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Greg McCarty

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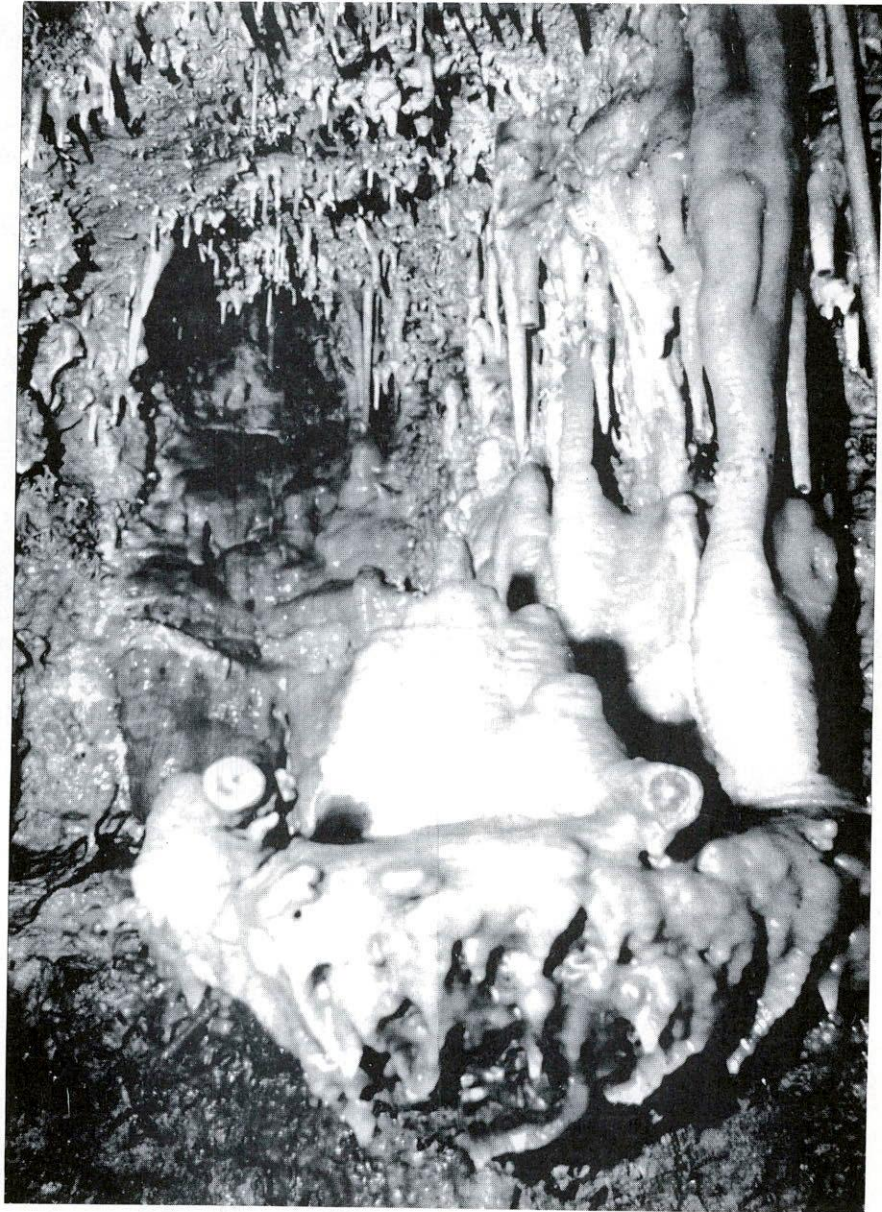
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I N T E R C O M

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COVER PICTURE: Formations on the commercial tour in Crystal Lake Cave near Dubuque, Iowa

Photo by John Johnson

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IOWA GROTTO
National Speleological Society
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Iowa City, Iowa 52440

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Vice-Chairman, Editor, and Typist-
- - - - - Lowell Burkhead
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Volume Seventeen

Issue Five

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GROTTO MINUTES AT A GLANCE

Thomas Hruska, Secretary

Regular Meeting September 9, 1981

Room 125 Called to order: 7:40 PM Adjourned: 8:25 PM
 Attendance: 9 members and 2 guests Treasury: \$76.78
 The exchange procedure for the INTERCOM was discussed and a committee was appointed to assess exchange policy. April Cave survey trips are tentatively planned for the first weekend of each month. Greg McCarty had 100 legal release forms printed for grotto use. Greg reported on his lead checking trip in the Manchester and Edgewood areas. Mike Bounk announced a digging trip to the Dutton's Cave area, October 3,4, 1981, and the monthly Coldwater trip, September 19, 20, 1981. After the meeting, Jim Hannon showed slides of the 1975 Wyoming trip and Mike Bounk presented a slide program.

