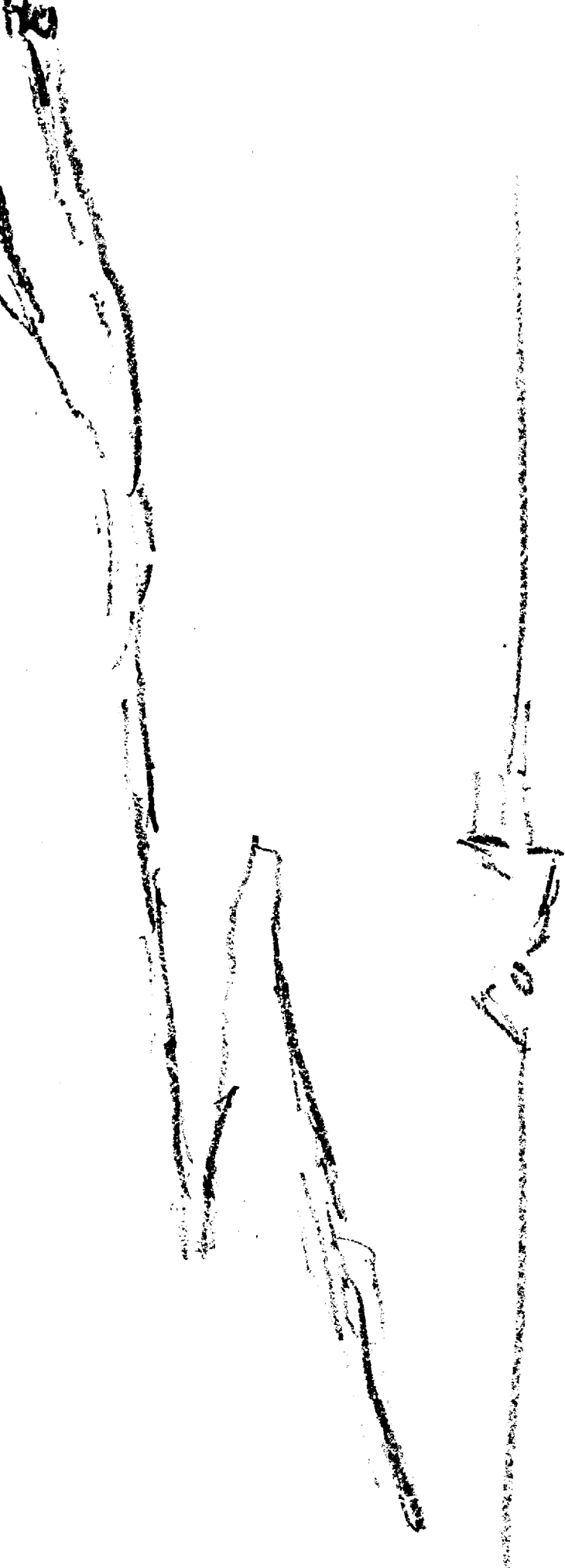
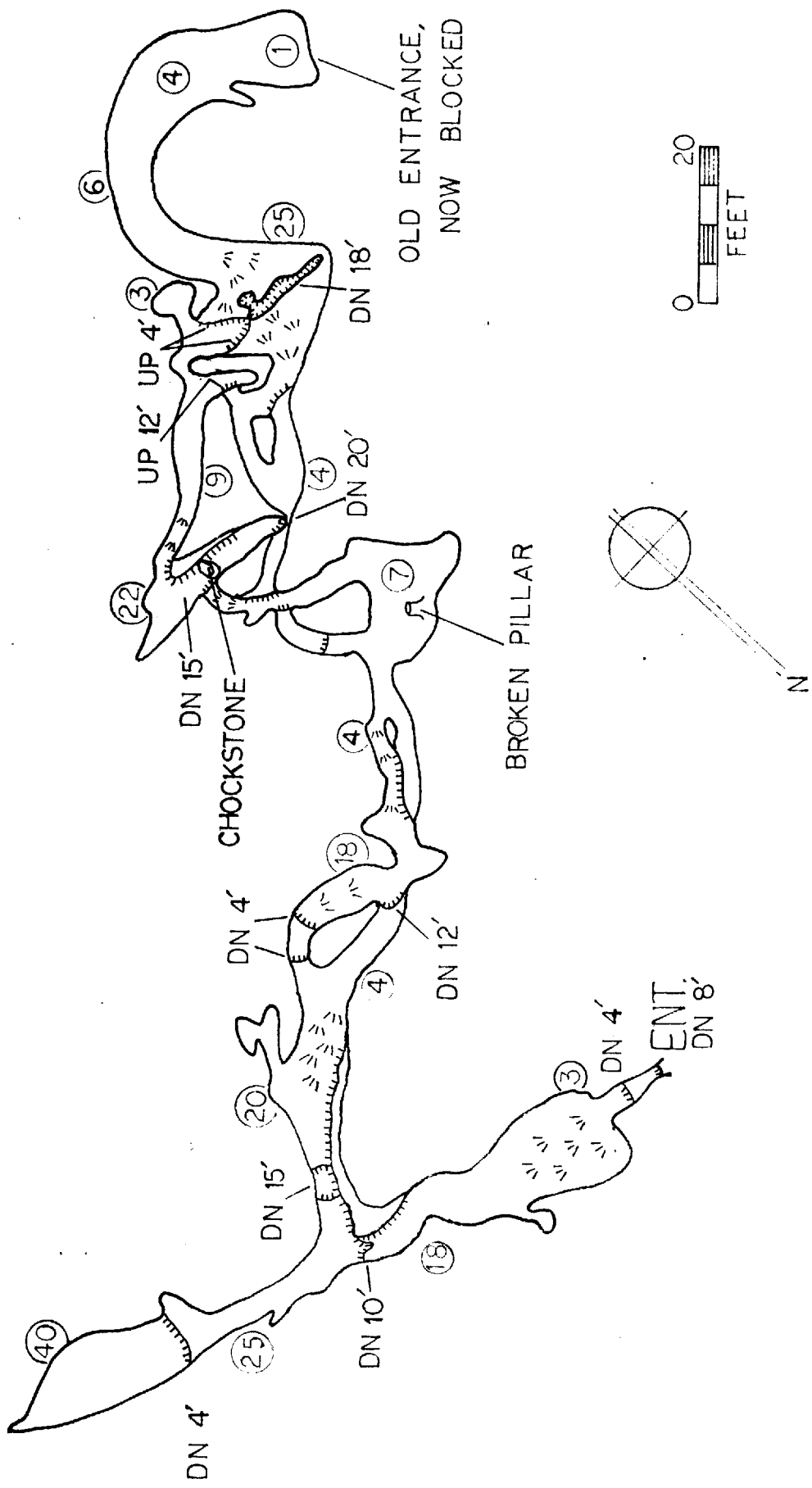


