

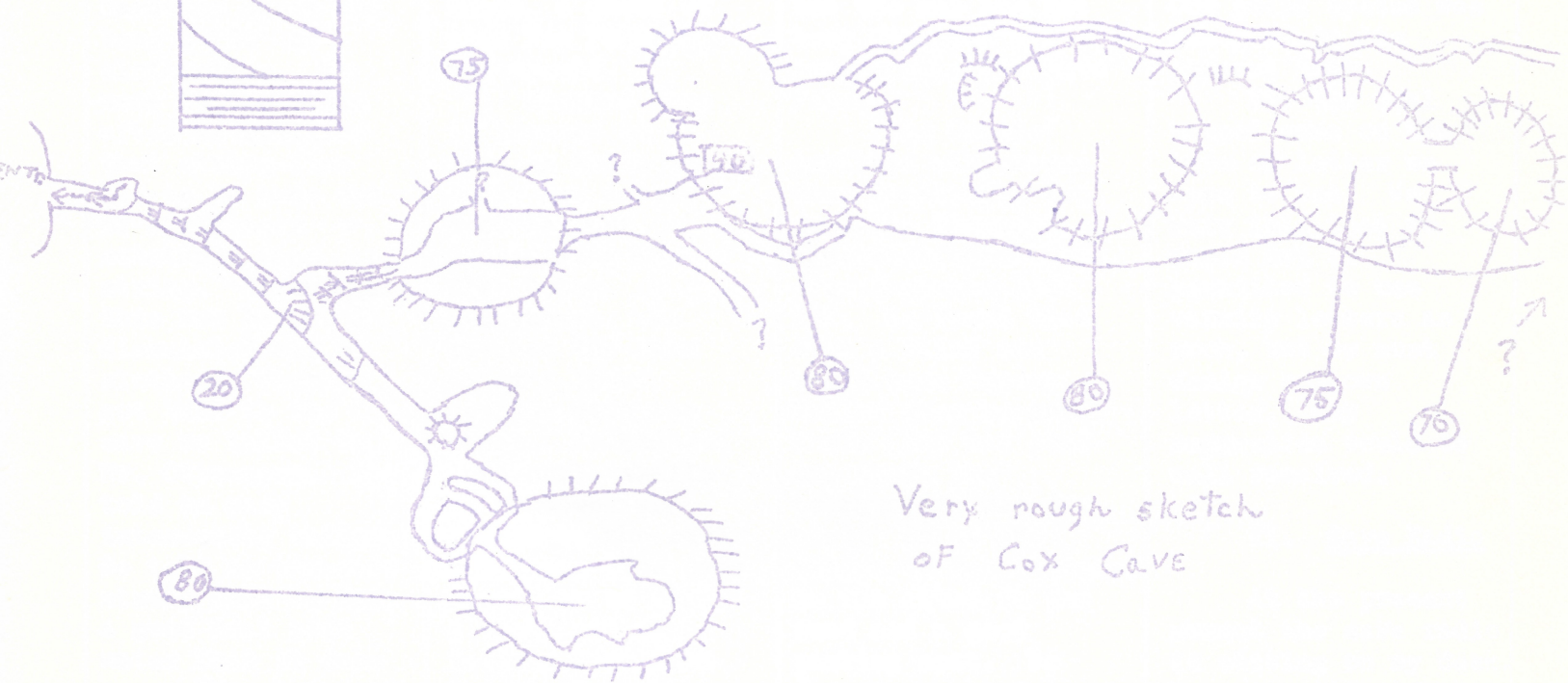
The Rope's End

Newspaper of the Chaminade Student Grotto
Member of the M.S.S.

