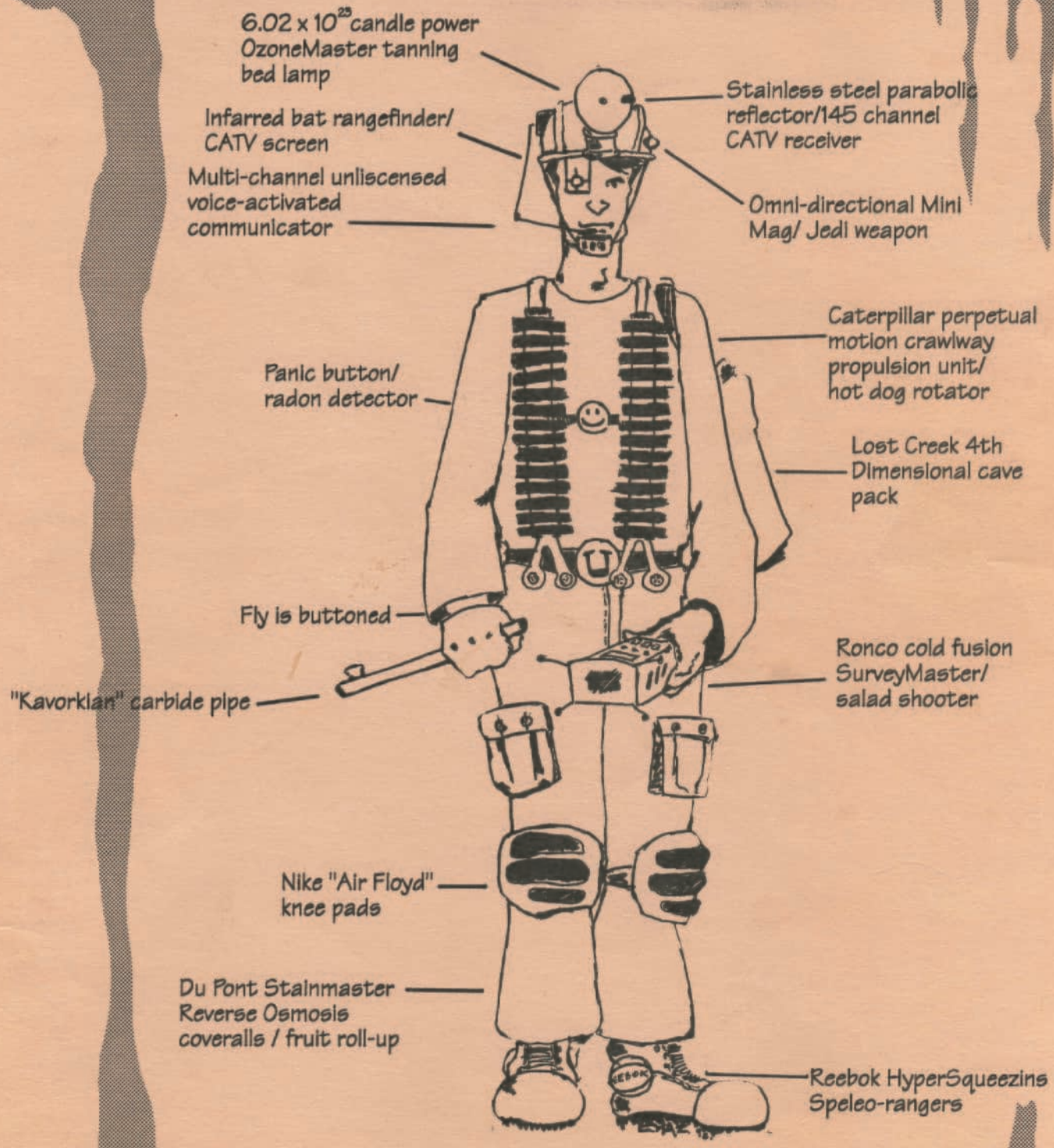
Karst-O-Rama '92

Greater Cincinnati Grotto



The Caver of the Future

Andy Niekamp

Schedule Of Events

Friday July 17th

12 noon	Registration Opens
You arrive	Howdy Party at Shelter

Saturday July 18th

All Day	Registration Continues
9am	Cave Trip Registration Closes Trips start to leave from shelter
10am	Hydrology Road Trip Departs from Shelter
2pm	Road Rally Departs from Cave Entrance
6:30pm	GCG Meeting at Shelter
7pm	Banquet at Shelter
8pm	Guest Speaker - Phil DiBlasi At Shelter
9pm	Door Prizes
9:30pm	Mystery Band

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NSS #29094
CAVE LIBRARY

Credits

Karst-O-Rama Chairperson	Bill Thoman
Master Guidebook Editors	Howard Kalnitz
	Mike Michalack
	Lane Stocker
Guidebook Artwork	Chaz Schaffner
T-Shirt Design	John Agnew
Cave Trips	Mike Michalack
Hydrology RoadTrip	Gary O'Dell
GSP Grand Bike Traverse	Howard Kalnitz
Guest Speaker	Phil Di Blasi
Facility Gurus	John Wisher
	Ron Crawford
	Smokey Weibel



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Karst-O-Rama

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The Electric Caver
c/o Howard Kalnitz
6313 Kincaid Road
Cincinnati, OH 45213

Exchanges and other correspondence should be sent to the Grotto address. Other organizations are free to reprint material from monthly publications when credit and homage is given to the *Electric Caver* and especially the editor.

Deadline for publication material is the 20th of the month prior to publication. Written contributions, drawings, and photos should be mailed, faxed, or delivered through some other unconventional means, to the editor. The staff reserves the right to edit material to conform to the present format of the *Electric Caver*, as they have proven capable of doing.

Regular meetings of the GCG are held in 510 Swift Hall at th University of Cincinnati at 8 p.m. on the first Friday of every month, except July when Karst-O-Rama and the unofficial wapatuli competition is held. Everybody is welcome.

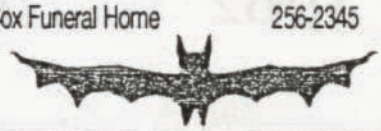
Board meetings are held once each month before the regular meeting. Contact the Grotto for exact time and location. All are invited and encouraged to attend bored meetings.

Full membership in the Grotto is open only to NSS members. Dues for the year, beginning in January, are $10 for NSS members, $12 for non-NSS, and a subscription for non members is merely $12.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Mount Vernon:

Ambulance	256-4923
Fire	256-2121
Police	256-2178
Sheriff	256-2031
Cox Funeral Home	256-2345



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Welcome to KARST-O-RAMA "92"

We're happy you decides to join us in celebrating Greater Cincinnati Grotto's 30th Birthday. We have planned a variety of events this weekend and are hopeful that everyone's interest will be satisfied.
In an effort to help everyone enjoy themselves, we listed some information and "please" do's and don'ts.

KARST-O-RAMA REGISTRATION will be at the top of the hill. We should have someone around there most of the time. Please check the Guide Book Schedule of Events for times.

CAVE TRIPS REGISTRATION for guided cave trips will be handled at the shelter house. There will be sign-up sheets there for you to register. All guided trips will leave from that area also.

BANQUET on Saturday Evening is a "bring your own dish affair". Everybody cools up their own specialty and brings it to the shelter house to be set out with everyone else's dish. Then in true caver style, we gather around and devour everything that's there. So bring your campground specialty and join the fun.

SHOWER HOUSE: The water in the shower house is from the creek. It has been treated like swimming pool water, but it is NOT recommended for drinking or doing dishes. We have a holding tank providing the water so please keep the little ones from playing there and try to make sure the water is off when you leave. The toilets in the shower house are out of order — so please don't use them.

OUT HOUSES: AH! The great outdoors. Because of our recent extensive renovations, you now have your choice of a 1, 2 or 3 holer. We'll do everything we can to keep these up to "sniff" (or is that snuff) this weekend, but you can help. You'll find a can if lime in each of the outhouses. If you'd just sprinkle a little hole freshener in when you've finished your business, it will most likely help everyone. Caution: Lime can burn your skin, so be careful and don't let the little ones get into it.

PETS: Please keep your pets leashed or under your control during the event. This is for the comfort and safety of everyone—including your pet.

FIREWORKS OR FIREARMS: We are asking that no one uses fireworks or firearms on the property. It really isn't the time or place for it.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Now with that out of the way, I want to thank everyone who has helped prepare for KARST-O-RAMA. A large number of people have contributed a lot of hard work to prepare for this year's event. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them and especially mention the contribution of John Wisher who has lead most of the construction and fix-up projects, Howard Kalnitz who handled the guide book plus numerous other details and Ron Crawford who has worked so hard to get and keep the property looking good.

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Finally, we ask that you help us promote the positive image we have by being good ambassadors within the local community. Many residents are not just cave owners, they are friends. Please treat them and their property with respect.

Thank you for attending this year's KARST-O-RAMA. Cave softly and safely. Have fun and hope to see you again next year!

Bill Thoman
Karst-O-Rama "92"
Chairman

Greater Cinn. Grotto Chairman

Welcome to the first Karst-O-Rama. There has been a lot of work put into this event. It has been a great G.S.P. committee and Grotto effort. The Bluegrass Grotto deserves thanks also as they also have members on the G.S.P. committee who are part of this effort.

The Great Saltpetre property is looking great. The June 20th clean-up was another successful effort. The "first class, deep hole outhouse" was finished by John Wisher and crew. Another crew finished the roof on the shelter. A hot water heater was installed in the shower house and the interior of the showerhouse was cleaned and painted. There was some work on the water lines (trying to get water to the tank), not yet successful. We also installed the completely rebuilt tractor engine into the tractor and it now runs great. There was also some mowing and general cleanup accomplished. All in all, a lot was done.

Thanks to Wilbur for keeping the shelter area and the campground mowed during the absence of the tractor.

Also thanks to that core group of 40-50 people who have put so much effort into this event. I would like to name all of you, but the memory wanes and we don't have the space.

Please, please keep landowner relations in mind when traveling to and from the campground and the caves. The local people are mostly good, God fearing people, please be courteous and friendly to them.

One item about caving:
John Wisher took a group into Bob Dobbs cave on this cleanup weekend and they found more cave - and there is some air movement, probably the first found here - Is this a suck in?

Have a Great time.
Ron Crawford

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Guidebook Editor

Welcome to Karst-O-Rama !!
Have a great time! There is a lot to do:

Go caving
Drink a wapatulli (official drink of Greater Cinn. Grotto).
Take a bike ride.
Tour Rockcastle County.
Visit our Vendors.
Relax in Crooked Creek.
Check out the new Outhouses.

We worked hard on this event and we hope ya'll enjoy it. Most of all we are proud of the cavers in our Grotto. With only a few exceptions all the maps in this guidebook have all been generated by members of our grotto, some a while back, some recently.
In this guidebook alone there are 4 new, never before published cave maps!! Two redone, and two brand new: Horselick Cemetery, Bobb Dobbs, Homestead, and the new Great Saltpeter map with the new section added in. What a bonus! And because the real purpose of caving is to enjoy yourself while contributing knowledge about the world around us - we put an emphasis on cartography. So enjoy these new editions. Survey and give us more maps for next year!!
Later Caver Dudes,
Howard Kalnitz DDD NSS 20678

GSP Committee Chairman

The past 12 months have been full of accomplishments at GSP. The more important accomplishments were: discovering more caves on the property; purchase of a tractor (thanks GCG) for mowing the grass (I wonder if Bill Thoman ever got over the pain of writing the check?); Building another toilet closer to the shelter house (thanks to Boss Wisher and his crew); installed a new water pump system for the house; additional picnic tables; electric service at campsites; grading and graveling the road (thanks to Wilbur and the Rockcastle County Board of Education); painted the house; "Farmer" Ron and all his helpers removing brush and thinning out surplus trees; published a new pamphlet on GSP; conducted many tours of GSP for Boy & Girl Scout groups and held an open house for the local residents. Many thanks to those who helped in the above accomplishments and to those unmentioned tasks that were done in the last year. Some of the things that are needed in the future are: establishing nature trails on the property; getting running water in the shower building; surveying and publishing a new map of GSP Cave, and removal of trash from the cave. We are very close to being self-supporting as far as finances go. This is due mainly to income from camping fees and donations from organized groups touring the cave. We also made some money during the "open house", selling souvenirs and refreshments. Anyone wanting a GSP T-Shirt can purchase one from any GSP committee member. A change in the make-up of the GSP committee was made in the past year - that is - the GSP committee is now a committee of Greater Cincinnati Grotto. I must confess that I was a bit concerned when it was first mentioned but will now admit that it was a good move. Again, I and the GSP committee wish to thank everyone who contributed in any way at GSP this past year. I wish we could mention everyone's name that helped, probably the easiest way to do this would be to publish the membership roster of the Grotto. If we can accomplish as much next year as we have in the past year, maybe we will have time to do something we all enjoy - caving softly (and often).
Wesley Kiefer
Chairman - GSP Preserve
NSS #25413

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The area we cave in is surrounded by the Daniel Boone National Forest, with many natural attraction. The Berea District Ranger Station and Research center is on Rt. 421 south of Berea. Some 20-30 miles east of GSPC is Turkeyfoot campground and recreation area in Jackson County. A Forest Service brochure describes a large limestone sinkhole as one of its features. Maps and brochures will be available at registration.

Keeping Cool

The next best place to a cave is a shady hole in Crooked Creek. However, if you must have chlorine with your swimming water - The KOA campground, Renfro Valley Hotel, and the EconLodge at exit 62 may allow the use of their pools for a fee.

For those who would trade chlorine for sand, a beach can be found on Lake Linville at Refro Valley. Heading south, there are several state lakes near London, namely Laurel River Lake, and Wood Creek Lake.

Levi Jackson State Park (in London), site of a section of the Wilderness road, also features a pool.

Travel

Anglin Falls

The sandstone caprock of the area presents many waterfalls with impressize re-entrance zones or rock-shelters in the cliff-faces of the numerous side valleys or hollows. Most of these falls are unapproachable at this time of the year due to dense foliage Anglin Falls however has a well manicured trail leading to its base. The trail is maintained by the Venable family who own this property. Get their permission and parking instruction.

From the entrance gate, turn right on Rt. 1004, 1.5 miles to Rt. 1955 (Red Hill Road). Turn left and proceed 3.6 miles where it turns right at a "T" intersection, continue on Rt. 1955 for an additional 7 miles Then turn left onto Rt. 421. Continue for 3.5 miles on 421 to Clear Creek/ Hammond Fork Road, turning left. Continue for 3 miles to Anglin Fork Road on the left, a downhill hairpin turn. Follow this road 1 mile to Anglin Fork and turn left. Follow driveway to last house, The Venables, and ask permission.

Headed South

Southwest travel will take you to several non-caving attractions such as:

- General Burnsides State Park on Lake Cumberland
- Sloans Valley Cave (oops!)
- Cumberland Falls
- Yahoo Falls
- Big South Fork National River Recreation Area

Moving North

North travel offers

- Renfro Valley Country Music Entertainment Center
- Museums And Shops
- The Souther Kentucky Visitors Information Center.

At Fort Boonesboro you can tour a pioneer fort with working crafts demonstrations of the era. Boat rides are available to view the palisades of the Kentucky river.

In Berea you can patronize a variety of craft shops, antique shops, a Chinese Restaurant, and a K-Mart (incase you forgot something important - like a tent)

Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond features nightly shows at the Hammel Planetarium and Space Theater. Richmond is also the closest supply depo for alcoholic beverages.

Restaurants

Exit 59 offers 4 choices:

Jeans Restaurant offer good home cooked meals and friendly service

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Ole Kentucky Kitchen has Southern Fried Chicken and Applestack cakes. Eat in or carry-out

Pizza Hut and Best Westerns' "Kastle Inn" are on the south side of the exit

For more choices turn right on Rt. 25 and take this road into Mt. Vernon. Turn right at the flashing light and continue on Rt. 25. Soon you will see a Tasty Freeze on the left, if Chilidogs and Bannana Splits are what you seek.

Millers Red Top Restaurant is your next chance. It has a large dining room so bring the whole gang. Millers is at the intersection of Rt. 25 and Rt. 461

Looping back towards I-75 and exit 62 you can choose from Wendys', Dairy Queen, and Dennys on the right side, and Rockcastle Steakhouse, and a Pizza Place on the left.

Bill Simpson

Local Karst Attractions

Boat Spring AKA Boat Dock Spring.
This is an "unregulated public access" water supply less than a half mile from GSP campground entrance. Located at the base of a hill on the LH side of Rt 1004 at the junction of Mullins Station Road. Many GCG members as well as local residents stop here for a cool drink or to fill jugs for later use.

Mullins Spring Cave Resurgence.
Turn left from GSP onto Rt 1004. Travel 1 1/2 miles and turn right at the 8 mile marker onto Crooked Creek Road. This large spring from an equally large cave makes a significant contribution to the spring fed Crooked Creek. On a hot day you will often find folks congregating here to enjoy the cool air flowing out of this entrance. Water haulers also stop here and load their trucks to fill cisterns or water boxes of area residents.

Arthur Singleton's Cave Resurgence and the "Sinking" of Crooked Creek.
Continue about 2 miles from Mullin's Spring Cave on Crooked Creek Road. Shortly after crossing a short timber bridge at a "T" intersection, park on the RH shoulder at the fork in the road. (Note: The RH fork is 4 wheel drive and requires a fording of Crooked Creek. The LH fork continues up to Johnetta and Goochland. It is a narrow single lane road that may require backing up to a wide spot to allow an oncoming vehicle to pass.) Walk down the obvious path on the RH side to view the resurgence. Note the dry or low-flow stream bed to the left. Walk back toward the car and down the RH fork of the road to the stream bed and turn left (upstream). Within 50 yards observe the "sink area" on the LH side (depending on water levels). Continue upstream several hundred yards to another sink area. A keen eye will likely find corral fossils in the stream bed.

Mullins Station
Mullins Station was once a thriving community that flourished around the limestone quarry and timber industry. This is a horizontal quarry where in a technique known as "room and pillar" quarrying was used. A certain dimensional segment would be removed and a corresponding section left to support the ceiling. In more recent years the site was utilized as a coal tipple for area strip mines. Directions: 3 miles from GSP. Turn left onto Rt 1004 to the bottom of hill and turn left onto Mullins Station Rd. Follow this gravel/dirt road until you cross a steel bridge with wooden planks over Roundstone Creek. The old quarry is 1/2 mile from the bridge on the RH side of the road. Recently the property has been posted, but casual visits seem to be tolerated. The "posting" may be towards those seeking

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a place to rappel which would be hazardous due to the unstable, fractured rock. Across the creek and to the left are more entrances which are very much off limits. The Kentucky Powder Company uses these remote chambers for an industrial explosives factory.

"Sinks" of Roundstone Creek

Continue past Mullins Station Quarry one mile to parking area on the LH shoulder. Follow Roundstone Creek several hundred yards downstream to a point where it disappears into limestone openings at sub-base level. Continue down the dry stream bed 100 yards to the third entrance of Sinks of Roundstone Cave which is the flood overflow route. These waters as well as those which sink within the passages of Sinks of Roundstone Cave travel through subterranean aquifers for a distance of four surface miles to he south where they resurface in a rise pool known as the "boils". There, a turbulent volume of rising water resembles a pot of boiling water, hence this nickname.

Blue Hole

One mile further along this road is a low concrete bridge. The stream, which rises 100 feet to the right, is the resurgence of the underground stream in Pine Hill Cave. Within 1500 feet a portion of this is pirated into underground passages that have been dye traced into Sinks of Roundstone Cave. Depending on water levels, the remaining portion continues on another 2000 feet where it sinks into the western or "scenic entrance" of Sinks of Roundstone Cave.

