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Lowell Burkhead

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I N T E R C O M

Published Semi-spasmodically By

THE IOWA GROTTO

National Speleological Society



Volume XXVIII Issue 6

November - December, 1992

The INTERCOM is published semi-spasmodically by the - - - - - Iowa Grotto
The Iowa Grotto is dedicated to the exploration and study P. O. Box 228
of caves. We will exchange publications with other organ- Iowa City, IA 52240
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The Iowa Grotto is affiliated with - - The National Speleological Society, Inc.
Regular membership to the N.S.S. is \$25.00 Cave Avenue
per year. Subscription to the N.S.S. news Huntsville, AL 35810
only is \$18.00 per year. All Iowa Grotto
members are encouraged to join our parent organization, The National Speleological Soc.

Material for the next issue of the INTERCOM is due in the hands of the editor by
March 1, 1993 with a few days grace for those later trips. This should include mat-
erial covering January and February, 1993. Send articles, trip reports, photographic
negatives, prints, or slides, artwork, cave maps, cartoons, etc. for publication to:

Editor and Typist: Lowell Burkhead 319-854-6650
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Photo processing: Jim Hannon

The Iowa Grotto meets at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month (third Wed.
in Dec.) in room 125 of Trowbridge Hall on the Campus of the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

Air Force Rescue Coordination Center

NCRC

1-800-851-3051

Iowa County Emergency Management

1-319-642-3151

This number calls out Iowa Grotto rescue personnel

Cover Photo: A formation in downstream Coldwater Cave, Winneshiek County, Iowa.
By Marc Ohms



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

Chairman - - - - - Mike Lace
Vice-Chairman - - - - - Marc Ohms
Secretary-Treasurer - - Jay Wells

Volume 28	C O N T E N T S	Issue 6
Iowa Grotto Meeting Minutes - - - - -		126
Iowa Grotto Cave File - - - - -		126
Quarter Sections - - - - -		128
Trip Reports:		
Another Peek - - - - -		129
De-Fieted - - - - -		129
Wonder Cave Restoration - III & IV - - - - -		130
Five for Five - - - - -		130
Spiralling In - - - - -		131
Photo Album:		
Maze Cave - - - - -		132
Photos From the Wayback Machine - - - - -		134
Cave Maps:		
Smoking Ridge Cave - - - - -		136
Dry Cave and Dunning Spring - - - - -		137
New Galena Mine "B" - - - - -		138
New Galena Mine "C" - - - - -		139
Iowa Grotto Cave File submission form sheet - - - - -		140

IOWA GROTTO MEETING MINUTES

Regular meeting November 25, 1992

There was no meeting in November due to lack of attendance because of an ice and snow storm. Only two people showed up and one of them was too late to catch the other.

Regular meeting December 16, 1992

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Lace at 7:37 p.m. in room 125 of Trowbridge Hall with ten members in attendance. The minutes of the October meeting were read and approved as read. There was no Treasurer's report. TRIP REPORTS: Jay Wells reported on a surveying trip to Spiral Cave. Mike Lace reported on a lead checking and surveying trip to Ice Cave, WRA Cave, Northeast Lockey Drybone Mine, Drybone Pit, Wiggin's Cave, Falling Rock Cave, and three other caves were located. Coldwater Cave trips included a survey trip to the Rumble Passage and a photo trip to the Cascade Passage area. It was reported that the water level had doubled from the previous month. Doug Schmucker led a trip to Glenwood Cave but it was completely sumped out and wasn't enterable. FUTURE TRIPS: include another Wonder Cave restoration trip and the January Coldwater Cave trip. OLD BUSINESS: An update on the Crystal Cave vandalism article was discussed. Due to the cancellation of the November grotto meeting, grotto election nominations have been extended. A publication of the data from the Coldwater Cave formation sampling was passed around and discussed. The 3D photo on the cover of the INTERCOM was discussed. All comments were positive. NEW BUSINESS: A manmade cave replica is being built in Battle Creek, Iowa. The Iowa Grotto was contacted for assistance. They want it to be as authentic as possible. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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IOWA GROTTO CAVE FILE

by Lowell Burkhead

The following article, "Quarter Sections", by Mike Nelson was turned in several months ago but not published until now because of the lack of knowledge on the subject by the general membership. The "Iowa Grotto Cave File" is a confidential publication of the Iowa Grotto that lists cave names, cave locations, cave owner's names and addresses and phone numbers, scientific information on the caves and any other information worth keeping on the specific cave. There is a page for each cave or karst feature such as a spring or interesting sinkhole. Some of these sheets are very complete and some are just a cave name pulled from a trip report in the INTERCOM with hopes that someone will fill in the rest sometime in the future.

The Cave File is compiled with inputs from the membership by the cave file committee and access is controlled by the committee. To get access to the cave file, you must first have the trust of the committee that you will not disperse or abuse the file information. Access to the cave file, therefore, is not a right of membership in the grotto. The current members of the cave file committee are Mike Lace, Marc Ohms, Mike Nelson, and Lowell Burkhead, committee chairman. There is also a copy of the cave file located in the grotto library. If there isn't a cave file committee member in the group that you cave with, then you must use the nearest one or the library. If you are a very active member in finding new caves and visiting old ones, then you may want to become a cave file committee member. That requires approval of the membership at a grotto meeting and approval of the committee or an act of god.

If you locate a new cave or one that you think is new and want to get it added to the cave file, you must fill out a cave file sheet on the cave and submit it to a committee member. Feel free to ask any committee member for assistance. It is rarely clear how to fill out the sheet or whether the cave is new or not. Included as a rear page on this issue is a blank cave file sheet. Please submit all cave file updates on a copy of this sheet. Label the sheets either "new" or "update".

To fill out a cave file sheet, you must have access to a good map of the area. The grotto library has topo maps for most of the cave bearing area in Iowa and many grotto members also have them. The minimum requirement is county road maps and they are rarely accurate enough. From the map, get the North-south location such as 93N for the "Township" (don't use the township name) and the East-west location such as 3W for the "Range" blanks. Find the section number (1 through 36) from the map and put in the "section" space. Then having accurately located the cave or karst feature on the map, divide the section into fourths and that fourth into fourths and that fourth into fourths and list the fourth where the cave is located in that order such as NW/SE/SW. Refer to Mike Nelson's article, "Quarter Sections" for more information. If you are working from a topo map, estimate the elevation and enter it on the sheet.

