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Lowell Burkhead

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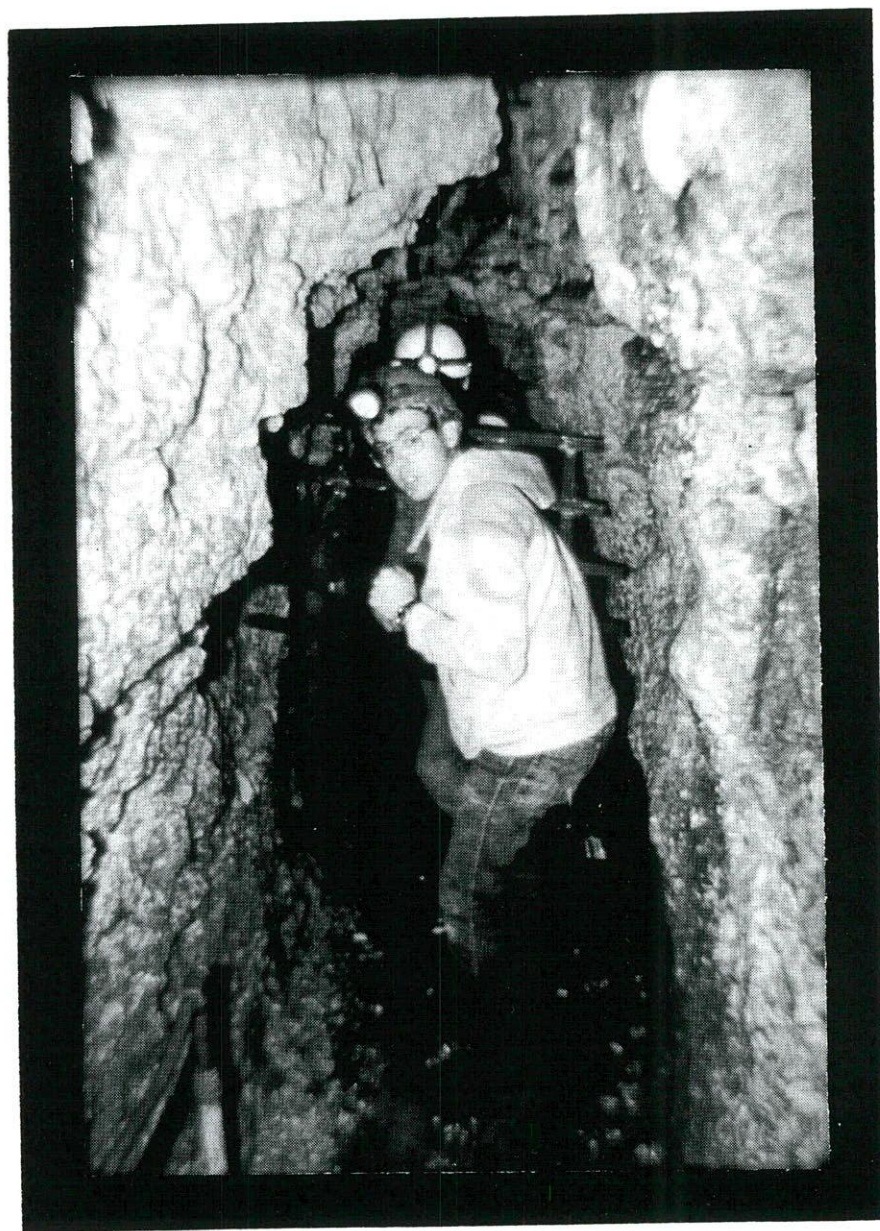
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I N T E R C O M

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National Speleological Society



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July - August, 1993

The INTERCOM is published semi-spasmodically by the - - - - - Iowa Grotto
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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
November 1, 1993 with a few days grace for those later trips. This should include
material covering September and October, 1993. Send articles, trip reports, photographic
negatives, prints, or slides, artwork, cave maps, cartoons, etc. for publication to:

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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
National Cave Rescue Commission
1-800-851-3051

Iowa County Emergency Management
1-319-642-3151

This number calls out Iowa Grotto rescue personnel

Cover Photo: Jay Wells and Chris Beck making the final measurments for fitting the Wonder
Cave gate, Wonder Cave, Winneshiek County, Iowa. Photo by Scott Dankof



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

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IOWA GROTTO MEETING MINUTES

Regular meeting July 28, 1993

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Lace in room 125 of Trowbridge Hall at 8:12 after a slide program. There were 12 members present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as read. TRIP REPORTS: Liz Robinson gave an update on the digging project at Coon Condo Cave and the Buck Creek Caves. Coldwater Cave was reported closed due to high water again this month. The scheduled trip to Wonder Cave was also cancelled. Mike Lace gave a report on a lead checking trip to Camp Wyoming where Mystery Cave, Bobcat Cave, and Fat Man's Misery Cave were visited and Horsethief Cave was surveyed. Mike also reported on a trip to Room Cave. There was a surveying trip to Heath Cave in Jackson County. There was a trip to Turkey Cave and a new cave named Ruf Cave was reported on. Mike Lace reported that Buffalo Den Cave in Wapsipinicon State Park was resurveyed. FUTURE TRIPS: The Old Timer's Reunion will be Labor Day weekend. The Iowa Grotto Annual Picnic will be August 7. The MSS Cornfeed will be August 20. The Hodag Hunt is September 12. There will be a vertical cave practice September 25, 26. A Dubuque County rescue practice TBA. A Fayette County trip and a Coon Condo digging trip TBA. OLD BUSINESS: The proposed Iowa Public Television program on Iowa Caves was discussed. Auction items for the grotto picnic are still needed. NEW BUSINESS: The six fatality cave accident in Missouri was discussed. Two upcoming cave specials on Iowa Public Television on August 1 and August 11 were announced. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Regular meeting August 25, 1993

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Lace at 8:33 p.m. after a slide show by Chris Beck on his recent caving trip to New Mexico. TRIP REPORTS: Greg McCarty reported on a trip with Lowell Burkhead to Watchdog Hole, April Cave, Glenwood Cave, Peterson Cave, Twin Springs, Yauslin Cave, and a quarry lead. Mike Lace reported on a trip during the Grotto Picnic to Sullivan's Cave, Cliff Cave, Odessa Mama Cave, and Tourist's Delight Cave which is still sumped shut. Doug Schmuecker recently examined a newly opened crevice pit called George's Pit in Delaware County. Chris Beck detailed a picnic trip to Searryl's Cave, Hatfield's Cave, and Thermal Cave. Doug Schmuecker led another picnic trip to Worden's Cave and Maquoketa Caves State Park. Chris Beck also reported on a trip to Hunter's Cave on the following Sunday. Mike Lace described a Wonder Cave survey trip and final gate fitting as well as a survey trip to Cave Woman's Cave. Mike Nelson and a small digging party unsuccessfully attempted to reopen the silted in entrance to Miller's Cave; reopening must wait for a dry spell. Mike Lace also described a grotto trip to Fence Cave, Thurn Cave, and Hollow Hill Hole. FUTURE TRIPS: The Old Timer's Reunion (OTR) is September 2-6, The Fall MVOR will be October 16-17, The WSS Hodag Hunt is set for September 10-12. Doug Schmuecker will have a vertical rescue training session September 10 and a vertical training session on September 25-26. A Fayette County caving/survey trip is scheduled for late October. OLD BUSINESS: Some recent television programs on caving were discussed. Lowell reminded folks trip reports need to be written. INTERCOM material has been lacking lately. NEW BUSINESS: A new member was announced - Mark Roberts, Eden Valley Park Naturalist. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.



