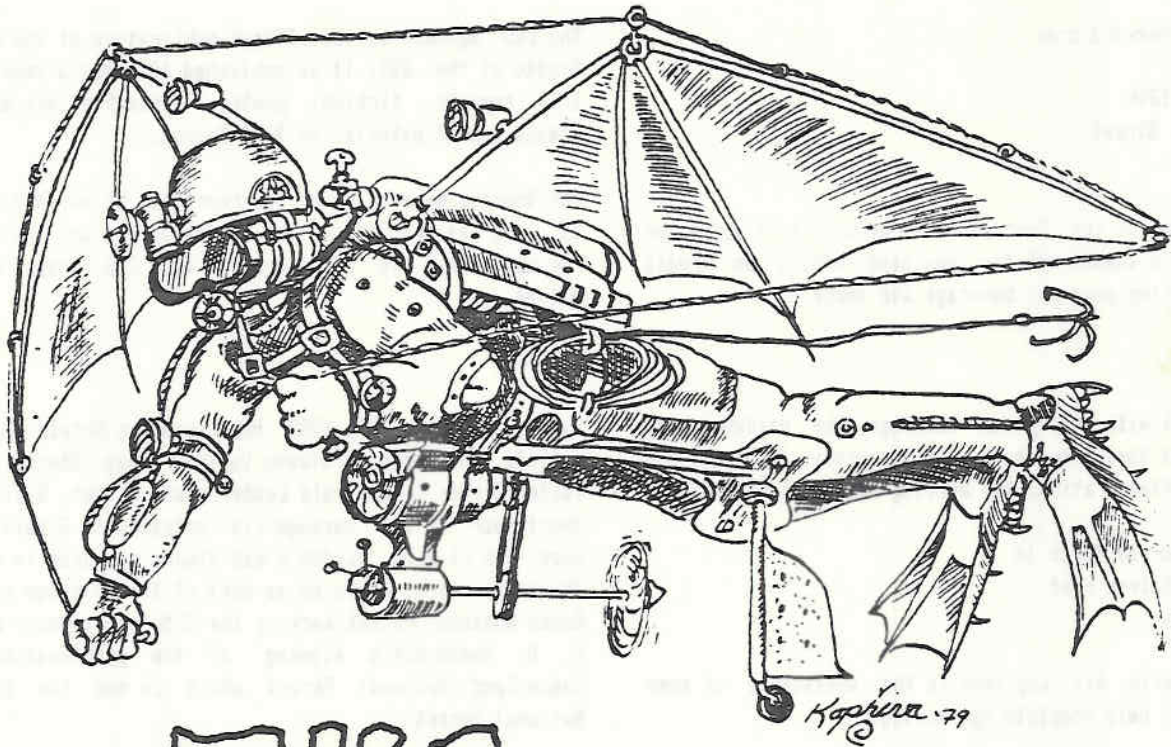


COG SQUEAKS

MARCH 1987



THE COMPLETE CAVER

COVER CARTOON FROM
BIRMINGHAM GROTTTO
NEWSLETTER 1/87

THE CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO SQUEAKS

General Information

Notice

New grotto mailing address:

Central Ohio Grotto
C/O Bill Walden
1672 South Galena Road
Galena, Ohio 43021

This address will be effective March 9, 1987. Please address all correspondence for the Central Ohio Grotto to the above address.

The Central Ohio Grotto does most of their caving in Pulaski and the surrounding counties of Kentucky. Paul Unger has a cabin in Pulaski County which many of us use as a base of operations. We are involved in mapping projects in several Pulaski County caves and in a joint project with the Daniel Boone National Forest and other grottos.

If you are interested in learning to survey caves and in working with a federal agency, the Daniel Boone National Forest, surveying caves and studying the biology of the caves in the forest, please attend our meetings and join us in our studies.

Meeting Notice

Friday the 13th
2232 Summit Street
8:00 PM

The March meeting of the Central Ohio grotto will again be hosted by Clovis Dawson at his business office on Summit Street. Please bring your own beverage and snack.

The COG Squeaks is the official publication of the Central Ohio Grotto of the NSS. It is published 10 times a year. Articles, trip reports, fiction, poetry, xeroxable art are welcome. Please submit material to Bill Walden.

COG Squeaks material may be reprinted by any NSS organization as long as credit is given to the author and the COG Squeaks. Please address any questions to the COG Squeaks Editor, Bill Walden.

Party

If all goes well with moving and closings, the Waldens' will host a party at their new home the Saturday following the grotto meeting. Please attend the meeting for confirmation.

6:00 pm Saturday March 14
1672 South Galena Road
Galena, Ohio

Prior to the party, Bill may require the assistance of some grotto members to help complete the moving.

