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Tom Hruska

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Vol. 7 #3

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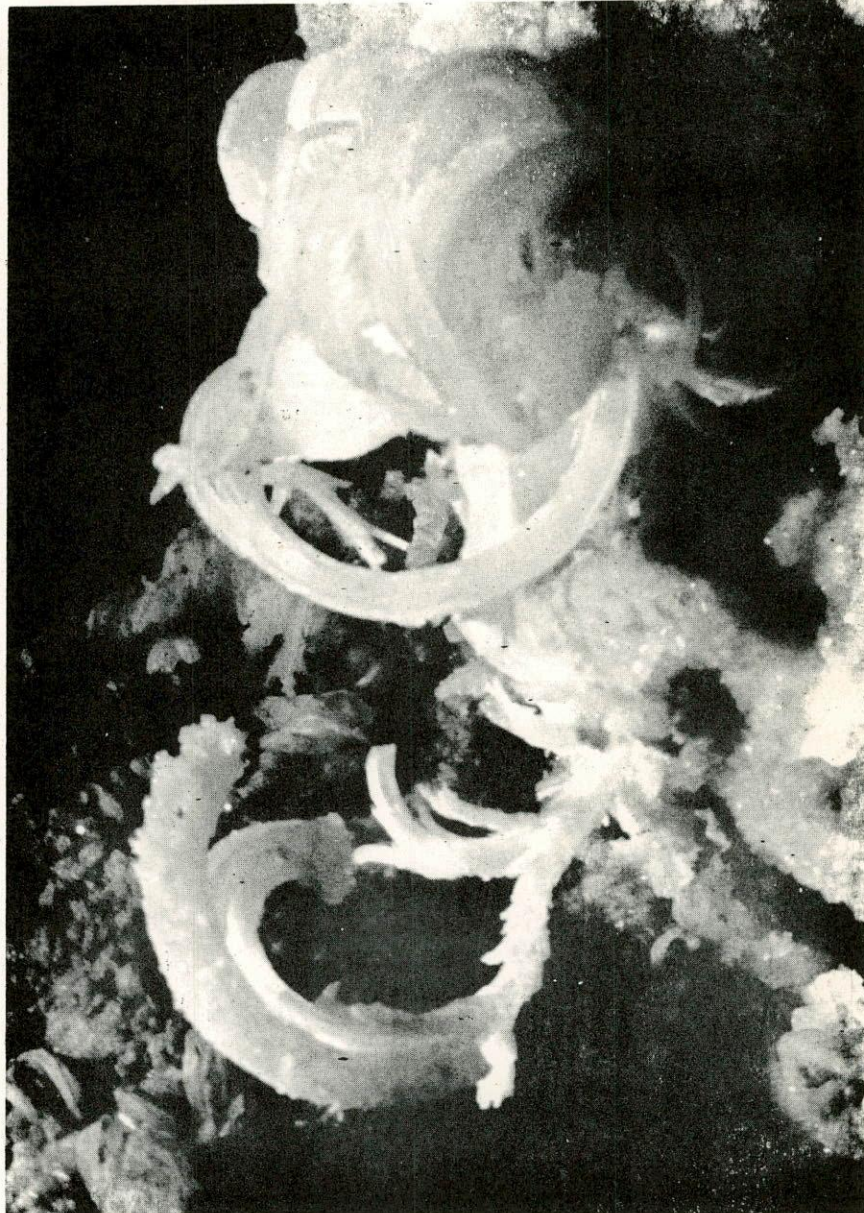
Published Semi-spasmodically By

THE IOWA GROTTO

National Speleological Society

WINDY CITY

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Volume VII Issue 3

May — June

1971

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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 \$2.50 for six issues, or free in exchange for similar publications of other grottos.

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COVER PICTURE: Flower formation in the Gypsum Room of Cumberland Caverns.
One of many such formations found in this small room.

Photo by John Johnson



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

Chairman - - - - - John Johnson
Vice-Chairman - - Lowell Burkhead
Sec'y-Treas. - - - - - Tom Hruska

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GROTTO MINUTES AT A GLANCE

Thomas Hruska, Secretary

Regular Meeting March 10, 1971

Room 3407 Called to order: 7:35 PM Adjourned: 7:55 PM
Attendance: 17 members and 2 guests Treasury: \$79.16
Grotto received payment for work on the Cold Water gate. Seminar '71 registration will be in the Wisconsin Room of the Iowa Memorial Union. *Intercom* issue 5-6 is ready for distribution. A Committee was organized to adopt a new method for grotto elections by mail ballot. A hand-out on the do's and don'ts of caving was distributed. Loren McVey reported on Skunk and Sowards Caves. NSS slide show program on "Cave Conservation" was presented.

Regular Meeting March 24, 1971

Room 3407 Called to order: 7:45 PM Adjourned: 9:00 PM
Attendance: 9 members and 1 guest Treasury: \$259.16
Report was presented on the activities of Seminar '71. Grotto considered making slide-lectures from the two vertical sessions. Spring MVOR will be April 30-May 2 in Pulaski County, Missouri. "Bat Stickers" offered for sale. Grotto picnic scheduled at Picture Rock Park on April 17, 1971. Loren McVey plans to work on cave lists following second meeting of every month. NSS Speleocamp Work Project plans at Lilburg Cave, California. A committee was formed to produce a property owner hand-out sheet. A new constitution proposed. Future trip to Yew Ridge.

Regular Meeting April 14, 1971

Room 3407 Called to order: 7:40 PM Adjourned: 8:40 PM
Attendance: 9 members and no guests Treasury: \$259.16
The cave files are progressing slowly. Grotto picnic will be at Picture Rock Park. Becky Jagnow and Dave Nicholson announced that they were stepping down from their respective offices. The proposed constitution will be mailed out for voting. Becky asked for letters to support the wilderness proposal for the Guadalupe Mountains in New Mexico. Geology department is planning a canoe trip on the Upper Iowa. Steve Kehoe reported on Yew Ridge Cave. Dennis Walker reported on Carlsbad Caverns and other New Mexico caves. Larry Fattig went on trip to Missouri. Lowell Burkhead told about his trip to Kentucky.

Regular Meeting April 28, 1971

Room 3407 Called to order: 7:35 PM Adjourned: 8:45 PM
Attendance: 19 members and no guests Treasury: \$137.30
The committee is still working on the property owner hand-out. Proposed constitution was discussed. In future grotto elections, members will cast two votes for chairman and vice-chairman. The candidate that receives the most votes will become chairman. Ballots for the special election of officers will be mailed soon to all NSS grotto members. Future trip planned to northeast Iowa on May 8-9, 1971. Possible trip to Cold Water Cave on May 15-16, 1971. Report on the grotto picnic at Picture Rock Park. Loren McVey reported on his trip to area near Glenwood Cave. Phil Sanders showed slides of Cottonwood Cave, New Mexico.