OBITUARY

Babe Dog, January 1980 - August 1993

by Lowell Burkhead

Babe arrived on the caving scene at Coldwater Cave in 1980 where she hid behind her owner for most of two trips. She had a fear of people and cavers alike but was soon won over by the Coldwater crew. She spent the week with us at the 1980 NSS Convention speleo-camp at Coldwater Cave where she was a great help in waking us up any time a visitor arrived. She eventually gained praise at Coldwater for her fine grasp of the English language. At this, she was more talented than some of the cavers we had at the time.

Babe became a regular on mainstream surveying trips to April Cave and gate installation trips. On one trip, she followed us into the cave and made it to about 200 feet beyond the present location of the gate before being escorted out. That is as far as any other caver has gone without a wetsuit. She took over all the dog duties at April Cave after the death of her mother and Solange (Spike) who belonged to the Engh's.

Babe was along on many lead checking trips and surface walking trips in her youth in the early 80's. The first mention of her in the INTERCOM that I could find was in 1981, but in reading through them, I can remember her on many of the earlier trips. She accompanied us on a digging trip into Conrad Cave where she was the first to explore Babe's Chamber and had a standoff with a raccoon in the Raccoon Room. After the entry into Babe's Chamber was enlarged, we found her exploration to be as accurate as it would have been if one of us had done it. In honor of her achievement, the room was named for her.

In 1985, she lost a rear leg in an automobile accident which limited her caving activities in future years to mainly surface work. She protected our backs while we dug open Watchdog Hole, the overflow to April Cave. It was named in her honor. Her last documented grotto trip was in August 1991 in "Collecting Weed Seeds".

Away from caving, Babe had a lifelong hobby of her own: ridding the world of cats! She was responsible for the demise of at least sixty of them. The area now has birds instead of cats, even some rare ones. She was employed as a watchdog and continued to work through three strokes and her two year fight with cancer. Throughout her lifelong career, she had a perfect record. There was never anything stolen while she was on watch! Few of us, people or dogs, end up with a perfect lifetime record. She can never be replaced as a watchdog. She succumbed to cancer on the morning of the grotto picnic. She was survived only by those who loved her.

TRIP REPORTS - TRIP REPORTS - TRIP REPORTS - TRIP REPORTS - TRIP REPORTS - TRIP REPORTS

AN OLD DIG GETS A NEW DIG

Dubuque County, Iowa

by Marc Ohms

In the spring of 1990, the owner of Crystal Lake Cave showed me a hole in a stream-bed that takes water when the stream is flowing. The stream is active in the spring and after rainstorms. A month later, I began work on the hole. It did not take me too long before I was able to slip down into the hole into a small chamber. The chamber had a roof of loose rock and dirt and a floor of dirt. It is an east to west solutioned joint and seems to run larger going west.

For the following months, I dug at the hole. I started out by slipping in the hole and digging and placing the dirt in a canvas bag, climbing out, pulling the bag out on a rope and emptying it. This quickly became tiresome and I began removing the roof. Once the roof was off, I was able to use buckets and it went much more quickly. I dug a lot of dirt and rock out of the hole and it became about 12-15 feet deep. School started up in the fall and I all but forgot about the hole.

It was not until the fall of 1991 that I resumed my digging efforts. A year had passed and a lot of debris had washed in. The water seemed to be draining to the west so I dug at the drain and removed several buckets of dirt and rock. As I was digging, I was beginning to think that it was worthless as there seems to be too much dirt. I thought that the best if not the only way to get into the cave would be to move up the hill and dig there. This sounded like years of work and it would only be a guess to where the cave is. This was the last time that I dug on my dig. I checked on the hole from time to time to see if it had magically opened up but no luck. It seemed a failed effort.

On July 1, 1993, I stopped out just to talk to the owners and they told me of a

new hole that had just opened up. I first looked at my old hole which was taking a fair sized stream of water without even pooling up. The owner said that it has not stopped taking water all year. This water must go somewhere that can handle a lot of storage. The water does not reappear anywhere, not even in Crystal Lake Cave 200 feet away. I remember Lowell Burkhead's sinkhole article which said a small hole can take a lot of water but I am trying to look on the bright side.

The newly developed hole is directly 20 feet west of my old dig! Right where I thought to dig but seemed like a lot of work. The new hole is 4-5 feet in diameter and about 4 feet deep. I think all the water going into the old hole has washed a lot of dirt filled passage out and caused the collapse. My interest in this dig has been somewhat renewed. Anyone interested in helping? Who knows what might be there. Crystal Lake Cave is 8,000 feet long and nearby Knockel Cave is 200 feet long. There are rumors and stories of lost caves there and the Quint City Grotto dug at one for a while. Who Knows?.

GOULDSBURG SURVEY III, THE FINALE

Gouldsburg Cave, Fayette County, Iowa

June 13, 1993

by Mike Nelson

Mike and Delores Nelson, Mike Lace, and Chris Beck

We started out finishing this survey project with one of my favorite pastimes, convincing Mike Lace that it was absolutely essential that he negotiate the tightest squeeze I could find. Unfortunately, today's goal wasn't low, wet, and sleazy, it was just high and awkward. Also unfortunately, he could not push the squeeze, so the map will not have much detail of this high passage. I had aided a somewhat smaller caver in accessing this spot a while back and she had noted about 30 feet of passage with autographed walls.

Next, Delores and I tried to see if we could get ourselves into a position to at least pass the tape through a small opening to complete a loop. Working our way in from opposite sides, we could see each other's light, but we could not get close enough to physically close the loop. In the process, Delores got her head lower than her feet while stretched out horizontally at the far end of a thin vertical joint. As I circled back to assist her, I called ahead to Chris and Mike and Chris hurried on ahead of me to help her. She had already gotten herself almost upright by the time Chris got there but she had her ankle stuck and bent to an obviously uncomfortable angle and an overhung lip of rock kept her from raising her knee enough to free it. There wasn't enough room for us to provide more than reassurance and moral support, so we talked comforting encouragement to her until she managed to get her other foot planted firmly and slowly eased her way out of her predicament.

Other than Chris trying to karate chop a rock with his elbow in a low dead end passage (his elbow turned a peculiar shade of yellow for several days), we wrapped up the loose ends without further incidents. We found two unenterable connections that criss-crossed each other on different levels. All in all, it should make one of the more interesting maps of a small cave to come off the drawing boards in a while.

PRE-PICNIC CAVING

Horsethief Cave (53C), Mystery Cave, Fatman's Misery Cave and an un-named cave, Jones County, and Worden's Cave, Jackson County, Iowa

July 1, 1993

by Mike Lace

Gary Engh and Mike Lace

Gary and I set out to check on a few caves found in eastern Jones County described in the cave files. We obtained permission to walk the property and found that one of

the people we talked to was actually an N.S.S. member, always a good sign. Several caves were described to us by the owners: Horsethief Cave, which supposedly had been visited by one of the archaeological societies, Bobcat Cave - a small single passage cave, and Mystery Cave (not to be confused with the one in Minnesota). They also mentioned another cave on an adjacent property called "Bat Cave" which we later found to be one of the other Horsethief Caves in the area. This one is referred to as "53C" in the cave file.

We found Horsethief Cave (53B) easily enough and surveyed its 50 feet of roomy passage. While Gary poked around the bluff near the cave, I walked upstream to find Fatman's Misery Cave and another 25 foot long cave that is yet unnamed. It is simply a wide room that you duck into, much like Room Cave in Jackson County. We'll have to recheck with the owners to see if it already has a local name.

We made the short walk to Mystery Cave next as hordes of every known flying/biting insect tagged along. The cave is an obvious entrance 2/3 up a prominent outcrop. It was mentioned as a bat roost during the winter months but we only found one that day. The cave is a small but nifty little loop that shifts from stoopwalking to crawling as you go and stretches a total of 60-70 feet.