Try not to duplicate cave names, especially in the same county. Then for the location below the cave name, locate it to the nearest town such as "2 mi. NE of Garber". Then in the "Specific Location" spot, give instructions that will actually find the cave. Try to use durable landmarks such as roads, hills, rock outcrops and streams and avoid such things as brush piles, abandoned barns, and unmaintained fences. Windmills are also going away as fast as you can write them down. Highway information to find the owner's house and directions from there to the cave is usually the way it is listed.

Under "Ownership Status", list private, county park, road right-of-way, or watch out! they shoot cavers. Get the owner's name, address, and phone number if it can be done without causing owner relations problems. Any information here is useful.

For "Type of Cave", list solutional, mechanical crevice, talus, mechanical fault, solutional spring resurgence, manmade mine, mined solutional, etc. Don't list horizontal or vertical. This information will be evident in "Cave Length", "Cave Depth", "Special Equipment Needed" and "Type of Entrance". For "Cave Length", list the estimated horizontal total of cave passage and for the "Cave Depth", list the estimated total vertical extent of passage. Don't include the height of rooms unless it was vertical extent that had to be traversed to explore the cave. Also don't list the depth as how far beneath the surface the passage lies.

For "Special Equipment Needed", list, none, standard vertical, wetsuit, handline, scuba, belay, etc. For "Type of Entrance", list small horizontal, large horizontal, vertical, vertical chimney, vertical crevice, walkin horizontal, spring, manmade shaft, horizontal gated, get key, etc.

For the remainder of the entries, most are self explanatory. Under other information, list what you think is important for the file. A brief description of the cave is good so one could decide if he wanted to visit the cave from looking at the entry. Also list things like bad air or any landowner rules the cave may have.

Under "Source Reference", put your name and those who have helped with information for the file sheet. Include the date of the trip or the discovery and the year for the copyright. If you have filled in every space, you have just made the most complete sheet that was ever submitted. If you have only the cave name and the county, you are not finished yet. Please get as much information as you can to save the grotto money. Every time the sheet is updated, the grotto has to type them, copy them, and route them to the books. That is usually more trouble than it would have taken to get the information in the first place. Don't, however, let that keep you from submitting a sheet. An incomplete sheet is much better than no entry for a cave. If we didn't accept incomplete sheets, the cave file would be mighty thin.

When submitting an update for a sheet in the cave file, make sure it won't be mistaken for a new entry but on the other hand, fill out a sheet on it. If what's in the file is OK, just put OK in the space so you have the cave name and location, the changes, and everything else marked OK. That will keep to a minimum the number of updates that get retyped and then found that they have to be done over because they aren't new caves. If this all seems a little difficult, it is done this way for security.

QUARTER SECTIONS

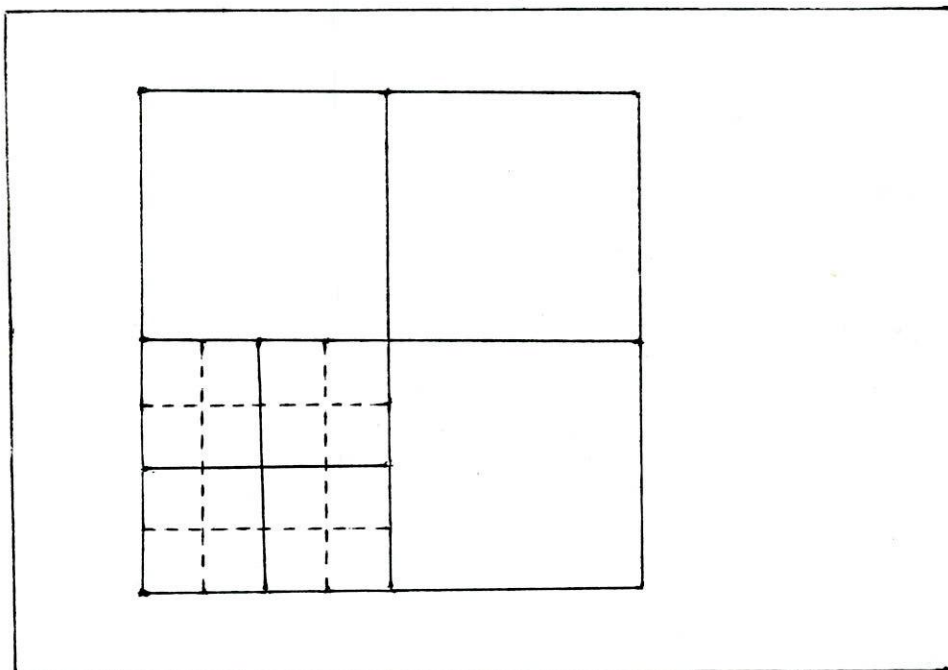
by Mike Nelson

Now that the quarter section data for the cave file has been standardized (in the largest to smallest, logical order), a great deal of confusion should be eliminated. However, this does not eliminate the confusion of actually determining these increments on the topo map. I still get addled trying to define the descending bits in my head, so I devised the grid below. The rectangle is the size of a standard 5 inch by 3½ inch 35 mm photograph. Rob an empty page from your photo album. There are typically three pockets per page. Slide the rectangle in and and retrace the lines of the squares onto one of these pockets that you have liberated from the others. The solid lines should be in one color and the dotted lines should be traced in a solid line of a different color. Remove and save the pattern. You now have a transparent grid.

Although quarter sections are usually obvious, the major squares of the grid should help decide on borderline calls. Rotate the grid around on the 1 mile section of the map until the finer grid covers the karst feature. The second increment, the quarter of the quarter, can be determined by the minor squares of the primary color. This much can usually be done fairly easily, but to push out the definition of the site two more "digits" is where I always lose it. The third increment should be definable by the different colored, most minor squares -- the quarter of the quarter of the quarter. The last increment should be estimatable within the smallest square.