The "Boils" or Rise of Roundstone Creek

From Blue Hole continue on 4/10 mile to US Rt 25, turn left and drive 4 miles into Livingston. On the left hand side is an overgrown gravel driveway along side the Firehouse which is next to the Dairy-Freeze. You may want to park on the street and walk from this point. Follow this alley to the RR tracks, cross the tracks bearing to the right towards an old coal tipple. Just before reaching tipple, follow the dirt road on the left to the "boils". You will probably hear a "humming noise" at this location. It is the sound of motors pumping water for Livingston's water supply. Waters from the rise pool quickly rejoin the surface channel and flow into the Rockcastle River some 2000 feet distant. You may also be able to access the "boils" by continuing through town and turning left into the CSX RR driveway. If you try this way stop and get permission first at RR yard office.

To return to camp, there are three options:

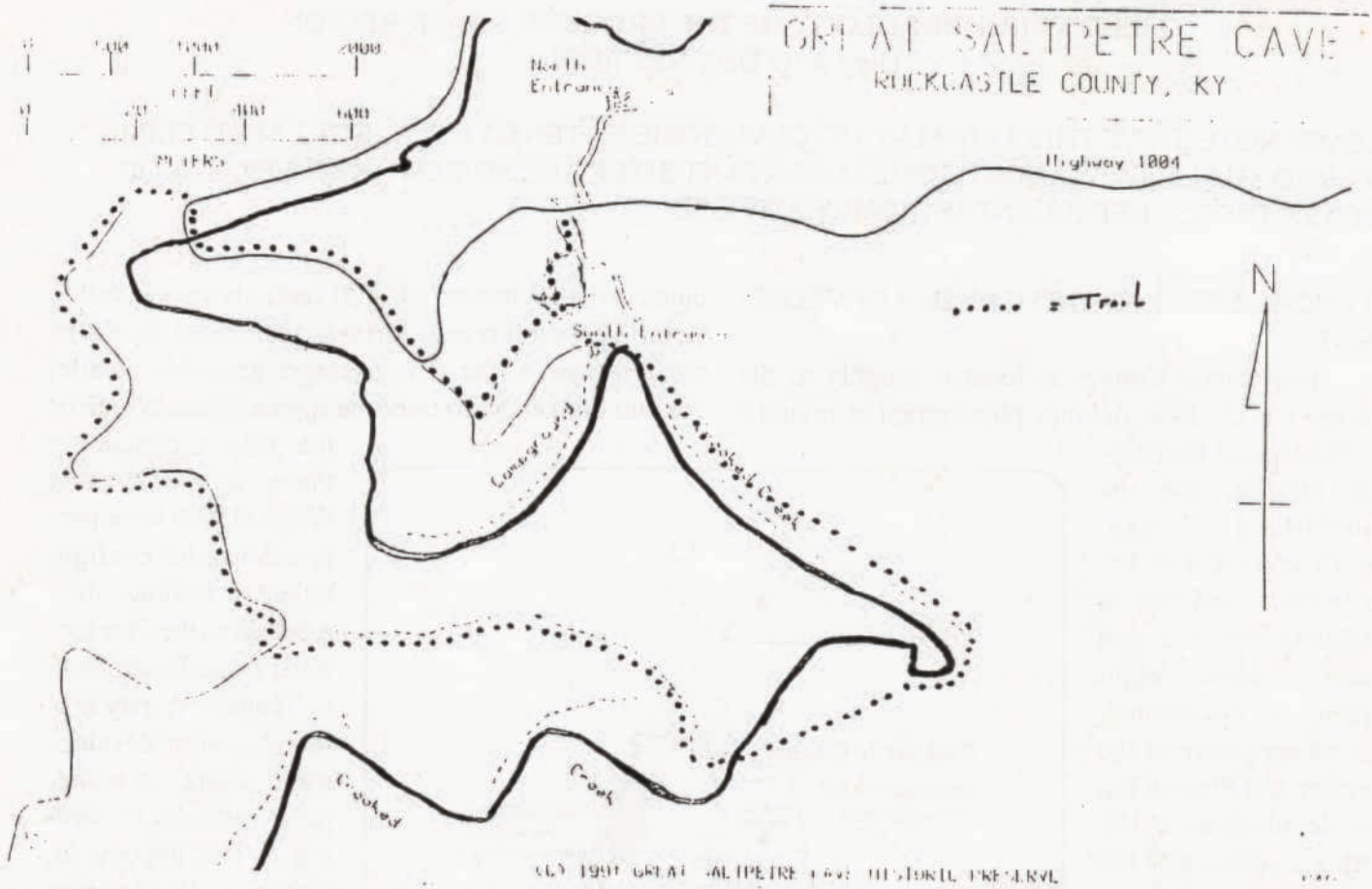
1. Retrace Rt 25 and Mullins Station Road to GSP, about 11 miles.

2. Rt 25 to St Rt 1004 at exit 59 (I75). This is about 16 miles, but you could stop in Mt Vernon for a meal, supplies or gas.

3. From Livingston, go north on Rt 25 to intersection of St Rts 1955 & 490, turn right and cross bridge. At the end of the bridge, turn left following 1955 or "Red Hill Road" (aka Gawley Hill) 6 1/2 miles to jct of St Rt 1004. Turn left following 1004, 1 1/2 miles to GSP entrance. This is the shortest distance from Livingston, 8 miles and entirely paved.

Bill Simpson

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Great Saltpetre Preserve Grand Traverse
Mountain Biking Kentucky Style

1-hour of riding/walking Moderate to Strenuous

Start at stage in Grand Ballroom of GSP Cave. Peddle out to Rt. 1004 and proceed downhill and across the cement bridge. Be cautious of local road traffic. Take the left directly after the bridge and pant uphill, sometimes steeply. Soon the road levels out (hurray) and at .8 miles (from the bridge) look for a road that cuts back to the left. If you reach a cattle guard, you have gone too far and need to come back.

Proceed down the dirt road always bearing left. Start heading downhill steeply, dodging mudpuddles and rocks. Pass through a set of fenceposts. Hardin Baker Cave is just down to the right.

This road passes through high brush at the bottom before it reaches a cornfield.

At the cornfield turn left on a better road and follow to a ford - cross this ford - then go left and up a bank. Welcome to the Trackless Vegetable Void (bring your weedeater). This field has no roads, just some small trails. Keep to the left, towards the end of the fields you will find a very rocky trail between the creek and the cliff.

Follow this trail to a small stream. Cross this stream - watch for barbed wire on the other side. Pass through barbed wire and find another road and turn left. Follow this road for a stretch and it will cross a ford, the 'footwash'. Proceed up the little hill and on to the shelter.

Howard Kalnitz

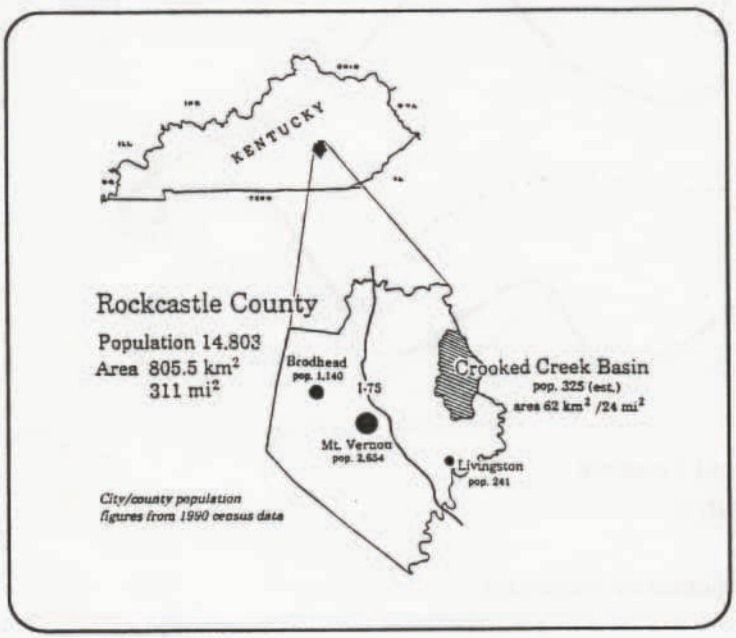
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FIELD TRIP: HYDROLOGY OF THE CROOKED CREEK REGION
Gary A. O'Dell, NSS 10278

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS TRIP MAY INVOLVE SOME EXTENSIVE WALKING, MILD CLIMBING AND SHALLOW WADING. SOME IMPORTANT SITES ARE SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT OF ACCESS. INSECT REPELLENT IS HIGHLY ADVISED

PHYSICAL SETTING AND CAVERN DEVELOPMENT

Rockcastle County is located roughly at the intersection of three distinct physiographic regions; the Bluegrass, Mississippian Plateau, and the Cumberland Plateau. The Crooked Creek basin is contained within the latter province and occupies about eight percent of the county. The western edge of the Cumberland Plateau has been deeply dissected by surface streams and has a rugged and mountainous terrain. In the study area, as for much of the region, ridges of up to 150 meters (500 feet) in height are separated by narrow valleys. These ridges are generally composed of soluble limestones of Middle and Upper Mississippian age capped by Lower and Middle Pennsylvanian sandstones. Major groundwater movement is characterized by conduit flow, with extensive cave systems having developed in the Newman Limestone, composed of the Upper member, the Ste. Genevieve and the St. Louis limestones. The cave-forming limestones occupy the middle sections of the ridges, with less soluble rocks comprising the lower portions and the present valley of Crooked Creek.



Consequently, cave systems are generally developed well above the valley floor. Characteristically, cave entrances occur at the base of limestone cliffs that outcrop 10-30 meters (35-100 feet) above the valley floor. These represent former, abandoned levels of conduit flow. Older cave passages generally parallel contour lines and thus trace the approximate outlines of the ridges containing them. Sasowsky and White (1992) have proposed that this configuration, according to their research on the Cumberland Plateau Escarpment in Tennessee, may represent cavern development along stress-release fractures. According to this hypothesis, valley walls fracture outward due to loss of support during stream entrenchment. Virtually every ridge contains one or more caves, and almost without exception cavern morphology conforms to the model suggested by Sasowsky and White. However, explorations have shown that, for many caves in the Crooked Creek area, there exists a network of cross-connections located above those passages that parallel the valleys. These nonconforming, high level cave passages may represent an era of cave development that predates valley entrenchment. The various caves in the study area range from fragments a few meters long to very extensive systems as much as 24 kilometers in extent. Among the largest cave systems in the Crooked Creek basin are Goochland Cave (24.0+km/15.0+miles), Precinct 11 Cave (8.0+ km/ 5.0+ miles), Miller's Cave (3.3 km/2.0 miles), and

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Smokehole Cave (3.0+ km/1.85 miles).

Present-day stream flow in these cave systems results from a process of secondary development. The abandoned upper-level passages often appear strongly influenced by local joint orientation. These passages are usually large and dry, and pierced by active vertical shafts that carry water running off the sandstone caprocks to the lower, active levels (those carrying present-day stream flow) Morphology of the lower levels appears less influenced by joint sets, often displaying a meander pattern similar to that of surface streams. Active passages also pierce the less soluble Borden formation, mainly in the Renfro member, though such passages are usually very small and sinuous and difficult to follow. Many of these stream passages in the Borden can only be inferred, being blocked by rubble at the bottom of shaft drains.

Springs are common throughout the basin, where contemporary conduit flow resurges at surface valleys. These springs are usually found at the southern edge of ridges and at the mouths of tributary valleys; underground conduit flow appears to parallel surface stream flow. Some of the larger springs function as a distributary, where several springs are clustered together and discharge water from a single underground stream. Where conduits are developed in the St. Louis limestone, outlets often form cave entrances. Impressive springs often flow from these caves; an example is the huge Goochland Cave entrance, roughly 30 meters (100 feet) wide and 15 meters (50 feet) high with a base flow of 55-85 liters/sec (2-3 cubic feet/sec). Springs emerging lower in the stratigraphic sequence seldom exhibit visible cave passage, usually flowing through rubble or appearing as seeps. Entrances high above the valley floor represent former springs in the Ste. Genevieve/Upper member or passages in those formations exposed by valley entrenchment.

Minor tributary valleys above these springs are dry throughout most of the year, carrying flow only after storm runoff. Several of the major valleys tributary to Crooked Creek also carry no surface flow except after very heavy precipitation. Examples of these are the Dry Fork valley (drainage area 6.0 km^2/2.3 mi^2) and that of Barnett Valley (drainage area 8.3 km^2/3.2 mi^2). During rainfall events, runoff into the Dry Fork and Barnett valleys generally sinks gradually into the stream beds or abruptly into well-defined swallets along the stream courses, so that continuous flow for the full valley length occurs only when the stormwater infiltration capacity for these inlets is successively exceeded. Stormwater is thus carried below or parallel to the dry surface streambeds. The entire Barnett Valley drainage is apparently discharged from the Precinct 11 Cave springs at the end of the ridge southeast from the valley, approximately 395 meters (1,300 feet) downstream from the intersection of the dry valley with Crooked Creek. For the Dry Fork Valley, however, discharge into Crooked Creek apparently occurs at a point remote from the Dry Fork valley mouth, approximately 2.8 km (1.75 miles) down Crooked Creek, emerging from the Arthur Singleton Cave spring. These hypothesized connections have not yet been demonstrated, but planned dye-trace studies during 1992 are expected to establish flow routes for the major springs.

Under base-flow conditions, the flow of Crooked Creek is lost in several locations. particularly just above the Precinct 11 Cave spring and also above the Arthur Singleton Cave spring, where the stream flow disappears underground for short distances and then reemerges. Beyond the Singleton spring, surface stream flow is usually continuous for Crooked Creek to its intersection with Roundstone Creek. Due to the interception of surface runoff into underground conduit systems and the inferred presence of under flow along the Crooked Creek streambed, there appears to be a localized buffering effect on storm runoff. This effect produces a delayed and lessened flood peak, while extending the period of flood recession for Crooked Creek. Flood hazard is thereby reduced for the Crooked Creek basin, in contrast to non-karst areas in eastern Kentucky where similarly steep slopes and narrow valleys have resulted in frequent severe flooding with high costs in terms of human lives and economic losses.

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STOP 1 BOAT SPRING

The Boat Spring is typical of the innumerable small springs that may be seen discharging at or near the mouths of many small tributary valleys in the region. This particular spring emerges through buried rubble and has been directed into a concrete trough built decades ago in the shape of a small rowboat. This is considered an unregulated public access water-supply, as many local people stop here to fill water jugs or just to get a cool drink. It is not recommended that outsiders sample the local springs, as most shallow groundwater in the region is contaminated with fecal bacteria to which residents have acquired some resistance.

STOP 2 HWY 1004 SPRING

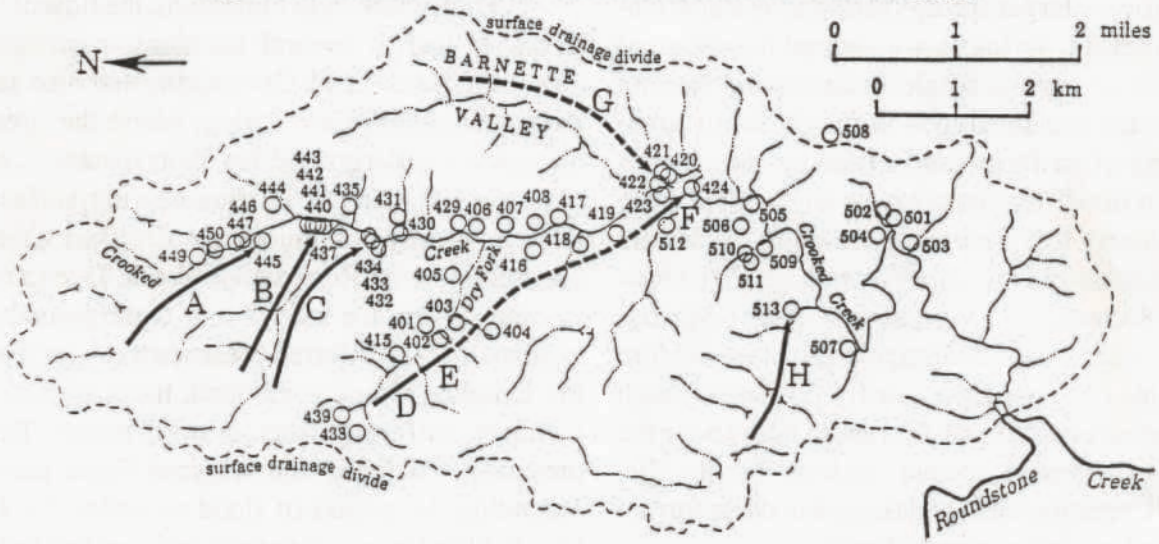
This spring, like the Boat Spring, is an unregulated public access spring and serves as a source of drinking water for many residents who bottle the water for home consumption. The spring emerges from fissures low in the stratigraphic sequence, in the Borden Formation.

STOP 3 CROOKED CREEK/BRUSH CREEK DIVIDE. BEGINNING OF DRY FORK.

Dry Fork creek is one of the major tributaries of upperCrooked Creek, but for most of the year has no flow in the stream bed. Many small springs rise from the valleys tributary to Dry Fork and also Crooked Creek, but are lost again without contributing visible flow to the stream bed. Usually, the tributary valleys are dry above the springs, as flow is carried underground except as runoff from heavy rains. Dry Fork is an example of a major tributary to Crooked Creek where flow has been diverted underground. The flow that would otherwise be carried by Dry Fork is presently believed to emerge from the spring at Arthur Singleton Cave. Dye trace studies are planned for this year to confirm this hypothesis.

Major Groundwater Flow Routes - Crooked Creek Basin

GAO 1992



A Goochland Cave, Right Fork
B Goochland Cave, Left Fork
C Smokehole Cave
D Up and Down Cave
E Miller's Cave
F Arthur Singleton Cave
G Precinct Eleven Cave
H Mullins Spring Cave

O spring
sinking stream
groundwater flow route, surveyed cave stream
groundwater flow route, hypothesized

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STOP 4 SPRING 415

This spring once served as a water supply for a home across the road, which was abandoned and burned during 1991. The former resident purchased land farther down Dry Fork, where a more reliable spring is located. Note that the discharge from this spring reaches the Dry Fork streambed and flows for about a hundred feet before sinking through the sand and gravel.

STOP 5 MILLERS GROCERY. MILLERS CAVE. SPRING 401.

The main entrance to Miller's Cave may be seen in the hillside above the Miller Grocery, as an opening about 8 feet high located approximately 80 feet up the slope. Miller's Cave is a very complex system and has five known entrances. Most of the Miller's Cave passages (10,800 feet surveyed) have no flowing water; however, the very lowest level of the cave contains a large flowing stream that is believed to be a continuation of that from Up and Down Cave in the next ridge northwest. Various domes and fissures from the upper cave levels contribute small amounts of flow to the main stream. Two smaller streams are also found in Miller's Cave, one of which crosses over the Miller main stream to discharge from the hillside. The main stream in Miller's Cave is believed to be the main drainage for the valley.

A short distance up the small valley opposite the Miller Grocery is located the Miller domestic use spring (#401) which is the drain for this tributary valley. Several small caves are known from this valley.

STOP 6 PARK BELOW SPRING 435, FOLLOW CROOKED CREEK UPSTREAM APPROX 3/4 MILE

The upper reaches of Crooked Creek have a number of features of interest. The field trip will continue from the parking area on foot, as the road past here is suitable only for trucks or 4WD and hiking proves more informative. Spring #435 will not be seen on the trip, but is again a typical tributary valley mouth discharge, lacking enterable cave passage.

STOP 7 SPRINGS 446 & 447.

These springs discharge at or near Crooked Creek base level during wet weather. Similar springs farther upstream are perennial, and originate the flow of Crooked Creek. Beyond springs 449 and 450, the upper reaches of Crooked Creek are normally dry.

STOP 8 GOOCHLAND CAVE MAIN ENTRANCE

Goochland Cave is the largest known cave in Rockcastle County, and its drainage is fairly complex. There are two large, distinct stream networks in the cave system, each with its own tributary cave streams, that occupy separate major branches of the cave. Discharging here at the Goochland main entrance is the perennial stream from the Right Side. A short distance inside the entrance can be seen colonial Lithostrontian corals embedded in the roof, an index fossil for the St. Louis limestone.

