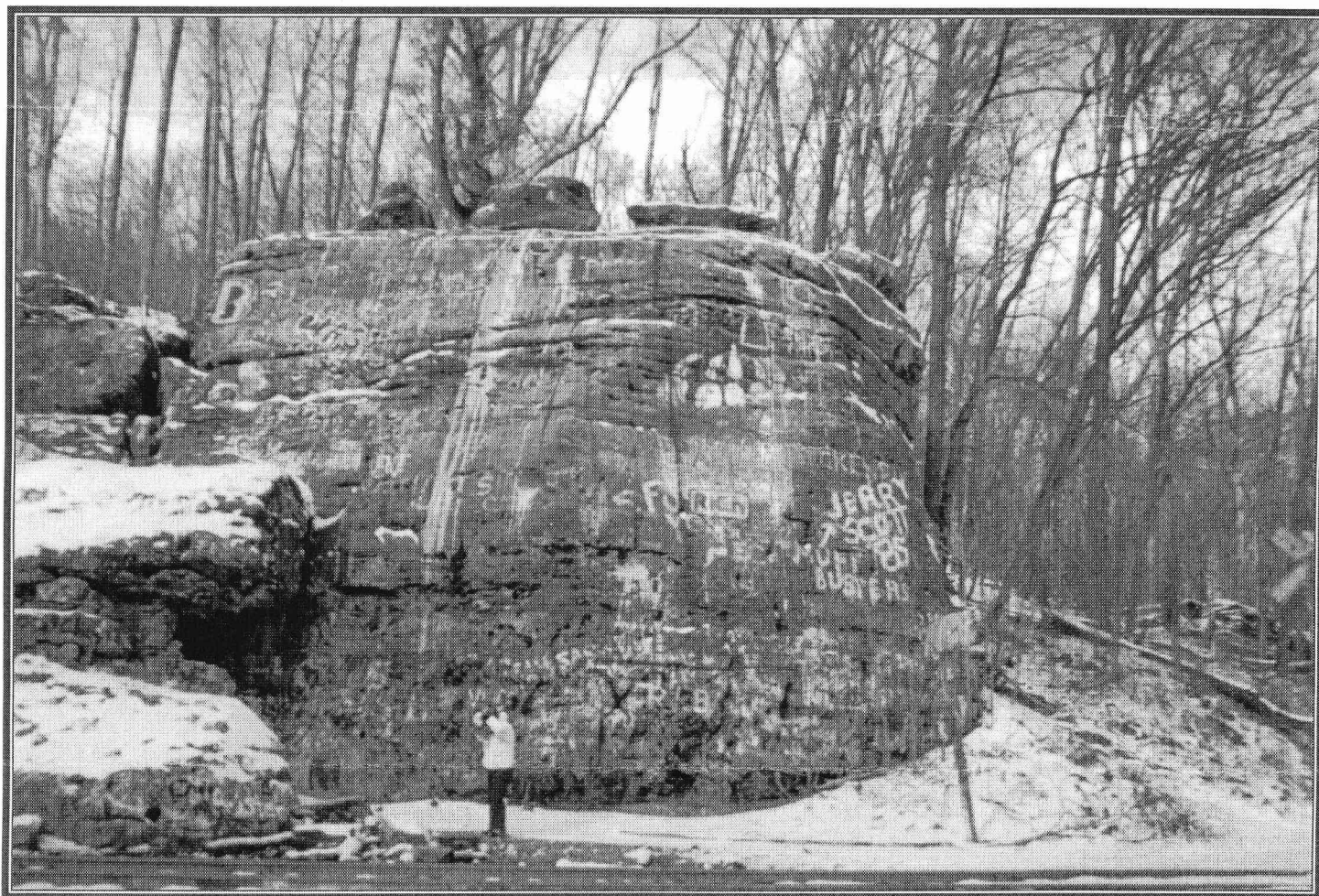




COG SQUEAKS

January 2001



Machan's Rock — The OVR 2001 Cleanup Project

Scheduled for August 11, 2001

Photo by Katie Walden, December 2000

Not All Cave Photos are Pretty!

The Outside of Machan's Rock Cave.
Cave Entrance is to the Left of the Caver.

