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Greg McCarty

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I N T E R C O M

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COVER PICTURE: Draperies in the upper gallery of Coldwater Cave

Photo by John Johnson

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

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Volume Seventeen

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IOWA GROTTO MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting November 11, 1981

The meeting was called to order by chairman Mike Bounk at 7:43 p.m. in room 125 of Trowbridge Hall. There were no minutes read and no treasurer's report. There was no old business. NEW BUSINESS consisted of the reading of the minutes of the fall North Country Region meeting and the announcement of the winter NCR meeting. It will be in the Lombard Community Center in Lombard, Illinois on December 12, 1981. It was pointed out that when Iowa Grotto members join the region, the grotto's membership fee is reduced. INTERCOM publishing is coming along with another issue completed by Greg McCarty. Our publication exchange program is getting ungerway with Ed Smith typing up mailing labels and writing letters to prospective exchanges. Mike Bounk discussed his chairmans campaign statement and a lengthy discussion followed. TRIP REPORTS: Mike Bounk reported on the monthly survey trip to April Cave on Nov. 7 and 8. There was some trouble with the lock on the gate being difficult to open. Lowell Burkhead attributed this to a badly cut key. Greg McCarty reported on a digging trip to Conrad Cave on Sunday, November 8. The presence of much fresh raccoon dung was noted. Some digging was done and the cave continues to show promise. A large calcite crystal was noted in the cave ceiling by Criss Gilbert, who also found a specimen of Cyclocrinities in the cave fill suggesting that the cave is in the Cyclocrinities zone of the Silurian, Hopkinton formation. A trip to the Dubuque area is scheduled for next Sunday, November 15. A vertical trip is scheduled for next Saturday, November 14 at Maquoketa Caves State Park. The Friday of Thanksgiving weekend, there will be a mapping trip to the West Union area with a sinkhole digging trip on Saturday. The 5th of December will be the monthly April Cave mapping trip. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

As recorded by acting Secretary:
Criss Gilbert

Regular Meeting November 25, 1981

The meeting was called to order by chairman Mike Bounk at 8:05 p.m. in room 125 of Trowbridge Hall. There were no minutes and no treasurers report. There were five members present. Mike told about the death of Susan Lentker. There was no old or new business. TRIP REPORTS: Mike reported on the vertical training trip to Maquoketa Caves State Park on Nov. 14. Mike told about Rudy Prusko's mapping trip to the Mines Of Spain area in Dubuque, Iowa. Mike also reported on the monthly Coldwater Cave trip on November 21. FUTURE TRIPS: Mike is planning a trip to the West Union area. There will be an April Cave mapping trip on December 5. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

As recorded by Secretary:
Tom Hruska

Regular Meeting December 9, 1981

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Bounk at 7:45 p.m. in room 124 of Trowbridge Hall. The minutes of November 11, 1981 were read and approved. Mike Bounk will be attending the winter North Country Region meeting in Lombard, Ill. on Dec. 11, 1981. TRIP REPORTS: Gwenne Engh reported on the monthly April Cave surveying trip. Mike Bounk reported on a Thanksgiving weekend trip. Gwenne Engh showed the map of April Cave to those attending the meeting. Gwenne reported on her surveying trip over Thanksgiving to Mammoth-Flint Ridge. FUTURE TRIPS: NCR meeting, Dec. 11, 12, 1981 in Lombard Ill. Coldwater weekend, Dec. 19, 20, 1981. Greg McCarty is planning a trip in early January.

Lowell Burkhead will lead a surveying trip to April Cave in early January.
Greg McCarty is planning a digging trip December 19 and 20.
Exchange publications are arriving and being placed in the grotto library.
The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Regular meeting December 23, 1981.

No meeting was held due to the holidays.

APRIL CAVE MAPPING TRIP

November 8, 1981

by Michael Bounk

Lowell Burkhead, Gary Engh, Gwenne Engh, Mike Geraldts, George Zachariason
and Michael Bounk.

The six of us entered the cave at about 10:00 a.m. About halfway to the Mud Room, Lowell realized he was not feeling well enough to continue. Therefore, after resting, he exited the cave. The rest of us continued to the Boom Room, where we rested, ate and changed carbide.

Gary, Gwenne, and I continued upstream from the Boom Room, planning to reach the end of our survey as soon as possible, and to continue it. Mike and George followed more slowly taking pictures. Part way through our survey, they caught up with us and stayed with us for a while taking more pictures. By this time, George was becoming chilly and had some pictures that he wanted to take on the way out. Therefore, he and Mike started back toward the entrance.

We continued surveying, finally reaching the massive breakdown where Gwenne, Ed Smith and I had turned around on our first trip into this cave. About 150 feet further, about 75 feet from the sump, we terminated the survey for the trip. We then began the several hour trip back to the entrance. Just downstream of Lester Falls, we began singing "Rock of Ages" and covered about 500 feet of passage while singing this song at the top of our lungs. We exited the cave at about 9:00 p.m., about one hour after Mike and George.

VERTICAL TRAINING TRIP

November 14, 1981

by Michael Bounk

Jerry Bybee, Criss Gilbert, Mark Goodman, Harold Harrington, Craig Petterson,
Rudy Pruszek, Jerry Sargent, Dwayne Story, and Michael Bounk.

