

THE Rope's End

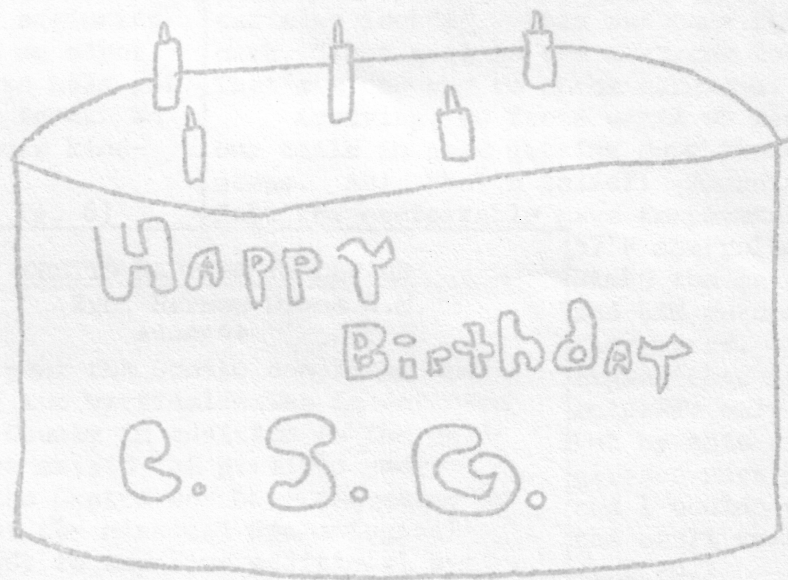
Newspaper of the Chaminade Student Grotto

Member of the M. S. S.

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BAT & LITTLE GEM
CAVES

November 26-28, 1971

Rick Yelton

Due to the lack of room in the last issue we were forced to delay this cave and trip report until now.

Bat Cave is located on a hillside overlooking the Current River. Because its extremely large entrance is hidden from the stream you must stop at the fifth (or so) funny looking tree. (Now I ask you what does a funny looking tree look like?)

The entrance room is fantastic. The opening is easily two hundred feet by seventy-five feet. But the ceiling shoots up and the floor drops leaving a very large room. To your right, as you enter, is a large passage that seems to be the longest passage. It is completely lined with bats (hence the name) and gave off a weird smell. We were there in early winter so we avoided the area and made little noise to disturb our furry friends.

Looking to the left, one sees a small hole leading into a crawlway. This is Bear Avenue, so called because

EDITORIALS

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. Five years ago this month the Chamade Grotto was founded. It was not the first high school grotto in the area and hopefully is far from the last.

At our beginning we relied on other grottoes to help get us on our feet. We return their kind-

ness.
[Cont. Pg. 6]

ONLY THE HARDY

(Little Mammoth)

January 16, 1972

Bro. Herman Drees S.M.

Participants....

Seventeen brave souls: including one sponsor & one moderator, one girl, & one grand time.

Leaving a mere five minutes late and leaving a station wagon ready to go and freshly gassed just sitting behind school, we set out in zero degree weather, on the day before mid-year exams in many county schools, in spite of the superbowl being played that afternoon.

Traveling in caravan style, I looked back occasionally to be sure we were not losing the other two cars. After many looks I noticed one of the others in the car also looking. Then out came the remark, "That girl in the next car looks OK!" That's a new way to check caravans.

Arriving, we froze until we really got our tails in gear getting down those steep steps. Ah! What a relief! Immediately we felt the comfortable cave temperature of

57°F controlled by Nimbo the cave god and his automatic thermostat. (Some argued that it was actually only 56°F but by this time my glasses were fogged and I couldn't see the small numbers exactly.)

The almost immediate increase in temperature brought on a bit of lassitude with some minor adjusting here and futzring at the arrangement there but eventually Group 2 followed Group 1, after the eighth rearrangement of the plans (we're fluid!)

Already feeling an upset stomach coming on, Blume stayed top-side to visit the

GROTTO MAPPING IN DEMAND

Bro. Herman Drees S.M.

Last year the Grotto completed the mapping of two vertical caves in northern Jefferson County in addition to the horizontal cave mapped the previous year.

Now the Grotto has been requested by a member of the Missouri Speleological Survey (MSS) to map five additional pit-type caves in the same area. It seems that many adult grottoes have few vertical caverns and still fewer who are also mappers. This means that we can make a very unique contribution to cave science.

A pit-type cave is a cave with an entrance hole dropping straight down (sixty to eighty feet in this area) sometimes with an offset dividing the drop into two parts. Most pit caves end right there at the foot of the pit.

All five pit caves are in the Maxville Topographic Quadrangle. When these are finished many more pits are waiting in nearby Quads.

