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Lowell Burkhead

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THE IOWA GROTTO

National Speleological Society

I N T E R C O M



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January - February, 1993

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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
May 1, 1993 with a few days grace for those later trips. This should include mater-
ial covering March and April, 1993. Send articles, trip reports, photographic nega-
tives, prints, or sildes, artwork, cave maps, cartoons, etc. for publication to:

Editor and Typist: Lowell Burkhead 319-854-6650
2611 Alderman Rd.
Springville, IA 52336

Intercom Staff: Logistics and Legwork: Mike Lace
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: Touring Decorah Ice Cave, by Jacob Hugart. See the accompanying article on
page 3 of this issue, "The Kodak Photo CD Alternative to 35mm Prints".



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

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

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IOWA GROTTO MEETING MINUTES

Regular meeting January 27, 1993

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 p.m. by grotto chairman, Mike Lace. There were fifteen members present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as read. There was a treasurer's report of the previous year's business. We came out \$61.00 ahead out of \$1477. TRIP REPORTS: A photo trip using the new photo compact disks was reported on by Jacob Hugart. Mike Lace reported on a trip to Jackson County. Bevin's Cave and Cemetery Valley Cave were surveyed. Several other leads were checked. Marc Ohms reported on a lead checking trip along Mud Lake north of Dubuque. Mike Lace reported on the CRF trip to Mammoth Cave in Kentucky over the new year's holiday. Sue Duncan reported on her trip to the Great Saltpeter Cave in Kentucky. Jay Wells reported on a survey trip to Hole In One Cave. He also reported on a cave diving trip into Roubidoux Spring in Missouri. Mike Lace report on his Coldwater Cave trip. The Rumble Passage and a lead in the Johnson Press were checked. FUTURE TRIPS: Buck Creek Caves, Coldwater Cave, Spring MVOR, and the NSS Convention in Oregon. OLD BUSINESS: Election ballots were counted. Fourteen ballots were turned in and all voted for the present officers, Mike Lace, chairman, Marc Ohms as vice-chairman, and Jay Wells as secretary-treasurer. There were no write in votes. NEW BUSINESS: A Coldwater Cave article in the Des Moines Register was discussed. The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Regular meeting February 24, 1993

The meeting was called to order at 8:13 p.m. by chairman Mike Lace after a slide program on Iowa Caves. Fourteen members were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. TRIP REPORTS: Doug Schmuecker reported on Dubuque caving at Becker Quarry Cave, Cave Down and Around, Backfill Bansai Cave, Ewing Diggings, and the Timber Ridge area. Coldwater Cave trips included a bolting trip in Hoot Dome reported on by Greg McCarty and a digging lead trip to Guardian Fangs as reported by Mike Lace. There was a lead checking trip to the end of Grappling Falls Passage as reported by Jay Wells. Marc Ohms reported on a survey trip to Block & Tackle Cave. Mike Lace reported on a survey trip to the Smoking Ridge area and Dead Wood Crevice was surveyed. Marc Ohms reported on a survey trip to the Buck Creek Caves. Mike Lace reported on a survey trip to Spiral Cave where the entrance chip was tied cross-country to the entrance chip of Maze Cave. FUTURE TRIPS: Spring MVOR, a vertical cave practice, Spiral Cave survey, Grotto Picnic August 7. There was no OLD BUSINESS. NEW BUSINESS: A Boy Scout troop from Omaha asked the Iowa Grotto to lead them on a caving trip. The NSS proposed three policy changes which were voted on. The first was the NSS rule that requires all grotto members to join the NSS within one year. We voted to repeal this rule. The second was the NSS rule that requires grotto officers to be NSS members. We voted to retain this rule. The third was the NSS rule that doesn't require student grotto's officers to be NSS members. We voted to repeal this rule. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

THE LONGEST CAVE IN IOWA

(Ed. note: Jacob Hugart spotted this on the electronic forum, the Caver's Mailing List, on the Internet. The Internet is a network of computers at academic and government institutions around the world. In giving his permission to reprint it, Mr. Mixon stated that at the time, Coldwater Cave was known but closed, so his title is a little misleading. This "Cave" made its debut at the 1974 NSS Convention that was held at Decorah, Iowa and hosted by The Iowa Grotto. It has since been the longest cave in several other states.)

Well, since somebody asked...

by Bill Mixon

I and other members of the Windy City Grotto constructed a portable cave back in the mid-seventies, for the Iowa NSS Convention. It was dubbed "The Longest Cave In Iowa" initially, which was not too far from the truth. It has 72 feet of passage.

Made of plywood and 2x4s, it is an eight-foot cube divided up by interior partitions into a 3x3x3 array of smaller cubes, through which one crawls via the only possible route, one that passes through each cube once. (I used a computer program to search for possible routes.) There are an entrance and an exit on the lowest level, and a skylight entrance in the middle of the roof, exactly halfway through the cave. It is painted black inside, but no effort at realism other than that.

It still exists in a pile in my barn, and it will no doubt make another appearance or so. It has been to a number of NSS conventions, most recently South Dakota. The first few times it was a novelty, and lots of real cavers enjoyed it, sitting on the roof smoking various things, and so on. Once there was a practice rescue, and some (small) person was carried through it on a stretcher. More recently, it has served mainly as a baby-sitting device for the under-10 set, which reduces my enthusiasm for hauling it around the country. Maybe the 1994 NSS convention in Texas....

CORRECTIONS:

In the previous issue, volume 28, issue 6 in Mike Lace's report intitlled Five for Five, Drybone Pit should have been Boneyard Pit. Several of the photos in that issue if not all of them are printed reversed. To see them correctly, toss a coin and view the tails ones in a mirror. Then repeat if necessary.

THE KODAK PHOTO CD ALTERNATIVE TO 35MM PRINTS

by Jacob Hugart

Do you like the cover photo? It's a picture of my wife, Holly (in front) and our friend Andrea in Decorah Ice Cave. The photocopy master for the cover of this newsletter is the first time it saw paper. The entire cover was laid out on a computer and the picture came from one of Kodak's new Photo CDs.

First, about the picture. My wife and I were planning a trip up to Decorah to visit Andrea. I also wanted to take a look at Ice Cave. I figured I might as well try a little experiment, so I purchased one of those Kodak camera-and-film-in-one deals with a flash. (I have since learned that a real 35mm camera with a built-in flash and autofocus is available for the cost of two of these all-in-one cameras. I do not know if the image quality is as good.) I took several pictures both inside and outside Ice Cave and used the remainder on a hike through a park. When I got back to Iowa City, I turned in the camera and ordered two sets of prints and a Kodak Photo CD.

I ordered the Photo CD out of curiosity. I had access to a Macintosh computer which was capable of viewing the images stored on a Photo CD, and if my pictures looked as good as the samples I'd seen, I figured I would archive my old pictures to Photo CDs. The images do look good (as you can tell) and the advantages, dependable storage and computer readiness, are excellent but only 35mm film (negative or slide) can be used and the cost (see table) is not inexpensive. You also pay more for special services such as disc duplication or selecting a specific order for certain images...a useful ability if you are constructing an electronic slide show.

Apple Computer makes a device for their Macintosh computers which can read Kodak Photo CDs as well as standard audio CDs and other CDs and it costs between \$500 and \$600. Kodak's Photo CD advertisements show a Photo CD player that also plays audio CDs which you can connect to your TV. Since Kodak supplies the Photo CD with a cardboard case, you may wish to purchase the regular plastic cases. Wal Mart has these two for roughly \$2. The contact sheet of the images on the CD fits nicely into the cover of the plastic case.

A Photo CD can hold up to one hundred images. The Kodalux lab scans the negative at 2116 dots-per-inch (dpi). Each image is stored in five different sizes measured in points (72 points equals one inch): 192x128 (2.67" x 1.78"), 384x256 (5.33" x 3.56"),

768x512 (10.67" x 7.11"), 1536x1024 (21.33" x 14.22"), and 3072x2048 (42.67" x 28.44"). A Photo CD is a multi-session CD which means that you can take it back to the photo store and have more images added to it. This way, you don't collect a number of compact discs with only twenty-four images per disc.

The cover was created using Aldus PageMaker 4.2 on a Macintosh SE/30 and printed on an Apple LaserWriter Plus at 300dpi. The cover photo is slightly cropped from the 768x512 size. I have printed other images on Apple's LaserWriter Pro 630, a 600dpi printer. Given the various sizes, by scaling down the larger sizes, one could send an image to a printer of almost any dot pitch.

I'm pleased with the results. Having the images in a computer-ready format means I don't have to spend time manually scanning the prints if I wish to use them on my computer. The pictures look good. I still have the negatives, so I can get prints if I want them. In any case, it is a nice way to store images if you don't need shelves full of photo albums.

Many thanks to the people at Henry Louis Photoworld in Iowa City and the Personal Computing Support Center, Weeg Computing Center, University of Iowa, for the help.

