



MAR - Spring 1996

Excerpted from The Loyalhanna Troglodyte, Vol. 9, Issue 4, Summer 1996

by Keith D. Wheeland

The Spring Meet of the MAR was sponsored by Loyalhanna Grotto at the VFW grounds in Williamsburg, PA on May 24-26. The Huntingdon County Cave Hunters helped with the event.

Fifty-eight cavers from at least seven grottos attended the event.

Activities consisted of a topo map scramble, caving, negotiating the Loyalhanna squeeze box, downing beverages in various positions, roping across Clover Creek, sitting around the bonfire, and eating.

The Guldens brought a huge assortment of topo maps which were "surplussed" from James Madison University. There were enough maps to please nearly everyone.

The meal consisted of sauerkraut, weiners, baked beans, three-bean salad, cole slaw, pasta salad, and rolls. Beverages were provided. The bonfire and lively conversation topped off the evening.

NSS Convention - 1996

by Keith D. Wheeland

The convention was held in Salida, Colorado from August 5th through the 9th. Salida is a small friendly town at an elevation of 7700 feet nestled among many peaks in excess of 14,000 feet (14'ers). At 7700 feet, breathing may become labored, the sun is more likely to damage your skin, and the effects of alcohol are much more pronounced. (In order to help cavers acclimatize, the beer tent was open from Monday evening until the end of Convention.)

Unofficially, there were at least 1204 registrants including cavers from Canada and Europe.

The main extra-convention activities did not include caving. Other activities included hiking the 14'ers, river rafting, swimming at the Hot Spring, antiquing, riding a sight-seeing train, Ramen noodle wrestling, hot-tubbing, and visiting a casino in Cripple Creek.

The camp site was situated about 5 miles from the high school where most sessions were held. The campground had its share of mosquitoes, which chased me into my tent on more than one occasion. The weather cooperated except for one afternoon when strong gusts up-ended a few tents. We were compensated by a lovely double rainbow display. The sessions, the accommodations, and the food were very good.

The awards banquet program was conducted ala the Academy Awards. The NSS awards presentations were interspersed with slides and video clips. Some local cavers honored at the banquet included the following persons.

Bert Ashbrook Fellow

Garrett Czmor Fellow

Paul Damon Recognized for his work in editing the history of the NSS

Tommy Shifflett Lew Bicking Award

The 1997 NSS Convention will be held in Sullivan, Missouri June 23-27. The registration forms are available. Contact Pam Saberton email: PamS107326@aol.com. There are many caves near the Convention site.



Fall MAR Meet '96

Nittany Grotto's fall MAR at Woodward!

Friday, Saturday and Sunday! September 27,28,29



Saturday dinner by master chef Andrew Churlik.

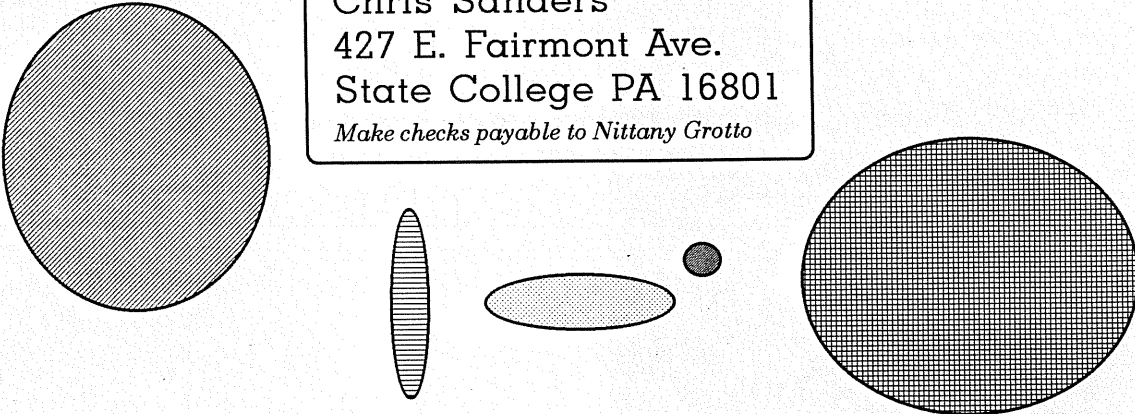
Friday is BYOB, Saturday beverage will be provided.

