

THE LIKELIHOOD OF JOINING ANVIL (Al.279) WITH MOORE'S (Al.426)

By: Milo Washington

I believe the possibility exists that the longest cave in the world is in Alabama, viz: Anvil (14 mi.) and Moore's (3+ mi.)+ the distance between, if typical maze (150+ mi.)=167+ miles.

Relationships:

The environs of Moore's-Anvil display an overlay of "Hartselle" sandstone lying flat and conformable on "Monteagle" limestone, or either a limestone member of the "Pride Mt. formation".\* The Hartselle reliefs in gently rolling hills, except at juncture with the cliffs of Flint Creek where 50 feet or so of limestone is exposed. Two springs flow at high elevation, then disappear into limestone rocks. Surface run-off is largely via a steep-sided ravine situated between the two caves.

Two dug wells (20' and 40'), ending in the Hartselle, provided adequate water until use was discontinued. Low-flow streams are found in both caves, resurgent points are unknown, isolated sinks dot the area.

Speleogenesis:

Enlargement of both cave systems occurred along joints, intersecting at right angles at almost evenly-spaced intervals. This block fracturing extends throughout the geological columns, i.e. the Hartselle above and Monteagle below. The hydrolic flow creating the cave was confined to a zone limited by the Hartselle above and below by a former high elevation of Flint Creek. Zones of greatest enlargement are probably related to a later, directional flow, rather than to the availability of suitable joint openings. In reconstructing the paleotopography, it serves to assume a situation of little surface drainage and low relief. Development of the ravine occurred in conjunction with the subsequent entrenchment of Flint Creek as the region was uplifted.

Conclusions:

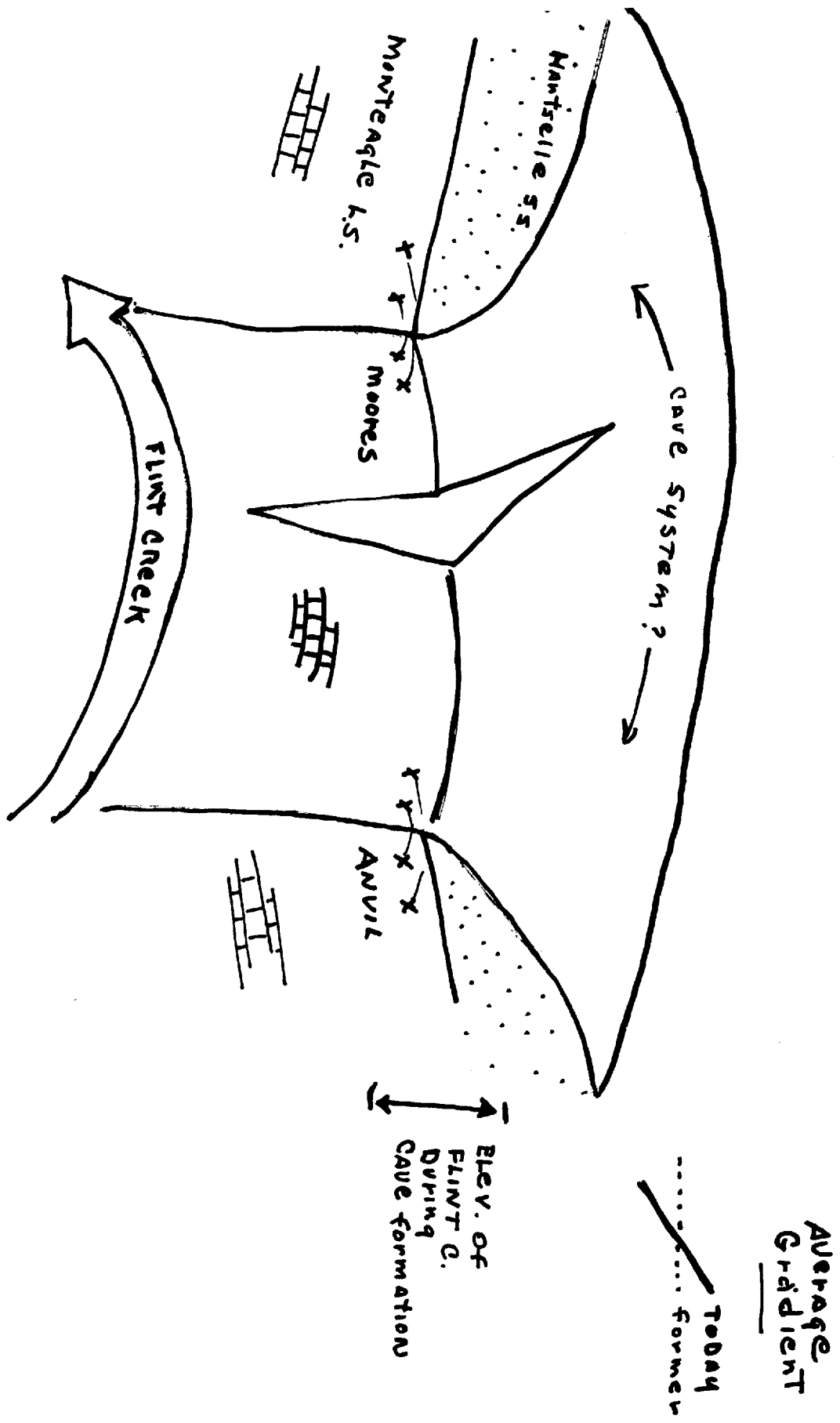
Cave passage elevation in both caves correspond favorably, supporting the idea of contemporaneous development by a common water mass. Most known cave passage extremities terminate in fill rather than a narrowing of solution openings. The same physical conditions existed for the intervening rock structure as for the caves. The dissecting ravine is a secondary feature, non-existent at the time