Most every cave in the cave file should have this locating information verified. I hope that this tool will aid in getting consistent information for the file, and conversely, in letting one accurately find a precise area on the maps from the file data.

(You may want to make a more accurate version of the drawing below so you don't have to cut up your INTERCOM, to correct the lack of precision drawing tools on this one, and to correct for printer error on this one that will throw it off scale. Editor)



--TRIP REPORTS--

ANOTHER PEEK

Lanus Quarry, Humboldt County, Iowa (Bradgate Quadrangle)
October 31, 1992
Mike Nelson and Ken Biretz

by Mike Nelson

On 10-24-92 we found karst features consistantly spread out within the area we could dive on one tank of air. We each used a second tank to make a closer inspection, get compass and water depth readings, and make sketch maps. All week long after that, I wondered if we had basically seen what there was to see or if the remainder of the west wall of the quarry was also rife with features. I contacted the landowner's wife and arranged another visit.

The owner's son, who had worked in the quarry during its active years, was helping him run corn into the dryers when we arrived. He related that there were some sinkholes on the surface in the area before the quarry was opened up. One dropped out under a tractor once and they had to fetch some substantial planks to rescue it. And yes, they had to remove occasional seams of clay that ran through the quarry, something I couldn't help but suspect. On the phone, the owner's wife had mentioned that there was a sizable section of rock left in the quarry that couldn't be mined.

We got into the water at about the furthest point to the south that was already inspected. Moving south, we found two more features similar to the majority of those seen before. The first had a phreatic arch in the top, a little breakdown on the left at the entrance, and sloped upward to the back of the six foot long "cave". It was in 29 feet of water and had a trend of 260 degrees. A second feature was more joint aligned with its clay virtually filling the void. It was distinctly stratified, pointing off at 330 degrees and was in 22 feet of water.

Another hole yet further south appeared to be a very wide, arched phreatic tube remnant. It roughly ran out in the direction of 265 degrees at 28 feet depth. It was mostly filled with a very marly clay, almost shale-like.

One last item was a little hard to discern. Though it would have made a nice little cave, I am more inclined to believe it was the result of rock dropping away from, and leaving exposed, an intact bedding plane ceilinged overhang. It was in 39 feet of water and trended at about the same heading as the obvious karst features, at about 270 degrees. We also observed a joint aligned fracture that ran at 300 degrees and existed from 20 feet on down the quarry face. As there weren't as many things to scope out on this dive, we covered an area roughly equal to the first dive and documented the data all on one tank each.

I hope we will be allowed to continue to study this area again come spring. The unmined area mentioned by the owner's wife and the south-east area of the quarry, in a line opposite the general compass reading of the noted features, seem logical places to look for more items of interest.

DE-FIETED

Fiet Cave, Allamakee County, Iowa
November 7, 1992
Mike and Delores Nelson

by Mike Nelson

Delores and I drug dive gear to the end of Fiet Cave. At a minimum, I wanted to reevaluate it. If things looked as good as my previous visit, I intended to push it. They didn't. The passage was basically the same shape in the sump but only about two thirds the size of when I looked at it last. On that trip, I didn't muddle things up despite repeated probings. This time, the silt was pervasive. Just another lead that we could not push because we didn't act while conditions were optimal. Now it's on a back burner again until after some major runoff event to remove the silt.

I did learn a bit about getting gear to such a site and preparing it and getting into it, so it wasn't a wasted trip. The cave spring was putting out a good 60 gallons per minute into the new pond the owner constructed. He said that was the minimum flow it produced.

WONDER CAVE RESTORATION - III & IV

Wonder Cave, Winneshiek County, Iowa
November 21, 1992
Mike Lace, Chris Beck, and Marc Ohms

by Mike Lace

We were interested in pulling out what was left of the first wooden stairway that day. The steps had already been removed but the 15 foot long stringers forming the frame, the railing, and the collapsing platform, still remained. The water-logged frame flopped around like rubber as Chris cut it into barely managable sections that Marc and I heaved up and out of the first drop. With all of the stairway above the 15 foot drop removed, we descended to work on the wooden platform. A haul line anchored to the correct support let us pull down the last standing piece of stairway in this first part of the cave. We then removed a crumbling metal rail from the next set of stairs and called it a day, ascending the 15 foot climb and the 30 degree slope leading to the entry passage. The first several hundred feet of passage is almost finished. A new gate still needs to be installed and the domepit remains to be cleaned.

December 19, 1992

Mike Lace, Chris Beck, Jay Wells, Stacey Cyphert, and Doug Schmuecker

We gathered inside the cave and began rigging the first of two drops. Doug and I began hauling up loads of water-logged wood and assorted remnants of the lighting system while the other guys moved to remove junk from the bottom of the 70 foot domepit.

The pile of debris we've been accumulating outside the entrance grew steadily larger that day as the floor of the first drop was cleared of most of the smaller pieces that didn't need to be cut up. In the meantime, Chris, Jay and Stacey had taken a few photos and hauled the old extension ladder out as well as a few beer cans, etc. left over from a local youth visit years ago.

Lastly, measurements were taken for a gate which Jay is working on. We talked with the owner about gate design and a possible means of limiting the airflow at the entrance which is contributing to the persistent frost-shattering along the first 200-300 feet of passage.

FIVE FOR FIVE

Northeast Lockey Drybone Mine, Kennedy's Cave, Drybone Pit, WRA Cave, Ice Cave, Dubuque County, Iowa
December 12, 1992
Marc Ohms, Gary Engh, Chris Beck, and Mike Lace.

by Mike Lace

We set out to map a few recently rediscovered caves and a couple of well known ones that day. Northeast Lockey Drybone Mine is a very shallow drift into the same hillside where the East Lockey Drybone Mine is found. The entrance is merely a void underneath loosely stacked rock, making it look like a talus cave. A single 15 foot open shaft bisects the main passage and dangles sinkhole garbage (barbed wire, major appliances, etc.) into the cave.