GROTTO INFORMATION PAGE

THE CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO

The Central Ohio Grotto (COG) of the national Speleological Society meets at 8:00 p.m. at the Worthington Presbyterian Church the second Friday of most months. The church is on the northwest corner of the square in Worthington. Parking is available behind the church. Enter the parking lot from the first side street off State Route 161. Please contact a grotto officer to confirm meeting time and place. The December meeting is not held at the church.

Grotto Officers	Name	NSS #	Telephone
Chairman	Darrell Adkins	29048	740-392-6382
Vice Chair	Kevin Toepke	46032	614-539-5457
Secretary	Katie Walden	25894	740-965-2942
Treasurer	Karen Walden	15678	740-965-2942

Executive Committee Members:

Don Conover	20386	937-372-7581
Steve Aspery	38931	614-841-1846
Lacie Braley	44099	614-895-1732
Dale Andreatta	46408	740-548-7957
Bill Walden	11573	740-965-2942
bwalden@infinet.com		

Grotto Mail Address

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WEB: <http://www.netmarkweb.com/cog/>

List servers

Cog@ontosystems.com – Central Ohio Grotto

KCS@ontosystems.com – Kentucky Speleological Survey

Please join by sending e-mail with the subject **subscribe**.

Grotto Membership Dues \$15 per individual or \$20 per family.

The C.O.G. Squeaks

The C.O.G. Squeaks is the official newsletter of the Central Ohio Grotto. Articles on cave exploration and study, cave trips reports, cave fiction, cave poetry, cave-related cartoons, cave-related art or photographs are encouraged. Please note that I have a 35mm film scanner and a flat bed scanner. I can handle negatives up to 4 X 5 inches. So, please send me your photos, negatives, or slides for inclusion in the Squeaks. Send material to Bill Walden via mail, e-mail, disk, fax, or even dictation.

NSS organizations may reprint material from the C.O.G. Squeaks so long as the author and Squeaks are given credit unless stated otherwise. Send E-mail to Bill Walden if you want a Word file of the Squeaks to reprint.

The C.O.G. Squeaks is mailed to dues paying members and to grottos with whom the COG exchanges newsletters. The C.O.G. Squeaks is also available by E-mail as an Adobe Acrobat file (PDF). Please notify Bill Walden or Andy Franklin if you want the PDF version (It's in full color).

C.O.G. Cabin

The Grotto has a small shelter cabin on the property of Greg and Angela Erisman in Pulaski County, Kentucky for the use of C.O.G. members and friends. The cabin has five bunks and a picnic table. Outside of the cabin and a very short distance from the cabin is a practice-climbing tower for rope climbing. There is plenty of room for tents on the property.

COG KARST CALENDAR

Jan. 12, 2001	COG Meeting. 8:00 p.m.
Jan. 20, 2001	Grotto Caving weekend.
Jan. 27-29, 2001	Crawlathon Carter County State Park Call Park for info 606-286-4411
Feb. 9, 2001	Grotto Meeting. 8:00 p.m. Program on The Farmers Cave System
Feb. 17, 2001	Grotto Caving Weekend
Mar. 9, 2001	Grotto Meeting. 8:00 p.m.
Mar. 31, 2001	Tour of the Lost River Karst System. Orleans, IN 7:45 a.m. SE corner Town Sq. Robert Armstrong, Chairman LRCA
Mar. 17, 2001	Grotto Caving weekend
June 2, 2001	Tour of the Lost River Karst System. Orleans, IN 7:45 a.m. SE corner Town Sq. Robert Armstrong, Chairman LRCA
July 23 – 27, 2001	2001: A Cave Odyssey. The NSS Convention at Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve, Mt. Vernon, Kentucky. Visit www.nss2001.com where on line registration is available.
Aug. 11, 2001	OVN Cleanup project. Machan's Rock Tuscarawas County, Ohio
Aug. 30-Sep 3, 01	Old Timers Reunion
Sep. 15-16, 01	Karst Encounters, Lone Star Cave Preserve, KY
Sep. 29, 2001	Tour of the Lost River Karst System. Orleans, IN 7:45 a.m. SE corner Town Sq. Robert Armstrong, Chairman LRCA
June 24-28, 2002	NSS Convention, Camden, Maine
August 4-8, 2003	NSS Convention, Potterville, Cal.