KODAK PHOTO CD COSTS

Exposures	Whole Roll Transfers (Including Processing of Negatives)			
	Onto New Photo CD		Append to Existing Photo CD	
	With Prints	Without Prints	With Prints	Without Prints
12	\$15.44	\$11.12	\$13.53	\$ 9.21
24	\$28.63	\$19.99	\$24.81	\$16.17
36	\$41.81	\$28.85	\$36.09	\$23.13

"With Prints" includes one set of 3.5"x5.5" prints from the negatives. If you already have a roll of developed film, the cost of transferring images to a new CD is 74¢ per image, and the cost of transferring images to an existing CD is 58¢ per image.

Selected Slides or Negatives to New Photo CD	
No. of Images	Cost per Image
10 to 24	\$1.74
25 to 49	\$1.69
50 to 74	\$1.59
75 or more	\$1.49

Photo CD Duplication	
No. of Images	Cost per copy
up to 24	\$28.99
25 to 49	\$49.00
50 to 74	\$74.00
75 or more	\$99.00

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DRY RUN

Coldwater Cave, Winneshiek County, Iowa
December 19, 1992
Mike Nelson and Jay Wells

by Mike Nelson

It was our intention to go upstream to The Last Right-Hand Side Passage to push and survey past the Sand Room and Randy's Slot. As long as the surface conditions were stable, which they were, I wasn't too concerned that the water level was high enough to require diving at the Spong Siphon along with the other upstream sumps. However, the 41 degree water temp at the shaft provided me with a serious dose of reality. It wouldn't be impossible but it would be impractical and probably foolhardy to attempt the entire trip now. The water would only get colder the further upstream we went.

We did go upstream though. In the early days of the trips upstream, before the drought fortuitously opened the area to non-divers, we had made numerous trips that required scuba. On each of these trips we learned more about what we were doing and each subsequent trip seemed shorter, faster and safer. Since those earlier trips, it would

only be expected that some of the nuances we had developed would be forgotten. The short trip Jay and I made up to the Spong brought most of them back to me. Our next attempt should be somewhat more productive. Even if we don't attain our goals, it will educate Jay and reeducate me in the demands of lengthy penetration, alpine style sump diving.

While at the Spong, Jay practiced some exercises on the length of nylon line leading into the sump. Then on the way back out, I posed for some photos in dive gear, something Jay said hadn't been documented around these parts. We staged a couple of shots into a pretend sump, under the huge breakdown slabs at the entrance to the Spong. So if the locale of the sump in the pictures isn't readily recognizable, you now know why.

January 16, 1993

Jay and I retraced our steps of last month. The water was still cold but very close to the level that would allow us to breach the Spong Siphon without diving. Before we got all that far past Pete's Pipe, Jay started to get queezy and we aborted the trip when it was apparent that he was about to "take ill".

CHRISTMAS DAY REVISITED

Hole In One Cave, Mitchell County, Iowa
December 25, 1992
Jay and Alyssa Wells

by Jay Wells

It had been one year ago on Christmas day that Alyssa and I had last visited the cave. We were going to survey Hole In One Cave on this very cold Christmas day. The cave is laid out into two very distinct parts. The entrance area which is about 25 feet long is a rocky fissure in the rocks near the river. From this entrance area is a small solution tube that is approximately 35 feet long. Surveying was somewhat slow as I don't move as quickly in this small crawlway as my daughter does. She started getting very cold and finally wanted to go. I've tried to teach her anyone can call a cave trip for any reason, so I guess I couldn't argue. I tied off the last station and headed out. We enjoyed a fine Christmas day at Grandma's. She's already talking about going back to finish the survey, Alyssa, not Grandma.

MORE MISSOURI

Roubidoux Springs
December 27 - 29, 1992
Doug and Nathan Schmuecker and Jay Wells

by Jay Wells

We got to Waynesville, Missouri on Sunday afternoon. We found a hotel then headed for the spring. The road construction has been completed since the road had collapsed into the entrance of the cave. The water was very clear but the flow seemed heavy. Our plans for the afternoon were to do a checkout dive and then to spend some time in the cavern area. We checked in with the police department then headed back to the cavern. The current was stronger than normal so we had to go back to the truck and get more dive weights. We spent the entire dive finding the most viable route into the cavern and checking out our gear.

Monday brought a very clear morning. We set out for a short cave dive. We entered the water, did our checkouts and entered the cavern. Once inside the cavern, the flow eased considerably. Visibility was down from previous trips but still far better than we are used to in Iowa. We did our last checkout then laid a line into the cave until we found the primary line. We did a short cave dive as planned then went back to the cavern area to practice some line work and enjoy the view. Monday afternoon, it was Nathan's turn to do some caving. We headed north to Indian Cave. We stayed

there most of the afternoon, photographing and enjoying the walking passages.

We had planned to do a deep cave dive yet Monday evening. We opted to postpone the dive until Tuesday morning. Tuesday morning brought a slow steady rain, so we packed up and headed home. We didn't get a deep dive in but we saw a lot of nice cave and had some fun doing it, so it was a good trip.

RETURN TO SAN SALVADOR

San Salvador Island, the Bahamas

by Marc Ohms

On December 28, I returned to San Salvador Island to spend 10 days basking in the sun and to do some caving. I fell in love with the island last year so I had to return this year. The daily schedule was like last year with being in the field all day, lecture after dinner, and spending the rest of the evening at the bar blurring our vision. We stayed at the Bahamian field Station in which the setting is like college dorms. There were about 100 students from Mississippi State University.

We did some snorkeling on the reefs which were teeming with life. We also did a lot of hiking and caving. We found a few new caves and visited a lot of the known caves, some of which I saw last year.

We visited Lighthouse Cave which is the longest known cave on the island. It is about 2400 feet long and nicely decorated. A lot of the cave contains water up to swimming depth. It is a mazy cave.

We did a lot of poking around in the Sandy Point pit area. This area is so packed with pits that I am not sure if there is more pit or rock. Most of the enterable pits have a small entrance which leads down into a single chamber. On another trip we hiked along the northwest side of Long Lake looking for new caves. We found many new pits and a few single room caves. It was a long walk and we had to do a lot of bushwhacking, but we had a lot of fun.

We did a death march along the east coast of the island. Most of the hike consisted of walking along the beach but we had to navigate around two cays. The first cay was Almgreen Cay and was the more difficult of the two. We saw several sea caves on the northern side of the cay. They ranged in size from 10 to 50 feet. The next cay was Crab Cay and was much easier to hike around. It also had some sea caves and the largest was Crab Cay Cave. It was about 100 feet long and the ceiling of the cave was paleosol with the void being in Pleistocene age limestone.

The south side of the island, known as French Bay, has a few caves and other interesting features. Chinese Firedrill Cave and Blowhole Cave are dissolutional caves that have been intersected by wave erosion. Both are short in length but are interesting and fun. Further east along the bay were a few very active blowholes. One of them would shoot water up 20 feet in the air.

The last day, we took a boat out to two cays. The first cay was the best one. It had four sea caves that all extended about 30 feet and all quite active. This cay was so beautiful that we all walked around it in a daze. Words can not describe it. The second cay was not as impressive but still very neat. This cay had iguanas running around on it.

I did not think that it was possible, but this year's trip was better than last year. Ten days sounds like a long time but it went all too quickly. I was home in the cold before I knew it, or wanted to be.

COLDWATER PHOTO TRIP, PART 12

Coldwater Cave, Winneshiek County, Iowa

January 16, 1993

by Scott Dankof

Chris Beck, Marc Ohms, Doug Schmuecker, and Scott Dankof

I'd had plans for a photo trip to Beaver Boneyard for quite a while but a shortage of people and above average rainfall always stopped me. Doug, Chris, and I had talked about going there during January Coldwater weekend. Marc was the perfect dupe, I mean fine fellow, to round out our party. We entered the cave at the typical Saturday morning hour and headed toward the Boneyard. Water levels were down from the month before and being the first ones downstream guaranteed clear water.

After a photo stop near Cascade falls, we continued on till we came to the large breakdown room just past Twin Domes. From here on, the passage was pretty rough with many rimstone dams and large rocks just beneath the water's surface. As we came to that fun section known as the swim, my ears began to throb with extreme pain. Immediately I realized it was the high pitched screams of Chris and Marc. It seems that they don't enjoy eyeball deep 40 degree water. Doug dog-paddled through in his thermonuclear wetsuit while the rest of us groped for handholds along the walls. Passing this obstacle brought us to the Fountain Formation and finally the Six Meter Stalactite, a beautiful orange and cream colored formation which hangs from a large crevice in the ceiling.

I guess you can never have too many cameras. On this trip, three of us had them. Needless to say, it took a while to set up each shot.

Next on the agenda was Beaver Boneyard, which was even more silmy than I remembered. It starts out as a scramble over the top of mud banks then drops into a walking height stream passage. After 100 feet, the passage forks and quickly degrades into stooping and crawling. We spent about an hour taking pictures here and then headed back toward the shaft. We made excellent time, but at the expense of some bruised knees.

RIDING THE LOOP

Coldwater Cave (Upstream Loop), Winneshiek County, Iowa

January 16, 1993

by Mike Lace

Larry Welch and Mike Lace

We made our way upstream through clearer water and a lower stream level than we had seen in the past few months. At the entrance to Pete's Pipe (and the beginning of the upstream loop), we could hear the voices of Jay Wells and Mike Nelson farther up the Waterfall Passage on their way to the Spong Siphon. We were content to stay in air-filled passage today as they intended to dive through sumps to survey the leads beyond.

