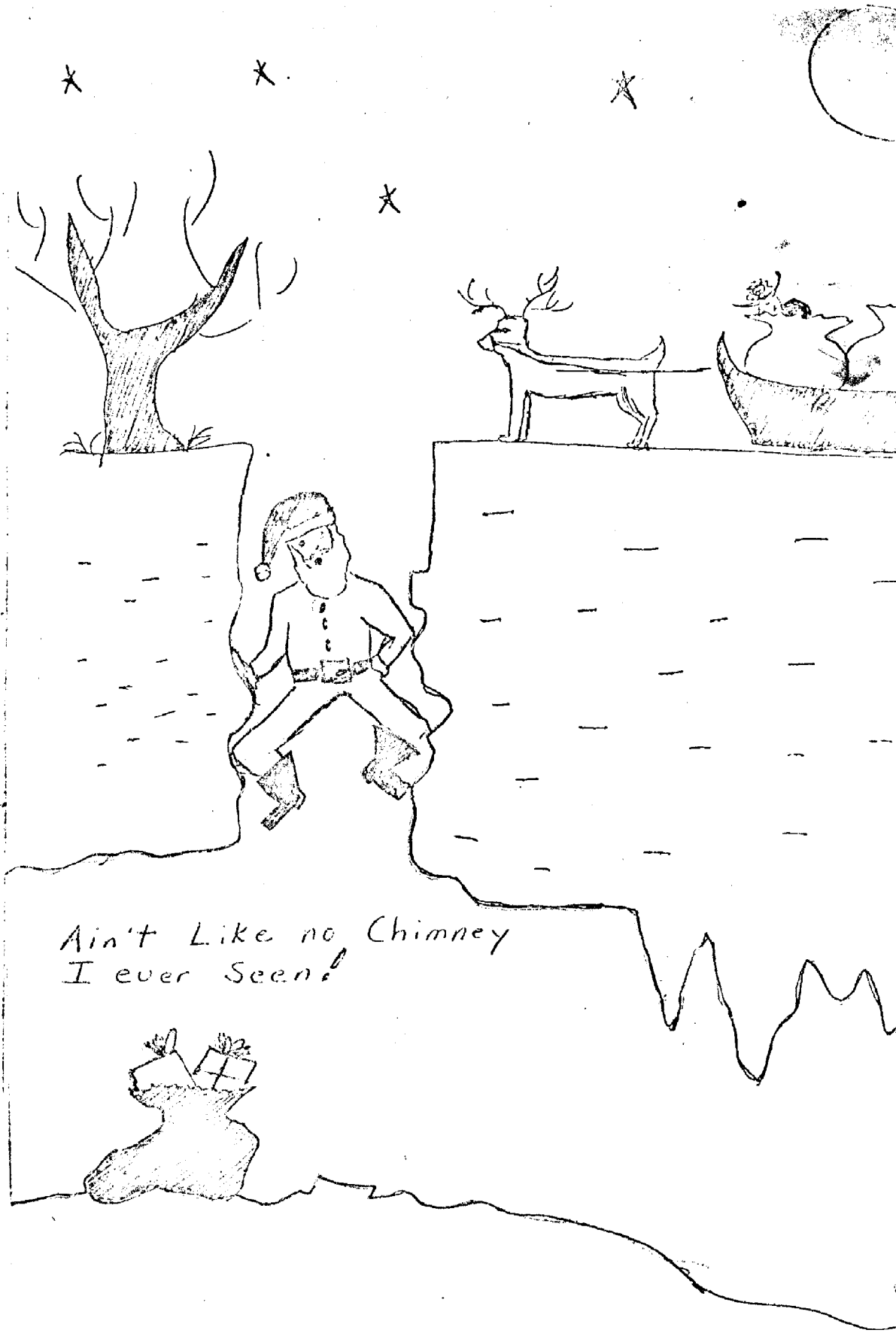
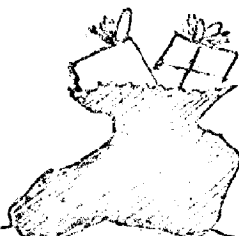


BIRMINGHAM GROTTO NEWSLETTER
NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NOV - DEC 1980



Ain't Like no Chimney
I ever Seen!



Lynn M^{rs} Gill.

BIRMINGHAM GROTTO NEWSLETTER NOV/DEC 1980

This issues cover photo is by Stan Tew and was taken in the back room of Guffy Cave

We didn't receive any articles from our correspondents so we put this issue together from the unfinished business this summer.

The SPELEO DIGEST advertisement is included as a public service, so you can get your order in before Christmas.

We recieved a complaint about one of our articles last month. A disclaimer will now appear in each issue of the BGN. Let me be perfectly clear- the Birmingham Grotto nor its publication The Birmingham Grotto Newsletter support unsafe cave practices. We do however, realize that some old-school cavers will not change.

