

March 1981

## Intercom, Volume 17, No. 2, March-April 1981

Greg McCarty

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# **I N T E R C O M**

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COVER PICTURE: Lowell Burkhead surveying in Yankee Cave

Photo by Mike Bounk

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## GROTTO MINUTES AT A GLANCE

Thomas Hruska, Secretary

## Regular Meeting March 11, 1981

Room 125                      Called to order: 7:35 PM                      Adjourned: 7:50 PM  
Attendance: 11 members and 3 guests                      Treasury: \$236.59  
No old or new business was discussed. Mike Bounk reported on a trip to the Manchester area. Mike also reported on Buzzard's Ridge. Roger Heidt told about a trip to Skunk Cave and others. Gwenne Engh reported on mapping in Yankee Cave. Gwenne Engh will be going to Yankee on March 28 for another mapping trip. Gwenne also announced the monthly Coldwater trip. Rudy Pruszko is planning a trip to the Y Camp. After the meeting, Mike Bounk presented a show of slides taken in Yankee Cave.

## Regular Meeting March 25, 1981

Room 125                      Called to order: 7:45 PM                      Adjourned: 8:25 PM  
Attendance: 7 members and no guests                      Treasury: \$131.58  
Lowell Burkhead reported that the grotto's supply of carbide is running low. Lowell was granted permission to investigate the purchase of more carbide. Greg McCarty is checking into the possibility of obtaining funds from the Collegiate Associations Council. Greg McCarty and Mike Bounk reported on the monthly Coldwater trip. Lowell Burkhead told about Dave Schwendinger's trip to Zittergruen Cave. Mike Bounk's proposed trips include: Yankee Cave mapping on March 28, a mapping trip to Wagon Wheel and other locations on April 4, lead checking in the West Union area on April 5, and the monthly Coldwater trip on April 18 & 19, 1981.

## Regular Meeting April 8, 1981

Room 125                      Called to order: 7:35 PM                      Adjourned: 8:30 PM  
Attendance: 8 members and no guests                      Treasury: \$131.58  
Lowell Burkhead has obtained the steel re'rod for the Yankee Cave gating project. Witching or divining for caves was briefly discussed. Greg McCarty reported on the proposed budget that he submitted to the Collegiate Associations Council. Greg McCarty reported on the Recreation Department trip to Maquoketa Caves State Park. Mike Bounk and Lowell Burkhead told about the trip to Yankee Cave. Mike also reported on a trip to Fayette County. Rudy Pruszko will be going to Crystal Lake Cave on April 11, 1981. The Coldwater Cave trip will be April 18 & 19. April 25 & 26 is the date of the MVOR in Missouri.

## Regular Meeting April 22, 1981

Room 131                      Called to order: 7:35 PM                      Adjourned: 8:20 PM  
Attendance: 13 members and no guests                      Treasury: \$110.47  
Covers for thirty-seven past and future issues of the *Intercom* have been printed. Lowell Burkhead showed the steel gate that will be installed at Yankee Cave in the near future. The Cedar Rapids Scuba Diving Club has requested a show on cave diving. Mike Bounk discussed the Iowa Grotto and its lack of preparation for any possible rescue work in the state. Greg McCarty gave a status report on the Collegiate Associations Council funding. Mike Bounk told about the Mines of Spain area and a trip to Indian Bluff Cave. Greg McCarty reported on his trip to Jackson County. Greg McCarty is planning a trip to Floyd County on May 23 - 25. Coldwater Cave on May 16 & 17. June Coldwater trip as fun weekend and North Country Region meeting.

Jackson, Jones Counties Caving and Lead Checking Trip

March 1, 1981

Michael Bounk, Lowell Burkhead, Rudy Pruszko, Dave Schwendinger, and Doug Snowbarger.

We met at Dave's place in Monticello at about 9:00 a.m. and drove to the Buzzard Ridge area in Jackson County. At the ridge, we met two landowners who had a number of leads they wanted us to look at. None of these were large enough to call a cave. They were mostly small holes in the bluffs along the river that we've all seen on canoeing trips.

