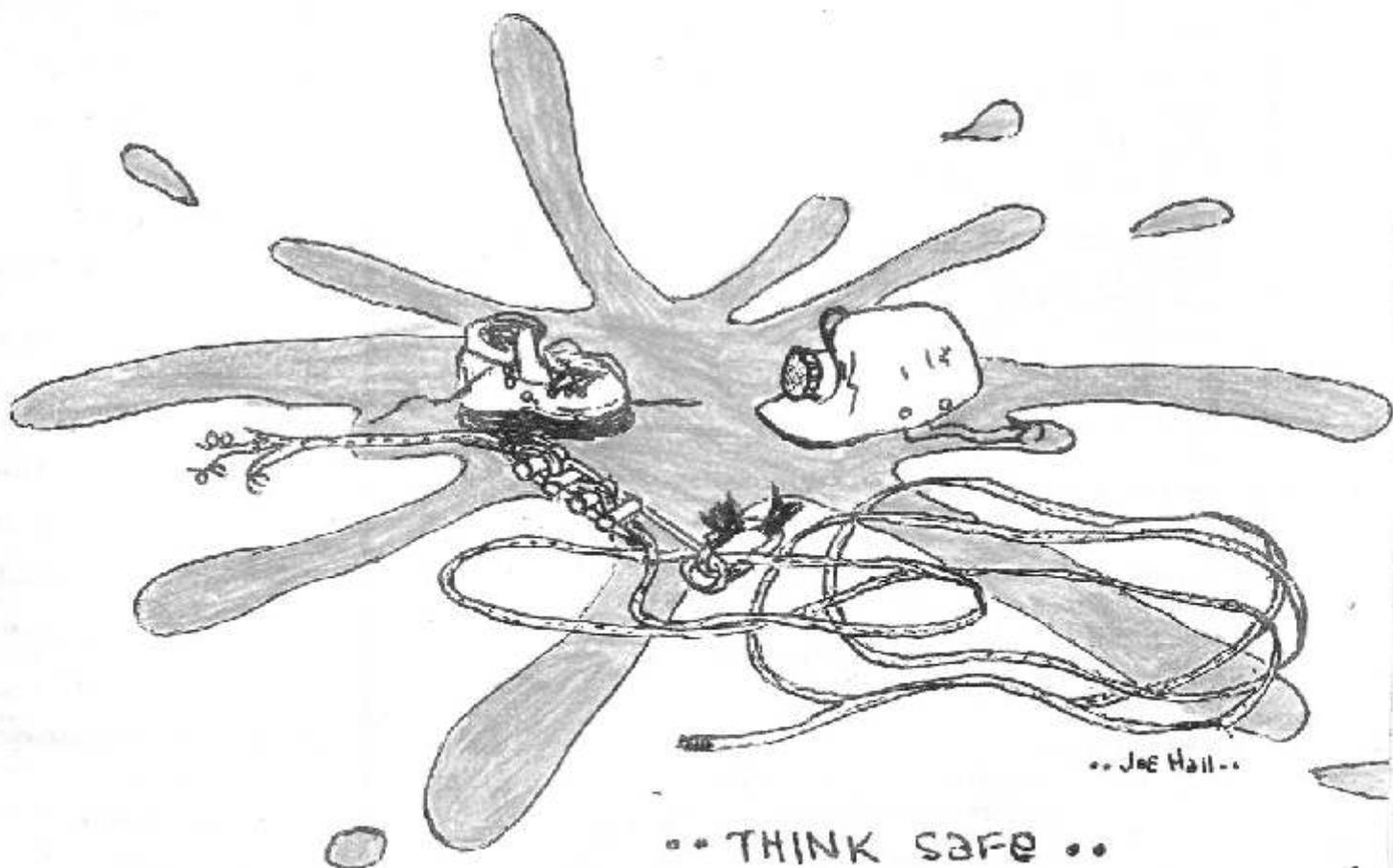




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MAY/JUNE 1981

The
Gadsden Grotto
NEWSLETTER



.. THINK SAFE ..



The
National
Speleological
Society

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

...I can understand the problems you are having with the GGN. We have similar problems down here. I have a hell of a time getting people to submit material, and then I have to do all the work on MUD (Miss. Underground Dispatch) Myself. Thats the way it goes in most grottes. A few dependable peolpe do all the work, and the rest sit on their butts.