STOP 9 GOOCHLAND SPRINGS, RETURN TO VEHICLES

Proceeding downstream from the main Goochland entrance, at the toe of the ridge may be seen a grouping of springs that discharge from the Left Side stream network of Goochland Cave. These springs, like those of several of the larger underground conduit systems in the area, form a distributary network, where water from a single cave stream discharges at multiple outlets. One of these springs at the end of the ridge has in recent years blown out overlying soil and rock so that a cave entrance was uncovered. The writer has not yet pushed this to see if actual connection into the Left Side can be made from here.

STOP 10 SPRING 431 (ALLEN'S CAVE SPRING)

This is yet another of the springs found near a small tributary valley mouth, yet the amount of water that issues from this perennial cave spring seems to indicate that a much larger cave than presently known may exist here.

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STOP 11 PARK AT COOKSBURG. CROOKED CREEK SINKS AND RISES.COOKSBURG CAVE. PRECINCT 11 SPRING. PRECINCT 11 CAVE. ARTHUR SINGLETON CAVE SPRING. RETURN TO VEHICLES.

This is one of the most hydrologically interesting areas contained within the Crooked Creek drainage. Note that near the creek crossing, Crooked Creek sinks and then rises again a short distance downstream. This is primarily due to a structural feature, a small syncline. Above the abandoned house is Cooksburg Cave, where a stream issues from the cave entrance and tumbles immediately down a 30-foot pit to mingle with the waters of the Precinct 11 Cave system. The P-11 spring is a short hike north from here, and is a "bluehole" that discharges nearly at base level for Crooked Creek. Just beyond this is the actual entrance to P11, which is also a bluehole or artesian spring, except that during base flow conditions the spring may be entered. Following heavy rains, the P-11 entrance has an impressive flow, as witnessed by the amount of sand and gravels blown out and piled at the entrance.

About a quarter-mile up Crooked Creek from the P-11 springs is the entrance to Barnett Valley, to which unfortunately time will not permit an excursion. This is classic example of a dry valley. There is little or no flow at the mouth of this large tributary valley, as virtually all drainage is carried underground through the P-11 system. Through the length of the valley, a streambed appears and disappears, sometimes well-defined and most often showing no sign of existence. Midway up the valley is a large swallet, 12 feet deep and 30 feet wide. Tributary valleys, like those along Dry Fork, are dry through much of the year, but unlike dry fork, there are no springs at there mouths. Barnett Valley is somewhat an inversion of Dry Fork, in that during rainfall events, runoff gathers from the upper portions of the small valleys so that flow is present for most of their length, but plunges abruptly underground when approaching the valley mouth. Some of these are hanging valleys, where the mouth is perched 10 or 20 feet above the main valley.

Returning back to the sink and rise of Crooked Creek, follow the creek downstream a short distance to Arthur Singleton Cave, where a large spring discharges directly into Crooked Creek immediately below the cave entrances. It is believed that this spring constitutes the resurgence for the entire Dry Fork Valley drainage, being the continuation of the Miller's Cave main stream. Note that the Singleton Cave entrance is a high-level overflow route for the spring below. During base flow conditions, Crooked Creek is dry above this spring, which then comprises the entire flow of the stream.

STOP 12 MULLINS SPRING CAVE. RETURN TO CAMPGROUND.

Like the Singleton Spring and the P-ll spring, Mullins Spring discharges the drainage from an entire major tributary valley. This large spring has a substantial cave behind it, and serves as a semi-public water supply for many area residents.

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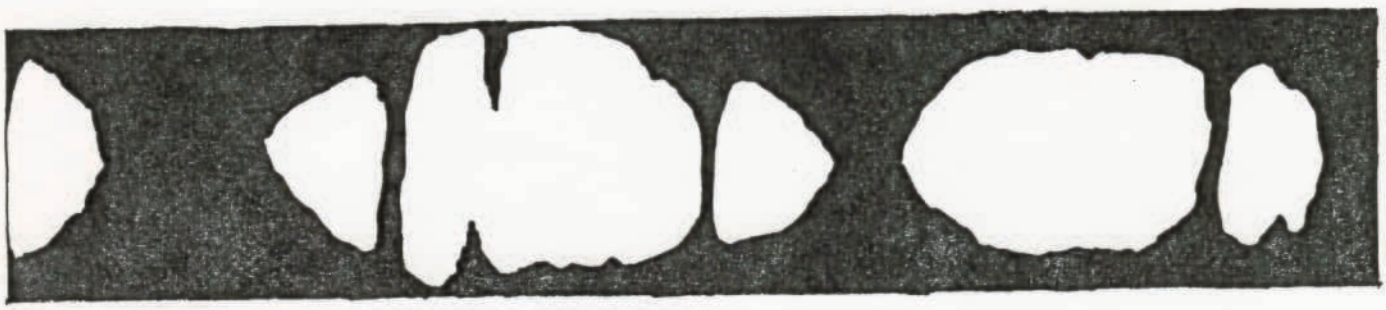
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Guided Caves

Cave	Type	Leader	Ranking	Size
Pine Hill	Vertical/120ft	Lance Copas	Hard	8-10
Pine Hill	Horizontal	Bill Simpson	Easy	8-10
Crooked Creek Ice Cave	Horizontal	Ron Crawford	Medium	12
Bob Dobbs	Horizontal	Dennis Englert	Medium	8-10
Arthur Singletons	Horizontal	Tony Weibel	Easy	8
Mullins Spring	Wet/Horz	Werner Jud	Medium	8-10
Misty	Horizontal	Mark Rocklin	Exploration	5
Deweys Drop	Vertical/80'	Pit Monitor	Medium	open

Cave Trips start leaving at 9am. Check Sign-ups for exact time and changes
Deweys Drop will have a monitor to suggest rigging locations and help locate the pit. This person will not supply equipment or training. All groups must be fully equipped and competent.

Unguided Caves

Cave	Type	Comment	Rating
Great Saltpeter	Horizontal	Open all Weekend	Easy
Millers	Vert/ Horiz.		Hard
Hardin Bakers	Horzontal	Close by/ Night Trips?	Easy
P-11	Wet/Horiz.	Nose dip/ Brain Dip	Hard
Homestead	Vert/Horiz.	Open Air Pit/ 75'	Medium
Across the Road	Horizontal		Medium
Sinks Of Roundstone	Horizontal	Classic Large Cave	Easy
Horselick Cemetery	Horiz/Wet	500ft Water Crawl	Medium
Horselick Hell	Vert/Horz.	Climbing/ No Rope	Hard

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Arthur Singletons Cave

This cave is not too large, but has nicely decorated passages. Many small crawlways are available for those who like to wiggle. But, they can be avoided if you prefer the easier routes, The main passages are easily negotiated, with only a short bit of crawling. The little work is worth the effort for the nice flowstone, rimpools, soda straws, and other formations you'll see. A nice series of domes are also available to those who don't mind a short water crawl. All in all, this is a nice little cave for a 2 to 5 hour trip.

The entrance is a slot in the rock wall 3' above the level of Crooked Creek. 15' inside, the entrance room of offers a choice of three passages. Straight ahead, the most inviting tube quickly ends in a mud choke. A low right lead goes, via the One-legged Crawl to the domes, after one crosses the water crawl, Nadine's Bathtub. The tiny left lead from the entrance room (not shown on the map) wiggles into a tiny room full of soda straws.

The right lead out of the entrance room leads to the rest of the cave, after you crawl about 90' over rimpool dams. One enters a N-S walking passage, nicely decorated in both directions. Up the left lead, one must duck under a flowstone choke coming off both walls, If you stay on your knees and do a right turn you can crawl 40' into the largest room in the cave, the Empire Room. A short climb to the top of the breakdown filling the room will reward you with beautiful formations, including a row of columns, one of which is pure white on one side and pure black on the other ... exceptional!

From the bottom of the Empire Room, where you entered, a hole through the right side of the breakdown pile leads around behind the pile. A left crawlway at the end of this trail wiggles back up to the top of the pile. Or if you turn right before climbing, you can come out in the end of the N-S walking passage. Near here a low level stream cuts across the passage. The upstream lead goes to the dry weather entrance further up Crooked Creek. Many small passages invite one to further investigate. A tiny karst window entrance can be found at the end of the trail along the right side of' the Empire Room pile, but the tube requires some tricky chimneying to find it.

Cave Location:

From the entrance gate go downhill (left) on Rt. 1004 1.2 miles to Crooked Creek road (just past the 8 mile marker). Turn right here and drive 2 miles to a fork in the road. Park on the right hand shoulder. Parking is limited so please carpool. This is a narrow and much used road, take care not to block traffic. Entrance is at the base of the hill on the right hand shoulder at creek level.

Gary Bush (17697)

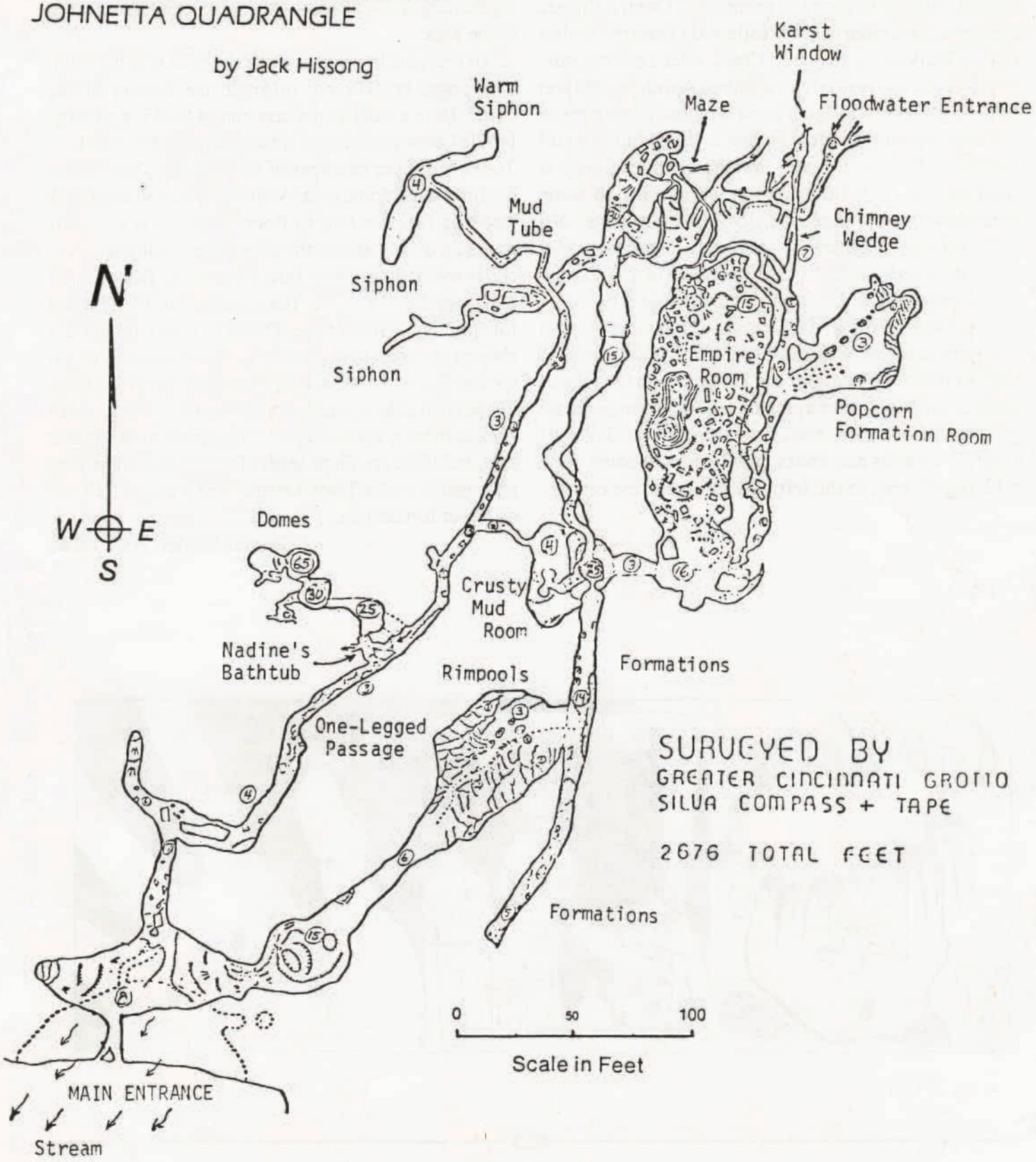
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Arthur Singleton's Cave

ROCKCASTLE COUNTY, KENTUCKY

JOHNETTA QUADRANGLE

by Jack Hissong



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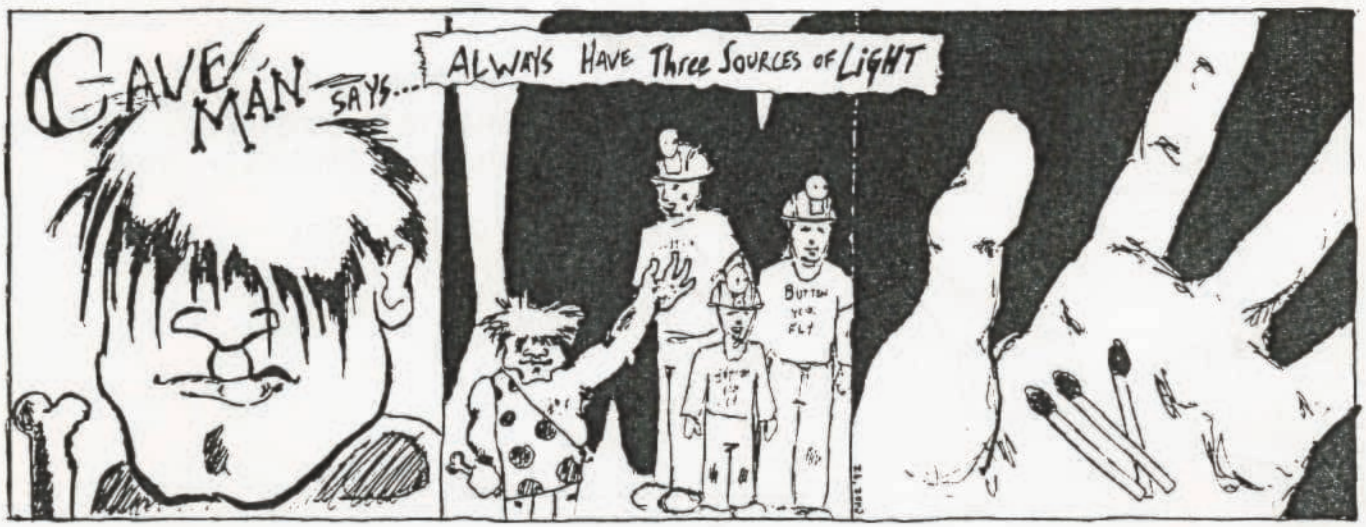
Bob Dobbs Cave

Bob Dobbs is a recent discovery which lies in Rockcastle County and is on the property of Great Saltpetre Preserve. This cave is a half mile walk from the shelter house. Walk along Crooked Creek, after a quarter mile you will start to veer left up a valley. Another 1000 feet to the right you will see a karst window-like entrance with two openings in it. The one to the right is a small torturous, steeply slopped short crawl which puts you right over a 12' to 15' climb down to a pit, to some breakdown. From here you stoop under a ledge, to a duck-walk position and go southeast in a passage that is 16' wide and 4' high. You then end up in a hands and knees crawl till it dog legs to the right and becomes nearly chocked off by formations, stay to the left as it is a tight squeeze. Please, ETREME CARE must be used in this cave to avoid tracking mud on the formations or otherwise damaging them. As you move from the choked off area, known to some as the Jail Cell Door, in a hands and knees crawl you will come upon a 12' high dome, to the left you will see some drapery hanging from the ceiling. This short belly crawl passage enlarges considerably to a walking, medium sized dome area.

From here, the lower section of the cave is to the right, over some breakdown, down to the bottom of the dome. Here a canyon passage run as walking passage for 200' then pinching to a hands and knees crawl.

To see the upper passages of the cave head back to the medium sized dome area. At the top you will see a rock slopping from ceiling to floor. Body slide over this rock to a duck walk on the other side. Follow this to a collapsed ceiling. Drop into a pit in the floor, find a body sized crack in the floor leading to the left and follow it out to more cave. This area goes until it too is choked in formations. There is a side passage to get around this pretty area, it is in back of one of the turns on the right side, a small port hole in the ceiling which goes to more domes and pits. The survey ended in this area, but there are more leads. This upper cave is very photogenic and affords several fine views of all the different formations.

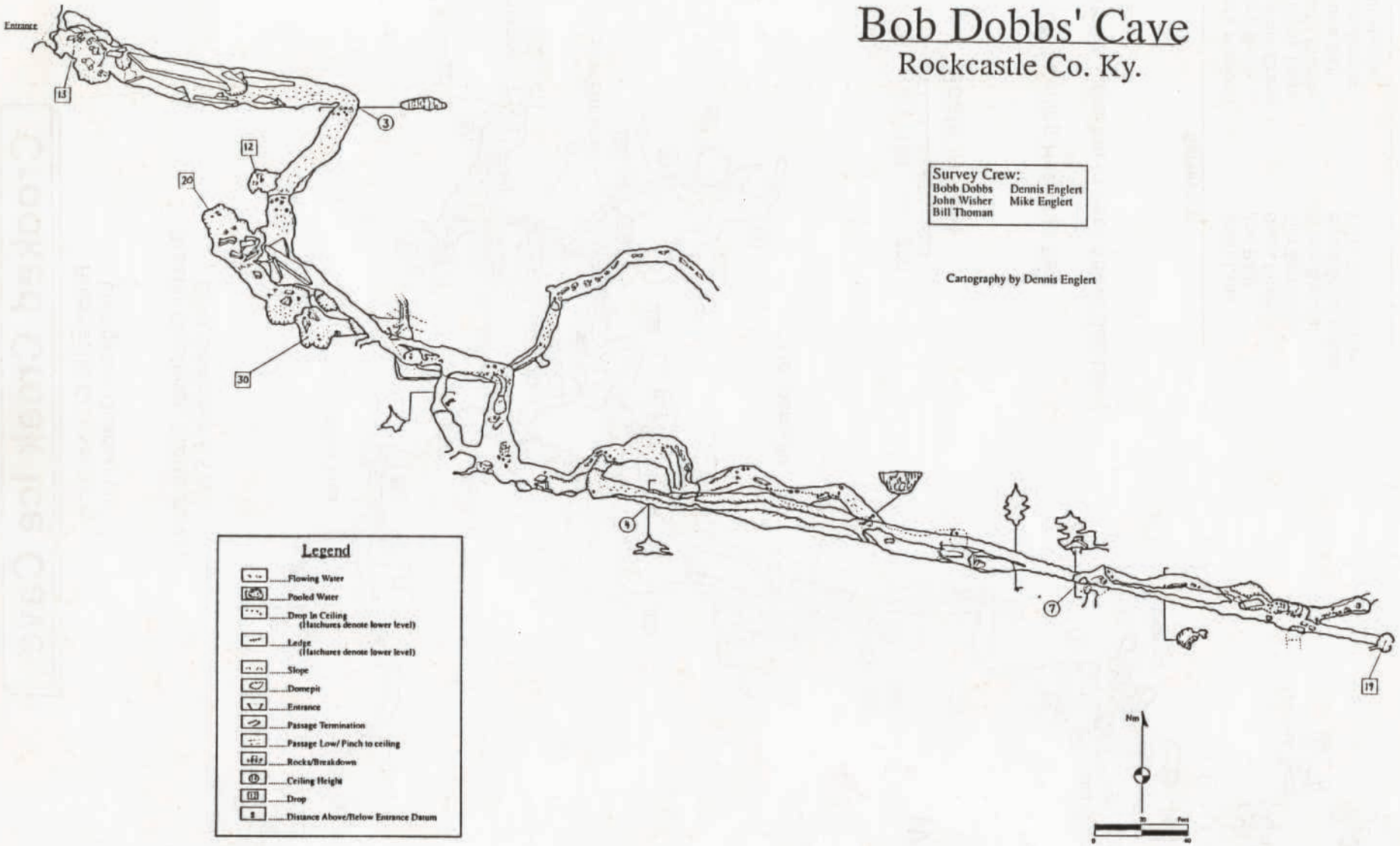
Dennis Englert NSS 32151



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Bob Dobbs' Cave

Rockcastle Co. Ky.