A small room is found on the far side of the collapsing shaft where a low crawl leads off to the left. Enough silt had washed in from the shaft to make this crawl impassable after a body length so we started digging into the void beyond the squeeze. We finally slipped into a stoop-walking passage that led 8 ft. around a corner to a dead-end.

The survey of this cave totaled 65 feet while the single room forming Kennedy's Cave was only 21 feet. WRA Cave was a small 30 foot affair that Marc had spotted years ago. There were a few open shafts on the same hillside as the Lockey Mines so we began dropping in. Marc and Chris rappelled 35 feet into the first one which led to 30 feet of horizontal passage and was named "Drybone Pit". Gary and I checked three others and only the last one looked as if it might do something if you did a lot of digging, according to Gary.

We finally surveyed Ice Cave which is found in a more populated area. Locals had obviously left plenty of trash behind in this 100 foot long crevice that occasionally reaches 25-30 feet high. No going leads were found at the terminal breakdown and no side passages were noted.

SPIRALLING IN...

Spiral Cave, Dubuque County, Iowa
December 12, 1992

by Mike Lace

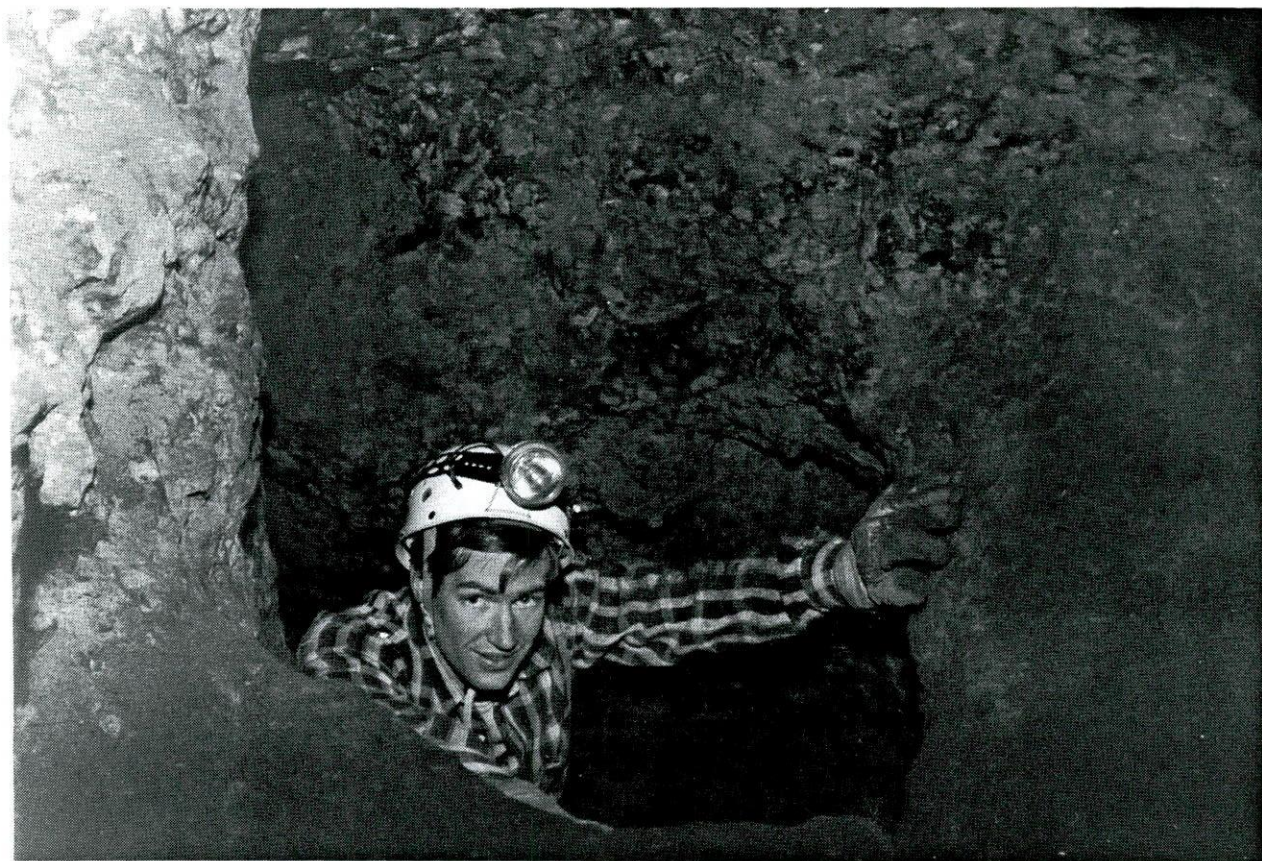
Marc Ohms, Chris Beck, Mike Lace, and Jay Wells

One of the nine known caves on this property, Spiral Cave is the second longest and nearly the most confusing network of dusty stoopways and crawls. This was the fourth trip into the cave since it was reopened and there was plenty of passage left to map. The total length is estimated at 1200-1500 feet. We concentrated on finishing the last few loops that formed the upper portion of the cave and extending the survey to where one drops into the lower passageways.

Marc is stuck with the job of drawing this map and we heard him swearing several times at the maze of crawlways that, at one point, form a multi-level mess where three passages wind over each other at the same time. It didn't take us long to total up 200+ feet and finish our objectives for the day. While surveying into a dead-end room, we noticed a small hole near the floor that was blowing air. The air exiting had a chemical odor to it that couldn't be identified (maybe we don't really want to know what it is anyway). Perhaps this room isn't a dead-end after all? The total survey now stands at 711 feet with all loops closing well.