Our objective was to see if the constriction in a side lead known as the Rumble Passage could be opened enough to allow squeezing past it into the crawlway beyond. That crawl carries a persistent rumbling sound of falling water. No one has made it past this obstruction so far. It's a nasty wedge with yet another squeeze just past it, forcing you to make a spinal contortion that's painful even to watch. We backed out of the passage, leaving it for a return trip when slimmer gullible cavers can be recruited.

On a previous trip down another fork of this side passage, Larry and Marc had checked out a small, slippery passage leading off of Zipper Dome. Larry thought the mud choke at the end of this passage could be dug open to allow entry into a larger crawl beyond. We wanted to check out a side lead farther up the loop to see if it might connect to the back side of Zipper Dome.

To get to our next lead, we had to negotiate the Johnson Press, a long, grim, belly crawl that was just as unpleasant as Pete DeVries had described it. After squirming for a few hundred feet, the passage opened up to a hands-and-knees crawl. Our lead wasn't too far beyond this point in what is labelled the Wary Memorial Crawl. When we reached it, we were surprised to find a roomy crawlway with only a little water trickling out of it and plenty of white formations. We followed it for 200 feet to where it was mud filled but two small openings could be dug open and Larry was fairly convinced that at least one of these led to the crawlway he and Marc had entered off Zipper Dome. This adds yet another loop off of the main upstream loop and there are more leads to be checked in that part of the cave.

BAT CHECK

Stafford's Sandstone Cave, Allamakee County, Iowa
February 6, 1993
Mike and Delores Nelson

by Mike Nelson

A high level of animal traffic had dug enough fill back into the entrance squeeze that I couldn't readily fit it. Delores kicked enough material out of her way to pop on in. She counted a dozen bats, most where the ceiling first rises. They were on both walls. There were more before the large breakdown pile near the end of the cave. She could see a few beyond, but didn't cross over the pile due to noises caused by larger, four footed mammals. The bats were very small but their color was indistinguishable, as she was using a red filtered light to minimize disturbing the bats.

SMOKING RIDGE

February 7, 1993
Mike Lace and Jay Wells

by Jay Wells

We met with the landowner then headed up to the Smoking Ridge area. There had been some logging being done on the ridge and the logging road passed within a few feet of Smoking Ridge Cave. We scouted around and found Dead Wood Cave and Hollow Hill Hole. We went on past Hollow Hill and did a lead check along the ridge. We found some smaller steaming holes. Some may be enterable with a little work.

It was decided to start with a chip to chip surface survey between Hollow Hill and Dead Wood Caves. A station was set at Hollow Hill Hole and we surface surveyed over to Dead Wood Cave. A chip was set at the top of the cave. We then started surveying the cave itself.

The first drop into the cave is about 10 to 15 feet. There is a horizontal shaft leading off the bottom. About 20 feet into this horizontal shaft is a small hole that drops another five feet. At the bottom of it, you pass through another horizontal hole to a 15 foot drop into a crevice. After wrapping up surveying this cave, we headed home. Hollow Hill Hole, which seems to be the deepest of these three caves, was left for another day.

SURVEYING IN BLOCK AND TACKLE CAVE

Block and Tackle Cave, Jackson County, Iowa
February 13, 1993
Marc Ohms, Mike Lace, and Chris Beck

by Marc Ohms

Block and Tackle Cave was discovered by the Quint Cities Grotto in the 1950's while digging at a sinkhole with a block and tackle to remove large logs and other debris. They discovered a crawl-in entrance that led to a lengthy cave that has a depth that is quite impressive for the area.

The cave is located within the Hopkinton Dolomite of Silurian age. It is an active infeasible to Ozark Spring, located within a few miles. The cave is about 300 feet long and reaches a depth of about 90 to 100 feet. It starts out as a belly crawl and shortly becomes hands-and-knees to stoop walking to walking passage with heights up to thirty feet.

The cave has a small stream constantly flowing through it. It appears that the stream is coming from a nearby pond that is leaking water into the cave. The stream enters the cave via a small hole 30 feet inside the entrance. The cave passages are typically high, narrow canyons one to six feet wide. At the bottom of a 15 foot down climb, the cave splits into two passages. One leads up a steep slimy mud slope into a small amount of upper passage. This upper passage is very well decorated with all sorts of speleothems. The other passage leads downward to a pit that requires vertical gear. It is about 20 feet deep and has two passages off of the bottom. One leads up a slope to its end while the other passage leads to a large pool of water.

Mike, Chris, and I began the survey 40 feet inside the cave. We did not survey the entrance belly crawl due to it being very wet and very cold. We finished the survey at the top of the last pit and netted 250 feet of survey. One more trip will be required to survey the entrance crawl and passage at the bottom. We met four raccoons while in the cave that did their best to hide from us while we surveyed.

RECON IN HOOT DOME

Coldwater Cave, Winneshiek County, Iowa

February 20, 1993

by Greg McCarty

Mike Bounk, Mike Nelson, Ken Biretz, and Greg McCarty

Hoot Dome is a medium sized dome in an upstream side passage of Coldwater Cave. Back in the early '80s, Mike Bounk and George Zachariasen started bolting their way up the dome trying to reach a passage visible about twenty feet up. Since Hoot Dome is unclimbable, it was either this or use a scaling pole. After several trips, they had made their way up to the passage only to find it was a dud. There was another higher passage with water coming out, though, so this became the new goal. It would be reached by traversing a ledge to the opposite side of the dome and then ascending again. The project lapsed for a number of years, then Mike went back in the summer of '92 with Steve Moon. They were only able to get a little bit of additional work done but it did serve to rekindle Mike's interest. The main purpose of our trip was to get new help (such as myself) oriented to the problem while checking out the old rigging to make sure it still is functional.

I had to work extra hours the night before the trip, so it was too late to contact Mike Bounk Friday night. I got up early Saturday to call him about resetting the trip back to the later time we had originally planned on but found he had already left. I went back to bed but my sleeping difficulties only allowed me about two hours of sleep for the night. Mike arrived about forty minutes early, so I kept him busy watching caving tapes while I ate breakfast and got my gear ready. Mike said we were to meet Mike Nelson and a friend of his up at the shed around 1:00, so I cut short my plans to show him a few things on the trip up. We did take a couple of minutes to drive over to a cave I've been digging in near Fayette, though. WVCC Cave is pretty intriguing looking now compared to the little raccoon hole I started with.

When we were a couple of miles short of the turnoff to the cave, I asked Mike to turn around and go back. I had spotted an adult bald eagle sitting in a tree overlooking the road. There was a dead rabbit laying there that he wanted. Not wanting the eagle to get hit by a car, I threw the rabbit into a field lane where it was easily visible against the snow. The eagle left while I was doing this, getting a little twitchy about all the activity right below his perch. Since it was almost 1:00, we decided to split up. Mike would talk to Ken and Wanda Flatland while I drove his car

over to the shed and let the others know we were there before coming back to get him. No one was home, though, so we drove on to the shed. Here, we found the same story but there was a note for us saying that Mike Nelson and some folks were touring some of the little passages and domes just off the bottom of the shaft. I yelled down the shaft, but no one was around right then so we grabbed our gear and started dressing. Before we were half done, I heard voices and yelled down to Doug Schmuecker. He relayed that the touring was still going on and that he would inform them we had arrived.

After descending the shaft, Mike and I found that Mike Nelson, Ken Biretz and Nathan Schmuecker were in the passage leading to Shower Dome and Mini Dome. We hung around and talked with Doug and later with Mike Lace and Marc Ohms who were coming back from their short dig trip. Eventually, the troops appeared, nicely muddied from their excursion, and the four members of our group started upstream. Everyone else exited the cave at this time, except for Jay Wells and Larry Welch who were on a long trip up beyond Grappling Falls. I believe this was Ken's first cave trip. He seemed to get along pretty well and he had a lot of interesting questions about what he was seeing and why things are the way they are. I hope I was able to provide enough answers to keep him satisfied. I felt a little rusty on some points.

