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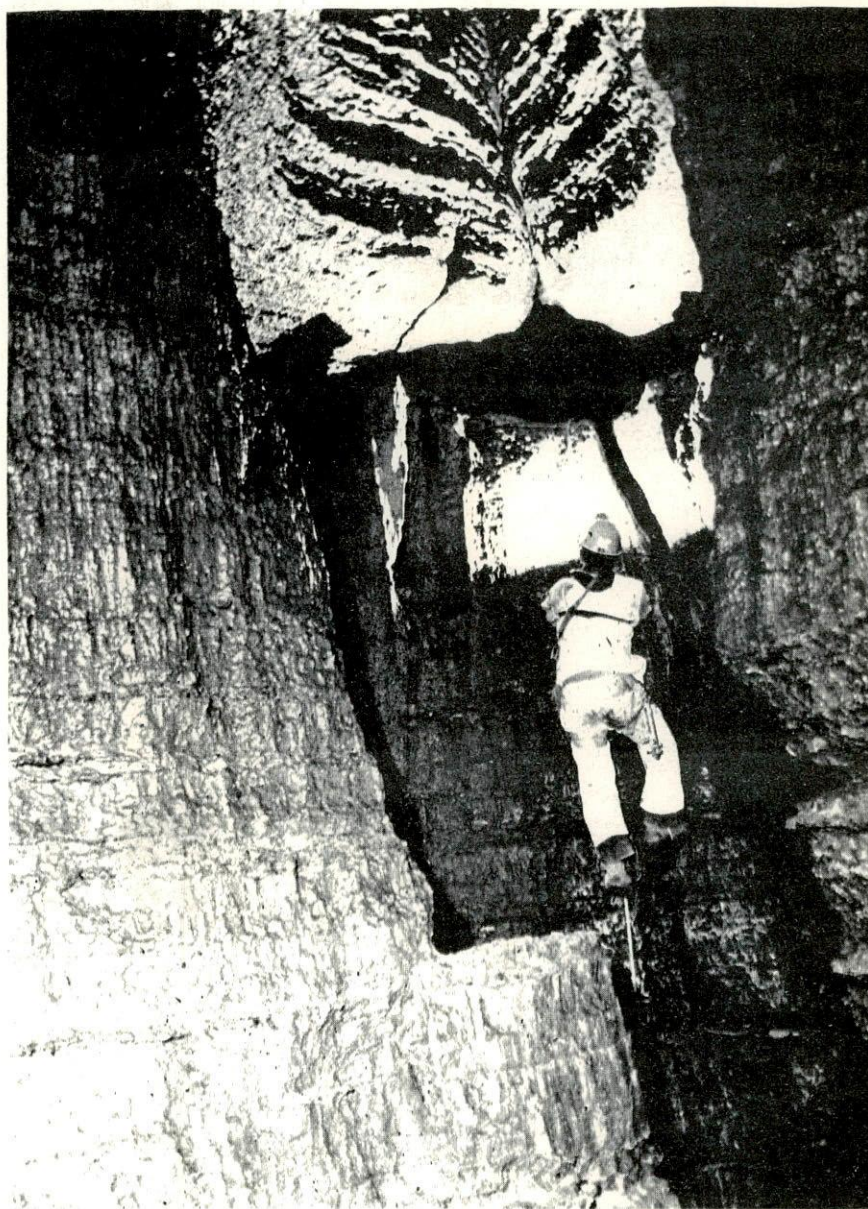
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COVER PICTURE: The photograph shows Iowa Grotto member Bruce Baker in Miller's Cave. Another grotto member, Harold Herington, took the original color slide reproduced in black and white on the cover of this issue.

Printed in January 1973



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Volume Eight	C O N T E N T S	Issue One
Grotto Minutes At A Glance - - - - -		2
Slide Projector Synchronizer - - - - -		3
Trip Reports		
Glenwood Survey Trip - - - - -		8
Skunk, Gudenkauf, and Maquoketa Caves State Park - - - - -		9

GLENWOOD SURVEY TRIP

Loren McVey

January 21-23, 1972

Greg McCarty, Phil Sanders, Chuck Maxwell, Paul Muller, Al Swenson, Ed Smith, Mike McArdle, Dennis Walker, Criss Gilbert, Brent Perrier, Harold Herington, Jim Blecker, Gary Linnevold, Judy Danneman, Debbie McVey, and Loren McVey.

After more than two years of talking about doing a survey of Glenwood Cave, a trip was finally organized for semester break in January, 1972. The major two problems, wet suits and people willing to wear them in an Iowa cave in winter, were somehow solved. Five wet suits were gathered together by pooling all the known wet suits in the grotto. The people problem was solved by getting volunteers who had never done Glenwood or any other wet suit caving in an Iowa winter. It was eventually arranged for two crews, one on Friday and a completely different crew on Saturday to survey the cave.