Mike Lace, Marc Ohms, and Chris Beck in Maze Cave, Dubuque County, Iowa
Photo by Scott Dankof



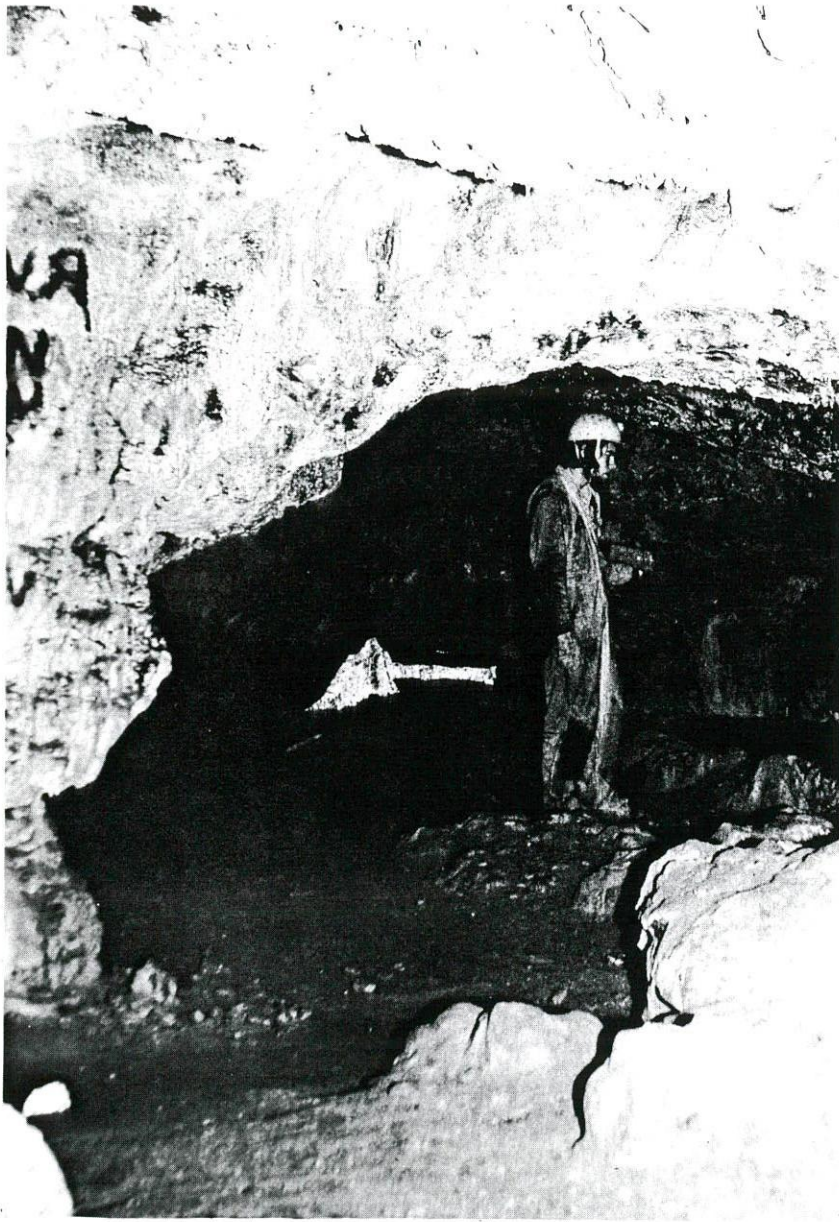
Marc Ohms in Maze Cave. Photo by Scott Dankof



Mike Nelson climbing up to the entrance of Devil's Den Cave, Allamakee County, Iowa. Photo by Marc Ohms



Chris Beck chimneying in Maze Cave, Dubuque County, IA. Photo by Scott Dankof

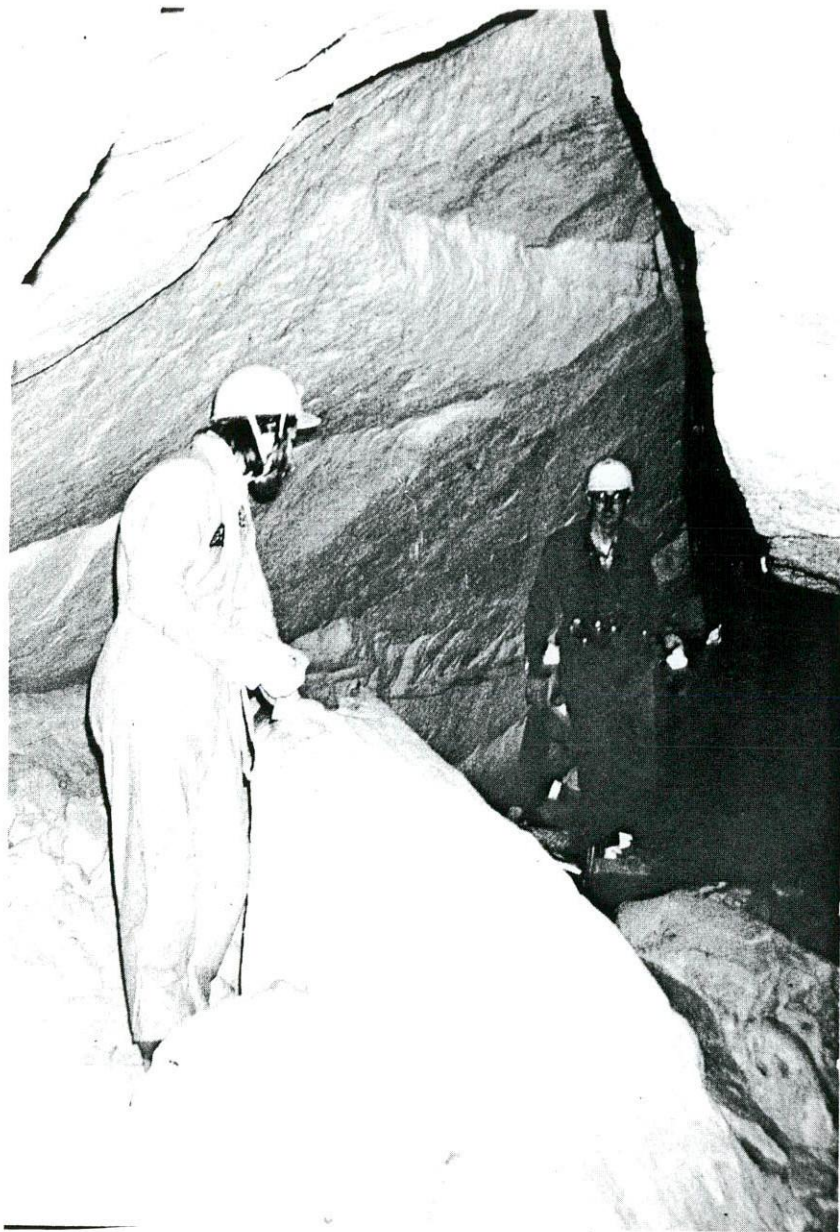


Bogus Cave, Jones County, Iowa with the earlier "thin" Greg McCarty for scale. Photo by M. Bounk