JAN 30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5
Rollin's #2			11th General Meeting Rope's End			MAPPING TRIP TO JEFF. CO.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			OFFICER'S Meeting			MUD SINK 8:30-6
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
			12th General Meeting			JOINT TRIP WITH KENNEDY
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
CAVE LOCATION TRIP			OFFICER'S Meeting			LOME HILL ONYX
27	28	29	March 1	2	3	4
			13th General Meeting Rope's End			LESTERVILLE MAPPING TRIP (Hill Sun.)

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

MINUTES OF THE CHAMINADE GROTTTO

NINTH GENERAL MEETING, JANUARY 6, 1972

Meeting called to order at 3:05.
 Minutes of last meeting read.
 Treasurer's Report - We broken even on the Cameron Trip.

...Old Business...

Trip Reports:

- Dec. 27 - Cameron Trip - Larry Ash
- Dec. 29-31 - Mapping Trip to Lesterville - Jeff Blume
- Jan. 2 - Rollins Cave #2 - Tom Conran

Rope's End - Deadline on Jan. 24.
 - Need of articles.

Second Vice Pres. - Rick Yelton was appointed this position by the moderator to run the meetings in abs gace of both the president and V. P. [Cont Next Pg]

Frosh Rep: Jack Quade was elected Freshman representative by the Freshmen. His job will be to sit in on the officer's meetings and report back to the freshmen.

...New Business...

Calendar: Jan. 9 ... Hornecker
Jan. 16 ... Little Mammoth
Jan. 30 ... Rollins #2

Carbide: We agreed to buy 100 lbs. for the Grotto Store.

TENTH GENERAL MEETING JANUARY 20, 1972

Called to order at 3:10.

Minutes of last meeting read.

Treasurer's Report: \$13.65 spent on 100 lbs. of carbide.

...Old Business...

Trip Reports; Jan. 9...Hornecker - Pete Percigh
Jan. 16 ... Little Mammoth - Mike O'Connell

Rope's End - Deadline Jan 25.

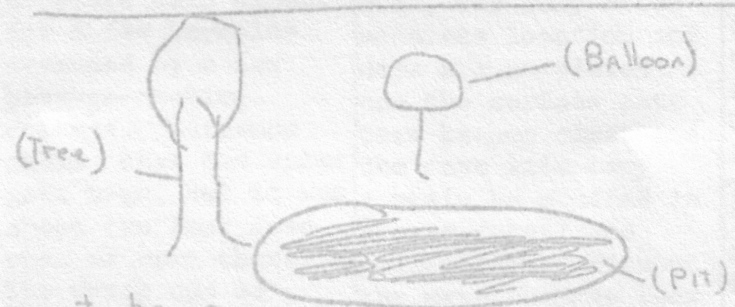
Carbide - Grotto has bought 100 lbs of carbide.

...New Business...

Meetings - General Meetings will be held on alternate Wednesdays with Officer Meetings on the opposite Wednesdays from General Meetings.

Calendar - Rollins #2 Cave...Jan. 30
Mud Sink.....Jan. 23

Mapping - The Grotto has been asked by a representative of the MSS to map five pit caves in northern Jefferson County.



"There must be some kind of party going on down there."

BAT & LITTLE GEM,
from Pg. 2

claw marks of a bear were found on the sides of the passage in the mud. But today due to the many people who have been in the passage, they are hard to find if at all. This passage is the longest one of all the cave.

The passage is a winding one where you crawl, stoop and walk avoiding wells and stalagmites in and on the floor, stalactites on the ceiling, and pieces of breakdown. The going is not easy but not hard.

The walls, ceiling, and floor are covered with beautiful formations. They are relatively in good shape due to the fact that it is hard for the inexperienced to get back this far. Nevertheless there are several broken formations on the floor.

The crawlway continues until you slither through a keyhole and come to a junction with another passage. When you hang a left you encounter a pit named by us "Karp's Misadventure" for it was here the intrepid climber was caught without suitable handholds and had to be pulled up! This year we avoided that pit.

We took the passage to the right. It be-

gan to get muddier and became a winding stoopway which terminated at a mud wall at which we were forced to climb down. Surprising to many there were a couple little brown bats hanging onto this bank. We climbed down it and stayed to the left. Following the passage we came to a pure white stalagmite covered with rimstone dams. This passage was the wettest part of the cave.

We turned around, returned to the canoes, and went to Little Gem.

Little Gem's entrance overlooks the Current River, a little more downstream than Bat. At the entrance there is a dam-like pile of dirt. It seems to me that when water from within the cave fills up its side of the dam the overflow runs into the river. The cave is almost a complete walk except for a few keyholes produced by a few passage-choking columns. Evidence shows that the water gets high, but it was about two feet deep when we were there. The water can be avoided by straddling over it.

The cave is very beautiful and well

described by its name. There were numerous pure white stalactites and as we proceeded deeper they became ^{more} numerous.