We then visited Doll, High, and Mineral Creek Caves in Jones County, which Rudy, Dave, and Doug had not seen previously. Doug then returned home and the rest of us returned to the Buzzard Ridge area to check out a lead, whose owner was not home earlier. The owner was now home, but he wanted us to wait until later in the year to visit the cave which he said was about 100 feet long. Lowell then returned home. Dave, Rudy and I then did some more unsuccessful lead checking in the Indian Bluffs area before returning to Dave's place.

Yankee #7

March 7, 1981

Gwenne Engh

Lowell Burkhead - compass  
Gary Engh - lead tape

Roger Heidt - rear tape  
Gwenne Engh - book

Mike Bounk - camera

We got up early and entered the cave around 10:00 a.m. The cave was sucking air, the stream was at low winter normal level.

We had set some goals for this trip exceeded them all, with 1850 feet of survey plus a resurvey of the large room (Boom Room) and pictures by Bounk. I needed some more radial shots to the side walls to get the correct dimensions on the map. Mike began his photo documentary of the trip while we ran out 4 more shots from our old survey station on the edge of a piece of travertine (The Boom Room floor is littered with large chunks of old flow stone). The dome was raining much stronger than we'd ever noticed before and where it wasn't raining, it was misting. After eating lunch we headed upstream to the NSS Pipe Organ formation where we'd tied off the survey on the last trip in January. This formation, a large flowstone column with a bell-shaped base, is surrounded with thick clumps of long and short stalactites and soda straws.

This section continues as wide walking passage, heavily decorated with mud covered ribbons, stalactites and soda straws. The floor is flat, gravel bedded and striated by long rimstone dams a few inches high. Small stalagmites poke up through the shallow water, and care should be taken to avoid them. Many of the formations are so clogged with mud all the way through that we suspect the first hard flood through this section may take many of them with it.