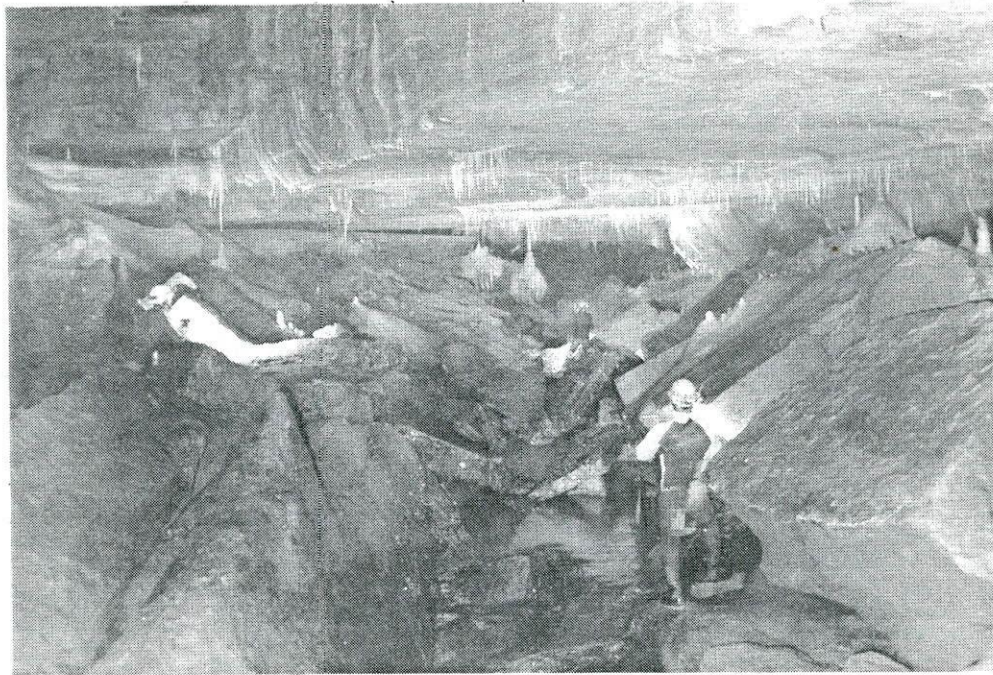
To reach Hoot Dome, you must go up Pete's Pipe until you reach the first right-hand passage. This is called the Shush Passage, and takes you the few hundred feet to the dome. The last part of the crawl had been low and a little awkward in the past but Mike Bounk happily reported it had washed out and was now an easy crawl to the dome. Mike was the only one in our group who had seen the dome before. I was immediately struck by how clean the floor was. The breakdown was clean and light colored. The floor between the blocks was very level and composed of clean cobbles and pebbles. A little drippy but a very nice dome indeed. After Mike filled us in on what had been done before and where we needed to get to, he started to rig onto the rope that had been left behind so we could haul him up to the top bolt. While inspecting the rigging at the top with a bright light to make sure this seemed safe, I noticed a problem. The Goldline rope was running through two carabiners placed in the hangers of the last two bolts. In between these two was a big knot which would prevent us from pulling the rope through. Mike switched over to ascending gear and climbed up to the top bolt while Mike Nelson belayed the other end. He was having trouble getting the old carabiners off but succeeded after we sent up some more equipment and tools. When he was lowered back down, he had a maze of old equipment and some very badly corroded carabiners. We didn't know just how bad until we got them out of the cave. Electro-chemical corrosion had eaten away at them until they were severely damaged. Mike said later he was glad he didn't know how bad they were when he went up.

With the rope now free, we could try to haul Mike back up. I knew that a braided rope like Goldline would provide a lot of friction over a couple of carabiners but there would be three people doing the pulling so it seemed like it should work. We quickly found out that we couldn't even budge him. We decided to have me give it a look, so I tried to put on Mike's seat harness. No Way! Next, I tried Mike Nelson's adjustable harness. The legs were fine but the waist wouldn't reach. If I had known it would be impossible to haul people up, I would have brought a rig of my own but I thought I was saving weight by skipping a few items.* We decided to send Mike Nelson up next with me belaying. Once he reached the top, he was able to use his bright dive light to give us our best view of the dome. Now the bottom dwellers could see the nice flowstone, the nearby passage, and the long ledge leading to the other side of the dome. The passage at that end is higher by at least ten feet and is difficult to see when looking up through the drips. The ledge is apparently workable but if you don't put in backups, any slip would cause a banging pendulum swing. The ledge is on top of a thick chert layer. These can be very solid or they can have rotten spots where the chert is very fragile. It must be close to fifteen feet along the ledge to where you would start going up again. *(Insert your own overweight joke here. Ed.)

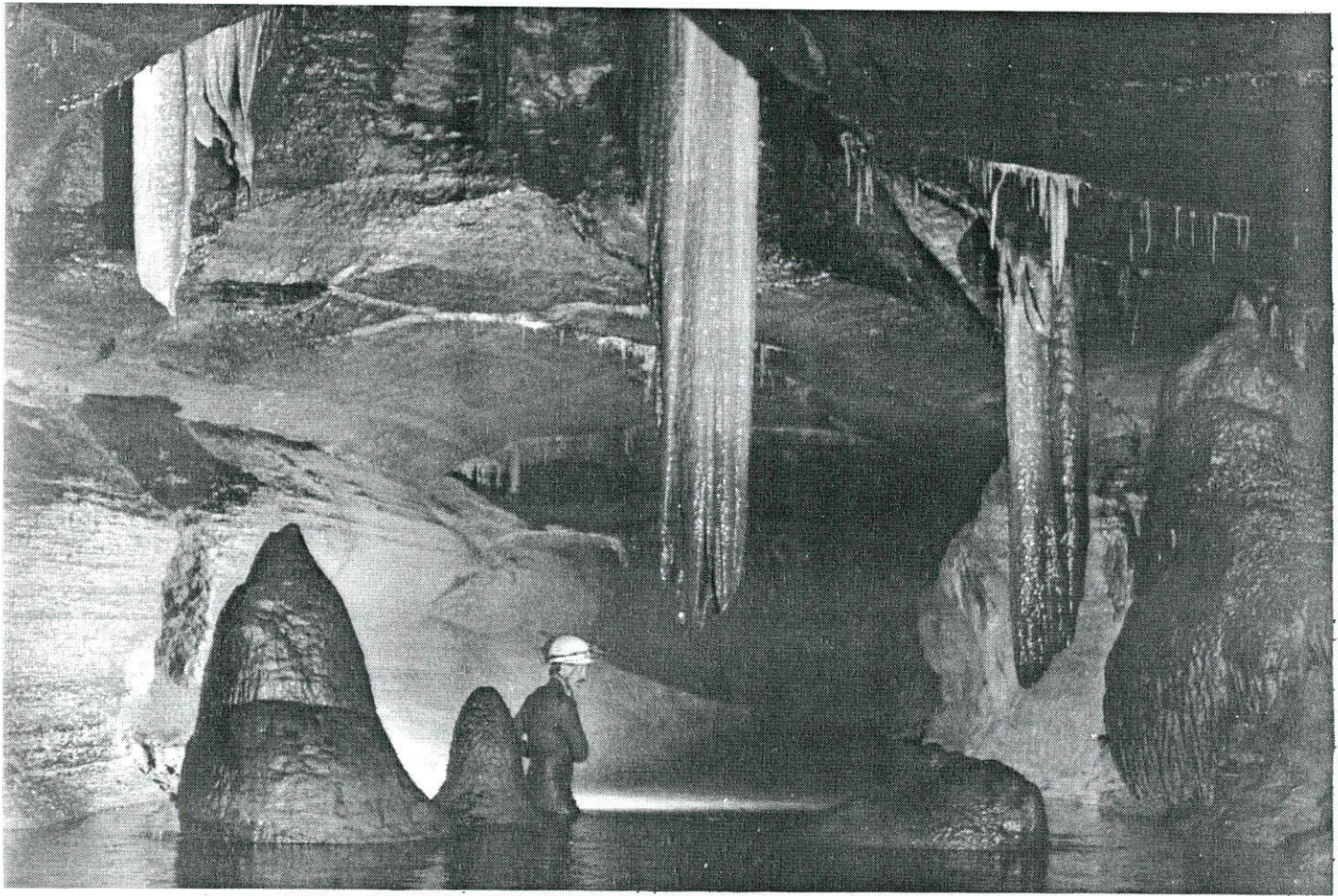
After lowering Mike Nelson briskly down, I took some webbing and made a diaper sling. Borrowing prusiking gear from Mike Bounk, I was determined to see the top for

myself. Without a chest harness, though, it just wasn't meant to be. I thought about tying one up but feared everyone would get cold in the meantime. It was frustrating but not worth the strain on the other members of the trip. Then everyone started packing up their gear for the trip out and Mike Bounk and I changed carbide one last time. After Mike Nelson and Ken had exited, Mike Bounk and I checked the dome for gear. As of the time of this writing, though, Mike's main bolt kit had not shown up. Hopefully, we didn't miss it somehow.