Gary had never seen nearby Worden's Cave so we stopped by to pay a visit to both the cave and the cave owners to arrange upcoming visits for the grotto picnic. The owners had a little trouble with the recent rains but had managed well. The cave was the muddiest I had ever seen it as we took a short trip through the solutional maze, finding no trash along the floor. Considering the traffic that Worden's Cave gets, this was a pleasant surprise.

CAVING IN THE RAIN

Fence Cave, Thurn Cave, Hollow Hill Hole, Clayton County, Iowa
July 24-25, 1993

by Mike Lace

Scott Dankof, Doug Schmuecker, Gary Engh, Chris Beck, and Mike Lace

It was Saturday. It was raining. We must have been caving in Iowa. Our original goal was to drop into Cave Canem Cave but vertical caving in a cave with an actively draining sinkhole entrance was an obvious recipe for disaster. Instead, we headed over to Fence Cave and Thurn Cave. The owner was friendly and even more at ease when we signed a liability release for him. Gary was the only one who had visited these caves before so the rest of us were in for a treat.

Fence Cave was a wide open sink with an entry drop that can be negotiated, with difficulty, using a handline, but coming out, we found an easier route that can be freeclimbed. The cave has several branches, each with a little crawling to do. The main water course leads to the slimey and intriguing portions where the water eventually seeps under a ledge, leaving you to crawl over large mud banks. The passage ends in a 25 foot dome and a ceiling lead. You can chimney up to the chest-compressing lead and peer into a stoopwalking passage that leads 20 feet to a corner. Squeezing into this lead involves a commitment, however, where you hope you can find the rock holds while you dangle above an open drop. We passed on trying this upper passage but we later learned that someone had been in it and it ended after 30 feet or so.

We made our way out and walked over to Thurn Cave. The stoop-in entrance led to a crawlway and a short climb down to larger vadose canyon passage. The cave eventually leads you to the lip of a beautiful open dome pit that we decided not to drop that day.

Sunday

Doug, Scott, Chris, and I went to Hollow Hill Hole the next morning. The cave is one of the many crevices in the Silurian age rock in southern Clayton County. Jay Wells had first dropped into it last year and described it as a deep, impressive cave.

We had a little trouble finding the entrance in the heavy brush and were cautious to avoid stumbling down a 70 foot pit. Scott, Doug, and Chris rappelled into the cave while I tried to locate a nearby lead that Jay and I thought could be dug into. The brush was too thick to find the lead. The guys came out totally slimed from the crevice walls and the two narrow slots that had to be negotiated while on the way up the rope. We packed it in for the day but we do have to return to finish the Hollow Hill Hole survey.

CHECKING THE FLOW

VVCC Cave, Watchdog Hole, Glenwood Cave, Peterson Cave, Twin Springs Annex, and Yauslin Cave, Fayette and Winneshiek Counties, Iowa

August 1, 1993

by Greg McCarty

Greg McCarty and Lowell Burkhead (and Patches)

At the July grotto meeting, it was reported that Watchdog Hole was flowing briskly due to the wet weather (from a conversation with Lester Teslow). Lowell wanted to go see it flowing so we arranged a trip. I had helped on the last dig there so I was curious as well. The weather was going to be good on Sunday so it was the best choice. It turned out, though, that this weekend was in between the storms that would have produced the best show.

Lowell picked me up in Fayette Sunday morning, bringing along his new dog, Patches. Patches was in heat so Lowell didn't want to leave her home. We started off with a quick look at VVCC Cave just west of Fayette. This is a cave I dug open last year during several digs. I'll give a report on this after I do one more dig there. I have a feeling that will be the last trip needed to that cave. Our next stop was the Teslow farm where we talked with Edie for a while. Lester had gone to a parade in Waukon. Forewarned about a stalled tractor on the big hill down to the cave, we just drove through the puddles in Lowell's Eagle and stopped at the top of the hill. Lowell was packing some new hardware on this trip. He had a new camera and a stereo sound intensifier. He tried taking some 3-D pictures while we were there (which didn't turn out too bad), and used the sound intensifier to listen for water sounds in a couple of crevice holes along the lane above Watchdog Hole. The holes weren't putting out any water sounds since the cave turned out to be dry although this wasn't exactly a conclusive test. Later, one of the holes was putting out something else.

While walking back to the cave, I checked a wood pile and found a nice eastern milk snake. Unfortunately, it was getting ready to shed so the colors weren't nearly as bright as they could be. After putting the snake back, we forged ahead and got the expected bad news. Watchdog Hole was dry but the slope outside the entrance had been swept clean. All of the dirt that had been removed from the cave was washed away. Too bad we missed it. I tried Lowell's sound intensifier to listen for water sounds in the cave but heard nothing. It is great for listening to the wind and to distant birds, though. The falls at April Cave were really roaring with that device on, even though the flow did not seem much above normal. After taking pictures of April Cave, we headed back up the hill only to be met by a strong skunk odor. It was pouring out of one of the crevice holes that Lowell had checked earlier. The skunk had apparently been disturbed by our activities in the valley and had crawled into the hole in between our trips by it.

After talking with Edie again, we made a quick stop in a quarry so I could finish checking out a crevice that I had found on a trip by myself. I had stopped when I would have had to crawl under loose rocks. I had named it Step Lively Crevice due to the blasting caps, detonators, and assorted wire I walked through to get to the entrance. You could now drive to the back of the quarry and a quick look showed that the crevice had been quarried away. I don't recall Lowell shedding any tears over the loss.

Our next stop was Glenwood Cave. The cave had a good flow of fairly clear water coming out of it. After Lowell got some pictures, we took the scenic route to Peterson

Cave. Unfortunately, along the way we ran into the pile of cars coming back from the parage. Eventually, though, we made it to the owner's house and fortunately, he was home. I hadn't had a chance to talk to him since the last big push trip that John Fuhrman and I did a few years ago. At that time we told him we would be back soon to check out a major side passage but we were so beat down from that trip that we didn't want to jump right back in. A few weeks later, a snowmelt ended the drought that allowed the exploration to take place and it will take another drought to open it up again. The owner was glad to see me again and is still very interested in his cave. He said the flow was quite high in the weeks before our trip but that the cave was still flowing. We talked for a while then took pictures of the spring that drains the cave during dry weather and of the falls at the cave itself. (See Photo) I would like to see it during high flow sometime.

Next on the itinerary was Twin Springs Park. A large flow of fairly clear water was pouring up out of Twin Springs Annex. I battled the mosquitoes to take some pictures, then we hiked along the stream to see the rest of the springs. After leaving the Decorah area, we decided on one last stop. Lowell had never seen the entrance to Yauslin Cave and I wanted to talk to the owner again. Unfortunately, he wasn't home but I left a note explaining our visit and the reason I hadn't returned for a couple of years (giving the cave a couple of years to wash out some of the mud on its own now that the breakdown is out of the way). We took a quick look at the entrance where the water level was only a little high (it doesn't vary much here) then headed home.

CAVING AND THE IOWA GROTTO PICNIC

Sullivan's Cave, Number Two Cave, Cliff Cave, and Odessa Mama Cave
August 7

by Mike Lace

Mike Lace, Bob Wahlstrom, Scott and Stephanie Dankof, Paul Miller, Tom Henry, Loren Schutt, and Bryan Bain

The patron saint of grotto picnics was on the job as one of the first perfect summer weekends fell right into our laps. Three caving groups as well as the "Grotto Shopping Tour" (led by Kathy Schmucker) left Eden Valley County Park Saturday morning. Eight of us went up to the Jackson County valley where Sullivan's Cave and several other caves are found. We poked around the horizontal caves there and even talked a few people into trying the fifteen foot free climb, on belay, to the walk-in entrance of Cliff Cave. Odessa Mama Cave was next on the list as we worked our way toward the picnic site. The cool air filtering out of Odessa Mama was welcome in the afternoon heat as we crawled and walked around this enormous breakdown chamber.