Regular Meeting May 12, 1971

Room 3407 Called to order: 7:40 PM Adjourned: 8:10 PM
Attendance: 14 members and no guests Treasury: \$120.05
Special election ballots must be returned by May 26. Property owner hand-out progressing slowly. John Johnson and Tom Hruska delegated to Congress of Grottos. Seminar '71 budget in the black. Dubuque people trying to open Level Crevice Mine to general public. Dave Jagnow presented his research work on Winneshiek County. Harold Herington reported on Spring MVOR. Dave Shields went to Engelken and Yew Ridge Caves. Future trip to Devil's Lake, Wisconsin. Several slide programs were presented.

Regular Meeting May 26, 1971

Room 3407 Called to order: 7:45 PM Adjourned: 8:45 PM
Attendance: 19 members and 2 guests Treasury: \$111.01
John Johnson and Alan Swenson voted into office. No additional word on Level Crevice Mine. Dave Jagnow talked on the "Farmer John" wet suit. Two changes suggested for the proposed constitution. Dave Shields reported on trip to Fence and Thurn Caves. Loren McVey and Alan Swenson reported on separate trips to Cold Water Cave. Slide program on Cold Water Cave.

Regular Meeting June 9, 1971

Room 3407 Called to order: 7:35 PM Adjourned: 8:15 PM
Attendance: 12 members and no guests Treasury: \$115.26
Anyone is welcome to joint Jim Hedges at Indian Bluff Cave on the weekend of June 19-20. Reprints of old caving books available from NSS. Proposed constitution progressing very slowly. Property owner hand-out committee still waiting for material. Printing press that the *Intercom* has been using, was sold. Results of the NSS Board of Governors election were read. State of Iowa has budgeted \$58,000 for dry entrance into Cold Water Cave. Lowell Burkhead reported on Bogus Cave and Cave Canem. Future trip to Millers Cave on June 19-20.

Regular Meeting June 23, 1971

Room 3407 Called to order: 7:50 PM Adjourned: 9:20 PM
Attendance: 8 members and no guests Treasury: \$122.16
Written reports for the *Intercom* are due from some members. Seminar '72 will consist of outdoor activities in several caves south of St. Louis, Missouri. The possibility of submitting a bid for an NSS convention was discussed. Indiana Cave Capers will be August 6-8 at Bedford, Indiana. UMAC will be September 17-19. Dave Shields reported on Milers Cave and the area north of Cold Water Cave. Jim Blecker reported on caving at the 1971 NSS Convention. John Johnson and Tom Hruska reported on convention sessions. John also reported on visit to Cumberland Caverns, Tennessee.

THE IOWA GROTTO ANNUAL PICNIC

Lowell Burkhead

On Saturday, March 17, 1971, the Iowa Grotto held its annual picnic at Picture Rock Park in Jones County. We had a beautiful day despite the forecast of rain. There wasn't a cloud in the sky and the temperature was around 70°. That was to be expected because it never rains on the day of the Iowa Grotto picnic. There were twenty-four people who showed up for the day's activities.

The day started off like every other trip to Picture Rock Park; trying to climb the concrete-like vertical wall of a large rock in the park. This gave the new people some idea of what a dynamic belay is and allowed time for everyone to arrive. By 11:00 AM some of the people were on the 75 foot cliff rigging the ropes for the vertical work practice and training session where Becky Jagnow promptly found a four foot bull snake taking advantage of the warm morning sun. He was removed from the area by popular demand.

By the time the ropes were set up, everyone was at the top of the cliff leaving the rock to be climbed another day. Dave Jagnow got things started with a demonstration of the equipment and good safety practices, while standing a foot from the edge. Some of us didn't think that looked very safe but somehow he managed not to fall. As he started his rappel, another four foot bull snake was encountered just over the edge of the cliff. Dave gave it a free ride down----in his hand.

Another rope was set up on a shorter cliff for the new people. There were always several old pros at the top to check the equipment before anyone started a rappel and someone at the bottom for belay. Everyone got in plenty of practice at rappelling and several people tried their hand at climbing with Jumars. The vertical session went very well. There were no casualties and everyone had a lot of fun.

At about 1:30 PM we broke for lunch. Some of us brought sack lunches and there was enough to go around. After lunch, part of the group went back to the ropes while the rest went to see Indian Bluff Cave. The cave is about 350 feet of crawlway; a good place to toughen the knees of new people. Larry Fattig was able to get through the squeeze at the end of the cave and reports that there's about five feet more passage. About 50 feet into the cave, there was a large block of ice. We think it was formed by water and cold air coming down from the surface through a crack. This is also probably the source of the wind in the cave.

I am happy to report that one of our members is making real progress. For the first time ever, Ed Smith found his way out of Indian Bluff Cave unassisted! We were all very proud of him.

By about 4:00 PM, everyone was out of the cave and Dave Jagnow started his cave mapping session. This included how to read a Brunton compass and the different ways to use one. He also showed us how to write down our readings so the map can be drawn later. It was a very comprehensive

program. I think even I could map a cave now.

After the mapping session, we adjourned to the picnic area. We started a fire and put on the Sloppy Joes. There was potato salad and soft drinks. There was also supposed to be hot dogs but Becky Jagnow forgot to bring them. The food was very good and there was plenty to go around. As people started getting overly full, the picnic slowly turned to a bull session. It was starting to get dark and people started leaving, tired and dirty, but full and happy.

I had a little excitement on my way home when the charging system in the 1948 Jeep I had borrowed ceased to function. The headlights got dim and finally went out. I pulled off to the side and waited. In a few minutes, Dave and Becky Jagnow came along with their car load of people. We hooked the jumper cables from their Dodge van to the Jeep and charged the battery. Dave offered to follow me home but it didn't turn out quite that way. After about a mile, the battery was dead again and the lights went out. The Jeep was still running OK so we decided that I would follow Dave. He turned on his four way flashers and we were on our way. It was about six miles to where I live. By the time we got there, the Jeep was just barely making it. The car load of people all piled out at my house to see my 1932 Avon Special (That's a car). Everyone was duely impressed and piled back in the car and left. Some Iowa Grotto picnics end sort of weird, don't they?

SPECIAL ELECTION OF GROTTA OFFICERS

Thomas Hruska, Secretary

At the regular business meeting of April 14, 1971, both Becky Jagnow and Dave Nicholson announced that they were resigning their respective offices. Becky and her husband are planning to move to New Mexico. Dave said he is losing interest in caving activities. This put the grotto in the position of finding a new chairman and vice-chairman.

