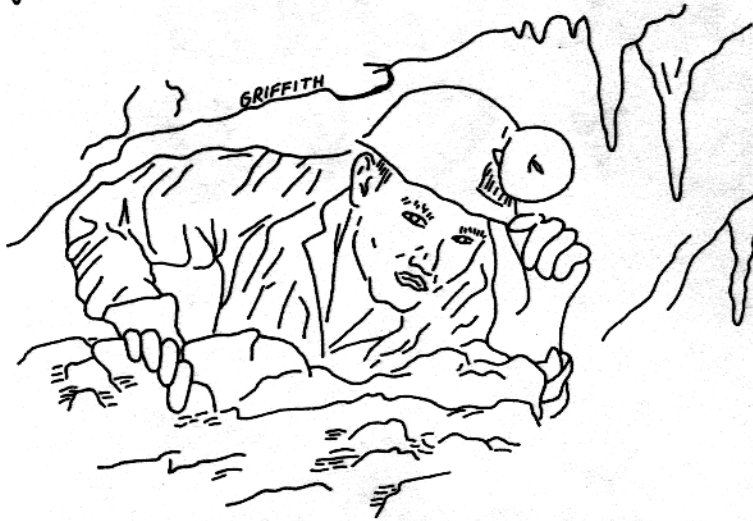
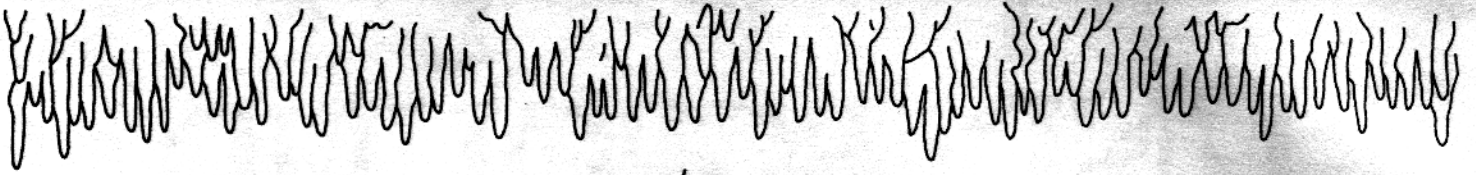


# THE UNDERGROUND P R E S S

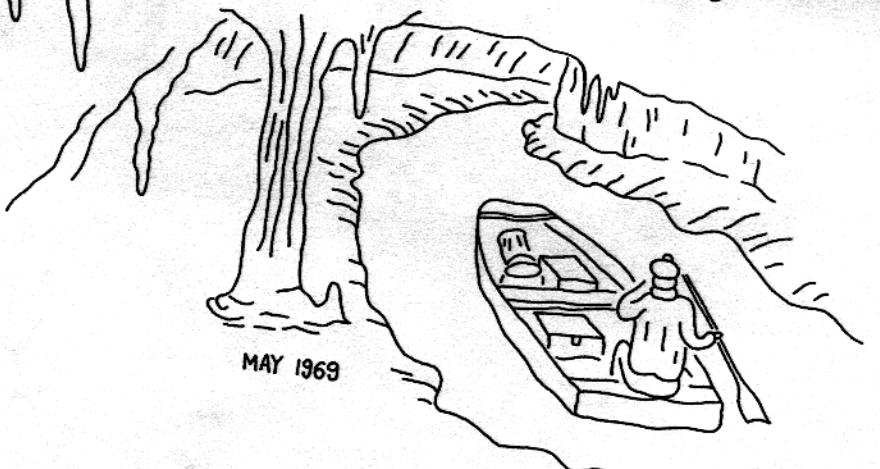


SPECIAL REUNION ISSUE - Twenty one years of organized caving !!



KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO  
VOL. 3 NO. 3 AUGUST 70

# MISSOURI UNDERGROUND



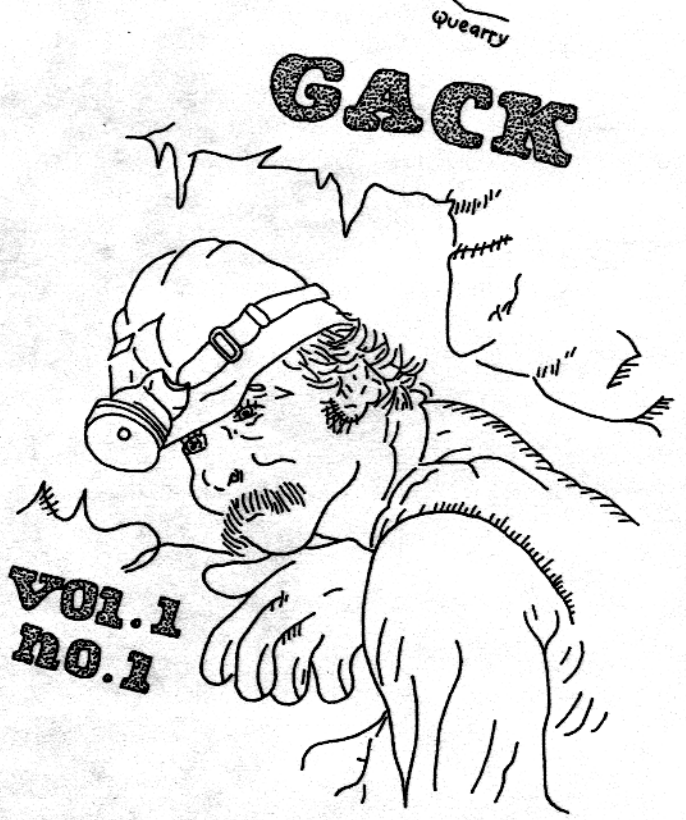
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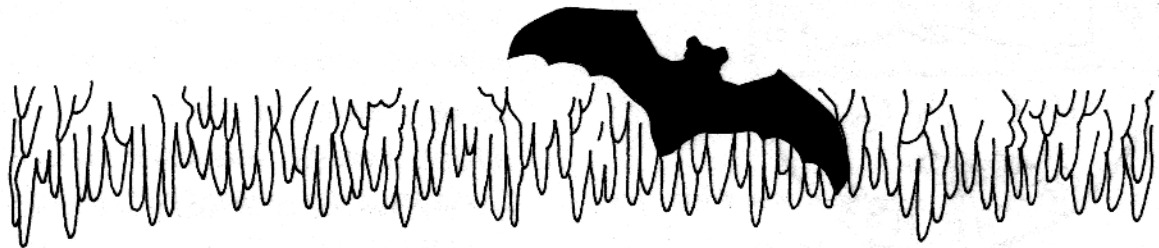
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UNDERGROUND  
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S P R I N G  
S U M M E R

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EARLY KCAG NEWSLETTER COVERS

A GROTTO IS BORN...

CARROLL CAVE MEMORIES

WEST CAVE BONE DEPOSITS

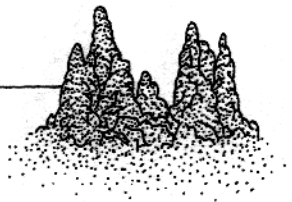
BEAR BONES IN BLOW HOLE CAVE

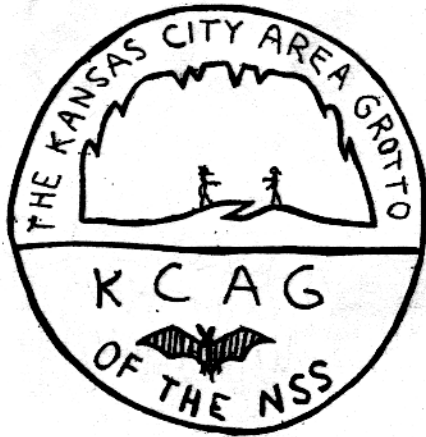
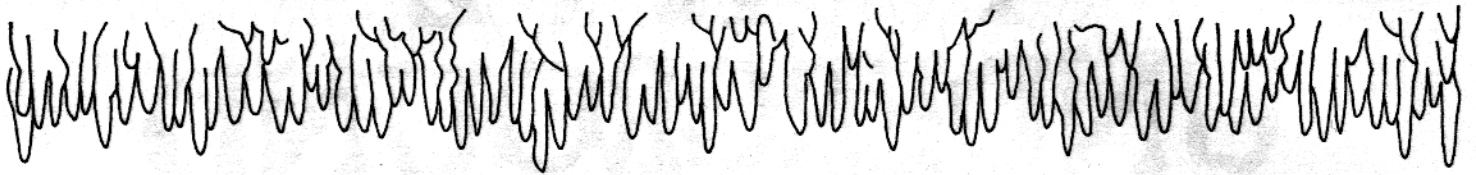
MEMORABLE MVOR'S

BELOW THE LIMESTONE...

CHRISTMAS IN MEXICO 1969

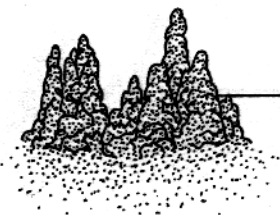
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ISSUE

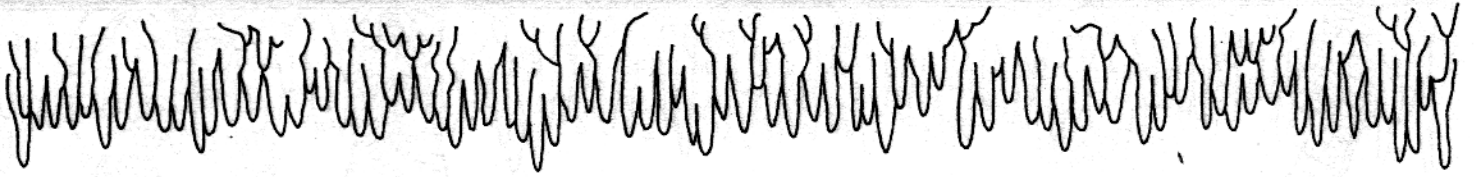




ON A COLD, OCTOBER NIGHT IN 1967, MIKE AND BETTY ANN LEONARD, DEARIL AND JUDY MENNIS, BILL AND JOANN BINGHAM, DAVE GRIFFITH AND CHARLES WATTS MET IN CHARLIE'S BASEMENT AND STARTED THE WHEELS IN MOTION THAT WOULD SOMEDAY CARRY THEM TO THE REALIZATION OF AN N.S.S. GROTTTO IN THE KANSAS CITY AREA. AT THE FIRST MEETING THE GROUP DISCUSSED THE GOALS AND PURPOSES OF THE INVISIONED GROTTTO AND PLANNED THE FIRST OFFICIAL CAVE TRIP OF THE GROUP TO CARROLL CAVE. THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING WAS SET FOR NOVEMBER. AT THE NEXT MEETING A CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED AND PREAMBLES WERE READ AND DISCUSSED. THE PREAMBLE THAT WAS ULTIMETELY TO BE SELECTED WAS PRESENTED AND REVISED, SETTING FORTH THE FEELINGS OF THE GROUP TOWARD CAVING IN GENERAL AND THE KANSAS CITY GROTTTO IN PARTICULAR. AFTER THE BUSINESS OF THE NIGHT WAS COMPLETED, THE GROUP DISCUSSED THE RECENT TRIP TO CARROLL CAVE

