

# Office Addition Completed

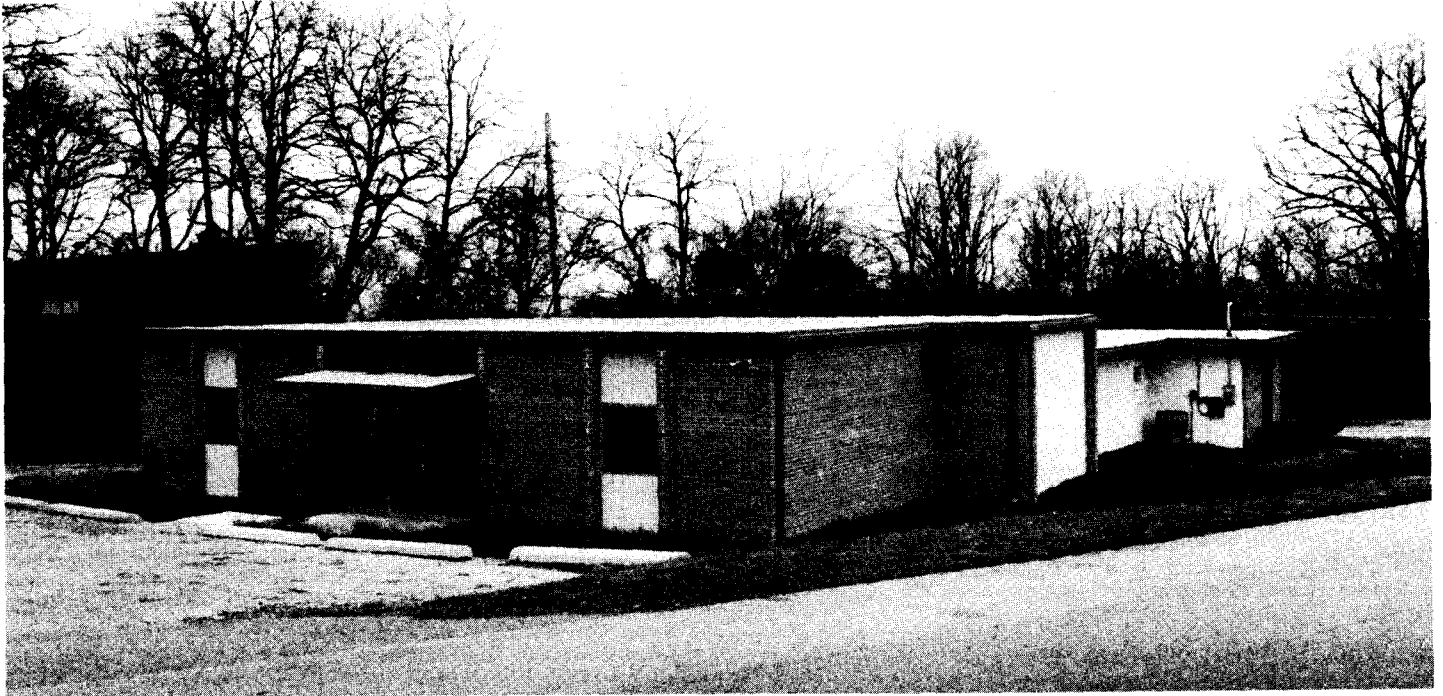


Photo by Joe Skipworth

## It's Not Glamorous

A decision to build an addition to an existing building, and the resulting fund-raising to pay off the mortgage, cannot compete as a glamour cause with efforts to buy caves, or even with the original acquisition of a national headquarters for the NSS. In order to function as a growing national organization, however, the Society must have the infrastructure which allows it to service its members.

Many functions have been centered at the Office — membership records, correspondence with members and non-members interested in caves, printing of some Society publications and brochures, the Bookstore, the Archives, and a major Library. Space for these activities was sufficient when the original building was purchased in 1972, but ten years of expansion created an untenable situation — our two employees were pushed back into a small, windowless office; Bookstore materials had to be boxed and stored in member's homes; the press (probably the single greatest fire hazard in the building because of highly flammable chemicals used) was located within two feet of shelves of papers and books; Library materials were piled on the floor; and collation of mass mailings was done wherever an empty space appeared. When a piece of office furniture or equipment was acquired, something else had to be sold or junked to make room for it.

It was an impossible situation, and the Board of Governors

recognized that more space had to be provided at the Office. An Addition, which more than doubles the size of the original building, was built to provide enough space for the growth of the NSS and the functions of the Office for the next decade.

To expand the Office we had to take out a mortgage of \$31,000 at 14 percent interest. We are committed legally to pay it off in five years. The Board does not want to use operating funds to make the monthly payments, so the money must be raised through contributions. If each member donates only \$5, and we pay off the loan quickly, we will be able to save ourselves thousands of dollars in interest payments.

Your help is needed! This is your Society, and your Office. By "owning" a brick (with a \$10 contribution) you will know that you personally have participated in making the Society a more efficient and effective organization. A certificate, suitable for framing, will be sent to you to show which brick in the Addition was paid for by you. If you give \$75, the Society will send you one of the limited-edition reproductions of Tom Culverwell's drawing, "Traverse of the Hodag Room" in Schoolhouse Cave, West Virginia.

Please do your part. The volunteers working on this fund-raising effort would rather spend their time and energy on glamorous causes.

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## Buy A Brick!

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