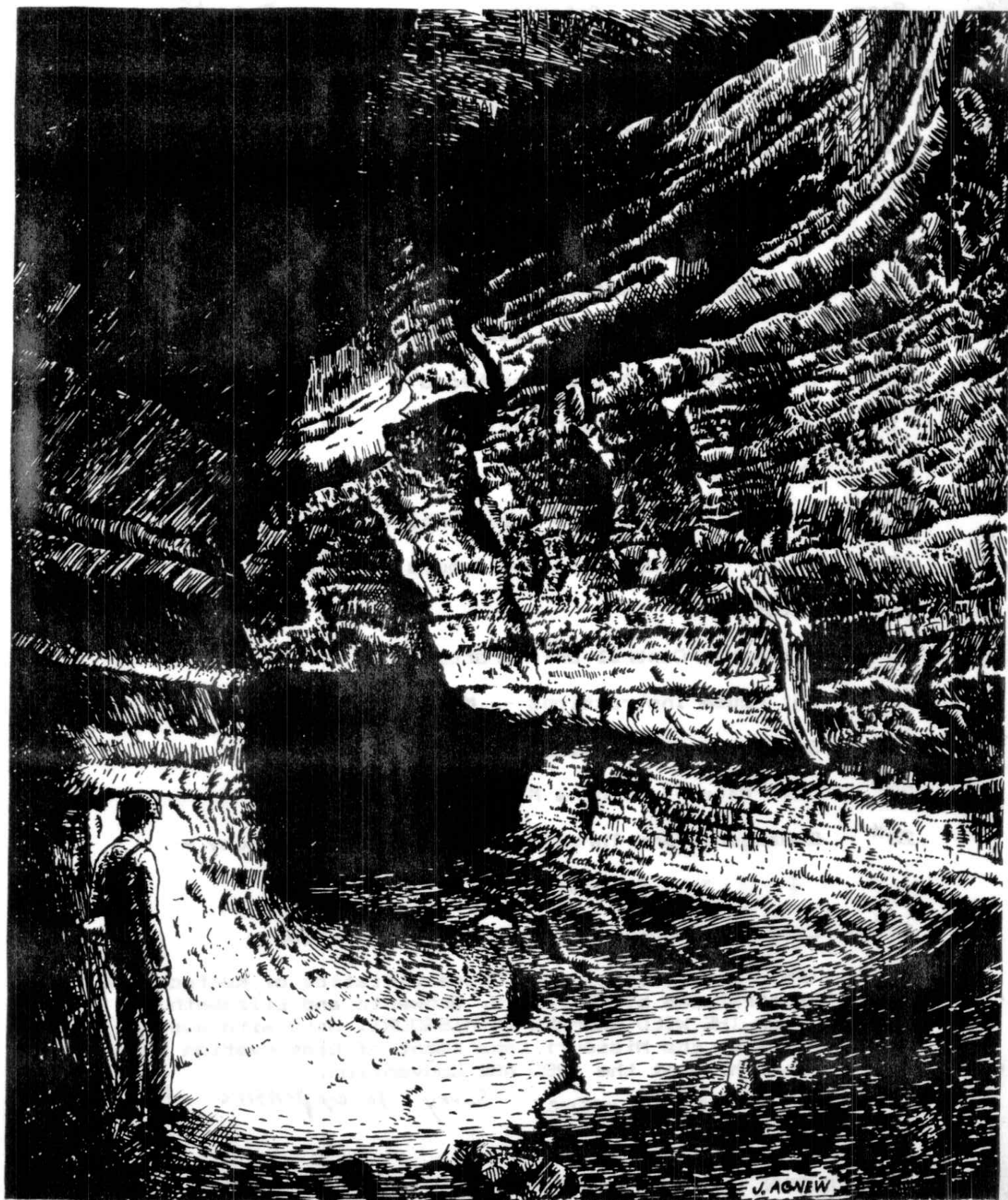


# C.O.G. SQUEAKS



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BC\* (Fold Out Section) Some Characteristics of Kentucky Cave Bats. Illustrations by Charles W. Schwartz and Elizabeth R. Schartz from THE WILD MAMMALS OF MISSOURI. Used with special permission from the Missouri Department of Conservation for the Bat workshop held at the 1985 NSS Convention.