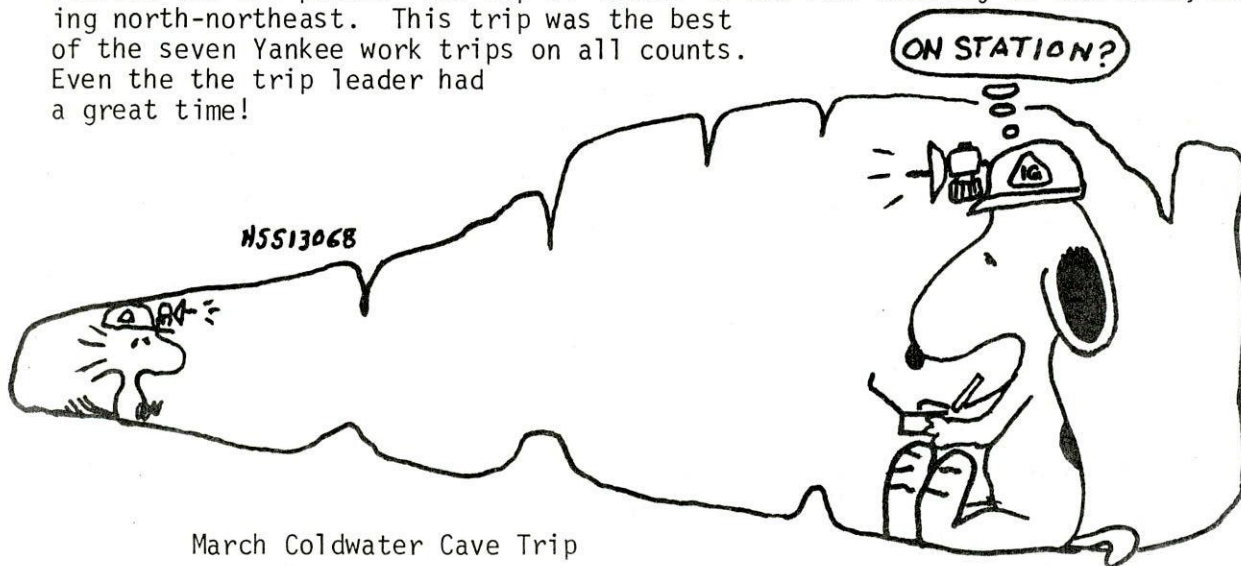


The passage gradually becomes stoop-walk and then high wide crawlway after the passage swings from southeast to north-northwest around a long bend. A major side passage continues southeast. It continues wide with a flat gravel floor for 700 to 800 feet and one must weave one's way through one to two foot long stalactites, many with frail ribbon like bases.

Cathedral Dome is in this section and we all crawled up the steep mud bank at its base for a good long look at this beautiful place. Lowell and Roger thought it made the whole trip worthwhile. The dome is lined with colonades of bluewhite flowstone with puddled or fluted into drapery bases. One base section looks like a cross section of a sponge, very lacelike. A verticle slot continues back over the ceiling of the main passage and a side passage about 15 feet above opens up. In order to get to the passage, one would have to traverse across some very impressive white flowstone and then chimney up between two of the pillars. This idea was nixed on the spot. Since flowstone makes bad bolting material and would look awful, this very promising side lead may have to be put on the shelf until a crew can be mustered to drag in a section ladder.

Lowell, by this time, had proved himself to be a past-master on compass and the survey portion of the trip proceeded very smoothly. Meanwhile, Mike was taking pictures of the passage, action shots of the crew and of all the important features and side passages.

We continued to survey into the early evening and ended the trip at a convenient tie-off place. The map of Yankee is now 200 feet shy of ONE MILE, heading north-northeast. This trip was the best of the seven Yankee work trips on all counts. Even the the trip leader had a great time!



March Coldwater Cave Trip

March 21, 1981

Michael Bounk, Pete DeVries, Jim Duffy, Dave DeVries, Gary Engh, Gwenne Engh, Jim Klager, Barry Schuman, and Greg Sherf.

After breakfast, Gary, Gwenne, Jim, and Barry entered the cave for a mapping trip in the Cascade passage. (Trip report from them not available. ed.)

At 2:00 p.m., Pete, Dave, Greg, Jim, and I entered the cave and headed downstream to the Sand Canyon Passage, which we hoped to finish mapping. However, when we began surveying the passage, which had become a bellycrawl, with short sections of crawlway, we encountered difficulties due to the constricted nature of the passage and very heavy fog from our breath. For these reasons, we set a chip and discontinued the survey. Next, we headed into the dome off of the passage, where we changed carbide. We then surveyed back to the Sand Canyon Passage after which, due to chilling, we returned to the shaft and exited the cave at about 8:00 p.m.

A number of other cavers not discussed above were present and other trips did occur.

### Yankee Cave Trip

March 28, 1981

Michael Bounk, Stewart Anderson, Lowell Burkhead, Bill Collett, Rudy Pruszko Gary Taylor, and Steve Wuellever.

Originally, we had planned for Lowell to pinpoint the site for the cave gate and take measurements for it, while the rest of us headed upstream to continue the main passage survey. However, due to the muddy condition of the access lane, both Lowell and my vehicles became stuck, and thus we were not able to enter the cave until about noon, too late to continue with our original plans and exit at a reasonable time. Therefore, while Lowell continued as planned, the rest of us decided to map side passages. We headed upstream to the first significant sized side passage located a short distance upstream from the Mud Room on the right hand side. We mapped about 70 feet of this passage, which due to mudbanks was an irregularly shaped crawlway. Finally, it became a very difficult bellycrawl. Although the passage continued, it was impossible to make reasonable progress. Therefore, we set a chip, and exited the passage, planning to return with a more experienced, possibly smaller, crew. Next, we mapped a passage in the left wall of the main passage, a short distance downstream from Lester Falls. This passage continued for about 200 feet to a joint aligned room, where it ended in a mud fill.