BIRMINGHAM GROTTO NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 1975





TAPE & COMPASS SURVEY BY
 KEN BROWN
 DAVID HOWELL
 LARRY MOORE,
 JULY 22, 1975 & AUG. 27, 1975,
 OF THE NSS, BIRMINGHAM GROTTO

GATE CITY CAVE
 ALA. 401

TOTAL
 SURVEYED:
 618'

EDITOR'S PAGE

BIRMINGHAM GROTTO NEWSLETTER
Published once monthly by the
Birmingham Grotto of the
National Speleological Society.

Editor: Kathy Spencer
938 South 80th St.
Birmingham, Ala. 35206

Printer: Joe Domnonavich

Co-Editor: David Howell
& Artist

NOVEMBER MEETING: November 3, 1975

MEETINGS are held once monthly, the
First Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
at the Alabama Gas Corporation Bldg.
1918 1st Avenue, North
Birmingham, Alabama

ELECTION RESULTS:

Steve Spencer	Chairman
Joe Domnonavich	Vice-Chairman
John Moore	Secretary
Joe Domnonavich	Treasurer
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Editor	Kathy Spencer

Next issue: FOWLER's Pit#2 report
by Marion Smith. This cave is
considered Alabama's 3rd deepest. Make
sure you read this report!

The Grotto expresses its appreciation to
Gary Barnes for his leadership during
the last year. May the next year be as
good to our Grotto as the last. New
members are coming in almost every month
and bringing with them new ideas and
enthusiasm. The Grotto is growing by
leaps and bounds. Give it your support.
Attend meetings and Grotto trips!