We made it back to the campground early enough to relax and prepare ourselves for the gut-busting feast to come. As usual, we had massive quantities of a wide variety of food and many of us were stuffed before we had a chance to sample half of it. The Caver Auction was next with some great stuff and sporting bidding to go with it. Scott Dankof followed with a slide show on Coldwater Cave and Arkansas's Fitton Cave to round things off while the rest of the night consisted of tall cave tales around the fire.

Sunday, August 8, the "wagon train" of several vehicles left Eden Valley for Hunter's Cave that morning. I don't know exactly how many people were on the trip but fifteen is probably a good guess. I had to return to Coralville after guiding folks to the entrance but later learned that they had a great time in a very muddy and wet Hunter's. The trip also included some cleanup of familiar trash left by local visitors.

It was good to see so many familiar faces at the picnic, including friends from Illinois and Wisconsin that keep coming back to cave with a Motley crew like us. Thanks to everybody who helped out with the meal, brought auction items, led trips, showed slides, and a special thanks to the trip leaders that helped the weekend's caving go smoothly. We still don't have a good feel for where next year's picnic will be located. Have any ideas?

VARIOUS RAMBLING SCHMUECKER'S TRIP REPORTS NOBODY ELSE WOULD WRITE

by Doug and Kathy Schmuecker

April 3, 1993: Cub Scouts and fathers taken to Indian Bluff Cave. One father had problems due to size and had to exit early. Gave a short talk on cave safety and conservation while in the cave.

May 1, 1993: Vertical training held at Pictured Rocks Park. Weather was normal for Iowa this year. Second day postponed to later date. Had visitors from Colorado and Wyoming sit in on the class.

May 8, 1993: Schmuecker family took lantern tour of Cameron Cave in Hannibal, Missouri. Was worth the stop. For those who took the cave rescue class several years ago, you visited an area few have seen. I was in Iowa City that day and didn't get in the cave.

August 7, 1993 - Grotto Picnic: 15 cavers toured a wetter than normal Werden's, Worden's, Wordan's?? Cave. Seems to be a question of correct spelling. We then moved on to Maquoketa Caves State Park. (Editor's note - All published accounts used Worden's as well as the Iowa Grotto Cave File. The INTERCOM therefore uses that spelling even though the owner's name is Werden.)

August 17, 1993: Jamie Alhouse and I checked out a new sink in Delaware County near Greeley. The joint could be chimneyed down about 12 feet and about 20 feet wide. It was stone choked at the bottom. The chance of enlarging soon is slim.

August 7, 1993: What could be better than caving but shopping at Costello Mill and Banowitz Antiques for the cavers wives. Shoppers included Kathy Schmuecker and Nicholas, Lora Dankof and Rachel, and Rosemary Cyphert. We had an enjoyable afternoon doing a lot of looking and not much buying.