We then took a tourist trip upstream to the Columbine Formation, after which we exited the cave at about 7:00 p.m. We met Lowell at the house, and learned that he had successfully located a site for the gate and made the necessary measurements.

### Cave Gate Survey

March 28, 1981

Lowell Burkhead

After the above mentioned crew sloshed off into the darkness of the cave, I fired up my lamp and set out alone to find a suitable place for a cave gate.



I found several good spots but several of them could be bypassed with very little effort and several others were too far in from the entrance. That left two for consideration. One of them had too much room out toward the entrance for people to work on the gate. That left the other which was in the lowest part of the entrance passage and had a cross joint with room to stand up just in from it. I opened up the millstone and and set to work.

The plan was to get a perfect cross section of the passage at the point where the gate was to go and make a gate to fit it. The gate would be put in with press fit stainless steel pins. The method I came up with was to put a curtain rod across the passage and mark survey stations on it at four inch intervals and make an up and a down measurement at each station.

As I was working, a bat kept flying back and fourth past me. Then he started lighting on the walls or ceiling nearby and getting closer and closer. I started paying him some attention and finally was able to rub his head without him flying or showing his teeth. He was very curious about my 50 cal. millstone and lit on the wall less than four inches from it. When I left the cave, he followed me outside and all the way up the hill. When I opened the car door, he turned and dissappeared in the woods back down the hill.

The following is the survey data and the cross section made from it. The gate was made from a 1 to 1 scale drawing this data and schetches done in cave.

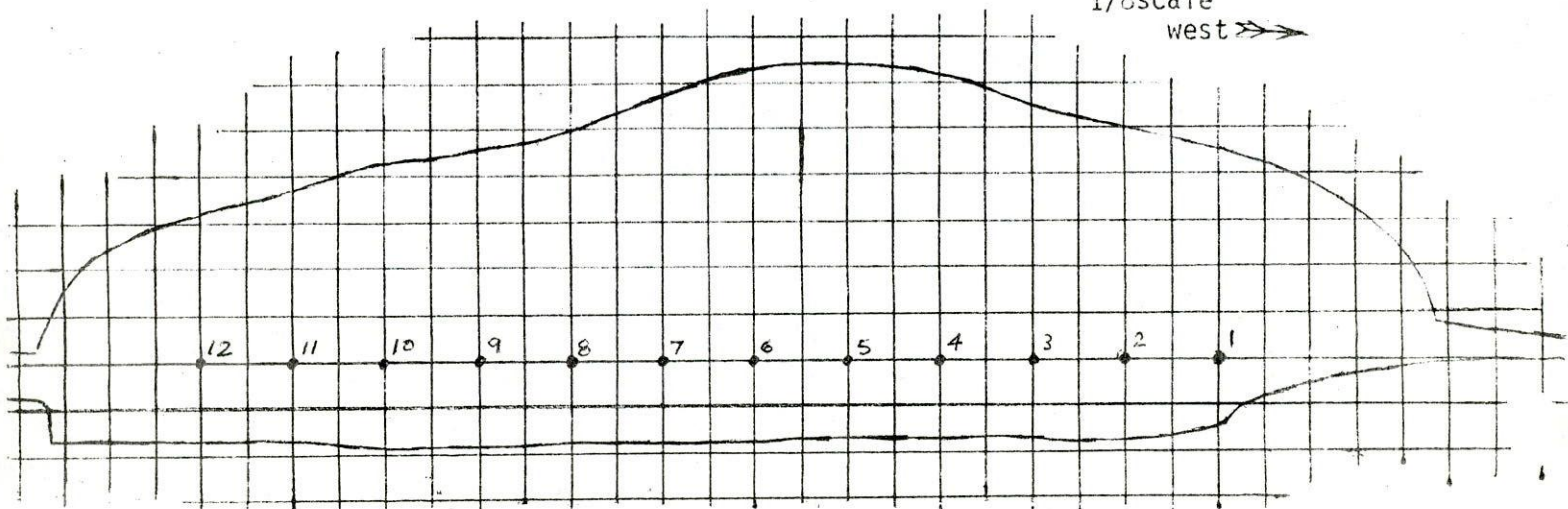
Stations at four inch intervals starting at west side.