Survey Crew:

Bobb Dobbs	Dennis Englert
John Wisher	Mike Englert
Bill Thoman	

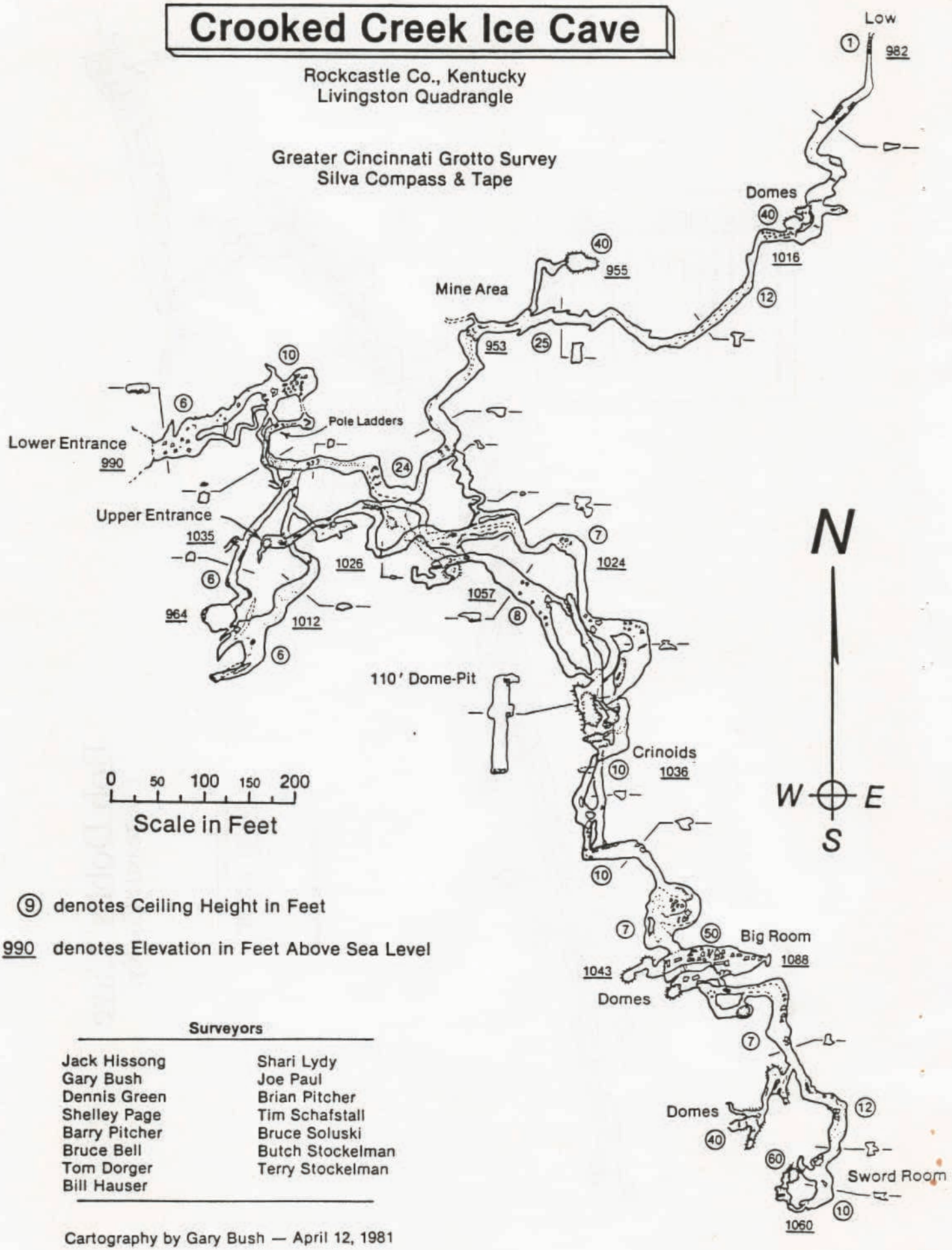
Cartography by Dennis Englert

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Crooked Creek Ice Cave

Rockcastle Co., Kentucky
Livingston Quadrangle

Greater Cincinnati Grotto Survey
Silva Compass & Tape



(9) denotes Ceiling Height in Feet

990 denotes Elevation in Feet Above Sea Level

Surveyors

Jack Hissong	Shari Lydy
Gary Bush	Joe Paul
Dennis Green	Brian Pitcher
Shelley Page	Tim Schafstall
Barry Pitcher	Bruce Soluski
Bruce Bell	Butch Stockelman
Tom Dorger	Terry Stockelman
Bill Hauser	

Cartography by Gary Bush — April 12, 1981

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Crooked Creek Ice Cave

Crooked Creek traces a meandering path southward down the eastern border of Rockcastle County, Kentucky. With headwaters in the Goochland section of northern Rockcastle County, the creek cuts through an especially rich karst area, on its way to its southern juncture with Roundstone Creek. The two longest caves in the county border this scenic little stream. While not one of the longest, Crooked Creek Ice Cave, at over 6100 feet of mapped passage, is a significant example of the caves of Rockcastle County.

Crooked Creek Ice Cave, or CCIC, has been known for many years, having been mined for saltpeter in the early-to-mid I800's. The beautiful ice formations in the first 300 feet of the cave in the winter are responsible for the cave's name. After an especially cold winter, these ice deposits can last into June.

The cave is currently owned by Mr. George Wynn, a local farmer. His farm traverses Crooked Creek and contains at least one other significant cave, located on the west side of the creek, across from CCIC.

CCIC still contains remnants from the saltpeter mining era, mainly pole ladders and trenches, along with assorted planking used for vats. No completed vats remain, however. In addition, the remains of a more modern iron kettle attest to the use of the cave for another important industry... the production of moonshine. This particular product has not been made here in the recent past, however.

Cavers have studied CCIC beginning in the 1960'5. The cave has four levels, spanning a vertical relief of 135 feet. The lower level of the cave was first mapped by James Rebmann and Gary O'Dell with members of the Eastern Kentucky university Grotto and the Bluegrass Grotto. The map and a description of the lower section were published in their book, The Caves of Rockcastle County, Kentucky, in the early 1970's. This section included the areas used for mining and "shining".

In 1974-76 the longer upper sections were found and mapping was begun by John Rausch and Tom Staubitz of the Greater Cincinnati Grotto (GCG). They also remapped the lower sections. When this data became unavailable, GCG began a remapping of the entire cave, including several newer sections, in 1978. A complete map was published in 1982. Since then, two additional small sections have been discovered. Although surveyed, they do not appear on the map in this issue.

The cave has two entrances and lies high on the hill at least 200 feet above Crooked Creek. Flooding is obviously not a problem. The cave lies in the St. Louis member of the Newman Limestone.

The larger Lower Entrance enters the lowest of the four levels. This first level is the one most visited and contains the saltpeter workings. It's generally the easiest part of the cave, although the IS foot drop about 200 feet inside the entrance, negotiated on ancient pole ladders, is a bit nerve-racking to the first-time visitor. The canyon passage, a vadose trench cut below a phreatic tube, travels northwest for a third of a mile. Near the end of this passage are three interconnected domes. A low right-side crawlway from the first dome proceeds further into the cave, ending in a low crawlway, currently impassable, but could possibly be dug.

The smaller upper Entrance (about 200 feet up the hillside from the Lower Entrance) is a conical pit about 20 feet deep. It can be carefully free-climbed. The bottom of this pit enters the third, and longest, level of the cave. This phreatic level proceeds horizontally along the face of the ridge. A particularly nasty ledge must be traversed just SO feet from the entrance pit.

Thereafter, the passage is generally safe. Although fairly large, this level is full of breakdown and mud fills, causing you to crawl and climb through nooks and crannies to get back to the walking passages beyond. Four different dome complexes lie along this route. One dome is 110 feet high with the passage intersecting it about halfway up its height.

The Big Room, a large breakdown room, lies three quarters of the way back into the passage. Beyond this room the passage takes on a multi- level character, meandering farther to the southeast and terminating in a dome system in an area of "rotten" limestone, imbedded with layers of shale. Raccoon tracks and roots indicate nearness to the surface, although no surface

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Crooked Creek Ice Cave

holes have been found.

Crooked Creek Ice Cave is both interesting and challenging. There are three connection routes between the first and third levels (also a fourth voice connection). One route is a challenging wiggle through tubes and cracks. Two routes are simple climbs. If you can find the fourth level, you'll be treated to nice formations. A leader is suggested though, if you want to see this section, as it's hard to find.

Cave life is plentiful in CCIC. we used to even find PIGS in the entrance, enjoying the cool air on hot summer ..... but not in the last few years. Both solitary and colony bats are found throughout the levels. Cave species of crickets, salamanders, beetles, flies, and spiders are abundant. Since CCIC is high on the ridge, there's no large water passage. However, several pools, containing various tiny life forms, are found on all the cave's levels.

Cave Location:

From the Campground shelter follow old road downstream along Crooked Creek at end of shelter. Continue to intersecting valley on left, bear right, cross small branch, traversing below a cliff line. Find a trail here that leads away from the creek, left, and uphill into the tree line. At a clearing turn left following the treeline several hundred feet until the trail renters the treeline bringing you to the lower entrance. The trail continues to the right of this entrance to the upper entrance.

Gary Bush (NSS 17697)

Great Saltpetre Cave

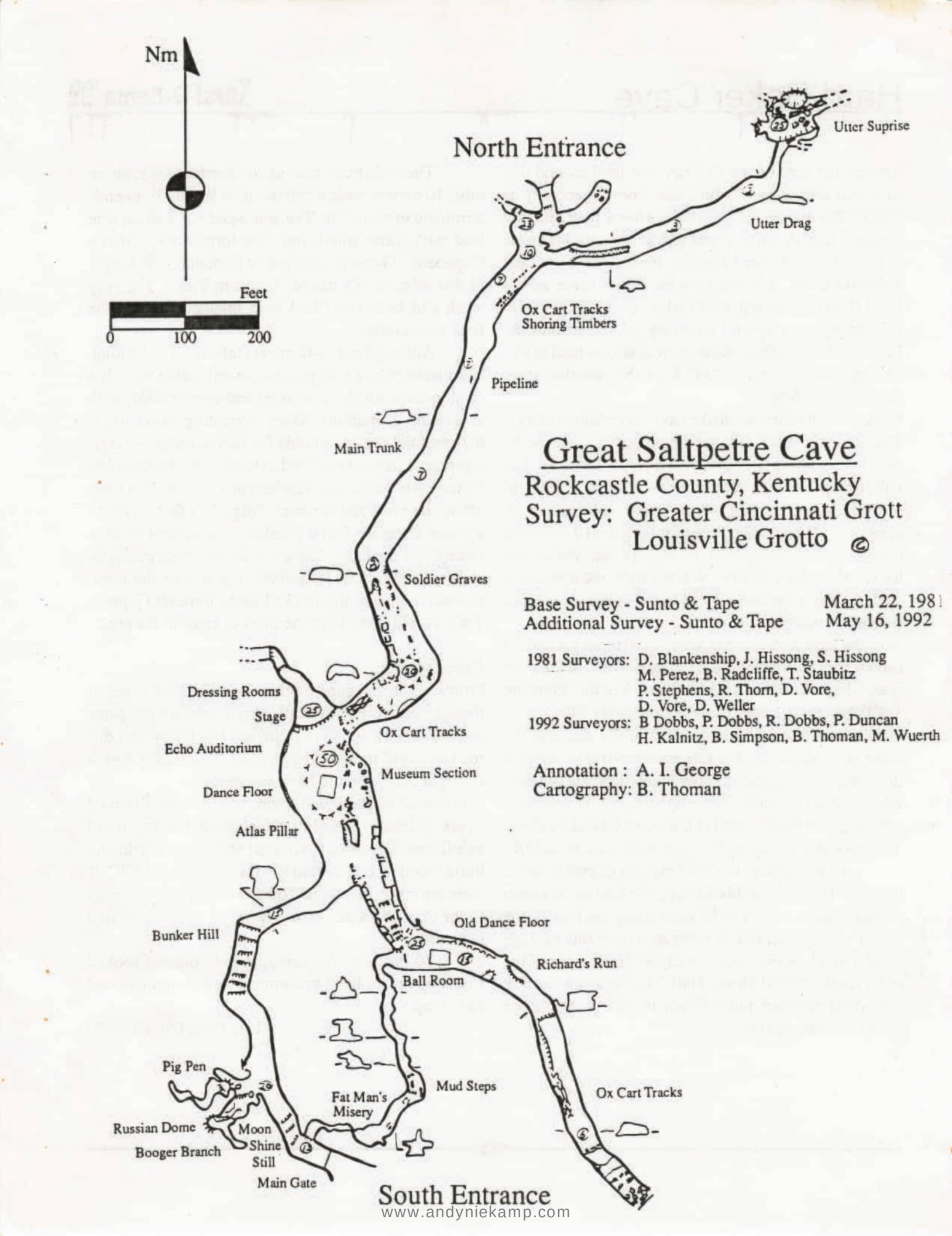
Great Saltpetre Cave is located right here on the property. The cave was mined for saltpetre beginning around 1789. Although there are stories of Civil War use, it is undocumented. From the remnants of the mining operation, it is felt that most of the mining activity occurred from that time to the end of the War of 1812. (Place Names Changes, Cultural Geography and Distribution of Saltpetre Hoppers In Great Saltpetre Cave: by Angelo I. George Electric Caver. July 1990 Vol. 26, Ed. 7)

The cave was first commercialized in the 1940's and improved further around 1965. The cave was modified quite a bit and artifacts were lost during this time.

Most of the passages are large walking passages, although there are some side leads that can be pushed. During Karst-O-Rama 1990 (it was called annual meeting back then) some members of Bluegrass Grotto pushed a crawlway out of the "Civil War Hospital" and dug the passage until they could hear a waterfall. Subsequent pushing yielded a large room with breakdown, domes and several leads. This passage was mapped by members of Greater Cincinnati Grotto and has been added to the map.

It's a great walk around cave and one that you can even take the "little cavers" into. It's also a great place to cool off in the hot temperatures of July. Make sure you take the time to check it out while you're here.

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Great Saltpetre Cave

Rockcastle County, Kentucky

Survey: Greater Cincinnati Grott
Louisville Grotto ©

Base Survey - Sunto & Tape — March 22, 1981
Additional Survey - Sunto & Tape — May 16, 1992

1981 Surveyors: D. Blankenship, J. Hissong, S. Hissong
M. Perez, B. Radcliffe, T. Staubitz
P. Stephens, R. Thorn, D. Vore,
D. Vore, D. Weller

1992 Surveyors: B Dobbs, P. Dobbs, R. Dobbs, P. Duncan
H. Kalnitz, B. Simpson, B. Thoman, M. Wuerth

Annotation : A. I. George
Cartography: B. Thoman

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Hard Baker Cave

Around the turn of the Century, the land around this cave was owned by Hardin Baker known generally as "Hard" Baker. He was reportedly a horse thief, making frequent trips down to Tennessee to increase his cache of horse flesh. Richard Mullins, the caretaker of Great Saltpetre Cave, told me how his father came across Hard Baker dlsposing of a dead horde in this cave. He was chopping it up and throwing the pieces into the Entrance Room. The encounter was almost fatal to Mr. Mullins, but his trusty "38" kept the situation from becoming violent.

Back then, the entrance to the cave was relatively large. The present owner, George Wynn put in a road so he could more easily work his fields below the cave. The bulldozing covered the entrance leaving a tiny pit opening. The opening was recently enlarged to its present 2-1/2 foot hole. Free climbing the 10 foot drop is possible, but dangerous, especially considering the loose talus slope below. We strongly recommend a cable ladder, especially if any in the group are inexperienced climbers.

Note the map of the cave is Metric! All those 1's and 2's shown for ceiling heights are meters. Most of the cave is walking passage, except for the back of the "Gypsum Trail", where it's easy crawling on sandy fill.

Once into the cave, you must carefully descend the loose talus slope into the Entrance room. The walls in this large trunk passage show many deposits of flowstone and formations. One massive pagoda style column sits near the left wall at the base of the talus slope. The floor is a crusty multi-layer rock over a mud fill.

An immediate left lead rapidly degrades into a low crawlway. As of this writing, the lead has not been pushed. Since it does head west along the face of the hill, it offers potential. A right lead from this passage climbs up to an overlook 3 meters off the floor of the main trunk, "Dead Horse Hall." In the trunk itself, a now-dead rimpool tower gives testimony to a once active formation area.

The main trunk rises up to a north-south solution tube, 10 meters wide throughout its length. Both ends terminate in mud fills. The south end has a small side lead with some small, but nice formations, "Matt's Cupboard." Gypsum is abundant throughout the length of this tube, so it's called "Gypsum Trail." The very north end becomes filled with breakdown until the final mud choke.

Although only 442 meters (about 1/4 mile) long, Hard Baker Cave will provide an enjoyable visit. It's easy (except for the entrance) and comfortable, with some nice formations. More interesting, however, is the potential the cave holds for Indian relics. At least one researcher has reported extensive gypsum mining by the early Indians in Rockcastle County. This cave offers the potential for such "digs." In fact, slabs of gypsum crust are found piled in an unnatural fashion throughout the cave. The cave has not been carefully checked for relics. Therefore. if you visit the cave, please remain on the tracked areas through Gypsum Trail. Avoid disturbing the piles of crust in the area.

Cave Location:

From the Campground Shelter cross Crooked Creek at the old dam site. Follow trail on right side to top of ridge and join a dirt road there. Turn left and follow this dirt road downhill to two old gate posts. Entrance is 30ft to the right across an old barbwire fence.

If this road is continued upon, it will cross Crooked Creek, going up a small infeeder branch. Going left and uphill from this branch will lead you across a field and into a wooded area containing the entrance to CCIC. If there are crops in this field take care to follow the edge to the opposite side. Also beware of possible bovine presence.

To return to the campground, follow Crooked Creek upstream back to campground, completing a 2 mile loop.