Cave Trips! - Alexander, Blessing Mt. Wells, Coonscat, Deerbone, Haines Gap, J'4, Miller, Ruth, Seawra, Sharer, Spider Sink Cave? (40 ft rope drop), Woodward, and many more!

For only \$18 Friday and Saturday night camping! Children five and under 10\$ Dogs welcome (free)! Dinner Saturday! Fun! Games! Jello wrestling? Mountain Biking!

Hot Showers on site! (Coin op)

Send Pre-Registration to:



Chris Sanders
427 E. Fairmont Ave.
State College PA 16801
Make checks payable to Nittany Grotto

1996 MAR Business Meet Minutes
recorded by Keith Christenson

Thanks to Jay for hosting the event.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by Chairman Bert Ashbrook.

All four officer's were in attendance:

Chairman: Bert Ashbrook
Vice-Chair: Chris "Foom" Sanders
Treasurer: Bette White
Secretary: Keith Christenson

The Chair asked that all attendees introduce themselves and an attendance sheet was passed around. The Chair also thanked the past officers for serving.

Secretary's Report: Since the minutes had been published in the MAR Breakdown, Ed Kehs moved that we accept the minutes as printed. The motion was seconded and passed.

MAR Breakdown: Foom reported the next issue will be out before the spring meet, and begged for articles.

Treasurer's Report Bette White gave the treasurer's report. Last year we had \$4,408.64 and this year we have \$4,503.27 (not including the money Jim Kennedy owes the MAR for the spring 1995 meet). The treasurer's report was voted on and accepted.

Field Meets: John Chenger reported on the success of the spring 1995 field meet at Laurel Caverns. Bill Wolford was not present to report on the fall 1995 meet but it was noted that it was nicely done. Richard Monty reported that the spring 1996 meet will be at the Williamsburg VFW, hosted by The Loyalhanna Grotto. Keith Christenson reported that the fall 1996 meet will be at Woodward Cave, hosted by the Nittany Grotto. Pat Minnick accidentally agreed that the Franklin County Grotto will host the spring 1997 meet. The Philadelphia Grotto is considering holding the fall 1997 meet.

MAR Bulletins - Bibliography of Cave Biota: Rich Rosevear reported that it is still in the works. No completion date as of yet.

Fayette County: John Chenger reported that the county has 80 caves, and that the bulletin should be done in a year.

Caves of the Upper Susquehanna (CCLUM): Keith Christenson reported that the five county area has about 50 caves, and the bulletin should be done in a year.

York County: John Rosenfeld reported that the county has about 50 caves and the project should be done by the end of 1996.

Lebanon County: Dean Snyder suggested that all the Lebanon County information has been published and that there wasn't enough material for a bulletin.

Westmoreland County: Kim Metzgar reported that the bulletin has over 300 caves, will be softbound with a color cover, has 20 pages on quarries, lots of historical information, and will be ready for printing in about a month.

Carol Tiderman moved to print 500 copies. The motion is seconded and passes unanimously after a length discussion. Kim asked that the Loyalhanna Grotto be listed as co-publisher and this seemed to be agreed upon without a motion. Kim also reported that Copperhead Cave has successfully been removed from a mining permit. She then suggested that the MAR become more than just publishers and that the MAR should begin buying caves. Kim then made a motion that two dollars from the sale of the Westmoreland County Bulletin go to cave acquisition. The motion was rescinded. Carol agreed to pursue grants from RASS and

TRA to help fund the publication costs of such a large bulletin. Bette White will pursue loans from grottoes for funding. These loans will be at no interest and will be repaid first. Bette White will set the sale price of the bulletin.

Will White reminded the Huntingdon County Cave Hunters to get moving.

Will White suggested a bulletin on the caves of the vanport limestone.

An intermission was taken from 2:34 to 2:45 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

Hosterman's Pit Keith Wheeland reported: - The mining company isn't giving up. - Penn's Valley Conservation Association and the Nittany Grotto have been actively fighting against the proposed quarry. - The quarry plans on solving one of its discharge water problems by building holding ponds directly over the cave. - Cavers may have the ability to buy the cave, but the owner probably won't sell it. - Rumor has it the permit will be issued soon.

Hillside Quarry Skipped since it was discussed under the Westmoreland County Bulletin.

PA Cave Database Keith Wheeland reported that he would like to formalize the database and gave details concerning this. The Chair appointed Keith Wheeland to head a committee to pursue this, and Will White, Keith Christenson and Foom were added as members.