Wall to station 1 = 8" at 4" up

Station	down	up	notes
1	3.0"	9.25"	
2	3.5	10.0	Good place for pins
3	3.375	11.0	
4	3.375	12.25	
5	3.375	12.75	Good place for pins
6	3.5	12.375	
7	3.5	11.25	
8	3.5	10.0	
9	3.750	9.25	Good place for pins
10	3.75	8.5	
11	3.5	7.5	
12	3.5	6.5	

Wall to station 12 = 6" at 2" up

1/8 scale  
west >>>



### Fayette County Lead Checking Trip

April 5, 1981

Michael Bounk, Joe Blockis, Ken Blockis

We met in West Union at 8:05 a.m., and drove to an area of Devonian age strata northeast of town. There we checked a number of leads and found a cave (Wood Duck Cave) which is about 17 feet long located to the side of a plunge pool, and near an area of numerous springs (Riffle Spring) flowing out of a talus slope. We dug in these for about an hour, but were unable to reach open passage. Next we drove to a cave which Joe had seen years earlier, but had never entered. We entered this cave (Underoad Cave) and explored about 120 feet of highly joint aligned solutional passage, which varied in height from walking passage to where it became impassible due to a constriction.

Next, we drove to Falling Spring which was running somewhat higher than normal due to the rainy weather. After speaking to the tenant, we returned home.

### Crystal Lake Cave Trip

February 14, 1981

Rudy Pruszko, Mike Bounk, Jeff Rubel, Doug Rubel

We proceeded into the cave to passages beyond the commercial section that we explored on the last trip. One passage contained many speleothems which Mike took pictures of.

Then we continued to the air passage which was pushed beyond the mapped section on the resurvey done in 1956. We followed the passage 350 feet farther, before we had to turn back due to time. The passage continued on which should be pushed on the next trip. Most of the passage was narrow belly or side crawl with occasional area of more room. There was a strong air current through the passage which would cause out carbide light to flicker.

The air passage is still suspected to connect up with Meunster Cave on the other side of the hill. According to topographical maps the distance between the entrances of Crystal Lake and Meunster Caves is about 3000 feet. Farther pushing of air passage is needed to prove this theory. Evidence of pick marks on the walls of air passage were made by someone travelling toward the entrance of Crystal Lake Cave.

We also found a collapsed shaft in air passage which has a passage on the other side of the shaft that continues on and could be entered with some digging.

A passage off of the commercial section heading north could be pushed with very little digging. Surface investigation indicated that this passage leads to an old mine entrance on the north side of the hill. This entrance was supposed to be the original opening to the mine.



There is definately more work to be done in this cave. The owner, Jim Rubel has been very interested and co-operative in our projects. We have covered over 3550 feet of passage so far, but some old records state that there is 8000 feet of passage. By pushing our many leads in this cave, we could very easily find over 8000 feet of passage.

#### Mines of Spain Meeting Statement Made By Rudy Pruszko

February 26, 1981 public hearing held in Dubuque.

My name is Rudy Pruszko and I am a member of the National Speleological Society and the Iowa Grotto. Our group would like to see the caves and mines preserved. The mines contain a valueable portion of Dubuque's history and contain many artifacts which should remain in the mines.

In addition, many species of wildlife live in or frequent the caves and mines. There should be a study of the wildlife that is associated with the caves and mines, which may include endangered species like the Indiana bat.

Also we think the caves or mines should be gated in such a manor not to disturb the ecology but allow limited access for study.

#### Mines of Spain Trip

March 12, 1981

Rudy Pruszko, Gerda Hartman

The trip was planned on a Thursday after work. The previous trip to the Mines of Spain, the weekend before, yielded nothing on the Mines of Spain, but a study of some old maps indicated the location of several shafts in the Mines of Spain. After work, I drove to the Mines of Spain where I met Gerda, and we began our hike to locate two shafts.