When we reached the "end" of the cave, we came to a large spring. Its deep blue surface color, indicating a good depth, reflected the beautiful image of the room in which it was contained. In the spring we noticed several cave salamanders, and on the ceiling above it, we saw three or four little brown bats.

Opposite the spring we noticed a small crawlway which seemed to become formation-filled but due to lack of time we were forced to turn back.

We returned to our canoes and headed to the pick-up point.

GROTTO MAPPING

from Pg. 2

Mapping is the beginning of scientific work, for only after accurate location and maps are completed can the surface pattern become clear and the cave life they contain be studied in proper detail and perspective. Without the maps, changes that they take place in the pits go unrecorded and thus the records of their growth or

change are lost.

The Chaminate Grotto is happy over the confidence shown in us, and grateful for the chance to make a worthwhile contribution to caving as a science.

ONLY THE HARDY

from Pg. 2

drug store in order to try an alkali-saltizer. Naturally, ^{McKenzie} and besides, he was thirsty for the special service he received when he got a coke.

Bottom-side things were normal and top-side things were as normal as could be expected. Yelton and Percich set up the ropes above the chimney and proceeded to set up (down?) the ladder for the return to the main passage.

Meanwhile Groups 1&2 did a superstraddle of 90% of the canyonlands area of the Entrance Passage. Only Sue, 5'2", had trouble with legs too short to reach the floor, pardon, the opposite wall. But with a little help, even she managed in super fashion. Taking a left at the "T", we OOO-ed and AHHH-ed at the "White" formation (now dirty from muddy gloves), the mini-rimstone dams atop the white substantial stalag-

ONLY THE HARDY

from previous Pg.

mite (just to the right at the top of the "attic steps"), Marvin's Misery dame, the mushroom, and finally the pair of chimneys.

While waiting for the ropes (still not ready) we all ate, except for myself, for I was soon busy first under the belay and, then under the ladder end (under cover man, natch).

Among snatches of my famous peanut butter-jelly-sliced coldcut-lettuce-cheese-sandwiches (was it 3 or 4 sandwiches?) I finally got a few of Group 1 tied-in while Rick (which Rick?) operated the elevator to take them upstairs. This was a Rick-etty operation, believe me, for we had four Ricks among 17 people, Ricks to the right, to the left, behind, ahead...

Due to Mr. Kaffenberger's sage advice and wonderful Safari light, the ladder finally got set-up in spite of the stumbling around going on "upstairs". One after the other, Group 1 rode the "elevator" up, slithered along, and then stumbled (carefully) down the other side. Group 2 followed. Then came Sue's turn and her

short legs again did not reach, so I followed her up to give her confidence. Why all the fuss and the camera shot? (I already knew her name was Sue, and that she was five-foot two, but I didn't even find out if her eyes were blue for I couldn't see them from my position, darn!) After everyone was successfully down we untied the ladder and pulled, and so successfully, the ladder pulled back and wouldn't come! So Rick Deichmann (another Rick, see, they were like gnats, -all over the place) went back up to undo its resistance. Giving in gracefully(?) the ladder came down first, followed by a still more graceful jump by Rick.

Group 1, in the meantime, had gone on to explore the Misery Passage and the Right Arm of the "T".

So Group 2 voted to try PSP (with the zero weather outside). Fortunately, two of our drivers were chicken-hearted and wanted to return to the Main Entrance, so we accommodated them ^{by bringing them} to bring the heated cars to the exit where we would emerge.

First through, McKenna (another Rick --see?) had to spin around and shatter the ice-formation with his boots. With this glass-like tinkle, the far end of the passage was again open...and all the PS frozen? (Shucks, we just got to go back again. This group missed the goal!)

Back at the Entrance we re-entered so we could change in thermostat controlled warmth. My glasses were again steamed from the foggy cloud coming in, then going out of the entrance. (Do we have a breathing cave?) And what was all the fuss when I had to show Sue the secret place a bit up the passage so she could change in privacy?

Comments made afterwards at our favorite Dairy Queen: "The PSP crawl oh WOW!!" "A cave is a cave!"

Back at "head-quarters" just as the sun was setting--Hey we were a half-hour early--we efficiently set about emptying the cars by dumping everything in the street, in our usual orderly fashion. But the superbowl was over, we had seen the enemy--and CON-

QUERED! We were now the victors... until we come again in contact with Mother Nature's natural barriers.

EDITORIALS

from Pg. 2

ness by helping other grottoes today.

There is a unique spirit at Chaminade and this spirit was taken up in the Grotto. This same influence is present today.

Everybody tries to give a helping hand, an extra boost or perhaps a quick joke to relieve tension.

Before the end of the school year I hope to complete a five-year summary of the issues of The Rope's End.

I plan for it to be somewhat complete and that demands time and effort. I hope this spirit will urge people to write an article for the paper, do some typing, or else just give some constructive help to the editor.

WATER

IS

FUN!