Cleaning the trash out of Searryl's Cave, Jones County, Iowa. Photo by M. Bounk

PHOTOS FROM THE WAYBACK MACHINE



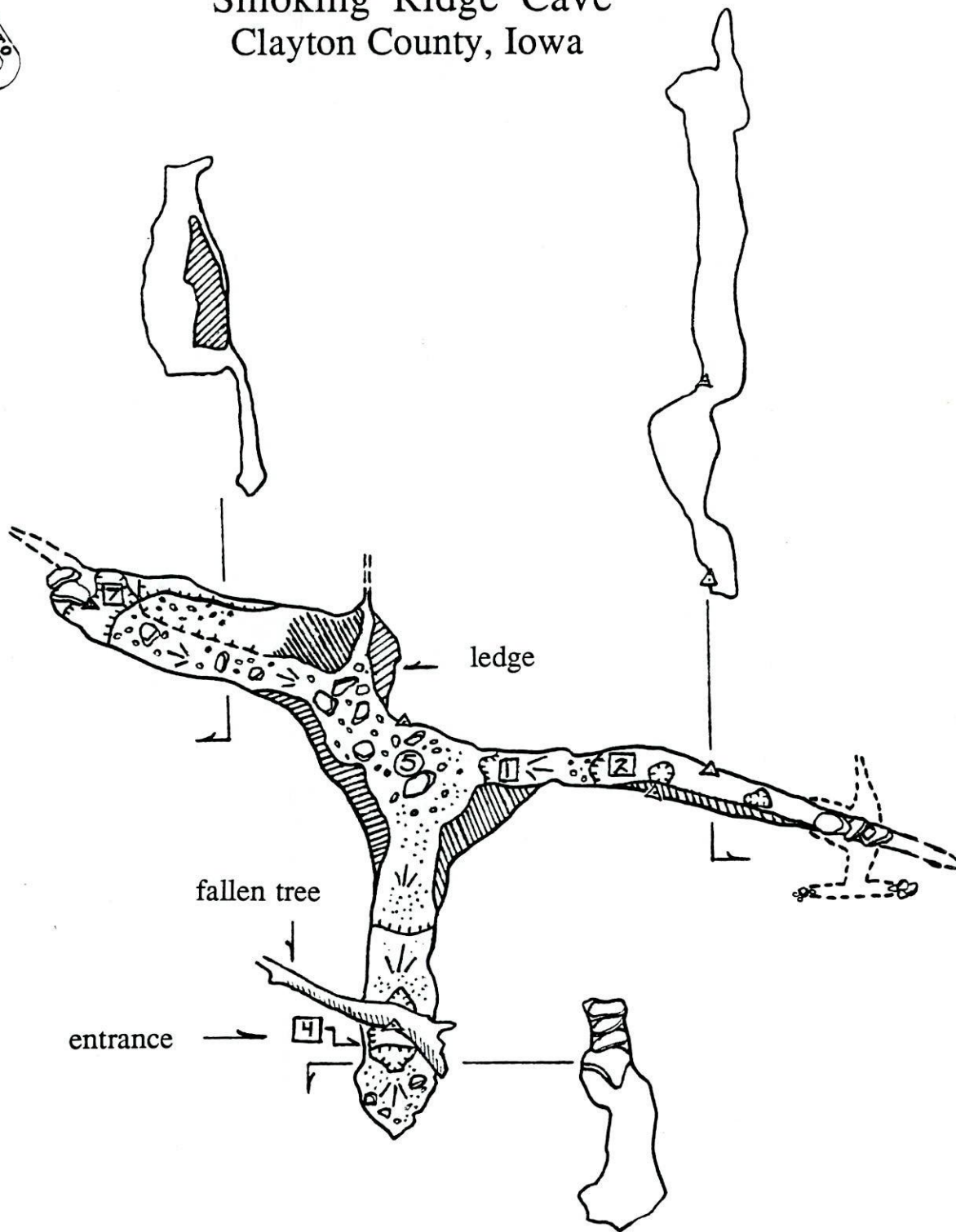
Greg McCarty and Jim Hannon in Stafford's Sandstone Cave, Allamakee County, Iowa. Photo by M. Bounk



Stewart Anderson working his way through Worden's Cave, Jackson County, Iowa. Photo by M. Bounk



Smoking Ridge Cave Clayton County, Iowa



0 2 4

scale(meters)

M. Lace 11/92

surveyed length = 33.65 meters/ 110.37 feet
total depth = 18.83 meters/ 61.76 feet