\* Not in exchange issues. Sorry to expensive. Paid members only.



## This Issue



The prime emphasis in this issue is BATS; however, don't miss the TRIP REPORT SECTION (page 6). The trip report section has a facinating report by Len Gibler about his visit with Norbert Casteret. Louis Simpson has a report on his visit to Wyandotte Cave which is near the site of this month's Karst Encounters.

## KARST ENCOUNTERS -- MARENGO CAVERNS Information

**CAMPGROUND** -- Miltown Campground at Blue River Marina. The Campground is behind the Blue River Marina building. THE CAMPGROUND IS NOT AT THE CAVE. Blue River Marina is owned by Gorden Smith and Gary Roberson (cavers) who just happen to own Marengo Caverns also. The campground is in the town of Marengo. Paul Unger plans to arrive early afternoon Friday the 27th to start working registration.

**MARENGO** -- Take I-64 west from Louisville to SR 66. Then north on SR 66 to Marengo. PLEASE take your road maps along for comfort!

**DINNER** -- The Banquet will be in a restaurant. I will be going to Marengo this weekend to make the reservations. Most likely, we will eat at Van's Chicken House. Van's only seats 45 people. Unless I have more confirmed reservations the banquet will be cut off at 45 persons. If I receive more than 40 confirmed reservations before Friday, I'll get reservations at a larger restaurant.

Van's Chicken House is adjacent to Marengo caverns. Dinner is planned for 5:00 with the cave tour at 7:00 or 7:30.

**CAVE TOUR** -- Gorden prefers to have our group guided through his cave. Sorry. However, the tour guides will not give their tourist talk and I suspect they too are cavers. Gorden and Gary will be Blanchard Springs Caverns, Arkansas and regret that they will not be able to meet with us. Cave tour will follow the banquet. (no need to move your cars.)

**WILD CAVES** -- Pat Stevens of the Louisville Grotto will be there to help direct people to local caves. I will have a list of open caves at registration.

**CANOEING** -- The Campground is at the site of the canoe livery. Have fun!

**DATES** -- September 27, 28, and 29.

**INFORMATION** -- Call Bill Walden or Paul Unger.

Bill 614-268-5865 Paul 513-839-4258

Please confirm to us before 9-13-85 to be sure we can have banquet seating for you.

## MEETING NOTICE

The Central Ohio Grotto will have its September meeting at the home of Paul Unger Saturday, September 21 at 7:00 PM. This is the weekend of the Preble County Pork Festival in Eaton, Ohio. Come for the Festival and the Meeting. Paul has plenty of room so plan to campout either inside the house or in the yard.



# NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

CAVING INFORMATION SERIES - 15

## B A T S

by

Wayne H. Davis, Ph.D.  
Department of Zoology  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, Kentucky 40506



Bats are commonly associated with caves and spelunkers are likely to encounter them wherever there are caves in North America. In the East they use caves primarily for hibernation. In favored caves half a dozen species can often be seen in winter. A few Eastern caves are used in summer as nurseries by the big eared bats (*Plecotus*), gray bats (*Myotis grisescens*) and in Florida by *Myotis austroriparius*. Many Eastern caves that are devoid of bats by day in summer are visited at night, especially after the young are weaned in mid-summer.

In the West bats rarely hibernate in caves except for *Plecotus townsendii* and the Texas and Oklahoma populations of the cave myotis (*Myotis velifer*). Caves are used as nurseries by many species, including the free-tailed bat, *Tadarida brasiliensis*, which forms colonies of up to 20 million bats in certain Southwestern caves.