A list of candidates was quickly put together. Ballots were made up with the following names: Lowell Burkhead, John Johnson, Ron Klinefelter, Steve Scarff, and Alan Swenson. The ballots were mailed to all NSS grotto members in early May. The members were asked to have their ballots returned to the grotto secretary before May 26, 1971.

The results were announced at the May 26 business meeting. John Johnson received the most votes and the position of grotto chairman. The second highest vote getter was Alan Swenson. He is the new vice-chairman. These officers will remain in office until December, the time of the annual grotto elections.

1971 NSS CONVENTION AT BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

John Johnson

The Blacksburg Convention was the best attended to date with over 690 in attendance. The official convention started Tuesday morning, June 15, with the opening session and business meeting. Tom and I missed most of this since we were still asleep. Our overnight drive from Cumberland Caverns got us to the VPI campus about dawn and in no condition to see anything for a while. When we finally came to, it was time for the C.O.G. The Congress of Grottoes this year was much better organized and moved more rapidly than in the past. Centralization of NSS Services, fundraising to pay off the headquarters building in Huntsville, Alabama, discussion of a salaried Executive Director, and several other topics were voted on and sent to the Board of Governors for final action. Tuesday night's get acquainted party showed how easily hundreds of people could cram into one large tent when it's raining outside. This evening fortold the rest of the convention, "WET". Both water and alcohol flowed freely and just about everyone was soggy in one way or another.

Sessions started in ~~earnest~~ on Wednesday morning with the traditional Geology and Biology drawing large attendance. Other sessions throughout the remainder of the week included Conservation, Geography/Exploration, General/Technical, Vertical Rescue, Spelean History, Cave Diving, and Photography. I found Charlie Larson's sessions on photography very interesting and quite informative. Geography and Exploration provided an opportunity to see slides of other areas which might be interesting to visit. The General/Technical and Cave Diving sessions also added to the wealth of information on Techniques and Safety in the different aspects of caving.

The filmed presentation on the Andras Blue Holes in the Bahamas, by Dr. George Benjamin and the slide presentation on Canadian Caving by Derek Ford provided tantalizing glimpses of areas of exploration and terrain which can be both extremely challenging and very beautiful. Other evening activities included the NSS Photo Salon with its usual audience agreement and disagreement on the judges' selection of Salon winners. The final official activity of the convention was the banquet, awards and program on Saturday. The Banquet program this year was provided by Dr. Charles Mohr with the topic "Threats to the Underground Wilderness." Special emphasis was placed on Mammoth Cave National Park which is considering a wilderness program at this time.

At the crack of dawn Sunday morning, the convention over, Tom roused me out and we headed for home.

PRE CONVENTION FIELD TRIP TO CUMBERLAND CAVERNS

June 12-14, 1971

Tom Hruska and John Johnson

John Johnson

On our way to the NSS Convention, Tom and I decided to stop by Cumberland Caverns and visit Roy Davis. We arrived about mid-day Sunday and spent the afternoon roaming around the grounds taking pictures. We also got a tour of the "Second Largest Cave" in the U.S. Roy bills Cumberland Caverns this way since everyone else claims to be the largest or third largest. It was enjoyable listening to the guides give their descriptions of the historical and humorous artifacts placed in the cave, discriptions of the formations and the way the cave developed. Sunday evening Roy showed us some of the projects in his workshop and parts he is collecting for the Theatre Pipe Organ he plans to install in Cumberland Caverns. Later in the evening we sat and chatted while listening to recorded music, then Roy played a concert on the Theatre Pipe Organ he has installed in his home.

Monday morning was kind of lazy and we just relaxed. About midmorning two cavers from California arrived on their way to the convention. They had talked with Roy earlier about seeing the cave and he suggested we take a tour to the Gypsum Room in Cumberland. Tom decided, with the long drive later that day to Blacksburg, to stay topside and relax. The rest of us accepted the invitation and early in the afternoon we set out with one of the guides for the back reaches of the cave. Our trip into Cumberland Caverns was through the commercial section so we took time to see the points of interest and take pictures of the formations. The first rest stop came at the end of the commercial tour and while we were there our guide gave us the light show which has been prepared for the tour. This show is a combination of music and lights coordinated to show off the formations and provide a relaxing interlude in the cave. From here we proceeded as quickly as we could over breakdown and through "tight crawlways" (that's what the guide said but I didn't see any) to the Gypsum Room where the major part of our photographs would be taken.

The Gypsum Room in Cumberland Caverns is one of the best decorated I have ever seen. The ceiling, walls, even parts of the floor are completely covered with gypsum formations. Beautiful flowers delicately formed and petal thin, curls of gypsum several inches long, needles in groups and standing alone, large clumps of angel hair, and crystals galore all reflecting the light. We literally went wild taking pictures of this area, sometimes grabbing a shot, other times taking several minutes to set up a single picture. It was very difficult to get some pictures because the background was as white as the gypsum formation being photographed. We finally had to try to find angles for the flash to cast shadows behind the formations to make them stand out clearly enough to show.

When we had finally exhausted our film trying every conceivable angle to get a better picture, we found we had spent over two hours in this relatively small room. Time had come to head back out of the cave and into the sweltering summer afternoon. We spent about four hours total in the cave and covered a lot of passage, but the heat outside just about

drove us back into the cave. Roy's enticement of a swim in the river finally got us out. We picked up Tom and some bathing suits and headed for the river. Roy strongly advised against skinny dipping because some ladies up stream objected and had made complaints about earlier swimming parties.

The day's caving and swim gave us good appetites for a relaxed meal in town. In the evening Tom and I visited some more with Roy and then reluctantly left about ten o'clock for Blacksburg and the opening of the NSS Convention.

NSS CONVENTION FIELD TRIPS

June 12-18, 1971

Jim Blecker

Harold Herington, Bruce Baker, Jean Lehman, Roger McMillan, and Jim Blecker

While in Blacksburg, Virginia, for the 1971 NSS Convention, Bruce Baker, Harold Herington, and I decided to visit some of the caves in the area.

We arose early our first day at the convention, eager to visit our first cave. Shortly past 10:00 AM we had our gear packed and the Toyota was headed toward downtown Blacksburg for a breakfast stop.

Old Mill Cave is just a few miles north of Blacksburg via a narrow road through scenic countryside. However, after having driven the road three times it ceased to be scenic so we stopped and asked directions to the cave.

The crawl entrance to the cave was through a pool of water. Once inside, I led the way through a tight mud crawl and Harold followed. After observing the situation, Bruce took a stream passage and waited for us at the end of the crawl. It was obvious from water marks that the cave had been filled with water since the last group had entered. However, it was only raining lightly when we entered so this was of little concern. After completing the one thousand feet of passage and taking a few pictures in this somewhat photogenic cave, we all bypassed the mud crawl and washed off in the stream outside.