AND OF THE DEPLORABLE CONOITION OF THE CAVE. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE CAVE BE GATED FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE CAVE. A GROUP WAS DESIGNATED TO ATTEND THE UPCOMING MEETING OF THE MISSOURI SPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY. TO PRESENT OUR PLAN TO GATE CARROLL CAVE ANOTHER MEETING OF THE GROUP WAS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER. IN DECEMBER THE CONSTITUTION WAS PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED AND SUGGESTIONS MADE FOR REVISION. THE GROUP THEN DISCUSSED WHAT WENT ON AT THE M.S.S. MEETINGS. IN GENERAL THE GROUP LEARNED THAT MOST EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THE M.S.S. WAS VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF THE GATE, BUT WERE ALSO VERY SKEPTICAL AS TO WHETHER WE COULD MANAGE SUCH A MONUMENTAL TASK SINCE ALL WHO HAD COME BEFORE FOR ABOUT 10 YEARS HAD FAILED. HOWEVER, WE PROVED THEIR SKEPTICISM WRONG, FOR IN APRIL THE GATE WAS TO BECOME A REALITY! DURING THE INSUEING MONTHS THE GROUP MAPPED THE DEEPEST VERTICAL CAVE IN MISSOURI, MADE APPLICATION TO THE MISSOURI SPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR MEMBERSHIP, AND ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. THE GROUP WAS CHARTERED IN SEPTEMBER BY THE N.S.S. AND RECEIVED RECOGNITION FOR THEIR GATE ON CARROLL CAVE. IN AUGUST, THE KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTTO (K.C.A.G.) MEMBERS ATTENDED THEIR FIRST NATIONAL N.S.S. CONVENTION





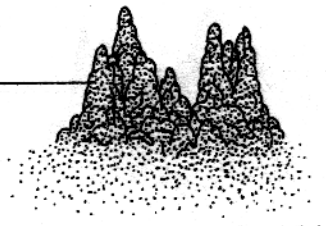
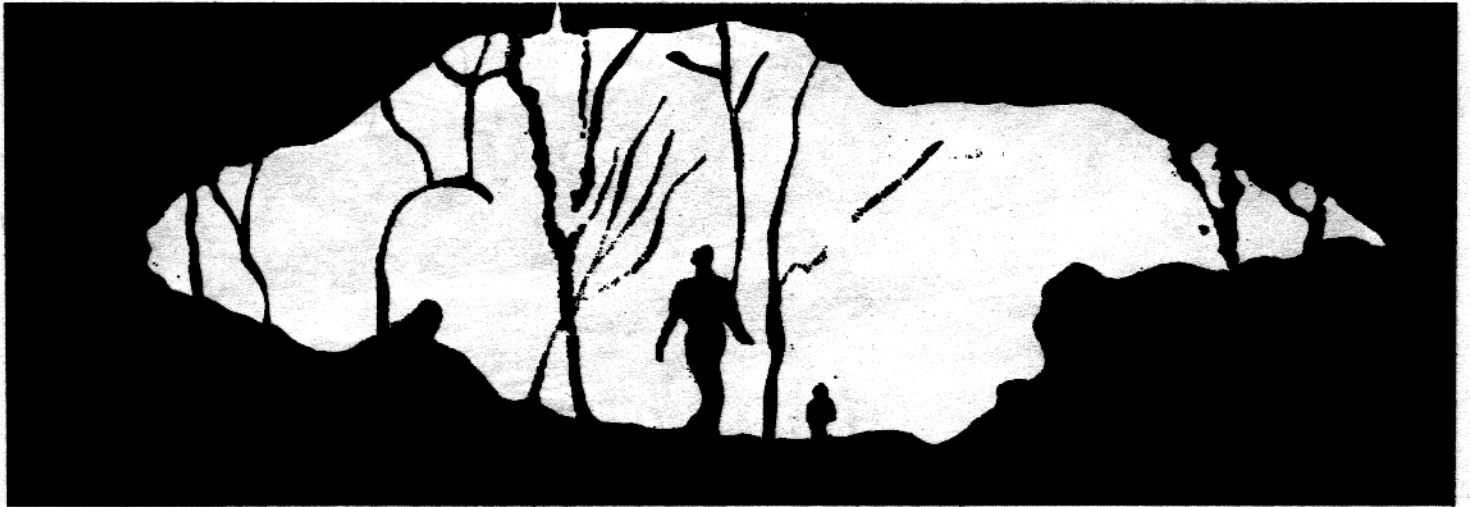
WHERE THE GROUP WAS CONGRATULATED FOR THEIR DISCOVERING AND NOTIFYING THE PROPER PEOPLE OF A VIRGIN CAVE AND PREHISTORIC ANIMAL DEPOSITS. IN DECEMBER 1968 A SMALL PARTY REPRESENTING THE KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO WENT TO MEXICO AND ENTERED TWO OF THE DEEPEST PITS IN MEXICO - TLYAMAYA AND GUAHGUAS. IN DEED THE EFFORTS OF A FEW HAVE MADE A DREAM A REALITY. YES THE KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO OF THE N.S.S. IS NOW A LIVING AND VIBRANT MEMBER OF THE CAVING COMMUNITY IN MISSOURI. HOWEVER, THERE IS STILL MUCH TO BE DONE BEFORE ALL THE GOALS OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS CAN BECOME A REALITY.

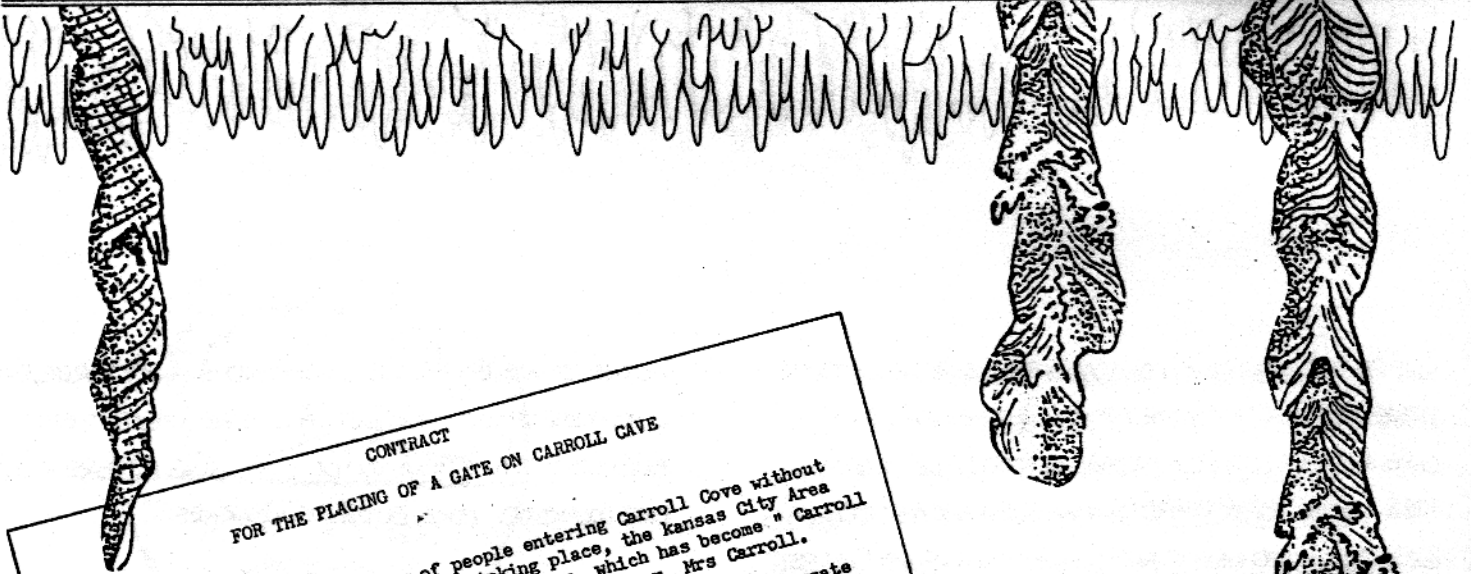
*Charlie Watts*

PAST K.C.A.G. PRESIDENT AND CHARTER MEMBER.

"GOING CAVING EVERY SINGLE WEEKEND IS FINE, CHARLIE, BUT IF YOU KEEP UP YOUR PRESENT PACE YOU'RE LIABLE TO GET BURNED OUT. WHY DON'T YOU DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT JUST ONE WEEKEND - LIKE BUILDING WINCHES?"

"ONE FRANCHISE AVAILABLE, MIDWESTERN HOT CHOCOLATE VENDOR, FIXTURES INCLUDED, GOOD AREA, PRIME CLIENTELE, PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT ON REQUEST, REGIONAL MONOPOLY. SEE MOTHER TUCKER."





CONTRACT  
FOR THE PLACING OF A GATE ON CARROLL CAVE

Due to the ever increasing number of people entering Carroll Cove without permission and the amount of vandalism taking place, the Kansas City Area Grotto hereby agrees to place a gate on the cave, which has become "Carroll Cave," at no cost or obligation of any kind to the owner, Mrs Carroll.

Mrs. Carroll, being owner of said cave, hereby agrees that after the gate has been placed on the cave it becomes her property and in no way belongs to the Kansas City Area Grotto.

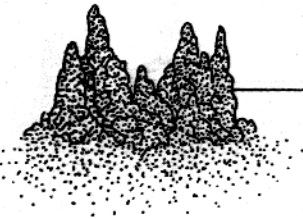
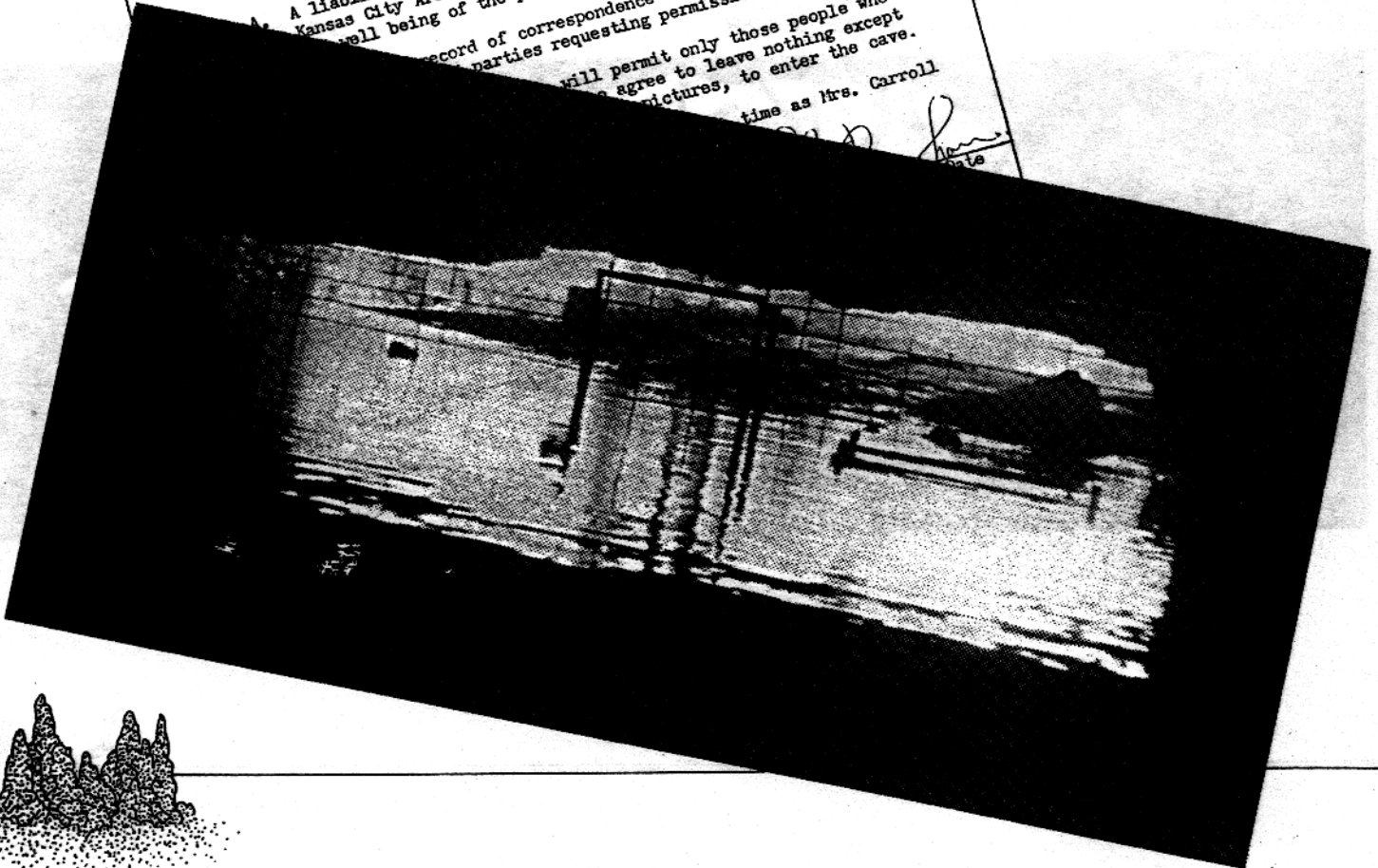
Both parties further agree to the following provisions of this contract:

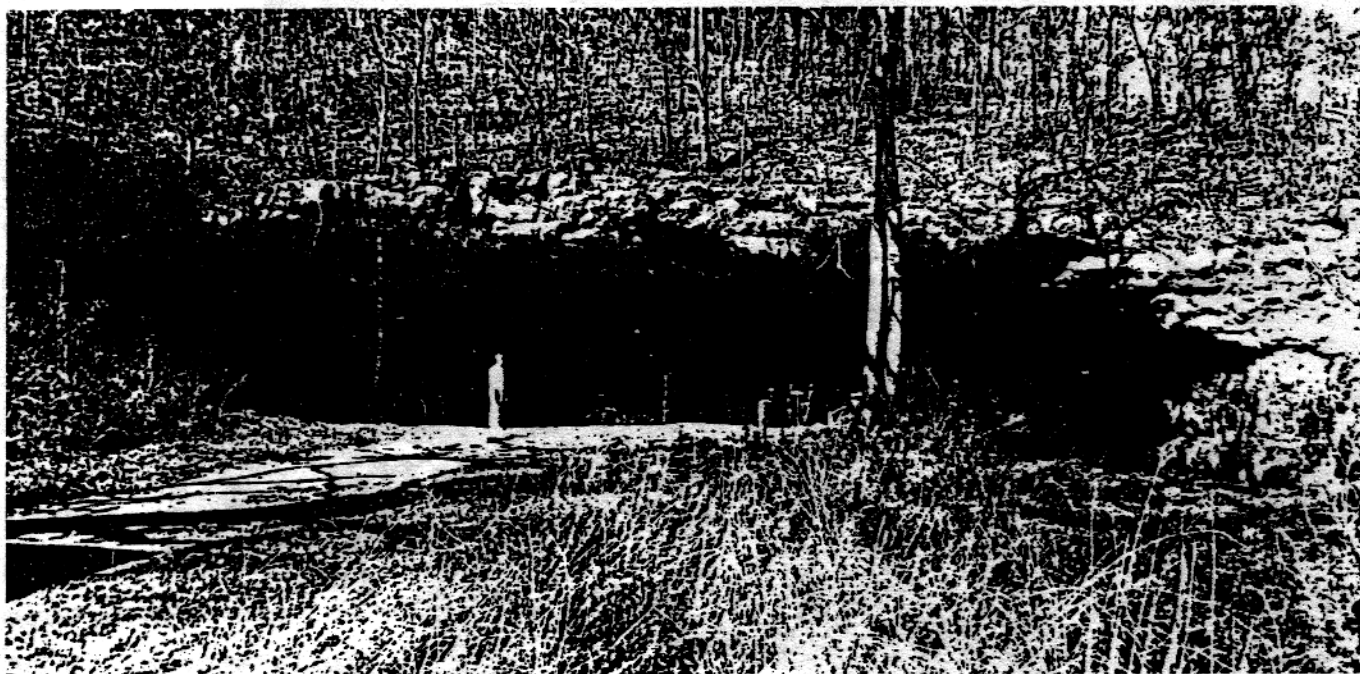
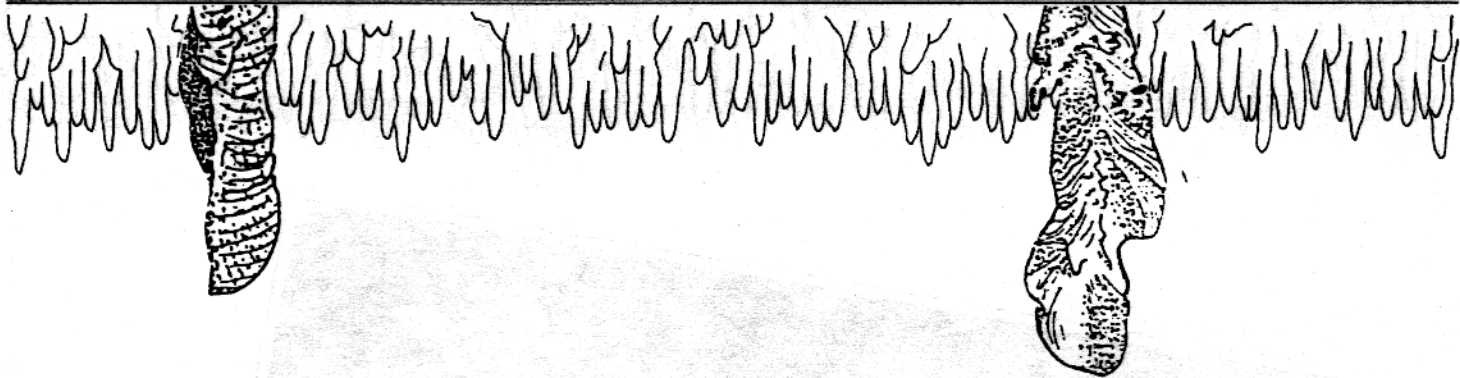
- I. Kansas City Area Grotto will actively pursue a campaign to clean up the cave, and remove all trash and debris that does not occur naturally in the cave.
- II. Kansas City Area Grotto will furthermore assume the responsibility for giving permission to groups to enter the cave, and will keep a complete record of all people entering the cave, which will include the following items:

- A. A liability waiver relieving both Mrs Carroll and the Kansas City Area Grotto of any responsibility for the safety well being of the parties entering the cave.
- B. A record of correspondence between the Kansas City Area Grotto and parties requesting permission to enter the cave.
- C. A list of names of those people who will permit only those people who agree to leave nothing except pictures, to enter the cave.

time as Mrs. Carroll

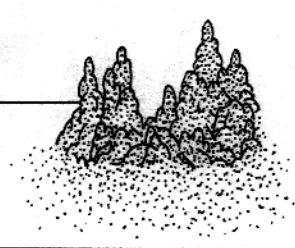
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Date



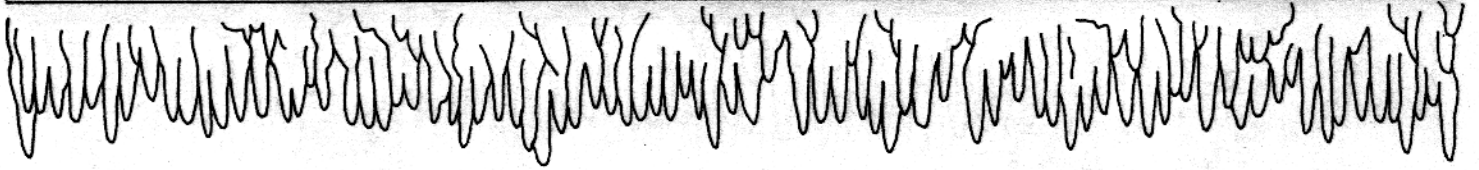


"THROUGH AN IMMENSE ARCHED CORRIDOR, FLOODED WITH BLACK ROCK WHICH LATER CHANGES TO MUD, MUD, MUD, AND MORE MUD AND WATER! WE PROCEEDED THROUGH THE PASSAGEWAY, SOMETIMES WALKING IN THE MUDDY STREAMBED OR SOMETIMES THROUGH THE STREAM FROM ONE MUDDY BANK TO THE OTHER. ALONG THE WAY ALL IS NOT MUD, YOU PASS MOUNDS OF WHAT APPEAR TO BE GLISTENING BROWN AND WHITE SUGAR WITH CURIOUS Pools FILLED WITH CRYSTAL CLEAR WATER AT THEIR BASES. THERE ARE THE TRADITIONAL CAVE LIKE ICICLES

OF STONE CALLED STALACTITES AND STALAGMITES IN VARIOUS SHAPES AND SIZES. THERE ARE THICK PATCHES OF SODA STRAWS WITH DROPS OF WATER HANGING FROM THEIR ENDS THAT CATCH THE LIGHT OF YOUR LAMP AND GUSTEY LIKE A HUNDRED TINY STARS. WE PROCEEDED THREE MILES TIL WE CAME TO WHAT IS TERMED THE NECKBREAKERS. IT IS SO NAMED BECAUSE OF THE CRAMPED POSITION IN WHICH YOU HAVE TO WALK, NOT TO SPEAK OF THE WATER UP TO YOUR NECK AND THE STALACTITES YOU DODGE." - JUDY MENNIS.

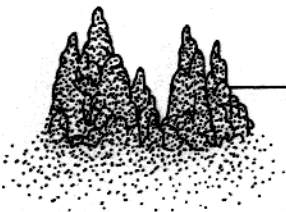


## WEST CAVE BONE DEPOSITS



"THE BONE DEPOSITS IN THIS UNUSUAL CAVE WERE FIRST BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION BY MEMBERS OF THE KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY IN JULY, 1968 WHEN THEY BROUGHT ME SOME OF THE SLOTH MATERIAL WHICH HAD BEEN EXPOSED IN THE CEILING OF A PASSAGE. IN AUGUST OF THE SAME YEAR, WE ORGANIZED A PARTY TO INVESTIGATE THE FOSSIL POTENTIAL OF THE CAVE AND COLLECTED SPECIMENS REPRESENTING SIX SPECIES. THE CAVE IS LOCATED IN A BLUFF OF

THE GASCONADE RIVER, WELL ABOVE PRESENT WATER LEVELS. THE CAVE IS ONLY ABOUT 300 FT. IN EXTENT. ABOUT 220 FT. FROM THE ENTRANCE, ONE MAY CRAWL THROUGH A SMALL HOLE IN THE FLOOR TO ENTER A PASSAGE ABOUT 6 FT. BELOW. THIS LOWER PASSAGE HAS BEEN FILLED AT ONE TIME WITH BREAK-DOWN RUBBLE WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME CEMENTED BY FLOWSTONE INTO A CONGLOMERATE. A LATER EROSIONAL CYCLE REMOVED THE LOWER PART OF THE FILL TO LEAVE A PASSAGE WHICH HAS A BONE BEARING CONGLOMERATE AS ITS CEILING." MEGALONYX JEFFERSONI - GROUND SLOTH BONES.