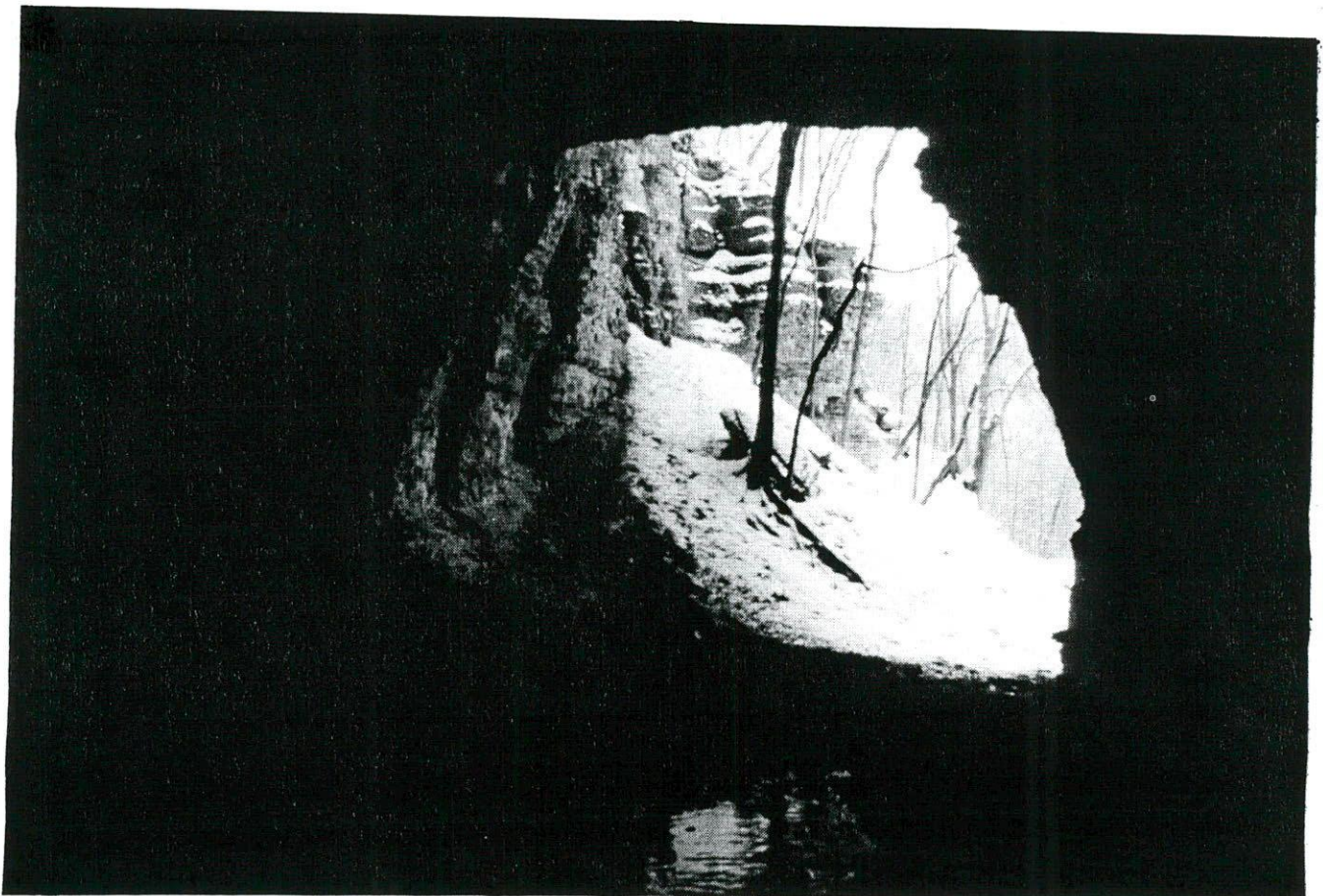
After leaving Pete's Pipe, I took Ken upstream a little way to see a dome and some formations then we made our way back to the shaft. Upon leaving the cave, we found that a vigorous snowstorm was taking place and had already dropped several inches. Mike Nelson and Ken rustled around quickly and headed out as soon as they could. Mike Bounk and I took more time to talk to the other folks and left about an hour after they did. Unfortunately, Mike's car couldn't make it up the hill from the shed. The snow was getting quite deep and the car just bogged down. After guiding Mike as he backed down the hill, I ran back to the shed and called out the troops. Mike Lace, Doug Schmuecker, and Marc Ohms were gracious enough to volunteer for pushing duty. Of course, if we didn't get Mike's car out of there, they wouldn't be able to leave the next morning. Working on the incentive plan, the crew was able to finally push Mike's car up to the road. It was a long and difficult struggle! I was in terrible shape, so I didn't have a lot of energy left after the cave trip. Pushing the car up the hill in the deep snow really wore me out. Thanks for your help guys.



Mike Lace, Doug Schmuecker, and Marc Ohms in the downstream breakdown room, Coldwater Cave, Winneshiek County, Iowa.
Photo by Scott Dankof



The Six Meter Stalactite, Coldwater Cave, Winneshiek County, Iowa. Photo by Marc Ohms



Entrance to Glenwood Cave in winter, Winneshiek County, Iowa. Photo by Scott Dankof