**The Farmers Cave System Special issue of the Squeaks has
been postponed for the February issue of the COG Squeaks.
Please submit material for the Farmers Cave Systems special
ASAP. Thank you –Editor.**

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Cover Photo and photos on page 3 are at Machan's Rock are by Katie Walden. The B & W printed Squeaks doesn't do the scene justice because the solid painted areas and the reds and greens do not show up.

An Historic Connection

November 18, 2000

By Steve Aspery

For many years we have driven past the Farmer entrance en route to small, wet, and otherwise unappealing entrances. As if designed specifically for our mental torture, the entrance called to us on every trip. Finally we were able to answer the call and visit Farmer Cave.

The namesake of the Farmer System, which has now been mapped to nearly thirteen miles, the Farmer entrance was mapped in the early seventies by Tom Ramsey and a group from Cleveland. They mapped nearly a mile of passage before the landowner closed the entrance. As they were unaware of any other entrance to the cave, all work stopped. In 1987 Greg Erisman found Highline entrance and the Erismans with other members of the COG mapped the system, tying into the Ramsey map and traveling to within two hundred feet of the Farmer entrance only to be stopped by forty foot canyon walls.

For many years this was our fate, look but don't touch. Finally, after a meeting with the new owners, we received permission to visit the entrance. I'll say now and I'll say it again later, the entrance is not publicly open. Explicit owner permission is required as well as a liability release. Do not go to the cave and screw this up!

Back to the story, we finally had permission. Greg Erisman, Pat Erisman, Darrell Adkins, Alice Woznack, and Steve Aspery headed into the entrance. Our plan was to survey down to our own survey stations and push any leads in the upper cave. We pushed several side leads most of which are joint controlled and all of which quickly pinched out. A good part of this upper section is made up of large breakdown blocks perched over the forty-foot deep canyon. It is marginally stable and waits for the unwary. After a fair amount of discussion about where to rig the drop, we finally chose the same spot that the Ramsey team had used. We didn't realize this until after we had rigged it.

Greg and Pat dropped first and surveyed while Darrell, Alice, and I finished the survey on top. We soon made the vertical shot that officially tied the surveys together. The Farmer entrance was now a surveyed part of the Farmer System.... a mere two hundred and fifty feet of survey added but a historic survey for us. Our work completed we poked leads and explored but found nothing new or exciting. Greg and Pat decided to head back out Farmers, but Darrell, Alice, and I couldn't resist the idea of a through trip out S-trail. Not wanting to be a part of an accident report that begins "We planned an easy pull down trip" we arranged to meet the Erismans outside since they would be derigging our rope.

We made good progress with only a few instances of

"momentary confusion". This was the edge of the system as we knew it and we were coming from a new direction at each junction. Soon we were in familiar territory and had only to deal with the customary obstacles of S-trail. The straddle over the canyon near the Rope Room, Suicide Ledge (which seems less suicidal with each trip), and finally the climb/chimney near the entrance all went without incident. As I wormed my way closer to the outside world, I noticed that the ceiling seemed loose in the entrance squeeze. The freezing and thawing had loosened a rock which, now removed, makes the entrance much less of a squeeze. I suppose that you could even call it roomy.

Upon our exit we had completed the first ever through trip from Farmer's to S-Trail. We know this for sure because S-Trail was dug open well after Farmer was closed. It was a great day and the Sonny's never tasted better.

OK, once more, the entrance is not publicly open. Explicit, advance permission is required and everyone must sign a liability release. If you would like more information on joining a survey trip, call Darrell Adkins or Steve Aspery.

LOST RIVER FIELD TRIPS FOR 2001

[Reprinted from the November 2000 Squeaks.]

All trips are on Saturday: March 31, June 2, and September 29, 2001. [These are all day trips.]

The Lost River Conservation Association is offering tours of Indiana's Lost River Karst System. These tours are free, open to the public, and will be done in your own car. Tours are "GO! ESPECIALLY IF IT RAINS" and include moderate hiking. Recommend (that you wear) sturdy footwear, long sleeve shirts and pants even if hot weather, camera, sunscreen, bug repellent, binoculars, etc.

These field trips will feature an "orientation of Indiana's Lost River Karst System." The tours depart at 8 a.m. from the southeast corner of the Town Square in Orleans, Indiana (Junction of IN 37 & 337) and end at the rise spring in Orangeville. Orientation is at 7:45 a.m. The tours include stops from the vicinity of the "First Sink" to the Orangeville Rise. The route provides views overlooking the valley of Lost River in the Mitchell sinkhole plain and of the Chester escarpment.