Cave Conservation Signs Keith Wheeland distributed a list of where all the current signs are, or are supposed to be.

Cave Register Project John Chenger reported that there are now 40 to 50 caves with registers in PA, but that the NSS does not currently have the personnel to deal with all the data. Chenger suggested that the data is being filed in a black hole until it can be looked at.

NSS Vandalism Rewards Signs are available.

PCC Date Ibberson reported that there was no report. He agreed that the PCC may acquire the cave acquisition fund which had been previously discussed but not passed.

NCRC No report.

Newsletter Archives and Indexing Keith Wheeland reported that he has indexing software available.

PGC proposal. A great deal of discussion followed. In the end, a motion for the MAR to explore developing management plans with the PGC, with priority toward currently gated caves, with an MAR committee to hash out the details, and to enter into agreement with the PGC based on committee approved wording was passed with one dissenting vote. Richard Monty then moved that the committee for hashing out the details of the agreement consist of at least one representative from every PA grotto. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The Chair appointed Derek Flaig, Jonathan Daniels, Bert Ashbrook, Walt Hamm and the Chairman from any grotto not yet represented to the committee.

COG Motion It was noted that a motion from last year had not been acted upon, and Bert agreed to take care of it.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections Procedures A proposed amendment to the bylaws to address the issue of failure to hold a fall election was distributed. Ed Kehs moved that if there are no MAR elections at the fall meet, the elections be

handled by mail as per the written amendment. The motion was seconded and passed with two dissenting. As written, the motion would be to amend Constitution Article VI-A to handle elections if an election does not take place at the fall field meet by adding the words. "If an election is not held at the Fall M.A.R. Meet, the slate of candidates shall be distributed to the Regional Council by mail-in election."

Incorporation and Tax Exempt Status It was determined that the MAR is not incorporated. Carol Tiderman moved that we pursue incorporation. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Guidelines for Bulletin Editors A committee to set standards to assure the quality of bulletins was created, with Will White as Chair and Dean Snyder a member.

Karst Maps Foom reported that the DER is making karst maps with all the sinkholes shown. He then made a five minute long motion which was voted on as this: The MAR is to provide the PA DER with information that is not of a sensitive nature from the PA Cave Database, and for this location information we will be allowed to put a paragraph in the published documents on who to contact for more information about caves. The motion was seconded and passed with one opposing vote. Keith Wheeland is to execute this. Cave acquisition Fund Kim Metzgar moved that the MAR establish a separate fund to protect or acquire caves at the discretion of the officers. The motion was seconded and approved.

At 4:03 Pat Minnick was ruled out of order.

At 4:04 Craig Hindman was ruled out of order.

Kim Metzgar then moved that two dollars of the proceeds from each sale of the Caves of Westmoreland County Bulletin go to this fund, with future funding of the fund at the discretion of the MAR officers, grottoes or future publishers. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Cartoon Bulletin Andy Fluke suggested that he would be willing to provide nearly one hundred caving cartoons for publication in a bulletin, and would ask for no compensation so that all proceeds would go to the MAR. No action was taken.

Long caves Dale Ibberson asked if anyone had seen the Harlansburg Cave map, and suggested that if it has never been produced that the cave might not qualify as the longest cave in the state. No action was taken.

OTHER STUFF

The next MAR business meeting will be February 22, 1997 at 1:30 pm. It will be again held at Jay Herbein's. It appears the spring 1996 MAR field meet will be held on Memorial Day.

It was announced that there is a party at Dale's starting immediately.

At 4:12 pm, amid much gavel pounding, Dale Ibberson is ruled out of order.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 pm.

MAR ATTENDANCE (At least those that signed in)

Baltimore Grotto: Bob Gulden, Craig Hindman, Carol Tiderman

Commander Cody's Caving Club: Michael Mostardi

Franklin County Grotto: Don Arrowood, Kenneth Jones, Patrick Minnick, Anne Shepard

Greater Allentown Grotto: Bert Ashbrook, Vince Kappler, Pat Richard, Richard Rosevear

Huntingdon County Cave Hunters: Derek Flaig, Mark Lancaster, Richard Monty

Loyalhanna Grotto: Kim Metzgar, Tom Metzgar

Mountain State Grotto: John Chenger

Nittany Grotto: Keith Christenson, Andrew Churlik, Andrew Fluke, Joe Kearns, Chris "Foom" Sanders, Keith D. Wheeland, Bette White, Will White

Philadelphia Grotto Joe Durant

South Jersey Grotto Michael Fernandez Scott Keyes

York Grotto Karen Bange Janice Gulden Dave Gutter Sarah Gutter John H. Rosenfeld Turncoat Judi Stack

Caver's Estate Wins \$12.7 Mil. Lawsuit

Philadelphia, March 14 (AP): The estate of Thomas P. Davis, who fell to his death in a Centre County cave last September, won \$12.7 million in a civil suit today.