Bats are desirable citizens of the caves. All of our American bats are insect eaters except for three nectar feeders in the Southwest. One should avoid disturbing bats, as they are rather intolerant of molestation and may abandon the cave. Bats have been decreasing in the caves at an alarming rate during recent years, probably in part due to the increasing number of visitors.

Like all other mammals, bats can carry rabies and a person should take care to avoid being bitten. People who work with bats get pre-exposure rabies inoculations and generally use gloves in handling the animals. The teeth of most species are small and gloves offer adequate protection. Hibernating bats are the least dangerous for the rabies virus generally retreats to the brown fat and becomes inactive during that time.

A person who visits caves occupied by summer colonies of bats should be vaccinated against rabies. In one Texas cave rabies has been contracted from airborne virus apparently originating from the urine of bats.

Someday you are likely to see bats that have been tagged with aluminum bands. Such bands are conspicuous and easily recognized. They are used in various scientific studies, most commonly used to study migration. Some bats migrate hundreds of miles between summer and winter quarters. The migration patterns of most species remain unknown. Migration studies generally depend upon the public to report banded individuals found. If you find many banded bats in a cave, chances are they were banded there. If however you find a single one, chances are you could add to our knowledge of bat migration. Record his band number and send it to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C. They will tell you who banded it, when and where, and will notify the bander of your find.

There are 40 species of bats in the United States, most of which are sometimes found in caves. Some species are easily recognized, but the identification of others is not easy. The various books and field guides on mammals are not satisfactory for identifying bats. By far the best reference for this purpose is *BATS OF AMERICA* by Barbour and Davis, University of Kentucky Press, 1969. Your local library should have this book, as well as other important references such as *BATS* by G. A. Allen (Dover reprint 1962 of a 1939 book) and the *BIOLOGY OF BATS* by Wimsatt, Academic Press, 1969.



# **T h i s I s s u e -- B a t s**

by Bill Walden, Editor Central Ohio Grotto Squeaks



During the convention I attended a program on bat identification organized by Ginny Tipton and John MacGregor. This workshop started with an introductory slide presentation on bats with emphasis on their ecology and behavior, their distribution across the United States, and their identification and conservation. Handouts were provided. It is those handouts which I have reprinted with permission from the various sources.

Because we, as cavers, frequently find bats or evidence of bats during our visits to caves, and because bats need friends, I thought it would be a good idea to pass the materials I obtained from the workshop on to the entire grotto.

I would like to recommend a Grotto membership in BAT CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL, INC. (BCI). This organization was founded to meet urgent and increasing conservation demands that require major funding. The purpose of BCI is to prevent extinction of bat species, to insure survival of viable bat populations, and to inform the public of the value of bats. A membership application is included with this Squeaks.

Dr. Merlin D. Tuttle is the president and founder of BCI. Dr. Tuttle is an internationally recognized authority on bat biology who has been a leader in the field of bat conservation for more than 20 years.

Individual membership is \$25, supporting membership is \$50, contributing membership is \$100. The address is:

Bat Conservation International, Inc.  
C/O Milwaukee Public Museum  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233

The publication they produce is worth the individual membership. Dr. Tuttle's slide programs are available for grotto programs. For those of you who have not seen his slides, let me tell you that you are in for a real treat!

The remainder of the articles on bats and the illustrations from THE WILD ANIMALS OF MISSOURI are Xeroxed from the materials I received from the Bat Identification Workshop.

## **Publications reproduced:**

Illustrations by Charles W. Schartz and Elizabeth R. Schwartz, taken from The Wild Mammals of Missouri: used with permission from the Missouri Department of Conservation. (Long sheets with chart on cover.)

Bat House instructions from the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Bats in Kentucky Caves from John MacGregor, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Non Game Wildlife Program.

Cave Bats, Their Ecology, Identification, and Distribution reprinted with permission from Virginia M. Tipton, Department of Biology, Radford University, Radford, Virginia 24142. Published in The Proceedings of the 1982 National Cave Conservation and Management Symposium.