The tour organizers believe the "Classic Portion of Indiana's Lost River Karst System" must be viewed in the context of the total river system to be fully appreciated and add samplings of the area's historic heritage to broaden your horizons. The goal is to promote the idea that the entire drainage basin of Indiana's Lost River is so unique and so rich in overall heritage that it is worthy of being designated a "Wild and Scenic River."

You may choose to do the tour in 2 half day increments also. For information on the Lost River offerings or to arrange other tours, please contact: Lost River Conservation Association (LRCA) C/O Robert Armstrong, Chairman, 3101 North Washington

Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46205 or call or leave a message on the answering machine of Dee Slater 317-253-6951. To be placed on the mailing list for event notices --- send a written communication to the above address.

LRCA is a designated Conservation Task Force of the National Speleological Society.

2001 ORV Cleanup Project

The following is a letter from Andrea Dieffenbaugher, Vice Chairman of the Ohio Cavers and Climbers Club to John Cole of the Ohio Valley Region.

November 16, 2000

Dear Mr Cole

Subject: 2001 Conservation project proposal

I am writing regarding a cave located in Tuscarawas County in Northeastern Ohio called by the locals Machan's Rock. The cave is significant to the area in that there are very few caves in Northeast Ohio of any size at all. This cave is approximately three hundred feet in length with a ceiling height in one area of approximately fifteen feet. This may sound laughable to our Kentucky cavers but in Northeastern Ohio, this is one of the largest caves. Also the cave has some historical significance; a possible stop on the Underground Railroad and locally it has been a landmark for many years. The cave also has been important educationally and recreationally. It is used by many organizations such as the Boy Scouts, The Wilderness Center, local camps and of course our own grotto as place to learn about caving, climbing and the need for conservation.

The cave is accessible to many people and that has become the problem! It is located near a township road next to the railroad tracks where anyone can drive up to it and still not be easily seen. It has become a favorite "hang out" for the local teenagers who throw their trash inside and outside the cave. Even worse they have graffitied the entire front face of the cave and sometimes inside also. Being in a somewhat remote area it is not well policed.

The Cave has two landowners the railroad and the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy, a group loosely working with the state. They both would like to see the cave cleaned up but do not have the time or the means to do it. The grotto and a couple of other groups have tried to clean it up (mostly trash pickup) with limited success. We have done inside scrubbing which has worked-for a while- and have tried to scrub the exterior entrance area. The spray paint has, in some cases been there for 50 years and refuses to come off. We didn't wanted to use chemical cleaners for fear of polluting the spring that comes from the cave and have not had access to a power washer or sand blasting equipment. Renting this equipment or having it done has not been in the budget of our small grotto.

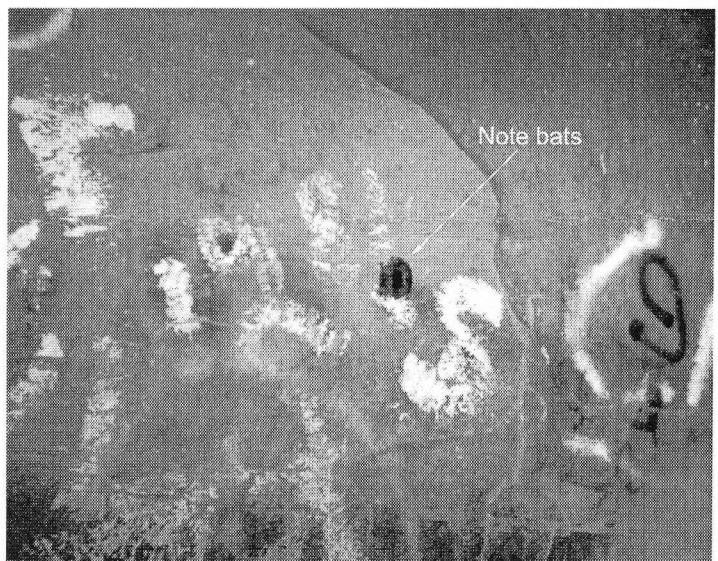
We have looked into ways of raising money but after several groups promised support and haven't come through the grotto

has given up on that idea. We have had people donate trash barrels (which were stolen) put up signs to deter trespassing (which were tore down) and had the newspaper write a story on what we were trying to do, which did have some success. People are interested in saving this cave but do not have the resources to do it.