SUMMER PICNIC TRIP No 1

Searryl's Cave, Thermal Cave, and Hatfield's Cave, Jackson County, Iowa

August 7, 1993

by Chris Beck

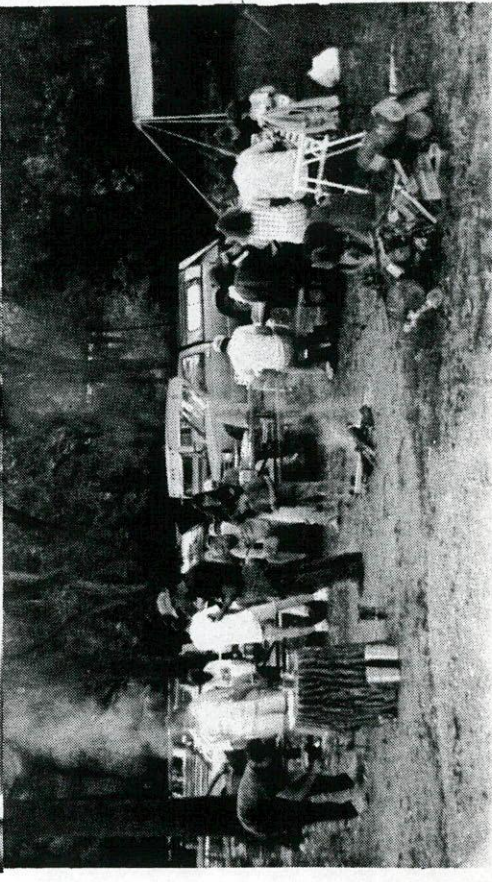
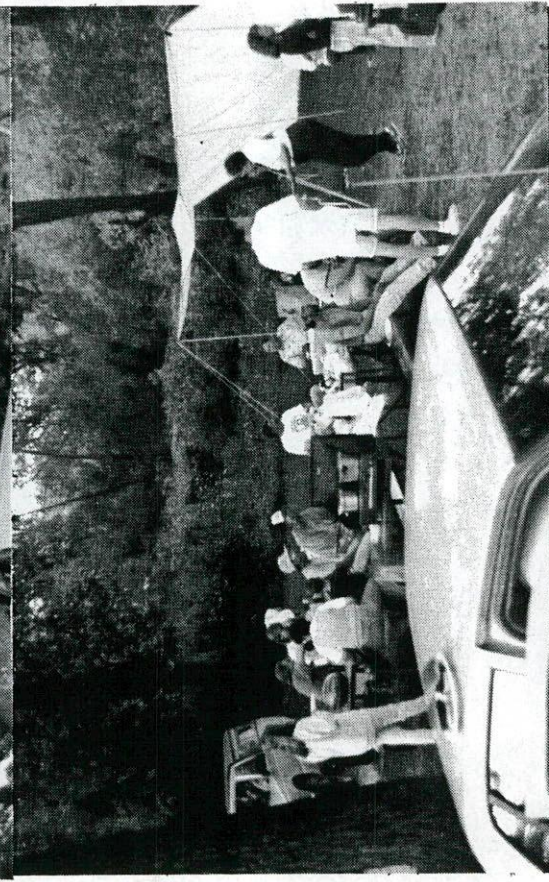
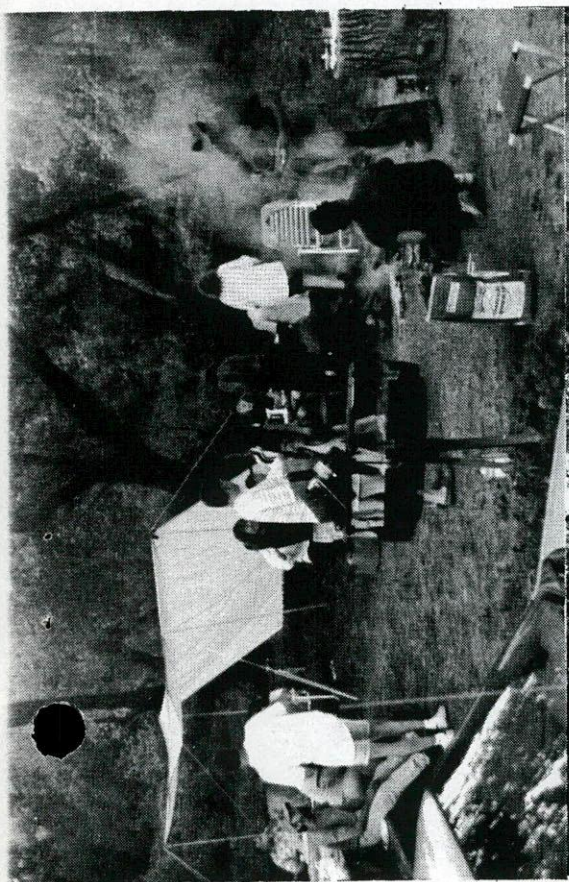
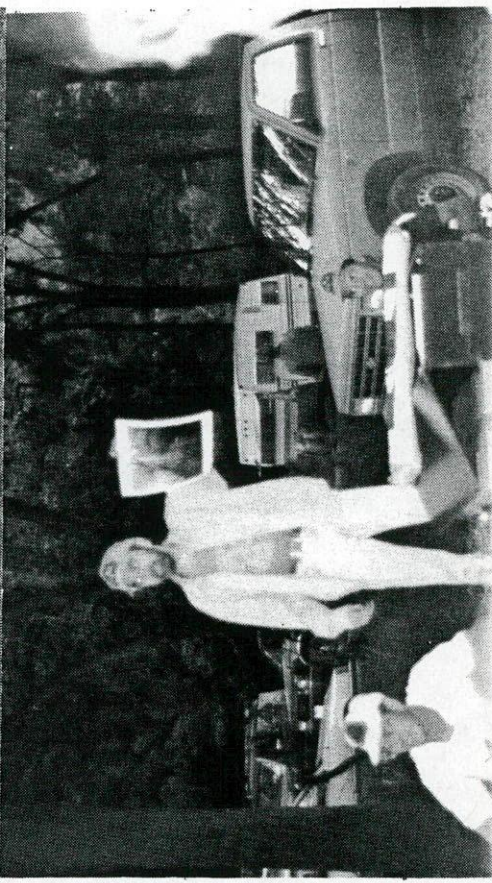
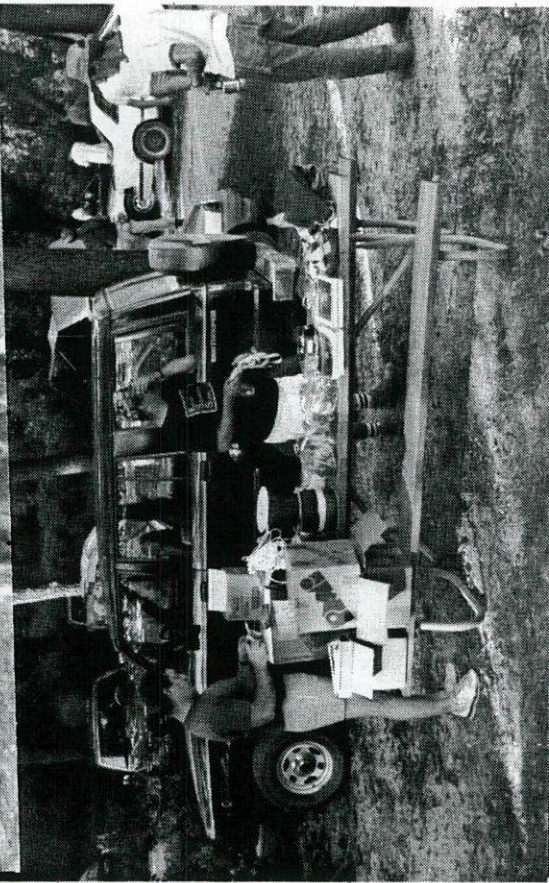
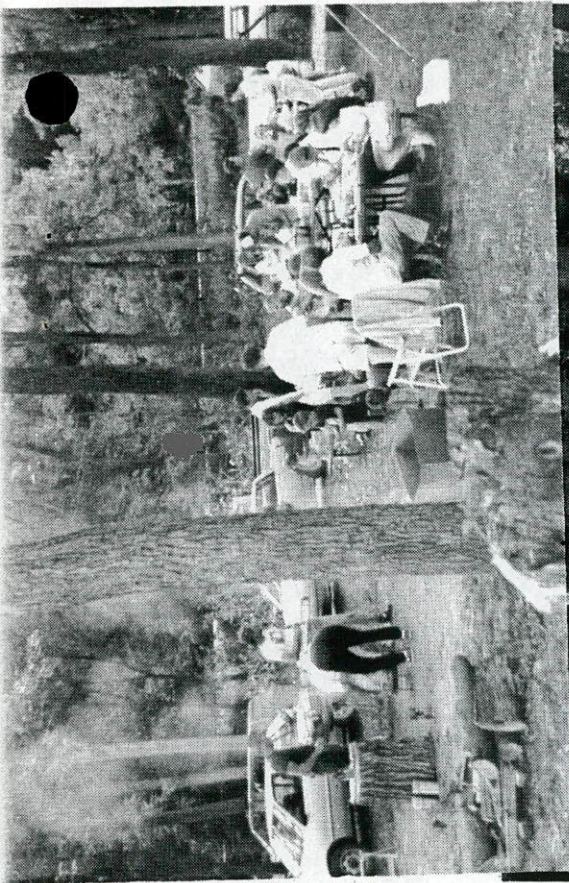
Chris Beck, Betty Cleveland, Dave Cleveland, Stacey Cyphert, Gary Engh, Jacob Hugart, Mark Jones, John Lovaas, Alen Mulden, Bill Mulden, Chris Rechten, Mark Roberts, Brad Smith, and Charlie Winterwood

Blessed with a beautiful day, we headed out for the caves. The cool temperatures made the long trek to Searryl's Cave go by with ease, but the over abundant rain had changed the cave. The usual muddy, wet passage was now three feet deep in cold water.

The squeals from the cold water soon turned to ooo's and aah's from the beauty of the cave. We then hacked a trail to Thermal Cave. The distance always seems longer when done in heavy brush. With such a large group, the smaller size of Thermal Cave seemed a lot smaller.

It was then back-tracking to the cars for the short drive to Hatfield's Cave. The long walk to the cave went by quite easily in the cool shade of the wooded trail. After a couple of short memory lapses, we found the cave. The larger size of Hatfield's was welcomed as the group spread out to check every hole and corner. Before we knew it, it was time to head back to camp for the picnic. But not before a stop at the river to retrieve some lost gear from an overturned canoe.

The photos on the following page are from the Iowa Grotto Annual Picnic. They are, left column: Picnic, Picnic, and Picnic. Right column: Picnic, Doug Schmuecker's equipment sales table showing (center) Bryan Bain after just having seen the price list, and bottom photo, the caver auction with Mike Lace as auctioneer. Photos by Lowell Burkhead



SUMMER PICNIC SUNDAY

Hunter's Cave, Jackson County, Iowa
August 8, 1993

by Chris Beck

I won't attempt to list all the people who were on this trip but it basically included everyone left on Sunday. With a caravan of eight cars, we headed out for the cave. I soon found out that navigating and driving are two things that should not be done at the same time as I missed our turn off of the highway. After a short stop and conference, Mike Lace took over the lead and we were soon at the right place.

Again the fine weather made the walk to the cave seem shorter and a lot more pleasant. Mike handed out trash bags to the people as they went into the cave for cleanup and then he headed home. I took in a brush and cleaners and headed for a paint encrusted formation. While I attempted to clean up the vandal's handiwork, everyone else spread out to explore all the many assorted passages and pick up the trash along the way.

After much scrubbing and little success on my project, I soon joined in with the others. Having seen most of the cave and picked up all the trash we could find, part of the group headed out with me, leaving the rest to play in the mud to their hearts content.