With postage rates going up again, you might consider raising dues next year. The Southern Mississippi Grotto dues are \$8.00 a year, but we may go to \$ 10.00 next year. We have also gone to publishing on a bi-monthly basis.

Sincerely,

George McCluskey

Dear Editor,

I am Frederick F. Finfoot, originally from the area known as East Coosa Flats, Al. My father was from Cloudling and my mother was from Creeker. I'm werking in Europe for now, but, I'm going to be moving back to Al. fairly soon. To live, in West Coosa Flats near Croak Cane Bend. I have been Caving for several years and never new there was an organization for Cave Cravers near old East Coosa Flats until I found a GGN on a French ponography magizine sale rack.

I am especially interested in meeting a Mr. E.R. Armidille and a few of those Florida FROGS. E.R. appears to have hopped a hollow hole or two and I hope to get together at my Wimpee Pead to share a six pack of Toad Stool Brew and and a few E.R. ah, tales.

If or when you hear from Mr E.R. Armidille pass these words on to him for me.

Sincerly Yours,

FF

Dear Finfoot,

It just so happened I heard E.R. Armidillo was headed this way to do some pre-TAG Fall Cave-In Caving. So I'll pass this on along and maybe bug him for another article for the GGN.

Editor

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MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Gadsden Grotto was held May 5, 1981 at the East Gadsden Recreational Center.

Chairman Teal called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM and asked all visitors to introduce themselves.

Final preparations for the re-union were discussed.

The May elections were as follows; The terms are from May 1981 to May 1982

Chairman	Dave Teal
1st Vc-Ch	William Garrett
2nd Vc-Ch	Joe Hall
Sec-Trea.	Bobby Whorton

Dates were set for July 25th 1981 for the Anniston Museum Rappelling Demo.

A slide show was presented on Alaska by Tim Cambell.

Adjorned at 8:45

The regular meeting of the Gadsden Grotto was held June 7th 1981 at the East Gadsden Recreational Center.

Chairman Teal called the meeting to order at 7:35 and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

It was announced that the June Grotto trip to be the SERA Cave Carnival to be held June 19, 20, and 21 1981 at Russell Cave.

An open board meeting ensued. Business conducted included voting on all Congress of Grottoes matters. Representations were made for the COG.

After caving slides of Jackson County the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

NEWS

The GGN would like to welcome these new members;

King Wiggins	
Phil Fuller	
Linda King	
Jim Loftin	
Deanna Hall	
Susan Manderson	
George McCluskey	10829
Carol Huling	
George Yates	14638
Carmal Modica	

Surveying continues in Tumbling Rock Blowing Cave with several hundred feet mapped beyond Grants Tomb and still going. Expected length is 5 miles plus.

A new cave discovered near Round Cove suggest complex wind patters in the Tumbling rock area. The cave dubbed Trembling Rock Blowing Cave may prove interesting in the near future.

The Gadsden Grotto wished a grand thanks to the Birmingham Grotto for the fine work done to host the SERA Cave Carnival. It was a well planned events and everthing came off very well.

The GGN wishes to thank Susan Manderson for helping to collect and staple issue Vol 2, No. 2 of the GGN.

A fund raising project is planned with WQEN (Q-104) Radio FM soon. Possibly in August.

The next meeting dates for the Grotto are;

July 7th 1981

August 4th 1981

both are the first Tuesday, at 7:30 PM at the East Gadsden Recreational Center.

The July Exe. Board meeting will be hosted at the home of Jeff Steele at 7:00 PM July 14th, 1981.

FEATURE

DAVES DOUBLE DROP
AL 2080

-- Dave Teal

On December 7, 1980 Lin Guy, Marion Smith, Jim Smith, Dave Teal, William Garrett, Chris Ker, and Jill Dorman explored a new Jackson County Cave. The virgin cave had a 59' entrance drop into a large passage, then a climb up then a 136' free-fall drop. Jim installed one red head bolt for the drop. We all descended in the above order.

At the bottom everyone but Jill checked out the most obvious passage, around the Block of Mud to a 100' plus large dome. Back at the bottom of the pit Jill announced that the little passage from the bottom ended, so taking her word for it we all proceeded to climb out of the pit. Once the last man was out, Buddy Lane showed up and he soloed the two small drops and de-rigged the cave.

