

# The Journal of Spelean History

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of The AMERICAN SPELEAN HISTORY ASSOCIATION



## ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

The American Spelean History Association is chartered as a non-profit corporation for the study, dissemination and interpretation of spelean history and related purposes. All persons of high ethical and moral character who are interested in these goals are cordially invited to become members. Annual membership is \$5.00; family membership \$6.00. Library subscriptions are \$4.00.

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The Association publishes The Journal of Spelean History on a quarterly basis. Pertinent articles or reprints are welcomed. As a photo-offset process is often used, the editor should be contacted in advance concerning the current type of manuscript preparation desired. Submission of rough drafts for preliminary editing is encouraged. Illustrations require special handling and arrangements must be made with the editor in advance.

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## ABOUT THE COVER ILLUSTRATION

The cover picture of one of history's most celebrated cave dragons appeared first in 1678 in the 3rd Edition of "Mundus Subterraneus" by the Jesuit, Athanasius Kircher (Vol. 2, p. 117). It is accompanied by the following account in Latin (p. 118), written in 1667 by Elias Georgius Loretus: - "...A picture is to be seen on the bridge at Lucerne showing a certain Swiss hero named, if I do not mistake, Winckelried, in single combat with a dragon, as the present Figure B shows. At that time there was a dragon, terrifying for the slaughter he caused to men and flocks, who lived in Subsylvia in a cave on the side of a mountain, a place which I saw for myself was most convenient for overlooking the lands and lake, Men in this place were greatly afraid, until a mighty athlete, for what reason I know not, was sentenced to exile for killing a man and offered to engage in the terrible combat if the penalty of exile were lifted. He obtained his request and began the fight in the place now called Dragon's Field, Drakenfeldt. Happily he slew the dragon. However, after being oftentimes victorious he suffered hurt from his own carelessness rather than from his enemy. He was dancing for joy and rejoicing in his victory and raised aloft his sword dripping with the blood of this most poisonous reptile. Some of the drops of the beast's blood fell from the sword onto the hand of the victor and the man who could not be overcome by his living enemy was slain by the one he slew." The fight is shown taking place just outside the cave entrance, which is just out of the picture to the right.

--- Trevor Shaw.

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*Explorer in  
Wyandotte Cave makes*

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## MEDICS AT MAMMOTH CAVE

By Harold Meloy

Mammoth Cave has an elusive magnetism which has drawn medical men to visit and write about its wonders for many years. In the 1815 Medical Repository<sup>1</sup> we find an article which describes the cave and reports that "a partial description of it was published some time ago by a medical gentleman who visited it, and who spent a day in exploring one of the branches, into which he penetrated ten or eleven miles."

It has been suggested, though not yet confirmed, that this medical gentleman was Dr. Robert Fontaine Slaughter (1786-1829) of nearby Bowling Green, a brother-in-law of one of the early owners of the cave,<sup>2</sup> and that the published description was one reprinted in The Enquirer, a newspaper of Richmond, Virginia on April 20, 1810.<sup>3</sup>

A number of physicians knew that the 1812 saltpetre miners were reported to have enjoyed perfect health while working in the cave. It was said that those who had suffered from respiratory disorders were soon restored to perfect health after a short stay in the cave. Doctors speculated that perhaps the nitrates in the cave air, or the uniform temperature, or a combination of these and perhaps unknown factors had a therapeutic effect. One of these was Nathan Gaither, M.D. (1788-1862) of Columbia, Kentucky.

During the 1820's Gaither proposed that the Commonwealth of Kentucky purchase Mammoth Cave and establish a hospital in one of its corridors.<sup>4</sup> More than a decade later, such a hospital was located in the cave, but not until after Dr. R. M. Bird added the prestige of his opinions to those of the others.

Robert Montgomery Bird, M.D. (1805-1854), formerly a professor at Pennsylvania Medical College, visited Mammoth Cave in June 1833. He was fascinated with it. He returned

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again in 1836 and wrote one of the classics of Mammoth Cave literature. First published in 1837 in the American Monthly Magazine, it was republished the following year in Philadelphia, and again the next year in England.<sup>5</sup> Bird's narrative includes such gems of Mammoth Cave folklore as the miner who was lost in the Haunted Chambers and the cave explorer in a neighboring cave who lost his light and his life when he fell into a deep pit. Dr. Bird also wrote of the medical benefits of the cave air and, in doing so, is entitled to some of the credit for the consumptive experiment made by Dr. Croghan.

After the appearance of Bird's magazine articles, other doctors came to the cave. Frederick Hall, M.D., came from Maryland in the summer of 1837. Unlike Bird, Hall's written description<sup>6</sup> of his cave experiences had little impact upon the events which were to follow, except to make the cave managers more aware of the virtues of conservation.

During 1839, Joseph Nash McDowell, M.D. (1805-1868) came to Mammoth Cave. He too, was impressed with the chemical qualities of the cave atmosphere--though for a different use. Thereafter he established a medical college at St. Louis. Brilliant and eccentric, he had novel ideas on many common subjects.

One day during a serious illness, he was convinced that he was going to die. He was attended by Dr. Charles W. Stevens and his son, Dr. Drake McDowell. He required them to promise that at his death they would place his body in a copper receptacle filled with alcohol and suspend it from the roof of Mammoth Cave. Permission for this to be done, he told them, had already been obtained.