Regular Meeting September 24, 1981

Room 125 Called to order: 7:30 Adjourned: 8:15
 Attendance: 6 members and 5 guests Treasury: \$76.78
 The grotto library and publications exchange policy was again discussed. Mike Bounk reported on the Hodag Hunt and North Country Region meeting where officers were nominated. Mike Bounk was nominated for chairman, John Moses and Ralph Earlandson for vice-chairman, Peter Dayton for secretary and George Zachariason for treasurer. Gary Engh was appointed to work up a poster for display at the Student Activities Center. Bob Jarski will put up grotto meeting notices on the Cambus System. There was a discussion of caving and the Iowa Grotto with the guests. Mike Bounk reported on his trip to Coldwater Cave. Greg McCarty will be leading a Recreation Department trip. Mike Bounk announced a two day digging trip to a sinkhole that drains to Dutton's Cave. They will be camping at Dutton's Cave Park. Mike also announced the regular Coldwater weekend, Oct. 17 and 18, 1981 and a November 7 and 8 surveying trip to April Cave. Mike also told about a planned vertical practice at Maquoketa Caves on Nov. 14 and the regular Coldwater trip Nov. 21 and 22 and a surveying trip to Wagonwheel Pit Cave on Nov 28 and 29, 1981.

Regular Meeting October 14, 1981

The minutes of this meeting can't be found. It is believed that a meeting was held and the minutes were destroyed by the chairman because he didn't like the new and unorthodox style used by the vice-chairman.

Regular Meeting October 28, 1981

Room 125 Called to order: 7:50 PM Adjourned: 8:35
 Attendance wasn't taken Treasury: \$76.78
 Mike Bounk, Greg McCarty, and John Johnson will work up the poster for the Student Activities Center. Nominations for grotto officers were held. Mike Bounk, Greg McCarty, and Lowell Burkhead were nominated for the offices of chairman and vice-chairman. Tom Hruska and Greg McCarty were nominated for Secretary-treasurer. Greg McCarty asked that people owing trip reports for the INTERCOM, to get them in as soon as possible. Mike Bounk reported on his trip to Coldwater and Greg McCarty reported on his trip to Conrad Cave in Delaware County on October 11.

HODAG HUNT

September 11, 12, 13, 1981

by Michael Bounk

Charles Goodman, Rudy Pruszko, and Michael Bounk

Friday evening, I drove to Rudy's house in Dubuque. After loading our equipment into his car, Rudy, his wife and two children, and I left for Door County in northern Wisconsin. We arrived about six hours later.

The next day, another Iowa Grotto member from Dubuque, Charles Goodman along with Rudy and I visited Paradise Pit Cave. After entering by way of the south entrance pit, we headed south into the crawl which had been opened since the last Door County Hodag Hunt. At the end of this passage we saw where they are presently working to extend the cave by removing rock slabs.

After exiting from this passage, we headed into the passage leading to the other two entrances. This passage is generally larger than the south section until near the north entrance where sand has washed in making it somewhat tight. Rudy and I then chimneyed out the 34 foot pit and met Charles who had already exited.

We then returned to camp, and with Rudy's and Charles' wives and children, did some sight-seeing on the surface.

That evening after dinner, the North Country Region meeting was held and we attended a talk and slide show on the caves in Monroe County, Illinois by John Moses of the Windy City Grotto.

Later that night, Gary Soule and I visited the south section of Dorchester Cave, which is entered from the basement of the Dorchester nursing home. The walls of this passage contain what appears to be abundant fossilized algae mats in addition to other Silurian fossils.

The next day, Rudy, his family, and I returned to Dubuque.

A FALL TRIP

Backbone Cave, Bixby Ice Cave

September 12, 1981 Gloria Bloomberg and Loren Schutt

by Loren Schutt

As part of a trip to the Strawberry Point area, we went to Backbone Park. After hiking on the backbone ridge, and in the Maquoketa River, as it was a warm fall day (we weren't alone in this), we suited up and went to the back of Backbone Cave.

After Backbone, we went to Bixby Park near Edgewood, just down the road. I noticed that the stream that runs through the park had changed its course since I first saw it about 15 years ago, having crossed much of the valley floor. We checked Bixby Ice Cave and found that it still contained ice. There was ice on the floor, with a depression in it, and ice up onto the back wall. After Bixby, we went home.

Greg McCarty noted in late September 1980 that the cave contained a large quantity of ice (INTERCOM Vol XVI No 5, page 69). While there does not seem to be as much this year, the existence of ice in an Iowa ice cave this late in the year is unusual. The cave should be checked in succeeding falls to see if a new trend has set in.

GOULDSBURG PARK CAVE

September 20, 1981

by Michael Bounk

Lowell Burkhead, Gary Engh, Mike Gerald, and Michael Bounk

Based on a lead by Bill Bunker of the Iowa Geological Survey, we visited a cave located along the road near Gouldsburg Park. Gary, Mike and I entered the cave, while Lowell waited on the surface. (When you've seen one crevice, you've seen them all. Lowell)

This cave which contains an estimated thirty feet of passage is of mechanical origin, having been formed by shifting apart of rock blocks along fractures. The passage varies from about 1.5 to 10 feet high. Two side passages were seen but these could not be safely entered. In fact, the entire cave was very unstable looking, and I suspect is only an enterable part of a maze of fracture openings. This is supported by the fact that when Lowell dropped rocks into a nearby opening, we could hear them through the wall. After ascending the approximately 10 foot entrance chimney, we continued home.