Besides being very muddy, the only deficiency with the cave is that the entrance passage was densely populated with knats. They created a stench as they cooked in the carbide lights and provided little nourishment as they entered our mouths.

Already being thoroughly soaked from entering Old Mill Cave, we felt we had nothing to loose by trying another on our first day. Harold went over the listing of caves in the convention guide book and announced that Aunt Nellie's Hole sounded like an interesting quick one.

The thirty foot pit entrance was made with the use of a cable ladder. A few hundred feet of passage containing colorful flowstone extended in

two directions from the pit. The pit itself contained a tremendous trash pile, housing two lawn mowers, bed springs, tires, and many other interesting relics. Bruce carried two hula hoops out with him.

After visiting two small caves on our first day at the convention, we choose to visit the ten thousand-foot long New River Cave. The cave was a half hour drive from camp and easily located. The climb to the entrance was by far the most tiring portion of the outing. Half way up the slope, Harold must have wanted a rest stop bad; he let his camera box roll klinkly-clunk-clunk down the hill. The move was well executed and quite interesting to watch.

New River Cave has vast rooms and passages. It houses an enormous collection of well colored formations. Many of the decorations, however, are laying on the floor in this heavily vandalized cave. We did see the Forest Room but could not locate the waterfall.

On the way back to camp, Bruce took the scenic route, found some Jeep trails, made some of his own trails, and showed us what his Toyota could do.

Two dedicated cavers, Jean Lehman and Roger McMillan, joined us for our Monday outing. Jean, the first Iowa Grotto member to arrive at the convention, knew what NSS Conventions were like and didn't take any chances on missing this one. She left Iowa May 29 on her backpacking/hitchhiking escapades to Blacksburg, Roger drove up solo from Corpus Christie.

Jean had been to Giant Caverns the day before and thus acted as our official guide. She did a good job in getting us to the entrance, except that she spent a half hour looking for it in the wrong town.

Entrance to Giant is gained through a one hundred foot sloping pit. Bruce and Roger made use of an existing homemade wooden ladder while the rest of us rapelled down. The cave derives its name from a giant room, which is the main portion of the cave. The cave is ex-commercial and besides standard formations, housed a room with impressive rimstone. Our guide was a bit unsure of herself but we managed to find our way.

Being famished upon leaving the cave, we went to town for lunch. Not seeing a restaurant, we pulled along side of a car and asked directions. The driver looked us over and sped off without saying a word. Next we affronted a woman trying to come out of the post office. She gave us a quick glance and said if we wanted beer with our meal, there was a place down the street. The bar maid said they had sandwiches and beer but no meals. She told us where to go. The next guy said he had sandwiches only, however, if we were game, he would try making up some plate lunches. Except for the sour milk, the lunch was adequate.

After a light lunch, Harold talked the group into visiting Greenville Saltpetre Cave. As we readied our gear, Jean, who forgot to get some sleep the night before, announced that she was going to take a nap in the Toyota.

After an hour of tramping the countryside, Bruce reread the directions and with a new interpretation soon found the entrance. The cool cave air was a welcome relief but we ran into some heavy fog. The two miles of passage was dry and easily traversed. The saltpetre workings are somewhat preserved and we did find donkey cart tracks and saltpetre hoppers. We did make the mistake of taking a map in with us and thus spent the entire trip trying to figure out where we were. Bruce wanted to get back to his Toyota and took an early exit. Both he and Jean missed the fantastic Haystack passage.

Unable to interest Jean and Bruce in more caving, Harold and I set out alone for Vicker Cave. We found the parking area with no difficulty. However, since there was no moon, it was past 11 PM, the area was covered with thick vegetation, and there was no defined path, Harold refused to look for the cave. Thus we returned to camp and went to bed.

After taking two days off for 4X4ing, a wet suit trip to the cascades, and back woods sight seeing, we were ready for more caving. Spruce Run Mountain Cave is said to be the most photogenic cave in the area and no one had any doubts about it. When we came to a tight crawl, Jean, who was tired from the night before, needed some coaxing to continue to the rear portion of the cave. After an hour of taking pictures, we started out. The instructions says cars must park on the road since the trail is impassable. Bruce drove his Toyota up the "trail".

Instead of going back to camp we joined a 4X4 excursion and Bruce made a good showing for himself. When I got into the Toyota, I used the footrest. When I got out, there was no footrest. The trailer hitch got bent up but was still useable.

Unable to interest Jean and Bruce in more caving this fine day, Harold and I again set out for Vicker Cave. We followed directions and found no cave. After looking some more, Harold told me what he thought of unproductive cave location instructions and went back to the Toyota. I looked a little more and found the cave. It is interesting that a little typographical error like five hundred feet in place of 500 yards can cause so much trouble. Harold, out of his coveralls, refused to go to the cave. Thus we left without entering Vicker Cave.

Wanting to get in some vertical work, we choose to visit Clover Hollow Cave. The instructions stated that a 50, 100, and 150 foot ropes were needed. We took a 75 and two 200-foot ones. The instructions also stated that if no water was coming in at the entrance the cave would be dry throughout. Harold was extremely reluctant about repelling down through the waterfall but Bruce and I convinced him it wasn't so bad. After three hours we had only made it to the Grand Canyon Room and had run out of rope. It was intuitively obvious that to procede more rope was needed, thus we were forced to turn back without attempting the Idiot's Delight.

Thus ended our field trips planned around the 1971 NSS Convention at Blacksburg, Virginia.

ENKELKEN, ANDERSON, CAVE CANEM

June 4, 1971

Lowell Burkhead

Al Johnson and Lowell Burkhead

On Sunday morning June 4, Al Johnson and I decided to go see some caves so I filled up my Ford with oil and threw in my caving gear and we were off. The first cave on the way was Engelken Cave. We stopped on the way at Dyersville to have some lunch and fill up the car with oil. When we finally arrived at the Engelken farm, one of the clan was lying in the front yard, sun bathing. We took full benefit of the opportunity to ask permission to see the cave. I parked the Ford in the back and we started getting together the necessary equipment. As I started to fill my carbide, I noticed it still hadn't been emptied since the last trip. I dumped the tank of spent carbide on the floor of the car and it disappeared as it intermingled with the litter and dirt of the past years of accumulation.

