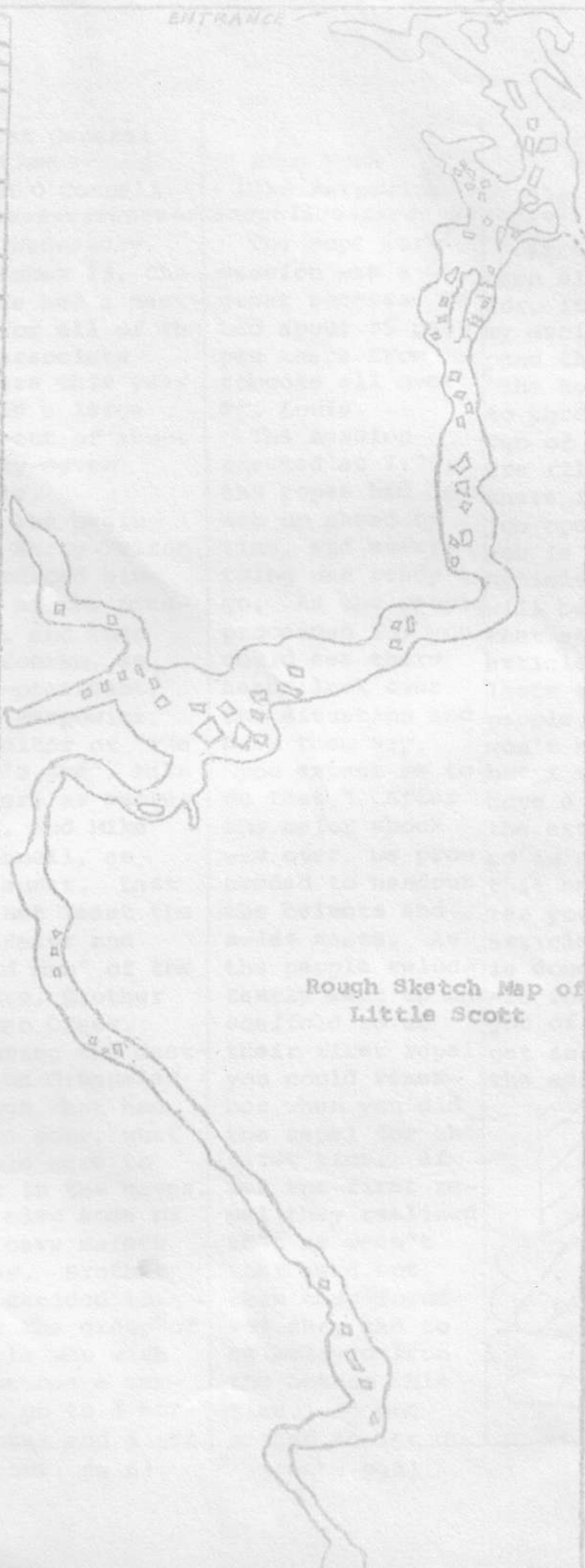


THE

ROPE,

END

VOL. 6
NO. 2



Rough Sketch Map of
Little Scott

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Mike Karpowicz

Editor of
Production

Steve O'Connell

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Lynn O'Connell
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Mike Karpowicz

Moderator

Bro. Herman
Drees S.M.

OCT
1972

Little Mammoth Greg Carl

On Sunday, Sept. 24, the Chaminade Student Grotto went to Little Mammoth their training cave. Upon descending into the cave you follow a series of steps to the entrance passage. You follow the entrance passage through the canyon to the T junction where the entrance passage joins the Main Passage. Along the main passage there are several small branches, one of these is Misery. The Misery is actually a small river that has formed an open passage through the years, at places water in Misery can be waist deep. On past Misery are the Toadstool formation and the chimney. The chimney is a narrow vertical passage which you must climb with your feet on one wall and your back on the other wall. The last part of

(cont. pg 6)

First General Meeting Lynn O'Connell

On Wednesday, September 13, Chaminade had a meeting for all of the new associate members this year. We had a large turn-out of about forty-seven people.