COVER: An original line drawing by
David Howell titled "Nearing
The Lip".

We are trying to get some
advertising in the Newsletter.
If you know of any business
which might want to advertise
in the Newsletter, contact
Dave Howell and let him know.

ANVIL CAVE RALLEY: October 25
at Anvil Cave. Sponsored by
Huntsville Grotto. Call Joe
D. at 786-6647 for details and
directions.

NEED YOUR ARTICLES! & TRIP REPORTS!

COMING EVENTS

Oct. 25	- Anvil Cave Ralley
Nov. 1 & 2	- SERA Ridgewalk
Nov. 3	- B'ham Grotto Meeting
Nov. 5	- Huntsville Grotto Meeting
Dec. 1	- B'ham Grotto Meeting
Dec. 6	- Possible date of Cumberland Caverns Christmas Party.
June 27 - July 2, 1976	- NSS Convention - Morgan- Town, W. Va.

ANVIL CAVE RALLEY - October 25

Ralley starts at 10:00. Please use
car pooling so as to reduce the
number of vehicles driven through
Mr. Moore's property.

Food will be available at an all
you can eat price.

Caving, volleyball, football, and
frisbee. Party at location to be
announced after ralley.

1975 SERA Ridgewalk - Chattanooga
Grotto will host the 1975 Ridgewalk
on the Pitcher Ridge Quad, north of
the Quad.

Camping & registration will be at
TVA's Devilstop Campground on Tims
Ford Lake near Winchester, Tn. for
the cost of \$1.00 per person

Four wheel drive vehicles will be
needed for all areas away from the
campground, so if you have one bring
it.

"Climb if you will, but remember that courage
and strength are naught without prudence,
and that a momentary negligence may destroy
the happiness of a lifetime. Do nothing in
haste; look well to each step; and from the
beginning, think what may be the end."

The above quote is taken from Life and Death Underground by James Lovelock, and he was quoting from Edward Whymper's Scrambles Amongst the Alps. With this very thoughtful provoking remark, we'll take a look at some recent rescue and accident reports. (Editor)

Anderson Cave Rescue
John Attaway

On Saturday, August 30, 1975, about 7:30 p.m. I received a call from an unidentified person informing me that the Shelby County Police were calling for someone to help get a man out of Anderson Cave.

Knowing that several of the members of the Birmingham Grotto were in the process of moving Kathy and Steve Spencer, I called Steve and told him about the accident. He said that they would come right on out to the cave and call for rescue teams.

I arrived at the road to the cave about 7:35 and met Shelby County Police, 3 ambulance drivers, members of Harpersville and Cahaba Valley Rescue Units, and the boy who had made the call for help. I knew the cave and selected the boy, an ambulance driver and one other member of the Cahaba Valley Rescue Unit to go into the cave.

Knowing where the victim was by the description before I entered the cave, I asked the Police not to let anyone but Grotto members follow us into the cave. We found the victim, Mike Broud, about 300 feet into the cave with two female companions. After splinting Mike's leg with a plastic splint we started out with Mike using us for support. We traveled about 50 feet when a rock punctured the plastic splint. We resplinted Mike's leg and started out again, but only got another 50 feet more before we came to a vertical wall that Mike could not negotiate even with our aid.

I returned to the outside of the cave and asked for a backboard, six more people to help, some pain medication, and someone to give it. Myrna Attaway, Steve Durham, Steve Attaway, Greg Jordan, Ken Brown, two Alabaster firemen and I returned to Mike with the backboard and medical supplies. We checked Mike's blood pressure and gave him the medication, while his female companions were being led out of the cave. We strapped him to the backboard and started out with all 195 pounds of him.

We probably wasted a lot of time looking for a better route to take Mike out because about 150 feet from the entrance there was a twisty, narrow, almost vertical part of the cave where we needed rope and more help. Steve Spencer, Larry Moore and Lawrence Breeland joined us at this point. After

Anderson Cave Rescue

having Mike vertical twice, lying on his side and a lot of hard work, Mike was out of the cave at 11:00 p.m., four to five hours after the accident.