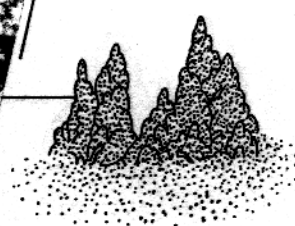
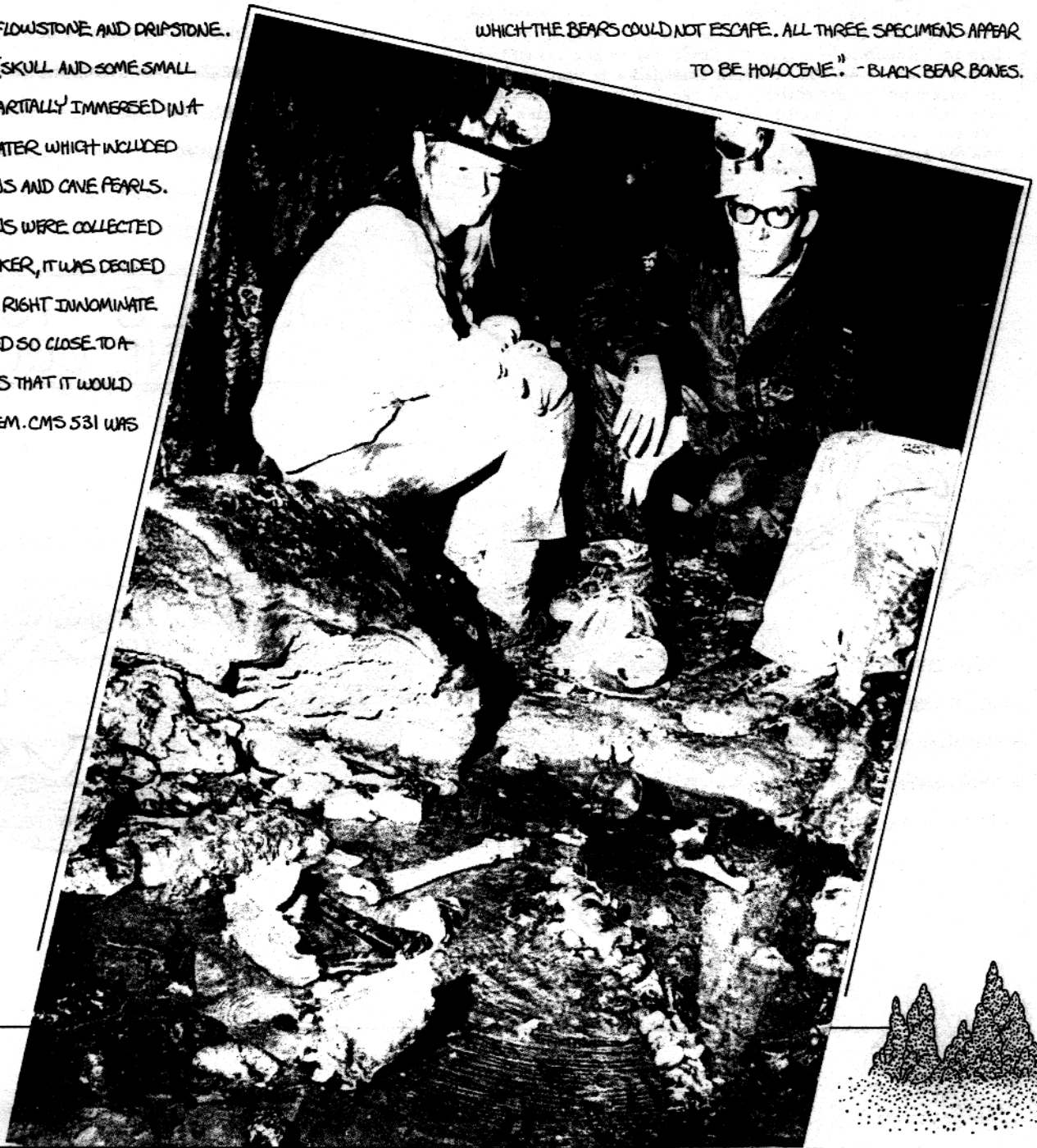


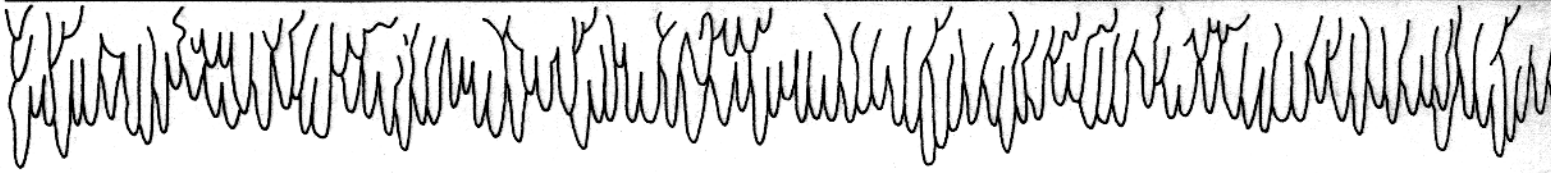


"BLOW HOLE INCLUDES A PIT WHICH REQUIRES RAPELLING. IT WAS AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS PIT THAT MEMBERS OF THE KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOUND THE REMAINS OF THREE BLACK BEARS (*URSUS AMERICANUS AMERICANUS*). THE SIDES AND BOTTOM OF THE PIT ARE WELL DECORATED WITH VARIOUS TYPES OF FLOWSTONE AND DRIPSTONE.

SPECIMEN NO. 530 (SKULL AND SOME SMALL FRAGMENTS) WAS PARTIALLY IMMERSIED IN A SHALLOW POOL OF WATER WHICH INCLUDED "LILY PAD" FORMATIONS AND CAVE PEARLS. WHEN THE SPECIMENS WERE COLLECTED IN 1968 BY TOM TUCKER, IT WAS DECIDED NOT TO COLLECT THE RIGHT INNOMINATE SINCE IT WAS LOCATED SO CLOSE TO A "NEST" OF CAVE PEARLS THAT IT WOULD HAVE DISTURBED THEM. CMS 531 WAS

FOUND IN A MATRIX OF MUD AND FLOWSTONE AS WERE SOME OF THE OTHER SPECIMENS. THE THREE INDIVIDUAL BEARS VARIED CONSIDERABLY IN AGE. CMS 523 WAS A YOUNG INDIVIDUAL WITH LITTLE TOOTH WEAR. CMS 530 AND 531 SHOW MODERATELY HEAVY TOOTH WEAR INDICATING OLD AGE. THE PIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A TRAP FROM WHICH THE BEARS COULD NOT ESCAPE. ALL THREE SPECIMENS APPEAR TO BE HOLOCENE." - BLACK BEAR BONES.



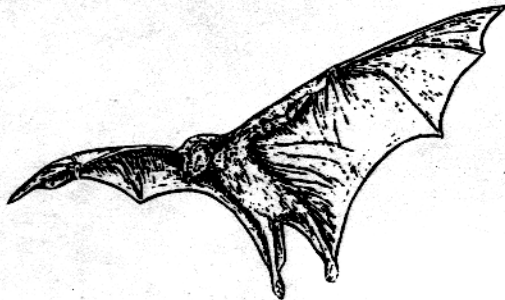


The Spring MVOR was sponsored by Chouteau Grotto with registration and camping at Rock Bridge State Park. The major cave trip was to the Devil's Icebox which required a 1/2-mile boat trip. The banquet was held at the Columbia Fairgrounds and the featured speaker was Hershel "Woody" Bledsoe of the Missouri Conservation Commission. Campgrounds and facilities were rather rough. Trip leaders should be commended for the very, very hard work and long hours put in. Apparently an enterprising group opened up a sidewalk cafe in the back of Icebox. Seriously, the KCAG set up a table with checkered tablecloth and served hot chocolate to tired, cold cavers. They asked for contributions for the MSS Research Fund.

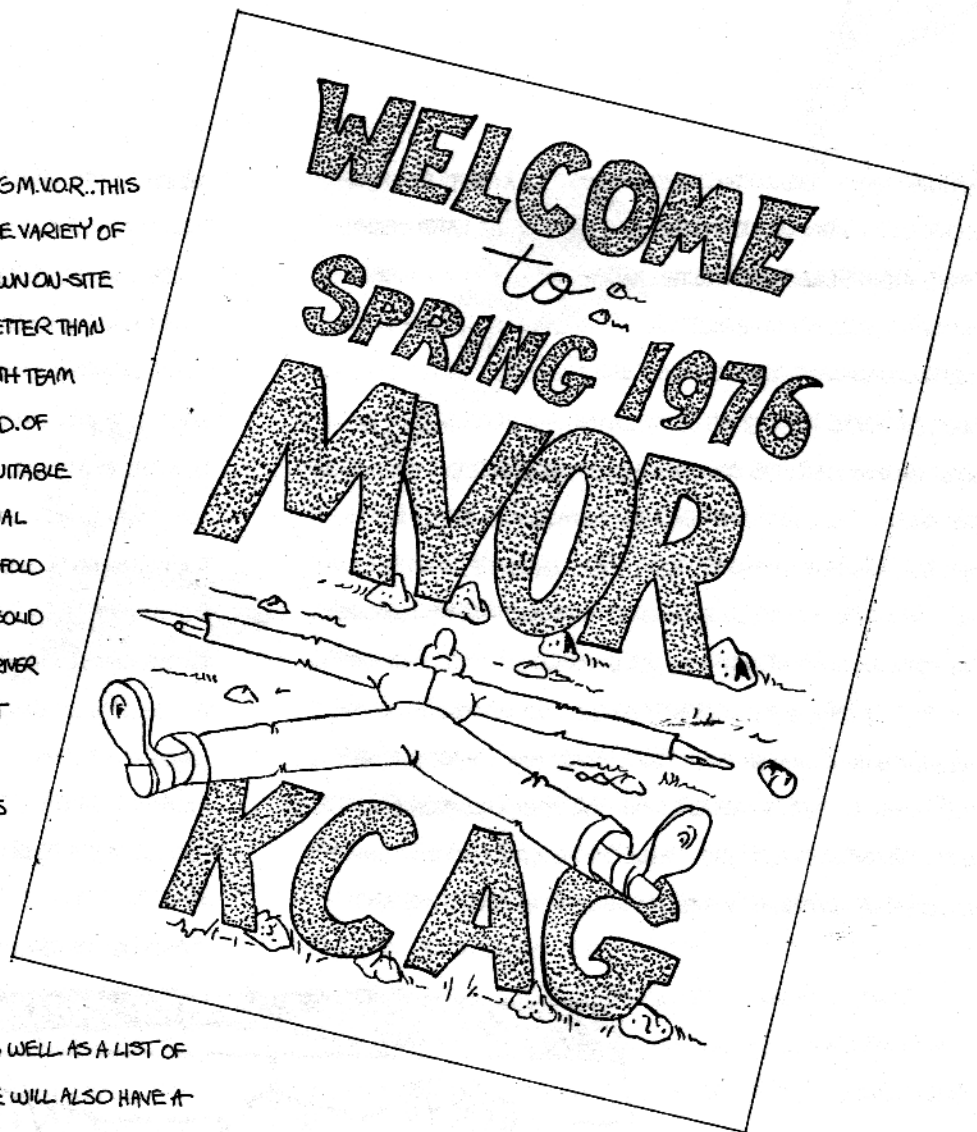
Then the long-dreaded rains came, but good! Have you ever seen 200 cars sink up to their windshields in a newly formed "Rockbridge River"? Some called the results the best part of the MVOR. Camera nuts had a heyday as jeeps in tandem pulled out trailers and cars. A new bond of unity was felt in the concentrated efforts to get vehicles free. For the real report see the MSS LIAISON, Vol. IX, No. 5 and the great article by Susan Devier.