The Waldens' new home is 0.4 miles northwest of state route 3 on Galena road.

News

Sunday, February 22, 1987 the Lexington Herald Leader had an article on caving in Sloans Valley. Doug Stecko of the Miami Valley Grotto took Herald Leader staff writer, Bill Estep, on a short tour of the Garbage Pit entrance to Sloans. Bill Estep used one of Bill Walden's old Sloans pictures in the article. The cave article appeared as part of the coverage of the Daniel Boone National Forest marking the 50th anniversary of President F. D. Roosevelt's signing of the proclamation for the Cumberland National Forest which is now the Daniel Boone National Forest.

From the February 15, 1987 Cincinnati Enquirer, Louis Simpson sent us this tid-bit. Louis said that he planned to check this out further.

New COG Officers are:

Clovis Dawson	Chairman	614-261-6153
Chuck Daehnke	Vice Chair.	614-263-7011
Nancy Mahoney	Secretary	614-866-6767
Karen Walden	Treasurer	

Executive Committee

Jim Blankenship	614-497-0402
Paul Unger	513-839-4258
Bill Walden (work)	614-486-9561

Squeaks Editor	Bill Walden
Librarian	Richard Hand 614-885-5823
Safety	Richard Hand
Membership	Jim Blankenship

Please contact any officer regarding trips or questions you may have regarding the grotto.

THIS GRAIN ELEVATOR MAY BE UNDERGROUND

The Agriculture Department may go underground with the nation's burgeoning grain surplus -- way underground.

A cave in Indiana is looking better and better to USDA officials as a mammoth subsurface storage bin for some of the surplus corn, wheat and soybeans spilling over from grain elevators.

The cavern, in a rugged region of southern Indiana near the Kentucky border, would hold up to 35 million bushels of grain, said Darrell Jenkins, manager of Energy Supply Co., the Marengo, Indiana, owner of the cave property. He said he expects to hear from the USDA within a month.

In the cave, grain would be stored in huge rooms carved out by an active limestone quarry operation, Jenkins said.

Also received from Louis Simpson is the following written by Tim Simmons, Post staff reporter.

CITY'S TUNNELS COULD BE GOLD MINE

There's a big hole below Cincinnati's streets that somebody in Columbus thinks somebody in Hollywood would be willing to dump somebody's money into.

Figuring any idea that isn't illegal or unethical is worth a shot, Cincinnati City Council Member Arn Bortz wants the city to try to cash in on the idea before someone somewhere thinks twice.

The hole is Cincinnati's ill-fated subway system, a pair of tunnels that stretch for a couple of miles from just north of the Western Hills viaduct to Walnut Street downtown.

Because there aren't too many cities in Ohio with vacant subway tunnels -- none, as a matter of fact -- the manager of the Ohio Film Bureau thinks the holes may be a little gold mine.

"You just can't imagine the requests we get here," said Eve Lapolla. "When I heard about that subway, I couldn't believe it. What a marketing gimmick."

The film bureau, with a budget of \$190,000 and four staff members, is part of the state's Department of Development.

When it's successful, it gets movies made here.

The public works committee approved a motion Monday by Bortz to inspect the tunnels to see if they're safe.

Started before WW I, the city's subway system was abandoned a few years later because the tunnels turned out to be too small for new subway cars.

Parts of the subway are now used for water mains and others are set up as fallout shelters and emergency morgues.

"I didn't just dream this up last night," Bortz said, "They came to me and asked if they could use them. Somebody might as well."

RARE BATS SLAUGHTERED -- BUT WHY?

by Lew Moores
Cincinnati Post

Whoever did it could've believed they were doing a good deed. That's the irony. That's the optimist's view. Either subscribe to that, or believe we can be that destructive, that thoughtless.

Yet, whoever did it had to know something about them, about their vulnerability.

"If you look up," says John Wilson of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, "it looks like a big brown mass on the ceiling of the cave. They're moving and stirring around a little, and it's kind of scary if you don't know anything about them."

Sometime in late December, early January, someone, although probably more than one, went into the Thornhill cave in Breckinridge County, Kentucky, scraped 188 hibernating bats off the walls of the cave and stomped and smashed them with boots and chunks of rock.

State and federal wildlife authorities are investigating.

Sixty-six of the bats were Indiana bats, an endangered species.

If the vandals are caught, the penalty could run up to \$20,000 in fines.

The rest of the carcasses included 112 little brown bats, seven Eastern pipistrelles and three big brown bats.

"It sounds like something kids would do," says Wilson.

"That would be our first impulse. I don't know if you've ever seen a colony of Indiana bats when they're hibernating. They get as close to each other as they can, to keep warm.

