

# The Rope's End

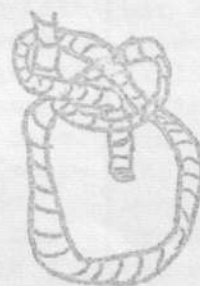
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Newspaper of the Chaminade Student Grotto  
Member of the M.S.S.

Volume 5      Number 4      December 2, 1971



The Bowline



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<u>LITTLE MAMMOTH</u> (Sept. 18) Steve O'Connell	<u>TOWER PIT</u> (Oct. 22) Jaimie Simon	<u>KREUGER CAVE</u> (Oct. 31) Rick Velton	<u>EDITORIALS</u> <i>We will print any response which is written in a well phrased manner and we retain the right to change spelling or phrasing in order to retain the quality of the paper.</i> We would like to commend the Grotto, Bro. Drees, Miss Elaine Hackerman, and all the grottoes that participated in the convention for high school caving groups held on November 21 here at Chaminade. At about 12:15 most of the officers were there and helped complete the physical arrangement started by Bro. Drees. The rope for the vertical rope-work demonstration was set up. Pamphlets were laid out, and final adjustments were made. The meeting was to begin at 1:30 but due to late arrivals the starting was delayed for about twenty minutes. Miss Hackerman opened the meeting with a brief talk. This was followed by a talk about the formation of a grotto, given by Bro. Drees. Tom Conran and John White then spoke of the formation of a cave trip. Then we had a short break when peo-
<p>The first Grotto trip of the year was to Little Mammoth Cave near Waterloo, Ill. The entrance to the cave was similar to that of Marvel Cave in Silver Dollar City, in such a way that the steps going down into the cave were rather steep.</p> <p>We learned several things about caving, while in the cave itself. We were taught how to straddle: we put our feet on one wall of the narrow passage and our backs on the other and straddled to the left. But this was easy because the wall we put our backs on was curved in such a way that we were actually sitting on it.</p> <p>The second time we straddled up a chimney which was a little more difficult. We had a safety line tied around our chest and commenced chimneying up the long chimney. It was not easy!</p> <p>After we completed that task we went to Marvin's Misery. OH! was it MISERABLE! ICY COLD WATER was up to our waists, and on some people their chests. Half frozen, our group walked to P.S.P., which in my opinion was the best part of the cave trip.</p>	<p>Tower Pit is by far the most interesting cave I have ever been in. I base my reasoning solely on the fact that it was my first vertical cave. Tower Pit is on the north side of one of the very many hills in Rockwoods. Since this is a vertical cave, I would suggest that grottoes wanting to explore the cave should be equipped with the necessary equipment. This would consist of ropes, carabiners, etc.</p> <p>The cave itself, looked like a simple hole in the ground from the surface of the hill. The ropes (about seventy-five feet of the two hundred rope were used) were tied to a nearby tree. Each member of our expedition then, one at a time, hooked themselves in and gradually repelled down the rope for about forty-five to fifty feet. The vertical descent was the most thrilling part of the cave itself. The downward passage was windy and the wall at times seemed to close in on you. The passage was narrow for the first</p>	<p>On October 31, members of the Chaminade Grotto descended into the depths of Kreuger Cave in Illinois. Though it was Halloween, we thought the masks worn by various members of the expedition were out of place.</p> <p>For those who do not know of this fun and sun spot of the earth, we will do our best to describe it. Kreuger Cave is an extension of the Little Mammoth network of caves, springs and underground streams in the Waterloo area. It seems to us (mostly by observation) that Kreuger is the water run off for Little Mammoth. The stream in Little Mammoth fluctuates to a small degree. The rise and fall of water in Kreuger is fantastic. It has been said that after a heavy storm, one can actually hear the water roaring and feel the ground tremble above the cave. It was observed that the average depth of Kreuger is less than that of Little Mammoth. This leaves many questions unanswered.</p> <p>We arrived at the cave entrance at about 12:00 and en-</p>	

NOV. 28	29 OFFICER'S Meeting	30	DEC. 1	2 7th General Meeting Rope's End	3	4 NO TRIP
5 NO TRIP	6	7	8	9	10	11 Possible Trip
12 NO TRIP	13 OFFICER'S Meeting	14	15	16 8th General Meeting	17	18 No Trip
19 No Trip	20 JAN. Articles DUE	21 ← EXAMS →	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day
26	27 Cameron Trip	28	29	30 ← Mapping Trip →	31	JAN 1 New Year's Day
2	3 OFFICER'S Meeting	4	5	6 9th General Meeting Rope's End	7	8

December Calendar of Events of The Chaminade Student Grotto. Any questions either attend one of the meetings or call Bro. Drees at 993-4400.