If you can remember any articles from the early 60's concerning caves as fallout-shelters please send copies to the editors. We feel that the information should be made available again.

Several subscriptions have come in and we do appreciate them. \$2.00 has to be the best subscription price around so cost is one excuse you can't use. Subscribe now.



Lamar Platt
D.C. Speleograph 26(8)146

The Birmingham Grotto Newsletter is published approximately 12 times a year by the Birmingham Grotto of the National Speleological Society.

Annual subscription rates are included in the \$4 annual membership fee. Outside the Birmingham area, subscriptions are available for only \$2. All are prorated from October.

Editors: Greg & Lynn McGill
5279 Paramount Drive
Birmingham, Al. 35210

Submit materials for publication directly to the editors. Deadline is the 20th day of the month preceding the month of issue.

Opinions and practices expressed herein are those of the writer, not the B'ham Grotto or the National Speleological Society.

ALL OFFICIAL GROTTO MAIL (INCLUDING EXCHANGES) SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE PO BOX.

PO BOX 3302
Birmingham, Al. 35205

Grotto Officers

Chairperson - Valerie Howell 323-3143

Vice-Chair - Gary Barnes

Secretary - J. E. Thomas

Treasurer - Edna Caudle

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 1980

The meeting was called to order by Valerie Howell.

Dina Caudle reported \$138.28 in checking and \$169.20 in savings.

Valerie asked for suggestions for a new meeting place. The options include Parke library, the old Blue Cross building, and the Red Cross center.

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Burly Earl's remains the after-meeting meeting dive, in part because of its cheap beer.

The Alabama Cave Survey will be sold, pre-publication, for \$25 to ACS members; \$30 to non-members, who must be members of the NSS.

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Gate City Jet Thomas

E Chandler's Mtn. Tom Chambley
ridgewalk

Diddle Drop David Teal
Little Lady's Cave

Corkscrew John Attaway

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Cook's Gap, etc. call Tom Chambley

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Gadsden Grotto Newsletter- last issue we got was May/June 80. A new grotto and apparantly an active one.

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SEPTEMBER

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DC SPELEOGRAPH. Cavers field-checking the Organ cave map found over 1600' of n passage. Map is included with article. A yet another mile is raped in Roppel Cave after a sump push. Friars Hole survey continues with 12 trips and 2000 meters bringing the total to 53.1 KM. A survey/explo trip in Laurel Creek Cave netted 2268'.

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Nick Looney
Oklahoma Underground 3(1)12

BIRMINGHAM GROTTO NEWSLETTER NOV/DEC 1980

October

ELECTRIC CAVER. Long awaited conclusion of "last of the Red Hot Cavers". Pricinct # 11 Cave is up to 4Km now.

DC SPELEOGRAPH. Friars Hole News- is this going to be a regular feature? The cave just won't end and it's already over 35 miles. Trip report on a big dive in Friar's Hole.

POTOMAC CAVER. Report that Great Expectations (Wyoming) is now over 1300' deep. That's a new US depth record due to efforts by Peter Thompson & Marq Saul. Story of a thru-trip in Simmons Pot/Oil Drum Falls Cave complete the issue.

HUNTSVILLE GROTTO NEWS. Marion Smith relates the connection of Hairys Pit with Flowing Springs Cave, Alabama.

SPELEAN SPOTLIGHT. Reprint of a bat article from a Michigan Outdoors magazine.

CAVE CRICKET GAZETTE. More discoveries in Sloans Valley System. A good takeoff on articles attempting to explain caver behavior

WINDY CITY SPELEONEWS. Bill Mixon writes on his experiments with ultra-sonic leak detectors used to eavesdrop on bats. The Missouri Cave Resources Act is printed in full. If you cave in Indiana, the Windy City grotto is offering a set of 67 topos (reduced to 8½ x 11) covering most of the states caves. Best idea for fund-raising I've seen in a long time. They cost \$6.00 a set. Gary Soule picks the 10 best show caves in the world and Alabama's Cathedral Caverns is one of them. The cave has recently re-opened and has already been visited by several grotto members.

NOVEMBER

DC SPELEOGRAPH. Update on Friars Hole. Tom Kaye discusses a new way to evaluate closure error. Evelyn Bradshaw has made up a questionnaire on NSS BOG conflict-of-interest. It's included here for your use.

POTOMAC CAVER. Feature article is an interview with Mike Boon in which Boon explains the British habit of dumping spent carbide in running streams beacuse it's "... just calcium hydroxide or some such rather inert substance..".

ELECTRIC CAVER. Pricinct #11 cave is now number 134 on the US long caves list with a surveyed length of 5.205 km.

