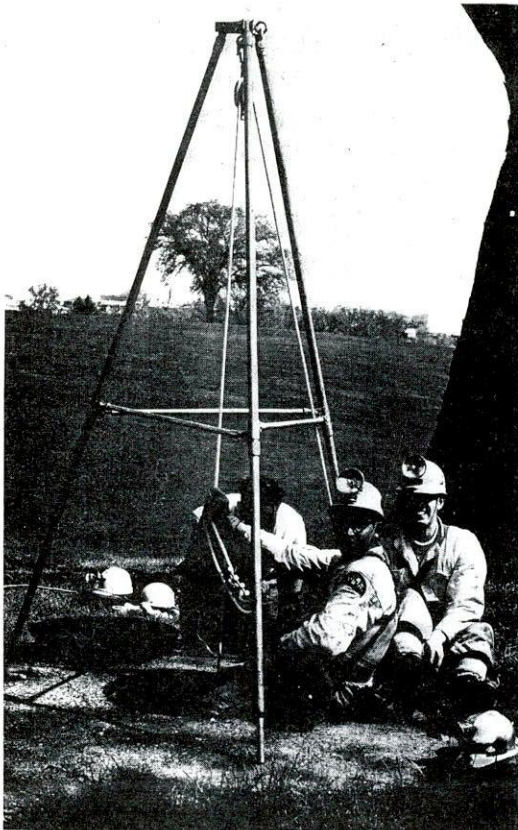
May 4, 1969

Thomas Hruska, Harold Herrington, Bruce Baker, Clem Schroeder, John Weaver, and others

On Sunday morning a group of cavers left the fairgrounds enroute to the Bunker Hill golf course to do some rope work in Rose Shaft. This cave is entered by dropping down through a manhole in the middle of the golf course or hiking in from a lower entrance. The cavers hiked up the hill to the vertical entrance, carrying all of the climbing gear.

At the entrance, a steel tripod was assembled and placed over the manhole. A two hundred foot length of 2 in 1 Samson was attached to the tripod and the free end of the rope was lowered to the bottom, 110 feet below. Harold Herington rigged a six bar rappel rack and went to the bottom. Two of the people on the top took one look at the small carbide light ten stories below and decided not to enter the cave. Bruce Baker and Clem Schroeder also went down using rappel racks. John Weaver went down using three 'biners with brake bars.

While these people were dropping into the cave, some of the other cavers decided to hike back down the hill to the bottom entrance. They walked in through "Glom Sewer" to the bottom of Rose Shaft. This is a hike of about six hundred feet through water about eighteen inches deep. After these cavers were in the cave for a while, they were joined by some of the vertical people for the hike back out to the lower entrance.



Meanwhile, Harold climbed out using the inch-worm method of climbing with Swiss Jumars. Clem walked up the rope using Gibbs climbing cams. Clem enjoyed the trip so much that he rappelled to the bottom and cammed back to the surface a second time.

The vertical gear was removed from the shaft and the manhole cover replaced before everyone left the golf course. We spent about two hours at Rose Shaft that morning.

Harold Herington and Bruce Baker rigging up for the 110 foot drop into Rose Shaft.

SEMINAR '71

The Iowa Grotto has been asked to be hosts of Seminar '71 and has accepted. If anyone has any ideas concerning the Seminar, please contact either Dave Jagnow, Tom Hruska, John Johnson, Steve Scarff, Larry Fattig, or Loren McVey.

ZITTERGRUEN CAVE

Alan Swenson

May 4, 1969

Jean Lehman, Dave Jagnow, Steve Scarff, Rick Smith, Loren McVey, Larry Fattig, Alan Swenson

Sunday morning, May 4, the seven of us piled into Jagnow's mufferless car and headed north towards Colesburg. We planned to visit Zittergruen Cave, as it was rumored to have much passage and also no one in the present grotto had visited there. We also planned to check out a cave lead or two.

Since I had no idea where we were, I assume we found the Zittergruen farm easily. Mr. Zittergruen gave us permission and the location and off we tramped over a hill to the cave.

After about ten minutes of searching we found the entrance. We started in leaving Jean at the surface. Immediately inside Scarff developed carbide troubles and we left him behind while he fiddled with it.

The cave runs straight and is about 25 ft high and 5 or 6 ft across and progresses downward. About 50 ft back, we encountered water. We were then forced bridge the rest of the way. This was my first experience with bridging. It wasn't too much fun with slippery tennis shoes and slippery mud covered walls.

We proceeded back approximately 50 more feet. Here the passage sumped. We decided to lower Larry into the water to see if the passage dropped. We lowered him to his waist. He said it kept going down and that the water was cold. Disappointed, we left the cave.