#### MINUTES OF THE CHAMINADE STUDENT GROTTTO

##### FIFTH GENERAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 4, 1971

Meeting called to order at 3:05.

Treasurer's Report : Balance as of November third was stated.  
Some topographic maps have been bought.  
Carbide lamp repair kits cost 80¢.  
Tips are 20¢ or 2/35¢.  
The carbide lamps are still on backorder.



MINUTES, from Pg. 3

## ...Old Business...

Dues : Dues are due today and unless they are paid, you can go on no more cave trips.

Cave Radio : The Cave Radio needs lantern batteries supplying twenty-four volts.

Trip Reports : Mike Costa reported on Krauger Cave.

Jack Quade reported on Tower Pit and the Rockwoods Rope Training Trip.

Tom Conran reported on Ottomeyer Cave.

New Members : We have five new members as of this date:

Mike O'Connell

Steve O'Connell

Mike Costa

Joe Lambright

Jack Quade

Canoe Trip : We are going sometime around Thanksgiving and will need canoes for at least sixteen people.

## ...New Business...

Cave Locations : Our past-president, Jeff Blume, has offered to teach how to spot cave locations on a topographic map during the Thanksgiving holidays.

Calendar : Nov. 20...Officer trip with Mid-County "Y" Caving Club

Nov. 21...High School Grotto Convention

Meeting Adjourned

SIXTH GENERAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 18, 1971

Meeting was called to order at 3:10.

Treasurer's Report : We have twenty tips and two repair kits left, carbide lamps are still on backorder.

## ...Business...

Grotto Convention : The High School Grotto Convention will be held this Sunday from 1:30-4:30. The officers and some members will be helping and talking.

Rope's End : Deadline is November 22.

Canoe Trip : The canoe trip on the Current River will be on the twenty-sixth thru the twenty-eighth. We will gather at Chaminade on the twenty-sixth at 11:00 and will return the twenty-eighth sometime around 2:00pm.

List of equipment needed was stated.

Slide Show : Bro. Drees gave a slide show on previous grotto trips.

Meeting Adjourned.

LITTLE MAMMOTH

from Pg. 2

I have never seen anything like it. It was a small narrow passage with a BIG surprise at the end.

Well, that about raps up my story but before I close, I want to remind you all, never harm the cave in any fashion be it littering, breaking the formations, or worst of all, destroying the magnificence of the cave by writing on the walls or flowstone with your lamp or paint. Caves were meant to be enjoyed by people, not abused.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

This time it is from our modest moderator.

"There are two ways to complete a task in the Grotto. One is the correct way. The other is my way. Since my way is the correct way, we will do things my way."

It is always nice to find an autocrat in a democracy.

TOWER PIT

from Pg. 2

half of your repel and

widened out at about the thirty foot mark. The total depth of the cave was about sixty feet but we plunged at this time only to descend to the fifty foot mark where we found a horizontal entrance to the inner portion of the cave. To get to the ledge from the freefall, you had to kick yourself off the opposite wall of the vertical shaft giving you enough momentum to swing onto the ledge. Once you are on the ledge, you unhooked yourself and ventured onward into the horizontal portion of the cave.

I traveled in a group of four, which consisted of Jack Quade, Mike and Steve O'Connell and myself whom I called the leader of the group since I ended up going first most of the way to the bottom of the cave. The walls of the cave were hard rock covered with mud. Every so often, throughout the cave, you saw mud covered stalactites.

The first portion of the inner cave was a small room filled with mud-covered flowstone and stalactites. Then, to travel onward you had to pass through the infamous keyhole. You slide down into it feet first on your stomach. Then

you turn around and scamper up the other side. Slowly but surely, we edged our way through.