Jurors found that a cave guidebook sold to Davis on the morning of his death did not adequately warn of the dangerous conditions inside J-4 Cave. Friends of Davis who accompanied him on the tragic trip testified that the Mid-Appalachian Region (MAR), a statewide organization of spelunkers, had given Davis directions to the cave at their field meet on the morning of his death, but had never warned them of the slippery 25-foot ledge inside from which he fell.

Held jointly liable for the \$12.7 million settlement were four officers of the MAR, the two editors of the book, and the organizer of the field meet which Davis had been attending.

Editorial by MAR Chairperson Bert Ashbrook

These newspaper clippings are fakes, but they are not complete fabrications. Sadly, they sound very plausible.

If, God forbid, someone should die or be seriously injured at an MAR field meet, could MAR's members or officers be held liable? Could we lose our houses or life savings to greedy lawyers and grieving families? I'm no attorney, but I can't help but be concerned about this scenario. Lawyers all say that being incorporated is one of the best ways to limit personal liability. Right now, MAR is not incorporated. I think it should be.

Because of the way state law is written, incorporation would necessarily put an end to the loose, informal way that MAR has been run for over 40 years. The members would have to elect a board of directors, and the directors would elect the officers. The directors would control all of MAR's business.

While this sounds complicated, it is my opinion that it would make doing the region's business much easier. For example, negotiations with the Game Commission or decisions about spending money would be much easier if they didn't have to wait until the last Saturday in February to be made. A small group of directors (how about seven?) meeting three times a year would make decisions more easily than the 40 cavers who meet in Jay Herbein's basement every February.

The Greater Allentown Grotto just finished becoming a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation, which cost about \$300. GAG had the help of a lawyer (a student project for the University of Pennsylvania Law School), but incorporation can be done without one. A change in the bylaws would be needed, and the new bylaws would have to be researched and ready to roll by the business meeting in February.

I am very proud of what MAR has accomplished this year. We have begun negotiations with the Pennsylvania Game Commission to reopen their caves to visitation; we have published a fine Bulletin; and we have had a great field meet. The region is indebted to Keith Christenson, Foom Sanders, Bette White, and Kim Opatka-Metzgar for all their work. While I will not be among them, I do hope next year's officers will make incorporation of the MAR part of their legacy to the Region.

Man Dies in Cave

Centre Hall, Pennsylvania, September 28 (AP): Thomas P. Davis, 24, of Philadelphia, died today when he fell inside a cave in this small central Pennsylvania town. Davis entered J-4 Cave this morning with three friends. Around noon, he fell 25 feet from a dangerous ledge called the "Highway Step-Across" and landed on his head. He died instantly from the fall, according to Centre County Coroner David J. Kohn.

Members of the Mid-Appalachian Region (MAR), a statewide spelunking group, assisted with the removal of Davis, who was declared dead at the scene. The caving group was having its fall field meet at nearby Woodward Cave when they were called upon by the Centre County Emergency Management Agency for assistance.

Davis had recently joined the MAR, and he purchased a copy of the group's book describing the caves of Centre County (including J-4 Cave) this morning.

\$250 TO \$1000 REWARD

The National Speleological Society will pay a reward of at least \$250 and up to \$1000 to anyone for information that leads to the conviction of a person or persons for:

1. *Cave vandalism,*
2. *Violation of the cave protection laws of any state in the United States,*
3. *Violation of the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act,*
4. *Harming animals in and about caves that are protected by federal or state laws,*
5. *Destroying or damaging cave gates or other barriers designed to protect caves.*

CAVE LAWS

Federal law protects all federally owned caves and many cave-adapted animals. Caves are protected by law in most states, therefore it is illegal to:

Write or mark on cave walls

Litter or dump spent carbide

Break or remove mineral formations

Tamper with or damage cave gates

Disturb bats or other living organisms

Remove or disturb historic or prehistoric artifacts or bones

HOW TO COLLECT A REWARD

The reward applicant is required to provide information that the conviction occurred and to provide such other supporting information as is reasonably available. The reward request must be made within three months of the conviction. To collect your reward or for more information, write to the National Speleological Society, Cave Vandalism Deterrence Reward Commission, Cave Avenue, Huntsville, Alabama 35810.