We walked out to the cave and went in. The area around the entrance was as wet and muddy as ever, but there had been some change in the rest of the cave since I was there before. Someone has been doing a lot of digging but they don't seem to have found anything. Could it be that Steve Barnett has been loose in Engelken Cave? We went through the whole cave and enjoyed the formations and discussed what psychological motivations drive people to break them up. We didn't come to any satisfactory conclusion. Having no more cave to see, we took a last look at the sun bather and headed for Elkader where we stopped and bought a package of hotdogs. From there we went to Cave Canem and Anderson Caves. We stopped at the Anderson farm to ask permission but no one was home. We decided to wait for a while and see if anyone would show up. We sat in the car and ate the package of hotdogs and drank warm lemonade from a plastic jug. After about ten minutes the Andersons drove up and we got permission. We drove down to the caves and took a look at Anderson first. The entrance is badly eroded from the spring rain and didn't look very inviting. The sign that we posted last year has turned to a very white piece of paper. In the future, we should find something more permanent than a Flair pen for making bad air warning signs.

We decided to go into Cave Canem and see if we could find the passage that needs digging. We unloaded all of the equipment from the car and lugged it down to the cave. I fired up my carbide while Al untangled the Bluewater II rope. We lowered the light into the cave and found the air to be OK.

Al said he wanted to go in first so we rigged him up on the rope and he disappeared over the edge. After a while the rope went slack and Al said he was on the bottom.

About the time I was rigging in, Al called up that he was ready to come out. It was pouring rain in the cave and Al was already drenched. I really didn't want to get drenched anyway so I sent the climbing gear down. Al had some trouble making the Jumers function properly on the very wet rope but he got out okay. We were standing at the top getting Al

disconnected from the rope when there was a loud crash from in the cave which shook the ground and a sharp jerk on the rope. We looked down the shaft with a spotlight and could see a rock at the bottom that wasn't there before. We couldn't really tell how big it was because of the distance and the fog that Al had made coming out. There were no signs near the top of where the rock had fallen from. We decided it would be a good time to leave, so we packed up what equipment we could carry and put it in the car. We went back to get the rope and found that the rock had fallen on it and it wouldn't pull out. Several unprintable words were said but the rope still wouldn't budge. I wasn't about to leave my 150 feet of almost new rope there, or cut it, or go back down in that wet hole with falling rocks and get it. We decided the only practical means would be to pull harder--with the car. I made a prussik knot with my 75 foot old nylon rope and attached it to the end of the Bluewater. We unreeled it toward the road but it didn't get very close. It did, however, reach out of the sink cave entrance and down the hill. We opened the gate in the fence and backed the car through the weeds and trees to the rope. With the rope secured to the trailer hitch, I gave a tug, the car made its usual cloud of blue smoke and the rope pulled out with seemingly no effort. After a thorough inspection, we could find no damage. We considered ourselves very lucky that no equipment had been damaged and that we hadn't been down there trying to catch that rock.

We went back to the Anderson house and told them of the incident, and also told them about one of their calves that was out in the road playing with the cars. We didn't let it out.

We decided to head for home since it was already about 8:30 PM. We stopped at Strawberry Point and filled up the Ford with oil and checked the gas. It was okay.

COLUMBINE CAVE

June 12, 1971

Gil Peterson

Ralph Kugler, Joe Saunders, and Gil Peterson

SE/SW/NW 26 92N 6W 1060' ALT.

David Hein, Strawberry Point

Clayton County, Iowa

Columbine Cave was investigated by the writer, Ralph Kugler, and Joe Saunders of the Wisconsin Speleological Society on June 12, 1971. The cave lead was obtained from the owner of Bridgeport Cave, Crawford County, Wisconsin, the brother-in-law of the present owner, David Hein, Strawberry Point, Iowa.

Columbine Cave is entered by means of a small sink about five feet in diameter. The entrance drop of ten feet is rather muddy and slippery but easily climbable. The entrance room is about ten feet long, four to five feet wide, and ten feet high. Immediately beneath the sink and on

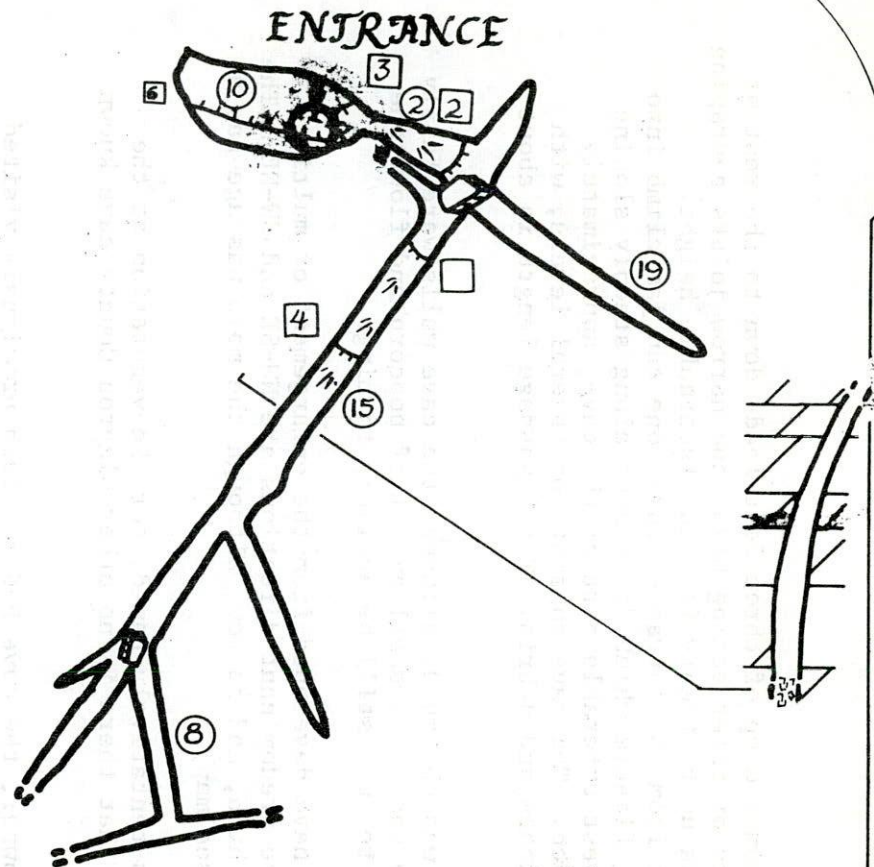
COLUMBINE CAVE

NSS Standard Map Symbols (1961)

C.R.G. Grade 2 survey prepared by
Gil Peterson, 12 June 1971



Volga quadrangle
Alexandrian dolomite
surveyed length 90 feet



Clayton County, Iowa

SE 26 92 6'W 1060'

30 E

JAMES HEDGES

6 NOV 71

the east end of this room a drop of three feet leads down to the rest of the cave, which consists of intersecting high and narrow joints averaging one to two feet wide and up to twenty feet in discernable height. Proceeding to the right from the entrance crawl, one can jam climb into a narrow NE-SW trending fissure which drops down along steeply sloping floor debris to the lowest enterable part of the cave, approximately 35 feet below the surface. The cave consists of several levels, with false floors of chockstones and debris. Total passage length is about ninety feet.