When one emerges from the keyhole, he enters a corridor-like passageway which ends in a fork. The fork leading south ends in a ledge with a dropoff of about seven feet into the dome pit at the end of this side passage. The other way leads to a natural bridge which spans across this pit about twelve feet from the floor. Again here there are two ways to go. Heading almost due north you can go to the crow's nest (a small room with a steep floor). Heading almost due south you can take the staircase. We crawled across this bridge and descended the staircase. We explored the bottom of the cave. The floor consists of a gooey mud. On the west wall there are several side passages which go similar to the staircase but at the top there is a small area where one must lie on his stomach. In the south-eastern corner there is a small flowstone formation. On practically all the walls there is a coating of popcorn. The southern end is considerably better than the northern end.

Then we heard that we had run out of time. We re-scaled the steps. We noticed that directly after the natural bridge on the north-eastern side of the divide there were some roots indicating that the surface was not too far away.

Arriving back at the ledge we were tied into a safety belay and proceeded to rock climb out. It was a pleasant sight to see the daylight.

KREUGER CAVE

from Pg. 2

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When we reached the lunchroom we regrouped. To arrive at this point we

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KREUGER CAVE

From Pg. 5

traveled through semi-deep water (about three to four feet deep). We also passed by several beautiful stalactites and flowstone formations. It surprised us that the cave is relatively none the worse for the number of people to have seen its fine passages. There is an absence of carbide markings along with missing dumps of spent carbide. When cavers really care about something they protect it to the best of their ability.

We regrouped and proceeded to take the shelf crawl. It is located above and to the right of the tremendous pile of breakdown above the main stream. It starts out as a stoopway, then becomes a crawl. After about one hundred feet there is a canyon-like depression on the east side of the passage. Continuing on the depression ends in a round room. To go on one must take the crawlway that heads almost due east. As one continues east the passage opens up a little. Then there is a side passage on the south side of the main crawl. After a look-see we found that it developed into an impassable

crawl quite soon. Returning to the shelf crawl we met up with the keyhole. One must first descend feet first into a small room with your knees wrapped under your chin. Despairing, you see a low possibility into which you slither. Then about ten feet later there was another drop squeeze. After that however it opens up and one finds himself in the main passage.

Here we proceeded south and attacked the deep water of the passage. There were alternate pools and then sand or gravel banks. We did see several interesting sights though. We saw at one point the lower part of a tree trunk and its roots coming in from a closed up sinkhole. The point at which we were forced to turn back was a low somewhat circular room whose southern end ended in a siphon or a very difficult water crawl. As it was we were already on our hands and knees with only about a half-foot of air space. The floor was somewhat muddy compared to the rest of the cave.

When we returned to the lunchroom we continued forward in the main passage. We

found the same type of stream bed but perhaps a little more muddy. The reason we could not take this way was that the depth of these pools were about nine feet, well over one's head. We had already established a connection between here and the shelf crawl three years ago.

Returning to the lunchroom we backtracked and entered the double horseshoe. It is located off the beaten trail, overlooking a shelf. The rock climb up is somewhat tough. The passage itself is a small stream passage whose floor is primarily comprised of chert and small rocks. The passage is a stoopway. Besides the main passage before the lunchroom, this area has a good deal of formations. Also in some parts the floor has pot-holes and natural bridges. The end of the passage opens up into the moan (sic) [ED. Note: main] passage beyond the lunchroom. To get back to the entrance one must either take the double horseshoe back or proceed down stream and take the shelf crawl back to the lunchroom. We chose the shelf crawl. Because we

had been through this passage twice before with wet clothes on this third time was a good deal of fun for one could slide through quickly.

We reached the lunchroom, traveled back to the double horseshoe, picked up our equipment and went out the main entrance.

When we reached the cars we dressed quickly and proceeded back to Chaminade. We must have been dirty for some teacher asked us what trick we could do and promptly gave us a piece of candy.

EDITORIAL

From Pg. 2

ple could enjoy the fine soda and chip snacks provided by the M.S.S.

After the break a talk on cave mapping and training leaders was given by Jeff Blume. Then Rick Yalton gave a short talk on the M.S.S. and the W.S.S. The session concluded its prepared agenda by a ropework exhibition.

Plans were suggested that a M.V.O. R. be held for high school grottoes in spring.