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife in Kentucky from John R. MacGregor and Sherri A. Evans, Nongame Wildlife Program, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Printed 30 September 1983 and revised 30 May 1984. Reprinted with permission.

CAVE BAT REPORTING FORM, KENTUCKY. Please use these forms to help bat studies. I have additional copies of this form or feel free to Xerox additional copies as required.

For additional reading material on bats I suggest writing to Speleobooks, Emily Davis Mobley, PO Box 333, Wilbraham, Massachusetts, or the NSS Bookstore. There are many fine books on bats available. The NSS Bookstore will have all current books and Emily will have most current books and many that are out of print. I suggest Silently By Night by Russell Peterson, available from either source given. Your local library is an excellent source for books too.

## **Last Meeting**

Len Gibler presented his slides taken in France including his visit to Pierre Saint-Martin and his talk with Norbert Casteret. Very exciting. Mark Rakowski and Bill Walden showed their slides of the convention and recent cave trips.

Bruce Wartman showed his recent cave paintings. I suggested that he permit me to make some covers using his paintings. (Reminder)

Paul Unger gave the grotto an update on the Daniel Boone National Forest Project.

## **Minutes**

The August 9th meeting of the COG was held at the home of Jim Blankenship. Jake called the meeting to order and the May minutes were approved as read. There was no treasure's report available.

### **Committee Reports:**

Squeaks - Bill told about his plans for the September and October issues and made his usual request for articles.

Liaison - Paul Unger explained his discussion with the U.S. Forest Service concerning the Daniel Boone Forest Area. The plans are to set up an organization separated from the N.S.S. to work with the Forest Service. A formal agreement involving the other grottos will be formed at a later date. This will be presented to the other grottos in September at the Marengo Caverns weekend.

Old Business: Reorganizing the Hell Hole Trip was discussed.

New Business: Participating in the Franklin County Metro Parks Nature Fair in October was discussed and the grotto will participate. Bruce exhibited one of his cave paintings.

The meeting was then adjourned and Mark, Len, and Bill presented a slide show of caving pictures.

Respectfully submitted - Nancy Mahoney, Secretary

## **Next Month SLOANS REMEMBERED**

The October issue will be dedicated to the Sloans Valley Cave. Most of today's COG members have joined the grotto after the mapping of Sloans was completed. Louis Simpson has indicated he is writing some articles for this issue. I will pick some material from the Grotto library to reprint and borrow some articles from other publications.

I hope other grotto members and friends will help by sending me their articles and stories.

Looking forward to a special October issue!

## Coming This Winter THE CAVE CREEK STORY

I have a special treat planned for paid up grotto members. To make this proposed issue a success I'll need help from those of us who took part in the mapping of the Cave Creek System. The story of Cave Creek has continued from the Sloan's Mapping Project into recent Squeaks articles. This should prove an issue of interest to us all.

## Future Special Issues

Hopefully these special emphasis issues are interesting. It would be great to have two or three special emphasis issues of the Squeaks each year. To continue to do this I need your ideas and help. The COG Squeaks is the heart of the Central Ohio Grotto, let's keep it healthy. - Bill Walden, Editor.

## GREAT CAVING MYSTERIES

(Simpson's Suck-ins)

Part 2 - Wayne County, KY

I. Burfield Hollow, Wayne co., KY. Efforts failed to result in a connection to Kidd Cave through the high levels. Efforts were also fruitless in extending the cave into Blue Hole Hollow, a vast dry valley adjacent to the cave, which must drain into Burfield Hollow Cave.

II. Spring Cave, Wayne Co., KY. Rick and Judy Day explored this cave from a rubber raft in 1971. This cave is a water source and is closed. It was also the scene of an ugly incident earlier that year when Ed and Carolyn Herel were shot at while camping in their station wagon. Rick described the cave as at least half a mile long, well-decorated with gypsum, and having a large cross-section.