The grotto did go to the Mid Atlantic Karst Conservancy who are willing to help with a donated power washer but do not have the manpower to do the job.

Knowing your organizations reputation and experience with conservation and cleanup projects we would appreciate your advice and your help. If you agree this would be a good conservation project for your organization, we ask you consider this cave.

Sincerely yours,
Andrea Dieffenbaugher
Vice Chairman



Above photos of Machen's Rock by Katie Walden

Second photo is inside the cave.

Christmas Caving

By Katie Walden

At the last OVR meeting, Andrea Dieffenbaugher told me about a couple of caves she knew of in Pennsylvania. One of them she said had a four-foot lepidodrom fossil in it. The other she said was very nicely decorated. At the meeting, she also talked about Machen's Rock, the cave she was proposing for the next OVR clean up. I decided then that I should go and look at Machen's Rock to evaluate it for cleaning and that I wanted to see the fossils in the Pennsylvania cave. I still had not found the time to go when she came down for the Christmas party. She talked with me and encouraged me some more to go to the caves. I thought about it. My company was giving me a four-day weekend for Christmas. We weren't planning to go out of town this year. Maybe I could spend a couple days of that weekend caving.

My parents said it was fine, so on the Friday before Christmas I drove up to North Canton, Ohio. I met Andrea and Ray there and spent the night at their apartment. The next morning, Andrea and I went to Harlansburg Cave in Pennsylvania. Since my good camera wasn't working at that time, I picked up a cheap disposable camera to get pictures of the promised fossils. We had been planning on meeting another caver, Kim Metzgar there, but we got there late. Harlansburg has seven entrances in a roadcut. There was a bright orange hat by one of the entrances. We guessed that meant that they had gone in that entrance. We parked in a parking lot a little up the road from the road cut, put on coveralls, and walked back down to the roadcut. The cave was blowing strongly that day and steam was pouring out some of the entrances. This had a lovely affect in that the steam then froze on the cliff side and trees over the entrances. We crawled into the entrance by the orange hat and started looking for Kim and whoever was with her.

Harlansburg is a neat cave. It is very mazy and the ceiling is mostly made up of an iron carbonate which in many places formed a pattern similar to the boxwork found in other caves. We crawled around in the cave looking for fossils and other cavers. Occasionally Andrea or I would holler and listen for a response. After we had been in about half-an-hour, we got a response. We crawled and waded through muddy water and found Kim and another caver named John in the process of surveying the cave. Harlansburg is a very difficult cave to survey with all of the iron in it. Kim's method was to survey and connect loops. We helped with the survey some. On the way back out, Kim led us past into some breakdown areas where there were some fossils. The fossils in this cave are not in the iron carbonate but are in the limestone above iron ore. They are exposed where the iron layer has fallen. We found some fossil imprints 3' to 4' long of Pennsylvanian plants; I don't know what kind. We left the cave and went back to our cars. My coveralls were frozen solid by the time I tried to take them off.

Sunday morning, Andrea and I went to Machen's Rock. We met another caver from her group, Steve, at the cave.

Machen's rock is a neat sandstone cave with lots of graffiti. I put on my insulated work coveralls to go into the cave. It was cold that day! There was a spring at the entrance we went in and a second one further in the cave. Back by the second spring, we saw a bat hibernating. We looked at the back entrance form inside the cave but didn't go out it. I didn't want to in my heavy work coveralls. One the way back out, we found a pair of big brown bats sleeping together on a wall by some graffiti. I ended up getting home Sunday afternoon. It was a good couple of caving days.

Columbus Caves

By Katie Walden

After the COG Christmas party, Dad and I decided to take Andrea and Ray from northeast Ohio to see some sights in Columbus. We took them to Hayden Falls late Sunday morning. The frozen falls were gorgeous with all the ice flowstone, helictites, and all. We also admired the limestone cliffs with all of the proto-entrances. After that we stopped at a Burger King for a restroom break and a quick bite to eat.