We then went to the Ed Dear's farm to check a lead. He informed us of a neighbor who had a cave. We went there and checked this out. The cave turned out to be where a very large rock fragment broke out from the hillside. Loren descended into it and reported there was nothing of importance. After roaming the hills there for awhile we headed back to Dubuque. There we regrouped and headed back to Iowa City, arriving around 8 or 8:30.



John Johnson cleaning up, thus ending another day of caving
and Iowa Grotto's 20th. Anniversary celebration.

IOWA GROTTTO 20th ANNIVERSARY ATTENDEES

IOWA

Mr. & Mrs. Everett Alton	Iowa City	IG
Kris Arney	Iowa City	
Marti Jean Barber	Iowa City	IG
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Briggs	Dubuque	
Jim Dockal	Ames	IG
Sue Epley	Shell Rock	
Larry Fattig	Cedar Rapids	IG
Rob Hanson	Iowa City	IG
Harold Herington	Davenport	IG
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Higley and daughters	Dubuque	

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hruska	Cedar Rapids	
Tom Hruska	Cedar Rapids	IG
Jim Inks	Iowa City	
Al Jagnow	Coralville	IG
Dave Jagnow	Coralville	IG
Mark Jagnow	Coralville	
Mrs. Ardath Jagnow	Coralville	
Connie Janes	Iowa City	
C. O. Johnson	Dubuque	
Mr. & Mrs. Emmett Johnson	Iowa City	
John Johnson	Iowa City	IG
Rick Lewis	Ames	IG
Karen Lund	Cedar Rapids	
Linda Mahoney	Iowa City	
Vicki Mathews	Cedar Rapids	
Mr. & Mrs. Walton Mauer	Dubuque	
Walt Mauer	Iowa City	IG
Jim McGee	Iowa City	IG
Loren McVey	Ft. Madison	IG
Dave Morehouse	Ames	IG
Dave Nicholson	Cedar Rapids	IG
Jeannie Nicholson	Cedar Rapids	
Joe Nicholson	Iowa City	
Mr. & Mrs. V. R. Nicholson	Cedar Rapids	
Frank Nidey	Coralville	IG
Darryl Ohl	Davenport	
Ron Rogers	Iowa City	IG
Steve Scarff	Iowa City	IG
Eric Smith	Cedar Rapids	
Jim (Ed) Smith	Cedar Falls	IG
John Smith	Blue Grass	
Rick Smith	Iowa City	IG
Alan Swenson	Iowa City	IG
Dave Young	Cedar Rapids	IG

ILLINOIS

Tom Backer	Rockford	RRSS
Bruce Baker	Peoria	IG
Barb Crockett	Rockton	
Paul Drake	Rockford	RRSS
Ralph Earlandson	Chicago	WCG
Tom Egert	Geneseo	IG
Kathy Gillett	Shirland	
Noah Goldman	Chicago	WCG

Steve Klinkhammer	South Beloit	
Warren (Doc) Lewis	Rockford	RRSS
Y. L. Mahajan	Chicago	WCG
John McKeag	Rock Island	
Bill Mixon	Chicago	WCG
Ed Schott	Rockford	RRSS
Clem Schroeder	South Beloit	WSS, RRSS
Laurie Sherman	Chicago	WCG
Dave Smith	Roscoe	
John Weaver	Rockford	RRSS

INDIANA

Dan Ver Ploeg	Bloomington
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MARYLAND

Jim Hedges	Hyattsville
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MICHIGAN

Mr. & Mrs. John Uthoff	Niles	IG
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MISSOURI

Earl (Biff) Biffle	Fenton	GGG, MSS, MMV
Carl Clark	Overland	MMV
Charlene (Charlie) Collins	St. Louis	SLUG
Kevin Debrecht	St. Louis	Fresco
Stephen Debrecht	St. Louis	Fresco
Bill Doctorman	St. Louis	MMV
Mary Doctorman	St. Louis	MMV
Mike Gremmelsbacher	St. Louis	Fresco
Elaine Hackerman	St. Louis	MMV
George Martin	St. Louis	SLUG
Tom Mattingly	St. Louis	SLUG
Doug Miller	St. Louis	SLUG
Donna Mroczkowski	St. Louis	SLUG, MMV
Claude Penny	St. Louis	SLUG
Martin Schriewer	St. Louis	Fresco
Paul Thenhaus	St. Louis	Fresco

PENNSYLVANIA

Jack Stellmack

State College

Nittany

WISCONSIN

Ron Borman

Madison

Ralph Bourret

Livingston

Beckie Cade

Platteville

Kevin Hennings

Madison

WSS

Barb Kuhlen

Verona

WSS

Dick Kuhlen

Verona

WSS

Mark Langefeld

Racine

WSS

Gil Peterson

Madison

WSS

Alice Steinke

La Crosse

WSS, MMV

Ted Steinke

La Crosse

WSS

ATTENTION

The mailing address of the Iowa Grotto has been permanently changed to:

Iowa Grotto

P. O. Box 228

Iowa City, Iowa 52240