III. Triple-S Cave, Wayne Co, KY. There are still a couple of intriguing leads in the remote upstream extension. A trip there involves a two-hour wetsuit water crawl, with some walking in the middle. The remote section of the cave is quite nice, with large cross-section passages. There could also be a connection to an entrance even farther beyond (Rainbow Sink), along the north side of Upchurch Hollow. Other possible back entrances include Table Cave, which is in the middle of the upper pasture in Upchurch Hollow, where blasting has been used to enlarge access, and Puppydog Pit that we found by surveying overland to see where the back part of the cave went. Strangely enough, we found this entrance right over the point we chose as our survey destination.

Another curiosity associated with Triple-S is the smell and presence of oil in one section off the stream passage. There is evidence of surface drilling in the area, which accounts for the oil leak. A similar thing occurs in Wind Cave, where sections of drilling pipe are even found, along with oil on the ceiling in a stream passage.

IV. Wind Cave, Wayne Co., KY. Before the owner closed the cave in 1972, Dave Beiter and Roger Sperka discovered a large upper level trunk with "a white gypsum powder floor". The cave is still closed. Charlie Gibbs tried unsuccessfully to gain access in the seventies.

## GREAT CAVING MYSTERIES

(Simpson's Suck-ins)

Part 3 - Fentress and Pickett Counties, TN

Fentress County

### 1. Flat Rock Ridge Spring Cave

This giant cave is thus far only accessible by hardy cave divers. A huge trunk with a fifty-foot column was reported by the only group that went there.

2. Wolf River Cave. Where does Macho Crawl go if one keeps extending it? There is airflow, even though some of it may have come from a dome near the end. Perhaps an extension of Tremendous Trunk or the Enchanted Forest may be found. The name of this mythical trunk is Never Never Land.

2. How did the animals found near the Void get into the cave? How, for that matter, did the Archaic Indians and the two jaguars, etc. enter the cave?

3. What lies at the top of the breakdown dome beyond Masochist Crawl?

### Pickett County

### 1. Devil's Dungeon

There is an obvious insurgence entrance, low and wet, that could be pushed. Also, a dry, possible side entrance has a narrow canyon that I tried to extend. It's not too far from the dry upper levels in Devil's Dungeon.

2. Rotten Fork Cave Efforts to blast through the strongly blowing breakdown failed. Water issues from the lower level sump. Perhaps a dye trace could be performed from Bat or Abbott Saltpeter caves.

This is all that I have for Great Caving Mysteries. If we are to have a part 4 I'll need some help from you readers. I know there are more of these mysteries. - Bill Walden, Editor.

## TRIP REPORTS

### An Interview With Norbert Casteret

by

Len Gibler

During his trip to France July 11, 1984

Saint-Caudens is an ancient town. Its streets, its alleys, and even its main throughfare are far better suited to wagons, animals, and pedestrians than to motorcars and, God forbid, trucks. The latter have only been in use for fifty years or so; the former, for two thousand years and more, when Romans, Visigoths, and Gauls walked and lived in those narrow, twisting streets. I arrived very early on a market day, and took time to watch merchants set out their wares in stalls around the cathedral and in the public square. An old man in a plain black cloth suit and-of-course a beret, tottered by on an antique clanking bicycle. On his tandem was a box of dead pigeons, his special stock in trade. They would be sold before 9:00, and soon he would be sharing a Period with the other old men in the dark *brasserie* across the square. This town is more French than France. It is everything that anyone with a taste for provincial France could hope to see. But a caver's journey to Saint-Caudens is more like a pilgrimage. Even fascination of the ancient provincial town is a little eclipsed by the fact that it is the home of Norbert Casteret, perhaps the greatest caver of all time.

Casteret's engaging stories of his exploits in the caves of the Pyrenees are the



subjects of his nearly two dozen books (all written, incidentally, with a quill pen, since he cannot type.) His books have been translated into some 16 languages, and his infectious enthusiasm for the underground life has without doubt influenced more people to take up caving than any other person or institution in the world. His love for caves and cavers is matched, clearly, by an equally strong fountain of energy.