CAVING IN CRYSTAL LAKE CAVE

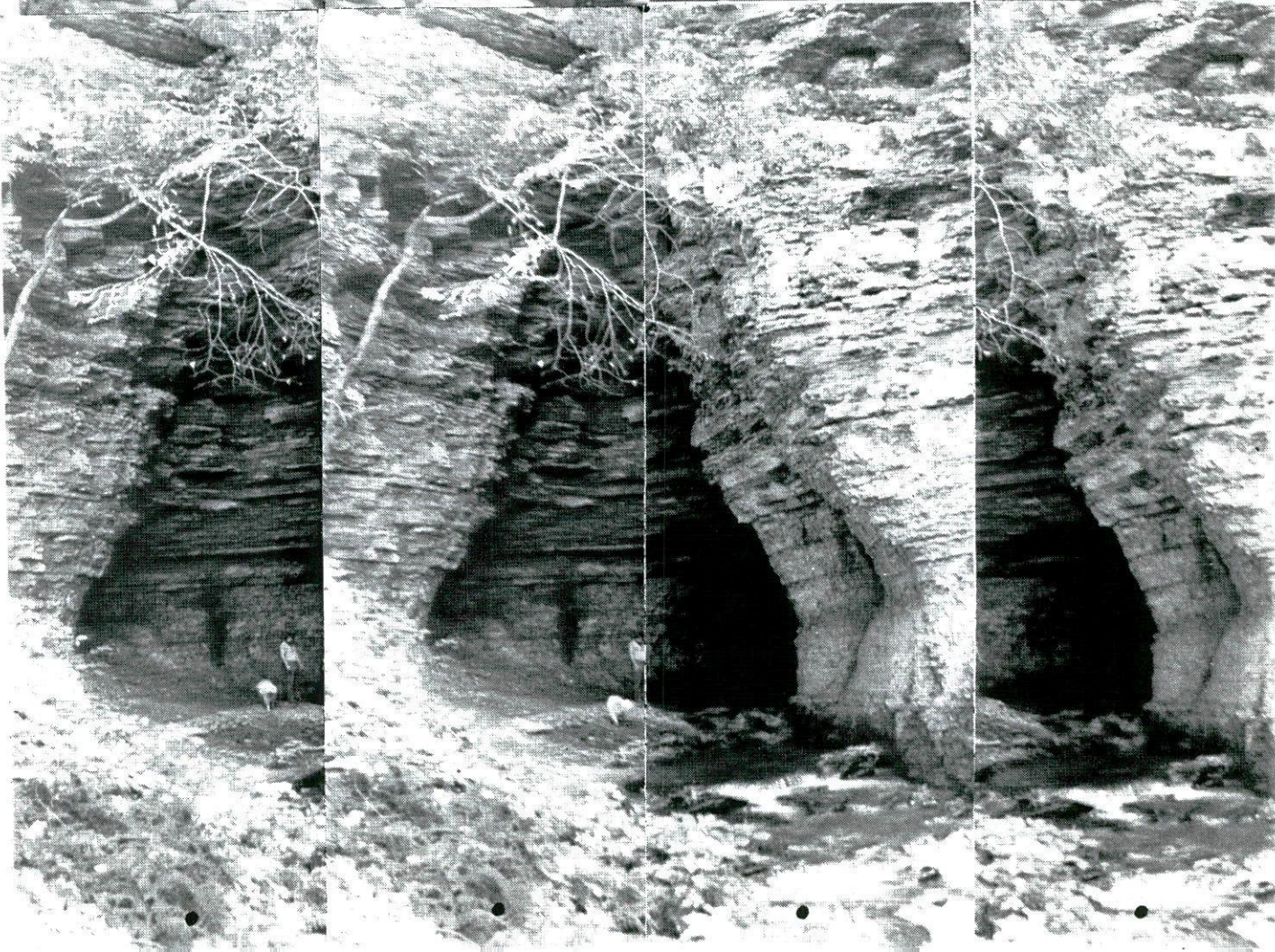
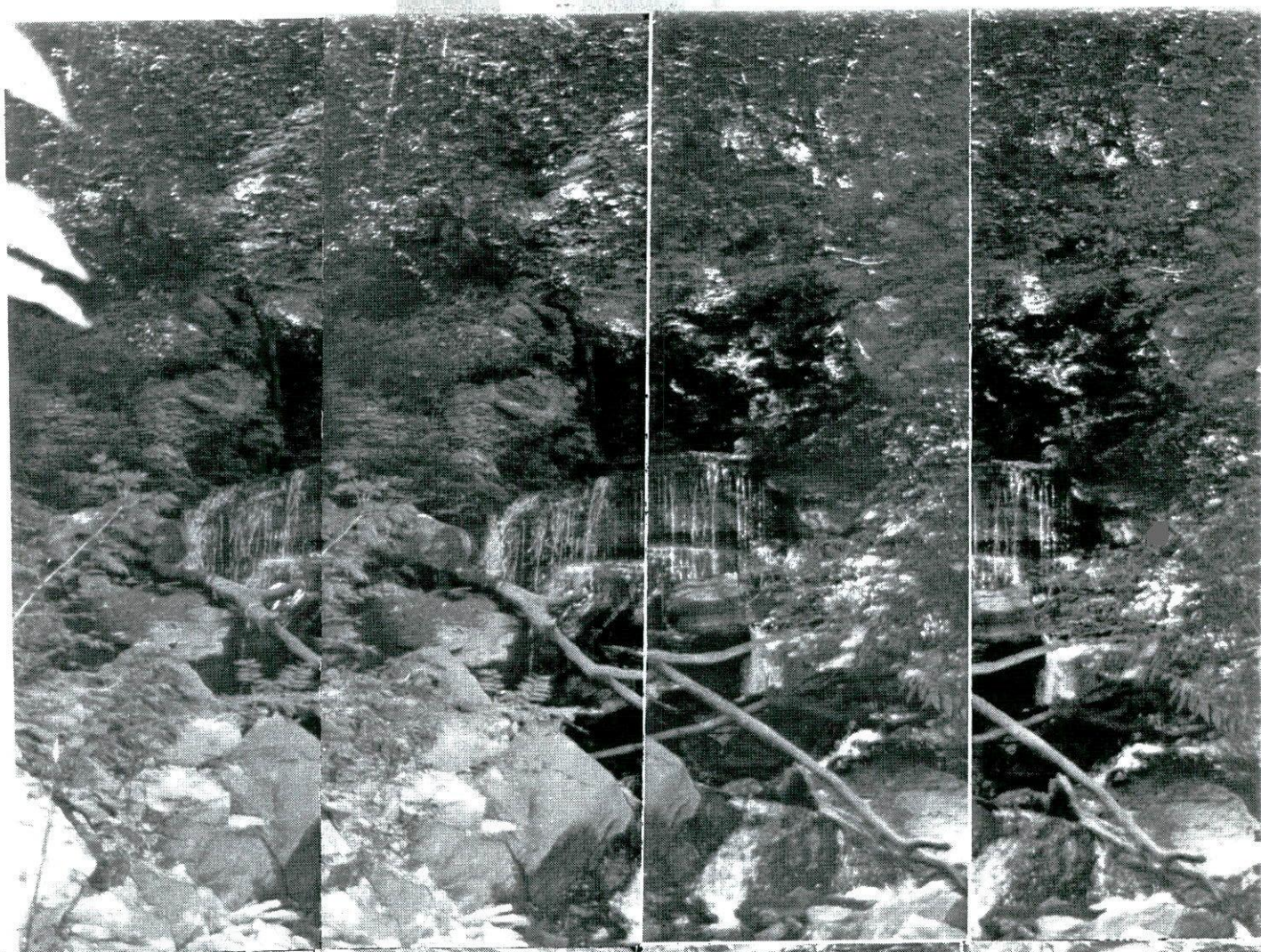
Crystal Lake Cave, Dubuque County, Iowa
August 9, 1993
Marc Ohms, Chris Beck, and Greg ?

by Marc Ohms

For the past few years, I have been having a trip into the wild portions of Crystal Lake Cave for the tour guides that work at the cave. This year, only one was brave enough or had time to come along. We met at the cave at 6 p.m. and proceeded in.

