

WINTER 1969-1970

IOCAVER

The Underground Publication of the
Intercollegiate Outing Club Association

Published sporadically by the IOCAving Chairman: Roland Vinyard
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(The first IOCAving event of the year - the Knox Cave Halloween Party - was a success, at least as far as turnout was considered. Over 175 IOCAans attended. Needless to say, the cave was crowded; there was usually a two hour wait to get through the Gunbarrel. When you finally got through it, there wasn't always enough air to keep carbide lamps lit! The following is one account of what took place.)

TRICK or TREAT? Halloween Trip

Well, people, we all showed up - 175+ IOCAans descended on Knox Cave on Halloween night. Cavers, cavers, and more cavers. Colleges, colleges, and more colleges. New York City rush hour traffic, all underground.

Our truckload of Halloween trippers showed up slightly after midnight. (Much to the consternation of our smiling evil UConn witch who couldn't get underground before the witching hour.) We dove underground in time to find a group of people waiting at the mighty gunbarrel for a party of thirty to come out. So, we all decide to play around in the old commercial section.

Surprise, surprise. What should we find but two cavers camped for the duration of the night, who are calmly ignoring the traffic stepping over their sleeping bags. Cave dwelling species come in many and various forms.

When we return to the gunbarrel, we decide not to go through. It see s there's a problem with more people than air on the back side. So here we sit watching people pour out alternatively with clouds of carbide gas.

Would we do it again? Remember, people, caving is fun.

Glen Phillips, UConn

INTERESTED IN BUILDING A CAVING "LIBRARY"? The BSS has prepared a number of short pamphlets which they will be glad to part with for a nominal fee. Below is a partial list of titles:

- #1 Information for Neophyte Cavers, 2p. \$1.10
- #2 Techniques of Cave Mapping 2p. \$1.10
- #3 & #4 The Good Hat & Cave Clothing 2p. \$1.10 each

#7 Belay Technique 5p., \$2.25
 #8 Methods to Find New Caves 2p., \$1.10
 #9 Belay Tie Off 2p., \$1.10
 #12 Belaying Rules 1p., \$1.10
 #7 The Carbide Lamp

order these little gems from:
 Caving Information Series
 Boris T. Haer
 50 Clover Drive
 Delmont, Pa. 15626

Did you know....?

That when apricot brandy is mistakenly poured into a carbide lamp, not only will the lamp continue to function as usual, but an exotic concoction results. For details, ask George Leedom, UDOC.

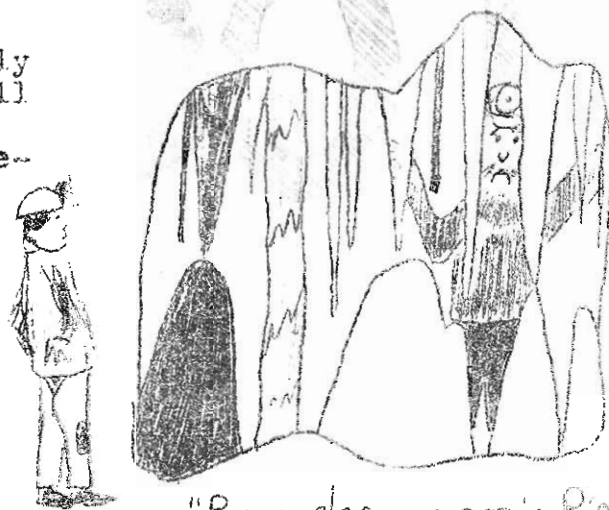
Editorial -

Those of us who made it to Fall IOCAving will, I believe, agree that the drive was worth it. What was the reason why no BROCA clubs showed up? With the notable exception of Rutgers, even LAC had a poor showing. Was it too far, were there competing trips, or was the prospect of Turkey (!!) too tempting? I'd like to know as it will help

me in planning for Spring IOCAving. Right now two places are under consideration: Pendleton County, W.Va. or the northern panhandle of West Virginia and the adjacent area of Maryland. If you have opinions or suggestions, please sound off. Perhaps since Spring vacations are extended over such a long time, it would be better to authorize as Spring IOCAving any Spring Break trip extending over three days and involving at least three clubs? Perhaps three or more caving sites could be chosen? My official title is "Chairman", not "Dictator" - unless I get your thoughts, etc., maybe I should assume the latter title.