However, McDowell recovered. Still interested in the effects of cave atmosphere upon dead bodies, he purchased a cave near Hannibal, Missouri, (later a playground of Mark Twain, and to whom it was known as McDowell's Cave). When

McDowell's daughter died, he placed her body in a copper case filled with alcohol and suspended the case from the roof of McDowell's Cave.<sup>7</sup> Mischievous boys found it, and their treatment of the dead body of the little girl gave McDowell second thoughts about such a burial for himself.

There remains in Mammoth Cave today a visible remembrance of this eccentric physician. In the main corridor, lettered on the side of Giant's Coffin is the inscription: "J. N. McDowell, M.D., 1839."

Daniel Drake, M.D. (1785-1852) was the brother-in-law of McDowell and one of the foremost medical authorities in the midwest. Long interested in Mammoth Cave, he wrote with approval of its use for the treatment of invalids by Dr. Croghan.<sup>8</sup>

John Croghan, M.D. (1790-1849) purchased Mammoth Cave in 1839. He was encouraged to use a part of the cave for the treatment of consumptive patients, --and he did.<sup>9</sup> The first patient admitted to the then new underground facility was William J. Mitchell, M.D., of Glasgow, Kentucky, who had diagnosed his own ailment as pulmonary consumption. In the summer of 1842 he took up residence in the cave. At the end of five weeks he pronounced himself "very much relieved" and left. Other patients came. Those with terminal illnesses died in the cave, and the experiment failed.

But Dr. Croghan was a good business man. He built extensive additions to the cave hotel and new roads to the cave. Visitors flocked to Mammoth Cave. During the ten years Croghan owned the cave, he developed it into a major tourist attraction; and by the provisions of his will, he controlled its destinies for the next three-quarters of a century.

Even before visiting the cave circa 1842, John Locke, M.D. (1792-1856) of the Medical College of Ohio at Cincinnati had written at least one scientific paper<sup>10</sup> about it.

Apparently it was he who coined the term "oulopholites" for the gypsum flowers found in Cleaveland Avenue. Like other doctors, before and after him, he was drawn to the cave. Unlike the others, he was an eminent geologist; and from his own scientific observations within the cave, he prepared and presented to eager audiences lectures about this greatest of underground wonders.

Doctors had written about the cave before, but with Charles W. Wright, M.D., of the Kentucky School of Medicine in Louisville, a new era of Mammoth Cave medical authors began. Wright was present in Mammoth Cave during the first descent of a deep pit known as the Maelstrom, and he was one of the first explorers of Diamond Caverns. His book The Mammoth Cave of Kentucky was published in 1858 and again in 1859. In 1860 he revised and enlarged it. As A Guide Manual to the Mammoth Cave, the 1860 edition became the standard reference book about the cave until it was replaced nine years later by Dr. Binkerd's book. Even after Binkerd's book was replaced by Dr. Forwood's book, Wright's Guide Manual was still in demand. It was re-published in 1870, and again in 1875.

The next medic to become a literary authority on the cave was Adam D. Binkerd, M.D. His first guide book which was published in 1869 and titled The Mammoth Cave and its Denizens contained 33 numbered pages. It was so successful that he revised and enlarged it to 95 pages. The new book appeared the same year under the same title and became the standard reference book about the cave --for almost two years. Binkerd was replaced by Dr. Forwood in 1870. But Binkerd was not yet finished. In 1888, his new book appeared and was titled: Pictorial Guide to Mammoth Cave.

One of the best all-round Mammoth Cave books ever written was authored by William Stump Forwood, M.D. (1830-1892). Forwood visited the cave in May 1867 and was so engrossed with its rugged charms that he spent the next two years in reading



all of the previous literature which he could find on the subject. He mentions more than a dozen different sources in his 1870 book: An Historical and Descriptive Narrative of the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky. This 225 page book was an instant success and replaced all previous books as the standard reference book about the cave. Three printings were sold out within five years. The fourth edition in 1875 includes supplemental material on pages 217-241 which greatly adds to our present knowledge about the cave.

Mammoth Cave continues to attract medical men, and they continue to write about it. During the 1950's, Tremaine Billings, M.D., William Hillman, M.D., and Eugene M. Regen, M.D., of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine reviewed the use made by Dr. Croghan for the treatment of consumption. Their illustrated paper<sup>11</sup> includes a picture of one of the facilities used by the patients seldom pictured elsewhere.<sup>12</sup> The poetic introduction, in the meter and style of Paradise Lost, is by Dr. Billings, who was impressed by the similarities of Croghan's efforts with Milton's poem.

The same subject engaged the attention of Stanley D. Sides, M.D. of Lexington, Kentucky. Articles by Sides on the history of the Flint Ridge cave system have appeared in the Journal of Spelean History. His research into the many facets of Croghan's consumptive experiment culminated in an article which appeared in the Bulletin of the History of Medicine.<sup>9</sup> Unlike the commentaries about the experiment written by Wright, Binkerd and Forwood, this article treats with sympathy the efforts, though unsuccessful, of such doctors as Croghan to relieve human suffering.