Gary Bush (NSS 17697)

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Hard Baker Cave

ROCKCASTLE COUNTY, KENTUCKY
LIVINGSTON QUADRANGLE

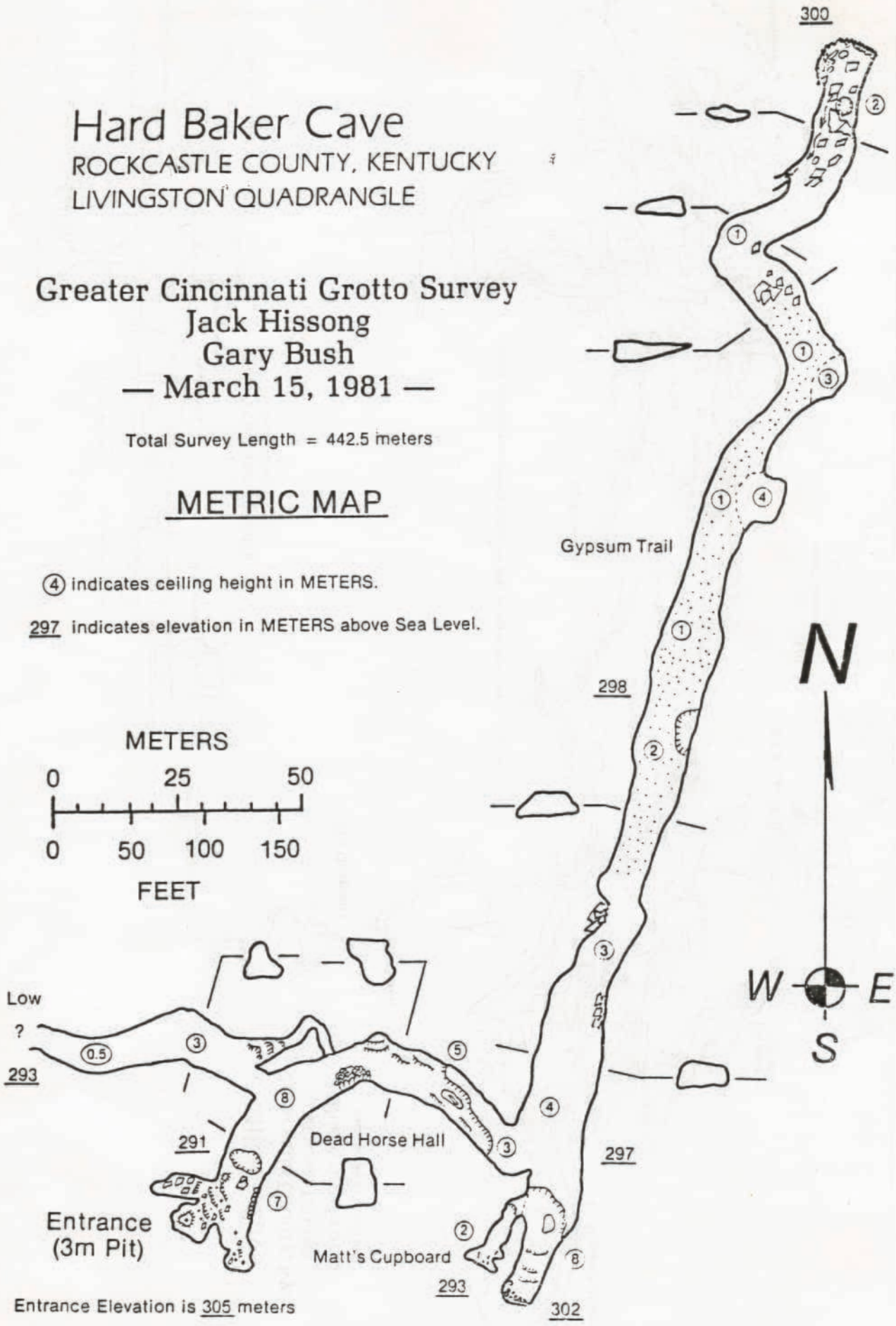
Greater Cincinnati Grotto Survey
Jack Hissong
Gary Bush
— March 15, 1981 —

Total Survey Length = 442.5 meters

METRIC MAP

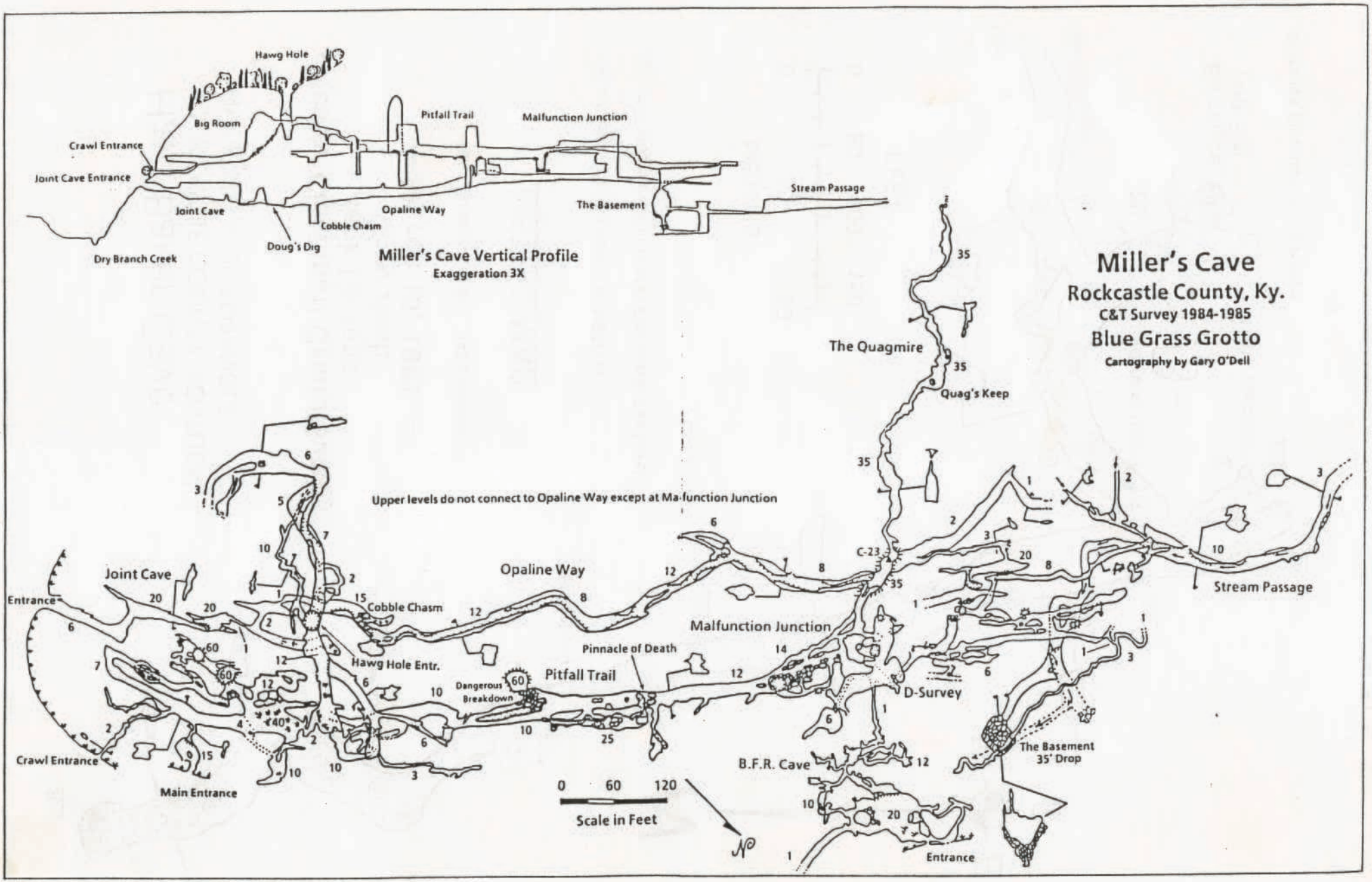
④ indicates ceiling height in METERS.

297 indicates elevation in METERS above Sea Level.



Entrance Elevation is 305 meters

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Miller's Cave is a very complex multi-level cave with five entrances, developed in the St. Genevieve and St. Louis limestones along the upper Crooked Creek drainage basin. Although exploration of this cavern began in 1971, an actual survey was not made until 1984. Primarily a horizontal dry cave, Miller's has numerous traverses, chimneys, and climbs required to negotiate the various levels; vertical gear, however, is not necessary except to reach the lowest stream level. It is an extremely challenging cave for the explorer.

Of the five known entrances, three are located in the hillside directly behind the owner's home. Additional entrances were created by 1984 excavations in two small caves located in the same ridge, Joint and BFR caves. As a result of these numerous entrances the explorer is seldom more than thirty minutes travel from the outside, despite the complexity of the system.

From the main, walk-in entrance 80 feet above the valley a loop leads in either direction to the "Big Room" of the cave. A squeeze at the top of the flowstone-cemented breakdown pile in this room emerges into a passage twenty feet wide and high; to the left daylight can be seen entering the cave through the "Hawg Hole" pit entrance which intersects this passage. Beyond are several passages which gradually become too tight to follow.

Just before the pit entrance, a side passage in the right wall leads to the major portion of the cave. Several small climbs of moderate difficulty lead from here to the "Pitfall Trail", 400 feet of aptly-named large walking passage that is pierced in dozens of locations by pits and crevices ranging from 10 to 40 feet in depth. CAUTION: *The margins of some of these pits is surrounded by unstable dangerous breakdown.!!*

One of the worst traverses on the Pitfall Trail is called the "Pinnacle of Death". At this point two domepits, 30 feet deep, have coalesced to form a barrier completely across the passage, leaving only a narrow detached fragment between the two. One must traverse a narrow ledge along the wall of one pit, step across to the two by two foot square and balance, then step across to a climb upwards on the far wall of the pit. Adding to the interest while performing this feat is a sharp vertical stone needle in the pit beside the step across, apparently just waiting to impale the careless caver. On he far side are more deep crevices.

The Pitfall Trail terminates at Malfunction Junction, a multi-level intersection of numerous passageways and collapse that is highly confusing. Even those cavers who have made many trips through Miller's are often apt to get temporarily misplaced at this location. The sketch for the survey through here shows signs of acute frustration in attempting to depict the intricacies.

The upper route, along the right wall and weaving through the breakdown, is known as the "D-Survey". It leads ultimately to the 30-foot rappel into the "Basement", the lowest level of the cave. A major stream is present there. Along the D Survey route, one of many small crawls follows an obscure, tortuous path to the large room in BFR Cave and to the outside.

Descending along the left wall from Malfunction Junction, the caver reaches a five-way intersection at station C-23. A well-hidden crawl northwest from here intersects a series of short parallel passages with some very difficult climbs, and pops out into the D-Survey passage. West from C-23 is a dry and subjectively endless crawl, wide, but very tight. Southwest from the intersection a narrow canyon emerges into the Quagmire, and southeast from Opaline Way.

The Quagmire is a winding vadose canyon that varies in width from about 6" to over 30', with a fairly constant ceiling height at 40' overhead. It was almost completely filled by sediment at some time in the past, as evidences by flowstone remnants near the ceiling. Boot-sucking mud in some locations names the 500-foot passage. A simultaneous pinch and s-curve have barred further exploration from all but one small and thin caver, Doug Carrol, who reported it opened up for a short distance before again constricting.

Opaline way is the easiest passage to travel in the entire cave, being a 1000-foot passage stroll through an occasionally decorated walking passage. One must pay for the pleasure though, for it ends at a drop into an 18-foot pit. The walls of the pit are gavelly fill that crumbles easily; a descent is not recommended. Instead, the opposite side is gained by a traverse along a

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Millers Cave

ledge at the ceiling level of the passage, on the left side. The walking passage ends abruptly 50 feet later. A very tight, 30-foot belly crawl dug in 1984 leads to Joint Cave and another entrance.

Cavers who vist either Miller's cave or Miller's Pit #1 should park across the road from Millers grocery. Oscar Miller is an interesting and affable person, and his store carries a stock of cold drinks and snacks suitable for cave trips. Attached to the barn adjacent to the store is an aptly called tobacco stripping room which may be used for changing clothes. Please do not change outside, for exhibitionist cavers in the past once resulted in the closure of this significant cavern.

Despite being well-known for over a century, and heavily visited by locals, Millers Cave shows very little evidence of graffiti. A son of the owner stated in 1984 that ".. it wasn't right to take things out of caves..."

Gary O'Dell NSS 10278

Mullen Spring Cave

Mullins Spring Cave has two entrance within about 500 feet of each other; the west entrance being basically dry and usually the starting point for a trip. The other 'wet' entrance is just further down the road and is under a scenic little overhang with a stream emerging and flowing into Crooked Creek. During wet weather or heavy rains, this entrance will flood completely.

Staying dry is a real challenge. Just inside the dry entrance, one encounters a large pool which usually requires wading, sometimes to waist level. A mazy section of lower water passages prevail and can be chimmneyed to avoid the water, although it may not be worth the trouble. From here the upper level routes can be followed. One upper level is rather sinuous and involves plenty of climbing, crouching, and occasional crawling through a stream. The other is almost dusty dry in places and is similar in difficulty.

The main trunk is the preferred choice of route but should only be attempted under favorable weather conditions. To reach this main high and wide passage, a near siphon bathtub section approximately 100 feet long must be negotiated. This is where the cave gets interesting. Emerging from this section straight into large walking passage, one gets a sense of great discovery just ahead. An impressive waterfall is heard after several hundred feet and encountered in a dome just to the north of the trunk. This is approx. 55' high and attempts have been made to bolt up the wall. The passage continues in the same manner beyond the waterfall and requires almost continual wading through the stream. The stream is fed by several sinkholes and small pit caves located along the hillsides just north of Rt. 1004 and by large sinkholes in the valley opposite the Poplar Gap road intersection.

Again, it should be stressed that this passage should not be explored during heavy rains. There is no known connection to another entrance upstream, but the water flow testifies to its existence. Several upper level leads and waterfalls beckon further exploration.

The customary exit involves emerging from the wet entrance. This usually means chest deep water (or deeper) and any caver feeling sluggish by this time will quickly perk up.

Mullins Spring Cave description taken in part from 1972 Caves of Rockcastle County by Rebman and O'Dell. Map courtesy of J. Rebman. Additional references include 1980 GCG Annual Meeting, and personal files experiences and recollections of the writer. Thanks also to Gary O'Dell and Bill Simpson for assistance.

Location:

The locations is one of those annoying types that happed to fall just about smack on the border line between two topographic quadrangles: Johnetta and Livingston. However close examination of the Johnetta quad at the extreme southern edge, accurately shows the start of Crooked Creek road turning north of and then parallel with Ky. Rt. 1004 for a short stretch. It is along this section, within 1000ft of Rt 1004, that both entrance are clearly visible on the north side of the road.

Werner Jud NSS 15377

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Precinct 11 is located in Rockcastle County in the Johnetta quad. The cave starts as a phreatic tube in the overflow route for the cave. This tube is located in St. Genevieve limestone, but quickly joins the Newman member. The majority of the cave is in the Upper Newman limestone.

The cave begins with a crawl over gravel which is always pooled at the entrance. The cave "T's" at this point and a choice of straight or left turn has to be made immediately. The right is the usual route since it's a stoop in water with approx. 4" of airspace. The left route leads to a belly crawl which can be in 1' deep water or less, depending on sediment deposition that has occured over the winter.

After the initial complete body immersion a crawl in and out of water for 1000' leads to 800' of stoop walk. At this point the cave becomes walking stream vadose passage for a distance before more backbreakers are encountered. The cave again opens into comfortable walking passage after these backbreakers.

The upper level of the cave, which is entered by a climb after the first 1800' of passage, is a large 30 x 30 foot phreatic trunk with well over a mile of passage. This upper area is in a region of large breakdown boulders and winding fossil stream beds. Different areas connect to the lower level from the upper trunk. The end of the first trunk, called the "EA trail", leads to a side passage where a crawl over the top of a dome allows access to the next phreatic trunk. This is a nicely decorated high multi-level passage which ends in a blank wall after 1000-2000 feet of passage. A connection to the lower level can be found before entering the elusive entrance to this second trunk.

The lower stream level of the cave eventually reaches the largest room in the cave, the obligatory "Big Room". This room is filled with breakdown boulders which have to be crossed to regain the stream. The stream continues for a short distance before turning into a low belly crawl in water.

Before the low portion of the stream is reached, a side passage to the left leads to a large dome. This area connects to a dry passage which bypasses the low crawl and leads to the back of the cave. This is breached by numerous climbs, crawls, and belly crawls. The cave ends in what is known as the "Dead Meat Section", which refers to the consequences of human occupation at the time of flooding. The end of the explored passage is a terminal breakdown with large quantities of air blowing through the rocks.

The current mapped length of the cave is over 5 miles with numerous passages being unmapped, as well as an excellent possibility of virgin passage.

Warning! This cave does not react quickly to water but can flood shut under the right conditions. The entrance crawl could also be deadly due to limited airspace.

Access: Due to the sensitivity of the cave and the hazardous nature of the entrance, the location will not be published. Directions will be available at registration desk.

Mark Rocklin

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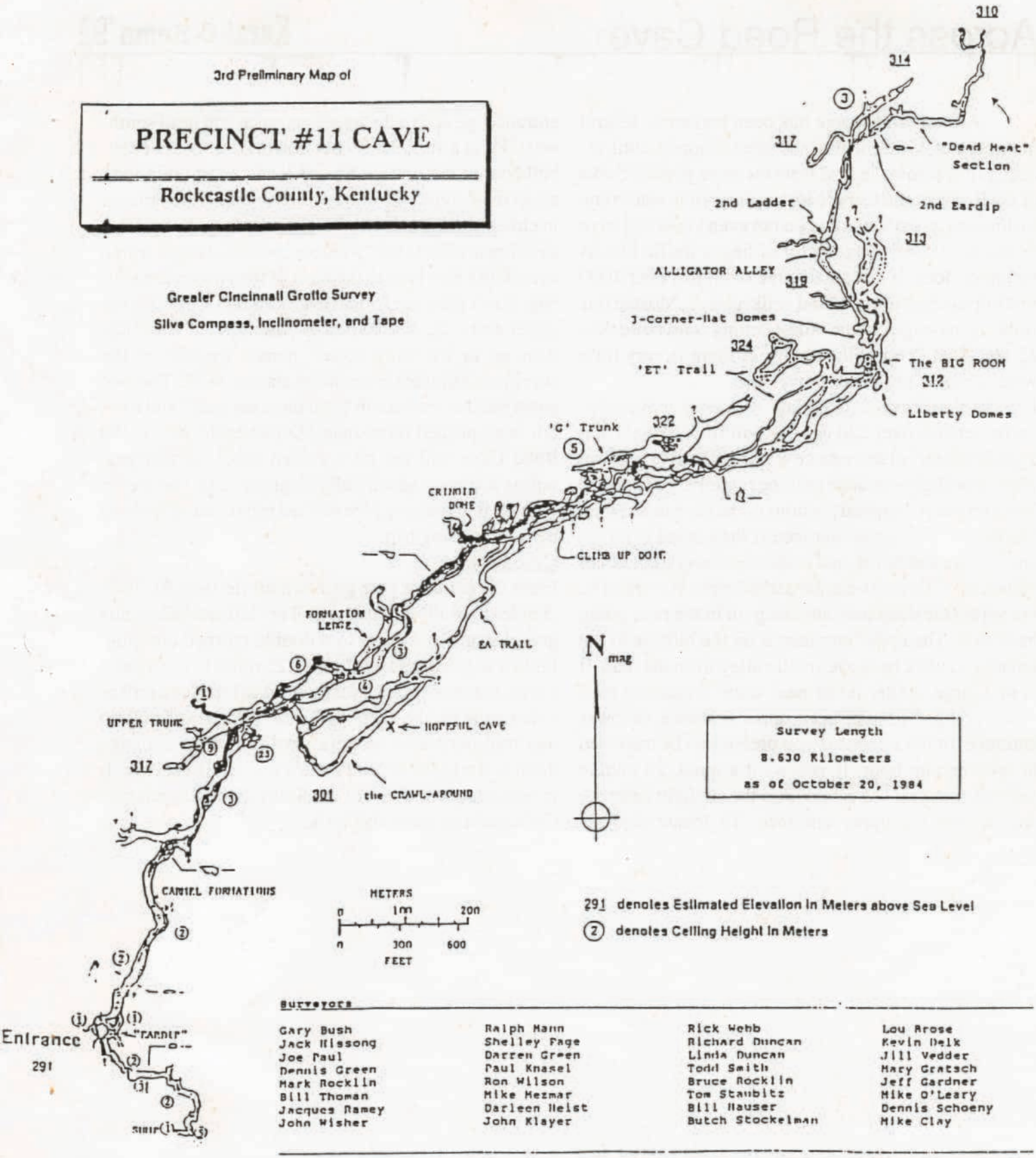
3rd Preliminary Map of

PRECINCT #11 CAVE

Rockcastle County, Kentucky

Greater Cincinnati Grotto Survey

Silva Compass, Inclinometer, and Tape



Survey Length
8.630 Kilometers
as of October 20, 1984

291 denotes Estimated Elevation in Meters above Sea Level

(2) denotes Ceiling Height in Meters

Surveyors

Gary Bush	Ralph Mann	Rick Webb	Lou Arose
Jack Hissong	Shelley Page	Richard Duncan	Kevin Delk
Joe Paul	Darren Green	Linda Duncan	Jill Vedder
Dennis Green	Paul Knasel	Todd Smith	Mary Gratsch
Mark Rocklin	Ron Wilson	Bruce Rocklin	Jeff Gardner
Bill Thoman	Mike Mezmar	Tom Staubitz	Mike O'Leary
Jacques Ramey	Darleen Heist	Bill Hauser	Dennis Schoeny
John Wisher	John Klayer	Butch Stockelman	Mike Clay