surveyed by Chris Beck & Mike Lace



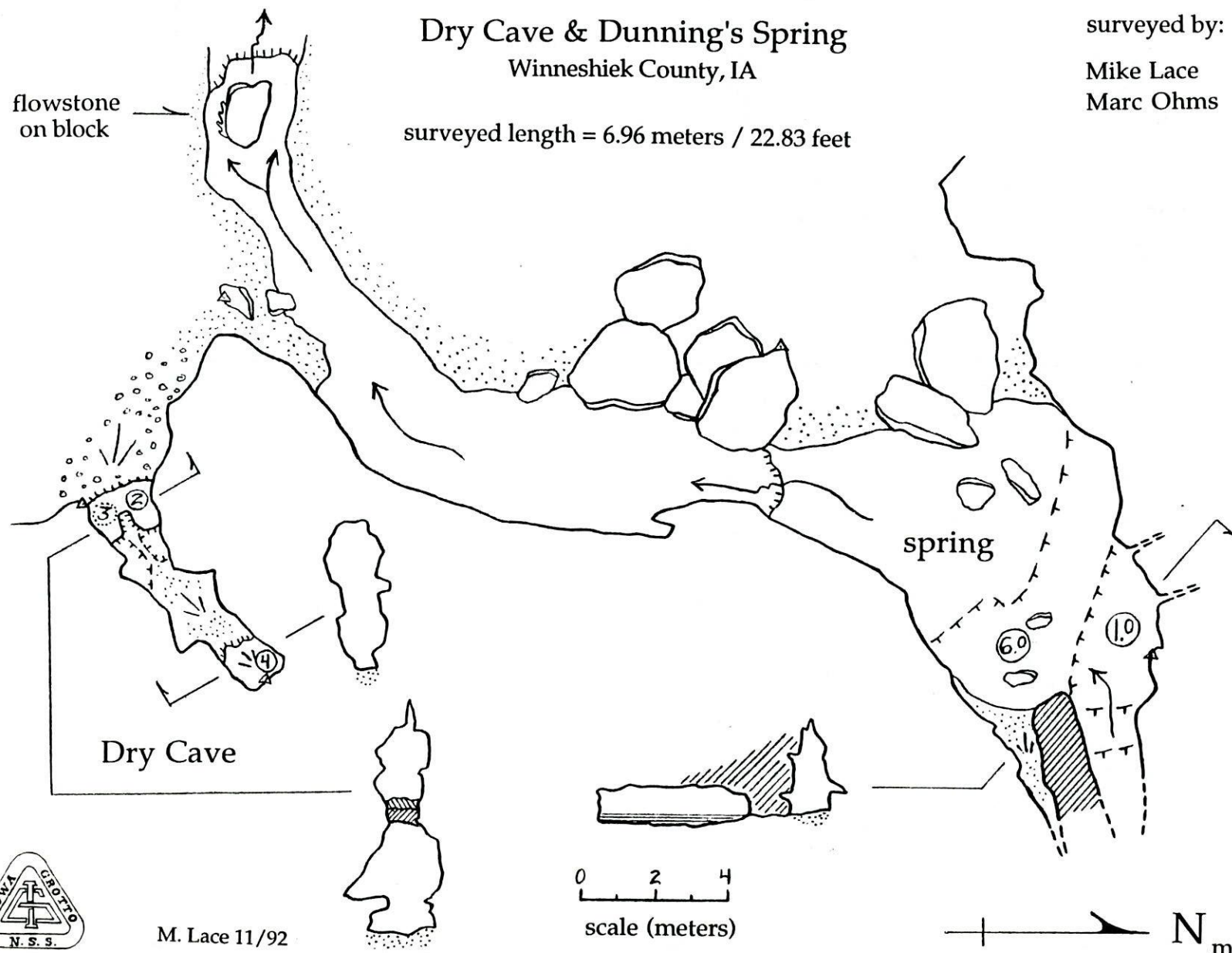
Dry Cave & Dunning's Spring
Winneshiek County, IA

surveyed by:

Mike Lace
Marc Ohms

surveyed length = 6.96 meters / 22.83 feet

flowstone
on block



Dry Cave

spring

0 2 4

scale (meters)

N_m



M. Lace 11/92

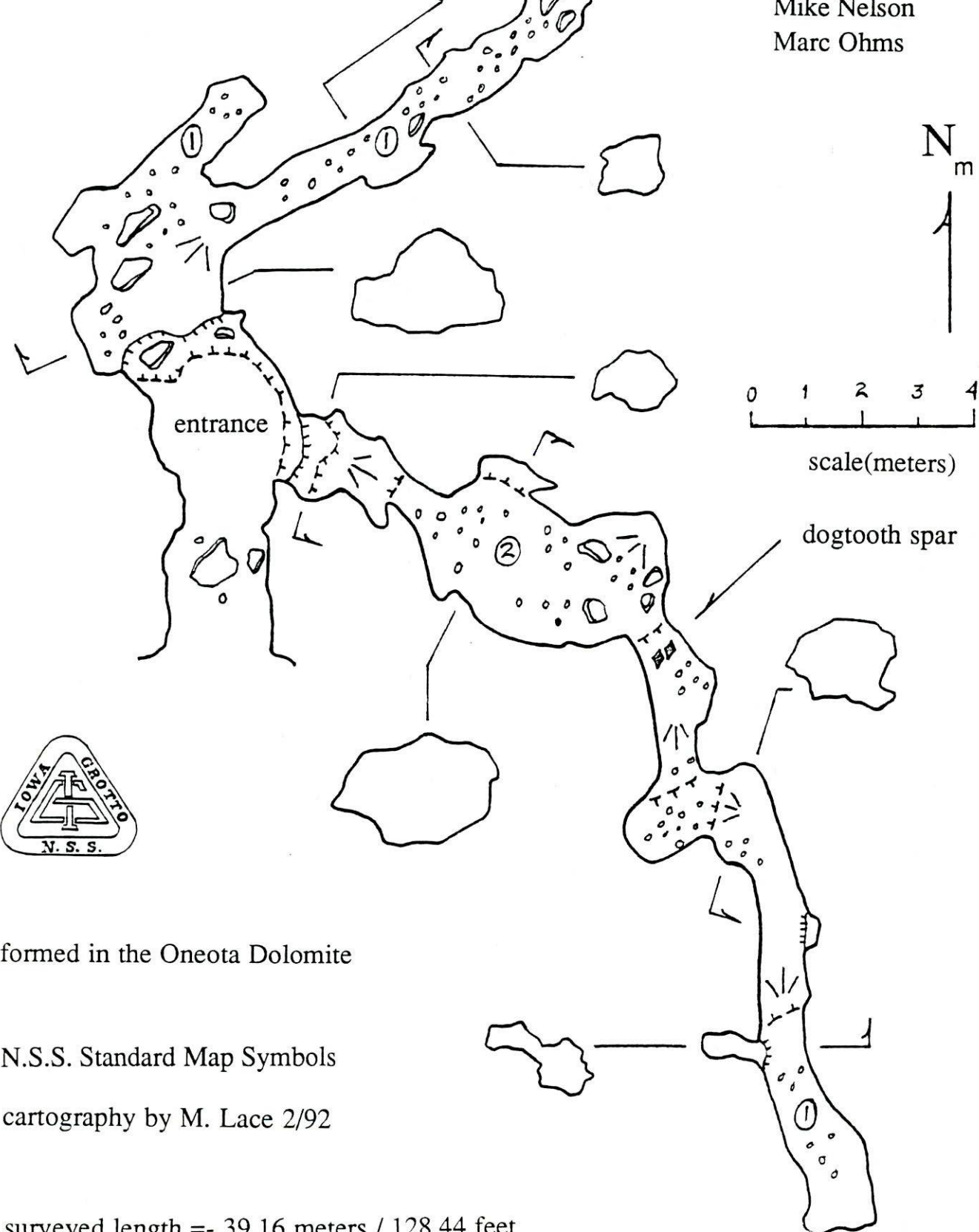
New Galena Mine "B"