REWARD AUTHORITY

Rewards of more than \$250 are given to recipients whose efforts have made a significant contribution to furthering the purposes of this reward. The amount of the reward is determined at the sole discretion of the Cave Vandalism Deterrence Commission of the National Speleological Society. This commission has the sole discretion to determine if the criteria of this offering have been met.

TERMINATION OF REWARD

All previous rewards offered by the National Speleological Society and the conditions for compliance are hereby revoked. This offer is effective 1 June 1990, and it shall continue to be in effect through 31 May 1999. After 31 May 1999, information as to whether or not this offer continues in effect may be obtained through the National Speleological Society. This reward notice remains the property of the National Speleological Society.

PLEASE HELP

Help enforce the law by reporting any suspected violations to the cave owner and the appropriate law enforcement authority.

Caves are a unique nonrenewable natural asset. They are protected for our use and benefit, and the use and benefit of future generations.

When Caving: Take Nothing But Pictures, Leave Nothing But Carefully Placed Footprints, and Kill Nothing But Time.

This reward is made possible in part by grants from:

The American Cave Conservation Association, The National Speleological Foundation, and The Robertson Association (OTR)

THE MAR REVIEW

Highlights of Grotto Newsletters in the Mid-Appalachian Region
by Bert Ashbrook 7/20/96

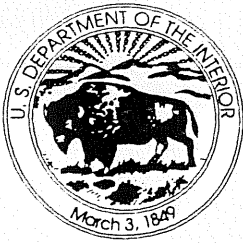
NOTE: If your newsletter is not reviewed in this column, send a copy to
Bert Ashbrook
1257 Lehigh Parkway South
Allentown PA 18103-3875.

Loyalhanna Grotto's *Loyalhanna Troglodyte* for Winter 1996 (9:2) contains a review electric lighting systems by Ray Wrikeman. The Summer issue (9:4) has details on the fire which destroyed St. James Church, the Grotto's unofficial headquarters. Also included is Tom Metzgar's discovery of a description of Penn's Cave (Centre County) in an 1897 publication called "Diseases of Poultry."

New editor Chad Ambrosius' first issue of the *Nittany Grotto News* (March 1996; 43:1) is packed with good stuff. Jim Kennedy's descriptions and maps of 180-foot long Bellefonte Water Quarry Cave (Centre County, Penna.) and smaller Haines Gap Caves (Centre County, Penna.) are included. Haines Gap has hibernating bats. Bryan Crowell has three cave descriptions and maps, all of small caves: The Tau Phi Extension of Chime Cave (Centre County, Penna.), Logantown Cave (Clinton County, Penna.), and Fry Caves (Centre County, Penna.).

The Spring, 1996 issue (9:3) of the *Loyalhanna Troglodyte* is chocked full of maps and descriptions of small Westmoreland County caves. They include Cambell Cave (32 feet long), Chrissie Mitchell Cave (25 feet), Creaking Tree Cave (83 feet), Yeager Waterfall Cave (130 feet), Moth Cave (77 feet), and David Kirby Cave (34 feet). The descriptions are by Tom and Kim Metzgar, while the maps are by Tom and Kim, and Rich Rosevear. Tom Metzgar also includes an article on the history of Westmoreland County's Anderson's Cave, which is intimately connected with an early 19th-century thief and bigamist.

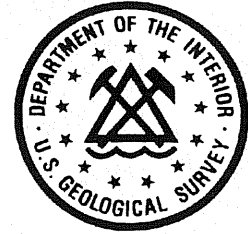
The April 1996 issue of the *Cave Hunter* (Huntingdon County Cave Hunters, 12:1) is, as usual, full of good material. Among the more interesting news items are a report that Ruth Cave (Huntingdon County, Penna.) was broken into over the winter and a report that Ruth, Tytoona Cave (Blair County, Penna.), and Aitkin Cave (Mifflin County) were all flooded this winter. There were lots of bats found dead at Aitkin. In the same issue, Garrett Czmor expands on his history of Tytoona Cave and Arch



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 - * Combine your recreational interests with volunteer service
 - * Work with U.S. Geological Survey maps in the field
 - * Gain work experience toward future employment
 - * Earn academic credit through internships arranged between students and schools
 - * Put a lifetime of experience to work in your retirement years
 - * Be part of the Federal volunteer network--citizens who make a difference
-

The Earth Science Corps consists of private citizens who devote some of their time to provide science information to the Federal Government. Members may be invited to participate in projects within mutually determined work areas. In a few cases, they may be invited to work in other areas with expenses paid.