We found the first shaft among many miner's pits. This shaft was in solid limestone to a depth of about 30 ft. No passage could be seen at the bottom, but the view was obstructed by the shaft walls. The location of the shaft was near the top of the hill hidden by the trees. Therefore, there was almost no wash down of dirt into the shaft. At a future time a trip would be planned to check out the bottom of the shaft.

There with the sun setting, we hurried to locate the next shaft. We did finally find what seems to be the shaft, but it seemed to be filled to almost the top. The hill looked very suspicious. It looked like the shaft was covered with boards near the surface, then a few feet of dirt was thrown on top. Due to darkness, we headed back to the farm.

YMCA Camp

March 14, 1981

Rudy Pruszko, Mike Bounk, Charley Winterwood, Doug Snowbarger, Paul Willging, John Kahle

The YMCA agreed to let us explore their caves and shafts if we would map the cave and provide information about the 17 shafts on their property.

We started with a hike through the Union Park Hollow which was filled with history and remnants of the old Union Park. Many foundations of the buildings still remain like the ballroom, bowling alley, swimming pool and trolley turn around.

On top of the ridge we came to Timmen's cave which has six shafts for entrances. We started at the first opening and began mapping. Although the cave varied only 5 degrees from east to west, the steep slopes of the entrances made surveying very difficult. Everyone took turns surveying, getting practice at each position.

After completing the survey underground, we canvassed the hills for the other shafts. All the shafts found were filled very close to the top due to a flash flood which destroyed the park in the early 1900's.

We did find one shaft that dropped down 20 ft. which looked promising for some digging to possibly expose passage.

Mines of Spain and Preston Cave

March 8, 1981

Rudy Pruszko, Dave Schwendinger

We started our trip by stopping at a farm that is near the Mines of Spain. There we talked with Gerda Hartman about a sink hole she was digging open. She then showed us the sink hole which had filled in with the last rain. With a little digging, we had exposed the route the water takes when it disappears into the ground. The sink was very promising and should be dug open at a later time. We then took a brief tour of the farm and got oriented to the Mines of Spain.

Dave and I then drove the car to a point which was very close to the boundary of the Mines of Spain and proceeded from there. Hiking down some valleys and over a couple of ridges yielded some pits but no shafts. There we proceeded across a corn field and followed the railroad tracks along the Mississippi River to hunt for Rattlesnake Cave. Again no luck with finding a cave, but we did find an ample supply of railroad parts like spikes, rail, switches, car parts and complete sections of track. In addition we found a portable pump with a gasoline engine for power. This U.S. Government pump is in need of some cleaning up but would make an excellent addition to the grotto's equipment.



Coming upon a quarry we found some people rappelling down a 150 foot rock face. It was an ideal place for vertical rope training. The quarry also had a junk yard with angle irons, ladders, culvert, wire rope and junk. I plan to inquire about possible acquisition of our finds for donation to the grotto. In the quarry was a vein of calcite crystal which was exposed by the recent blasting.

We then proceeded back into the hills to continue our search for the "Mines" in the Mines of Spain. Again we came across many pits some of which lead to a small crevice but nothing too promising. After hours of hiking through thick brush, we went back to the car and drove to the farmer's house. As we talked to the farmer he told us about the Preston Mine or Cave he had helped dig in his younger days. He said that he would tie a 90 foot rope to his foot and continue into the cave until the rope stopped him. He did some digging enlarging the passage and to hunt for lead. Since no lead was found and the loss of his help, the mine was forgotten. We walked down to the shaft which was 18 feet deep and filled with miscellaneous scrap to help prevent cattle from falling in. We got permission to remove the scrap in the shaft and entered the cave.