Allamakee County, Iowa

surveyed by:

Chris Beck
Nick & Jared Byrnes
Mike Lace
Mike Nelson
Marc Ohms

numerous calcite veins in ceiling



formed in the Oneota Dolomite

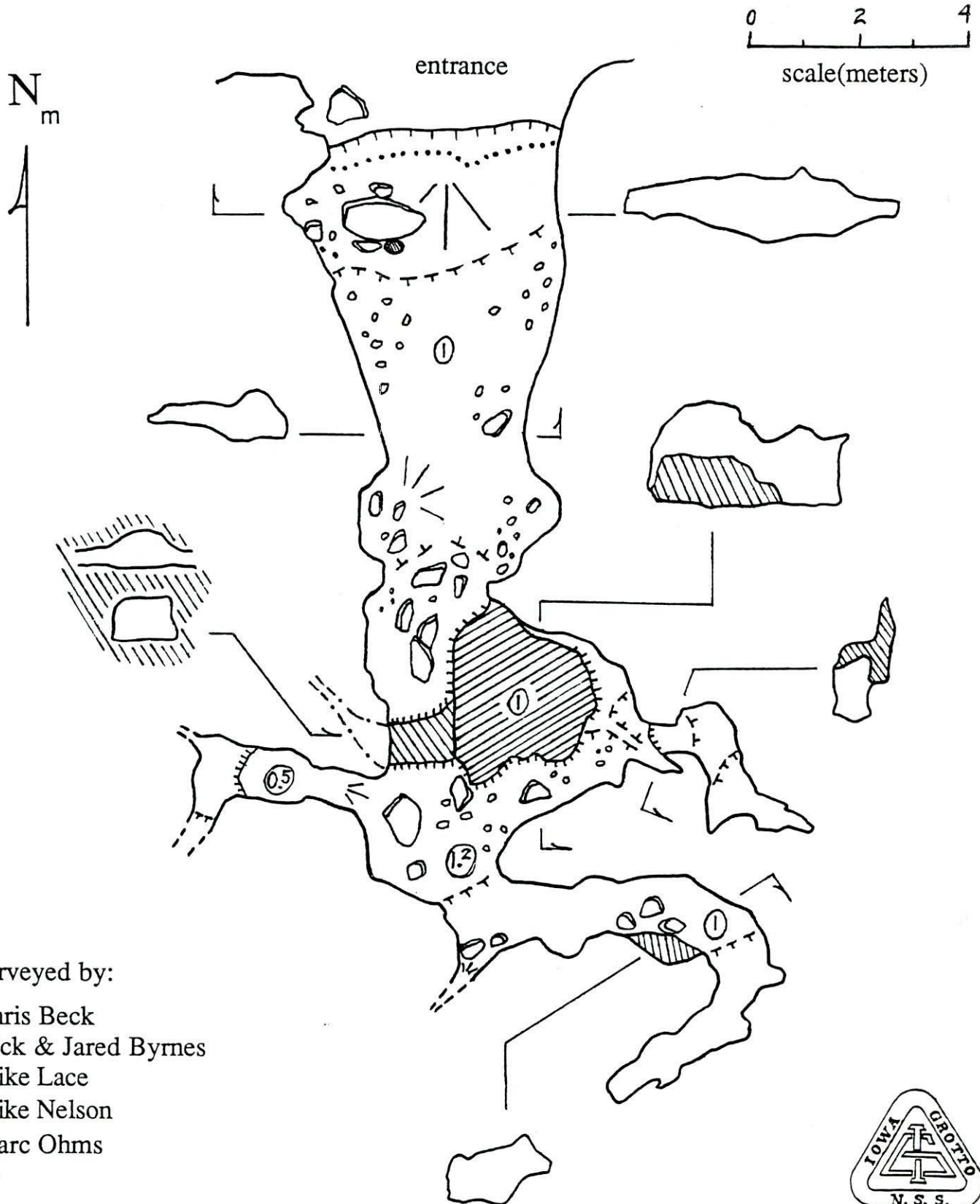
N.S.S. Standard Map Symbols

cartography by M. Lace 2/92

surveyed length =- 39.16 meters / 128.44 feet

New Galena Mine "C"
Allamakee County, Iowa

surveyed length = 31.64 meters / 103.78 feet



surveyed by:

Chris Beck
Nick & Jared Byrnes
Mike Lace
Mike Nelson
Marc Ohms

N.S.S. Standard Map Symbols

cartography by M. Lace 2/92

formed in the Oneota Dolomite



IOWA GROTTO CAVE FILE
(Confidential, do not copy without permission)

Cave Name: County:
Location: Elevation:
Township: Range:
Section: Quarter Section:
Specific Location:

Mapped Yes() No() Unknown() Quality of Map:

Ownership Status:

Owner's Name & Address:

Type of Cave:

Cave Length:

Cave Depth:

Special Equipment Needed:

Type of Entrance:

Speleothems:

Cave Life:

Geologic Formation:

Other Information:

Source Reference:

Name Synonyms:

Date:

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