

# BIRMINGHAM GROTTO NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OCT. - NOV. 1976

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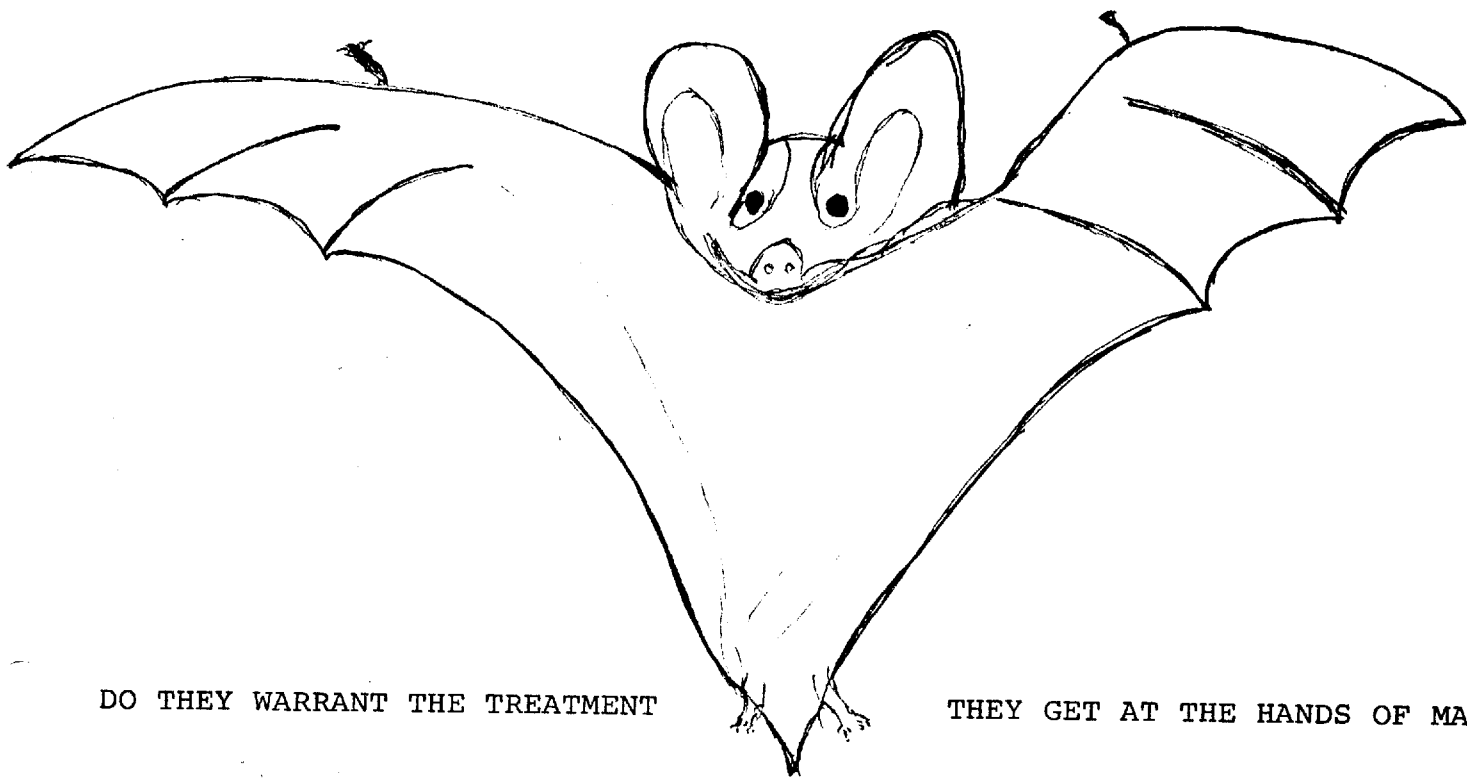
HARASSMENT

DRACULA STORIES

POLLUTION OF CAVES

IGNORANCE

DISRUPTION OF HIBERNATION



DO THEY WARRANT THE TREATMENT

THEY GET AT THE HANDS OF MAN?

BIRMINGHAM GROTTO NEWSLETTER  
November, 1976  
EDITOR'S PAGE

The Birmingham Grotto Newsletter is published once monthly by the Birmingham Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Subscription rate is \$4.00 per year based on October to October Grotto year. Send all subscription or membership dues (\$4.00 also) to STEVE SPENCER, Treasurer, 938 South 80th Street, Birmingham, Alabama, 35206.