After rigging a hand line, we chimneyed down the shaft. The main passage continued forward for about 70 feet where farther travel would take some digging. The dirt floor in the cave was soft top soil either washed in the shaft or from a nearby sink hole. There was a side passage which headed toward the farmer's house. We used crude digging implements like hands and boards to open the passage enough for Dave to stick his body in the passage. The passage definitely continues on and just needs more digging. We then exited the cave and headed home knowing we would return to dig the passage and follow it to the end.

### Mines of Spain and Fessler Mines

March 21, 1981

Rudy Pruszko, Gerda Hartman, Wally Hartman

We drove to the north entrance of the Mines of Spain and parked our vehicles to hike back to the Fessler mines. The Fessler mines consist of three audits and one shaft. They were last mined by the Indians in 1912. Some of the local old timers stated that you could walk into these audits up to the last couple of years. Now the entrances are caved in and closed. The mine was large enough to get a horse pulling a wagon into the passage to haul the lead ore out. About 50,000 lbs. of lead was taken out of this mine.

We hiked up to the main audit and proceeded to try and dig it open. In our digging we came upon many small pieces of Galena lead ore. After many hours of digging, we stopped to do some exploring of the area.

At the second audit I dropped down hole after hole popping out another. Then I dropped down the last hole and with a little work opened up the passage. Gerda and I followed the passage to where it had caved in. you could still see the beams that were holding up the ceiling and the track on the floor. The ceiling was very unstable due to the nearness to the surface and the lack of a cap rock. Where the passage had caved in blocking it off, there were boulders teetering up above. It was very unsafe which caused us to back off.

There was a side passage which led to the last area of mining. It was a very narrow side crawl which came to a "T" and went in either direction for about 20 feet.

You could still see the lead vein in the ceiling and walls. In some places it was as wide as one inch. Rumors have it that farther back in the Fessler mines there are still lead crystals on the wall.

We climbed to the top of the hill where we found the shaft which was closed off. The shaft would entail a lot of digging to open but it would be the safest way into the mine.

### Crystal Lake Cave Trip

April 11, 1981

Rudy Pruszko, Doug Snowbarger, Charlie Winterwood

I started the day by doing some hiking on the Mines of Spain to check some leads. Then I met Doug and Charlie at Crystal Lake Cave. We waited only a short while for the owner and his sons to show up.

The owner arrived and opened up the entrance to find the passages filled with up to four feet of water in some places. This was due to the couple of inches of rainfall that fell the previous days and drained down into the cave. While the owner started pumping the water out with a sump pump, we took a tour from the exit into the cave along the commercial passage.

After our short tour, we proceeded to get ready to enter the cave. By this time the water level was lowered to about 6". Walking swiftly through the water we headed back to air passage. The three of us pushed to where the tight squeeze crawls started. At this point it was difficult for Charlie to fit through the passage so Charlie decided to rest and let us go ahead.

Doug and I pushed onward until we had passed the quitting point of the last trip. We continued on for 40 to 50 feet until it started getting too small for Doug to go farther without digging. At that point we decided to discontinue the passage until some small cavers could be recruited to push farther. But before we turned back we came across an old bottle. The bottle was octagon in shape and about 8 inches tall made of pale blue glass. On the side of the bottle it said, "Rumford Chemical Works" ; on the side and on the bottom it said, "Patented March 10, 1868".

The date on the bottom of the bottle was the same year that Crystal Lake Cave was discovered. We brought the bottle out for the owners display case at the entrance of the cave.

Doug and I then picked up Charlie on the way back through the air passage. We then proceeded to the commercial section to exit the cave. As it turned out, the owner was working on his billboard and had disconnected the pump. This allowed more water to drain into the passage by the entrance. We had to walk through about 9" of water soaking our feet. What a way to leave a cave.



Doug and Charlie left to stop at the store downtown while I stayed behind to hike over the cave on the surface. I hiked about 3/4 of a mile hopping over fence after fence. I couldn't locate where the strong wind in the air passage was entering the cave. I headed back to the car and the owner drove up and we talked for about an hour. After exchanging stories about caves in the area, I headed for home.