In the beginning Harry Yelton introduced himself as the president, and then Tom Conran, as vice-president, Mike Karpowicz, as Editor of "The Rope's End", Mike Bender, as Secretary, and Mike O'Connell, as treasurer. Last but not least the moderator and "head man" of the Grotto, Brother Herman Drees.

During the meeting we discussed things that had to be done, what people were to wear in the caves, and also some of the cave safety rules. Brother has decided to make the group of people who wish to become a member, go to 3 horizontal and 1 ver-

(cont. pg 6)

Rope Work Mike Karpowicz

The rope work session was a great success. We had about 35 people there from schools all over St. Louis.

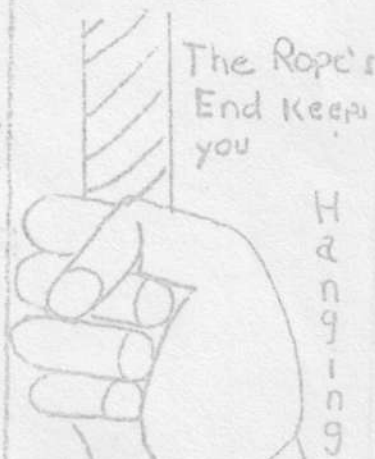
The session started at 7:30; the ropes had been set up ahead of time, and everything was ready to go. As the people proceeded in, you could see their heads look over the situation and hear them say, "you expect me to do that." After the major shock was over, we proceeded to handout the helmets and swiss seats. As the people reluctantly went up the scaffold to do their first repel you could remember when you did the repel for the first time. After the first repel they realized that it wasn't that hard, but then they found out they had to be belayed from the bottom this time. No one wanted to let go

(cont. pg6)

A Note from the Editor

Mike Karpowicz

Since I have been elected editor, it has been my decision to expand the staff of "The Rope's End" to three people. Two of the jobs are filled but there is still one job open. This job is Editor of articles. This job will be the one that assigns the articles and collects them from the people. This job won't be much work, but I will need to have a record of the articles turned in and those that haven't. After you collect the articles your job is done. If you are interested in a job of this sort, get in touch with the editor.



8 Little Scott #2	9	10	11 Meeting #5 7:30p.m.	12	13	14 Cox #1
15	16	17 MMV Meeting	18 Rope Work Session	19	20	21
22 Jench Pit #1	23	24	25 Meeting #6 7:30p.m.	26	27	28 Jench Pit #2
29	30	31	<u>Nov.</u> 1	2	3	4
5 Cox #2	6	7	8 Meeting #7 3:00p.m.	9	10	11

First General Grotto Meeting: Minutes

Called to order 3:05

Introduction of Officers:

Harry Yelton-President
 Tom Conran-Vice-President
 Mike Karpowicz-Editor of Publication
 Mike Bender-Secretary
 Mike O'Connell-Treasure

Welcome

Purpose of the Grotto:

To go caving with safely
 Have never had an injury
 To conserve caves

Why to conserve caves:

Leave caves in NATURAL BEAUTY
 Be invited back

Grotto history (cave loc., rope wk., mapping, hi. sch. organ. Meramec Basin "open") (6yrs. old this Feb.) Purpose (adventure, "thrill" overcome fears, scientific).

Caving & camping, canoeing, ropework, and back packing as related to caves.

Cave Safety...common sense...nothing beyond your strength...stay with group...never run or jump...3 sources of light

Cave Conservation...Take nothing but pictures leave nothing but footprints...Never mark walls...Never break formations or take broken one from floor.

WHY 1) Hundreds of yrs. to grow 2) Destroy the very beauty we go to see 3) Layer of water gone, looks dull 4) Want to be welcomed back 5) Fine (imprisonment) in State Park
...Plastic bag for carbide (poison)...Take out lunch bags

Is Wednesday a good evening for these meetings? -once a month -if so, meet Oct. 11, 72

We are trying to arrange for use of the weight room followed by a swim several times a month. Is there a good night for it? Why: 1) Build up arm muscle, 2) Help group spirit.