I took my time in the marketplace. I visited the church, drank coffee in the sidewalk cafe's, browsed in the shops and stalls and simply walked around the streets and gardens. The weather was perfect, and the opportunity to let the life and the architecture of the Haute Garonne slowly become a part of me was equally flawless. It was better than any photograph I could carry home. In my ramblings, I found a street named for "Elizabeth Casteret, exploratrice, speleologue," Mr. Casteret's long-dead and much beloved wife and companion. While I leisurely explored the town, I felt a mounting impatience to get on with my mission, for I had made up my mind to find Casteret and talk with him: a fantasy I had so often indulged that I had a picture (how inaccurate it proved) of him, his house, his garden, and his wife, all conjured in my mind.

Finding chez Casteret proved difficult. There was no listing in the telephone directory. Many people knew him, but until I found a policeman who was one of his admirers, I got nowhere. Using this *gendarme's* generous and detailed directions, I was able to become hopelessly lost in the right neighborhood. After a couple of hours of difficult conversations with villagers whose dialect was entirely different from mine, I found my way to Casteret's beautiful old chateau at a distance from the city proper.

A middle-aged woman, Casteret's youngest daughter, met me just inside their drive. She lives with her father and cares for him in his latter years. I asked if this were the house of Mr. Casteret, and if I might speak with him. The French words flowed automatically from me for, like some star-struck fan, I had been practicing my little speech all the way down the road. The language does not come easily for me. I was surprised to find my heart racing, and a great lump in my throat. This was a moment more important than I had allowed myself to think. Casteret was, after all, one of the great heroes of my youth (that--my youth--was some time ago.) He was the great explorer of the *Henne-Morte*; the disciple of the great Alfred E. O. Martel; the first man down in the expedition to retrieve the body of Marcel Loubens from the bottom of the Lepineux Pit of the Pierre Saint-Martin; the man who trained himself to hold his breath to unbelievable limits to dive many icy Pyrenean siphons--alone. This was no ordinary man, no ordinary meeting.

I heard Mlle. Casteret say that her father was eating lunch, but that she would convey my request to him. A very long two minutes followed. When she reappeared, she motioned to the back garden, and said she would be back to get me in half an hour.

The half-hour that followed could have been interminable, but one thought came to me which restored my sense of perspective. This great man and I have in common a great love, and many similar experiences. The other greats I can imagine, share a lot less in common with me. Presently, Mlle. Casteret directed me to the door, and led me through the huge halls of their home, leaden with fascinating antique furnishings. At the base of the stairs leading to his library, I spied a sight that so thoroughly charmed me that I felt very much at home. In the three-story space between the bannisters, Casteret had rigged a cable ladder and a work-line and tool-bucket! On the landings were coils of rope and ladders, some of the enormous hemp ones used in the old, old days, and all displayed with obvious affection. Casteret was and is, before anything else, a caver.

Mr. Casteret greeted me in his study. His eighty-eight years of age had left him only a little stooped and stiff in movement. His chest and upper body were still lean and powerful. Still energetic and vital, he welcomed me cheerfully, glad to talk with a fellow speleologue.

Casteret is justly proud of his accomplishments, but there is not a touch of false pride

in the man. He took pains to speak simply and slowly, so that I would understand. He used no slang, no idioms, no difficult or unfamiliar words, and I understood everything he said. We talked for a time of his tour of America. He retrieved his journal, where he had meticulously recorded his travels in 25 or 30 cities. He pointed out the entries about Cleveland and Cincinnati, cities he knew were near my home. Then he showed me the array of souvenirs and photographs lining the walls of his study: Moroccan-bound first editions of all his books; his famous quill pen and inkwell, tools, lamps; several large photographs of the Pierre Saint-Martin, especially the magnificent Salle de la Verna. He is most taken with the Pierre, as I am.