"They're all clustered together like that and they're pretty immobile. They're an easy target. A lot of people still think of bats as vermin or something. Whoever did this probably thought they were doing a community service, like finding a nest of rats and exterminating them. Bats get a lot of bad press they don't deserve at all.

"They can carry rabies but that is grossly overestimated. There's very few cases of rabies in bats. All our bats are insect-eaters."

The Thornhill cave is located on private property, a mile west of Big Springs, Ky., about 60 miles southwest of Louisville.

A year ago this month, the cave was home to 82 Indiana bats, a smallish bat about the size of the common little brown bat.

In 1963, almost 4000 bats hibernated in the Thornhill cave. During an extensive rainy season, the cave was flooded and the colony wiped out.

By the 1980's the bats began to re-colonize the cave. Today, just five Indiana bats survived the vandalism.

Less than 89,000 Indiana bats hibernate in Kentucky's caves, down considerably from about 330,000 in the 1960's

The decline is attributed by wildlife authorities to disturbances by humans.

In the early 1960's, 10,000 Indiana bats were slaughtered by three boys who found them hibernating in a cave in Carter

County.

The entrance to the Thornhill cave, a popular cave among spelunkers, is littered with trash and the walls covered with graffiti. But deeper into the cave, especially back where the bats were hibernating, it is undisturbed.

Until a caving club discovered the carcasses on January 8. The carcasses were collected, spread out on the desk of John MacGregor, non-game wildlife biologist with the department, and sorted into categories.

Decomposing carcasses. Whoever did it could've believed they were doing a good deed. A deed that leaves only five Indiana bats in the Thornhill cave.

Please refer to the COG SQUEAKS Bat Special for additional information on bats. If you are new to the COG please ask Bill Walden for a copy.

Trip Reports

HAIL CAVE

Pulaski County, Kentucky
Louis Simpson, Harry Goepel
February 21, 1987

The road to the cave was a little muddy and I worried all day about whether the car would get stuck on the drive out. The sky was overcast and there was a roaring two-foot deep stream coming out of the main Hail entrance and going into Deathtrap Drain. We brought along a small shovel and a pick hammer in case we found a likely spot to dig into unexplored cave.

We squeezed into the tight crawl on the shelf on the left just inside the entrance. None of the several leads from the room beyond the first tight spot looked like good prospects.

We entered the next left lead, which goes to most of the cave and spent some time exploring the breakdown room encountered a few hundred feet later. Then we went up into a breakdown dome that I usually don't enter because I know it doesn't go anywhere. I heard a drip beyond the breakdown that seemed to echo, suggesting a room. Harry and I began to dig along the right side of the breakdown. Soon we could see space through the rocks. There was indeed an echo. After about an hour of digging, we were able to remove one last rock obstacle and crawl into the space beyond. The room is a dome about fifty feet long and twenty-five feet high. There might be leads near the top.

Next we went to the Formation Room. Since I would like to extend the cave to the west, I looked along the west side of the room for a possible lead and found a sandy crack not too far from the columns. We soon were able to enlarge this crack and descend about twenty feet into a lower level. We spent the next hour exploring tight crawls, including one floorless bellycrawl where I climbed down into the bottom and had difficulty getting back up.

Before leaving the cave, we toured the passage leading to the Rotunda Room, noting the presence of about a dozen beer cans and regretting that we didn't bring a large plastic bag for carrying them out.

The car had no difficulty getting past the muddy spots in the road. We felt encouraged that we were able to find unexplored passages in this cave so easily. I look forward to doing more of that. I always did enjoy a good cave dig.

Speleo Pseudo Science Forum

WHY DO CAVES CONSTRICT NEAR THE ENTRANCE?

by Milo Washington
Birmingham Grotto Newsletter
January 1987

The first question is "do they?" Of course, the intersection of a cave tube with the eroding process of landforms often results in backfill and breakdown i.e. apparent constriction. But in 1974 Bill Varnedoe argued a real, not apparent, dimensional decrease of most caves. I think he was right. Why is this so? Here are some possibilities:

A. Innate in a single source of acidic water is a "solutional limit". At the point most acid is naturalized and solutional processes are greatly reduced, thereby limiting the extent of the linear enlargement of the cave.

B. Water moving under a head somehow stabilizes near the point of discharge and the flow becomes laminar, therefore less mixing and less solution.

C. Some application of "Bernoulli's Principle", in particular, the faster flow through constrictions results in lower water pressure. In this example water pressure must be related to solution rates and tied-in somehow to events at the point of discharge.

D. A pessimistic view: Caves have more little passages than big, so chance intersection would average more little to big than big to little.

E. An optimistic view: We find caves with little entrances first, the caves with big entrances are patiently awaiting discovery.

You got any better ideas, bright guys?