"IT SEEMS THE HOT CHOCOLATE STAND WAS CONSTRUCTED IN A LOW ECONOMIC AREA AS ALL OF THE PATRONS WERE DIRTY AND UNKEPT AND, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE MAITRE'D HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ADMIT ONLY THOSE WITH SUIT AND TIE, WERE ATTIRED IN THE MOST DISGUSTING OF CLOTHING. FEW HAD MONEY AND ALMOST ALL TRACKED IN MUD! THE NET PROCEEDS WERE \$11.00; \$5.00 OF THIS FROM THE STAND, \$5.00 WAS CONTRIBUTED BY DON NICKOLSON OF CHOUTEAU, AND BOB FORTE DONATED \$1 HE FOUND ON THE GROUND OUTSIDE THE M.V.O.R. REGISTRATION TENT."

DEVIL'S ICEBOX  
BOONE COUNTY

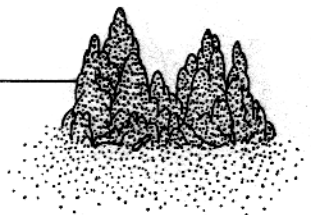


"ONCE AGAIN K.C.A.G. IS SPONSORING THE SPRING M.VOR.. THIS YEAR IN THE WARSAW-TRUMAN DAM AREA. A WIDE VARIETY OF EVENTS ARE PLANNED. YES, WE WILL CATER OUR OWN ON-SITE BANQUET. THIS YEARS IS PLANNED TO BE EVEN BETTER THAN OUR PREVIOUS ONE. A SPELEO-OLYMPICS WITH BOTH TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION WILL BE PRESENTED. OF COURSE, THE WINNING 5 MAN TEAM WILL WIN A SUITABLE PRIZE, AS WELL AS THE WINNERS OF THE INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION. IN ADDITION THERE WILL BE A BUNDFOLD DRIVING CONTEST. A COURSE WILL BE SET UP (NO SOLID BARRIERS WILL BE USED) AND A BUNDFOLDED DRIVER AIDED ONLY BY THE INSTRUCTIONS OF HIS CO-PILOT WILL NEGOTIATE THE COURSE. THE CAR WITH THE BEST TIME WILL BE THE WINNER. PENALTY POINTS WILL BE ASSESSED FOR HITTING GUIDE POLES..."

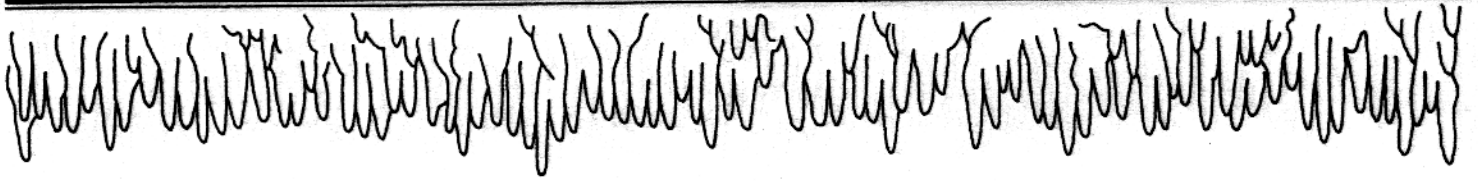


"THERE WILL BE A NUMBER OF FEATURED CAVES AS WELL AS A LIST OF LEADS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN FOLLOWED OUT. WE WILL ALSO HAVE A SEGMENTED MAP OF THE AREA WHERE GROUPS CAN TAKE A SEGMENT AND SEARCH OUT THOSE YET UNREPORTED CAVES. EACH GROUP WHO WISH TO HELP LOCATE YET UNREPORTED CAVES WILL BE GIVEN A MAP WITH A SEGMENT SHOWING THEIR WORK AREA. THE GROUP IS FREE TO LOOK FOR ENTRANCES OR EXPLORE OR MAP, ALL WE WANT IS THAT CAREFUL NOTATIONS BE KEPT AND YOUR REPORTS TURNED IN. ALL

REPORTS WITH DUE CREDIT TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS AND GROTTOS RESPONSIBLE WILL BE TURNED INTO THE MISSOURI SPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY, INC.. THIS AREA WILL BE UNDER WATER BEFORE 1978 IS OVER. WE MUST RECOVER AS MUCH DATA AS POSSIBLE NOW. ONCE AGAIN, WELCOME AND GOOD CAVING FROM THE KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY."



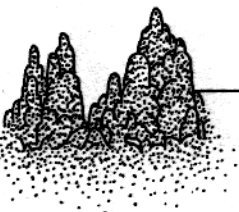
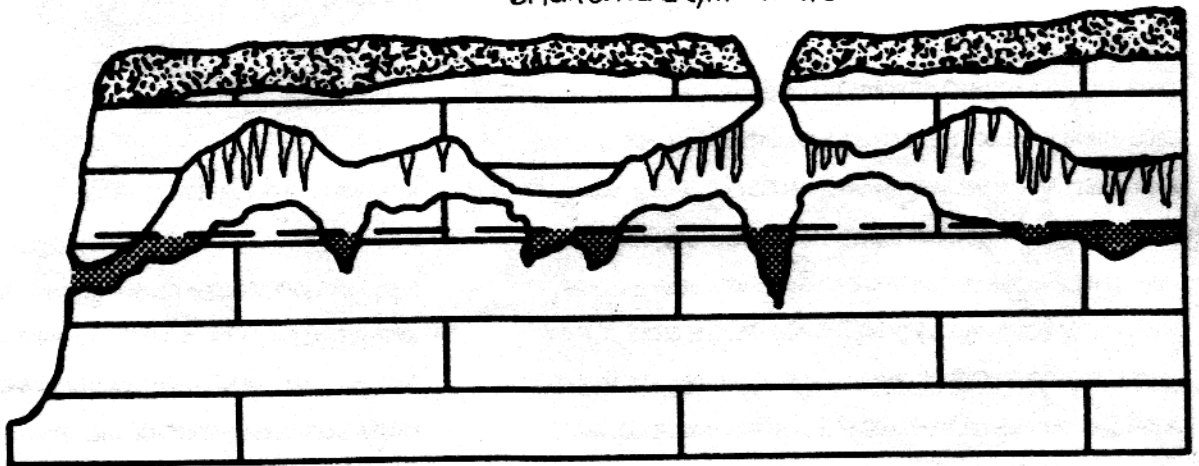
## BELOW THE LIMESTONE...

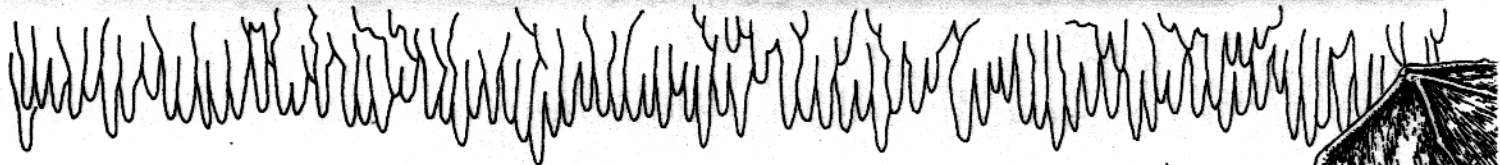


Lying quietly below the earth's crust is a great layer of rock called limestone, found over much of the earth. Sometimes hiding deep within the earth's bosom, sometimes exposing itself with pride in what has been termed a karst. Within this great layer of limestone, great caverns have been carved out by eons of solution and erosion like a slow mining process controlled by the speleodieties which are known only to those who call themselves spelunkers, cavers, or speleologists. Yes, those who dare to go below the limestone, not to destroy, or to take, or to leave their names, but to enjoy, to photograph, to see evidence of lost cultures and life which has been captured here and written down like the pages of a history book; to explore and to hunt for "her." "She" is the dream of a caver, whether it be a room decorated in all its splendor by the speleodieties, the likes of which no lover of sunshine has ever seen or the adventure and

delight of finding a place where no man has ever left his footprints, which is unseen by human eyes, unscathed by human hands. Ah yes! Poets, scribes, photographers, adventurers. ... from all walks of life they come, and they wonder, and in their wonder they become jealous and hope no lover of the sunshine will ever destroy their spelean world or take from them the chance to see her at her best. And the spelunker goes on always hoping he will find "her," the promised land, the dream of a great cavern which can only be envisioned by a caver who has found grace in the eyes of the speleodieties. To the caver "she" is just around the corner, or just through the next tight crawl or just behind the great debris cone which has blocked his path, or just beyond the darkness ahead. Let us sing of those who have found favor in the eyes of the speleodieties and their dream of the unknown."

BY TOM G. TUCKER, PAST K.C.A.G. PRESIDENT.





"THAT'S A HOUSE? BROTHER, HE'D NEED A BANK LOAN TO MOVE TO THE SLUMS. PULLING INTO THE RUSTIC TENNESSEE COTTAGE, WE WERE GREETED BY FIVE AWE-STROCK CHILDREN AND THE LARGEST DOG IN THE WORLD. THE CANINE SHOWED LITTLE INTEREST IN US AND SOON RETURNED TO THE STEER IT HAD CARRIED OFF. THE CHILDREN ON THE OTHER HAND WERE FASINATED BY OUR

CAR AND WHILE THEY AMUSED THEMSELVES BY TRYING TO REMOVE THE TIRES, MICKEY AND I SOUGHT OUT THEIR FATHER. "MR. HATFIELD?"

"YUUP." "SIR, THE GENTLEMEN DOWN AT THE GENERAL STORE SAID YOU MIGHT

BE ABLE TO GIVE US SOME INFORMATION AS TO THE LOCATION OF LOST CAVE."