Sides and John W. Grover, M.D., of Ft. Thomas, Kentucky, are members of the Cave Research Foundation. Last April these doctors examined with great care some of the more historic passages in Mammoth Cave. The affinity between the cave

and men of the medical profession continues as one of the traditions of Mammoth Cave.

And it is not just those doctors from the midwest and the east who come to Mammoth Cave. The attraction has extended westward across America. In 1963 William R. Halliday, M.D., of Seattle, Washington made his first visit to Mammoth Cave. This was in the nature of a pilgrimage; for he had long been one of the most prolific of spelean authors. Since then, one of his major books and other shorter works have portrayed the cave to his many readers.<sup>13</sup>

Eugene H. Conner, M.D., of the University of Louisville School of Medicine is a recognized medical historian. Introduced to Mammoth Cave via Dr. John Croghan (the Louisville physician of 150 years ago), Conner has made valuable contributions to the literature of the cave.<sup>14</sup> His research goes far beyond his published works, and his help with the preparation of this paper is gratefully acknowledged.

The history and literature of Mammoth Cave down through the years has been enriched manyfold by the Medics at Mammoth Cave.

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A newspaper clipping (no name, no date) at the Kentucky Library, Bowling Green, Ky., reports: "The first physicians (in Bowling Green) were Drs. Hall, Slaughter, and Martin."
3. The newspaper story was recently found by Ernst H. Kasting. Journal of Spelean History, 1970, Vol. 3, pp. 47-51, 59-61.  
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on Mammoth Cave, Kentucky

Harold Meloy  
August, 1972

THE CARTOGRAPHY OF BETHLEHEM CAVE, S.D.  
with a historical gazetteer

Gerald Forney

Bethlehem Cave, located about twenty miles northwest of Rapid City, is one of the largest caves in the Black Hills. The cave was discovered in 1885 and operated commercially as Crystal Cave from 1891 to 1952. In that year, the owner Loui Storm donated the cave and the surrounding land to the Benedictine Fathers of Conception Abbey, Missouri. The natural entrance to the cave was converted into a Shrine of the Nativity and the cave was renamed Bethlehem. It is still open to the public.

In 1968, Henrisey and Forney described the geologic development of Bethlehem Cave, while Forney (1968) recounted the cave's colorful history. Although Todd (1894) mentioned Crystal Cave in the initial Bulletin of the South Dakota Geological Survey, the first description of the cave was by Louella Agnes Owen (1897, 1898). She spent two days in Crystal Cave and devoted two chapters of Cave Regions of the Ozarks and Black Hills to her visit. In 1904, Edmund Otis Hovey, Horace Hovey's only son, visited Crystal Cave and described some of its geologic features.

C.C. O'Harra, the President of the South Dakota School of Mines, described a 1915 school trip to the cave. He listed many names of rooms and features in the cave that he apparently took directly from Owen's book. At that time, one of the requirements for a bachelor's degree in geological engineering at the School of Mines was to map a mine. One of the students, J. Harlan Johnson, now Emeritus Professor of Geology at the Colorado School of Mines, chose to map a cave, Crystal Cave, instead. In 1919, he wrote a thesis entitled "A description of Crystal Cave" that included a cave map showing about 9,000 feet of passage.

Johnson's map is published here for the first time. The plan is crude by modern standards because it gives no indication of passage heights or widths. Individual passages were not mapped, but instead the plan shows trails that run from chamber to chamber and criss-cross major rooms. The map shows the entire known extent of the cave and is still the only available map of the cave's undeveloped regions.

The commercial sections of Bethlehem Cave comprise much of the lower half of the map south of the Notre Dame. Although the rest of the cave is very attractive with calcite crystal-covered walls and areas of flowstone and dripstone, it is rarely visited. This version of Johnson's map has been redrafted and it incorporates corrections and additions made by Father Gilbert Stack OSB in 1959 and by Brother Hilary Henrisey OSB in 1964. However the scale on the map should read 1" = 128" rather than 1" = 53". There is one conspicuous error. The passage marked "Lakes Region" should be attached to the passage immediately north of the Bridal Veil.

In addition to his unpublished bachelor's thesis, Johnson wrote two articles on the mineralogy of Crystal Cave (1919b, 1920). He also briefly described the cave in a general article on the caves of the Black Hills (Johnson and Snyder, 1920).

A second map of Crystal Cave was surveyed on December 5, 1930 by parties unknown. The map is only a transit line and it also shows no passage heights or widths. The map covers only the area between the artificial entrance and the Lake Room which is a large part of the commercial route. The transit survey does permit an accurate determination of the depth of the cave and it shows that the Lake Room is 140 feet below the artificial entrance. In the early 1960's, this map was printed and distributed by the Shrine of the Nativity with the legend: "Plat showing traverse in portion of Bethlehem Cave."

In 1940, Frank Neighbor wrote a master's thesis for the University of Colorado on the caves of the Black Hills. During his 1938 field work he made a modern-style compass and tape survey of the commercial part of Crystal Cave. Neighbor's map (1940) has been widely reprinted in N.S.S. publications including the 1962 Convention Guidebook and Henrisey and Forney (1968).

None of these three maps is really adequate by modern standards. Further Klondike and Klondike, two sections of Bethlehem Cave shown on Johnson's map have not been visited or relocated for many years. There is also some potential for new passage like the Canadian Room which was discovered during the early 1960's. Father Gilbert Stack, OSB would welcome a serious group interested in mapping the cave.