There are two ongoing programs in which volunteers participate to the extent that their personal schedules will allow. One project is a public outreach program under which volunteers help enhance public awareness of the National Mapping Program and products. The other is a map annotation project where volunteers provide information about potential map updates in their assigned area by annotating U.S. Geological Survey maps provided by the Government.

To obtain application forms or more information write to:

Earth Science Corps, MS 513, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia 22092

MAR Cave Signs Placed

by Bert Ashbrook

Through the generosity of Baltimore Grotto, MAR has recently placed four more cave signs in Pennsylvania. The 18" x 12" aluminum signs are available for \$10 from either Bert Ashbrook or Keith Wheeland. They have a conservation message as well as information on Pennsylvania's cave law, on the Vandalism Deterrence Reward Fund, on the NSS, and on cave rescue.

Dreibelbis Cave (Berks County) was gated by the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy in 1984 after a fatal accident. Some years later, the owner asked that it not be visited for liability reasons. Recently, it changed hands, and the new owner is apparently quite friendly. The Commander Cody Caving Club is placing a sign there.

Onyx Cave (Berks County) is a former commercial cave which has long been closed. Recently it too changed hands, and the new owner is quite friendly. Bucks County and Greater Allentown Grottos have been helping him clean up the property, and he was quite happy to receive the sign.

Hartman Cave is a small but quite important cave in Monroe County. Although only 250 feet long, it is now known to be a significant bat hibernaculum. It is also a significant Pleistocene bone cave; the holotype of a Pleistocene peccary, *Dicotyles pennsylvanicus* (Leidy), is from Hartman Cave. Greater Allentown Grotto is going to place the sign there next weekend.

Ruperts Cave (Mifflin County) was recently purchased by two York Grotto members, Karen and George Bange. A sign was presented to them on Baltimore Grotto's behalf at the recent MAR field meet.



PHOTO CAPTION: At the spring field meet, a power-packed group of cavers presented the sign for Ruperts Cave to its new owners, George and Karen Bange of York Grotto. From left to right are: Bert and Jenny Ashbrook, Hazel Medville, Dean Snyder, owners George and Karen Bange, Charlie Acklin, Dale Ibberson, Doug Medville, and Judi Stack.

M.A.R. BULLETINS

NSS MEMBER PRICE LIST

No.	County in PA	Cost (without postage)
1-4	REPRINT	Bulletins #1-4 7.00*
8	Blair	89 caves, 40 maps 6.50*
9	Huntington	OUT OF PRINT
10	Snyder	20 caves, 14 maps 2.00*
11	Centre	71 caves, 56 maps, 1 large map 9.00**
12	Mifflin	47 caves, 3 1 maps 5 large maps 7.00**
13	Perry	13 caves, 6 maps 5.00*
14	Bucks	OUT OF PRINT
15	Lehigh	25 caves, 13 maps 3.25*
16	Northampton	24 caves, 13 maps/1 large map 5.50*
17	Northumberland	20 caves, 10 maps 5.00*
18	Berks	64 caves, 32 maps 7.00**
19	Bedford	54 caves, 33 maps 5.50*
20	Westmoreland	Over 300 Features 29.50***

*Postage: \$1 .25 each bulletin. \$0.50 each additional to same address.

**Postage: \$1 .75 each bulletin. \$0.50 each additional to same address.

***Postage: \$3.00 each bulletin.

Non-U.S. Postage: \$2.00 for each copy, \$1.50 each additional copy.

Make checks payable to MAR:

Order from: Bette White 542 Glen Road, State College PA, 16803

All checks must be payable in U.S. dollars on U.S. bank or U.S. money order

KARST PUBLICATIONS

Westmoreland Co. is out! The MAR is urging any and all cavers to buy a copy of this information packed monster. We need to sell a few before the combined weight of our stock collapses the White's livingroom floor.

This MAR is bursting with historical information and data on the quarries of Westmoreland co.

Make sure you check out Bert Ashbrooks review in the NSS news.

-=Foom

c/o Nittany Grotto News
P.O. Box 676
State College, PA 16804-0676