CLEVE_O_GROTTO NEWS. Banded bats- if find one write down the band number along with when and where found and call Donna Davis at the Smithsonian Institute. Her phone is 202/357-1365. Feature article is exclusive interview with Charles Gibbs, long-time member of the Cleveland Grotto and primary developer of the Gibbs ascender. It seems that if communication between the Huntsville and Cleveland grottos had been better, the Gibbs ascender might never have been invented.

HUNTSVILLE GROTTO NEWS. The Sauta Cave court case was the subject of some editor in the HUNTSVILLE TIMES recently. Two of these (con& pro) are reprinted. A good opportunity to inform the public was not missed.

Cave diving in Dry Spring Cave yielded 178' penetration with no end in sight. Joe van Swearington IV reports that the line ended in 25' x 3' passage.

Marion Smith reports on yet another 400' multi-drop cave in Alabama. This one has been explored for over 3500' horizontal & the estimated 400' deep, however it is unmapped, unnamed, and unreported (to ACS).

Bill Varnedoe got PAID for caving as a guide/assistant for several experts in the Sauta Cave case.



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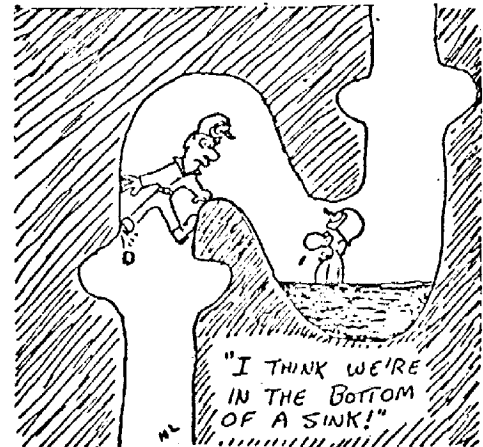
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Nick Looney
Oklahoma Underground 3(1)12

DER FLEDERMAUS

by Al Winstel, Park District Naturalist



As we leave another Halloween behind, it might be instructive to consider the much maligned bat, or fledermaus ("fitter-mouse" in German.) As a creature of the night with a scuttling sort of flight, naked wing surfaces, and one of the ugliest faces imaginable, the bat

has long been associated with the forces of evil. No Halloween party is complete without bat-shaped decorations and no story book witches' potion could possibly be effective without bat wings as a prime ingredient. However, the bat itself predates Halloween by millions of years. Fifty million year old fossil bats, some of the oldest that have been discovered, look very much like the bats of today.

The earliest evidence we have of man's interest in bats is a series of wall paintings done by the Egyptians around 2,000 B.C. The bats depicted appear to be species still found in Africa today. Later on, the bat's unusual shape and habits made him an important character in myths and fables. Aesop told the story of the bat who, being part bird and part furry animal, constantly changed sides during a war between birds and animals in order to ally himself with the winner. Upon declaration of a truce, neither side would accept the bat because of his duplicity. As a result, this creature was forced to hide by day, moving around only at night and by himself. The Chinese, with their usual novel outlook, associated the bat with good fortune. In fact, the Chinese word for bat is said to be identical to the Chinese character for happiness.

Unfortunately, bats are more familiar to us by their use in various potions. Anointing your face with bat blood was at one time considered to give one the power to see in the dark. Possibly because of their naked wing membranes, the blood of a bat was thought to be an excellent hair remover by the English of Shakespeare's day. It has also been said that placing the severed head of a bat near a person's left arm will prevent sleep, one belief that may be true, considering most folks' reactions to even a whole bat!

Like most of our wild creatures, the true life of the bat is much more interesting, if not quite as shocking, as a myth. Our local species are guided, even on the darkest night, by a high pitched sound emission and reception system that makes becoming tangled in anyone's hair extremely unlikely. This sonar system also allows the bat to capture in mid-air a large variety of insects, many of them, no doubt, harmful to man. Of course, the sonar isn't foolproof, as demonstrated by the bats that used to capture and then drop our shuttlecocks as we played

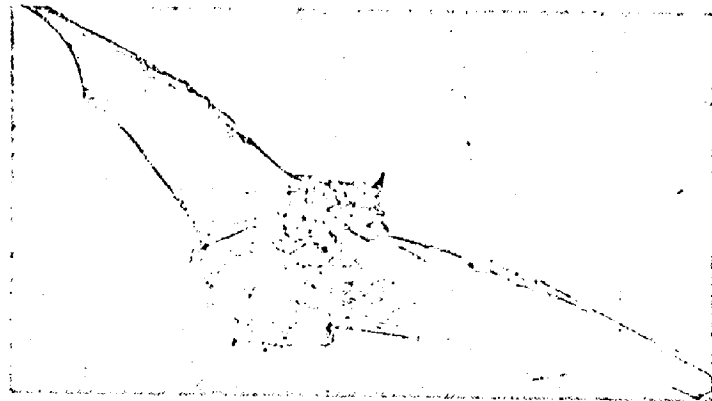


Photo by Ron Ausling

badminton at dusk. Not finding anything in the badminton rules regarding bats, we always considered shuttlecocks dropped across the net by bats to be "in".