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(The writer thanks Mr. Gregory T. Wood for photographing and reproducing the map.)

\* \* \* \* \*

### HISTORICAL GAZETTEER

This gazetteer is designed to accompany J.H. Johnson's (1919a) map of Bethlehem Cave. The letter "O" with a page number refers to names of rooms and features mentioned by Owen (1898), while "J" refers to features described in Johnson's thesis. The features that appear on the accompanying map are denoted with an asterisk (\*). It is possible to reconstruct Miss Owen's trips through Crystal Cave by using her book in concert with this gazetteer and the Johnson map. Modern names added to the map since Johnson's work include Bethany Cave, Canadian Room, Columban Cave, Devil's Pit, Duck's Nest, St. Benedict Grotto, Shrine of the Nativity and Sonora Room. A few of the features that Owen mentioned have not been relocated, but most of them could be found in a careful remapping of the cave. Many of the names given in Owen (1898) are listed without any description by O'Harra (1915).

Abode of the Fairies (O:189). Chamber containing Tower of Babel.

Altar (O:184). Same as Russian Cathedral.

Baked Beans\* (J:8)

Beaver's Slide. (O:183). From Statuary Hall to the Catacombs.

Big Dome. (O:182). Shark's Pit at head of Rip Van Winkle's Stairway.

Big Lake\*. (J:6). "The end of the route as usually travelled."

Bridal Chamber. (O:181). Probably President's Chamber at entrance to Fat Man's Misery\*. "The way out is decidedly more rough and difficult than that by which entrance is effected."

Bridal Veil\*. (O:187, J:6).

Bunker Hill\*. (O:182, J:7). North end of Poverty Flat\*.

Butcher's Parlor\* (J:5).  
 Butcher's Shop\* (J:5).  
 Cactus Chamber (O:183). May be Slab Rooms\*.  
 Catacombs (O:193).  
 Cathedral\* (J:8).  
 Chimes\* (O:188, J:6).  
 Coffin's Gallery (J:7). Between Notre Dame\* and Devil's Pit\*.  
 Council Chamber (O:184). ditto.  
 Crystal Flat (O:186). Red Flat\*.  
 Crystal Lake (O:187). Big Lake\*.  
 Dry Lake (O:187). Dry Lake not shown on map, but in Lakes Region.  
 Eagle (J:6, 7). At head of Rip Van Winkle's Stairway\*.  
 Fat Man's Misery\*. (O:182, J:5). O: "Leads from Bridal Chamber to Big Room."  
 First Water\* (J:6).  
 Frozen River (J:6). Near Bridal Veil\*.  
 Further Klondike (J:9). Also called Lower Klondike.  
 Government Room (O:190). "On the main tourist route".  
 Gunny Sack Crawl (O:186). Between First Water and Cracker Jack.  
 Gypsy Camp (O:185). First Water\*.  
 IXL Room (O:183). Beyond Rocky Run.  
 Jack Frost Streak (O:190). Between Slab Room and Mold Ladder.  
 Klondike\* (J:9).  
 Lake Room (O:186). Lakes Region\*. (Improperly placed on Johnson's map.)  
 Lion's Den (J:6). South of Red Flat.  
 Lost Man's Paradise (O:181). Alcove off President's Chamber.  
 Mold Chamber (O:190).  
 Mole Ladder (J:8). Between Gargoyle Hall\* and Diamond Fields\*.  
 Moonlight (J:7). Room at base of Bunker Hill\*.

Needle's Eye (O:183, J:8). Passage NW of Bunker Hill\* that goes to Gargoyle Hall\*.

New Zealand (O:190).

Niagara Room (O:201).

Notre Dame\* (O:184, J:7). Named for "famous old cathedral in France".

Poverty Flat (O:182). Poverty Flats\* (J:5).

Pyramid Rock (O:182). At base of Bunker Hill\*.

Rainy Chamber (O:198). Diamond Fields\*?

Rams Horn (J:5). In St. Benedict's Grotto\*.

Rebecca's Well. (O:193). Not Rebecca's Well\* (J:6).

Red Flats\* (J:6).

Red Room (O:184). Between St. Benedict's Grotto\* and Fat Man's Misery\*.

Reef Rock (O:182). Large rock at south end of Poverty Flats\*.

Resting Room (O:180). Shrine of the Nativity\*.

Ribbon Room\* (J:8).

Rip Van Winkle's Stairway\* (O:185, J:5).

Rocky Run (O:183, J:7). Runs north of Bunker Hill\* to SE end Gargoyle Hall\*.

Russian Cathedral (O:184). South of Notre Dame\*.

Santa Claus' Pass (O:190). Discovered on Christmas Eve.

Senate Chamber (O:197). "A large room extending to Poverty Flat".

Senate Post Office (O:197). "An extension of the Senate Chamber."

Slab Room (O:189). Slab Rooms\* (J:8). On route between Gargoyle Hall\* and Diamond Fields\*.

Spearfish Slide (J:6). Entrance to Lion's Den at south end of Red Flats.

Starr Chamber (O:197). Adjacent to Senate Chamber.

Statuary Hall (O:183). Gargoyle Hall\*.

Suicide Room (O:197). Adjacent to Starr Chamber.