We headed straight back to the Flat Room, which is the largest actual room in the cave. The ceiling is full of signatures from years past but lacks any speleothems. This portion of the cave is under the Maquoketa Shale formation and lacks speleothems and water, period.

We then roamed around some of the side passages while I took several photos of the passages and speleothems. We did actually find some gypsum in a crawlway, this is quite rare in Iowa caves. Our last stop was the Air Passage. The beginning of this passage contains a good-sized room that is loaded with speleothems. There are literally thousands of helictites of all sizes. This was our last stop in the cave and we exited after spending several hours getting muddy.



FRACTURED PHOTOS

by Lowell Burkhead

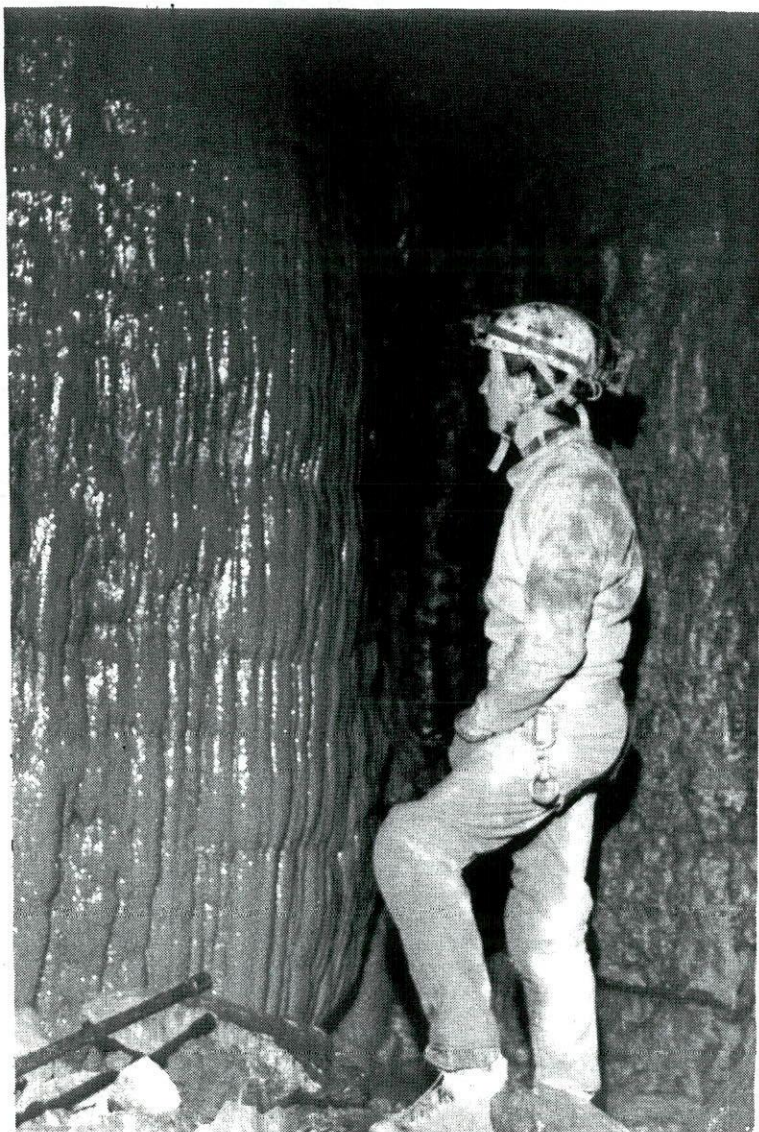
The photos on the previous page are "3 D pairs". The top one is of Peterson Cave in flood. It normally doesn't flow but is an overflow for a lower spring. The center two panels show it in normal 2 D for those of you who are unable to view it in 3D. The bottom photo is of Glenwood Cave also in flood conditions. It too is an overflow spring. It has the largest cave entrance in Iowa. Again, the center two panels show it in 2D. In the photo are Greg McCarty and Patches (who moved). Photos by Lowell Burkhead

In order to view them in 3D, they had to be cut in two because they are too large otherwise. They must be mounted about the distance apart of your eyes so the left one is viewed with the left eye and the right one with the right eye, simultaneously. So, the bottom left two panels are the 3D pair for viewing the left half of the photo and the right two panels are the 3D pair for viewing the right half of the photo. Black dots were added at the bottom to aid in getting started.

Hold the page out at arms length (look through the part of your glasses you use to see at arms length) and look at something across the room below the page and aligned with the seam between the 3D pair (right or left seam, not the center one). While still looking at the same target across the room, two dots should now line up just above the target. If the two dots are misaligned vertically, tilt your head or the page to correct. If they are misaligned horizontally, either move the page toward you until corrected or pick a target at a more appropriate distance. When you see that converged dot, you will see the 3D photo above it in perfect focus. Once you are seeing one 3D half of the lower photo, just carefully move up to the upper one. It is much more difficult. If you trip over the seam, just try again. The reason it is more difficult is because it makes no sense without the 3D information while the bottom one does. For more information, see INTERCOM volume 28 issue 5 cover, cover photo info on cover rear, and how to article on page 109. (Both caves are in Winneshiek County, Iowa.)



Mike Lace walking up to Dunning Spring in Decorah, Iowa in full 2D. Photo by Marc Ohms



Chris Beck at the bottom of the dome pit in
Wonder Cave, Winneshiek County, Iowa.
Photo by Marc Ohms