\* Mississippian Stratigraphy of Ala., A.G.S.

Anvil-Moore's

of cave formation. By simple math, if a V-shaped area between the two caves is honey-combed by typical Anvil-Moore's maze, a 167+ mile cave is in Morgan County.

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MOORE'S - ANVIL CONNECTION?



"I TOLD YOU WE DIDN'T NEED ANY SPECIAL TRAINING! THIS RESCUE WORK IS A CINCH!"

DH

## CAVE RESCUE SQUAD - WHO IS QUALIFIED?

Tom Lamb, Jr.

Some of the grotto members and myself have pondered on the responsibilities that we have taken on ourselves by forming the Jefferson County Cave Rescue Squad. Essentially, what we have are three teams of experienced cavers from the grotto who have made themselves available for situations that may arise as a result of caving. Well, that's fine and I think these people should be commended for devoting their time if such a situation should develop.

However, I feel that the rescue squad is taken with much less seriousness than it warrants. If a caver is lost in a local cave, then I feel sure that our teams could function with great success in finding him or her. But what if a caver has met with a serious accident? How many of the members of the teams could react to the accident to rescue the victim or even save a life? I don't know the personal qualifications of all of the cavers involved on the rescue teams, but I feel that the answer would be very few. The Teams were set up on a personal preference basis of who each person wanted to work with and not on a more important basis of having qualified people working in each group.

Of course, when training was offered, the offer was met with the usual apathy that the Grotto seems to have shown for the last year that I have been involved with it. When a discussion of the purchase of equipment was started, it met with the usual joke session and eventual change to another subject that seems to plague any serious discussion that is started at Grotto meetings.

Our Grotto seems to suffer in the opinions of many other SERA members and grottoes. What would be the result of an attempted rescue by the Birmingham Grotto that resulted in the further injury, paralysis, or death of the hapless victim who was unfortunate enough to be handled by untrained rescuers? Why, we would have the whole NSS down on our heads and I would be right there with them.

What then do we need to do? Re-organize the teams so that those already trained or those concerned enough to take the training are evenly spread throughout the teams. Allocate some of the grotto's money (no grumbling, we voluntarily took the responsibility; let's live up to the responsibility) to purchase at least the bare minimum of equipment to function in some semblance of professionalism. Lastly, let's take this responsibility more seriously than we usually do with grotto business and show the NSS and SERA that the Birmingham Grotto can function with pride and polish.

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DITOR'S NOTE: I sincerely concur with Tom on his observations and proposals regarding the rescue team. It's time to stop joking when someone's life could be in jeopardy. Would you want our present rescue team to come after you if you were injured while caving? You could become another Floyd Collins!

There are few topo map features more tantalizing to the caver than a large sink whose location is not noted in the Alabama Cave Survey. The fact that a number of such sinks appear along Flint Creek on the Danville Quad-rangle took Tom Lamb, Vivian Kingry and me up to Morgan County on Easter Sunday to investigate them.

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times: the day began with a fruitless investigation of some promising-looking sinks, followed by an episode which culminated in our having to prevail upon the nearby farmer to pull my car out of a mudhole with his tractor. The day ended, however, with a nice find: Tom located an unsurveyed pit on Burleston Mountain (Decatur Quad), not 50 feet from a well-travelled road, and yet surprisingly free of the garbage which seems to collect in such highly accessible pits.