No standing water was observed, although the cave walls were fairly wet after a heavy rainy spell. A small amount of popcorn and flowstone were observed. The latter may still be actively forming.

The cave seems to have developed from the enlargement of multi-directional joints whose predominant directions are NW-SE and SW-NE. The passages are straight, high, and narrow, although the main passage has a curved cross section (see map).

Columbine Cave was tentatively named, for the vegetation at the entrance, in the hopes that there is no other Clayton County cave known by that name.

According to the owner, the cave had not been previously visited by outsiders.

A map of the cave was made, using hand-held Brunton (09 declination) and estimated distances. Compass error was estimated at $\pm 5^\circ$.

Two other sinks were spotted uphill to the south of the cave. Neither one appeared to be open.

JONES COUNTY RAMBLINGS

June 19-21, 1971

James Hedges

Introduction

The systematic discovery, cataloging, and study of small caves is one of the more neglected aspects of speleology. Yet, series of small caves often are of more interest geologically than are one or two large caves. My efforts over the last few years have been concentrated upon the smallest caves of Iowa, partly to further my physiographic investigations and partly to contribute to a comprehensive, methodical state cave survey. Also to be considered were problems of safety and logistics imposed by solo caving.

My 1971 field trip, held 19-21 June, was similar to other recent trips. I visited six caves, surveyed four, completed the survey of the fifth, and initiated a survey of the sixth. The limited amount of time

available was a consequence of having to fit the NSS Convention at Blacksburg, Virginia and the Prohibition Party National Convention at Wichita, Kansas into my two weeks of summer vacation along with the caving.

David Culver drove down from Madison on the 20th and assisted at Doll Cave; Ed Smith drove to Monticello from Cedar Falls on the 19th but missed me by a few minutes. I thank both of them for their efforts.

General Itinerary

I reached Iowa City the night of June 18th, picked up a waiting Hertz car, and drove to Picture Rock park southeast of Monticello. In the morning, I went to Monticello to pick up mail and do my laundry, then returned to Picture Rock and resurveyed the last 175 feet of Indian Bluff Cave. Most of the cave had been done in 1969.

I thought that the remainder had been taken care of in 1970, but the notes were fouled up and could not be used. Whoever you were who kept the notes last year, may your house with all its contents be engulfed in the bowels of Hell! This cave consists of 525 feet of miserable crawlway and I did not at all enjoy having to go back to it.

A description of Indian Bluff Cave and the completed map of it are given under revised descriptions.

There are no other noteworthy caves in the developed area of the park. Two shelters suitable for camping are present, however. One of these is in the right-hand bluff of the hollow where the park road enters the floodplain. The other is a short distance downstream from Indian Bluff Cave. An article in *The Cedar Rapids Gazette* (McIvor, 1968) mentions other caves in the area.

My next stop was at the Charlie Pierce farm southeast of Cascade. Doc Lewis mentioned two small caves here (Lewis, 1968). There are three caves on the property. I surveyed two of them on this evening, returning Monday for the last. Maps and descriptions are provided under "New Cave" for Meadow Muffin Cave and under "Revised Descriptions" for Pierce's and Dead Cat Caves.

With the fall of darkness, I returned to Picture Rock. Perhaps, instead, I should have accepted Pierce's offer of accommodations, for at Picture Rock I became trapped between The Duluge on one side and Belshazzar's Feast on the other. On the other hand, Pierce's stories about how his late wife had walked out of the house and put herself to the torch were not very conducive to sleep, either.

Culver arrived early the morning of the 20th. After discussing the alternatives, we elected to survey Doll Cave, northeast of Onslow. This turned out to be much more of a project than I had anticipated.

Doll Cave never has been completely explored. We found new passages in the lower level, a new entrance, and we stopped work in the upper level

with several hundred feet of previously unexplored (but not virgin) passage before us. Our incomplete survey shows 400 feet of passages. A copy will be sent to anyone requesting same.

The story goes that an old man and his three daughters spent an entire summer excavating this place. Doll Cave, so-called, is an old lead prospect, the most extensive known in the area of Silurian rocks. All of the passages are natural in origin, as are those of the caves of the Dubuque area. Here, as there, the miners removed unconsolidated clastic fill but did not greatly alter the bedrock walls of the cave. The mapped "cave" consists of those passages which were more-or-less relieved of their fill.

To an amateur, the openings in the bluff and the materials filling the passages resemble the natural exposures of and the sediments in the gash-veins around Dubuque. A few very small, uneconomic lead deposits have been found in this part of the state. However, there is not a smidgin of ore to be seen anywhere in Doll Cave. It is incredible that anyone should have devoted so much time and energy to a sleeveless errand. Over 200 cubic yards of materials were taken out. The man must have been obsessed.

Doll Cave has three entrances, two on the lower level and one on the upper. The lower level is a maze, the passages in which total 265 feet in length. The upper level, to which the lower is connected by a chute, is a unitary winding passage. We surveyed 135 feet here; about 200 more were explored by Culver without finding the end.

I retired to Picture Rock for a third time on the night of the 20th. Thankfully, all was still. The morning of the 21st saw me back at Pierce's farm. I surveyed Meadow Muffin Cave, then spent two profitless hours looking for Hatfield Cave.

Pierce was not at home when I returned to seek more explicit directions. Abandoning, for the present, the search for Hatfield Cave, I drove to Ohrt Cave, east of Monticello. The farm was abandoned in 1964, but one may still drive to it. Failure to read my own directions carefully lead to my hunting in the wrong places for over an hour (!). The cave finally was located, however. A map is attached to this report; Ohrt Cave was described previously (Hedges, 1962).

It was now too late in the day to complete yet another cave. I bathed in the spring, put on clean clothes, and grudgingly retreated to civilization.

New Cave

Meadow Muffin Cave
NE/SW/SW SE 15 86N 1W 930' ALT
Charlie Pierce, Rt. 2, Cascade
Jones County, Iowa

Meadow Muffin Cave, named for the excrement therein, is a room 12 feet wide and 28 feet long. The entrance is six feet wide and five feet high. It is developed in Hopkinton (Niagaran : Silurian) dolomite. Speleothems include stalactites, soda straws, and scalloped bacon rind. Clastic sediments in the cave include cave vermiculations, heteropoly-crapite, and bullshit. The passage ends in bedrock.

The presence of old, corroded flowstone and the coincidence in elevation of Meadow Muffin Cave and the Scotch Grove Strath suggests that the cave is a member of the Aftonian series of shallow phreatic caves. A CRG Grade 6 survey is presented herewith.

