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Intercom, Volume 5, No. 6, November-December 1969

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Vol. 5 #6

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THE IOWA GROTTO

National Speleological Society

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Volume V

Issue 6

November — December 1969

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IOWA GROTTO INTERCOM
P. O. Box 228
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

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COVER PICTURE: Bacon rind in a Tennessee cave

Photo by John Johnson



IOWA GROTTTO
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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GROTTO MINUTES - AT A GLANCE

Thomas Hruska, Secretary

Regular Meeting November 12, 1969

Room 3407 Called to order: 7:40 PM Adjourned: 8:10 PM
Attendance: 11 members & 10 guests Treasury: \$121.16
Grotto will purchase a slide projector bulb. Report was given on the university affiliation. The feasibility of making an NSS slide show on Coldwater was discussed. Iowa Mountaineers would like to have a joint meeting with the grotto. Trip report on the MSS convention. Future trips include Coldwater Cave on November 15 & 16, Jackson and Jones counties on November 22 & 23, and a possible Thanksgiving trip on November 28-30, 1969. NSS slide show "Caving in Florida" was shown.

Regular Meeting November 26, 1969

Room 3407 Called to order: 7:45 PM Adjourned: 8:50 PM
Attendance: 13 members & 3 guests Treasury: \$122.46
No old or new business. Reports on trips to Maquoketa Caves State Park, Starrs Cave, and Coldwater Cave were given.

Regular Meeting December 10, 1969

Room 3407 Called to order: 7:35 PM Adjourned: 8:55 PM
Attendance: 15 members & 7 guests Treasury: \$127.46
Special guests included Otto Knauth from the Des Moines Register and John Munsen from the University News Service. Well drilling operation near West Union dropped into a cave. Two trip reports on Coldwater Cave were given. Dr. Tuthill, State Geologist, will coordinate the research work in Coldwater Cave. Slides were presented by Dave Nicholson and Dave Jagnow.

Regular Meeting December 24, 1969

No meeting was held because of Christmas Eve.

WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to grotto members Marti Barber and Bob Lehman who are now Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lehman. The couple were married when Bob got home from service in Vietnam.

GROTTO ELECTIONS

Thomas Hruska, Secretary

The 1970 grotto elections were held at the end of the year. The system of election was the same as used for last year's election. A list of nominees was mailed out to all eligible voters. The list was in two parts. One part was a list of nominees for the position of chairman. The second part for the office of secretary-treasurer. Each voter was asked to cast a vote for a chairman and a vice-chairman from the list of nominees for chairman. They were also asked to vote for a secretary-treasurer.

The ballot listed Dave Jagnow, Dave Nicholson, Loren McVey, Steve Scarff, and Alan Swenson as nominees for the position of chairman. Tom Hruska was unopposed in his bid for secretary-treasurer.

When all of the ballots had been returned, Dave Jagnow was unanimously elected chairman. Loren McVey won a three way race for vice-chairman. Tom Hruska won his unopposed bid for secretary-treasurer.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Thomas Hruska, Treasurer

The year of 1969 was rather prosperous for the Iowa Grotto. During the year the grotto had an income of \$140 from dues alone. The net income for the year was a very sizeable \$69.93. The details of the grotto's finances as of December 31, 1969 is as follows:

Income:		Expenses:	
dues	\$140.00	equipment	\$ 20.00
equip. sales	23.50	publication	35.53
publication	3.00	banquet	208.88
banquet	218.25	misc.	<u>56.41</u>
misc.	<u>6.00</u>		
total	\$390.75	total	\$320.82

balance from previous year	\$42.34
net income	<u>69.93</u>
new balance	\$112.27

CORRECTIONS

Thomas Hruska

In the process of compiling the Quinquennial Index, this writer found many discrepancies and cross-references between reports on the same cave.

Rupture Alley Cave, as described by James (Ed) Smith in Intercom volume 5 page 35, was previously described by Dave Jagnow as Disappointment Pit in Intercom Volume 4 page 33.

Engelken Cave has always been known by this name but it has been spelled in several ways. Upon checking with the owner, it was found that the correct spelling is Engelken Cave. Other spellings that have been used in previous Intercom issues include: Engleken, Englekin, and Engelkin.