Then Dad started driving around the Dublin area looking for a park he knew about but hadn't been to in years. Before long, he found a drive but it was gated. There were some reasonably fresh tire tracks in the snow so we parked close to, but not blocking, the gate. We walked back on the access road a little ways and then climbed down into a little gully near the road. We walked through the little gully and crawled into three little caves. We only had one flashlight between the four of us but it was adequate for the little caves. In one of the caves, I noticed an interesting pattern on the ceiling. I asked Ray for the flashlight so I could get a closer look. With the flashlight I saw there were a lot of fossils in the ceiling. Most of them were horn corals. There were also a few crinoids. And I saw one interesting fossil. It was an ammonite 3.5" to 4" in diameter.

We walked back up to the road and continued walking down it. Dad wanted to find the park he remembered. We walked past a quarry. A helicopter flew over us. We got close to the dam and then we noticed that the helicopter was starting to circle. We started walking back to the car. The helicopter started circling really close to us. I think it would have landed if there were any room for it to land. While we were walking back to the car, we saw a police officer walking towards us. He politely explained that this was private property and that the quarry guards had seen us. We told him that we hadn't seen any no-trespassing signs posted. He nodded and said that they needed to be posted and that he had come because they've had problems with hunters in that area.

THE CAVEALA

CARTER COUNTY

From the October, 1964 Squeaks.

In the caves of Carter County,
In the pits of Jarvie Roark's,
Dwelt a caver 'neath the surface,
Joseph Voigt, deep in King Pit,
Passed his years in full contentment,
"Midst the ever dripping dripstone,
Midst the never-ending crawlways.
Using tape and Silva compass
Surveyed he the hellish King Top,
Knife Pit, and Rimstone Dam Trail;
Voigt and Johnson surveyed it all,
Not a crawlway, not a crouch way,
Not a single pit to do yet.
Voigt he was a learned caver,
Studied he the vertebrate,
Cave Rats and the Bengal Tiger,
Sex life of the salamander.
Studied he the gypsum flower,
Travertine, and calcite pendant,
Bedding plane, and chalky moon milk.
Now at Sag Floor, then at King Top,
Joseph Voigt was sure to stop at.
Thus he lived, that wise old caver,
Wise old caver deep in Jarvie's.

Came the vandals down to Jarvie's,
Brought their crowbars, picks, and hammers;
Heard they of wondrous curtain,
Wondrous curtain made of calcite,
Calcite clear as pure spring water.
To the ceiling rose the curtain,
Ceiling high as Sinnit's hallway,
Curtain wide as Mammoth's entrance,
Mammoth's entrance, far from Carter.
Entered they by Charlie's Crawlway
To get to this fabled hallway;
Down to the Saddle Pit and over,
Past the Flashlight Room and Peter,
Went these vandals ill intentioned.
Voigt he heard these vandals enter,
Sped he to the water crawlway,
Water crawlway to the curtain,
Faster than the vandals pathway.
He was first to reach that hallway.
Joseph Voigt quickly learned then,
Not a scratch was on the curtain.
In the hallway walked the vandals,

Eager to destroy the curtain,
Curtain lustrous in the lamplight.

Now the leader of the vandals
Spoke with anger to our hero,
"We are here to break this curtain
With our crowbars, picks, and hammers,
But you block the pathway to it,
Let us by or you shall rue it."

Answered thus our hero to him:
"There is only one thing certain,
that you shall not touch this curtain."

Now enraged by his answer,
Raised the vandal up his hammer,
Hammer as a club to batter.
Entered then to save our hero,
Cavers from the C.O. Grotto.
Ehman, Brucker, Wilson, Boynton,
Erisman, Powell, Bennington too,
Keller, Heller, Fromm, and Purvis,
Hedden, Gibler, Storts, and Huber,
Dwyer, Deamer, Sims, and Dickey,
Elberfeld, and Davidson too,
Grubby cavers dressed in shoddy,
Mud encrusted to the acme,
Knew exactly what they must do,
Overpowered they the vandals,
Took their crowbars, picks, and hammers,
Drove them from the crystal curtain,
Threw them in the raging Tygarts;
Raging Tygarts, by tradition,
Swept them to their retribution.
Spoke then Joseph Voigt with these words:
"Other vandals yet may come here,
For the curtain we must yet fear,
Let us therefore seal the chamber,
Chamber of the wondrous curtain."

Sealed they up that fabled hallway,
left not so much as a crawlway.
He who comes to see the curtain
May of this alone be certain:
Joseph Voigt, deep in King Pit,
Surely will not lead you to it;
Easier to rappel uphill
Than to find that terminal fill.

1963 Fred J. Dickey