Winter camping in Iowa, without the appropriate gear, which costs much money (thus explaining why no Iowa cavers have any), is not only no fun it is masochistic. This problem was solved by contacting Prof. Knudson of Luther College in Decorah who got us some rooms in the dorms at Luther.

On Friday, Greg, Phil, Chuck, and I went up to do the first day's survey (really it was just so we could put on dry wet suits). Of the four surveyors, I was not only the only one who had ever been in Glenwood, but the only one who had ever surveyed before. We started out just fine, but due to unforeseen difficulties (silt blocking the water flow in our carbides) we were forced to make an exit in the dark after having only surveyed the first half of the Lake Passage. That night the rest of the people showed up, one carload from Iowa City, one from the Boone area, and one from the Davenport area.

The next day, Saturday, we split into three groups. Paul, Mike, Al, and Brent went into Glenwood to survey. Outside of Al, none of them had ever surveyed before or been in Glenwood. This crew was more successful than the first day's. They managed to survey to the end of the Lake Passage. The map of this area has not been drawn up but the length of the Lake Passage is within a few feet of $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. They quit surveying at that point, but did go on to see the rest of the cave. This survey should be completed--the hardest part has been done, the rest of the cave will be much easier to survey.

Harold and Jim went off to do Miller's and Stafford's Sandstone caves. Due to faulty directions, they failed to find Stafford's and were lucky to stumble onto Miller's.

The rest of us went to Lawson Cave. This cave had been reported in the Iowa Cave Index, but apparently had never been entered by the Iowa Grotto. Lawson Cave is about 5 miles north of Postville. We really didn't know what to expect, though we had a hint of something vertical. And vertical it was. From the entrance, there is a slight drop--maybe 8 feet to the floor. This is a small room. At the far end is a 20-foot drop. All of this is easily chimneyed. At the far end of this is a small hole going downward. It is fairly small and twists a little. It probably is about 8 feet. At the bottom of this small hole is the top of a large pit.

It is probably over 45 feet to the bottom. The pit is easily 25 feet in diameter. However it is chimneyable for a person with a little experience. At the bottom of this is another 8-foot drop followed by another very tight drop of about 12 feet. At the bottom of this drop sat a huge boulder. It was possible to see around the boulder and to see that it blocked the top of another pit. It was wedged in too tight to move by hand and thus further exploration of the cave will have to wait for a future trip.

From Lawson our group went on to Stafford's Sandstone Cave. This is Iowa's largest known sandstone cave, probably about 150 feet long. Some pictures were taken.

That night we all spent in the dorms back in Decorah.

The next day, Sunday, Harold and Jim started out early to see Stafford's with new and better directions and also Fence and Thurn.

The rest of the group, including the previous day's surveyors, had a lead to check on the Yellow River. Nothing. From there we also headed to Thurn. When we arrived at the cave, Harold and Jim, who had done Fence first, were rigging up to do the pit. We rigged it with cable ladder and just about everyone made it down to the bottom.

From Thurn we split up and all headed in our respective directions for home.

SKUNK, GUDENKAUF, AND MAQUOKETA CAVES STATE PARK

Greg McCarty

February 19, 1972

Lowell Burkhead, Terry Sires, Phil Sanders, Dennis Walker, Criss Gilbert, Brent Perrier, Chuck Maxwell, and Greg McCarty.

After meeting at the courthouse in Decorah, we headed for Kendallville to check out a lead on the Bill Sanders farm. He said, however, that the cave is up on a bluff and he did not want us climbing on the icy rock. He said it would be alright to come back in the spring.

We next went to Skunk Cave, also near Kendallville, and spent two or three hours viewing this large crevice cave.

After eating lunch in Decorah, we headed south to Worthington so we could relocate a cave the grotto had been to once before. It is on the Gudenkauf farm, just over the Delaware County line. The cave is in a small sink, and because of frozen ground, the entrance was only 8 - 10 inches high. A couple of the guys expressed doubts that we could get in without digging. I was standing on one side of the hole using Phil Sanders' flashlight when he called for it. He was only 10 feet away, on the other side of the hole, so I tossed it to him. He missed the flashlight and it slid down the hole into the cave. Phil then decided that I would fit through the entrance after all, with a little pushing.

I squeezed through, and with a little digging, so did everyone else. The cave is an interesting cave on one level though it lacks any formations. It has close to 500 feet of passage and one really large room that is about

16 inches high. The longest side passage of the cave reminds one of Indian Bluff Cave because of the "S" turns. It did have some cave life however, a full grown raccoon running around in the large room.

After we all squirmed back out, Lowell Burkhead and Terry Sires headed for home while the rest of us went to Maquoketa Caves State Park. We went through a few of the closer caves before calling it a day.