Revised Descriptions

Dead Cat Cave
SW/SW/SE 15 86 N 1W 930' ALT
Charlie Pierce, Rt. 2, Cascade
Jones County, Iowa

The entrance to Dead Cat Cave is one foot high and two feet wide. There is a low room ahead. A tight crawl leads from the left-hand side of the room. Both passages end in rock. The floor of the cave is of silt. A few speleothems are present. The cumulative length of all passages is 25 feet.

Dead Cat Cave is an Aftonian shallow phreatic cave developed in Hopkinton (Niagaran : Silurian) dolomite. Doc Lewis (1968) remarked that, when first visited, maggots were disposing of the remains of a cat and ants were carrying off the maggots.

Indian Bluff Cave
Jones County, Iowa
Continuing the description begun earlier (Hedges, 1969)

A stooping passage continues beyond the end of the 1969 survey for 85 feet, to a "T"; to the left is a crawlway which pinches in fill after 18 feet ("Smith's Folly", for Ed Smith having lost his way here in 1970); to the right is a 25 foot long crawl to a room 20 feet long, seven feet wide, and seven feet high ("Gietkowski's Grotto", for Ron Gietkowski, 1970 exploration), behind which a winding crawl extends 20 feet before pinching in fill ("Hedges' Hangup", because Hedges got stuck here in 1970). The total length of the cave is 525 feet, of which at least 450 feet are crawlway.

The floor of the cave is of clay throughout this section. There are a few pieces of breakdown in Gietkowski's Grotto. A second ceiling cavity occurs at a bend about 40 feet before the "T".

On each of the three days when I have been at the cave, the air current in the front part of the cave has issued from or disappeared into the first side passage. It seems likely that more passages exist here. However, digging will be difficult because the passage is so small and because there is no convenient place in which to dispose of the spoil.



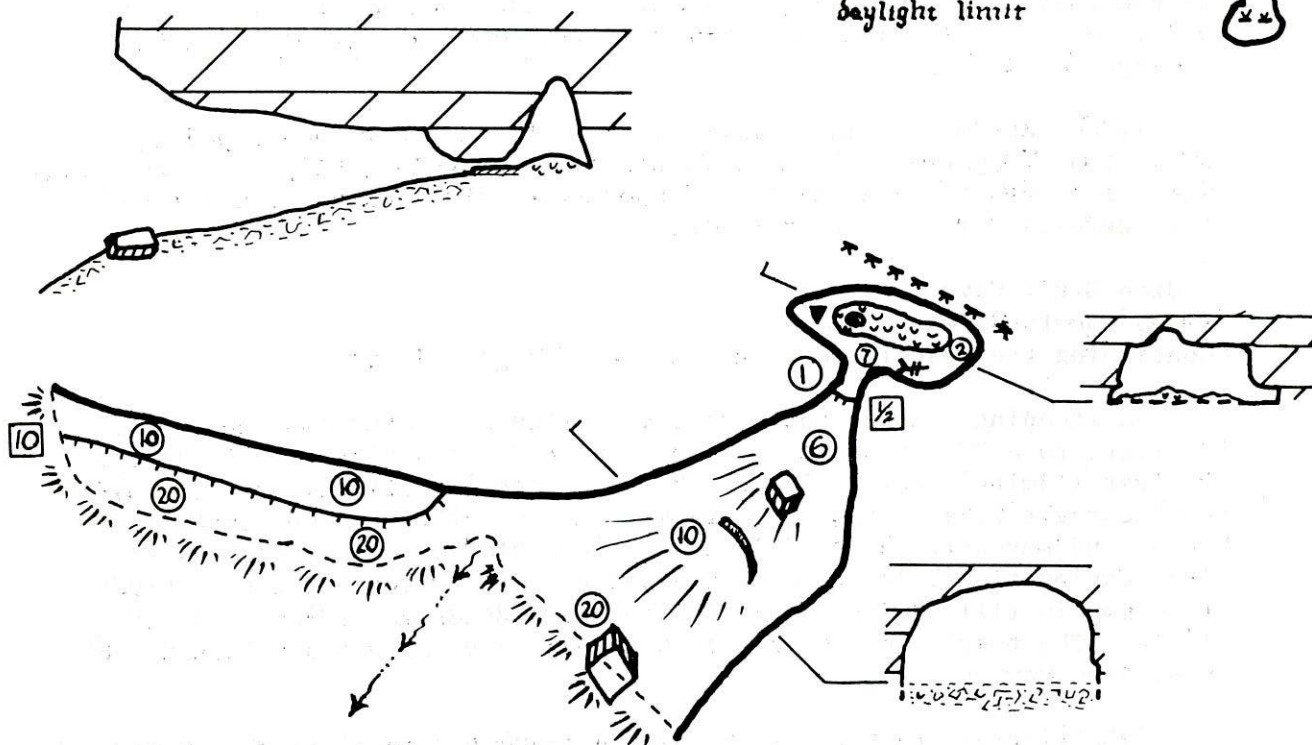
OHKE CUVE

Jones County, Iowa

SE 1/4 SW 21 86 2W 900

NSS Standard Map Symbols (1961)

supplementary symbols:
drip line
daylight limit



OHKE CUVE 6 survey prepared by James Hedges

Sarley quadrangle

Hopkinton bolomite

surveyed length 50 feet

E40

JAMES HEDGES

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Pierce's Cave
SW/SW/SE 15 86 1E 930' ALT
Charlie Pierce, Rt. 2, Cascade
Jones County, Iowa

Pierce's Cave begins as a crawlway floored with black dirt. After twenty feet, the passage bears to the right. The floor slopes down from here to the end of the cave. The passage attains a maximum height of 12 feet and a maximum width of 14 feet. Halfway to the end, a natural bridge of old travertine lies just below the ceiling. The cave is damp throughout, with some dripping water. It ends in dripstone 53 feet from the entrance. There is no daylight limit.

Pierce's Cave is developed in Hopkinton (Niagaran : Silurian) dolomite. It was developed just below the water table early during the Aftonian (first) interglacial, was flooded and largely filled with clastic sediments during Kansan time, and it was subsequently partly re-excavated. The cave was well-decorated at one time but has been severely vandalized.

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McIvor, John (1968) - Indian Bluffs: Historic Wild Area with a Future:
The Cedar Rapids Gazette, 1 December 68, p. 5B.