Tom and Vivian returned the following afternoon to further investigate this new pit. It measured out at 40 feet in depth, approximately 10 by 15 feet at the mouth, and proved to contain at least 40 feet or so of horizontal passage at the bottom. Along this passage was observed a small room whose floor was littered with miscellaneous animal bones; the question of how the animals got into this room remains a puzzle. Tom removed a skull for identification; as of this writing it has been only tentatively identified, as that of either a fox or a dog.

The pit was promptly named and reported to the Cave Survey, and can now be correctly referred to as Easter Pit, Ala. 1593. Tom's completion of the map of this cave is expected in short order. Other pieces of useful information gathered this Easter include a gaggle of "X" (no cave) locations:

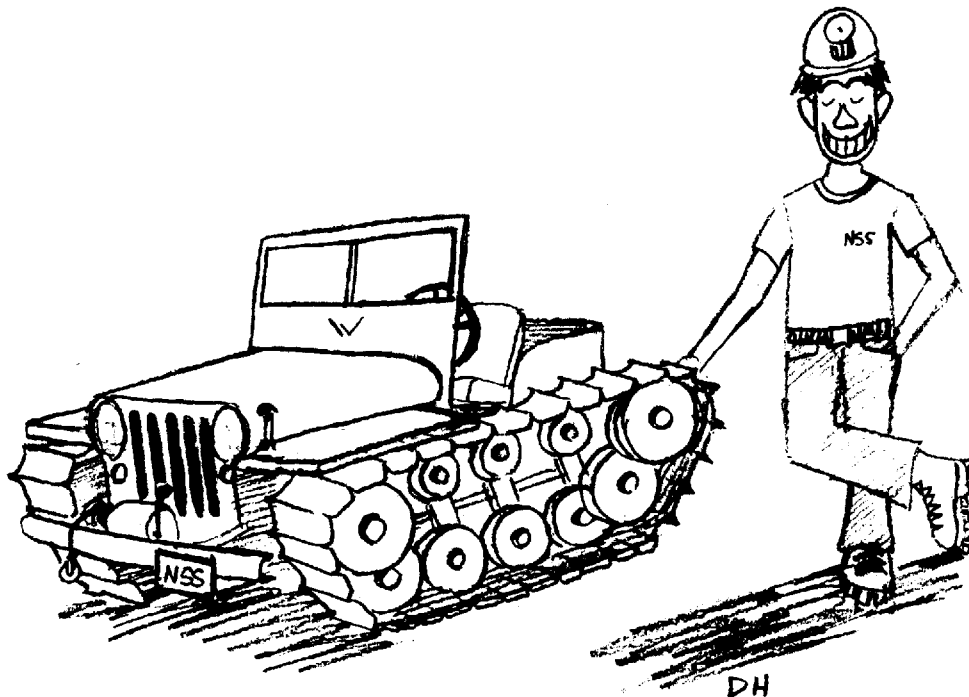
On the Danville Quad:

X -- sinks at 6S 5W 27 ENO, IBM, KJC, KKM, and KOB

X -- sink at 6S 5W 35 HLC

On the Decatur Quad:

X -- sinks at 6S 4W 23 JDD, KBK, and KDI.



"My Super-International could never become stuck!"

(Thus spake Dave.)

March 16 dawned, steel-grey in the eastern sky, upon the beginnings of that month's Grotto trip, to Byers Cave under the Georgia end of Fox Mountain, near Rising Fawn. The trip's stalwart attendants included Vivian Kingry, Tom Lamb, Joe Domnonavich, Kathy Spencer, Greg Jordan, Bob Smith, and myself.

Recent rains had rendered the trail from the parking area to the cave entrance rather muddy, but, as we had hoped, there was no appreciable increase in the amount of mud in the cave. (Byers cannot be considered a muddy cave; its upper levels remain dry at all times, while its lower stream levels simply do not contain that much mud.)

Our journey through Byers' stygian depths carried us along a (the?) well-travelled route to the Register Room, then to the formation areas and to the beginning of the passage into which most or all of the cave's stream water flows. We did not penetrate into this passage since the water level was somewhat higher than usual, but there are rumors abroad that Byers and Hurricane Cave have been connected via this passage. I had hoped to also visit the large waterfall before we left Byers, but (1) was not certain of the route to it, and (2) encountered uninvitingly high water levels.