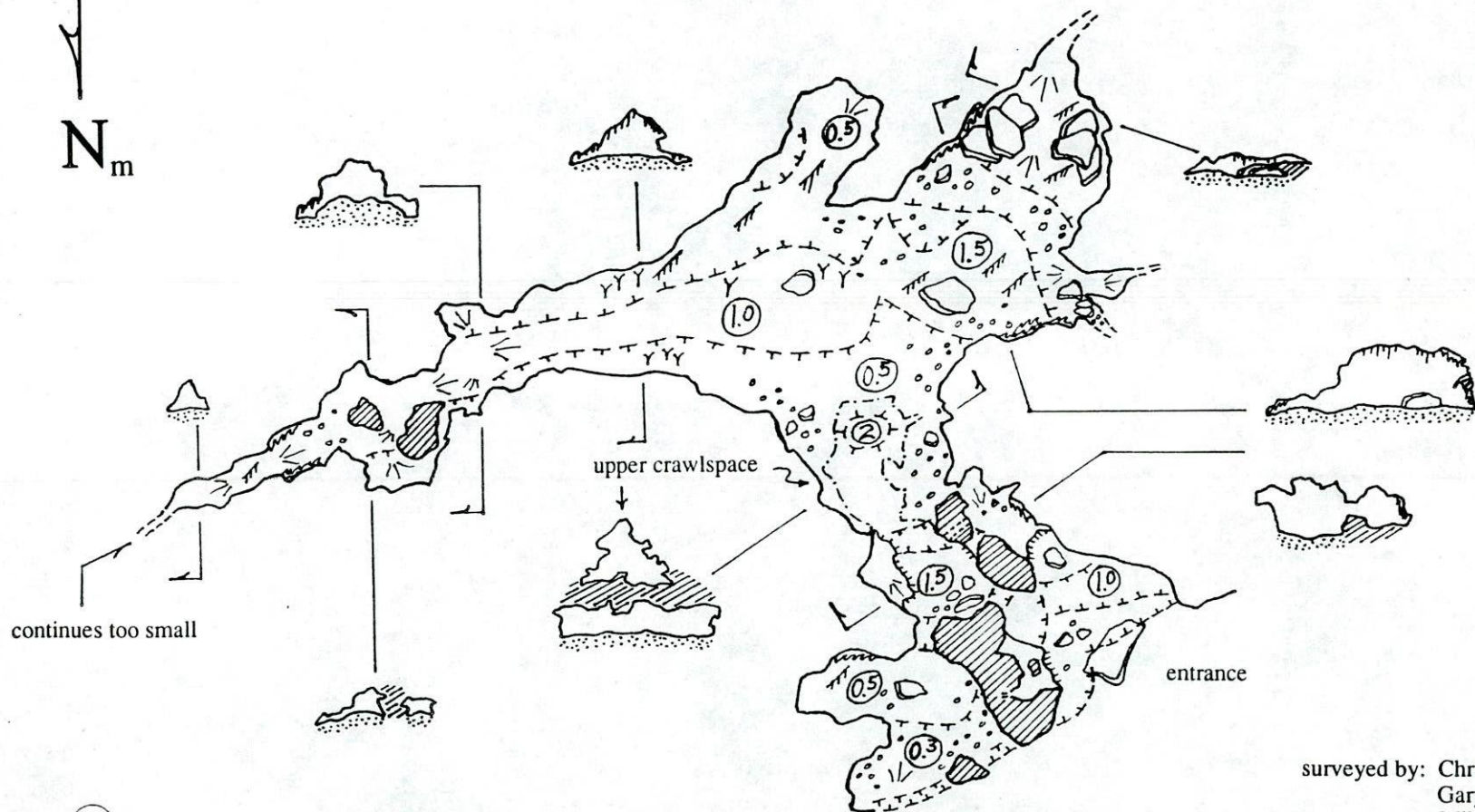


- NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK -
Chris Beck in front of the just completed
Coldwater Cave monument, June, 1993.
Photo by Scott Dankof

Heath Cave

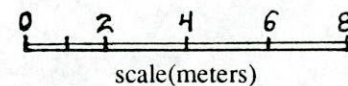
Jackson County, Iowa

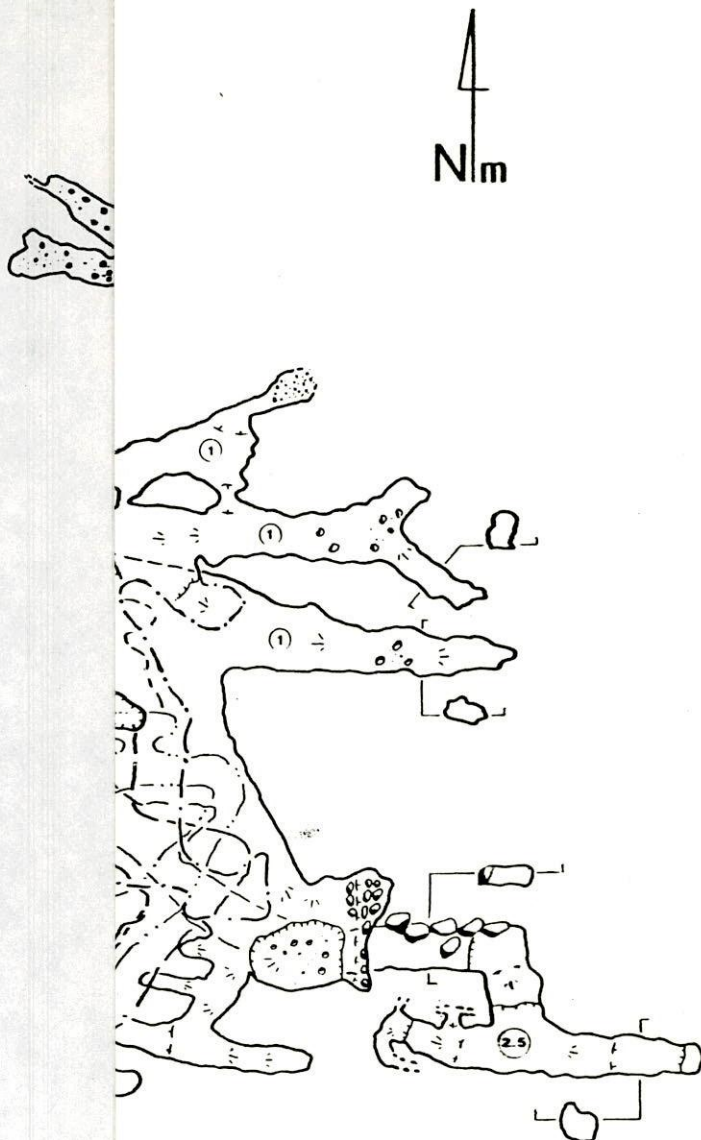
Total horizontal length = 164.48 feet/50.13 meters



ceiling height in meters
N.S.S. standard map symbols
M. Lace 7/93

surveyed by: Chris Beck
Gary Engh
Mike Lace





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OWA

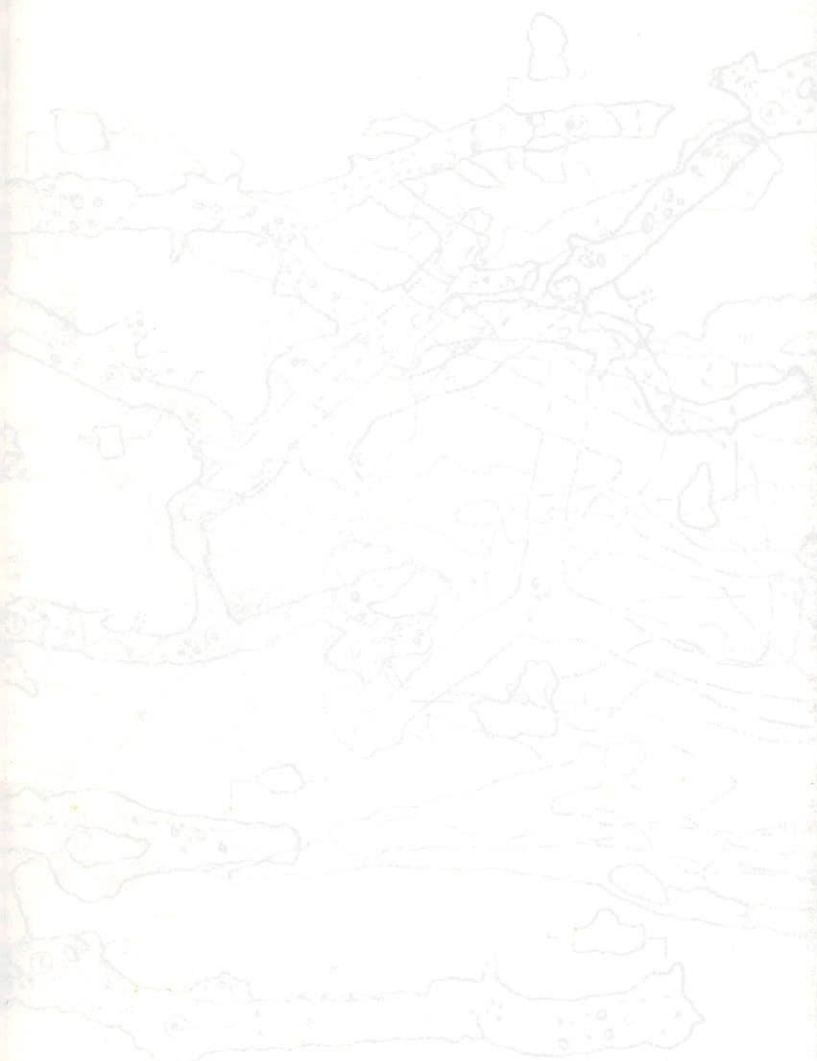
compass and tape survey

6/92 to 3/93
Marc Ohms
Chris Beck
Mike Loe
Eric Winch
Jay Wells

Willie Dienst
Stacey Cyphert
Gary Engh
Mark Jones
Jacob Hugart
Doug Schmucker



Marc Ohms



SPIRAL CAV

DUBUQUE COUNTY, IO

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