"WAL' NOW, SEEMS TO ME IF I KNOWED WHARE THIS HERE LOST CAVE WAS, YA'LL COULDN'T RIGHTLY SAY AS HOW IT

WAS LOST A'TAL." "MICKEY, I THINK HE'S TRYING TO TELL US SOMETHING." MICKEY THANKED THE OLD GENTLEMEN IN CHEROKEE AND WE DROVE ON TO THE NEXT SHANTY. "SHORE I KNOW WHAR LOST CAVE IS. ONLY IT AIN'T LOST, IT'S RAT WHUR I LEFT IT. HAR, THAT'S A JOKE, HAR, HAR." THE DEFINITION WAS QUESTIONABLE. "WHY, I REMEMBER THE TIME FRANK BROWN'S BES HOUN' DAWG FOLLORED A COON INTO THAT THERE CAVE. THAT OLD DAWG CAME OUT ABOUT A WEEK LATER DOWN IN ALABAMA-SOMEWHERE." ALTHOUGH THE LOCAL CITIZENRY WAS HARDLY IMPRESSIVE, THE DOGS IN THE

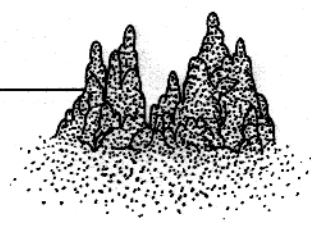
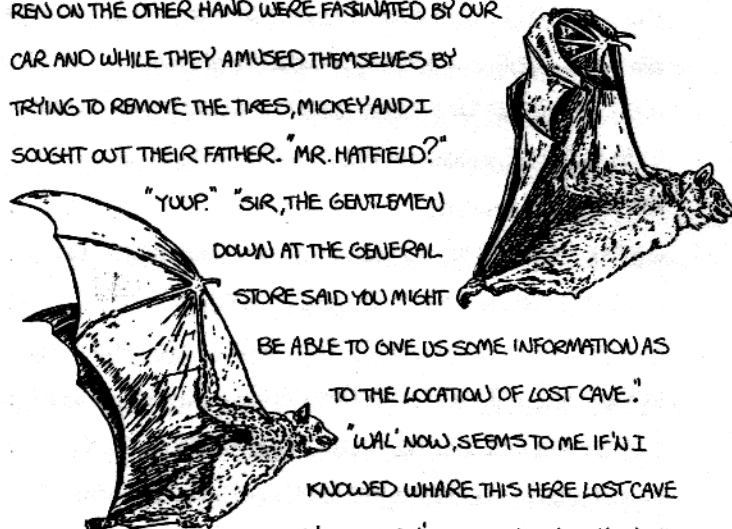
AREA SEEMED AN AMAZING LOT. WE SOON DISCOVERED OUR HOST WAS

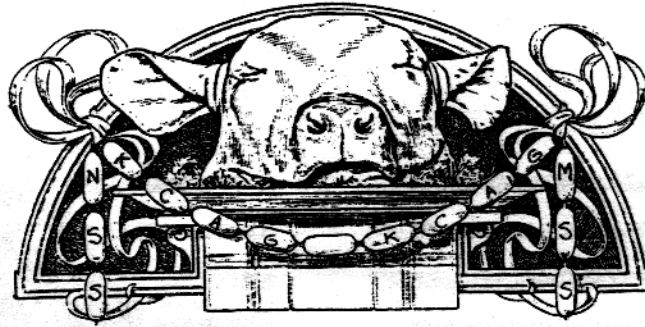
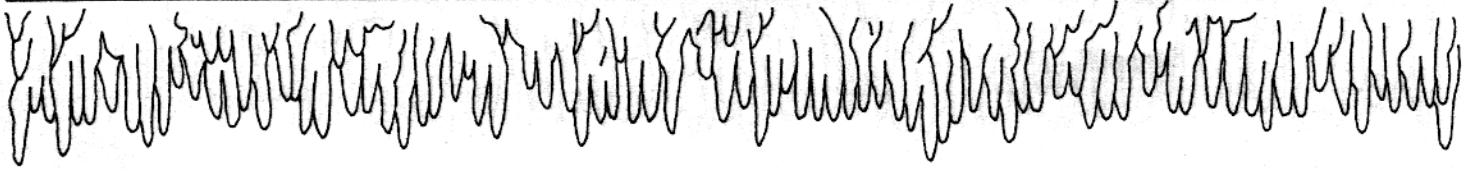
HEARTBROKEN OVER THE FACT THAT HIS SISTER'S DAUGHTER HAD REACHED THE AGE OF FIFTEEN WITH NO MARRIGE PLAN IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IN CONSOLING THE OLD FELLOW, WE SUGGESTED THE GIRL FILL THE

EMPTINESS IN HER LIFE WITH A CAREER IN HOLLYWOOD, HAVING MET THE GIRL WE FELT SHE COULD DOUBLE FOR LON CHANEY JR. WITH RELATIVE EASE. "IF I AIN'T OFF MY LAND BY THE TIME I COUNT TO FIVE, I'M GONNA SHOOT YA." OBVIOUSLY WE HAD SAID SOMETHING WRONG AND WE DECIDED TO TAKE OUR LEAVE. FORTUNATELY THE INCENSED FATHER LOST COUNT SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THREE AND FOUR. "SHORE I CAN TELL YA'LL HOW TO GIT TO LOST CAVE." SUCCESS AT LAST! "JUST WALK DUE NORTH FOR TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES. TURN LEFT AND GO DUE EAST 'TIL YA GIT TO A

BIG PASTURE. TURN RIGHT AT THE THIRD COW AND WALK 'TIL YA SEE A FLOCK OF GEESE FLYIN' NORTH." I WAS SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL AS TO THE ACCURACY OF THE DIRECTIONS SINCE EVERYONE KNOWS THAT GEESE FLY SOUTH. AS WE STARTED NORTHWARD WE HEARD OUR GUIDE CALL OUT, "YA CAN'T MISS IT." WE COULD... AND WE DID!

THIS WONDERFUL STORY WAS WRITTEN BY MIKE LEONARD, PAST KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO MEMBER, AND TAKEN FROM THE MISSOURI UNDERGROUND 1968, PAST KCAG NEWSLETTER.

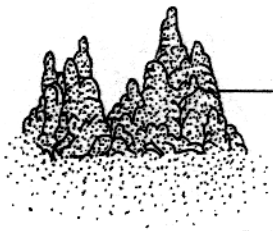


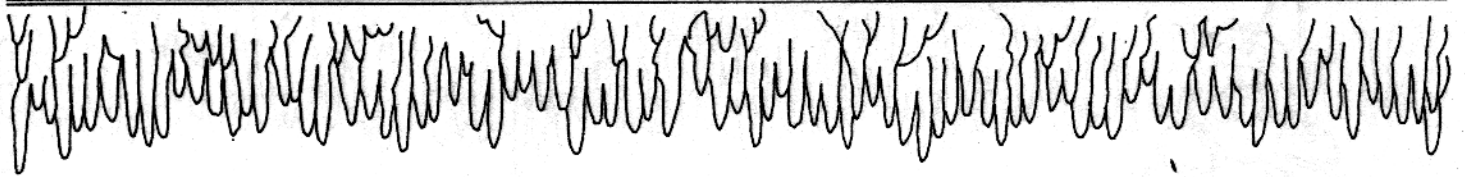


"THE K.C.A.G.'S FIRST ANNUAL PIG ROAST CAN NOW BE PROCLAIMED A BIG SUCCESS!! WE HAD 65 PEOPLE TURN OUT AND EVERY ONE SEEMED TO HAVE A GOODTIME REGARDLESS OF THE HEAT. SOME PEOPLE I UNDERSTAND EVEN WENT CAVING. THE FOUR GROTOS IN ATTENDANCE WERE H.O.G., K.C.A.G., TOM SAWYER AND CHOUTEAU. THERE WAS SWIMMING, FISHING, CAVING, AND HIKING, SOME FUN RAFT FLOATING, A FOUR WHEEL DRIVE RALLY, AND SATURDAY NIGHT THERE WERE CEREMONIAL RITES FOR SEVERAL FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES. FOR THOSE WHO DONT KNOW, THE CEREMONY WAS A SORT OF COMING OF AGE FOR FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES. ALSO THERE WERE SEVERAL PEOPLE WHO HAD A MAJOR COMBAT WITH SOME OF THE MORE FEROCIOUS MEAT-EATING INSECTS (MOSQUITOS). THE PIG TASTED GREAT AS DID THE CORN, POTATOES (ALSO PIT-ROASTED) AND THE DRINK. I THINK K.C.A.G. CAN BE PROUD OF THEIR FIRST ANNUAL PIG ROAST. THANKS TO EVERYONE THAT HELPED MAKE IT!!" BY TOM TUCKER, PAST PRESIDENT OF K.C.A.G.. FROM THE MISSOURI UNDERGROUND, VOLUME THREE, NUMBER THREE, AUGUST 1970.

NEXT, A DIFFERENT VIEW OF THE KCAG PIG IN THE PIT ROAST...

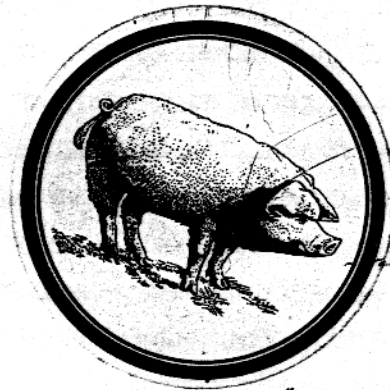
"THE THURSDAY EVENING BEFORE THE FRIDAY MORN THE PIG WAS TO BE BUTCHERED BEFORE THE SATURDAY MORN HE WAS TO BE PLOPPED INTO THE PIT HE ALMOST WASNT... WE EMBARKED THURSDAY NIGHT AT ABOUT 7 PM IN THE EVENING FOR A PREARRANGED APPOINTMENT WITH A RELATIVE OF A SHIRT-TAILED RELATIVE WHO HAD JUST OBTAINED THE PIG WE WANTED AND THEY AGREED TO SELL IT TO US. WE ARRIVED ABOUT 8 PM TO THE ACCOMPANIMENT OF DISTANT THUNDER AND FOUND THE OWNERS GONE. THEY HAD LEFT THE NEIGHBORS IN CHARGE AND WOULD NOT BE BACK UNTIL THE FOLLOWING MONDAY. THEY REALLY DIDNT KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE PIG AND ABOUT THEN WE SIGHTED A PIG COMING OUT OF A SMALL PEN. EUREKA, THIS MUST BE THE ONE... SO I BACKED THE TRUCK UP TO THE LOADING RAMP. AS I STEPPED OUT OF THE TRUCK I HEARD THE HISS OF A WOUNDED TIRE. THE FIRST THOUGHT WAS "OH, FARMERS AND THEIR UNKEPT FARMS", THE NEXT WAS "DAMN, I LEFT THE SPARE AT HOME TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE PIG." AFTER REMOVING THE TIRE, ONE OF THE NEIGHBORS AND I STARTED OFF FOR A GAS STATION TO FIX THE FLAT. WE FOUND THE SIDEWALKS ALREADY ROLLED UP FOR THE NIGHT. IN AN HOUR OR SO WE FINALLY FOUND A STATION OPEN ALONG THE HIGH-





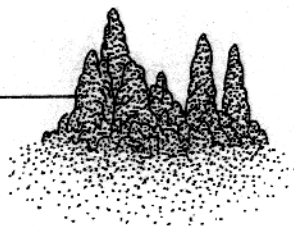
WAY, IT WAS POURING DOWN RAIN BY THIS TIME AND IT WAS 11:00 BEFORE WE FINALLY HAD THE TIRE BACK ON THE TRUCK. IN THE MEANTIME "PIGGY" MUST HAVE DECIDED TO FIND BETTER SHELTER FROM THE RAIN. THE NEIGHBOR SAID "LET'S DRIVE OUT IN THE FIELD AND FIND HIM." I SAID "IT'S MUDDY AND THIS THING WILL GET STUCK." HE SAID "I'LL PULL YOU OUT IF YOU DO." SO OFF WE WENT AND IT DID, AND HE DID AND WHEN WE FINALLY GOT OUT OF THAT MESS WE STILL HAD NO PIG. THE RAIN WAS MUCH WORSE SO FINALLY AT 1:00 IN THE MORNING WE GAVE UP, WENT HOME AND GOT PRACTICALLY NO SLEEP FOR WORRY OF WHERE TO FIND A PIG. JUDY, MY FRIEND AND WIFE FINALLY REMEMBERED A FELLOW WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE FARM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR HER CHURCH, WHO MIGHT JUST KNOW WHERE WE COULD GET A PIG. WE COULD HARDLY WAIT FOR MORNING TO GET THERE SO WE COULD CALL HIM AND FIND OUT. WE FORCED OURSELVES TO WAIT UNTIL 7:00 IN THE MORNING AS WE DID NOT WANT TO GET THE FELLOW UP TOO EARLY. JUDY CALLED AND EXPLAINED OUR FLIGHT, HE SAID WE SHOULD HAVE CALLED HIM EARLIER, HE HAD BEEN UP SINCE 6:00, YES, WE COULD HAVE A PIG IMMEDIATELY, GO OUT TO THE CHURCH FARM, TELL THEM I SENT YOU AND I'LL BILL YOU LATER. SO WE JUMPED INTO THE TRUCK AND FLEW OUT OF THE FARM, PICKED OUT A LUCIOUS PINK PIG WEIGHING 150 LBS AND WERE AT BILL BINGHAM'S HOUSE (HE WAS TO BUTCHER THE PIT PIG) BY 9:00 O'CLOCK WITH THE PIG IN TOW. WE NOW BELIEVE IN MIRACLES! JUDY HAS CALLED THE CHURCH FARM

MANAGER NUMEROUS TIMES TRYING TO FIND OUT WHY HE HADN'T BILLED US. HE JUST SAYS, "DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT." BUT IT DOES; WE HAVE THE FEELING WE SHOULD ATTEND CHURCH MORE OR MAKE BIGGER DONATIONS. IT'S VERY NERVE RACKING." THE PIG THAT ALMOST WASN'T. . . . BY DERRIL MENNIS.