A few local bat species migrate to escape starvation during the winter, while others hibernate in caves or unheated attics. At least one author has suggested that these hibernators spend up to five-sixths of their lives hanging upside down in the dark (this includes daytime rest periods.) With all that rest, no wonder that even some of the smaller bats may live up to 20 years.

Aside from their decorative value at Halloween, and their insect diet (some foreign species eat fruit, fish, or even blood), our North American bats have other effects upon human society. Bat droppings, or guano, contain phosphates, nitrogen compounds and potassium and make a good fertilizer. In Carlsbad Caverns, guano at one time piled up to 100 feet deep in some spots. Unfortunately, twenty years of mining has eliminated most of the guano, which builds up very slowly (less than one inch per year.)

Perhaps the most unusual use for the bat was that practiced by the natives of Borneo who considered bat pie a culinary delight, but don't go bat hunting for dinner. Bats can carry rabies and although chances of finding a rabid bat may not be great, handling of bats is definitely not recommended. Besides, the bat's insect-eating habits make it a much more valuable critter in the air than in the pot.

This article came from the
CAVE CRICKET GAZETTE (dec 1980)
who got it from PARK DISTRICT
NEWS (Nov 80) published by the
Hamilton County Park District.

BIRMINGHAM GROTTO NEWSLETTER NOV/DEC 1980

Bryant Mill Hollow
Lynn McGill

Bryant Mill Hollow which is located just north of Guntersvilles' Mill Creek holds at least 11 caves with 13 entrances. For the past three years Greg and I along with along with a number of others have explored the caves in Bryant Mill Hollow. There are caves of geological significance to be found in the area.

One of the more recent findings suggest that the entire valley was formed by parallel faulting at some time in the past. Greg McGill, Steve Durham and I found three Tear Faults that occurred in the limestone at 215' at approximately 840' feet elevation. These are classic faults that show little or no vertical displacement merely a horizontal separation of the limestone. Being in limestone the rainwater took the easiest course and washed out a larger cave system. Apparently after the faulting, the land mass shifted enough for water to begin a downward flow; creating a V shaped valley. This valley, Bryant Mill Hollow, is still in its' early stage of development where a lot of water flows into it.

A number of steep, dry streambeds flow from the highest point to the valley floor. Some of which have cut across the main fault line showing what was originally one long fault-formed cave into at least three smaller segments.

As the fault occurred it forced limestone, sandstone, and chert together then extruded it from below ground level to where it now is displayed as outcroppings below the fault line.

Another possible result of the fault is Negro Mountain Spring. Springs may be produced by faults when pervious and impervious strata are brought into contact. It appears that in the Acanthus area where the fault line extended towards the valley floor the fault intersected impervious rock, forcing water out through the path of least resistance.

Apparently three of the more recently formed caves in the Acanthus system, Acanthus I, Acanthus II and Haydens Delimma developed as a result of run offs when the valley formed. These caves still have active stream passage and show definite signs of flooding during rain seasons.

I have not as yet been able to date the different stages of development in Bryant Mill Hol

At present, a portion of Acanthus Fault Cave and Coon Dog Cave can be dated by a bedding plane of Horn Corals and Blastoids from the Mississippian age approximately 310-350 million years ago. The bedding plane is very rich, running the entire length of Acanthus Fault Cave. The limestone settled during this time with the faulting occurring at a much later date and Bryant Mill Hollow possible forming due to slippage and run-offs as a result of the fault.

Nov 15, 1980
Greg & Lynn McGill

Coon Dog Pit A1 2023
Acanthus Fault Cave A1 2022

On this fine Fall day we headed for Bryant Mill Hollow to do some mapping. While we didn't have the manpower to map Acanthus 2, we did map two small caves in the area.

The first cave was discovered by a local who rescued his coon-dog from the 30' entrance pit. He pointed towards the cave and we searched for it while it started to rain.

The pit is not too hard to find and the entrance is about 12 x 15' with one side 10' higher than the other. It drops thru sandstone into a very old canyon passage. The passage runs along at 215°.

One end of the canyon gets very tight but seems to continue. We exited the cave and looked for another entrance. Sure enough, we did find the remains of this canyon. A major collapse separates the two parts. The second cave looked so much like a fault, as well as continuing the 215° bearing, that we named it Acanthus Fault Cave.