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OFFICERS: Elected Oct. 1976

Chairman: Joe Domnanovich  
N.S.S. # 13287  
1424 28th St. Ens.  
B'ham, Ala. 35218  
786-6647

Vice-  
Chairman: John Attaway  
N.S.S. # 16582  
Route 1, Box 660  
Leeds, Ala. 35094  
967-2509

Secretary: Valerie Howell  
1242 18th Ave. So.  
B'ham, Ala. 35205  
323-3143

Treasurer: Steve Spencer  
N.S.S. # 9389  
938 So. 80th St.  
Birmingham, Ala.  
833-4773

Editor: Guess?

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PROGRAM CHAIRMAN: Gary Barnes took on the job for the first 6 months of the Grotto year. Any suggestions of possible programs should be conveyed to Gary.

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MEETING TIMES: Jim McDowell stated that it was possible for us to choose just about any night we wanted for Grotto meetings next year. It was voted on by the Grotto membership present that beginning in JANUARY, 1977 that Grotto meetings will be held on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month.

This was done since there seemed to be too many conflicts on other nights. If you weren't there and have any gripes be there next month and bring it up then.

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GROTTO MEETING DATES FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS ARE:

November: November 2nd  
December: December 7th  
January: January 18, 1977  
7:30 p.m. Alabama Gas Corp. Bldg.

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NOTES & NEWS:

New Members or New Address:

Dave & Valerie Howell  
1242 18th Avenue, South  
Birmingham, Ala. 35205  
323-3143

Greg Jordan  
91 Ridgewood Village  
Auburn, Ala. 36830

Tom & Vivian Lamb  
1712 11th Place, So.  
Birmingham, Ala. 35205  
251-3619









NOVEMBER 6-7, 1976

SERA FALL CAVE HUNT - HARIANNA, FLORIDA - FLORIDA CAVERNS STATE PARK

Port Rucker-Ozark Grotto and Southeastern Karst Survey are sponsoring a search for new caves in several promising areas around Marianna. We are planning to put out a guidebook containing maps of some of the more significant and unrestricted caves in Jackson County. We need some responses from SERA grottos soon, so we will know how many people to expect. Also we could use your help in planning and conducting the activities. If someone from your grotto plans to attend, please have them fill out the following information and return to me before the end of September if possible.

1. May we copy cave maps published in your grotto newsletter. No locations will be given unless the owner consents to visitation.
2. Can you supply local guides who know the Marianna area?
3. Can you supply mapping equipment or personnel to run a mapping party?
4. Approximately how many people are interested in attending?
5. Any suggestions as to promising areas to search in Jackson County?
6. Any suggestions or comments on accommodations?

At this time we do not plan to charge any registration fee. There will be a nominal charge for the guidebook (probably .50). No banquet or barbeque is planned. Bring your own. Booze available locally but not all day Sunday. The park charges a day use fee of .25 per person, and a regular camping fee of 3.12. We may be able to get a cheaper group rate.

The State Park contains a major show cave (fee 1.56) and four other major caves, and about twenty minor caves, some of which are quite well decorated.

Send reply to;

Paul R. Boyer  
418 Bullock Blvd  
Niceville, Fl 32578

September 28, 1976

To: All SERA Grottos of the NSS  
From: Larry E. Matthews, NSS #6792-F  
Nashville Grotto

PLEASE read this announcement at your next Grotto meeting.

Dear SERA Cavers,

The SERA Winter Business Meeting is now scheduled for February 5, 1977 at Fairfield Glade resort in the Crossville, TN area, just off Interstate 40 at the Peavine Rd. Exit. We have an exceptional arrangement that will allow us to rent delux condominiums for only \$20 per night with a 6-person maximum occupancy. This is less than \$3.50 per person for full occupancy. These condominiums have two bedrooms, a living room, and kitchen. They will be available for both Friday and Saturday night.