Despite high traffic flows and some vandalism, Byers remains one of the most interesting caves in the Southeast. It is challenging, requiring the caver to utilize a wide variety of horizontal caving maneuvers and techniques; it is scenic, its formation and waterfall/stream areas being well worth the trip in to see them; and it is enticingly complex, producing in almost everyone who enters an urge to explore passages which have obviously been explored many times before. Word is that a map of Byers is nearing completion by a Georgia caver; such a map will be a worthy addition to the general fund of caving knowledge, for I can think of few caves more deserving of a good map. We all look forward to this map's completion.

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Trip Report- COLONEL SANDER'S CAVE  
 Sunday, April 6, 1975

Tom Lamb, Reporter  
 Vivian Kingry  
 Steve Spencer  
 Kathy Spencer

Steve had expressed an interest in checking out the lead that the farmer had told us about the week before. (See Easter Pit report) The four of us went up and got permission to look for the cave and started looking. After one false alarm, we found the cave. It had an impressive entrance, which was a sandstone bluff with a walk-in down a slope to the cave.

The cave was located on the joint of limestone and the sandstone and was very unstable-looking. In the entrance room were thousands of rooster bones, thus the name "Colonel Sander's Cave". There were four leads out of the entrance room but only two went far. Both were plagued with dangerous looking breakdown and we finally left. The cave was pushed far enough to qualify as a cave, and has been sent in to the ACS. Another pit was found about 50' away, but we didn't push it. A rock dropped into the entrance seemed to fall about 30'.

We left the area after some more ridgewalking and looking for arrow-heads in the nearby plowed fields.

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Trip Report- EASTER PIT  
Sunday, March 31

Tom Lamb, Reporter  
Vivian Kingry  
Dave Howell

We all decided that Easter was a good day to go caving, so we loaded up into Dave's International and headed up to Morgan County to check some sinks that Dave had noticed on his topos.

We ended up above Danville and Neel on someone's farm and proceeded to check a large sink in their backyard (no one seemed to be at home.) All we found here was a hole barely large enough to squeeze through where a large amount of water went underground. Since it was wet we left this and found nothing more in this sink.

Dave barreled headlong into a muddy stretch of road and got the International stuck in about two feet of mud. The rear right tire was out of sight so we jacked it up and put logs and rocks under it to no avail. Dave shoveled muck; but the more he took out of the hole the more slid back into it. I found it quite humorous, but Dave didn't think it was quite so funny. After an hour and a half, we finally got it to move backwards about four feet; however, it was still stuck. Now the right front tire disappeared. After another hour and a half, we decided to ask the farmer if he would pull us out with his tractor. Upon asking, he brought a tractor that must have been 15 feet high down and pulled us out.

This turned out to be good because he also told us of a pit that was up the road (see trip report on Colonel Sander's Cave). We decided to come back another time, and he said that we were welcome to visit his 11,000 acres anytime.

We went on up to a spot above Hartselle to check some leads. We wandered through the woods and were getting ready to leave when I stumbled onto a pit that appeared to be pretty deep. A check of the topos showed that it was not on the survey. We had left our climbing gear at home, so we couldn't check it out either. We went home unsatisfied.

The next day, April 1, Vivian and I skipped school and Dave was free so we went up to the pit to check it with ropes. Dave decided to ridgewalk while Vivian and I did the pit. It measured 42' and had a very impressive entrance. There was horizontal passage at the bottom that went about 30' to a room with bones in it. We were pretty excited about it even though it wasn't a great find. It was named Easter Pit and was given number 1593 by the ACS.

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TAKE NOTHING BUT PICTURES, LEAVE NOTHING BUT FOOTPRINTS,  
KILL NOTHING BUT TIME.

(NSS Motto)

IN ICY INDIANA  
OR  
BLUE SPRING CAVE TRIP

Joe Domnonavich  
Bob Smith

March 7-10, 1975

We started our strange ramble into the heartland of bore-hole cavers---Bloomington, Indiana on our usual misguided note. We headed up I-59 instead of I-65. Once we got back onto the right road, we headed north watching for the Chattanooga Grotto, whose fieldtrip we were joining.

Pulling into Blue Spring's parking area about midnight, we spotted Lin Guy's Toyota with a blue Moni-mummy sleeping out back in the snow-Gerald Moni. Crashing in the back of my putt-putt, we heard the arrival of the rest of the Nooga group in the wee hours of the morning.

Morning arrived hard and early, the group started forming: Buddy Lane, Rick & Nancy Bridges, Bill and about a dozen others whose names I don't recall.

Blue Spring Cave has about 19 miles of passage, with two miles of stream passage. The cave is formed on three levels in the basal St. Louis and upper Salem limestones, draining 8 to 10 square miles of Indiana plain.