We met at Maquoketa Caves State Park at about 10:00 p.m. Dwayne, Rudy and Jerry Bybee made a quick tour of Dancehall Cave to see the damage from the August flood, while two ropes were rigged from the surface bluff just upstream of the cave entrance. When Jerry returned from the cave, he rigged a third rope on which he could use his figure eight ring rappelling brake. The grotto considers the figure eight unsafe for use on static caving ropes and doesn't allow their use on grotto owned ropes. They are mainly used by climbers on dynamic ropes which are more flexible and can make the sharp bends required without damage.

The practice proceeded as planned. Everyone rappelled except Dwayne, who couldn't due to a pin in his leg from a recent accident. Harold rigged a "slide for life", a sloping rope from the top of the bluff to a tie off point on the foreside of the stream about 60 feet below. He slid down this on a carabener, using his hands to control his speed. The rope was rigged with sufficient slack so that his speed was reduced just before he reached the lower tie off point.

That night I stayed at Rudy's house and the next day did some mapping with him and Jerry Bybee.

FAYETTE COUNTY LEAD CHECKING TRIP

November 27, 28, 1981

by Michael Bounk

Greg McCarty, Ed Smith, Louie Thies, and Michael Bounk.

On Friday at about 9:30 a.m., Ed and I met in West Union. We then met Louie who lives nearby and owns Mittlestadt Cave. Through the years he has befriended Iowa Grotto members by providing sleeping space, clothes changing space and occasional meals. He has retired and is moving to Colorado and wanted to show us some leads before leaving.

We drove to an area southeast of West Union and walked to where Louie had seen a pit several years ago. We were only able to find one enterable sinkhole. This led to a passage about 13 inches wide which slopes downward for about eight feet to about ten feet of level crawlway, which trends in the same direction as the entrance chute. The passage is terminated at both ends by breakdown. This cave, which is located about 70 feet above the Branard Shale in Silurian carbonates, shows evidence of both mechanical and solutional origin.

After checking a trash filled sink, we returned to Louie's house, where after helping him load some tools in his truck, we ate dinner. We spent the night there.

The next morning, we met Greg in West Union, and drove to a sinkhole cave in the Spring Grove Member of the Wapsipinicon Formation of Devonian age which Ed, Terry Cooper, and I had opened about a month earlier.

I crawled in for about 15 feet to a block of breakdown which was blocking the passage and worked on it for about 2 hours using a hammer and a chisel, while Greg and Ed supplied equipment as needed. Finally, I became too cold to work effectively, and exited. Greg then worked for about 20 minutes enlarging the passage, by removing a loose flake of rock from the ceiling, so that he could get through. He then followed the passage for about 35 feet to where he was stopped by about 3 inches of air space over water. The passage which is horizontal varies from about 2 feet high to bellycrawl. We will return when it is dryer.

After lunch, we drove to a digging lead near Strawberry Point, where Greg dug for about 2 hours before we headed home.

A MAQUOKETA TRIP

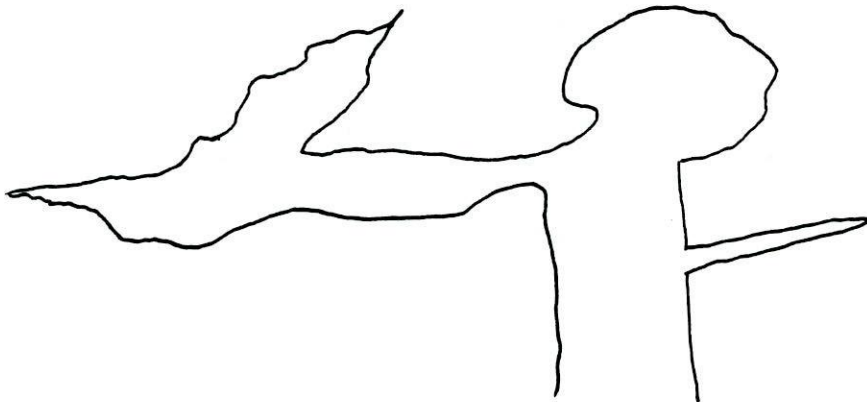
Horseshoe Creek Cave

December 26, 1981

Mark Schutt, Timothy Schutt, Loren Schutt

by Loren Schutt

We got to Maquoketa mid-morning. There was light snow on the ground. After parking at the east end of Maple Street, we hiked over the hill in front of us. We hiked along the bluff along Horseshoe Creek until we could see highway 64. We found no caves, only on old quarry, a small one, near the top of the bluff. We went back over the hill and down into the valley. Horseshoe Creek meanders through a valley with bluffs and hills on either side. There are frequent limestone outcroppings. We went along the creek, and crossed on a fallen log. It was a little too deep and cold to wade this time of year. The cave was not too far from this crossing. It was in a limestone outcrop about half way up the side of the valley. It has about 10 meters (30 feet) of passage. Most of the passages are either stoop walk or an easy crawl. There are places where you can stand up. One branch of the cave has some wind coming in, probably from a crack in the side of the outcrop. Another passage probably goes to a plugged sink on the top of the bluff near the cave. After we left the cave, we hiked around on and along the bluff checking outcrops. We found only a place where a large slab of rock had slipped from an outcrop making a tight walking passage of 15 to 20 feet. This was at an outcrop near the cave. After this hike, we went back to the car.



Sketch map of
Horseshoe Creek Cave