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Chaminade Student Grotto
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Ottomeyer Cave
2/5/72
Chris Layton

We left Chaminade at about 9:30 Saturday morning. It was a small group: Bro. Herman, Rick Yelton, and myself. When we got to the cave we found out that someone had forgotten the string-line and since mapping without a string-line is not the easiest thing in the world, we made a quick trip up to a local hardware store and bought 100' of clothesline. We went to the store after we realized that string-line had to be made out of a stronger substance than string. Fortunately this was before I dismantled all my clothes. When we got back to the cave we talked to Mr. Ottomeyer. He told us many interesting things. He told us the cave stream used to move a good deal more water than it does now. (He claims a sonic boom caused the decrease.) He also stated that from his bedroom he can hear the railroads of Valley Park, indicating either a portion of live rock or a

(Cont. Pg. 5)

Coonrod Cave
2/12/72
Joe Lambright

As fate would have it we left for Coonrod (Spider) Cave on a drizzling day in a small car. It stayed the same way almost the whole day. (Normally it would be used to transport around 4 people but we jammed in 7 in some way or another.) The seven were: Harry Yelton, Mike O'Connell, Steve O'Connell, Mike Karpowitz, Bro. Drees, a guest of mine Tom Pollart, and myself.

Coonrod Cave is located on a farm on which the owner has a very good lay out considering the sink holes everywhere. We reached the cave after a brief meeting with the owner. We changed into our overalls or whatever and walked to the cave entrance. The cave seemed to be just a small pit when looking down from the lip but once in, it opens into a small tunnel where you have to bend over to walk. Mike Karpowitz took the lead at Bro. Herman's command and led the way into the deep

(Cont. Pg. 5)

Cox Cave
Fabulous First
2/19/72
Bro. Drees

What a way to begin our sixth year of Grotto activities! Saturday, Feb. 19, 1972 found "the Grotto" headed for a new cave, new for us. We had plotted it on the map, we had talked to cavers who had been there, and we had read the reports on it in the Cave Files but none of our party had ever been to Cox Cave before. (It has been mapped but the map has not been finished and turned into the Cave Files.)

"The Grotto" included six cavers from Chaminade, two from the Normandy Arachnids, and three from Explorer Post 252. We found that even a blind man would know Trower Hollow when he got there (and had someone check the topographic map for him). So at the bridge we back-tracked to the elbow in the road and a good parking spot. We donned our caving clothes and grabbed a snack since it was already 11:30. Crossing the field, we went directly to the cave entrance just as if we had been there many times before.

(Cont. Pg. 6)

Editorial
Rick Yelton

We will print any response which is written in a well phrased manner and we retain the right to change spelling or phrasing in order to retain the quality of the paper.

I. Grotto Letters

Bro. Drees and myself met with the faculty council in our quest for varsity letters. Our point system was accepted in its present form.

But the real hassel came on the type of letter we were to use. We were told that we would not be permitted to use varsity letters as such, but we must design our own letter. Any suggestion would be well received.

II. Cave Radio

At the present moment the cave radio is sitting on my desk. We are waiting for the builder of our instrument to hand over his list on the batteries needed. As soon as these are acquired, we can put it into operation.

For those who

(Cont. Pg. 6)

| SAT. | SUN. | MON. | TUES. | WED. | THURS. | FRI. |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| APRIL 1 | 2 <u>EASTER</u> | 3 Little Hammoth Training | 4 Jefferson County, Pit Mapping | 5 | 6 Junior trip Waynesville | 7 High School AT MENDOTA → |
| 8 GROTTO CAMP/CAVE STATE PARK → → → | 9 | 10 OFFICERS MEET 7:30 P.M. | 11 | 12 #16 GENERAL GROTTO MEETING | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Vertical Rope Work ? → ? | 16 | 17 | 18 MMV | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 M.S.S. at Rolla | 23 | 24 OFFICERS MEET 7:30 P.M. | 25 | 26 #17 GENERAL GROTTO MEETING | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Trip ? | 30 | | | | | |

April Calendar of the Chaminade Student Grotto. Any questions either attend one of the meetings or call Bro. Drees at 993-4400.