Grotto hand-outs: Letter of explanation, gear needed, physical examination and parent's release forms. ...Release due for first trip, phy. for 2nd trip
First Trip: Sept. 17th. 8:30am-7:00pm (Mass for Catholics 5:00pm Sat.)

...Trip fee (gas)...about .75¢/person

...Cave entrance fee...\$1.00 person (bring extra for snacks after)

Equipment Needed (for first trip).

1) Complete change of clothes, including underwear and shoes.

2) Packed lunch (small to carry)

3) Wear sturdy old clothes....gloves (leather or garden)

4) Hard Hat with Carbide lamp, borrowed if possible

Wear boots (NOT TENNIS SHOES)

5) Acceptable light for now: flashlight & extra batteries; candles; matches

6) Acceptable head protection for now motorcycle and football helmets

7) later on--canteen, army belt, side or shoulder pack, duffie bag.

Grotto store: Hard Hats with lamp attachment; chin strap (in 2 weeks)

Carbide lamps (brazed from England)... (in 2 months)

(Alsems rubber boots are cheapest...Not in Grotto store)

Army boots are best...Jungle or desert boots

Calendar until next meeting (Oct. 11th)

Try to organize your own rides from each area, not just here, but to cave also. NEVER just "show up"...if no room you are left here. Don't have parents wait, call when you get back.

Associate Membership: 4 Caves (1 Vertical), dues, artical, officers vote -full voting rights, may not hold one of 5 main offices.

Overview of Year: 2 scientific training trips a month; Thanksgiving canoe trip...Fall High School Seminar; Christmas Trip to Cameron Cave

Caravan style driving///Needed "lady Moderator" for overnights.

Care of carbide lamp, muddy clothes.

We hope this is the start of a very wonderful association of each of you with us and that we have many good caving trips

Little Mammoth (cont. from pg 2)

the cave and the favorite of many Grotto members is P.S.P. crawlway. Which, for certain reasons cannot be described.

Rope Work (cont. from pg 2)

of the rope, as before it was easier than they thought. The next obstacle was the prusik, which is hard in my opinion. We had started a few people while the others repelled. The prusik took a long time despite the 2 individual set-ups we had. As time went on we realized that we were not going to have time to get into the weight room and swimming. As the people left, they looked tired but proud that they had conquered the ropes.

Needed: a person able to design a front cover.

First Meeting (cont. from pg 2)

tical cave. We also discussed that the associate members may hold jobs of appointive positions, but may not hold the five main elective positions. Only the Chaminade students may partake in them.

Little Mammoth #2 Steve O'Connell

On the second cave trip to Little Mammoth we left, as usual on time, 45 minutes late. I was in the third group with Lackner, Oliver and a few other kids. When we got in the cave we turned right and started our little jaunt. We walked up and down steps and ladders until we reached the straddle. We all started climbing the walls, which isn't too abnormal, until we got to the top of the straddle and started to straddle about 50 feet.

Little Mammoth #2

We then climbed down to the floor and started walking along a long narrow path going up and down steps. Mike Lackner was a good trip leader showing his group all the interesting formations along the way. We finally made it to the lunchroom and after eating some of our lunch set out for Rimstone River Passage. We walked through knee high water which sometimes exceeded our knees. We went through this agony for a half hour until we turned back and headed for the lunch room again. Back at the lunchroom we commenced climbing the chimney which wasn't too difficult for most of the people. Once I got up the chimney I had to belay the rest of my group up. Next came the small crawlway to get out of the chimney which proved torturous for the larger members of the group. After taking off our gear in the lunchroom, we realized we were elected to carry the rest of the gear back to the entrance of the cave. After this small journey we were off to P.S.P. If you like crawling on your belly, or in other words slithering like a snake this was the place to go. And at the end of P.S.P. you found out what the big surprise was, which proved a big surprise for most people.

1 Pound of Carbide-35¢
Repair Kits

Ordered:
Hard hats and chinstraps will be here in a week or so, but the Carbide lamps will take longer.