New Galena Mine A

Allamakee County, Iowa

compass and tape survey

2/16/92

8/23/92

M. Ohms

M. Ohms

M. Nelson

M. Nelson

C. Beck

D. Nelson

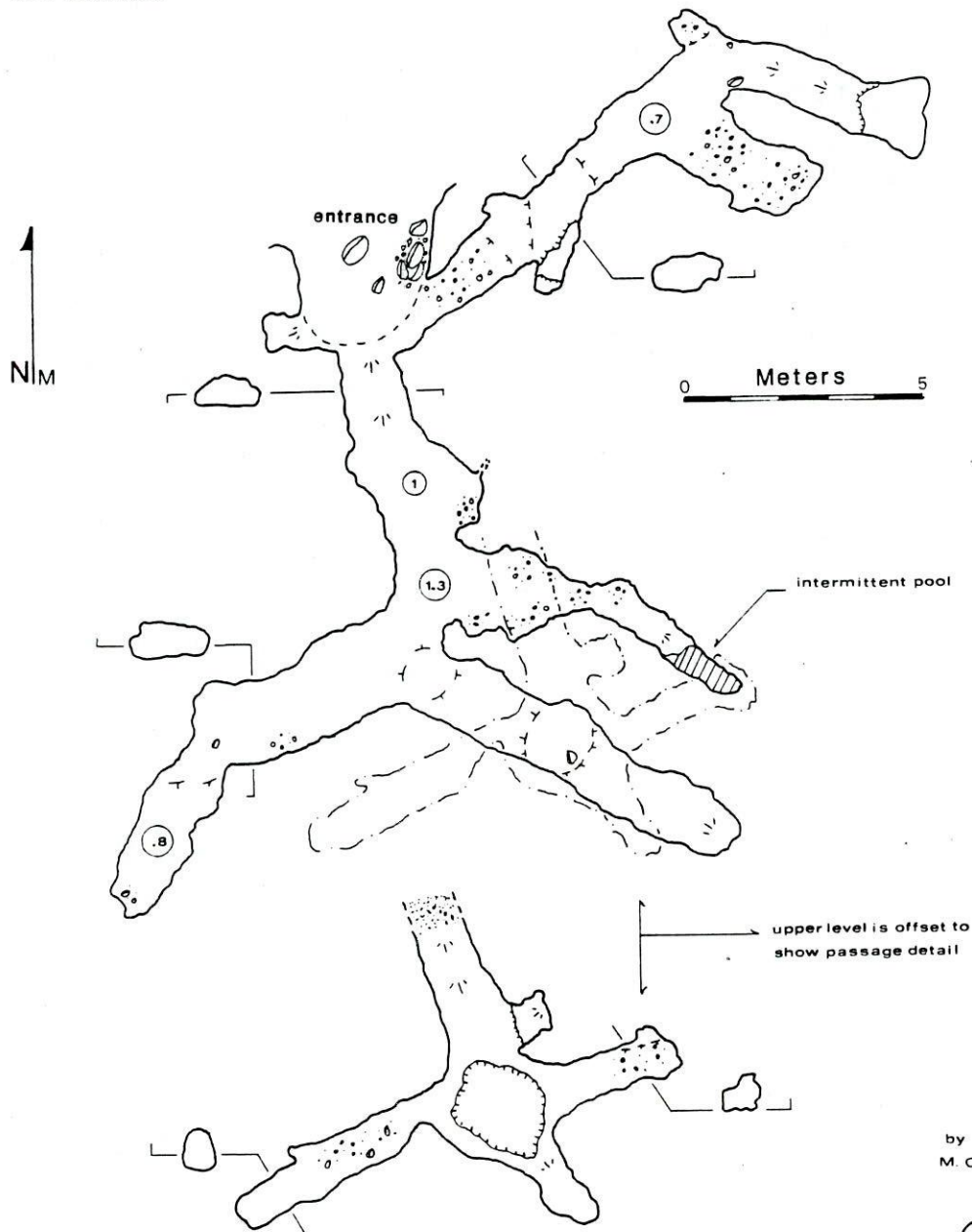
M. Lace

B. Jagnow

N. Byrnes

N. Byrnes

T.S.L. - 224ft/68m

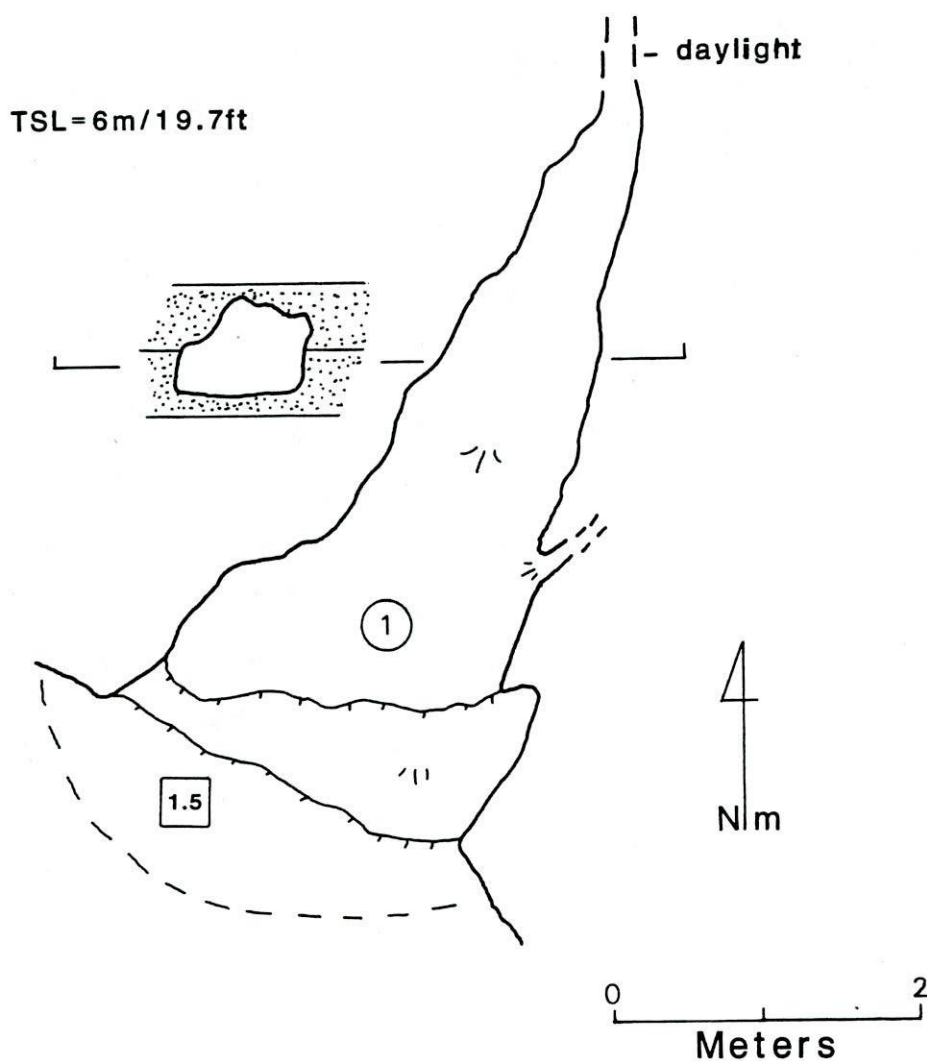


by
M. Ohms



Yellow River Cave

Allamakee County, Iowa

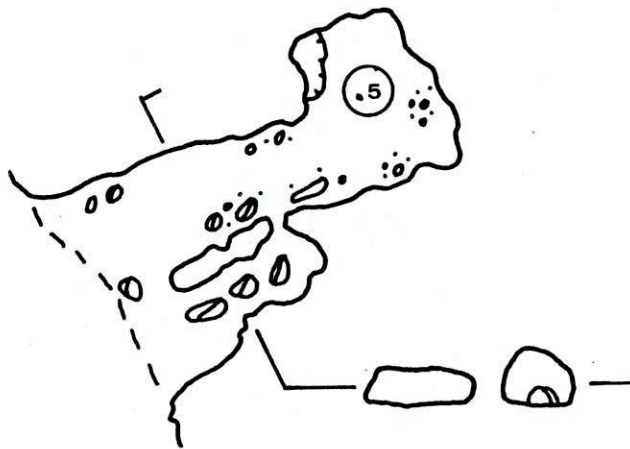


compass and tape survey

Ohms 9/92

Hardscrabble Cave

Delaware County, Iowa



compass and tape survey

Lace
Beck 11/92
Ohms

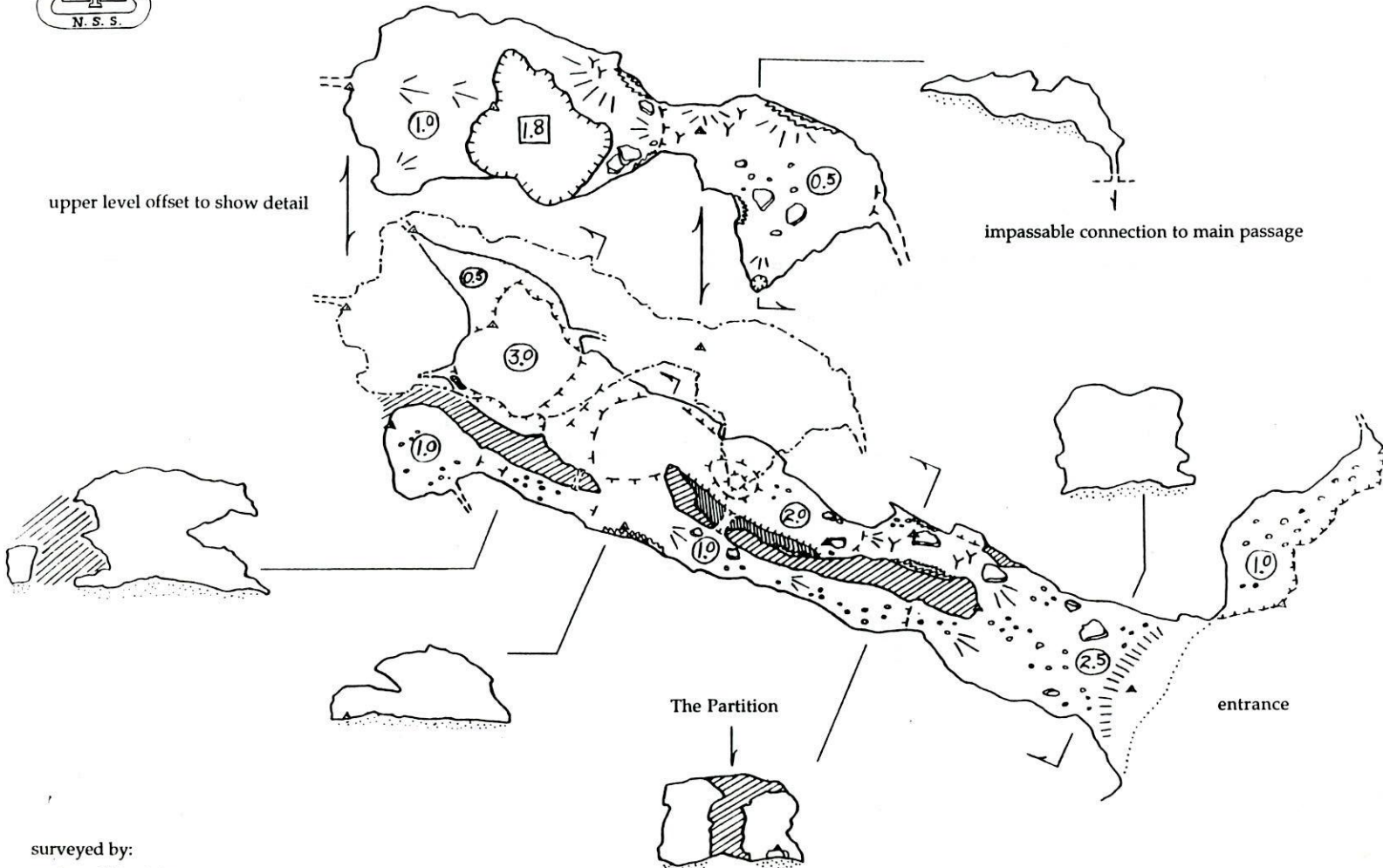
Partition Cave, Jones County, Iowa

surveyed length = 198.52 feet/ 60.52 meters



upper level offset to show detail

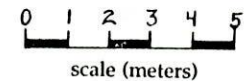
impassable connection to main passage



surveyed by:

Lowell Burkhead
Mike Lace
Loren Schutt

N.S.S. standard map symbols
cartography by M. Lace 12/92



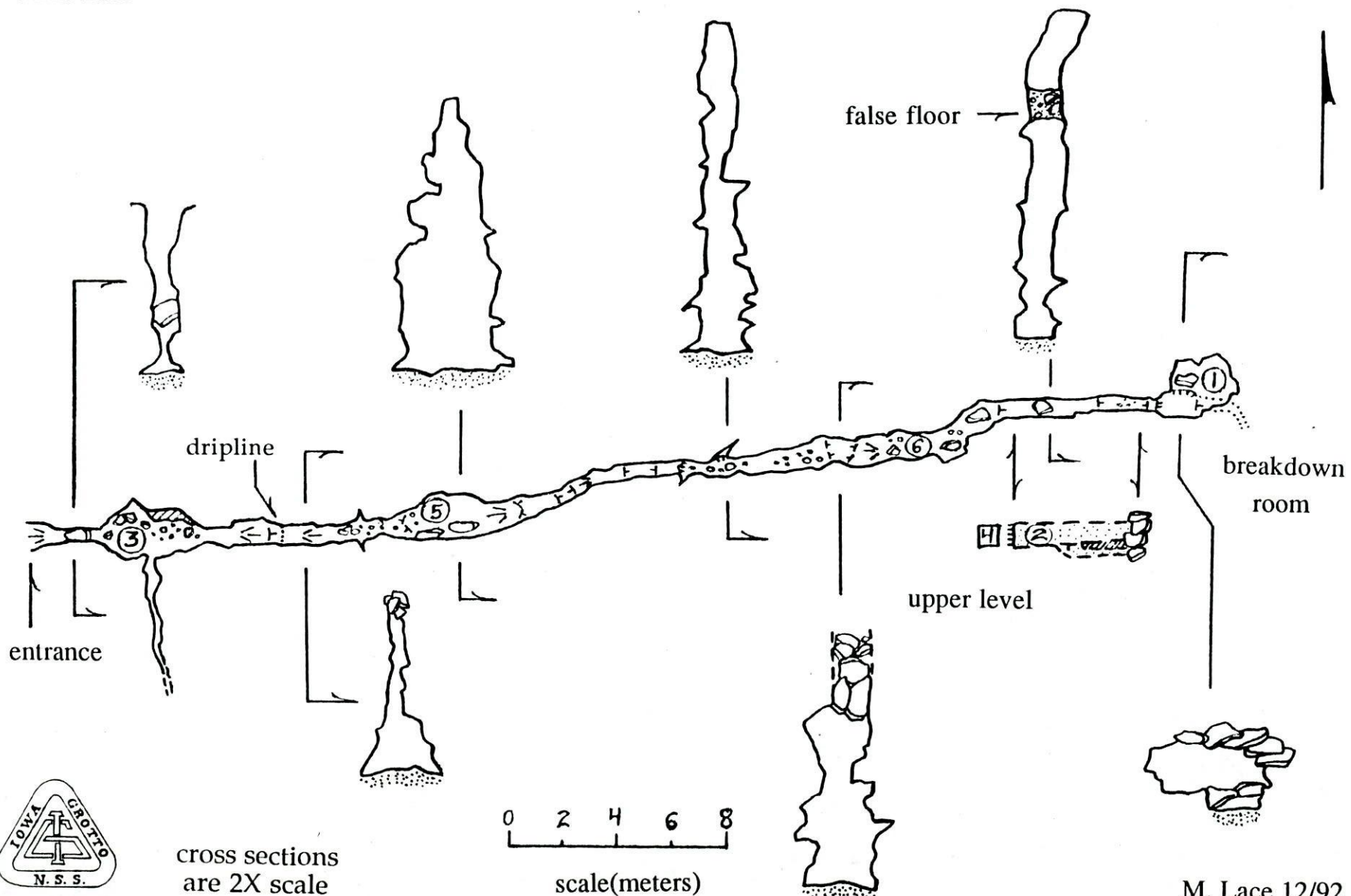
surveyed by:

Chris Beck
Gary Engh
Mike Lace

Ice Cave, Dubuque County, Iowa

surveyed length = 35.60 meters / 116.80 feet

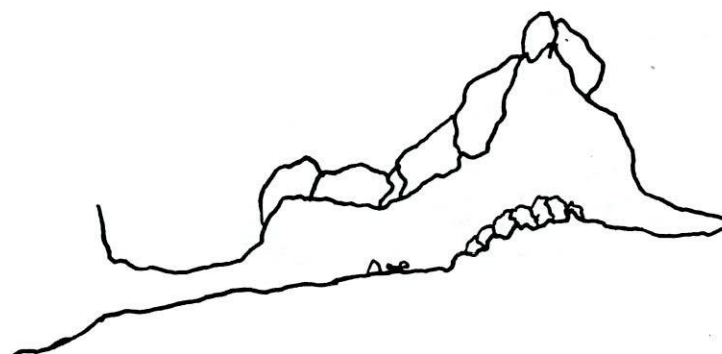
N_m



Kennedy's Cave

Dubuque County, Iowa

SURVEYED BY
GARY ENGH
CHRIS BECK



1 2 3 4
METERS

T.H.L.—7.13 m.

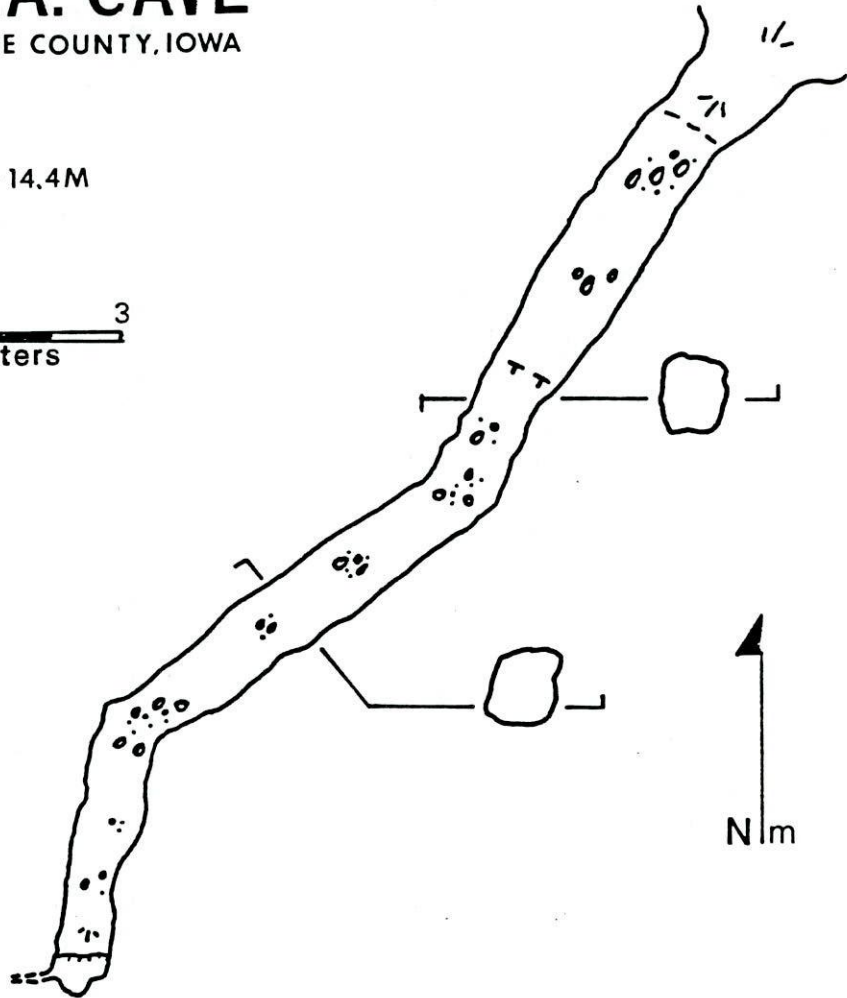
Beck 12/92

W.R.A. CAVE

DUBUQUE COUNTY, IOWA

T.H.L. - 14.4 M

0 3
meters



compass and tape survey

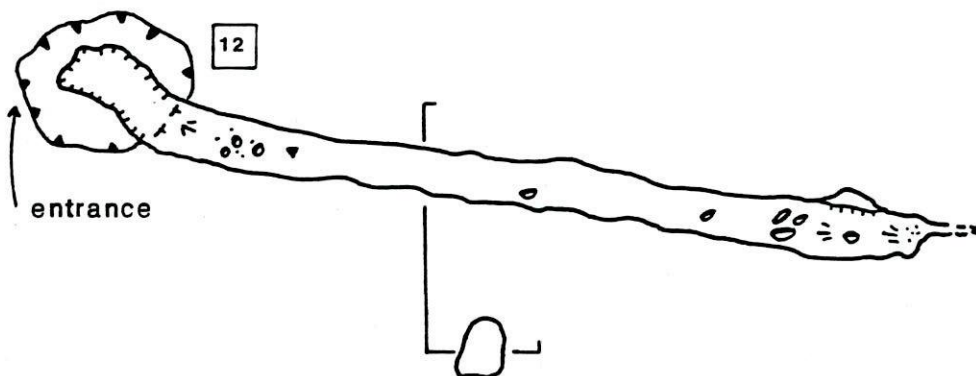
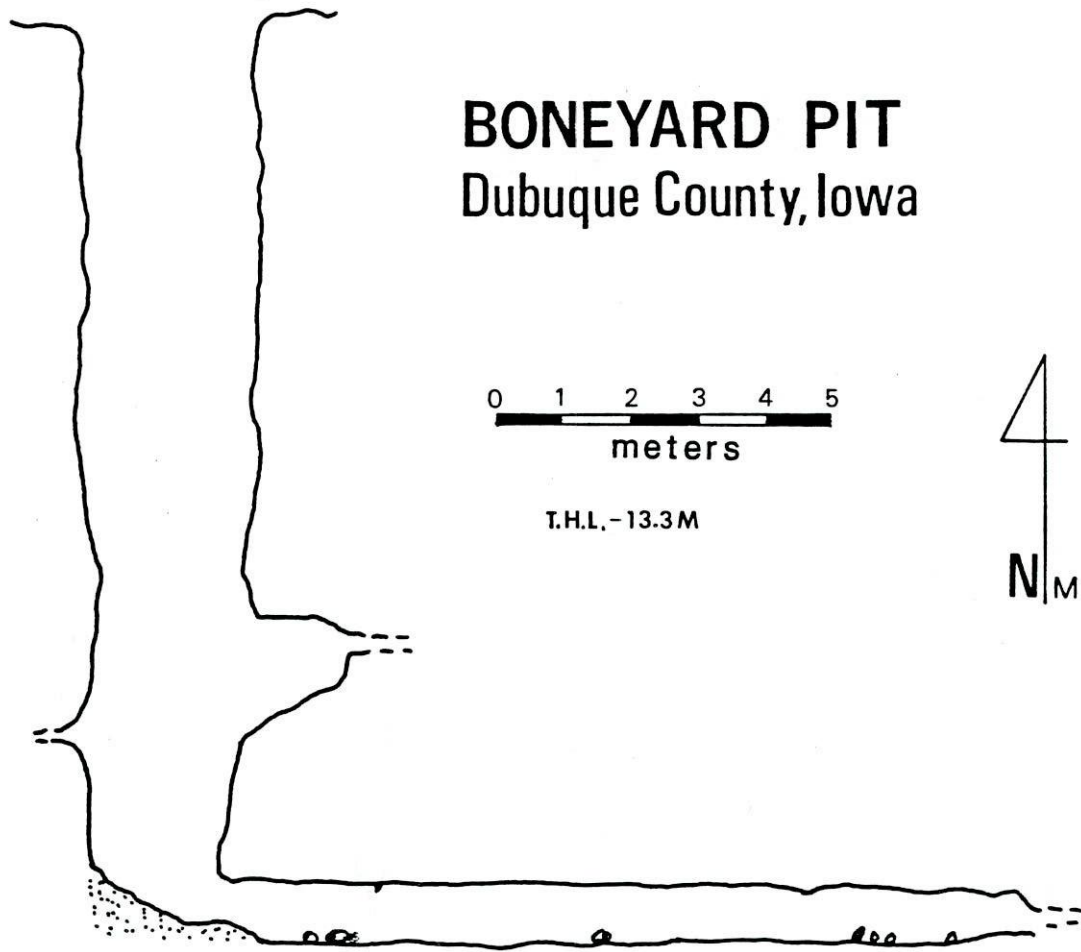
Ohms and Engh 12-92
by Ohms