Suspension Bridge (O:193).

Tilotson Hall (O:184). North of Notre Dame. (continued on page ).



## ABSTRACTS

### 1972 SPELEAN HISTORY SESSION OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY CONVENTION

Friday August 18, 1972, White Salmon, Washington. John Bridge, Chairman.

#### The history and exploration of Wyandotte Cave.

George F. Jackson

Wyandotte Cave is one of the oldest commercial caves in the United States and was, during the 19th Century, one of the most publicized. As a result, many legends, fascinating stories, "wild tales" and true experiences about it have evolved. It was purchased from the Government in 1819 by Peter Rothrock and remained in the family until it was sold to the state of Indiana in 1966.

Thousands of trips into the cave as a guide and explorer and a long association with the Rothrock family have enabled me to acquire a knowledge of the cavern, its exploration and its history that is not equalled by anyone else now alive.

Details of the authentic history and exploration of Wyandotte are presented.

\* \* \*

#### Decorah's definitive ice cave.

James Hedges

The Decorah Ice Cave is the largest glaciere in eastern North America. While the exact date of its discovery is unknown, the cave has figured prominently in the literature on glacières since 1870 and at one time, during the last quarter of the 19th Century, enjoyed an international reputation.

Ice deposits underground were the subject of much speculation from 1592, when the Glaciere de Chaux-les-Passavant, France, first was described in print, until 1898. In the latter year, Alois F. Kovarik, a member of the faculty of the Decorah Institute, Decorah, Iowa published the results of an extended series of meteorological observations at the Decorah Ice Cave which clarified the mechanics of pit glacières and rationalized the seemingly incongruous features of such caves. The endorsement of Kovarik's work by E.S. Balch in his monumental "Glacières, or Freezing Caverns" (1900) assured its acceptance and established the Decorah Ice Cave as the type example of pit glaciere in North America.

The Decorah Ice Cave was developed and shown to tourists by Stanley Scarvie during the 1930's. Despite its scientific importance, however, the cave is too small to support a commercial venture in a day when larger and more spectacular attractions are easily accessible. The cave now is included in the City of Decorah Park system and, although described in many regional tourist handbooks, seems largely to have been forgotten.

Medics at Mammoth Cave.

Harold Meloy

Medical men have made outstanding contributions to the history and literature of Mammoth Cave for more than 150 years. Dr. Croghan who owned the cave during the 1840's developed it into a major tourist attraction. Bird, Wright, Binkerd, Forwood and Call wrote books about it. Gaither, Mitchell and Locke added to its history and legend. Contemporary physicians who visit and write about it continue the tradition of medics at Mammoth Cave.

\* \* \*

The finger of geology - the search for Lester Howe's Garden of Eden during the late 1920's and early 1930's.

Ernst H. Kastning and Marjorie F. Kastning

Lester Howe discovered Howe's Cave, now known as Howe Caverns, in 1842. News of this discovery spread and people came to visit Schoharie County, New York and the new natural wonder. The popularity of the cave increased, but Howe later relinquished control of the cave to the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad. Embittered by this event and the continued success of the cave as a tourist attraction, he retreated to his farm, which he had named the Garden of Eden, and became a recluse. It was during his hermitage that he was heard to say that he discovered a bigger and better cave, but in light of his misfortune in the Howe's Cave venture, he chose not to reveal its location, lest someone take advantage of him once more. He supposedly died without revealing the cave's location or whether his story was indeed true.

During the late 1920's and early 1930's, a local group including Arthur H. Van Voris and Col. Edward A. Rew of Schoharie County were exploring caves in the area when they chanced upon early accounts of Howe's secret. They eagerly sought his Garden of Eden cave and believed they found it. The cave they found and the reasons for supposing it to be the Garden of Eden have recently come to light.

\* \* \*

Meramec Caverns - 250 years of history. Part I: 1720-1874.

Dwight Weaver

Meramec Caverns is Missouri's most prominent commercial cave and one of the nation's most celebrated attractions of its type. Large, lengthy, and unusually well decorated for a Missouri cave, it is located south of St. Louis about 60 miles along I-44 at Stanton, Missouri. Situated in Franklin County and just outside the borders of Meramec State Park, the cave is along the banks of the Meramec River. It has been open to the public since 1935. In this paper the history of the cave from their 18th Century discovery until their supposed visit by Jesse James in 1874 is discussed.

\* \* \*

Caves and philately.

William R. Halliday

Beginning with Cuba's Bellamar Caves stamp, several nations have pictured caves on postage stamps. Besides scenic views, artistic and religious motifs exist. A variety of covers, maximum cards, cachets, postmarks and other philatelic items are of interest to the speleologist.

WHAT CAVE IS THIS? DEPARTMENT - item submitted by  
Chuck Pease

CAVERN IN THE HIMALEH MOUNTAINS

During the last season, as we are informed by a Bramin, some Hindoo travellers having ascended the principal Himaleh mountain, which is five miles high, about a quarter of that distance, stopped to rest on the spur which juts out toward the west. There, while walking about, our informant states that he discovered a subterranean aperture, which proved, on inspection, to be 20 feet high, and 16 wide, all of the finest marble, and within was a capacious and perfectly hemispherical apartment, about 300 feet high. He now returned to his companions, who all agreed to explore the subterranean cavern after procuring suitable articles from a village 8 miles distant.