Mike suffered a broken fibula and a lot of bruises, but was recovering nicely under the T.L.C. of his girlfriend the next day.

As far as the Birmingham Grotto motto of "Ho Hum," I say ROT. The Birmingham Grotto did a good job. I understand that there was a lot of confusion outside the cave between the Shelby County Police and the NSS members. This could have been avoided by more understanding between them and us, by working with them and the Shelby County Rescue workers in the future and having them call on us in this type of emergency.

On Sunday, August 31, 1975, Myrna Attaway, Steve Durham, Steve Attaway, Greg Jordan and I returned to the cave and cleaned up debris left from the rescue and made the connection between Anderson and Polecat.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I arrived at the cave just before the injured party was brought out and had time to talk to the girls with them. Mike and the other boy were experienced cavers and I believe Mike was an NSS member. From my understanding of what happened, Mike was trying to aid one of the girls up a climb-up and lost his footing, sliding down into a small crevice and wedging his leg in. He fell in such a way that it broke the lower portion of the leg. The accident probably could have been prevented by Mike making sure he had secure footing before trying to assist anyone, but this kind of accident very easily could befall any caver, no matter how much experience in caving, so watch your footing!

ACCIDENT REPORT

Tom Lamb

On the afternoon of Sunday, August 10, 1975, Larry Moore, John Moore, Tommy DeShazo, Vivian and I went up towards Guntersville to check what we believed to be a new pit. After finding a parking spot and talking to a local resident, we proceeded to the pit. The local told us there was a cave in the hills that was so deep that our 400' rope would not reach the bottom. We were very excited.

Larry and John struck out on their own and the rest of us followed the man's directions. Larry found the pit and called us. I watched Tommy descend a 12' slope of rock and prepared to follow. I found that my extra size and weight would not negotiate the rock as easily as I had seen it done. While sitting on the edge and deciding what to do, I suddenly had my mind made up for me.

As I fell, my left leg wedged in a crack about half-way down and my momentum carried the rest of me on down. Vivian heard me yell, "Oh, my....." before I hit bottom. I was sure that my leg was broken. Instead of landing

Accident Report-Lamb

on my feet, the wedged leg had turned me sideways and I landed on my side. Instead of this being it, I bounced and rolled another 20' down the hillside. I could feel the leg flailing loosely the whole time.

When I finally came to rest, I noticed that my helmet had stayed on almost to the end. Thank God, because I had hit rocks while rolling. My legs were uphill from my head so after resting a few seconds, I turned around and found that my leg was not broken. It had apparently pulled out of joint at the knee and had popped together when I stopped rolling.

I finally decided that we should complete the trip, with the exception of my doing any ropework. However, after standing for a few minutes, I found that everything was getting dark and I felt like hell. So I sat down, called everyone back and told them I should get out of the situation quickly. I knew that if I went into shock, they would have a hard time.

Half hobbling, half being carried, I got to the bluff. Since I had taught the others first aid the day before, they wanted to do the right thing and splint my leg and carry me out. Being pigheaded, I vetoed the idea. It took a while to reach the car, but finally we were able to get on our way back. A doctor at St. Vincent's wrapped my knee in an Ace bandage and said to stay off of it for a few days.

Two weeks later, I decided to see an Orthopedic surgeon. He immediately put me into the hospital and did a spinal block and manipulation of the leg the next day. He found that it was not a torn ligament and that he did not have to operate. However, it has been six weeks at the time I wrote this report and it is still practically useless. I can walk and get around fairly well, but can't do this for extended periods of time. Caving is still out. And there is the possibility of future surgery for torn cartilage.

In summary, if a belay had been used, an easier route chosen, or a little more thought in the excitement of the cave hunt, the accident could have been avoided. I think we should all exercise extreme caution when climbing, ESPECIALLY in a cave. It only takes a very small slip and it could be your life at stake.

Tom

P.S. The cave was already on the survey. It is called STRAIGHT DOWN PIT, No. 688.

AN APOLOGY: I want to apologize to all of you subscribers to the Newsletter who were subjected to the gross picture exhibited on our last cover. Please direct your wrath to the printer, Joe D., because he is the one who put it on the cover, not me! The jokes made about how I looked in that picture can be answered only by saying: "I wish you all had been there!"