MINUTES OF THE CHAMINADE STUDENT GROTTO

THIRTEENTH GENERAL MEETING, MARCH 1, 1972

Call to order - at 3:05.

Minutes of last meeting read by Tom Conran.

...Old Business...

Ropes End: The March issue was one of the best we had ever put out. Thanks are due to the many people who wrote articles for it.

Grotto Letters: Coming up to the faculty council meeting on March 6, 1972.

Trip Reports: Lone Hill Onyx Cave Feb. 26, 1972 by Rick Brooks.

...New Business...

Lone Hill Onyx trip: We plan no trip leaders as such, and a mix of schools in each group.

Training Map: We set up mapping training for a March 18 field trip session, and plan to have a class room session.

Junior Trip: Sunday March 26, only Juniors.

McKenna: Trip to Lesterville to finish mapping of Wicks and Imagination Caves. Will leave Friday at 5:30 and get back Saturday before 5:00 P.M.

Vertical work: Training sometime soon.

Junior NVOR: Jointly Mr. Piper of Normandy and Bro. Drees in charge.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

FOURTEENTH GENERAL MEETING,

Call to order at 3:10

No minutes given.

Treasurer's Report: No expense or income.

...Old Business...

Ropes End: Dead line is March 20; people owe articles - last issue was one of best ever put out.

Letters: Grotto will not get athletic letters, we must come up with our own system.

Cave Radio: We will test it and use it sometime soon.

...New Business...

Trips: 3/18/72- CYC and Laboure to Cox Cave 8:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
3/22/72- Mapping meeting: basic technique 7:30 - 9:30 P.M.
3/23/72- Junior NVOR planning session 7:30 P.M. (later changed to 3/20/72) (projected date - 3rd weekend in April) NOW 4/7-8-9.
3/25/72- Mapping cave trip to Krueger 8:30 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
3/26/72- Junior's trip to Krueger 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. (changed to Cox)

Nominating Committee: Will be set up next meeting.

Constitution: 1. Officer elected for one semester May-December, January-August.
2. Assumes responsibility at first meeting when he pays his dues.

Trip Reports: Lesterville - Bro, Drees.
Rollin #2 - Bro. Drees.
Oliver Deere- Tom Conran.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Ottomeyer Cave
from Pg. 2

cavernous system.

When we entered the cave we ate lunch in a little room built at the entrance of the cave. It was originally used as the pumping room for Mr. Ottomeyer's water supply.

After the walk-way thru the pump house there is a room about 20' wide. On the right the ceiling and floor of a high mud bank are separated by two feet, on the left the ceiling is about ten feet high.

About twenty feet from the dropoff, there is a small squeeze and then a walking passage of about 20 feet in length.

The cave then narrows into a crawl-way and continues for about thirty feet. The ceiling here is well decorated with stalactites. The floor is composed of mud and the stream underpasses it to the left.

The cave again opens up into a typical Missouri cave stream passage. The ceiling is about five feet high and the floor is covered with a mixture of gravel and mud.

Amongst the gravel, we found two bones (either of the leg or

arm) of small animals.

It had taken us around four hours to get this far so we turned around.

After changing we again re-scaled the Ottomeyer's tremendous hill and headed home.

(Moral of the day: He who forgets the string-line spends Grotto's money to buy two new ones.)

Coonrod Cave
from Pg. 2

unpredictable cave.

It seemed as though Mike didn't know where he was going at first, but then Bro. told him to follow the

ceiling channel that led through the cave indicating the main passageway. After this whenever you look at Mike you would see him looking up at the ceiling to make sure that he wasn't lost.

The cave is a narrow one, in which you can walk for the most part. There is a small stream that has dissolved many winding stream passages. As a general rule, one should follow the stream. However the stream flows under several mud banks.

Here one must hack out his own way.

Among the several interesting sights in the cave, is the remains of a skeleton about 100' from the entrance. (Behind the remains, located on a shelf, is a small crawl-way ending in a dome.) The stomach crawl over a mud bank about thirty feet long presents another nice problem. It is advisable to stay in the crawl instead of going low with the stream. A little after

the bank is a wall of limestone so jointed that it looks like a brick wall.