FALL IOCAving, Greenbriar Co.
 (clubs in attendance: UConn, ECL, LPI, Rutgers, Purdue, Denigh, UDel, Springfield, + Alums.
 Total: about 40 cavers.)

On Friday, 23 cavers entered the Masters entrance of the Greenbriar System (Organ-Hedricks Cave). We divided into 3 or 4 subgroups, one into the Hedricks section, the others doing the connection with Organ Cave. Formations are scattered in the main cave, but plentiful in the Hedricks section. The main passage is typically 25 feet wide, 40 feet high - quite impressive if you're used to Northern caving. Other caves visited were Sinks of Sinking Creek, Crossroads (Va.), Lewis Hole, Bone-Mormon, Coffman, Sinnit, Trout, etc.



"Been sleeping again, Rip?"

IOCAving Calendar:

Feb. 7 - Vassar Dance²

Spring Break - IOCAving (information forthcoming in Spring issue of IOCAver. Possibly West Virginia)

April 24-25 IOCA Conference - near Luray, Va. Plenty of caving in the immediate area.

Also: a vertical cave practice session and shop talk on Sunday after the Spring UConn. Dance². Ropework - rappel rigs, ascenders, prusiks, other knots, safety harnesses. If you use a unique method, bring it along and demonstrate it.

Wouldn't it be nice to read something a little more exotic than my incoherent babblings? Future issues of the IOGaver will include articles on the following subjects (provided somebody writes them): (1) That *#! Carbide Light and How to Fix It, (2) New England's Favorite Cave, (3) Leather Lan (4) All the Caves in the State of Delaware (5) How to Prussik 100 Feet - in 100 minutes (6) you make them up from now on.

Do you have sore knees? Do they ache and keep you awake at night? Are they bad enough to get you out of the draft? Then, brother, what you may need is knee pads. Yes, these little wonders can do wonders for you. For crawling convenience, use knee pads. (If the passage is too low to walk and high enough to keep off your belly.)

Knee Pads come in several styles; there are the deluxe store-bought washer-woman-type, ones purloined from the local athletic department, and the assemble your own type. The latter are our most economical, being made from strips of old inner tube or foam rubber and sewn into the knees of your grungies. (catalogue upon req.)



SHRUTI. BHADURI



Through this dark and muddy hole, I grovel like a mole,
 As I crawl down passages that wind.
 By flame of carbide light I explore the blackest night,
 But it seems that I have lost my mind.

CHORUS: And I can't stand this passage any more.
 I can't stand this passage anymore.

As I crawl on through the mud, my mouth gets filled with crud
 And I think that I've just lost my shoe.
 And the people that I see look as grubby as can be
 And I think that they've been caving too.

Well, I had some skin one time on an elbow dark with grime,
 But I left it in a passage far away.
 And the skin upon my knee I never more shall see,
 Why do I take my pleasures in this way?

Well, I had a friend who caved and of the sport he raved
 And his underground travels took him far.
 After years of cuts and bruises we find that now he chooses
 To stay under the weather at a bar.

Now if you see me crawling by and you sit and wonder why,
 And you think you'd like to be a caver too.
 Grab your grungies and your light - we leave at ten tonight
 For caving is the thing we love to do.

pause (to tune of Frere Jacques)

U D: We are cavers, we are cavers.
 And we love, and we love
 Crawling through the muddy, crawling through the dusty
 Underground, underground.

New Mexico's Cottonwood Cave

While on a trip to New Mexico, Bob Brown (IOGALuna) and
 self heard of a "thereby" and "accessible" cave - only a few
 miles from Carlsbad Caverns. The few miles proved to be as the
 crow flies - it was over 50 miles. Getting the key from
 (my Komensk) of Carlsbad Grotto, we drove over the "improved"
 roads, getting stuck for 20-30 miles. At 10 PM, I decided

the poor Chevy had taken enough and, as we were only a few miles from the cave, we would wait the rest in the morning. At 3:30 AM we hitched a ride with some surveyors (in Jeeps) to the top of the mountain. The view there was splendid - for miles and miles nothing could be seen but the Guadalupe Mountains, no roads, no houses, no people, no pollution even. No wonder why many consider this America's caving region with the greatest potential, we mused.