Finally on April 5, 1981 we returned to survey the cave. It was pouring down rain, and as William Garrett, Jeff Machen and I descended the entrance drop we found the passage at the bottom a "rain room", and 136' pit taking a lot of water. All the water made the trip a little more sporting and as we were expecting a dry cave a little cooler. We surveyed everything, and as we surveyed the little canyon leading off from the bottom get a surprise. Machen announced as lead tape man that the passage didn't end after. The 1' high crawl termed "Jills Whimp" soon opened up into a very nice canyon passage. After 250' there were some small domes a one nice 40' dome. We passed some flowstone covered bones and then all of a sudden there were formations galore. Stalagmites, Stalagtites, Soda straws, the whole place was really very nice. We were finally stopped by a 20' wall climb that leads to an upper level. The cave is headed toward some sinks that are near the road where you park and its my guess it will end in a high dome. By the time this goes to print the map should be finished and a complete map will appear in a future issue.

THE FALLS

The people listed below have been issued City re-lease forms to rappell at the front 85' drop at Noccalula Falls Park. If you haven't picked up yours please do so at the next Grotto meeting.

William F. Cuddington
William Garrett
Lin Guy
James Hagler
Joe Hall
Jim Harrison
Debi Lightfoot
Jeff Machen

Susan Manderson
Ann Steele
Jeff Steele
Donna J. Mann
Dave W. Teal
Bobby Whorton
James Worthington
Jim Young