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Published July, edited by members of the Mountain State Grotto and the West Virginia Speleological Survey, 304 pages

\$10.00 each, postpaid

Still available: 1971 \$9.00
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1968 \$6.50 1967 \$6.50
(reprint) 1956 \$6.50

N S S
Cave Avenue
Huntsville, Alabama 35810

COON DOG PIT AL 2023

Tape and compass survey by
Greg McGill
Lynn McGill
November 1980

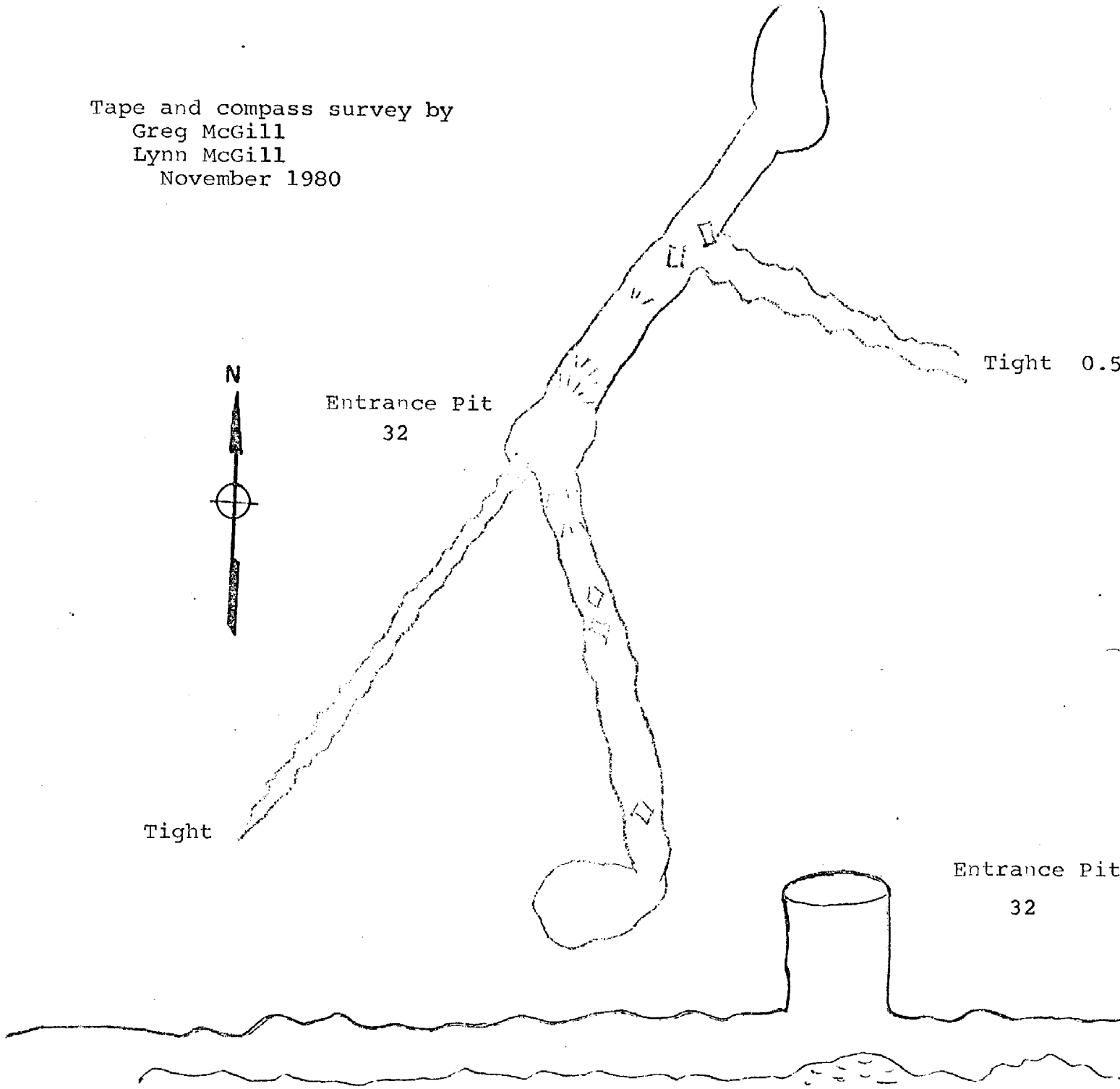
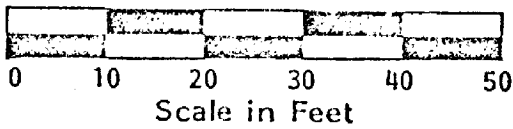