One group went in the Colglazier entrance to check out a low spot in the stream passage. It was passable so our group of nine drove around to the dry entrance, leaving two trucks there so we could make a swap in mid-cave to go out in the rafts.

The Dry Entrance leads into the second discovery. Dry and Mud have the same number of letters and are interchangeable. We proceeded through several levels of walking passage with a few crawls and several slides. Moving through this dry cave, we came to the good part of the cave--the stream passage.

Everyone grabbed a raft, with Bob and me getting the large 6 man one since we were re-carbiding at the time. All was fine until we came to an 18 inch high air space about 30 feet long. Pulling ourselves along we managed to get midway through it before sticking both sides and the top. Us pushing and Bill pulling from the front raft did little to budge us. So I decided to see if the water was really cold - it was! Deep too!

Finding a good position in the water (both feet planted on the ceiling, one hand holding on to Bill's raft, the other pulling down on the big raft) Bill pulled forward and Bob pushed. After a few long, cold

## Indiana

moments, the raft came on through. Re-boarding, we paddled on to the Colglaziers' entrance and climbed out into the cold, dry world.

Dried off and heading for Bloomington, Indiana for a party evening at Bill's place. After a long night of bull, booze and too much of both from Bob; we got a few hours sleep before our fateful trip home.

Sunday morn, Bob and I headed for St. Louis to take a few pictures before heading home. The talk of snow made us leave St. Louis earlier than planned, but alas not early enough. Three hundred miles and twelve hours later we made it to Nashville and the first roads we had seen without four inches of snow. Back to Birmingham at 8:00 a.m. just in time to start work after driving all night. A real fun trip.

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Ref. - N.S.S. 73 Convention Guidebook.

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TRIPS REPORTED ON AT LAST MEETING (No Written Report Given as Yet).

Tom Chamblee	North Jefferson, Blount Counties
Milo Washington	Gross-Skelton
Gary Barnes	Limrock, Stephens Gap

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### REFLECTIONS OF A CONCERNED CAVER

Kathy Spencer

Emerging from the cave's entrance, I was greeted by an angry-looking winter sky. Gray clouds hung heavily in the valley and raindrops hung tightly to the naked branches of the trees overhead. A perfect setting for the mood into which I had been plunged since arriving at Byer's Cave in Georgia.

While scrambling down a ledge in the cave, it suddenly dawned on me that litter is now becoming an accepted part of caves and caving. I recalled the trash dump sighted on the walk to the cave's entrance and all the bottles, cans, paper, etc. that were littered from one end of the trail to the other, not to mention the trash strewn through the cave itself. Of course, the trash dump at the parking lot was not created by cavers, but the local folks living in the area, but it still made me sick to see it. Despite the NSS Motto, nothing seems to be improving especially in the letter found near cave entrances and in the caves themselves.

Concerned Caver

It's not just the ordinary litter either -it's the carbide dumps still found in caves and even outside them. I know one Birmingham Grotto member who insists that carbide will not hurt anything, even any luckless animal which happens to eat it! My answer to that is that he should have to eat it to decide whether it will hurt animals or not.

One answer to the problem of course is not to litter ourselves. Each caver should avoid any type of litter, be it cans, bottles, papers or carbide. However, another idea is to take plastic bags with you on every caving trip. Take your litter back with you, and pick up some of the litter left behind by others. It's not really that difficult and cans, bottles and papers don't take up that much room nor does it weigh enough to be a real problem. As you walk through the woods from the cave, pick up the other trash left along the trails. It may seem futile when you look at all the trash that is there, but if everyone would make the effort real progress could be made in no time at all!

When we are educating some of our new cavers, throw in a strong pitch on anti-littering. Try to help new cavers see the woods surrounding the caves as something that needs protecting too, as well as the formations and cave interior. It will take all of us working together to prevent litter and to help erase the litter that is already there.

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PLANNED FIELD TRIPS

April, 1975 \*      May 3, 1975, Bankhead Survey Trip. Call Kathy  
May, 1975 \*      Spencer 833-4773 for details.  
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HUNTSVILLE GROTTTO CAVE, PIT, & CLIFF RESCUE UNIT  
will hold a demonstration of VERTICAL rescue techniques at the H  
HERMITAGE ST. QUARRY on D Sunday May 18 starting at 10:00 AM  
A picnic lunch will be for sale.  
If anyone is interested in going call Kathy 8334773.

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HO! HUM!

Birmingham Grotto Motto

BIRMINGHAM GROTO NEWSLETTER  
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David & Edna Caudle  
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