DAVES DOUBLE DROP AL 2080

GRADE 5 SURVEY

APRIL 5 1981

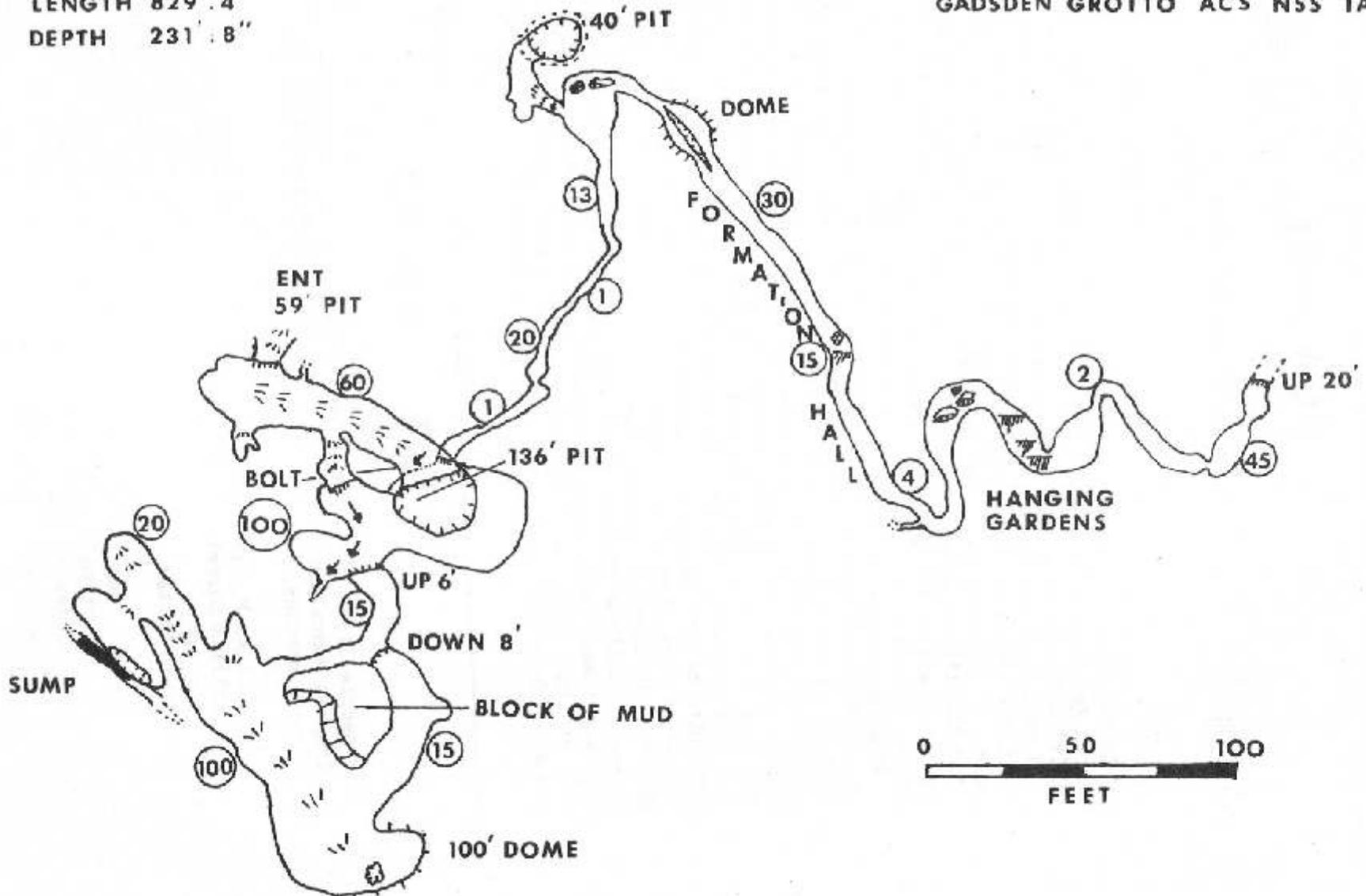
DAVE TEAL

WILLIAM GARRETT

JEFF MACHEN

GADSDEN GROTTO ACS NSS TAG

LENGTH 829'.4"
DEPTH 231'.8"



TRIP REPORTS

FIRST ANNIVERSARY-CELEBRATION @ HAWKS HOLLOW SINK --Dave Teal

On May 10,13,14,15,&16,1981 Jeff Machen, William Garrett, Joe Hall and I made many trips to Maches Cabin and across the water to the Sink preparing for the Gadsden Grottos First year re-union. Fire pits were dug, trails were cut, signs were made. Finally Orkin Pest Control, other wise known as Killer Hall made sure their were no bugs or flying pest around.

Finally the big day arrived, and so did the cavers, by the car loads. Evertime the boat was docked and unloaded William or I would take another load of Bodies to the site.

Attending the two day event were ; James Hagler, Jim Loftin, Carmel Motoica, Bobby Whorton, Steve Whorton, Susan Manderson, Jeff Machen, Kathy Machen, Joe Hall, Deanna Hall, Phil Fuller, Sue Fuller, Jeff Steele, Ann Steele, James (Mother JEW) Worthington Debi Lightfoot, Gary Stewart, Teresa Stewart, Donna J. Mann, William Garrett and I.

The days were spent Canoeing and Swimming and Cooking, needless to say there was a little beer drinking, followed by more beer drinking and generally buzzing around. About the only thing planned that we never got around to was going caveing. Which was for the best anyway. The highlight of the day was the rope swing into the water. Some of the things we'll remember are; The Cyluame Lights lighting the way across the water. The boat captain getting lost in the stumps. The 5' long Copperhead guarding the trail. Haglers Dog stepping on the Copperhead. The Hawks Hollow Sink itself. Captain Garrett crawling around. The few moments the boat didn't want to run. But most of, besides the fun and fellowship shared by all, we'll remember the Mother Hawk lying on her Eggs only 15' from the entrance to the sink.

The May 16-17th weekend was a complete success, and to the Maches we extend a grand "THANKS" for being the host. Who knows maybe next year we may go Caving.

GREENS WELL --Jeff Machen

At about 4:30 PM on thursday June 11, 1981 Dave Teal, William Garrett and I left Gadsden and headed towards God's Country. We arrived at the trail to Greens Well at about 7:00 PM.

We got permission to enter the cave and proceeded to climb the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile or so up the mountain to the caves entrance.

Greens Well was taking plenty of water so we prepared for a wet descent. We rigged in and began the 227' descent. About half way down we had to pass a knot. This was my first trip to Greens Well and the beauty of the pit was far beyond my wildest expectatiens. William jumared out and I was left at the bottom (Dave had ascended before I descended). This was the most awesome and the deepest pit I had yet seen. Its effect on me was intoxicating. Soon I joined the others at the top. We packed up and made our way back to the car by 9:30. All considered, it was an excellent trip.

GUFFEY CAVE --William Garrett

 * On Friday morning May 21st, 1981 we all met at Jims sisters
 * house, and after some delay we set off for Guffey Cave in Jackson
 * County, Alabama. After getting permission from the owner we
 * arrived at the parking place. I gathered my gear and set off to
 * the entrance to change into my caving garb. Soon the better part
 * of the troop arrived and we entered the cave.

 * I rigged the climbdown with a length of Bluewater II for a
 * handline and we proceeded in. About 45 minutes and 600' later Jim and Brenda decided
 * to leave the cave. So, Dave, Buddy and I explored about a mile and a half of nicely
 * decorated borehole passage then we to left the cave. Jim had to get back to Gadsden
 * so we headed on home.