Prominent among his memorabilia are pictures and possessions of his wife, Elizabeth. Even through 40 or 45 years have elapsed since her death, he still speaks softly of her memory. He showed me some equipment: "This is my helmet, and this, the helmet of my wife." and, "These are our ice-axes. This one," he said, pointing to an old-style long axe with a dried sprig of some wild flower tied to the shaft, "belonged to her."

His daughter came into the room at this point, concerned that her father might be over exerting himself. But the old gentleman was not ready to end the visit. We talked on for some time before his solicitous daughter intervened. It had been a time oddly like my fantasy. Before we parted company, Norbert Casteret urged me to visit the Pierre. "You can see the Salle de la Verna," he said. "You must ask the mayor of Arette for the key. Tell him you discussed it with me. He will know." He looked at me with the look of a comrade. "You must see the Salle de la Verna. If you were a tourist, that would be one thing. But you are a speleologue!" *"Mais vous etes Speleologue!"*

## WYANDOTTE CAVE

By Lou Simpson

Sheryl and I had talked about visiting Wyandotte Cave, Indiana for over a year. Since I have been accustomed to driving four to seven hours to go caving, it is hard to get used to the idea that we live only two hours from a major cave. Dorothy Goepfel, a student employee at Sheryl's office, and her husband, Harry, joined Heather, Sheryl, and I for the two hour ride on Saturday morning, August 10. We soon arrived at the picnic area near the cave entrances and had lunch. David Bracey, Sheryl's boss, and his daughter from England, Emma, arrived, and we all entered the cave tour building. Four tours are available: a two-hour tour of Big Wyandotte, a half hour tour of Little Wyandotte, and two spelunking tours of Big Wyandotte, of five and eight hours duration. The spelunking tours can only be arranged in advance for groups. Individuals or very small groups can sometimes join with larger groups for these special tours. Lanterns are provided for these tours and carbide lights are prohibited. We just planned to take the two normal tourist tours today.

When Sheryl had toured both caves in 1968, Big Wyandotte had been lighted by lanterns carried by some of the tourists. Today, when we arrived at the comfortable sized walk-in entrance after a short walk down a hill, we found the cave nicely lighted. The young woman who was our guide explained that since 1856 the cave was owned and exhibited by the Rothrock family until the state of Indiana bought the cave from them in 1966. The guide closed the iron bar gate behind our group of about 15 and we descended into a tall canyon on a wide trail. She pointed out a wooden pole that the five-hour spelunking tour uses to descend a twenty-foot pit. She said Indians used this pit to store meat. The spelunking tour then works its way through the breakdown and rejoins the trail a short distance later.

I was able to follow our route on a map provided free in a publication by the Indiana Geological Survey. There was also a more detailed map of the cave in a glass case in the cave building. The guide pointed to a major left lead at the Junction Room, where the tours used to go and the spelunking tour still goes. Our route led down through a hole that had been covered by a large rock until 1850. Indian artifacts found in this

part of the cave suggest that Indians may have concealed this section to preserve their supply of flint. Two narrow bands of chert and numerous chert nodules had been mined for this valuable resource.

The cave was so dry and cold that a couple of entrepreneurs in the 1850's attempted to store onions there hoping to have a monopoly during winter. The dryness of the cave dehydrated the onions, which remain along the trail on a shelf. We entered here the first of a series of extensive six-foot trenches which have been excavated for the tours. We arrived in a passage which contains numerous graffiti and large rock pillars. The pillars were constructed by groups of tourists who spent many days and nights in the cave building them. Later, when the supply of flat rocks dwindled, a rock "card table" was provided so these visitors could leave behind a calling card, a mail pouch box, or some such memento.

We descended into a long, sinuous excavated trench, providing a six-foot passage through the middle of a formerly gruelling bellycrawl through helictites. The tunnel continued for an amazing half hour of walking. The guide said that donkeys were employed to carry away the debris and that the project took nine months. I marveled at the magnitude of this effort and recalled our own puny efforts on past dig projects. This tunnel made most of the tour nonrepetitive.