THE PIT (NOT A CAVE)  
. . . . BY BILL KLING.

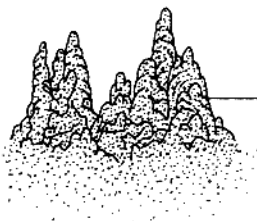
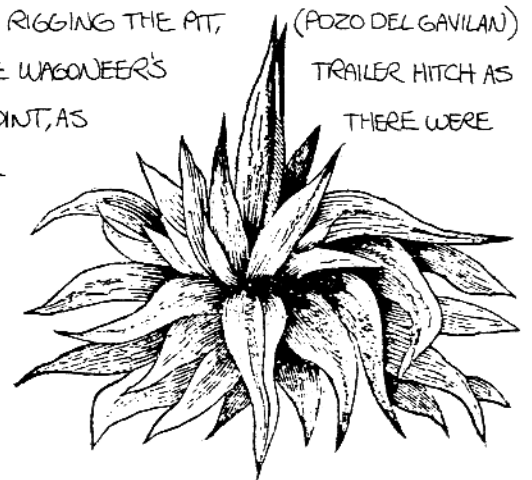
"YOU MAY ASK WHAT KIND OF A PIT IS NEEDED TO ROAST A 150 POUND PIG? WELL STAND BY... IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU OR SOMEONE DIG A PIT ABOUT THREE FEET DEEP AND ABOUT 5 FEET LONG BY 4 FEET WIDE. SAVE THE DIRT TO REFILL THE PIT. IT IS ALSO ADVISED TO PILE THE DIRT AWAY FROM THE PIT TO GIVE YOU ADEQUATE WORK AREA. FILLING THE PIT WITH FIREWOOD IS NEXT. THROW A FEW ROCKS OR BRICKS IN WITH THE WOOD. THESE WILL EVENTUALLY BE USED TO FILL THE PIG'S BODY WITH. WE FOUND THAT LAYING THE FIRE EARLY SAVES TIME. FOR EXAMPLE, LAY THE FIRE THE EVENING BEFORE, THEN JUST TOSS A MATCH IN AND STAND BACK.. BACK BILL KLING, BACK, BACK, BACK.....



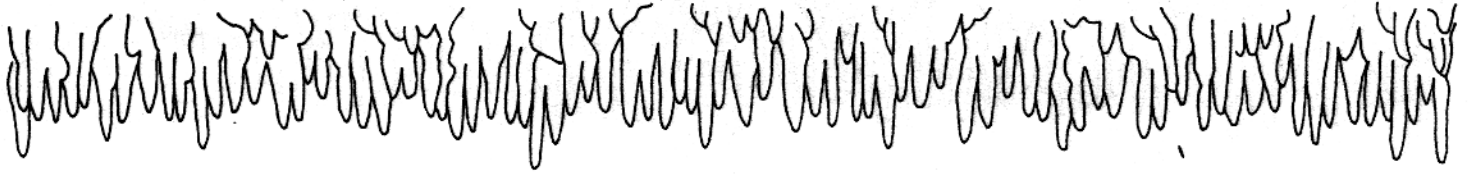


ON THE EVENING OF THE 23RD OF DECEMBER, 5 MEMBERS OF THE K.C.A.G. AND ONE MEMBER OF THE KANSAS SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY GATHERED AT CHARLIE WATTS HOUSE TO EMBARK ON A JOURNEY TO MEXICO. AFTER MANY LAST MINUTE PREPARATIONS, CHARLIE'S WAGONEER WAS PACKED AND READY TO GO. WE MIRACULOUSLY PULLED OUT OF THE DRIVEWAY AT 6:00 P.M.: OUR PREVIOUSLY PLANNED TIME OF DEPARTURE. FOR THE NEXT 18 HOURS WE DROVE CONTINUOUSLY, STOPPING ONLY TO BUY GASOLINE AND TO CHANGE DRIVERS. ABOUT NOON ON THE 24TH WE ARRIVED AT THE MEXICAN BORDER. MUCH TO OUR SURPRISE, IT TOOK LESS THAN HALF AN HOUR FOR THE FIVE OF US THAT HAD VISAS TO GET THROUGH MEXICAN CUSTOMS. ARLIN POUND, WHO DID NOT HAVE A VISA, WAS DETAINED FOR ABOUT AN HOUR UNTIL HE CONVINCED THE OFFICIALS THAT HE WASN'T AN UNDESIRABLE CHARACTER. MEXICAN CUSTOMS THIS YEAR WAS REMARKABLY IMPROVED OVER LAST YEAR, WHEN IT TOOK 5 HOURS FOR THE GROUP TO GET THROUGH. FROM CUSTOMS WE DROVE SOUTH UNTIL EVENING. ABOUT 8:00 P.M. WE PULLED OFF OF THE ROAD FOR AN UNEVENTFUL NIGHT'S REST. UNTIL 4:00 A.M. IN THE MORNING WHEN I WAS AWAKENED BY SOMEONE CARRYING ON IN SPANISH. A MEXICAN PASSER-BY HAS STOPPED AND WAS EMPHATICALLY ENQUIRING ABOUT SOMETHING

IN SPANISH. UNFORTUNATELY, NEITHER FRANK NOR I COULD UNDERSTAND HIM SO EVENTUALLY HE WENT AWAY. CHRISTMAS MORNING WE AROSE AND HEADED TOWARDS OUR FIRST DESTINATION, POZO DEL GAVILAN. POZO DEL GAVILAN IS A 324' PIT FORMED IN GYPSUM AND IS ABOUT 200' IN DIAMETER. UPON REACHING THE AREA OF THE PIT WE ENQUIRED SEVERAL TIMES ABOUT ITS EXACT LOCATION. AFTER RECEIVING SEVERAL CONFLICTING SETS OF DIRECTIONS, A BOY ON A MULE OFFERED TO SHOW US TO THE PIT. AS SOON AS WE WERE IN SIGHT OF THE PIT, CHARLIE PROMPTLY DROVE HIS WAGONEER INTO A SMALLER PIT OF UNKNOWN DEPTH. FORTUNATELY THE MOUTH OF THE PIT WAS NOT LARGE ENOUGH TO SWALLOW A WHOLE WAGONEER, BUT IT DID MANAGE TO GET THE LEFT FRONT WHEEL. AFTER EXTRACTING THE WAGONEER, FRANK DESCENDED THIS NEW-FOUND PIT AND REPORTED IT TO BE ABOUT 15' DEEP WITH PASSAGE AT THE BOTTOM GOING IN TWO DIRECTIONS. AFTER RIGGING THE PIT, WE USED THE WAGONEER'S TRAILER HITCH AS A RIGGING POINT, AS THERE WERE NO TREES OR ROCKS IN THE AREA.



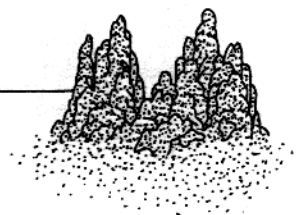
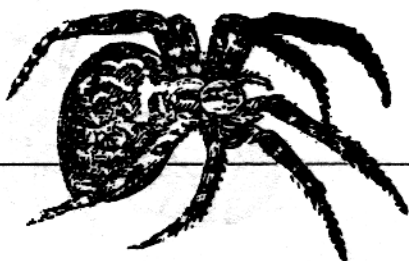


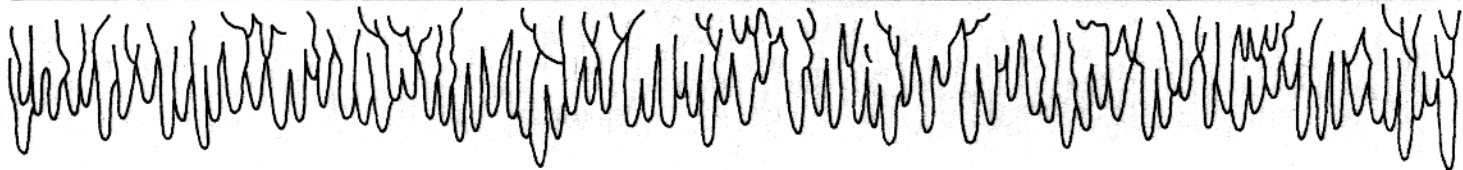


FRANK AND I HAD A COIN TOSS TO DETERMINE WHICH OF US WOULD DESCEND FIRST. I WON THE TOSS SO I WAS FIRST OVER THE EDGE. THE FIRST 50' OF THE PIT BELLS OUT AND THE REST OF THE RAPPEL IS FREE. HALF OF THE BOTTOM OF THE PIT IS COVERED WITH SHRUBS AND TREES, THE OTHER HALF IS COVERED WITH A LAKE THAT IS DEEP BLUE IN COLOR. ALL SIX OF OUR GROUP DESCENDED THE PIT. AFTER TAKING PICTURES WE BEGAN CLIMBING OUT OF THE PIT WITH ONLY ONE ON THE ROPE AT A TIME. THE TIME NECESSARY FOR THE ASCENT VARIED 9 TO 30 MINUTES. AFTER DERIGGING THE PIT WE AGAIN HEADED SOUTH. IN THE EVENING WE STOPPED OUTSIDE THE TOWN OF VALLES TO SPEND THE NIGHT. IN THE MORNING WE HEADED FOR AQUISMON, THE TOWN FROM WHICH WE WOULD HIKE TO EL SÓTANO DE LAS GOLDONDRINAS. IT WASN'T LONG UNTIL WE MET TWO MEMBERS OF THE HEART OF THE OZARKS GROTTO (H.O.G.) WITH WHOM WE HAD PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO SHARE OUR ROPE AT GOLDONDRINAS. WE ARRIVED IN AQUISMON AT 10:00 A.M.. WE WERE TOLD THAT THE PRESIDENTE, FROM WHOM WE NEEDED PERMISSION TO ENTER THE PIT, WOULD NOT BE BACK UNTIL NOON. IN THE MEANTIME, WE ARRANGED FOR TWO MULES AND A GUIDE TO TAKE US TO THE PIT. AFTER THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED WE ATE A HARDY MEAL IN THE LOCAL RESTAURANT FOR 60¢ A PIECE. AT NOON WE WERE INFORMED



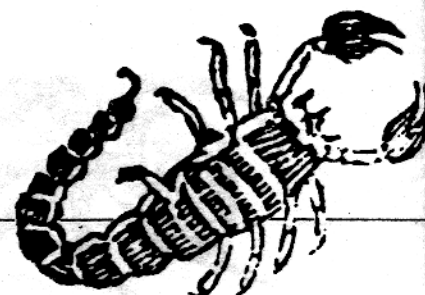
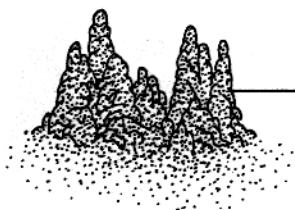
THAT THE PRESIDENTE WAS NOT BACK YET BUT WOULD BE BACK BY 2:00 P.M.. THERE WERE SEVERAL VEHICLES IN THE TOWN THAT OBVIOUSLY BELONGED TO CAMPS.