Next day they entered the cavern, and proceeding east 200 yards, entered another as large as the first. They travelled nearly three miles across this, with a gentle ascent and entered another, in which after 5 miles' travel, they discovered a gentle current of water, nearly 29 feet wide, and 2 deep, running over solid rock. After following the stream for a mile, they came to entire skeletons of men and animals, and after examining them, they judged it best to return to the mouth of the cavern, and procure horses.

Two days afterward, they aat out again; the noise of the horses' hoofs was re-echoed like thunder in the first cavern; in the second, it was much louder, and in the third, it was so deafening that they durst only continue at a very slow pace; and crossing the brook, at about 13 miles from the entrance, they came to a fourth cavern, where they left their horses, and proceded, barefoot, on account of the echo. They had probably reached some local point, when their whispers to each other had a loud, strange and terrifick sound, and a little after, the sneezing of one of the horses, resounded through the immense vault, and made the party, by its effects, beware of proceding farther. They returned again to the external world; but they have made some wonderful discoveries, which they will publish.

(Calcutta Gazette)

(From The Family Magazine, Volume 1, no. 11, April, 1837, p. 437)

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CALL FOR CONVENTION PAPERS

Harold Meloy, chairman of the History Session of the 1973 N.S.S. Convention to be held at Bloomington, Indiana, has issued a call for papers for that meeting. Suggested maximum reading time 15 minutes. Titles and abstracts should be submitted as soon as possible to him at P.O. Box 454, Shelbyville, Indiana, 46176, but not later than April 1, 1973. This convention will be held June 16-24 at Indiana University. The annual meeting of the American Spelean History Association will be held the same day as the History Session, with Dr. John F. Bridge, President, presiding.

THREE NEW BOOKS ON THE KENTUCKY RED RIVER COUNTRY

The Red River Gorge region of the Cumberland Mountains in eastern Kentucky is a karst area with a rich historical past. The geologic structure is very similar to other Kentucky karst areas although known and explored caves are few in number. The exceptional number of natural bridges in the Cumberland Mountains give the area special interest to cavers.

The unforseen wilderness: an essay on Kentucky's Red River Gorge, by Wendell Berry and Gene Meatyard, University of Kentucky Press, Lexington, Kentucky, 1971. pp. 145 with 50 full-page B&W photos. It is difficult to describe this book. If you have never visited the area you will fall in love with the place after reading the book. It is a reasoned, constructive argument for not flooding the gorge with the proposed dam, a description of several hikes and canoe trips in the gorge, a brief description of the history of the gorge and much more. A beautiful book at an unbelievable bargain price of \$6.95. If you have never visited the area it is helpful to order the Forest Service folder on the gorge. No maps are included in the book and references to highways and portions of the gorge familiar to us "locals" may be confusing. Order the free folder:

Scenic Red River Gorge: land of natural bridges. Daniel Boone National Forest, Kentucky, USDA, Forest Service, Southern Region, from:

District Ranger  
U.S. Forest Service  
Stanton, Kentucky 40380.

Natural Bridge in the Kentucky Mountains on the line of the Lexington and Eastern Railway: being an illustrated description of this wonderful natural formation and its historical surroundings. Reprinted July 1970 by the Red River Historical Society and Museum, Clay City, Kentucky. Plastic binding, 62 pp with approximately 50 photographs. Price \$3.00 plus postage. Originally published in 1900 this booklet was designed to attract business and tourists to the region served by the short-lived L & E Railroad. The pictures are excellently reproduced, being at least as good as the original booklet. Much historical material is presented, many photos of presently non-existent towns are included. Particularly interesting are the photos of Natural Bridge and its environs, the 200-foot high Torrent Falls, and other scenic attractions. Comparisons with present-day conditions show how man's destructive influence has changed these sites and what 70 years of regrowth has done to repair the damage. A very interesting and worthwhile booklet. Unfortunately the Red River Historical Society, being strongly dependent on the Powell County Chamber of Commerce for financial support, is one of the strongest local voices supporting the Corps of Engineers dam project. After reading The Unforseen Wilderness you will understand more about this sort of paradox.

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Gazetteer of Bethlehem Cave (continued)

Tower of Babel\* (J:6). "Resembles the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa".

Whale\* (J:6).

Works (O:186). Cracker Jack\*.

World's Fair Grounds\* (J:8).

Recent cave book auction prices - the Reardon collection

2. AMCS Bulletin 1 - \$12.25.
3. Int. J. Speleol. V. 1-3 - \$16.00.
5. 1959 Speleodigest - \$16.00.
11. Speleodigest 1966 - \$5.20.
13. Wyandotte Cave (Jackson) - \$5.20.
14. Hovey's Celebrated American Caverns - rebound - \$24.75.
15. Hovey & Call's Mammoth Cave "Illustrated Manual" - softbound - \$6.35.
23. British Caving 1st Edition - \$5.10.
25. Bailey's Cave life of Kentucky - \$10.00.
32. Cudjo's Cave (fiction) - \$4.70.
34. Grottes de Roumanie - \$10.50.
37. Underground Empire (original) - \$10.50.
39. Cave Studies - \$3.05.
45. New England's Buried Treasure - \$10.50.
50. 1955 ed. Caverns of West Virginia - \$10.00.
56. Mendip - swallet caves etc. \$3.10.
59. One man's dream - \$4.35.
60. Complete book of cave exploration - \$1.70. #78 - \$2.00.
68. Subterranean climbers - \$3.10.
70. 1st Ed. Gypsum Cave, bound - \$15.05.
82. McGill's Caverns of Virginia - \$10.15.
86. Hill caves of Yucatan - \$41.85.
89. Dwight Deal's thesis on Jewel Cave - \$17.00.
101. Ten years under the earth - \$2.10.
129. NSS Bulletins 9-14 - \$15.75.
130. ibid, 15-20 - same.
135. Animal life of the Carlsbad Caverns - \$10.15.