Entrance Pit
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Tight 0.5

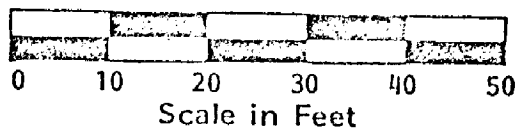
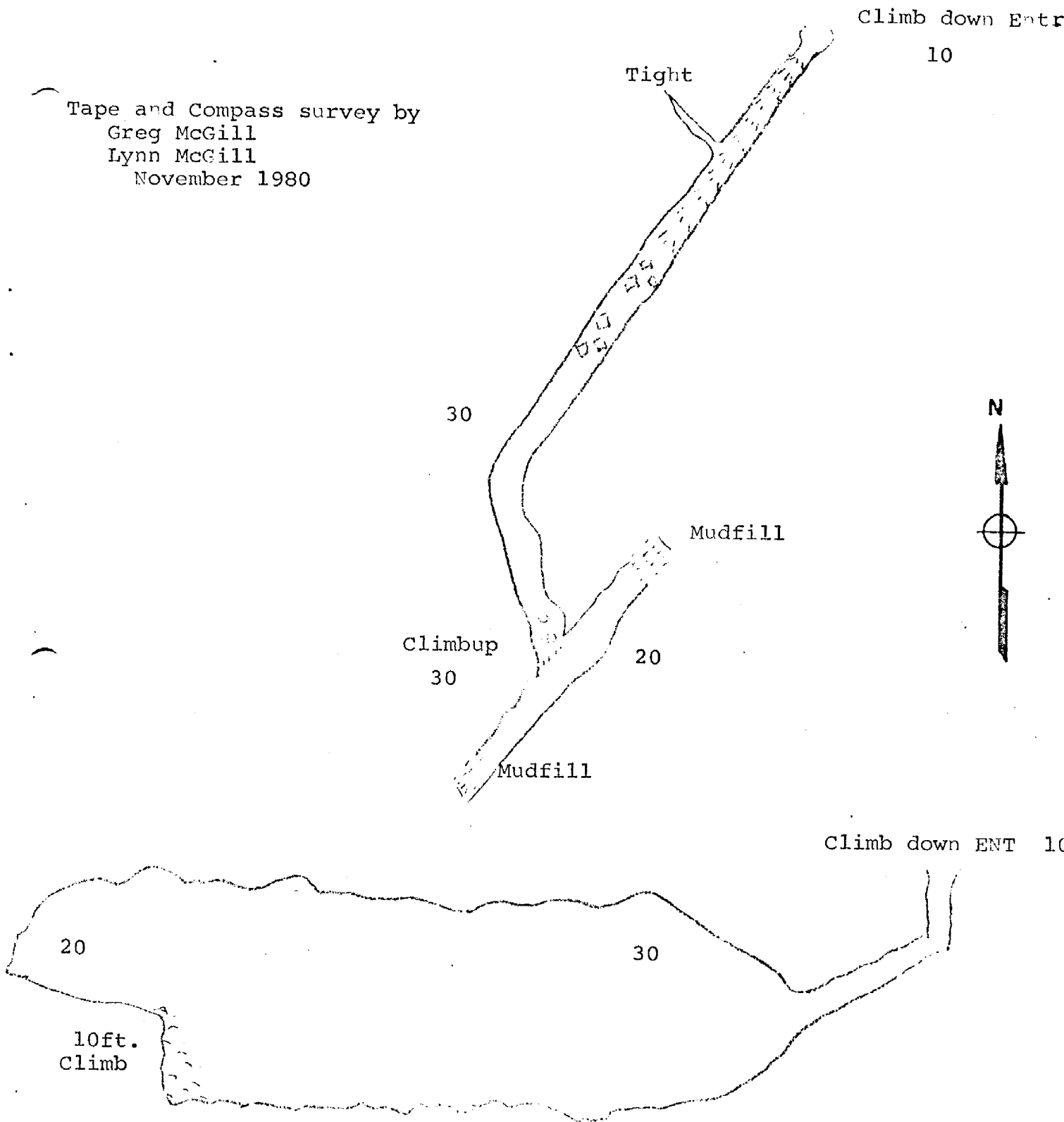
Tight

Entrance Pit
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ACANTHUS FAULT CAVE AL 2022

Tape and Compass survey by
Greg McGill
Lynn McGill
November 1980



PUBLIC SERVICE

Yes, I'm asking you to fill in in the survey (facing page) as a public service. Decisions cannot be made without data and the readers that turn in this survey will help decide the future of the NSS BOG.

While conflict-of-interest is certainly to be despised in national politics, I'm not so sure it can be avoided in speleo-politics.

Since the BOG elections are run like popularity contests, it should come as no surprise that popular (or well-known) cavers are elected. It should be obvious that speleo-equipment dealers must be well-known and recognized outside their own region. How can they help it? Very few other cavers can afford to travel around the country to catch all the speleo events.

Well, that's enough to balance the somewhat slanted views that have been heard in recent months. If you have any interest in this please send the survey in, otherwise don't complain when this issue is decided.

Maybe what we need is a NEW way of electing BOG officers. Regional elections would eliminate the advantage of being well-known outside a single region.

