



*View of Main Building*

## Hamilton Valley Update

Richard Maxey

Photos by Roger McClure

Construction at the Hamilton Valley facilities are still underway. The final product of this phase of construction will be a field/research station consisting of a main building, two bunkhouses and a utility shed. The main building houses a kitchen and large pantry, showers and restrooms, office, map and computer room, and central meeting area. A full-length porch offers a spectacular view of Hamilton Valley. Each bunkhouse consists of five individual rooms with built-in bunks that hold four occupants each. The two bunkhouses can accommodate 40 individuals. The utility shed serves as storage space for outdoor upkeep and maintenance equipment. The main complex will accommodate Eastern Operations expeditions, will serve as a field station for karst scientists and graduate students, and will be available for educational, conservation and interpretive-related use as well as other activities consistent with the goals of the Cave Research Foundation.

Progress on the facility has been slow due to many factors, but it is almost finished as far as construction is

concerned. The main building is nearly complete except for installation of door hardware, a minor problem with the kitchen hood, and connecting the water to the well with a pump and a pressure tank. Hopefully these items will be completed by September, if not earlier. The first bunkhouse is nearly complete, though the door hardware remains to be installed. The second bunkhouse is being framed and should also be done by September. Sidewalks will be poured to connect all three buildings to the parking area.

The Hamilton Valley Maintenance Committee will be putting in a gravel road down to the valley and improving the existing road. We will install a gate by the parking area to block access by vehicles to the buildings except for the delivery of supplies. This will preserve the lawn area and make it functional for tent camping. There will be a short walk on a concrete sidewalk from the parking area to the bunkhouse.

*continued on page 4*