## COLLOQUY

By the time this issue reaches its readers, the November 30 announcement of the connection between Mammoth Cave and the Flint Ridge system will be history. Yr editor was most pleased to be at the earlier CRF meeting at which the informal announcement was made and at the informal celebrations the previous evening at which all kinds of sidelights came up - seems quite a few people had gone varying distances into Hanson's key passage off Echo River - Tom Paulson perhaps most recently.

When I left to catch a plane, Gordon Smith - Mr. Joppa Ridge - was still having fun tweaking the tails of the Flint Ridge group who were trying to use "Flint Ridge-Mammoth Cave system" or "Mammoth Cave-Flint Ridge system". Gordon was insisting on "Flimmoth Cave" or even "Mint Cave".

And at the risk of making EVERYBODY mad at me, I'm going to hold out for the idea that it's all Mammoth Cave now. Except Lee Cave - for a while.

What's more, I'm going to stick my neck out and predict that this won't be the only connection. Even if the Brownsville Dam never springs a leak which should open up at least one more.

Stan Sides writes that Ellis Jones had an article in the University of Kentucky student newspaper, indicating that he, Floyd Collins and some others had achieved a connection in 1924. No details as we go to press.

Several Mammoth Cave buffs ordered extra copies of Louisville and local newspapers for November 30 and December 1. Gordon Smith reports that the Cave City Progress account was the best one. Probably so, since mine apparently got lost in the mail. Anybody have an extra one?

\* \* \* \*

At least two of the next set of Johnson Reprint Company cave classic reprints are well along. Harold Meloy has done an excellent introduction to Rambles in the Mammoth Cave, including considerable new information in his usual scholarly style. Roger Brucker's introduction to the reprint of The Caves Beyond contains perhaps even more new information, exciting rather than scholarly. He doesn't quite tell all the previously unspoken, but it's going to be as worth waiting for as Harold's.

\* \* \* \*

Another book note - after almost four years of work, yr editor's book has gone to Harper and Row and as this issue goes to press, I'm waiting to see if they like the tentative title, and if they want it cut as they did my last.

\* \* \* \*

A recent N.S.S. monthly mailing brought the news of the passing of A.C. Stebbins, son of Luray co-discoverer Benton Stebbins and long a quiet, unassuming N.S.S. member. Am trying to get an obituary for the next issue.

Word comes of the creation of the Jenolan Caves Historical and Preservation Society, formed at Australia's famous Jenolan Caves July 8, 1972. "Mr. H.G. Coates, M.L.A. (Member, Legislative Assembly) for the Blue Mountains was elected Patron and Ben Nurse was elected President. The first public meeting of the Society was to be held in the Ballroom of Caves House at 8:45 PM Saturday August 19. Address of the new historical society is c/o Post Office, Jenolan Caves, N.S.W., Australia 2786. Dues for 1972-73 are \$5.00. G.J. Middleton is Hon. Secretary. ASHA member Ross Ellis (a member of its executive committee) wonders if this is the first historical society formed at a cave area.

\* \* \* \*

Chuck Porter suggests (properly) that I mention the frequency of important speleohistorical articles in The Northeastern Caver - \$4.00 to that publication at 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, N.Y. 12222. Volume One and Two thereof are again available as a result of reprinting due to heavy demand.

\* \* \* \*

Beware of photocopying copyrighted materials. According to The Citation, Williams and Wilkins Company (publishers) won a suit against the libraries of the National Institutes of Health and the National Library of Medicine which had xeroxed or otherwise photocopied copyrighted material on which Williams and Wilkins held the copyright. It seems unlikely that anybody is likely to object to a few pages, but for more, the handwriting appears to be on the xerox machine.

\* \* \* \*

Stuart Sprague writes that he is working on the early history of Luray Cavern and hopes to have a JSH article fairly soon.

\* \* \* \*

Two important new cave publications are now available from the Tennessee Division of Geology (G-5, State Office Building, Nashville, Tenn. 37219). One is a hard-bound edition of Tom Barr's Caves of Tennessee. The other is Larry Matthews' Descriptions of Tennessee Caves, which is designed to bring Barr's book up to date, with the omission of a number of crucial caves.

Larry, incidentally, has permitted yr editor to see some letters from a member of the N.S.S. Board of Governors to the Tennessee Division of Geology attacking the latter publication. Most readers will find the book a significant contribution to speleology and geology (obviously, or the Division of Mines wouldn't have published it). Unfortunately, the letters are a disgrace to speleology. The NSS Board should disavow them.