BONEYARD PIT

Dubuque County, Iowa

0 1 2 3 4 5
meters

T.H.L. - 13.3M



compass and tape survey
Ohms and Beck
12-12-92
by Ohms

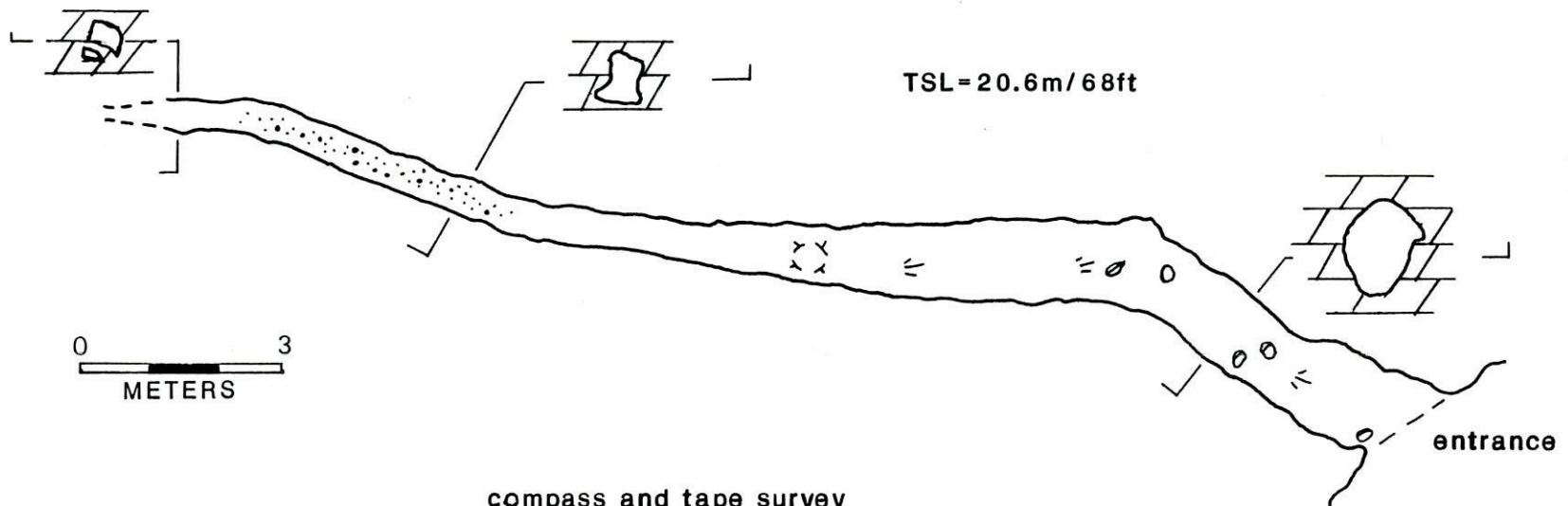


Ohms

4
N
m

Dirty Hand Cave

Jackson County, Iowa

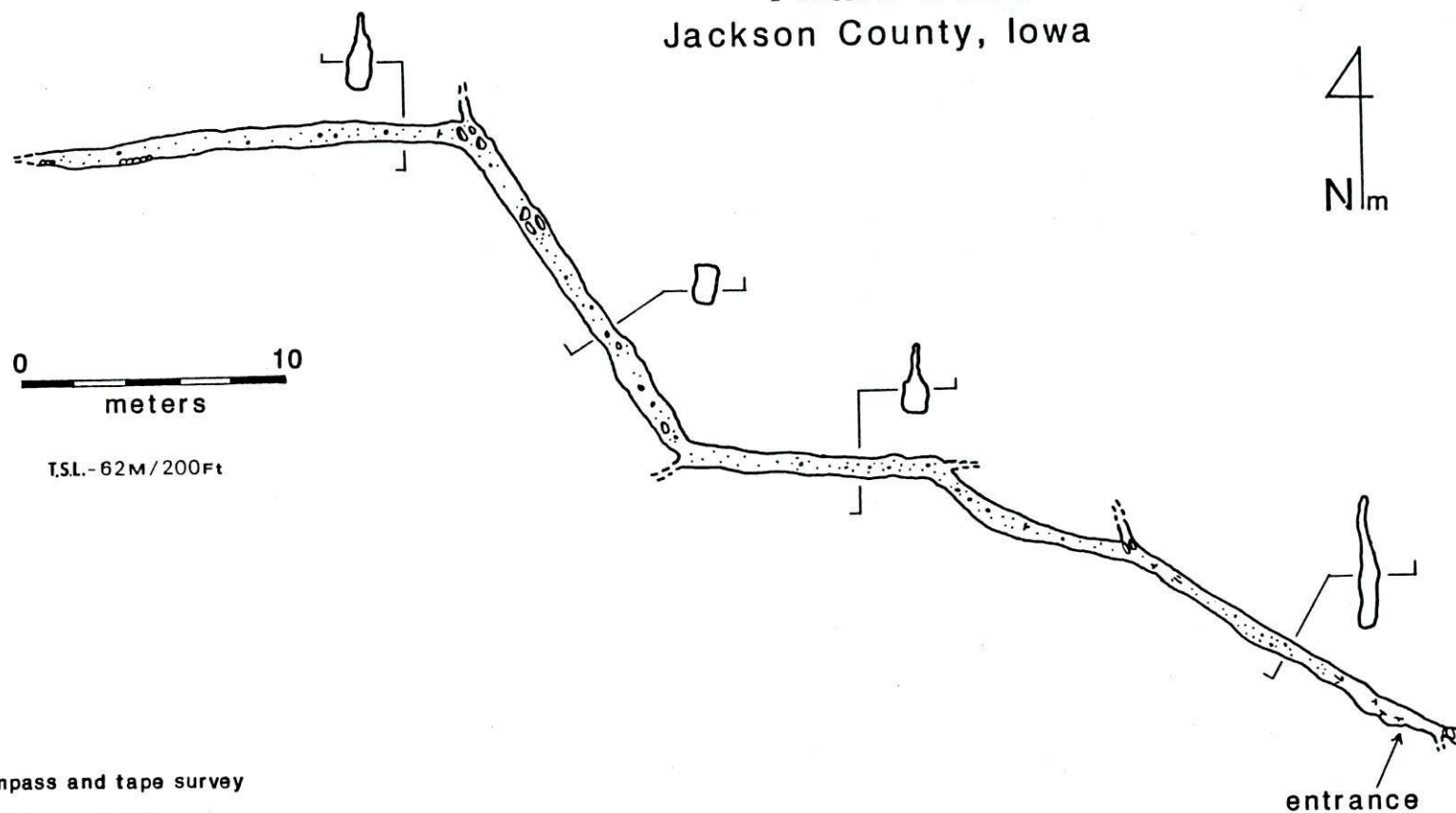


compass and tape survey

Ohms and Winch 10/92

Fault Cave

Jackson County, Iowa



compass and tape survey

Ohms 11/92

Lace

by
Ohms