The cave ends(?) in a small water crawl. But before one reaches the crawl there are several domes, two of which were dropping water.

The cave is relatively unspoiled thanks to the viligent owner. There is considerable life in the cave, such as spiders, bats, and insects.

After awhile of exploring the cave we stopped to eat lunch, as usual, Karpowitz picked his own little corner in which to sit and eat, while the

rest of us sat on a large piece of breakdown and proceeded to eat our own lunches. Most of our lunches consisted of several sandwiches and cookies or something, but Bro. had brought his own speciality of a meal, if that's what you want to call it. On his sandwich he had at least 7 different things: ketchup, mustard, peanut butter, jelly, cheese, etc.

After we had finished eating we proceeded to explore the cave. Soon we started out, when we reached the entrance we saw that we had plenty of time so Bro. Dress and some of us started to map the cave. We had only mapped around 50' of the cave when we found that it would be best to be on our way back to Chaminate.

As we headed back to the car to change I glanced over at Mike, our fearless leader and noticed that he seemed to be staring at the sky, however it was the fact that he was still in the process of recuperating from

Coonrod Cave
from Pg. 5

the act of following the groove in the ceiling.

After we had finished dressing in a small barn, we rode home, proud of our victory. We had defeated all foes including that of muddy ground near the car.

Cox Cave
from Pg. 2

The plotting had been accurate and the verbal descriptions of the set up made locating it so simple. I thought of the time I had spent an hour or more trying to relocate the entrance to Hornecker Cave in summer after having been there a time or two during the winter.

Inside the cave we separated into small groups to explore side passages near the first pit. The pit is vast and has many small passages leading to it at upper and lower levels.

Regrouping in the main passage, we proceeded, surprised at the maze-like part we found which was not indicated as such in even the most detailed report we found in the cave files. As we

continued, or tried to, the second pit blocked our way. Again we explored side passages trying to find the one indicated in the cave report which leads most of the way around the pit with only a "swing around" point at the end which had good hand holds. This we were unable to locate. In the absence of this "key" passage, two boys climbed around the upper edges of the pit on the right side, possible, but not easy. Others climbed down to the lip of the pit and dropped the final four feet into it because of an overhang. Just as we were deciding to leave two people behind with the rope to assure our return, one of the O'Connell's and Karpowitz discovered the "key" passage from this end. Checking it to be sure, they went back then returned with the two we had intended to leave with the rope.

The Big obstacle was past but the climbing continued scary. Carefully on the edge of a pit you work your way to this big breakdown blocked angled edge up and straddled it, only to gasp at another

pit on the side of this block. Several pits later we decided we had reached the turnaround time even though we had not reached the end of the cave.

Because of the difficult climbs, the second pit, and the maze effect, we allowed two hours for the exit trip, then surprised ourselves in reaching daylight in an hour or a little less.

Back at the cars we changed, then invaded the local Dairy Queen. Over sodas and burgers, we decided that Cox Cave is a beautiful and challenging cave, well worth a return trip. Having discovered the way around the second pit, we felt confident that the next time we could better ^{be} our own guides, or as one report said: "It is helpful to have an experienced guide who knows this cave along." And another report hinted vaguely that vertical work may be necessary in parts of this cave!

To others "Mary's Shower" and "Karpowicz's Pit" may mean nothing, but to us these are definite places in the cave. We want to return to descend into some of these pits! The water

must go somewhere!

Editorial
from Pg. 2

cave radio is we will explain it. When one person has the transmitter in the cave and another person has the receiver outside, the low frequency beam will direct the man topside where the cave goes. With it, one can locate surface features in relation to the cave itself.

We ought to thank Fr. Wightman for giving us all the aid he has, the basic radio design, and the Radio Science Club for improving and building it.