\* \* \* \*

European Book Company (925 Larkin St., San Francisco, Calif., 94109) has available paperback French-language editions of Jules Verne's Journey to the Center of the Earth containing reprints of the original illustrations. \$1.25 I think.

263

Bob Wainscott (Rt. 1, Newcastle, Ky., 40050) is working on the history of Indian (Osceola) Cave in the Mammoth Cave karstlands, and would appreciate any information anyone can send.

\* \* \* \*

Other classics in speleology being reprinted by or under consideration by Johnson Reprint Company are "The Hills Caves of Yucatan" and "The Mammoth Cave and its denizens". Will White is understood to be doing an introduction to a volume including several key speleogenetic papers. Red Watson, editor for the series, is doing God knows what on a balmy Greek isle - unfortunately not Antiparos, site of the first celebrated stalactite cave.

\* \* \* \*

Steve Knutson has sent a nice short item on Oregon Cave which I hope to include in the next issue. A bit more authentic than the legend on the reverse of a stereo view I recently acquired (Keystone 9587, copyrighted 1899: Great Oregon Caves, Old Nick's Bedroom, Oregon, U.S.A., near the S.P. R.R.:

"The Great Oregon Caves are situated in Josephine County, Oregon, near the California line, and perhaps underlie a portion of Northern California. They are 40 miles from the S.P.R.R. and six miles from the nearest wagon road. They consist of innumerable rooms, most of them small, but very beautiful, and a series of caverns the tops of which are too high to be seen by the aid of the candles and lanterns carried by tourists; and some of them so deep that a stone dropped into them vanishes into darkness giving back no sound as of reaching the bottom. On all sides of the hole can be seen hundreds of unexplored caverns. Though much time has been spent in exploring these caves, no one knows their extent. No lakes of any size have been discovered, but a considerable stream of water flows from the lower caves, and this may be the outlet of a large subterranean lake, but it has never been explored to its source." !!!

\* \* \* \*

The South Dakota Historical Society (Memorial Building, Pierre, S.D., 57501) has available the following reference sources on Wind Cave: South Dakota Historical Collections, \$7.50; "The mazes and marvels of Wind Cave", ca. 1901, xerox \$3.00; several early government reports available in xerox. Mrs. Bonnie Gardner, Research Associate, kindly mentions also the availability at Wind Cave National Park of John A. Tyers' The natural history story of Wind Cave National Park.

\* \* \* \*

When and why was Grand Caverns (ex-Weyer's Cave) called Amen's Cave?

\* \* \* \*

Jim Hedges and yr editor recently reluctantly turned down a copy of "An account of Knoepfel's Schoharie Cave", N.Y., 1853, 16 pp, two fold-out woodcuts etc. The reason? \$125.00 price.



## SPELEOMEMORABILIA EXCHANGE

Chuck Pease (766 33rd Ave. B. NE, Great Falls, Montana) and Jim Quinlan (1275 Elgin St., #904, Burlington, Ont., Canada) are vigorously seeking stereo views. Probably others, also, but I haven't heard recently.

Doug Rhodes has opened a new cavers' book service, appropriately named Speleobooks. Address: 2909 Tahiti St. NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico. He has a printed list, and expects to be publishing an up-to-date version of this department much more frequently than JSH can do. Wants Caves Beyond.

Cave Information Service (c/o Doug Love, Box 643, Bloomington, Indiana) has available "Caves of the Garrison Chapel Area" and is planning two more such publications. The first is on an area with large caves of historical import, the other on an area north of Bloomington where the Mitchell karstland meets the Glacial Boundary.

Pete Hauer (127 S. 27th St., Harrisburg, Penna. 17103) has a new 62-item list of material for sale and/or trade - he's concentrating on Virginia-West Virginia-Maryland-Pennsylvania and disposing of some outstanding material like "Moors, crags and caves of the High Peak". Several Waldach stereo views included, and Ben Hains and Ray V. Davis.

George Huppert (623 So. Jefferson, Moscow, Idaho, 83843), wants NSS Bulletins 7, 8, 14, 15 and 24 part I. Also NSS News V. 19 #4, Vol. 20 (most), Vol. 21 #2, 6).

Jack Speece (Rd. 4, Box 352, Lewistown, Penna. 17044) is concentrating on grotto and similar publications - trade, buy, sell.

Yr editor has had duplicates piling up, but no time to make up a new list. May have one by the time this reaches the readers - send a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Our indefatigable, avid British bookman, Tony Oldham (17 Freemantle Road, Eastville, Bristol BS56SY, England) continues to issue one or two lists of books monthly, with real gems almost ever y month.

No recent list but a nice letter from Ed Taylor (139 Main Entrance Drive, Pittsburgh, Penna.) indicates a good current stock also.

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Closing note for 1972 - reprint from the  
Portland (Oregon) Evening Telegram

### BLIND FISH

The biggest cavern is the Mammoth Cave, Kentucky. The Echo River traverses one of its branches and blind fish are found in its waters. The biggest thing - or rather the greatest blessing - ever vouchsafed for persons south, east, north and west, was the introduction years ago, of Dr. Tutt's Liver Pills. "I've used them with very great success", says Jesse Devalo, 174 Barnum Street. "Dese small, easy to take".

October 4, 1890, p.3, c.6.