Cartography by Gary Bush
September 14, 1989

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Across the Road Cave

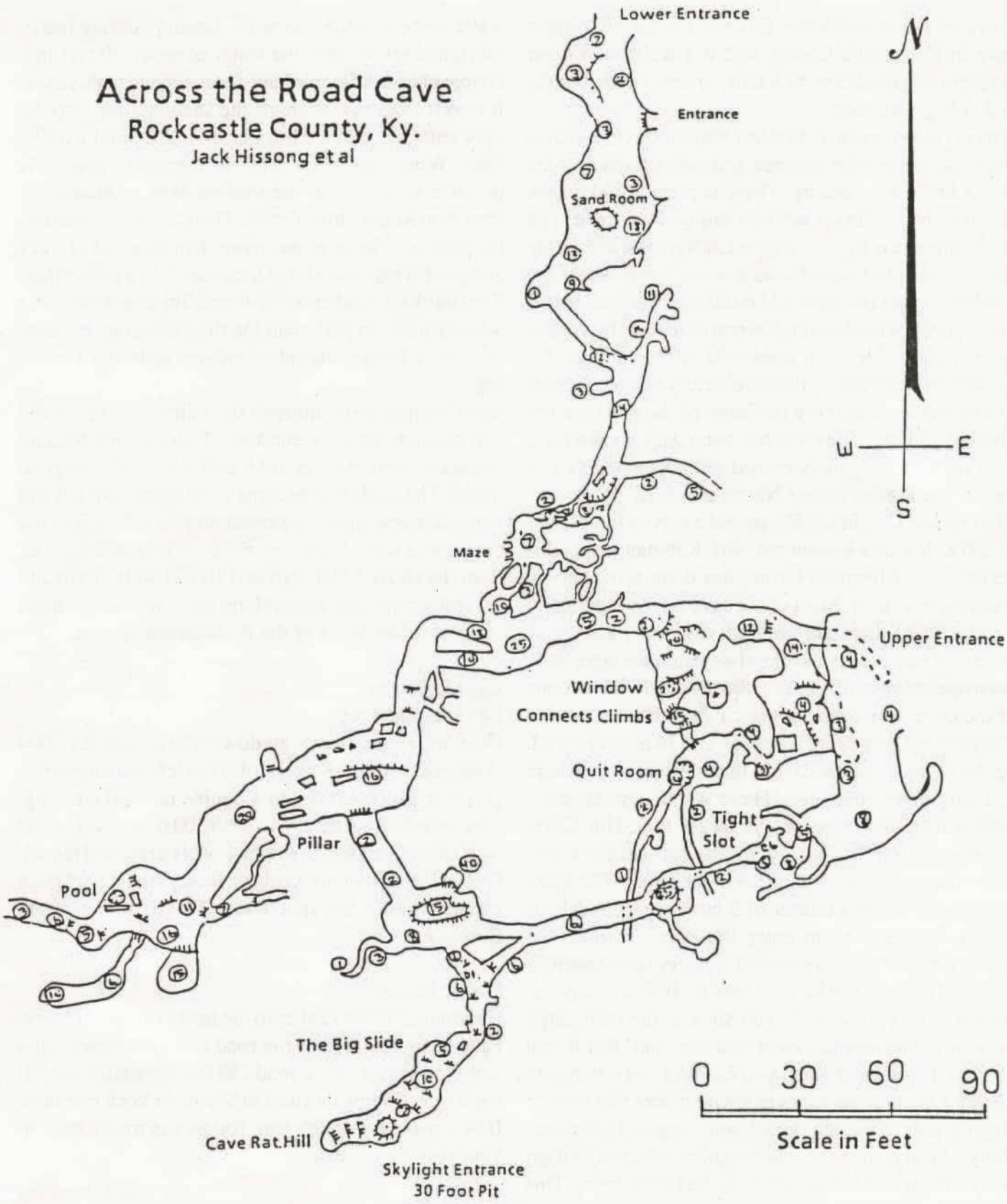
Although this cave has been known to several members of GCG, it has not been mapped until recently. It is across the road from the more popular Sinks of the Roundstone Cave. Most of the people who come to this area, go to Sinks and do not even know this cave exists, so it does not get a lot of heavy traffic like its neighbor does. It is a small cave with, just over 1000 feet of passages to crawl and walk around. Most of it is walking passage but the tallest ceiling is no more than 25 feet high. You will stay dry as there is very little water present anywhere in the cave.

It. is an easy cave to negotiate with only two exceptions: persons over 220 pounds will find the tight slot near the upper entrance narrow and difficult to get thru, and the skylight entrance must be rigged to go in or out. You can see all mapped portions of the cave in less than two hours. The lower entrance is the easiest to locate and to go in and out of, and is found at the end of a small valley. 4wd vehicles can be parked right in front of it, but watch the deep hole and deep rut in the road going back to it. The upper entrance is on the hillside to the left as you walk back the small valley from the road. It is in a large shelter ledge near some prominent rock outcropping. The trip from upper entrance to lower entrance, or the reverse if you prefer, can be traversed in less then an hour. If you want a quick 20 minute vertical trip, you can rappel into the skylight entrance and go out the upper entrance. To locate skylight entrance, go above the upper entrance and head southwest. Pit is a straight 30 feet down, 7' -8' in diameter, bells out at the bottom 8', and lands on top of a long steep mud slope. Do not attempt to free climb this pit in either direction. If climbing is your bag, the best this cave has to offer is the "window connect climbs" which complete a nice loop in the cave. If formations are your bag, don't miss the formation room that underlies the upper entrance. If unexplored passages are your bag, then go to the "quit room" named for one of the surveyors attitudes after doing station A-22. The two passages that lead south from there are small and have not been pushed more than 5O feet each. Across the Road Cave will not be a guided cave trip this year unless someone specifically requests it, so you are on your own. It makes a nice self led trip if you're looking for a quick easy trip.

Cave Location:

From the entrance gate go downhill (left) on Rt. 1004 .5 miles to Mullins Station Rd. Turn left and follow this gravel road for 4 miles to a double railroad crossing. Follow the road and additional .25 miles to a left hand curve. Just as the road straightens out, look for a trail or a dumpsite on the righthand side of the road. Follow this trail northwest along a small but deep drainage ditch to the lower entrance of Across the Road cave. It is best to park at either of the Sinks of the Roundstone Cave parking areas and walk.

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Sinks of the Roundstone Cave

Sinks of the Roundstone Cave is the fourth longest cave in Rockcastle County and is a well known and frequently visited cave by locals, cavers, youth groups, and college students.

Sinks is also known as Mullins Station Cave, which is the railroad name for this area, and the name most of the locals know the cave by. There is plenty of evidence that the early railroad workers enjoyed the cave. The west entrance is right along the L&N tracks, and inside that entrance has been found a water barrel where the workers laying the track and building the tunnel rested and sipped the cool water. Several of their old kerosene lantern pots have been preserved at the entrance for visitors to see as part of the cave's early history. Details of any earlier discovery or usage of the cave are not known, although the cave has been well known for a long time. It is publicly owned with open access as a part of the Daniel Boone National Forest.

The Greater Cincinnati Grotto did a survey of the cave in 1978, but it is known that Jim Rebman mapped it earlier. The Bluegrass Grotto has done some survey work there as well. Most of the cave is large and easily accessible so there are no great discovery stories. A couple of new rooms and crawlways and passages have been opened recently, but for the most part, all sections of the cave have seen a lot of caver traffic.

The cave has an overall length of 13,576 feet surveyed. At the west end of the cave is the main entrance where a stream enters the cave. These waters are the same waters that flow through the larger Pine Hill Cave, resurge at Blue Hole, flow on the surface for a half mile, then go underground again at Sinks. The main entrance is really a cluster of 5 entrances, any one of which can be used to enter the cave. Most of the western half of the cave consists of very large spacious rooms. The cave can be very easy or difficult, depending on what you want. If you stick to the main large bore, it is the simplest cave you can find. But if you stray to the north or west, you can find some things to exercise the climbers. There are no places that require rigging unless you go out of your way to find something. If you go into the southern passages, you will get wet as the water is frequently 20 feet deep there. This water route is subject to quick flooding during heavy rains, and we've seen the water come up 30 feet in a couple of hours. People have been trapped in this cave. It floods from two sources: the stream going into the cave entrance, and a tall waterfall in the middle of the cave. When the water level is extremely low, it is possible to come out the seldom used southeast entrance on Roundstone Creek. There are no formations to speak of. The cave has more than its share of litter and graffiti because a lot of locals use it as a party place. The fourth railroad crossing from Highway Route 25 is a better place to park than the third crossing, because there have been some auto break-ins at the third crossing.

Most Visitors enter through the railroad entrance and exit through the main entrance. To locate the railroad entrance, continue on foot east along the railroad tracks. The grade will become steep along your left and you will come upon a railroad tunnel. Just before the tunnel you will clearly see the cave entrance on your right. Its about 3 feet high and 10 feet wide. There are several smaller entrances along the way; none of them connect to the Sinks of the Roundstone system.

Cave Location

Railroad Entrance

From the entrance gate go downhill (left) on Rt. 1004 .5 miles to Mullins Station Rd. Turn left and follow this gravel road for 4 miles to a double railroad crossing, park here. Follow the track south 300 ft. to a trail on the west side of the tracks. Just beyond is a railroad tunnel. Follow the trail or double back though the tunnel to an entrance along the spur track. This is the Railroad Entrance.

Scenic Entrance

Continue .5 miles farther to the next railroad crossing. Park along the side of the road at an old quarry site, cross tracks and follow road 150 feet to a trail on the left hand side. Follow this trail to Scenic or West entrance. If you make a through trip, follow the tracks back to your parking place.

Jack Hissong

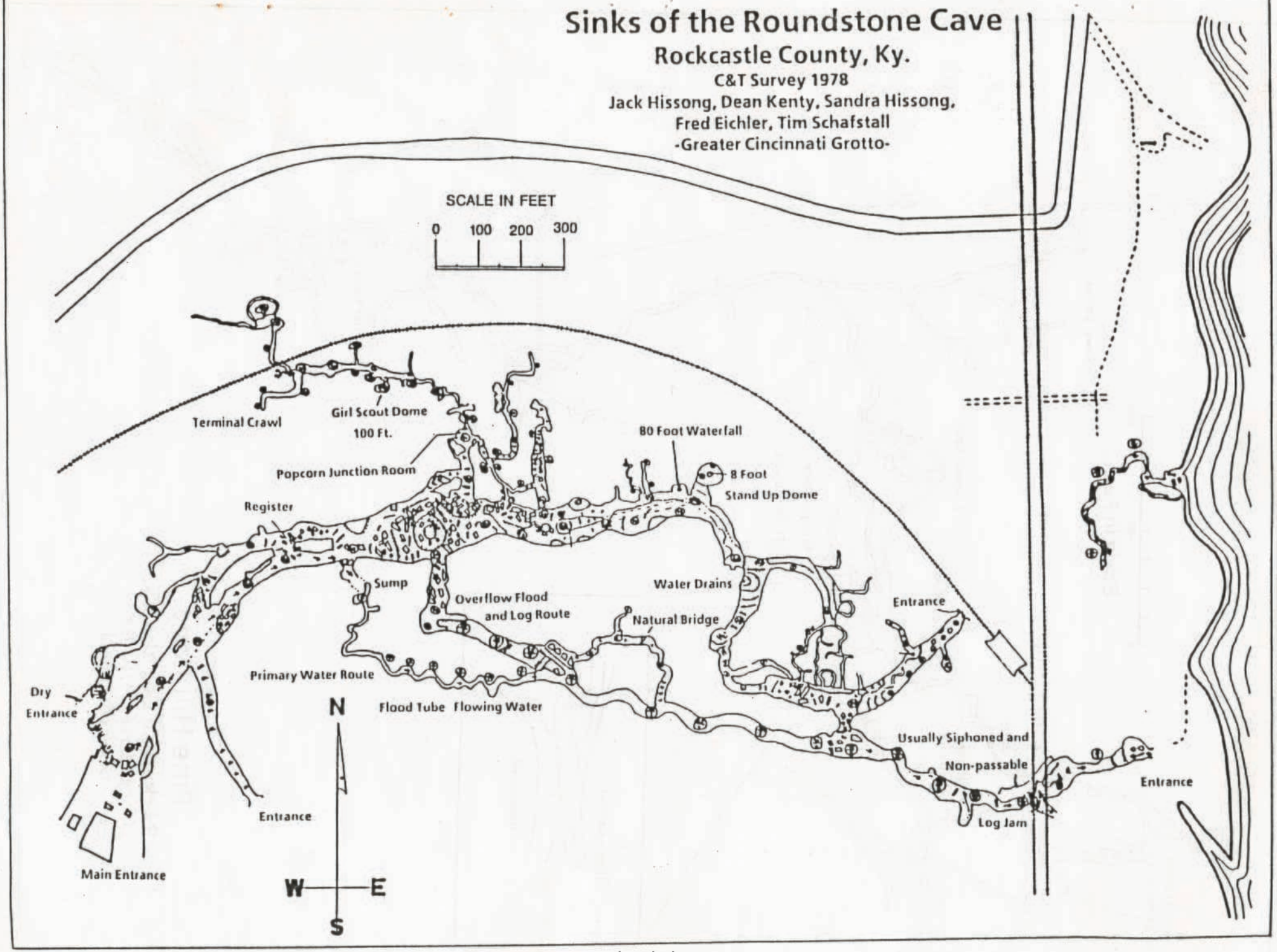
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Sinks of the Roundstone Cave

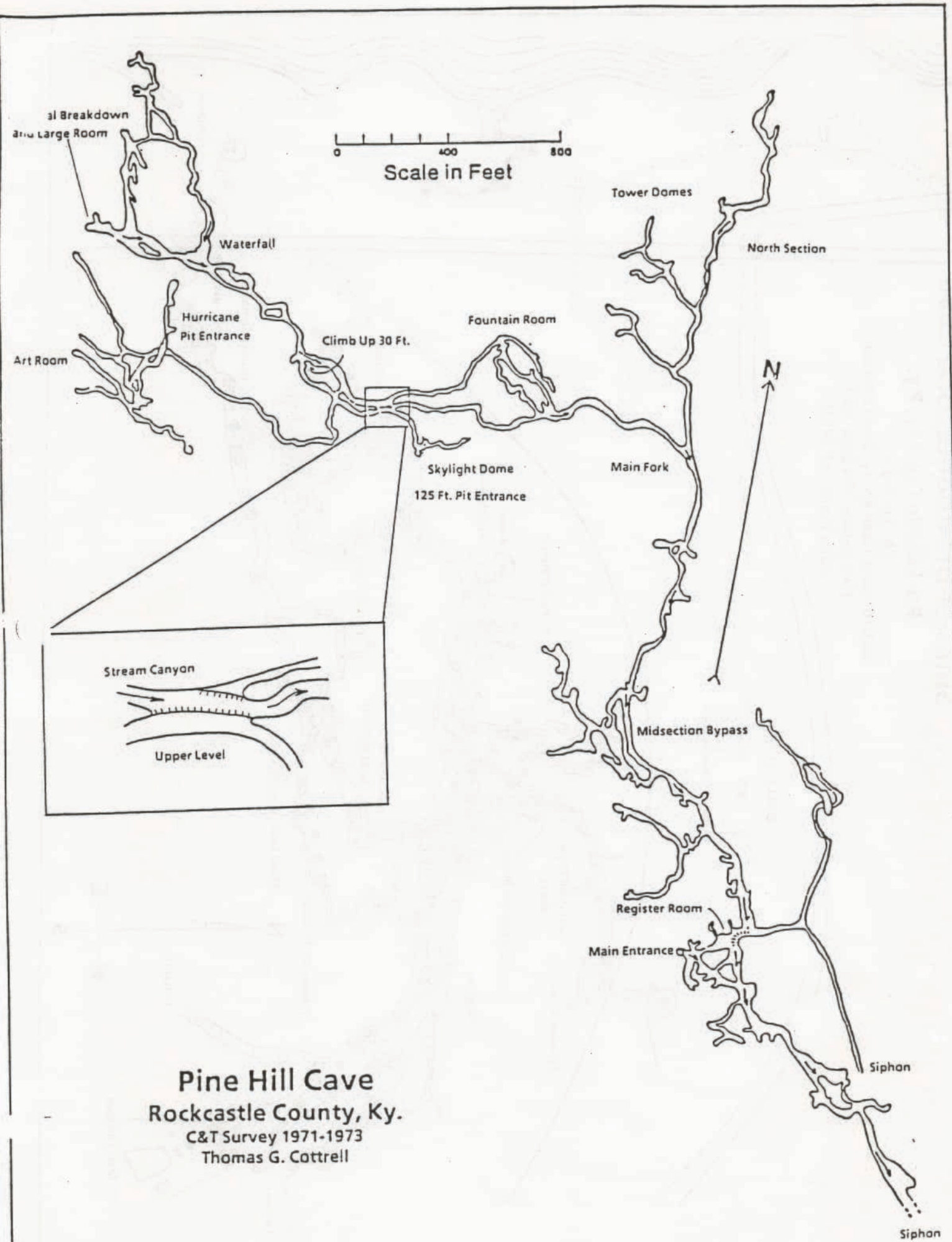
Rockcastle County, Ky.

C&T Survey 1978

Jack Hissong, Dean Kenty, Sandra Hissong,
Fred Eichler, Tim Schafstall
-Greater Cincinnati Grotto-



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Pine Hill Cave

Rockcastle County, Ky.

C&T Survey 1971-1973

Thomas G. Cottrell

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Pine Hill Cave has a large impressive walk-in entrance. The arch is about 40 feet high and 20 feet wide, and may be the best looking entrance in Rockcastle County. From Mt. Vernon, Kentucky, follow Route 25 south to the former Pine Hill School which is now a church and a residence. A trail leads down to the dry stream bed and the entrance. Since the cave is very close to the highway, it is quite well known and easily accessible. Although all the local people know of the cave, they rarely visit it. Pine Hill Cave is heavily traveled and very popular with many Boy Scouts, high school groups, college geology groups, and others from both Kentucky and Ohio.

The owner of the cave either lives in Michigan or is a lawyer in Mt. Vernon, Kentucky. There has never been a problem with the owner about visiting the cave as far as I know.

There is a story of a former owner building a dam near the entrance. He was going to get rich with a fishing pay-lake, but obviously his dam, built over porous limestone, never held water. During heavy rains the dam fills to overflowing and only then does water rush into the normally dry entrance of Pine Hill Cave.

In 1968 Bob Eggers showed me Pine Hill. I had been crawling around in Carter County and I was impressed. No one knew of a map other than a 1962 sketch by Russell and Costello, and so from 1971 to 1973 Pine Hill Cave became my pet project. I was trained in surveying techniques by CRF and Central Ohio Grotto members and as a high school teacher, I found many recruits for a weekend adventure in the Kentucky underground. After 28 survey trips we had accumulated 28,489.6 feet of cave (5.4 miles), and we were lucky enough to find some virgin cave too.

The main passage of Pine Hill Cave is about one mile long from upstream terminal breakdown to the downstream siphon and trends from northwest to southeast parallel to the valley. Other passages trend north-south along two side valleys. A deeply incised valley seems to block all passages at the northwest end. The Large Room in the cave is the last 400 feet of the main passage and is 40 feet wide by 20 to 30 feet high. The main stream in the cave comes out of breakdown about 300 feet north of the Large Room. The stream forms a beautiful falls and pool as it enters the main passage. Downstream the passage is 15 feet wide by 40 feet high as the water actively downcuts the floor, and there is a wider upper level meandering about 25 feet up. The stream follows the main passage to the east for 2000 feet, then turns south for about 2000 feet. A smaller stream joins from the west. In summer, this water is notably warmer than the main stream. In this midsection are several segments of a former large passage each filled with clay and flowstone. In the Register Room near the main entrance the stream takes a sharp left and shortly a right into a clean, round, 8-foot tube which siphons in 250 feet. The stream emerges again in the southeast section and siphons again in a passage 4 feet high by 20 feet wide about 1000 feet from the main entrance. From this downstream end of Pine Hill Cave it is only 800 feet to the end of the upstream survey of Blue Hole Cave. The Bluegrass Grotto has surveyed Blue Hole Cave, and its Pine Hill-like passage takes the water another mile where it emerges in the very impressive resurgence which then flows into Sinks of Roundstone.