In addition to the Business Meeting itself, we hope to have a full day of programs. If any of you wish to be a speaker, please write me as soon as possible so that we can include you in the schedule. It is hoped that most speakers can limit their talk to 30 minutes. A 45-minute limit will be imposed on all speakers to give more cavers a chance to speak. Rooms will be available to hold seminars on topics of caving interest. Topics for speakers could include reports on explorations, caving techniques, conservation projects, organizational topics, reports from cave surveys or Task Forces, or any topic that would be of interest to SERA cavers.

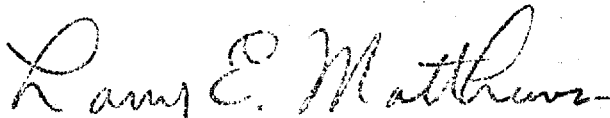
We would also welcome any exhibits by Grottos or individuals. If you wish to set up an exhibit, please write and tell me how much room you will need so that we can plan for you.

A slide projector will be available at nights and all SERA cavers are welcome to show their slides at that time. For further details, please contact:

Larry E. Matthews  
602 Spencer St.  
Callatin, TN 37066

PLEASE NOTE: Pre-registration forms will be mailed to all SERA Grottos sometime in November, 1976.

Yours truly,



Larry E. Matthews  
NSS #6792-F

# The return of 'boom days' cave dance

"THE NORTHEAST ALABAMIAN" August 4, 1976

When the night of August 28 rolls around and hundreds of candles are lighted deep in Manitou Cave in Fort Payne, the voices of dancers and the sound of music will roll through the cave to rejuvenate one of the town's most unique social events—a ball in the historic Manitou Cave ballroom.

The Manitou Ball will be co-sponsored by the Fort Payne Jaycees, and Manitou-Cave in the 96-foot ballroom where people of the area danced in the 1890's on a specially installed wooden floor.

The ball will be open to the public. The cave is located within the city limits of Fort Payne, five blocks from U.S. 11 in the side of Lookout Mountain.

In promoting the event, owner of the cave, Dr. Stephen Brewer, has gathered information about the history of the cave and Fort Payne.

Brewer tells of the following information:

During Fort Payne's roaring boom in 1889, people came to visit the cave, an original tourist attraction in Alabama.

Manitou Cave was named by the Cherokee Indians over 200 years ago and means "The Great Spirit". Manitou is the Cherokee god of nature and stayed in that portion of the cave known as Cherokee Pass.

In the 1830's following the removal of pump water for the fountain in the landscaped park surrounding the cave and to the City of Fort Payne - the city's first water system. Manitou Cave is opened daily throughout the summer and on week-

ends all year around. Toay, steel and concrete replace the wood and clay but the works of nature remain unchanged. The cave has a constant temperature of 56 degrees.

Excursion trains would bring investors and tourists above the cave allowing them to disembark for a tour through the underground park. To facilitate tours, 18 wooden bridges were constructed, clay stairways cut into the banks above the stream which was dammed to provide an underground lake. A hydrolic ram was installed to

So well promoted was the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company, that hundreds of New Englanders came to the city in special investor trains of the Fort Payne and Eastern Railroad. A spur line was laid on the western slope of Lookout Mountain just over the cave entrance.

Reed's purchase was made for the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO TOM CHAMBLEE, OUR FORMER TENN. MEMBER ON THE BIRTH OF A MALE SPELEOLOGIST, JONATHAN, BORN OCTOBER 3, 1976.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER TO OUR NEW OFFICERS FOR 1977. WHEN YOU ARE CALLED ON TO HELP OUT IN ANY GROTTO ENDEAVOR, LEND THEM A HAND----THEY NEED OUR SUPPORT.

CONGRATULATIONS to Dave & Valerie Howell on their marriage of September 25, 1976. Rumor has it that while they were on their honeymoon in Council Bluffs, Iowa that some vandals attacked their house with white shoe polish(writing obscenities on their windows and Dave's International), strung toilet tissue throughout the house, put a buzzer under their bed,etc. Isn't it rediculous that people get away with stuff like that?

WILD RUMORS AND OTHER UNTRUTHS: Rumor has it at last meeting that Milo Washington actually went into at least one cave during our last Grotto year. Gosh, he broke his perfect record.

Rumor also has it that Mike McEachean, our archaeologist friend lend from Texas is back in Alabama again on another dig.

**BIRMINGHAM GROTO**

**c/o Kathy Spencer, Editor**

**938 South 80th St.**

**Birmingham, Alabama 35206**

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