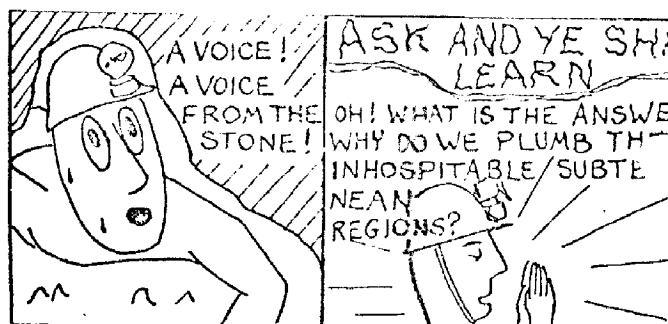
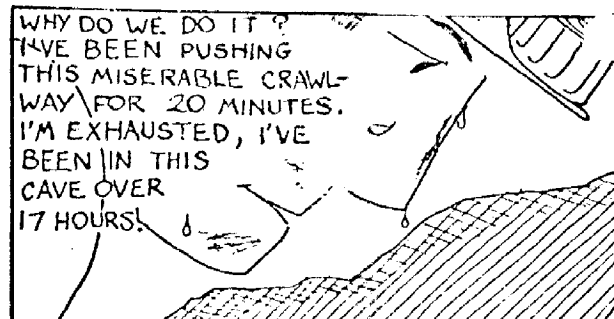
Alabama Cave Survey Update

Interest in the new book has been encouraging. Over 50 orders have been received so far. With luck, the first copies will be finished by January.

As of December 9 the top number assigned is 2059.

If anyone has maps please send them in for the first map update which is only available to members of the ACS.

Remember..January 1, 1981 is the deadline for preorders.



BECAUSE, MY SON, ALL YOU "CRAZY" CAVERS ARE COMPLETELY INSANE!!

A.W.

Alan Williams
Cave Crawlers Gazette 11(6)113

Please return by 12/31/80 to:
Evelyn M. Bradshaw
1732 Byron St.
Alexandria VA 22303

Nov. 1980

WHAT DO YOU FEEL ABOUT CONFLICT OF INTEREST ON THE NSS BOARD OF GOVERNORS?

Reacting to a demand for development of a possible bylaw dealing with conflict of interest from at least one source, your cooperation is asked in answering the following questions (and you can add other comments if you wish). "Income" below is to be interpreted very broadly as including salary, honorarium, payment to a company/corporation in which one is a principal, or funds passed to one through a company/corporation, but does not apply to reimbursement received for funds expended. Except as otherwise indicated, give your reaction by these letters:

A=Agree strongly B=Somewhat agree C=Neutral D=Somewhat disagree E=Disagree strongly