Pine Hill Cave has three entrances and 150 feet of vertical relief. The hillside northwest of the main walk-in entrance contains the two vertical entrances. The Skylight Dome is a pit entrance 125 feet deep located above the cemetery to the right just inside the trees among some small boulders. Be careful, there are often people below. The Hurricane Pit entrance is to the west about 1000 feet but is much more difficult to find. It was discovered by some Dayton Area Speleological Society members in winter when they saw a flume of steam. Leaves thrown into the hole were blown back out by a strong wind, hence the name. The entrance is climbable but the 20 foot high bell shaped room with a tight squeeze at the top should be rigged to get down. This part of the cave has some formations and domes but is also tight and not often visited. To get to Skylight Dome from inside go upstream in the Register Room, take the Bypass to the left in the midsection of the cave, go left at the Main Fork, then 1200 feet west to the Junction Room which has high overlooks. Go to the

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left wall, left again, forward and up on top of the huge block, and up into the passage. From this point on be careful of slopes that drop 30 feet to the stream canyon below. Follow the ledge on the right to a right turn. At the first junction go left up the mud slope and forward to a 100 feet belly crawl to Skylight Dome.

Another interesting feature of Pine Hill Cave is its many domes. There are at least 24 scattered throughout the cave. There are three above the waterfall, and another impressive series in the Tower domes north of the Main Fork in the second passage on the left. Some may be over 150 feet high.

As you slog through the many pools and drag your body through the several crawls you may also come across some of the biological residents. To mention a few, there are pack rats, blind crayfish, two kinds of salamander, many isolated bats, many small beetles, crickets, spiders, moths, worms, etc., and all the tiny creatures. There are nice fossil corals, some crinoids, and much chert in the upstream area. Many of the side passages are interesting and worth investigating. Pine Hill is known more for passage size rather than for its formations, but there are stalagmites in the Art Room, a large flowstone mass in the Large Room, and many more formations scattered throughout the cave.

Flooding may be a problem downstream from the Main Entrance since there are tree trunks around and a railroad tie wedged into the ceiling, but on a previous trip with two feet of water rushing into the entrance, the upstream area was unaffected. There are lots of pools in Pine Hill Cave, usually knee deep, and you come out with clean shoes. You can rush in and out in an hour, but to see the more than five miles of passage will take considerably longer and provide much more enjoyment.

Cave Location:

From the entrance gate go downhill (left) on Rt. 1004 .5 miles to Mullins Station Rd. Turn left and follow this gravel road for 5.5 miles to Rt. 25, turn right, look for and obvious semicircular parking area on the right hand side of the road, with a white frame house 50 yards behind it.

Several trails lead to the railroad tracks - go west (to the left) on these. 30-50 yards later there will be a trail on the right hand side (just beyond the garden). Follow trail downhill to entrance.

Note!! During the summer the family in the white frame house frequently holds a roadside sale where we normally park. If this is the case please park a considerable distance east or west of their stand to allow for people to see their signs and have a place to park.

Thomas E. Cottrell NSS 11OOO

Deweys' Drop

Dewey's Drop-In Cave is a pretty, vertical cave located in a beautiful area of steep hills in Rockcastle County, Kentucky. The entrance to this pit cave is high on a hill near the limestone-sandstone contact. The land is owned by Dewey McGuire(?) and carries his name.

Dewey's Drop-In Cave was discovered in 1976 by members of the Greater Cincinnati Grotto (GCG), after conversations with the owner. The cave was mapped by GCG and Bluegrass Grotto shortly after its discovery.

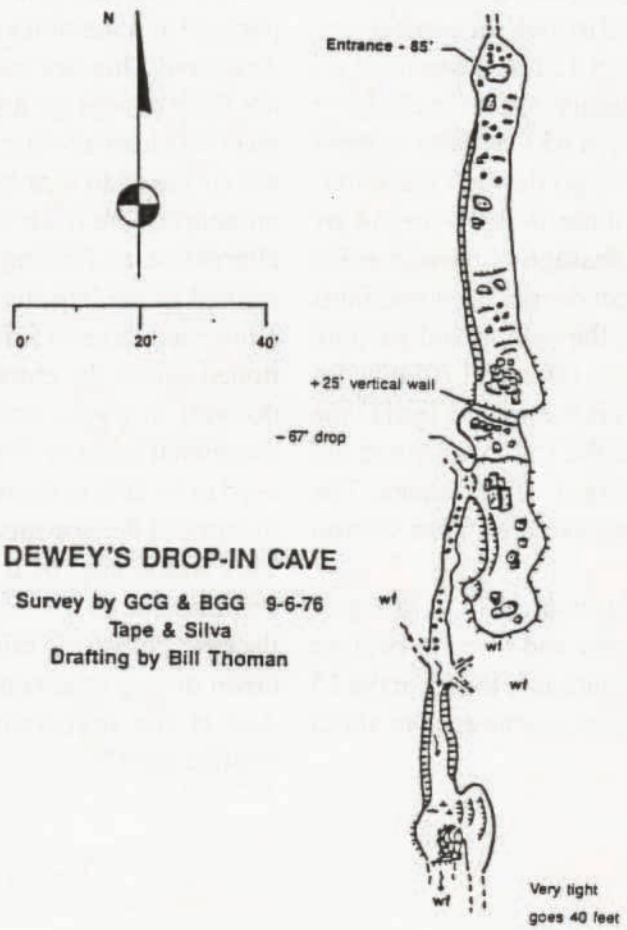
The entrance pit is 85 feet, all free drop. The initial exploration was halted at the bottom of the entrance drop by a 25 foot vertical wall. The sheer climb offers no good hand holds and the top is mud with loose breakdown. Exploration continued when a ladder was brought in and the pitch was overcome - only to find another drop on the other side. The second drop is 67 feet deep, with loose rock outcroppings to make the descent treacherous.

The only good rigging point for the second drop is around a huge boulder on the floor of the initial pit. A lot of padding is required across the top of the vertical wall separating the two drops, making this a difficult drop to rig. No passages of any significance were found

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below the second drop.
Being a free drop, the initial pit is relatively easy for competent vertical cavers. The top lip is not particularly difficult to negotiate, either descending or ascending. Once down the entrance pit, the skylight is especially beautiful when the sun is overhead. Perfect for camera buffs!

Cave Location:
From the entrance gate go downhill (left) on Rt. 1004 9.1 ,miles to the junction of US 25 and turn right. Goto the flashing light at a 3 way stop. Continue straight, now on Rt. 150 (US 25 turns right at stop) for 2 miles to junction Rt. 461 (at traffic light) Turn left and travel .5 miles to B. Brown road (this gravel road is unmarked but is distinguished by a limestone roadcut). Turn left through the road cut and travel .25 miles to a barn on the left. Park in this barnyard, making sure to close all gates opened. Dewey's is in the woods across the field, east of the barn. The trail will be flagged for Karst-O-Rama.
Bill Thoman (NSS 12725) Gary Bush (NSS 17697)



DEWEY'S DROP-IN CAVE
Survey by GCG & BGG 9-6-76
Tape & Silva
Drafting by Bill Thoman

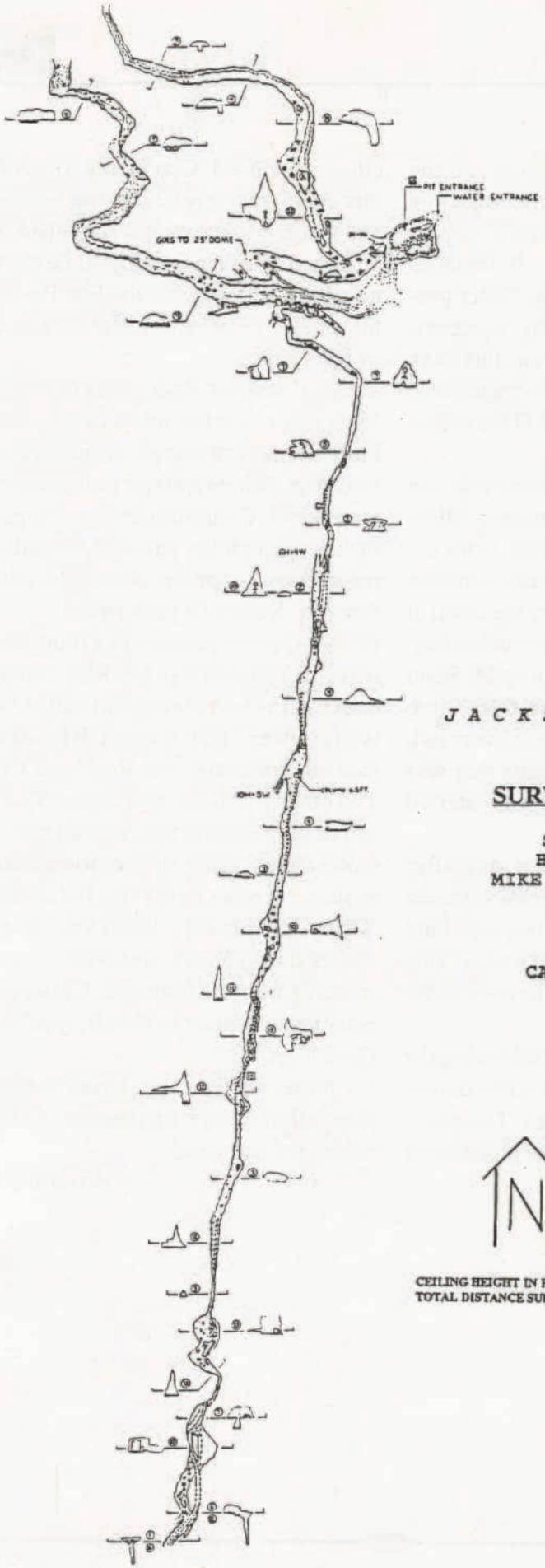
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Homestead Cave

"Homestead Cave!"
"No, Rainshelter Cave!!"
"I found it first so I named it Homestead!!!"
"We found it before you and we called it Rainshelter!!!!"
Well, this was the scene some years ago when Rainshelter cave was discovered and Jacques wanted to call it Homestead Cave. Jacques never lost affection for the name Homestead and with his nose for finding caves we knew someday there would be a Homestead Cave. The day of awakening came on February 12, 1989 when Jacques convinced Mark Rocklin and John Neack to explore a cave he had found ridge walking some weeks earlier. The first entrance looked at was the water entrance (not yet surveyed) and apprehensive to go through it, the group decided to look for another way in. Climbing up the ridge about 75 feet a beautiful pit was discovered. The pit is roughly 30 feet in diameter and 60-70 feet deep (surveyed at 65 feet). But without a rope, the group was forced to go through the water. Once inside the cave these three troopers began by going upstream. This stream passage starts with ankle deep water and continues to get deeper until one finds himself 700 feet later kissing the ceiling and gasping for air. From here they turned back and followed a going side lead. Currently this is the longest lead in the cave. This group went as far as the 15 foot drop and did not descend due to not having a cable ladder. The majority of formations in the cave are in the section prior to the drop.
The first survey trip was in March of 1989. A group of seven of us went, four to survey and three to explore (scoop) other leads and set up the cable ladder at the 15 foot drop. We surveyed from the pit entrance to about 125 feet past the drop. Surveyors set 44 stations for approximately 1500 feet. We had a slight mishap with the cable ladder rig and realized it wasn't actually needed to get down the drop. When we got back to the entrance pit the day had turned to sleeting rain. Three people climbed the rope and three left through the water passage (Ed. Note: That makes 6, you started with seven. Is he still there?)
The second survey trip was in April of the same year. Our goal was to push and survey as much as possible of the lead we were previously working. We set 17 more stations for anther 380 feet. The passage still goes but is too narrow for any of us. The whole A-survey runs directly south through the ridge.
The last survey trip was over a year later in July of 1990. Four of us went on this trip to survey up the water passage and the other dry lead which goes in the same direction. This dry lead was surveyed until we could not (as a group) go any further. One of our group did push this lead another 60 feet. The water passage was not surveyed to termination but only until we got very uncomfortable from the cold. This passage is our best alternative to finding more cave. It will need to be pushed in the late summer when the water is low.
Homested cave is a fun cave to go play in. As mentioned earlier the entrance pit is a nice drop and would do well in photo sessions. The walk to the cave is somewhat lengthy if you park at the paved road. We used to be able to drive (4x4) directly to the cave but at the time of the last survey trip the road was washed out. This would also be a good cave to take beginners or children due to it's lack of difficulty. We have been in the cave during the rain and the water level seems to go down during this wetness.
Ask at the registration desk for directions to this pristine cave!!

Jeff Streba

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HOMESTEAD CAVE

JACKSON COUNTY , KENTUCKY

SURVEYED BY GCG MEMBERS 1989-90

MIKE CLARK — JOHN NEACK
SEAN JOHNSON — JACQUES RAMEY
HOWARD KALNITZ — MARK ROCKLIN
MIKE (CHIEF) MICHALACK — JEFF STREBA
DAVE MORAN — JOHN WISHER

CARTOGRAPHY BY JEFF STREBA 1992

N

CEILING HEIGHT IN FEET
TOTAL DISTANCE SURVEYED: 2775 FT.

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Misty cave has long been a favorite of mine and the Greater Cincinnati Grotto. It features many of the different types of terrains and obstacles that cavers of all experience levels love to negotiate. It includes rocky crawls, tube crawls, domes, climbs, water passages, chimneys, breakdown, and tight squeezes. However, we use discretion and never visit this cave during the winter months as it is a bat hibernaculum. For this reason this is A GUIDED TRIP ONLY, and directions will not be published.

This cave was found in 1987 by Jacque Ramey on one of his, now famous, ridgewalks. It was named Misty due to the large amount of cold air issuing from the entrance, in hot weather it can fill the entire entrance area with mist - up to 100 feet away from the cave! It was entered soon after, and several well traveled passages were explored with nothing new to add. Soon after, a breakthrough occured when a group from Cinn. dug through a boulder choke leading to cyalume crawl. Exploration pushed into the stream passage that was found and also higher levels. Soon the grotto started surveying.

While mopping up small survey leads a day after Christmas, we found a major passage near the entrance that linked into the other new sections, however a long rocky crawl had to be negotiated (Xmas Crawl). This section allowed to cave to be visited as a loop - a rarity in this part of the country.

Most trips start into the main cave section following the obvious passage, taking time out to visit some domes to either side. Bats abound in these domes. The going is straight forward until a what looks like a dead-end crawl is reached. Contorting to stand up at the end of this crawl will revel the dome beyond. Past this dome and to the left is the crawl and then the pinch that was dug open. This leads to Cyalume crawl (the cyalume is now long gone) and to the Flat Room. From here visit the stream crawl and make sure to check the stream canyon here.

Back at the Flat Room exit left through breakdown. Soon you will break into a large passage with a stream. Follow this, sometimes crouching, sometimes losing the water. Where a major passage opens to the left drop your packs. Continue down and regain the stream as it rushes through the terminal breakdown to the surface resurgence just on the other side. Alas, there is no way through. Return to your packs.

Follow the side passage to a room. From here there are two exits. The first is No-Risk canyon. This is a great exercise in chimneying and called No-Risk because it is 3 feet over 3 feet of water. It then passes through a 50 foot tall dome and into the Xmas Crawl Passage.

The other exit leads to a dome. The wall of this dome can be climbed and then a small tube crawl (the highest crawl off the side of the dome) can be followed. It rejoins the other path right before Xmas Crawl.

Xmas Crawl is only 300 ft long, but it goes forever. It bellies through rock and water and rejoins the rest of the cave near the entrance. Crawl to the entrance and exit. Congratulate yourself, you've done the Misty Cave loop.

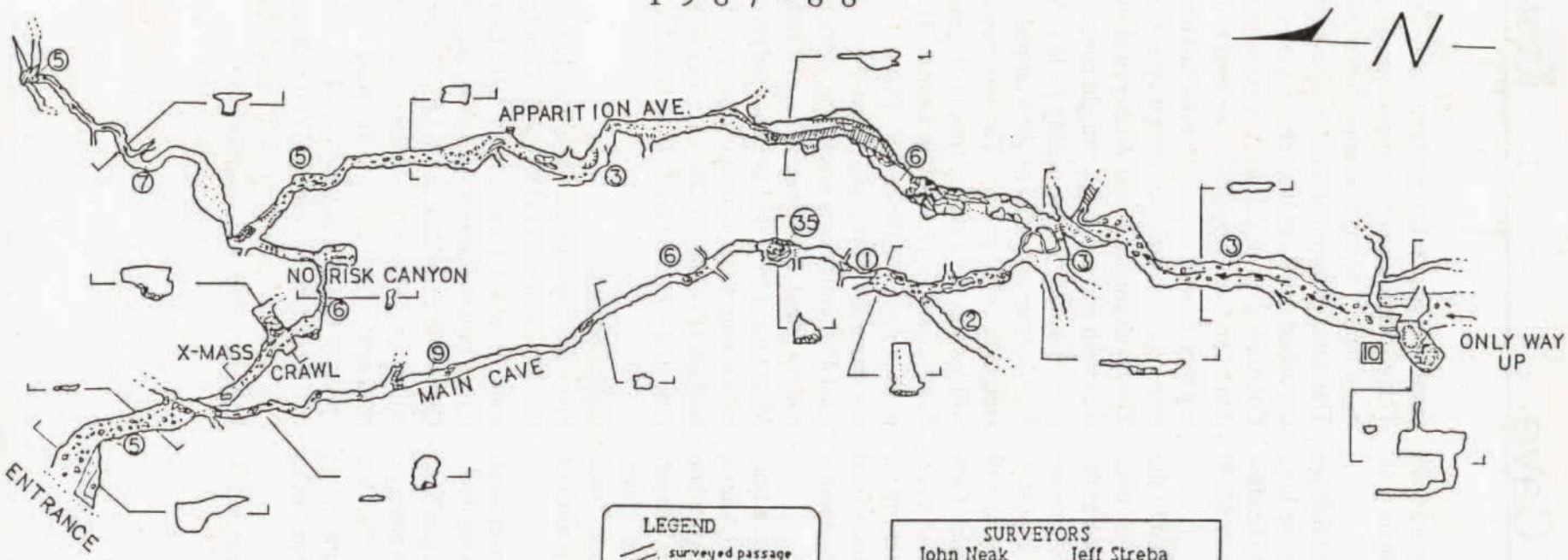
To those visiting this cave, please respect the bat population and the pristine areas of the cave that were recently discovered.

Howard Kalnitz NSS20678

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M I S T Y C A V E

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Horselick Cemetery Cave

Horselick Cemetery is one of those caves that are beautiful to visit at least once, and, depending on your opinion on water, maybe only once.

HCC is in a side valley off of Horselick creek that we lovingly call "Swiss Cheese" valley due to the high number of caves we have discovered in it in the last few years. GCG worked this area pretty heavily in 87-90 and is still doing some work in the area.

Ask at registration for the location of the road to the cave. Driving down the road you will cross over Horselick Creek, then over a small stream. Look to the left and you will notice the boils, a usually dry resurgence. In high water this can issue quite a lot of water. A little further on, if your window is open, you will notice a draft of cool air. Up on the left is one of the entrances to John Coffey cave, an old saltpeter cave. This is a nice side trip or can be a good shorter trip on its own. Continue on to a field in the valley bottom and park here. The entrance is on the right treeline about a third up the field.

Enter the cave in turn to the left. Drop through a hole and follow the stream, crawling all the while. After a few feet stand up in a cross joint and congratulate yourselves if you stayed dry. It won't last any longer. Straight ahead is the infamous 800ft water crawl. While at no time is it uncomfortable, it is long. There is always more then enough airspace to keep most of your head dry - keep to the right, however.