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INDIAN BLUFF CAVE

Jones County, Iowa



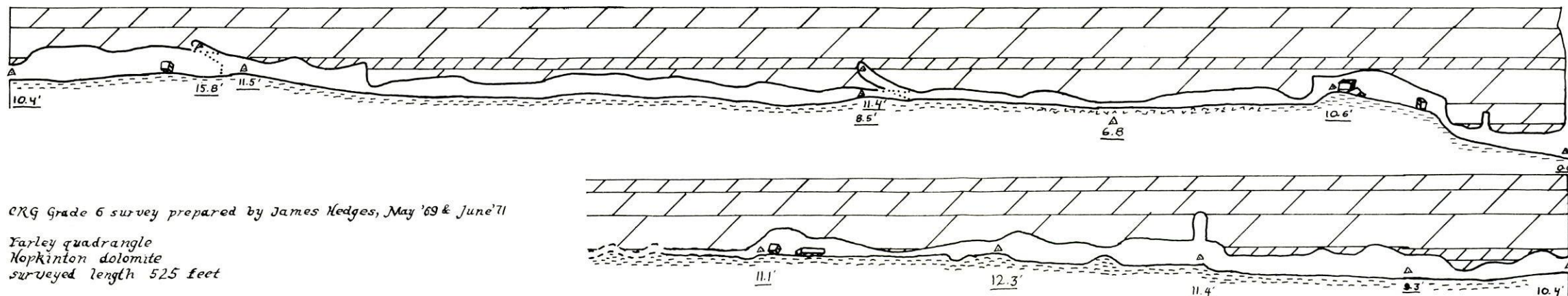
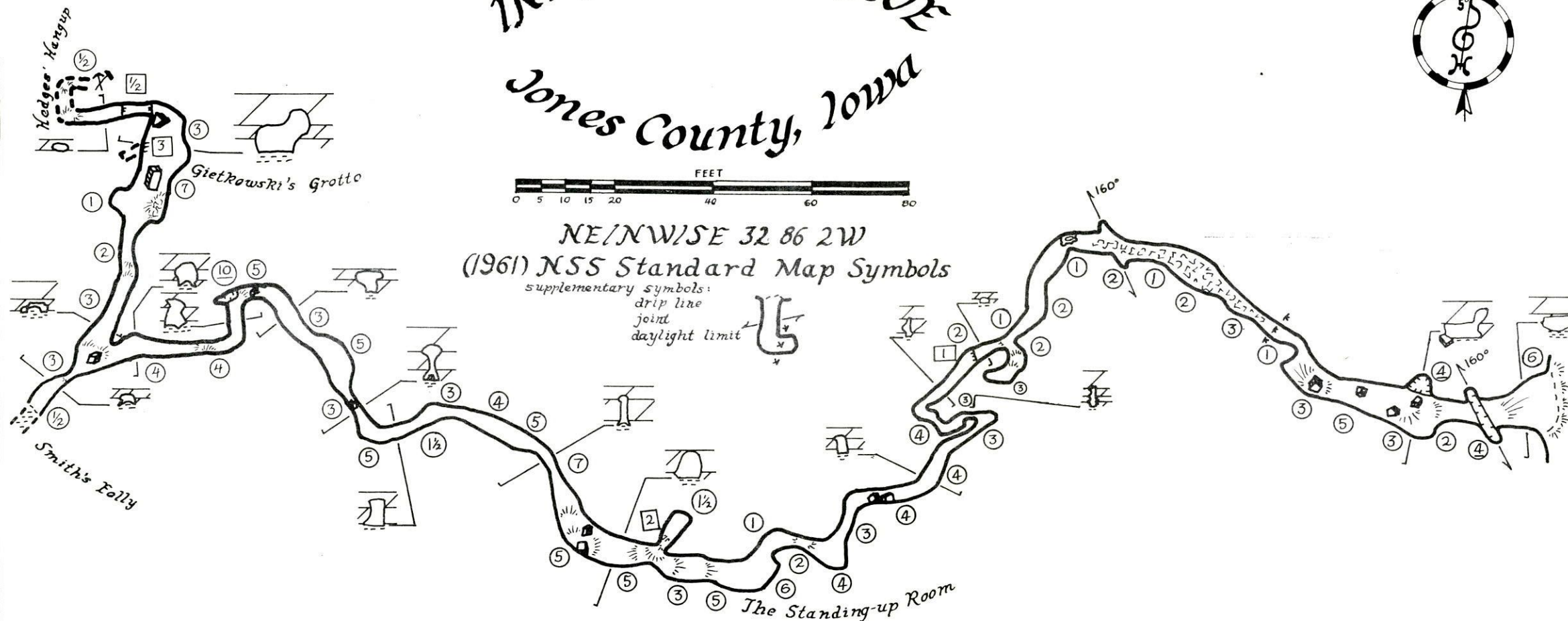
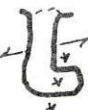
NE/NW 32 86 2W
(1961) NSS Standard Map Symbols

supplementary symbols:

drip line

joint

daylight limit



CRG Grade 6 survey prepared by James Hedges, May '69 & June '71

Farley quadrangle

Hopkinton dolomite

surveyed length 525 feet

JAMES HEDGES

E 200

I-70

PIERCE'S CAVES

Jones County, Iowa

SW/SE 15 86 1W 930'

CR6 Grade 6 surveys by James Hedges, June 1971

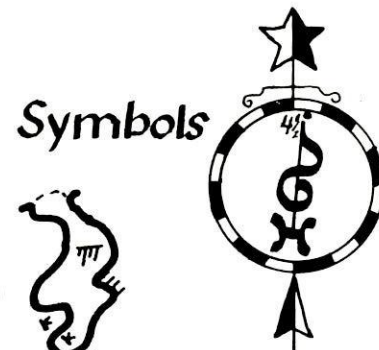
Peosta quadrangle

Hopkinton dolomite

NSS Standard Map Symbols

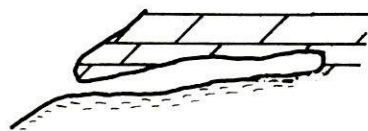
supplementary symbols:

drip line
soda straws
travertine (section)
daylight limit



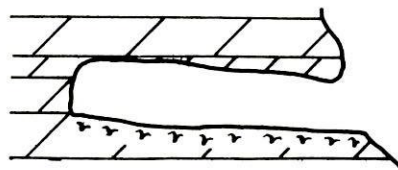
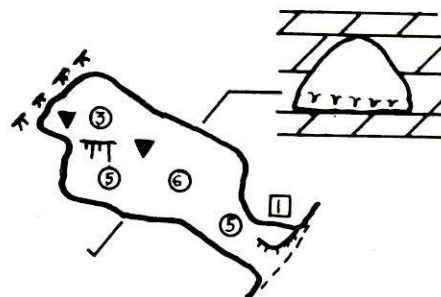
DEAD CAT CAVE

surveyed length 30 feet



MEADOW MUFFIN CAVE

surveyed length 29 feet



PIERCE'S CAVE

surveyed length 53 feet