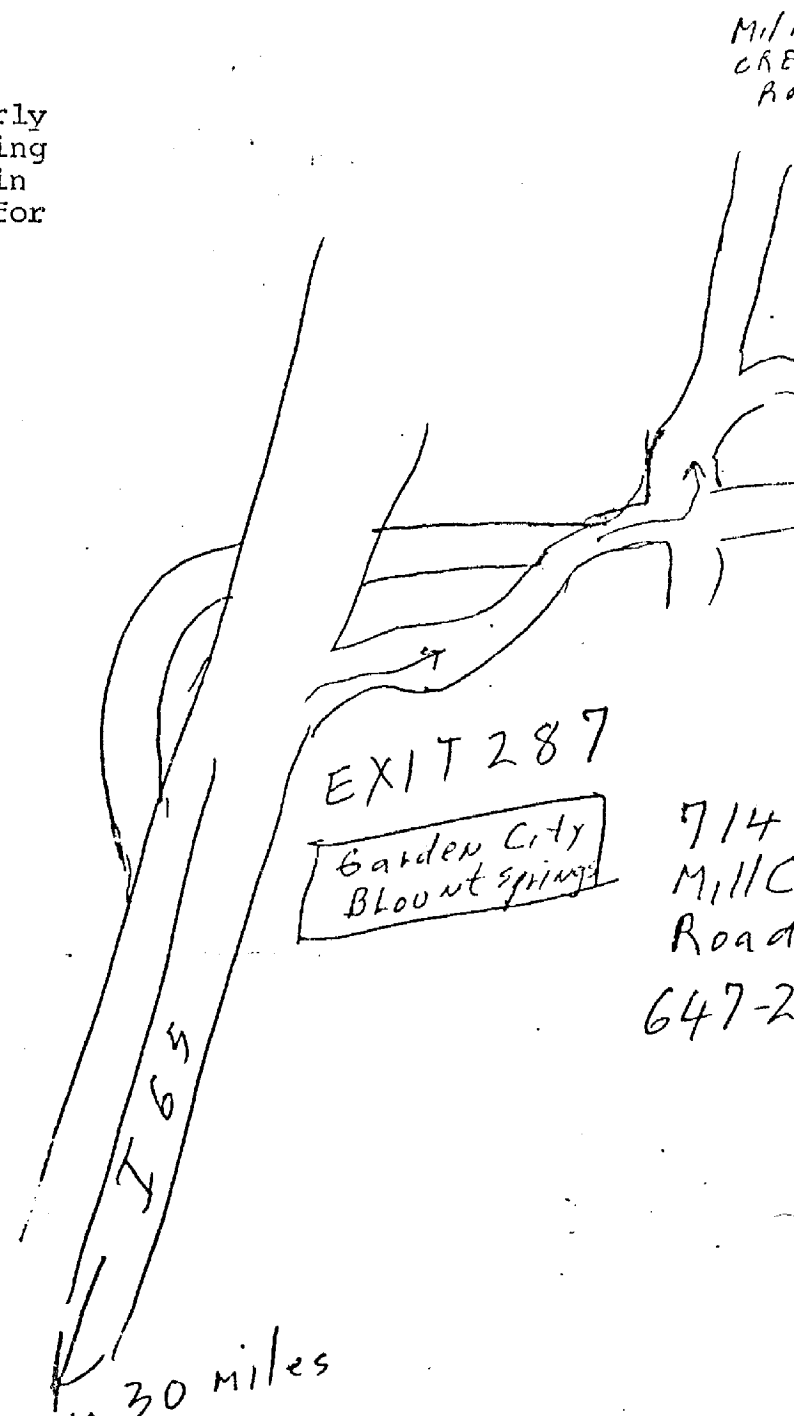
1. It is inappropriate for BOG members to derive any income from NSS.
2. If a dollar limit is set, below which conflict of interest is not a problem, this limit should be an annual income of:
\$5,000___ \$10,000___ \$15,000___ Over half one's total annual income___
Other (specify)_____
3. It is inappropriate for BOG members to derive more than the amount set as a limit in the preceding question.
4. Any NSS member may run for BOG, but if elected must relinquish any income from NSS.
5. Any NSS member may run for BOG, but if elected must relinquish any income from NSS over \$5,000 annually. (You may change the dollar figure before stating your opinion if you wish. If so, what limit_____)
6. Anyone employed by NSS who is in a decision-making post (such as an executive director or conservation director) should be an ex officio member of the BOG.
7. It is inappropriate for BOG members to derive substantial income from caving and cavers, as by selling goods and services (exempting minor projects like selling a small stock of hand-made crafts at regionals, etc.).
8. It is inappropriate for BOG members to derive substantial income from activities contrary to NSS policy or threatening caves (owning limestone quarrying business in caving area, selling explosives, promoting large caving trips to general public, etc.).
9. No NSS member should be ineligible to run for and serve on the BOG on grounds of conflict of interest.
10. Full disclosure with election material of possible conflict of interest on the part of any candidate for BOG (including all areas mentioned above) should be mandatory.
11. Failure intentionally to disclose such information shall be cause for expulsion from BOG, after due process proceedings.
12. Cavers should not be penalized for earning a living from activities which allow them to capitalize upon their dedication to caves, provided that what they do is not in violation of NSS policy. You may add comments on what you consider pursuits in violation of NSS policy in this regard.
13. Any NSS member may serve on BOG but must abstain from voting on any motion where conflict of interest exists. If you disagree, why?

Your name _____ NSS No. _____ Ever served on BOG?

ANNOUNCING!!!! THE BIRMINGHAM GROTTO CHRISTMAS PARTY

to be held at Dave and Edna Caudles'
Saturday Dec 20th
8:00 til
BYOB and Bag (stay over if you like)
Come early to cave

For those who really want an early start. Greg McGill will be leading a trip to MYSTERY CAVE at nine in the morning. Call Greg or Lynn for directions 956-1267.



The Alabama Cave Survey is proud to announce the upcoming publication of ALABAMA CAVES 1980 by Bill Varndoe. This book contains data on 2020 caves and has over 1300 maps. It will be sold unbound and is almost 900 pages long. A few bound copies may be produced, write if interested.

Folks, I shouldn't have to tell you what 2 reams of paper costs, and thats about what this book runs. Printing/copying costs are incredibly high and we feel that this price is quite low considering inflation, etc. This is a pre-publication price so no telling what it will cost later. Send your order today. Shipment will begin in December we hope.

to:

A.C.S.
PO Box 3302
Birmingham, Ala. 35205

My NSS# is _____ You must be a NSS MEMBER.

I wish to reserve ___ copies of ALABAMA CAVES 1980.

Enclosed is \$ _____ @ \$25.00 each Members price.

or \$ _____ @ \$30.00 each Non-A.C.S. Members.

Please do not send cash, make all checks payable to ALABAMA CAVE SURVEY.

If we can not make arrangements for delivery at a meeting or some other gathering there will be a postage charge of \$2.50

BIRMINGHAM GROTTO NEWSLETTER
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