After the water level drops to a stream crawl over sand, look up for a hole in the ceiling. This leads to the dryer areas of the cave. Straight ahead stays wet and gets low, although it does connect to the rest of the main passage. Once up the hole - dry out! Continue crawling for a while and then STAND in what passes for trunk in this part of the country. Sand banks and large rocks characterize this part of the passage.

200 ft (or so) on the left is the Crystal passage, decorated in crystal rimstone dams - stay on the path here. This passage has a pit in the passage - it can be climbed, but a hand line may be appreciated by many cavers. This passage terminates in breakdown and many small unpushed crawls as it reaches a valley wall.

Continuing on in the main passage you'll pass some domes and water passages, we tend to do some crawling here. Down the passage at the last fork shown on the map you can continue either way as they run parallel. They both come out near Wishers wallow. This is a low area with a low passage straight ahead and a crawl on the left across a large muddy puddle. We almost left John Wisher here after he got wrapped up in the survey tape in the mud puddle. The left crawl (the Ski Run) will lead to the z survey (not on the map) and a large dome complex (Pants Leg Dome). The low passage joins in in one of the domes. This low passage continues onward unfinished! We have crawled up it for at least 45 minutes with no change. It is a typical Jackson county crawl. Low, wet, wide, and full of cobbles. Most tourist trips will use only polypro. Colder cavers may want wetsuits or carry clothes in - in buckets (P-11 style). The cave has some flooding potential - but the creek usually floods first!

Cave Location:

From the entrance gate turn right(uphill) and follow Rt. 1004 to it's end at Rt.1955. Turn left on 1955 and follow it 4.1 miles to Rt. 1912 past the T-Bird ranch, down a large hill crossing over Horselick Creek and then back up. 3-5 miles past the creek you will see a single white house on the left with a dirt road next to it. Turn onto this road follow it to its apparent end at a driveway. A 4wd road goes down to the right here, follow it. You will pass the cemetery and then pass through the creek. Follow directions included in description.

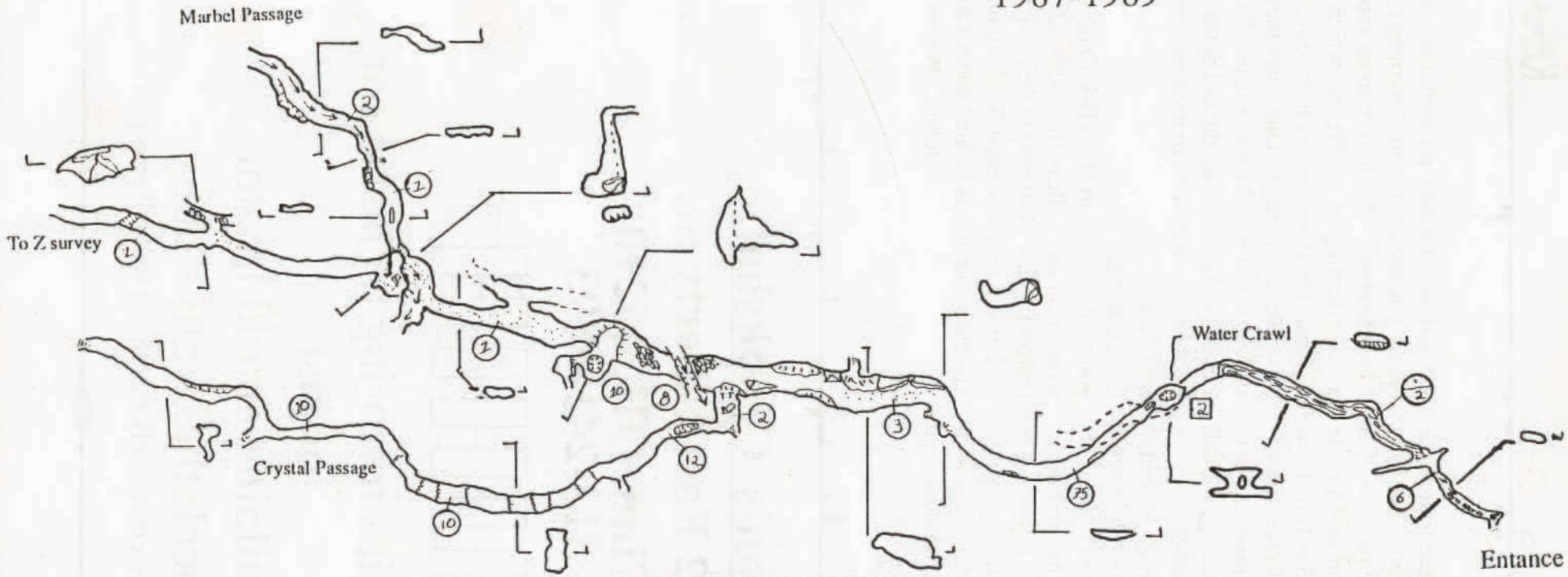
Howard Kalnitz (DDD-NSS 20678)

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Horselick Cemetery Cave

Jackson County, Ky.

Sunto and Tape Survey
1987-1989



LEGEND

- surveyed passage
- unsurveyed passage
- (15) ceiling height
- drop in floor
- ceiling ledge
- breakdown
- water
- slope
- mud
- sand

Nm

35

0 Meters 70

Survey Crew:

Jacques Ramey
John Neack
Howard Kalnitz
Jeff Streba
John Wisher
Jerry Bailey
Mark Rocklin
Tom Kirkwood
Gary Taylor

Cartography by H.J. Kalnitz

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Horselick Hell Cave

Located on the north side of Swiss Cheese Valley, the 50ft. by 25ft. entrance is still easy to miss. The joint controlled entrance leads downward for 100ft. to what became survey station A-15. At Station A-9 a cable ladder is handy but not necessary. A-15 will find you in a small room with two leads. One will take you into a high canyon lead for 265ft. and then pinch down to subhuman tightness. At A-16 in this passage a small lead to the right will put you on top of another canyon which partially follows the upper A survey. One end of this canyon corresponds with the entrance drop while the other moves into the hillside for about 450ft. This passage has a few leads at the bottom but nothing of significance. In order to traverse this canyon it is necessary to chimney up and down throughout its length. Close to the end of this passage you will encounter a 50ft. dome on the right side of the passage and just past it a 40ft. pit with three streams flowing toward you and into the pit. Returning to A-15 enter the other crawlway. This will open up shortly into a low passage leading to a 30ft. pit which can be down climbed. The flow of water in the cave seems to show two different drainages. One down the pit at B-20 and another at this pit. The water in this 30ft. pit sumps in a small pool and denotes the end of the cave. The pit at B-20 has more flow from its three feeders and needs exploring.

Cave Location:

Follow directions to Horselick Cemetery, parking at same location. Follow the old road up the valley. Follow the first clear road to the right. Up the road, on the left will be a rock cairn. Turn left off the road here. The cave entrance is located about 100ft off the road

John E. Wisher N.S.S. 23851

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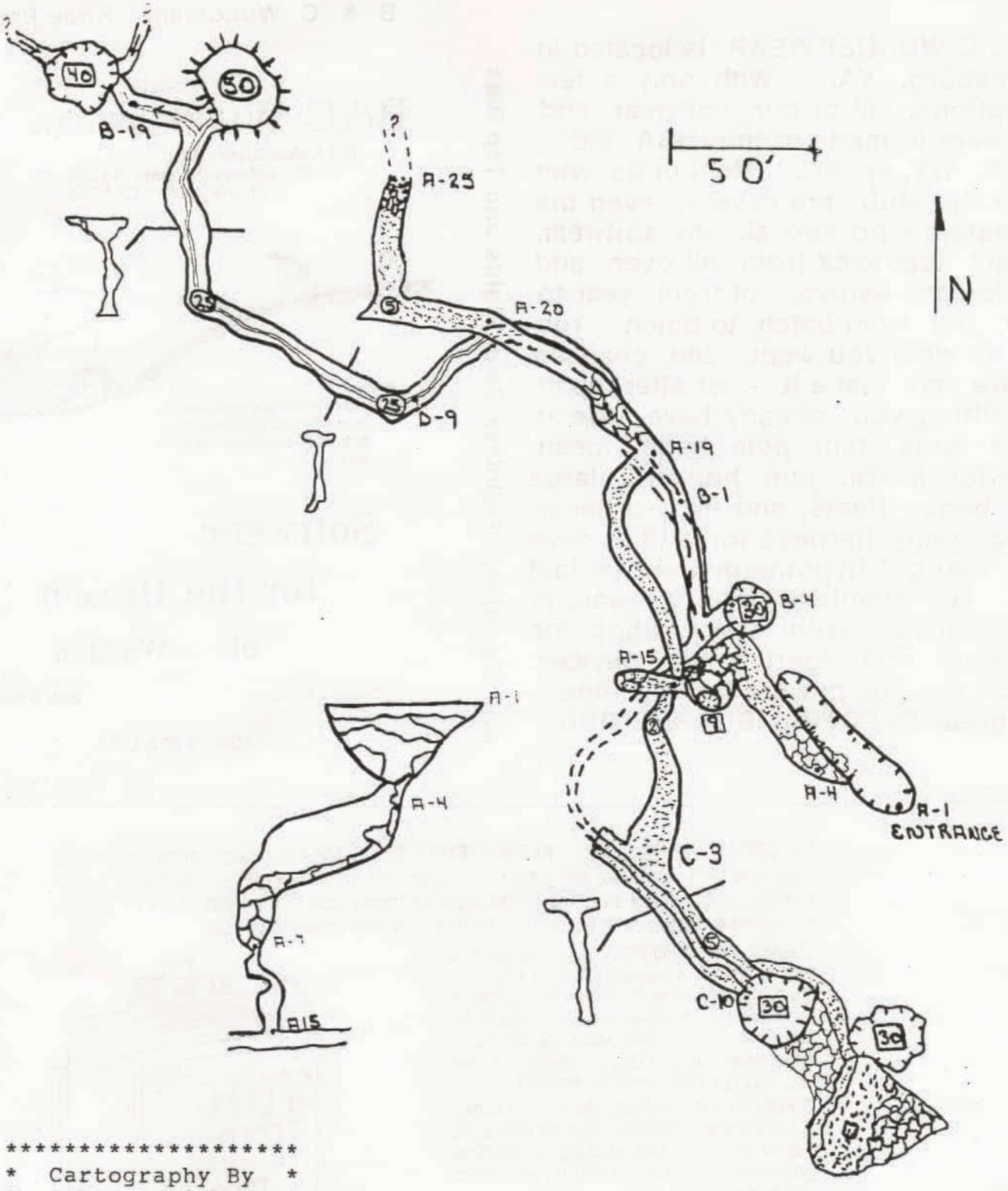
or just

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*  Cartography By    *
*  John E. Wisher    *
*  Dennis Anglert    *
*  Mark Swalstedt    *
*  Howard Kalnitz    *
*  Chip Brigham      *
*  Dave Moran        *
*  Mike Clark        *
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*Horselick Hell Cave*
*1,226 FT.          *
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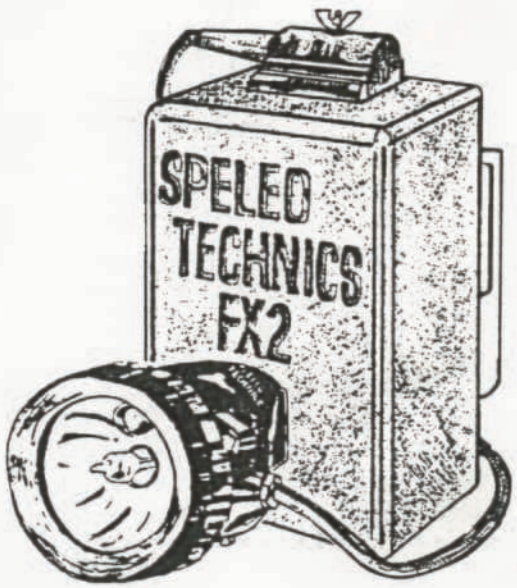
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Opening August 1992

AMERICAN CAVE AND KARST CENTER AT HIDDEN RIVER CAVE

Main Street, Horse Cave, Kentucky

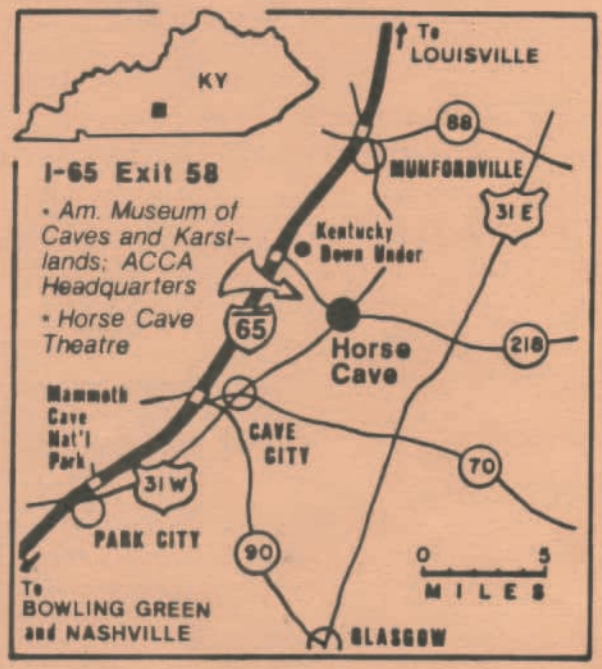
NSS MEMBERS WELCOME!

From July 31 to August 10, the ACCA is offering **free previews of the American Cave and Karst Center** to NSS Members who would like to stop in Horse Cave on their way to or from the 1992 NSS Convention.

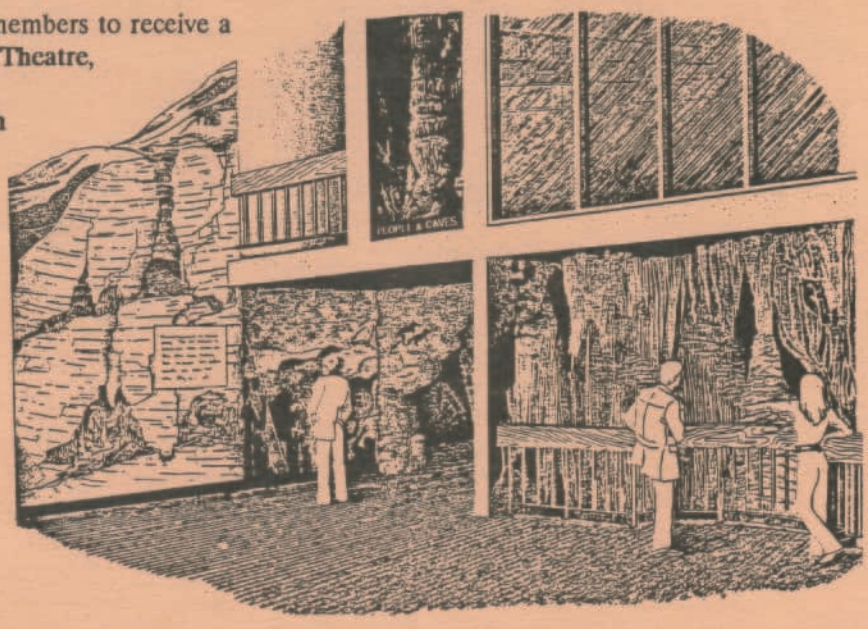
The Center is located on Main Street, adjacent to Hidden River Cave in the City of Horse Cave, Kentucky. Horse Cave is two miles east of Interstate 65, off exit 58.

Visitors will be able to view a number of museum exhibits as well as plans for completion of the facility. The museum tour includes a visit to the entrance of Hidden River Cave, a former commercial cave that has been closed for nearly 50 years due to pollution.

The cave has dramatically recovered in the past two years. Recent survey trips have mapped 1.5 miles of passage and the cave is still going. The ACCA will open Hidden River Cave to wild caving trips during the Convention by advance reservation to NSS groups of 5 or more. If your grotto is interested in caving in Hidden River, please contact the ACCA office before July 15.



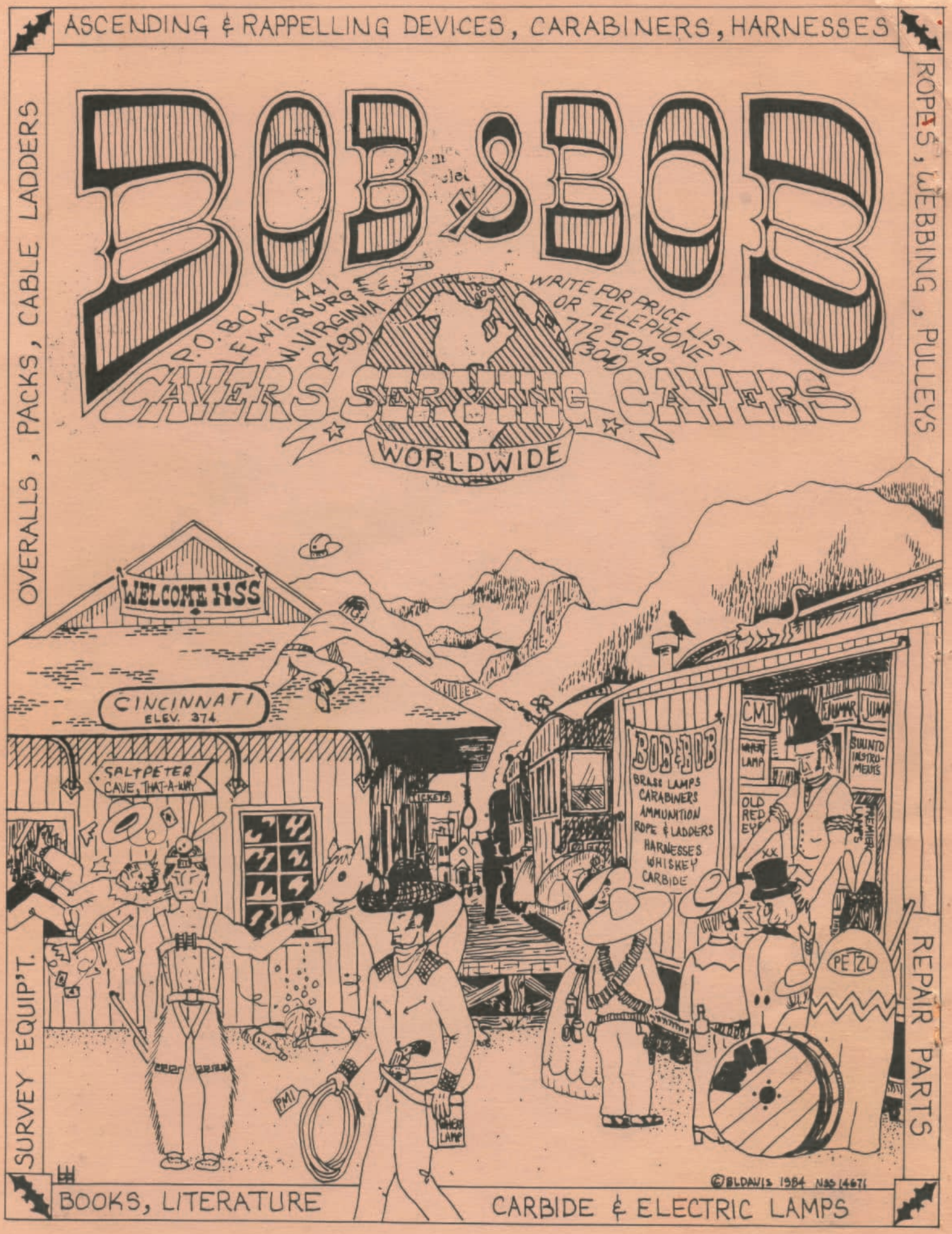
We have also arranged for NSS members to receive a **10% discount to the Horse Cave Theatre,** and a **20% discount at nearby Kentucky Down-Under/Mammoth Onyx Cave.** We hope you enjoy the 1992 NSS convention and invite you to visit Kentucky Cave Country while in route.



For more information, or to reserve a cave trip, contact:

The American Cave Conservation Association
Corner of Main & Cave Streets
Post Office Box 409
Horse Cave, Kentucky 42749
Telephone: (502) 786-1466

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