III. Camp/Cave

On March 20, four grottoes, Augustian (Baja), Chaminade, DuBourg, and Normandy Arachnids met at Chaminade to decide the fate of a week-end camping-caving seminar for high school grottoes.

Each grotto expressed wishes for it to be our own organization. There was a small squabbling over the date, but it was

Editorial
From Pg. 6

decided to be held on April 7-8-9. The place is planned to be Meramec State Park.

We plan to offer: first aid directed by South Side and singing around the campfire, Friday, led by DuBourg; vertical training, Saturday, given by Normandy Arachids, and cave mapping by Chaminade on Saturday night. We plan to lead two or three field trips along with the seminars.

The plans are somewhat certain so we invite each grotto to show up and enjoy the fun.

Oliver Deere Cave
3/12/72
Mike Bender

We, MMV, Tom Conran and myself started for the cave at 8:30. The sun was bright and it was very warm out.

We started for this trip on Saturday, 3-12-72. After reaching the cave about an hour's drive away from St. Louis we changed into our cave clothes.

The cave was at the bottom of a sink hole and is a horizontal one. We proceeded into the

cave where we reached a pit when we had to climb down a ladder that MMV supplied. The pit was about 30' down with a small hole at the bottom where we had to crawl into. (One way traffic only was permitted with no U turns allowed in any of the small passages.) There were a few large rest places where you could stand up but that was it.

The cave had one beautiful calcite formation in it and about two bats with only one cave cricket seen near the front.

The entrance looks like it is a dead cave with cracked limestone and having a dry floor with only the top moist.

We had explored the cave in about two hours then we had to turn around because we had to be back in St. Louis by no later than 4p.m.

The Many Kinds of Caving

- Bro. Herman Drees-

"Tell me who you cave with and I'll tell you who you are!" There are many kinds of caving.

First off, there is horizontal or vertical caving, de-

pending on the nature of the cave itself.

Secondly there is wet or dry caving, depending on the cave and the weather.

Thirdly there is seasonal caving, with summer as the "in" season and spring or fall for the foolhardy.

Fourthly there are the weekly vs the monthly or bi-semester cavers.

And that about runs the gamut for most impulsive non-thinking cavers. But that's only where the close observer begins.

Try joint cave trips with other grottoes, if you really want to learn. Some cavers will leave you in their dust at the entrance as they race for the far end, "tag up," and return. These will never want to return to this cave again, they have "seen" it. But have they?

Other cavers will take the tightest squeezes, the most arduous path, even if an easier way is possible. To these cavers, an easy cave has no challenge. But is a cave only an obstacle course?

Still others poke along sticking their nose into every nook and cranny, always holding the group back and making little progress possible.

A rather unusual caver is the one who could just as easily be on a city street because he ignores everything while busily engaged in conversation with the person next to him.

What kind of caver are YOU? Do you race, take a workout, dawdle, scrutinize, or charm others with your wit?

There are personal styles of caving and there are group styles of caving. To beginners every breakdown block and pit is an obstacle demanding full attention or he will fall. An experienced caver will take these in stride and observe as well.

Is your trip made with beginners, the experienced, or both? If both are present the group may split in two. Yet if the experienced have developed some social consciousness, they may help the inexperienced by showing them how to climb or pass an obstacle while keeping up a reassuring chatter and explaining some of the mysteries of how caves form. This proves or develops true leadership.

Another unique caver type approaches even ordinary cave passages and formations with a "Why?" How and why did it form? Why there? In a two-level cave, which level is older? Why do stalactites often form in rows? Why are rimstone dams in one cave stream but not in another? Why did the cave form at this level and not higher or lower? Can you tell if a cave has a second exit before you find it? This is not dawdling nor will a single visit do. Reading the story, the mystery of a cave, takes time and thought but is a very challenging quest. Another strange story is the life in a cave.

The world needs socially conscious persons and thinkers willing to challenge the big: "WHY?" How do YOU cave?