At length, we ascended a steep stairway, almost a ladder, and arrived at the impressive Monument Mountain Room. The cave continues through the "Auger Hole". The eight-hour spelunking tour goes through the Auger Hole. While we sat in darkness on bleachers at the base of the mountain, our guide told us the story of three counterfeiters whom the owner discovered doing their thing in the cave. The sheriff and his deputies captured two of them when they came out of the entrance, but a third escaped and was never found, she said. Then she climbed the mountain, leaving us in the dark. Suddenly we saw the shadow of the lost counterfeiter on the domed ceiling high above. The shadow stepped around the rim of the room and appeared to step on and grab the tour group with gigantic feet and hands, to my delight and that of the other children. The guide returned and we crossed the mountain. A room beyond is used each year by the Oddfellows for an initiation ceremony and it can be rented by other groups for the same cost--the three dollar tour fee.

We returned to the surface almost exactly two hours after entering. We only had half an hour to prepare for the Little Wyandotte tour. This is a short, shallow, but scenic cave only about 500 feet long. The length of Big Wyandotte is 5.5 miles of mapped passages, according to the "Mobil Travel Guide" (1985) and also the "NSS News" (Jan. 1985, 5.36 miles). However, our guide and the "Amoco Motor Club Guide to Mini-Vacations in the Midwest" told us the big cave is 23 miles long. Big Wyandotte apparently has only a single entrance. Little Wyandotte does not connect with Big Wyandotte and is unlikely to connect because it is very shallow, with only a few feet of overburden, and there is a gulley separating the back entrance from the entrance of Big Wyandotte, which is the nearest point of Big Wyandotte at a similar level.

The front entrance of Little Wyandotte is in a shallow sink near the parking lot. The original, natural entrance is a nearby surface pit, now filled with boulders. We crossed a twenty-foot lower level room and skirted a pool formed when the trail was constructed. The cave contains flowstone, soda straws, stalactites, stalagmites, curtains, and columns. A row of columns across a window formed the bars of a "jail". The guide said an earthquake in this century caused one section of columns to crack and shift position slightly. We emerged from a short tunnel which was constructed after a small boy who was helping to string lights discovered a very small surface opening from inside the cave.

Tour times and dates are as follows:

Big Wyandotte:

Two-hour guided tours every hour on the hour, last tour 4 pm, daily except Monday, 9 am - 6 pm, Memorial Day through Labor Day; open 9 am to 6 pm May through October; 8 am to 5 pm the rest of the year, with tours at 10 am, noon, and 2 pm; closed Jan 1, Thanksgiving, and Dec. 25. Cost: \$3; age 4-12, \$1.50.

#### Little Wyandotte:

Open same days and hours as Big Wyandotte, tours begin on the half hour, last tour 5:30. Winter tours at 9 am, 11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm, and 4 pm. Cost: \$2; ages 4-12, \$1.

Telephone 812-738-2782.

We all liked the caves a lot. I liked Big Wyandotte because it was dry, which was unexpected in an Indiana cave.

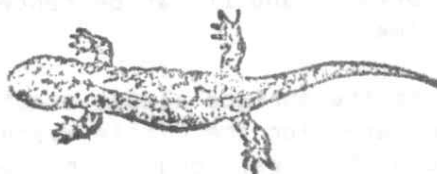
Wyandotte Cave is near Marengo Caverns where COG and other grottos are having "Karst Encounters". Don't forget. Get your reservations into Bill Walden or Paul Unger immediately!.- Editor.

#### N o t e s

My thanks to the ever increasing use of personal computers. I'm receiving most of the Squeaks articles via modem. Better Squeaks and less wear and tear on my fingers! And, my thanks to my wife, Karen, for proofreading the Squeaks. -- Bill Walden, Editor.

#### Officers COG 1985

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Please feel free to contact any of the above for information about the COG, cave trips, information on up coming activities, or meetings.