The entrance to Cottonwood Cave was certainly attractive. Half hidden by the trees from which its name is derived, the 30 foot wide entrance was draped with several species of cactus and assorted vines. Entering, I paused to let myself become accustomed to the light. Gradually, I began to make out shapes, huge shapes. Investigation revealed them to be stalagmites ranging from 20 to 80 feet tall. There were more and certainly prettier and larger ones than those we had seen yesterday in Carlsbad. The room itself was also sizeable - a good thousand feet long and as much as 100 feet long and tall. In one place the whole wall was covered with flowstone. Setting up a camera and tripod, we shot a 15 minute exposure toward the entrance, aided by 10 flash bulbs. It turned out completely underexposed!

Now, we got to use our key. Opening a heavy metal door, we crawled a short distance into another longer, but smaller passage. Strolling along, I noticed something glowing on the wall ahead. It turned out to be a "colony" of calcite crystals, which was 3 feet high by 2 feet wide. The crystals were perfectly transparent and up to a foot long. After tearing ourselves away from this, we eventually came to a low room (in comparison), beautifully decorated. At its end were some unadorned and a passage leading to small grottos containing pools of dark blue water, white broomstick columns, helictites, and what can best be described as reversed rimstone pools.

Having used all our film and having spent more than all our available time, we reluctantly had to leave, vowing to return to explore side passages, if nothing else. Next time, we would come equipped with 4 wheel drive and lots of film.

Holand Vinyard

"Patterns", Caves of West Virginia (Beckley, Va.), 1965.

Caves, like rivers, develop distinct patterns that can be related directly to the rock structure in which they lie. The controlling factor that determines the pattern is joints, for, with few exceptions, the passageways of West Virginia caves lie along joints...

Joints form consistent patterns according to their relation to rock structures and cave patterns reflect this consistency in their development. In simplest form the cave may consist of a single major passage, relatively straight and of uniform size. This condition, or a variation in which two simple, parallel, straight passages exist is the most common pattern...

The straight passage grades into one which has two or more consistent directions such that short stretches are in one direction and then reverting to the original direction. This change in directions is retained in relatively uniform segments throughout the cave. Where solution and corrosion have affected the passage to a considerable degree the angular conditions are modified and a sinuous pattern is developed...

A more complex type of development occurs where passageways are equally developed in two or more sets of directions. In such cases, a maze of interlacing, uniform, straight passages occur that are similar in plan to city streets with each set of passages delimiting a block...

Caves generally exhibit a single type of pattern throughout their development. However those caves that develop in zones where the structure varies exhibit different patterns according to the type of structure. Trout Cave is primarily a straight passageway where it lies on the flank of an anticline. However, in some portions that are near the axis of the anticline a maze of passages develops similar in form to Hamilton Cave that is on the axis of the same anticline.

William E. Davies

tip of the helmet this time to the LAC Newsletter and the Alison OC for caving issues above and beyond the call of duty!!!!!!

In the same vein, here are some more "helmet tips":
 scales, engravings, pornography, reflective tape, etc. tend to come off helmets in quite a hurry, provided the helmets are being used. Their lifetimes may be considerably prolonged if a coat of epoxy cement is applied to them.
 Have dandruff problems? Save that "Heed 2 Shoulders" tube - it is watertight and unbreakable container. Even better, it's even painless to crawl on.
 overalls are nice, but too expensive to someone as cheap as I am. Patronize your local Goodwill Industry or used clothing store and pick up a set of grungies for \$1 or less.
 More than once even "hosed off" grungies have broken down a commercial washing machine. If you feel compelled to have clean grungies (a very contradiction in terms!), next time try the local carwash. They have lots of hot, soapy water, plenty of pressure behind the water, and BIG DRAINS.