Kathy

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

Perkins Cave, Ala. 348

August 17, 1975

* Stu Clifton * Perkins, as one can surmise by the low ACS number, has
 * Glenda Fleming * been known for quite some time. It has never been mapped,
 * Lin Guy * however, and, most probably, has never been fully explored.
 * David Howell * Stu and Bill recently "rediscovered" this fine cave.
 * Greg Jordan * The first few hundred feet of the cave consist of al-
 * Sam Reames * ternate duck walking and wading through some of the most
 * Pete Sellers * treacherous looking stream passage I've seen. This passage
 * Bill Witherow * obviously floods completely, and often. Since the cave's
 ***** water levels are apparently rather responsive to weather
 changes, this entrance passage could be hazardous.

The inner portion of the cave consists of some excellent formation rooms and an undetermined number of large, impressive dome rooms, the highest of which is 80-100 feet. Some climbing is required to reach these areas, and the climbs which must be negotiated are of moderate difficulty. However, handlines and other aids are unnecessary for experienced cavers.

Stu and Bill are presently engaged in the mapping of Perkins Cave, and at this time have surveyed slightly more than a mile of passage.

Glory Hole, Mitchell County, Georgia

August 23, 1975

* John, Myrna, & Steve * The August Grotto trip took several of our num-
 * Attaway * ber to Pelham, Georgia, to once again gaze upon the
 * Ken Brown * beauty of Glory Hole. Accepting the kind hospitality
 * Joe Domnonavich * of Jimmy Harrison of the FROG Grotto, we stayed Fri-
 * Steve Durham * day and Saturday nights at his house in Ozark, lit-
 * Rod & Mary Gillis * tering his floors with our bodies.

* Jerry & Carol ? * Glory Hole was just as gorgeous as ever, despite
 * Jimmy Harrison * the fact that it is no longer gated. My last trip there
 * David Howell * had been three years before, and the only change I
 * Barbara Kifer * noticed in the cave was that some of the crawlways
 * John Phillips * in end near the Regal Wiggle had silted in, and that
 * Sam Reames * there seemed to be considerably more mud this time
 * Steve & Kathy Spencer * than there was last.

* R.B. West *

Singing Spring Cave, Ala. 1604

September 14, 1975

* Myrna Attaway * Following the September Bankhead Survey trip which took
 * Tommy DeShazo * place on Saturday the 13th, we revisited Singing Spring Cave
 * David Howell * near Landersville to work a bit more on the as yet incomplete
 * Greg Jordan * map. After rechecking a couple of previous compass bearings
 * Tom Lamb * whose accuracy I doubted we proceeded to attempt to establish
 * Vivian Lamb * a connection between an uninvestigated side lead from the main
 ***** stream passage and a nearby small entrance in a sink. After
 sending groups into both places simultaneously and not being able to establish
 contact, we pulled back and repeated the procedure, this time with a different
 side lead. And this time, success: we established definite voice contact between
 the side lead and the small sink entrance, adding an additional entrance to bring
 the total number of entrances to Singing Spring to 6.

At this time we have three leads, all crawls in water and/or mud, to map. The cave's surveyed length now stands at approximately 2750 feet, and is expected to reach 3000 when the remaining unexplored areas of the cave are mapped.

Birmingham Grotto c/o Kathy Spencer
938 South 80th Street
Birmingham, Alabama 35206

Edna & David Caudle
150 Chalkville
Trussville, Ala. 35173

NSS LIBRARY NEEDS MATERIAL

Bill Torode is putting together a bibliography of Alabama Speleology. Any copies of magazine, newspaper, etc. will be thankfully accepted. Send them to Bill in care of the NSS Library.

Also Bill needs original, if possible, copies of the E'ham Grotto Newsletter for the NSS Library Files. The dates needed are:

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| September, 1974 | February, 1973 | November, 1972 |
| October, 1974 | March, 1973 | July, 1972 |
| November, 1974 | April, 1973 | January, 1972 |
| | May, 1973 | February, 1972 |
| | June, 1973 | March, 1972 |
| | | April, 1972 |

Anything older than 1971. Also copies of the Confederate Caver.