The elusive cave lead near Andrew, Iowa was first printed in the Intercom volume 2 page 1 as the "Rauce" cave lead. Later on Steve Barnett listed it as the "Rantz" cave lead, Intercom volume 3 page 26. This writer looked up the original cave lead letter from Burton Faust and came to the conclusion that Barnett was pronouncing the name correctly, but both spellings were incorrect. The original hand-written letter gave the name as Rance. For further information, Rob Hanson and Steve Barnett have come to the conclusion that this cave lead is in reality Hunter's Cave (volume 3 page 26).

Glom Shaft, Glom Sewer, Rose Shaft, Whipsey Shaft, and Water Department Cave are names for various parts of the Level Crevice Cave system in Dubuque. Glom Shaft and Rose Shaft are one in the same.

Toadstool Cave as reported by George Hedges in Intercom volume 2 page 22 is more commonly known as Route Three Cave.

White Pine Hollow Cave as reported by Steve Barnett in Intercom volume 3 pages 16 & 25, and by Rick Lewis in volume 3 page 32 is more commonly called Yew Ridge Cave.

MINNESOTA TRIP REPORT

Alan Swenson

November 1-2, 1969

Dave Jagnow, Harold Herington, Bruce Baker, Rob Hanson, Jim McGee, Ron Klinefelter, Keith Larson, Loren McVey, Larry Fattig, Steve Scarff, Dennis McCabe, Mike McArdle, Alan Swenson

On invitation from the people of the Minnesota Speleological Survey, 13 members of Iowa Grotto invaded Minnesota to join in a treasure hunt and tour Mystery Cave.

The treasure hunt was held Saturday. Eight clues were spread throughout parts of the cave and the surrounding grounds. Three teams competed. Since removal of anyone else's clues was permissable, the stickiest fingered team consisting of two M.S.S. cavers, Bruce, Steve, Loren, and I arrived at the treasure first, Army surplus sidepacks for the six of us, our reward. Yes, crime can pay.

Saturday evening we suited up to go "door to door" or "shoot the moon" as Rob dubbed it. This consists of going from one entrance of Mystery to another of the three entrances. The cave around these two entrances has been commercialized, with about one or one and a half miles of wild passage in between.

The trip was made in about four hours with some slow going getting people past a squeeze and up a 12 foot chimney. Formations were for practical purposes non-existent in the wild part. We camped that night in the cave near the second entrance.

Sunday we headed back to Iowa with a stop at Kendallville to check a lead which didn't turn out to be anything.

BEGINNER'S TRIP

Larry Fattig

November 22-23, 1969

Loren McVey, Dennis McCabe, Lowell Burkhead, Alan Swenson, Dennis Walker, Judy Danneman, Eileen Kruse, Mike McArdle, John McArdle, Chris Simmons, Larry Fattig

I guess this whole mess was McVey's idea. He decided that someone should take a group of beginners caving. So one Saturday morning in November, our crew left Iowa City in Dennis Walker's and John McArdle's machines. After meeting Lowell in Anamosa, we headed for Bogus Cave near Stone City.

About 11 O'clock we crossed the fields to Bogus. The entrance to the cave is in a valley. Actually there are two entrances, we entered the tight bellycrawl because we found that one first. Eleven people just about fill up Bogus Cave. It has a central room about 50 feet in diameter and 5 feet high. There are several side passages, none of which go more than fifty feet. After examining the white bats, spiders, and slugs we left Bogus and drove to Worden's Cave.

Worden's is a decent cave for the area. The central room is about 75 feet in diameter and there are several places where we could stand up. One of the four side passages goes to a room about 50 feet away, another is a couple hundred feet long. The new cavers enjoyed Worden's. There is a bit of everything-- chimneying, bellycrawling, climbing, tight squeezes, even a soda straw. It took us over three hours to finish playing around in Worden's Cave. Afterwards, we searched the valley outside for any other caves. Since it was about dark, we decided to head for Maquoketa Caves State Park for the night. After terrorizing a local supermarket we bedded down amongst the trees and boy scouts for the night.