Note: I have contacted the county engineer and advised him of the unstable nature of this cave and recommended that due to its position near a park, that it be closed.

WEST UNION AREA DIGGING AND STRATIGRAPHIC STUDY TRIP

October 3, 4, 1981

by Michael Bounk

Terry Cooper, Ed Smith, and Michael Bounk

At about 9:30 a.m., Terry and I met Ed at Humphrey's Cafe in West Union. After breakfast, we visited Mittlestadt Cave and discussed its stratigraphic position.

That afternoon, after speaking to the landowner, we began clearing wire from a sinkhole which had been dye traced to the springs at Duttons Cave this past summer. The dye trace was part of the State Geological Survey's karst study. After removing the wire and digging in the fill in the bottom of the sink, we finally broke into an opening. This opening, upon investigation, turned out to be a solutional crawlway in the Spring Grove Member of the Wapsipinicon Formation of Devonian age. I pushed this crawl which is about 14 inches high with a gravel and mud floor for about 15 feet to a large block of breakdown which I could not get past. Since it was getting cold and rainy outside, we stopped work for the day, planning to return on Sunday and break up the block.

The next morning, after a short vertical session at Dutton's Cave Park where we had spent the night, we returned to the dig site. We worked for about three hours with hammers, a chisel, and a pry bar and a rope trying unsuccessfully to remove the rock. I finally tried one last time to squeeze over it. Although I could not make it, I was able to see about 10 feet ahead to the right to passage about 5 feet wide and 2 feet high. To the left, I could see about 15 feet to a passage about 14 inches high. Straight ahead, is a log and stick jam. It is uncertain if this is two passages or one very wide one.

After leaving the dig, we returned to Mittlestadt Cave where we took precise stratigraphic measurements placing the cave in units equivalent to the Blanding Formation and overlying Syringopora Beds of the Hopkinton Formation.

We then returned home.

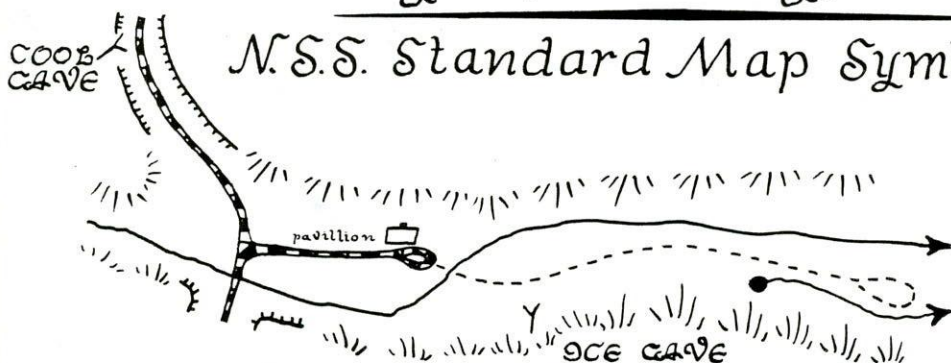
Note: This trip was a part of my Silurian Karst study which is funded in part by a grant from the National Speleological Society.



Caves of BOXBY STATE PARK

Clayton County, Iowa

N.S.S. Standard Map Symbols



location sketch by Lawrence Blackwood, 1959.

COOL CAVE

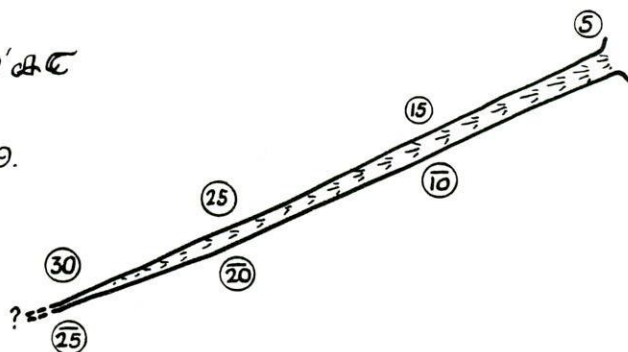
NW SW SW 23 91 5W 1050' AC

C.R.G. Grade 2 survey by George Darland and James Hedges, 1959.

Edgewood Quadrangle

Alexandrian Dolomite

surveyed length 40 feet



BOXBY ICE CAVE

SE SE SW 23 91 5W 1030' AC

C.R.G. Grade 6 survey by James Hedges and Ed Smith, 1969.

Edgewood Quadrangle

Pleistocene coluvium

surveyed length 30 feet