WHILE WAITING FOR THE PRESIDENTE TO RETURN, CAVERS BEGAN STRAGGLING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN SIDE. WE LEARNED FROM THEM THAT THREE DIFFERENT GROUPS HAD BEEN TO THE PIT THIS CHRISTMAS. WE ALSO LEARNED FROM THEM THAT THERE HAD BEEN A MAJOR DISCOVERY IN THE PIT. A CREVICE IN THE BOTTOM OF THE PIT HAD BEEN EXPLORED AND MAPPED TO A DEPTH OF 500', THUS EXTENDING THE TOTAL DEPTH OF THE PIT TO OVER 1700'! AT 2:00 P.M. WE WERE TOLD THAT THE PRESIDENTE WOULD BE BACK BY NIGHTFALL. AT NIGHTFALL WE WERE TOLD THAT THE PRESIDENTE WOULD BE BACK BY THE NEXT DAY. SO THAT EVENING WE SPENT THE NIGHT A FEW MILES OUT OF TOWN. THE MORNING OF THE 27TH WE RETURNED TO AQUISMON AND FOUND THAT THE PRESIDENTE HAD RETURNED. AFTER SECURING PERMISSION, WE DISCOVERED THAT THE OWNER OF THE MULES HAD DECIDED TO RAISE HIS PRICE. AFTER A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO CARRY OUR ROPE, WE GAVE IN AND PAYED THE OWNER OF THE MULES 3 TIMES WHAT HE PROBABLY GOT FOR RENTING HIS MULES AT OTHER TIMES. AFTER PACKING THE MULES WE MANAGED TO LEAVE TOWN EARLY IN THE AFTERNOON. AHEAD OF US WERE TWO MOUNTAIN RANGES TO ASCEND AND DESCEND AND A THIRD TO ASCEND PARTLY. WE

AWOKE AT DAWN ON THE MORNING OF THE 28TH TO WATCH THE BIRD FLIGHT OUT OF GOLDONDRIAS. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SWALLOWS LIVE IN THE PIT. EACH MORNING THE BIRDS SPIRAL COUNTERCLOCKWISE AS THEY EXIT FROM THE PIT FOR THE DAY. IT TAKES OVER AN HOUR FOR ALL OF THE BIRDS TO LEAVE THE PIT. THE BIRD FLIGHT IS SIMILAR IN APPEARANCE TO A LARGE BAT FLIGHT. AFTER THE BIRD FLIGHT WE RETURNED TO CAMP FOR A HASTY BREAKFAST OF COLD CANNED GOODS. AFTER BREAKFAST OF COLD CANNED GOODS WE RIGGED THE PIT WITH CHARLIE'S 1200' PIECE OF BLUE WATER II ROPE. IT WAS NECESSARY TO ATTACH A JUMAR BELOW THE LIP AND PULL UP ON IT TO CREATE THE SLACK IN THE ROPE NECESSARY FOR THREADING THE ROPE INTO THE ROCKS. FRANK WAS THE FIRST TO DESCEND. AFTER FRANK REACHED THE BOTTOM HE RADIOED WITH THE WALKY TALKY THAT HE WAS DOWN. CHARLIE WAS SECOND DOWN AND MYSELF LAST. LARRY, ORG, ARID ARLIN HAD CHOSEN NOT TO DESCEND. AFTER I HAD REACHED BOTTOM WE ALLOWED THE H.O.G. MEMBERS TO DESCEND ON OUR ROPE. THE ENTIRE PIT IS DECEIVING IN THAT IT DOES NOT LOOK AS DEEP OR LARGE AS IT REALLY IS. ON THE BOTTOM THERE IS ADEQUATE LIGHT TO TAKE PICTURES AND TO SEE CLEARLY. ONE DOES NOT FULLY REALIZE THE SIZE OF THE BOTTOM UNTIL ATTEMPTING





TO WALK FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER. I WAS SURPRISED BY THE AMOUNT OF RELIEF ON THE BOTTOM OF THE PIT. THE BOTTOM HAD MOUNTAINS, PLAINS, VALLEYS, AND EVEN A 60' CLIFF. THE BOTTOM CONTAINS A LARGE QUANTITY OF BIRD EXCRETA. ALMOST AS SOON AS WE HAD ALL REACHED THE BOTTOM WE BEGAN OUR ASCENT ONE AT A TIME. WE ASCENDED IN THE SAME ORDER THAT WE HAD DESCENDED. FRANK HAD THE FASTEST ASCENT WITH A TIME OF 1 HOUR EVEN. I HAD A TIME OF 1 HOUR AND 12 MINUTES AND CHARLIE HAD A TIME OF 1 HOUR AND 30 MINUTES. NONE OF US FOUND THE CLIFF EXCESSIVELY DIFFICULT. AFTER I REACHED THE TOP THE TWO H.O.G. CAVERS STARTED THEIR ASCENT. AFTER EVERYONE REACHED THE TOP WE DERIGGED THE PIT AND RETURNED TO CAMP. NO ONE HAD ANY TROUBLE SLEEPING! THE MORNING OF THE 29TH WE AWOKE TO THE ROAR OF THE BIRD FLIGHT PASSING OVERHEAD. WE PACKED AND THEN TOOK A FEW LAST MINUTE PICTURES OF THE PIT. THE HIKE BACK TO AQUISMON WAS RELATIVELY UNEVENTFUL THOUGH THOROUGHLY ENJOYABLE. WHEN WE ARRIVED IN AQUISMON THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES CHECKED OUR BAGS TO MAKE SURE THAT WE HAD NOT TAKEN ANY GOLD AND SILVER FROM THE PIT. WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED THAT WE HAD NOT, THEY LET US GO ON OUR WAY. THAT EVENING IN THE CITY OF VALLES WE RENTED MOTEL ROOMS AT THE COST OF \$1.60 PER PERSON. AFTER SHOWERING AND SHAVING WE WENT OUT TO DINNER. WE MET ONE OF THE OTHER GROUPS OF CAVERS IN TOWN AND HAD A VICTORY DINNER WITH THEM. ON THE

30TH WE DID A LITTLE SHOPPING IN VALLES AND THEN BEGAN TO DRIVE NORTHWARD. ON THE 31ST WE STOPPED AND SPENT A FEW HOURS IN GRUTA DE PALMITO, A LARGE HORIZONTAL CAVE. ACTUALLY HORIZONTAL IS SOMEWHAT OF A MISNOMER AS THE CAVE REACHES A DEPTH OF 600'. THE CAVE CONTAINS SOME EXTREMELY LARGE FORMATIONS. AFTER LEAVING THE CAVE WE HEADED NORTH TO THE BORDER. WE REACHED THE BORDER LATE THE 31ST AFTER A VERY CURSORY CUSTOMS CHECK WE WERE ON OUR WAY. IN LAREDO, TEXAS WE RANG IN THE NEW YEAR WHILE EATING OUR FIRST AMERICAN MEAL IN ALMOST A WEEK. FROM LAREDO WE DROVE CONTINUOUSLY UNTIL REACHING KANSAS CITY AT 6 PM ON THE 1ST. ALL OF US THAT HAD GONE FELT THAT THE TIME WAS WELL SPENT AND WOULD NOT HAVE MISSED THE TRIP TO SAVE THE WORLD! -BY DOUG STRAIT, MISSOURI UNDERGROUND, VOLUME THREE, #2. MARCH 1970. PARTICIPATING MEMBERS: DOUG STRAIT, FRANK BINNEY, CHARLIE WATTS, LARRY FARNER, PAUL JOHNSON (ORG) AND ARLIN POUND.



## THE UNDERGROUND PRESS

A BI-ANNUAL PUBLICATION OF

THE KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO OF

THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

4046 CHARLOTTE, KANSAS CITY, MO. 64110.



"ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A GROTTO, A YOUNG AND SMALL GROTTO (VERY SMALL). I CAN REMEMBER HOLDING MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETINGS IN LIVING ROOMS, WITH FOUR TO SIX MEMBERS PLUS ONE OR TWO GUESTS. THERE ARE MANY MEMORIES FROM THAT FIRST YEAR, THE FABULOUS GATE ON CARROLL CAVE, A GROWING MEMBERSHIP, DRAFTING A STRONG CONSTITUTION, AND STRATEGY MEETINGS AT THE BAMBOO HUT. STRATEGY MEETINGS - WHAT KIND OF SLIDE SHOW SHOULD WE PRESENT TO MRS. CARROLL'S NEIGHBORS - STEWING STEEL - A DELEGATE TO THE M.S.S. - WHO SHOULD ASK THE WAITRESS FOR MORE ONIONS. STRANGE, BUT DURING THE FIRST YEAR AND A HALF NO ONE WANTED TO WASTE A WEEKEND BY ATTENDING AN M.V.O.R.. DOES ANYONE REMEMBER THE M.V.O.R. IN COLUMBIA - THE CAVE JAW - THE RAIN STORM - SUNDAY'S MUD PIT. OR, HOW ABOUT WEST'S CAVE AND THE DISCOVERY OF THE BEAR BONES IN BLOWHOLE. K.C.A.G. WAS RECOGNIZED BECAUSE THE BONES WERE IN EXCELLENT SHAPE AND REMAINED THAT WAY. AKA HOLDS MANY MEMORIES AND STILL PRODUCES MANY. THERE ARE ALSO MEMORIES OF MEMBERS WHO HAVE LEFT THE AREA - THE LEONARDS (HERE IS A PICTURE OF SOMETHING WITH B.A. IN THE CENTER) - ORG (WHAT CAN BE SAID) - FRANK BINNEY (A CAVER) - YOTHERS (ALWAYS ON TIME) - MOTHER TUCKER (A COLORFUL INDIVIDUAL) AND MANY MORE, PLUS MANY MORE MEMORIES. MEXICO, ALABAMA, COLORADO, WISCONSIN, ARKANSAS, AND MISSOURI ALL HOLD MEMORIES AND WILL CAUSE MORE MEMORIES IN THE FUTURE. BUT WILL THERE BE A K.C.A.G. WITH MEMORIES OR JUST MEMORIES?"

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THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

BILL KLING, FROM THE GACK, ISSUE 1, #1.  
1991 K.C.A.G. NEWSLETTER