Sunday morning, Judy, Loren, and I decided to bail out Tourists' Delight Cave. After twenty minutes of bailing, the water level rose two inches, so we gave up and headed to Rainy Day Cave, 200 feet south of Dancehall Cave. Loren and I wish to thank Dave Jagnow for his information on Rainy Day. We both got very wet in our attempt to get through the silted water crawl behind the bars of

the cave gate.

Our next stop was Wye Cave. We did manage to get into this one. It opens into a room sloping sharply downwards to a tight passage, then it reopens and splits into two passages. Loren pushed left, I pushed right; both pinch out after about 100 feet.

The crew was still ready to follow us to another cave, so we decided to head for Hunter's Cave. We had a lot fun crawling around in Hunter's. Everyone was everywhere, while Mike dug in the Skull Room. It was dark when we left Hunter's. We then headed back to Iowa City.

Most of the new cavers have since shown up at Grotto meetings, so I guess the trip was a success. We had a lot of fun and introduced several people to the sport of caving.

DES MOINES COUNTY TRIPS

Alan Swenson

Starrs Cave
November 26, 1969
Loren McVey, Alan Swenson

The main purpose of this trip was to initiate Loren and I into the gentle art of cave surveying.

Equiped with Brunton compass, tape, tripod, paper, and pencil, we arrived at the Dunn property to inform Mr. Dunn, the owner, of our intentions. Granted permission, we headed down the well-traveled path to the cave.

The entrance to Starrs Cave is twenty feet up the bluff face along Flint Creek (in Northeast Iowa they would call it a river). The cave entrance and the very unsteady pole used to climb up to the cave are its most impressive features.

The cave is essentially joint controlled and mostly of crawling height. About 300 feet into the cave is the only room. It is a beautiful room of dirty and heavily vandalized speleothems. This room serves to separate the dull first 300 feet of the cave with the not quite so dull last 40 feet of the cave. The final 40 feet averages from one and a half feet in height down to 7 inches. In the middle

is a lovely z-bend. We took eight survey sights and an hour to complete the 40 feet. It was an experience to understate it.

We then decided to call it quits and return over Christmas vacation. We checked back at Dunn's before leaving. He told us of some sinks on his property. We checked 10-12 but none were open. Digging may be a possibility for some over-anxious gopher.

Finally calling it quits we headed for Loren's car and home.

Starrs Cave
December 22, 1969
Loren McVey, Alan Swenson

This trip proved to be rather uneventful. Loren and I headed back to scenic Starrs Cave to finish the survey. Hunters Cave was beginning to look good.

We had the dull 300 feet left to survey. This we completed in about the same time as had taken the other 40 feet. The only thing interesting to report was the fungus we saw which was later identified by a U. of I. botanist as some form of mushroom.

Burlington Area Caves
December 28, 1969
Loren McVey, Bruce Hurst, Dennis McCabe, Alan Swenson

The purpose of this trip was to check out some Des County leads and introduce Loren's friend Bruce to caving.

We headed first for Starrs of course. Much to our displeasure the cave hadn't changed since last we saw it. We toured it quickly, the thing isn't even muddy.

Next we headed south of Burlington to the Guegler farm, but no one was at home. Later we found that we had the wrong Guegler anyway.

Not the least bit dejected we headed north of Burlington to the Ray Walker farm, the home of Grotto member Dennis Walker. They have a small, tight, and short (18 feet for

Loren and 12 feet for me) cave. We logically named the cave Walker Cave.

CORRECTIONS

Rapidly becoming a regular feature of the Intercom, here are this month's corrections to last month's Intercom.

We neglected to count the maps as pages at the end of Intercom 5:4, which means that all the page numbers in Intercom 5:5 are incorrect. To correct, add 16 to each page number. We try hard not to make little unnoticeable errors.

You may have a copy of Intercom 5:5 with pages 117 and 118 reversed. The pictures there are in correct order, the page numbers and the captions are reversed.

All we can do is apologize for these errors and try a little harder next time.

the editors

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These addresses are permanent. No school addresses included.

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