EXPLORER SCOUTS TRIP TO GUFFEY --William Garrett

 * On sat. morning we met the group of explorer scouts from Anniston
 * at the Glencoe Union 76 Station. When all were ready we left
 * for a tour of Guffey Cave.
 * Upon arriving at the parking spot I again left to get into my
 * Caving attire still muddy from the day before trip to this cave.
 * When all had made the climbdown just inside the entrance, we
 * started our tour. We first explored all the upper passage we
 * could find, then we started knocking out the lower level passage.
 * When we got to the river Styx I asked if anyone wanted to hit the
 * water and was suprised to here some volunteers. So with myself
 * in the lead Carol, Linda, and about 3 others hit the water and
 * penetrated about 200' until the water got chest deep and there I whimped out and headed
 * out.

Soon after, we left the cave and headed over to Neversink. Just after the rope
 was rigged a thunderstorm came over and we were again soaked.

The first down was Dave, then Mike, Carol, and myself last. Carol and I ascended
 first climbing tandem but our ascent was slow because of my badly slipping ascenders.

After everyone was out and the rope was pulled up I retrieved my pack that I had
 left tied on the bottom of the pit, only to find that "someone" had put a dead snake
 in it. This I removed and threw it at Mike and Dave who dodged as the thing fell
 back into the pit. We left Neversink and went to eat at the Liberty, then headed
 home after a good day of whimping around...

BAT IN THE POCKET --Dave Teal

On Sunday afternoon, May 31, 1981 William Garrett and I were sitting around at Joe
 Halls trying to escape the heat. It was to late to drive to God's Country, so we
 decided to run through the Bat. We through the gear in the cars and drove the four
 miles to the parking place.

Once at the cave we entered carrying three ropes for the 50', 35' and 44' pits. There
 was almost no water in the stream which made for a hot trip. We all signed the register
 and one by one headed out. We exited the cave after a short three hour trip to the
 bottom minus -311' deep cave.

FERN CAVE-SUPRISE PIT --Joe Hall

 * Jeff Machen * Jackson in Jackson County about 6:30 PM. The group prepared for
 * Dave Teal * 1 mile walk up to Fern Entrance. After a hard climb with Dave
 * William Garrett * carrying the 650' rope he and I reached the entrance first. The
 * Jeff Steele * Fern entrance has a 20 or 30 foot falls above the ground falling
 * Joe Hall * down a staircase of limestone. After the water disappears it goes

 down a key hole shaped corridor about 600' then drops 137' feet.

All was ready we entered and was rigged and ready at 8:30 PM friday night... We rigged the 404' and was it bitchin. Dave descended first, after 5 minutes on rope he gives the signal and then it was my turn.

AAAAA00000WWW !!!!! I was probably 15 minutes on rope going down. I was scared, and slow ! Dave and I walked around and talked to the old man. We then climbed out tandem, on rope about 30 minutes for our ascent, as we took our time.

Garrett and Machen then did there group yo-yo. Jeff Steele was petered out so for saftey reasons he decided not to do the pit. It was a safe and beautiful trip to the 3rd deepest drop in the USA. Time of departure from cave 2:30 AM June 13th.

BIRTHDAY DESCENT --Dave Teal

 * Joe Hall * On sat. of SERA June 20th we all took our time getting break-
 * William Garrett * fast, and our gear ready. Soon we arrived. Allen and I
 * Allen Padgett * drove $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way up the mountain and parked. I took a 300'
 * Karen Padgett * rope and headed on. William brought a 150' to rig the 70'
 * Kevin Rainey * entrance of CORNATION DROP. Once there Allen began teaching
 * Dave Doolin * Kevin at the 70' drop, I rigged the 185' and William descended
 * Dave Teal * with no shirt to beat the heat.

 of the wet pit and Joe and I went to have another look at the water crawl that is the end of the cave. As I remembered it was too small to get in. Even with out a wet suit you won't make it. Lynn McGill might have a chance.

Joe climbed out first, then I Jumared out. Once out I went over and did Cornation Drop. We soon coiled the ropes and headed back over to the campground.

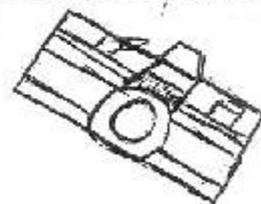
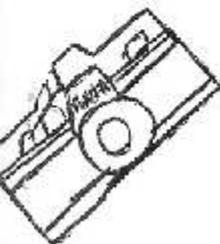
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