### Mines of Spain

April 17-19, 1981

Rudy Pruszko, Mike Bounk, Gerda Hartman, Ed Smith

The Easter weekend trip started on Friday April 16. Ed, Gerda, and myself met at the north parking lot area of the Mines of Spain and hiked to the Fessler mines.

The Fessler mines consist of three audits and one shaft. One of the audits is open but the other two and the shaft were closed. The main audit was caved in which we began digging open. After many hours, Ed, Gerda and I had a hole leading to some passage where cave crickets exited. The only problem with the hole was that rocks and dirt would continually fall into the hole from the ceiling. We then decided to increase the angle of descent to lessen the probability of collapse of the ceiling.

After a few hours more of digging and about a 1/2 ton of dirt and rock, we reopened the hole to the passage. We then entered the passage which was about 3 feet wide and walking height to about 20 feet. It continued on for about 80 feet until breakdown blocked the passage. There were beams in the ceiling with tree roots hanging down. I then took pictures and we exited the cave. We covered the entrance with screen, rocks, and dirt to keep hikers out due to the instability of the entrance and the cave itself.

Next we went out to the naturally open audit and entered to take some pictures. This audit also ends in a breakdown blockage. Beams and track could be found in the main passage. There was a side passage which still had an exposed vein of lead in the ceiling and wall. In some places it was an inch thick.

By the time we got done with the second audit, it was about supper time so we called it a day and returned to Gerda's house.

The next day Mike met us at Gerda's house where we all climbed into my Jeep. We started traveling toward the river across corn fields. On the top of the bluff we parked the Jeep and started hiking the hills in search of shafts.

There were many mining pits which covered the hills in the Mines of Spain. The miners were looking for float lead and the crevice was where to dig their shafts.

We covered the ridge north of the Jeep and came back to eat lunch. Then we headed on to the ridge to the south. There we went down to the railroad tracks that run along the river. Following the tracks to Catese Hollow, we hiked up the hollow hoping to end up on Massey road. Somewhere in the valley, we made a right turn and ended up in what else but a corn field. There we hiked back to the Jeep.

The next stop was on the edge of a corn field where I had hiked to look at some pits and an opening in the bluff. Looking into the hollow we climbed down the bluff into an eroded crevice where a hole was visible. Gerda elected to stick her head down to see if it went anywhere and of course it didn't. While leaving the bluff, a hawk flew within 10 feet of where we were standing. It circled a few times and flew down the valley.

Next we drove to the south entrance that is at the head of Catese hollow. There we followed the valley down to the tracks where we started walking south. The more we walked, the hotter the sun got, and the thirstier we got. Gerda suggested a bar she knew of in Massey, the next town down the tracks. The walk consisted of about three miles as the train flies. Eventually we made it to Massey, where we toured the boat marina and park. It was about that time that friends of Gerda's drove by and stopped to talk. After a few minutes, we had solved our problem of getting back to the Jeep which was 4 miles away. But first we all decided to stop for some beer.

After discussing the day over a pitcher, we rode back to the Jeep. Gerda invited us to her house for a cook out which was an ideal way to end a nice day of hiking.

Although we were unsuccessful in finding any additional shafts, we did enjoy the scenery and weather. Now the count is up to 3 shafts and 3 audits. There is still a lot of work to be done including mapping, digging, and old fashion cave exploring.

#### RUMOR MILL

Steve Barnett

The squaws camped down on "so and so's" land while the braves went up-river to mine galena from the cave. They used teams of mules to drag the ore through the passages. The settlers always saw them bringing the ore to camp to load in their canoes and take it away to sell it. One day, one of the settlers was down in the camp and saw a map of the system scribed on a piece of birch bark. Strange symbols identified the passages. He stole the map, showed it to two of his friends, and then hid it in his corncrib that night. The next morning, it was gone. The settlers did everything they could to find where the entrance was, but the Indians had covered their tracks so well that they never found it.

"Where was this again?" I asked.

"Somewhere on the Turkey," was the reply.



