

REV. MARCH 1965 APRIL 1958 NP-MC-17012

ADMINISTRATION

Mammoth Cave National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Mammoth Cave National Park, Mammoth Cave, Ky., 42259, is in immediate charge. Send your questions or comments to him.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR—The Nation's principal natural resource agency—bears a special obligation to assure that our expendable resources are conserved, that renewable resources are managed to produce optimum benefits, and that all resources contribute to the progress and prosperity of the United States, now and in the future.

NOTE: There are many privately owned caves in the vicinity of Mammoth Cave National Park. You are not inside the park until you have passed the official entrance sign reading MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK. Cave trips are variously priced; information is available at the visitor center.

Cover photograph: Historic Entrance.



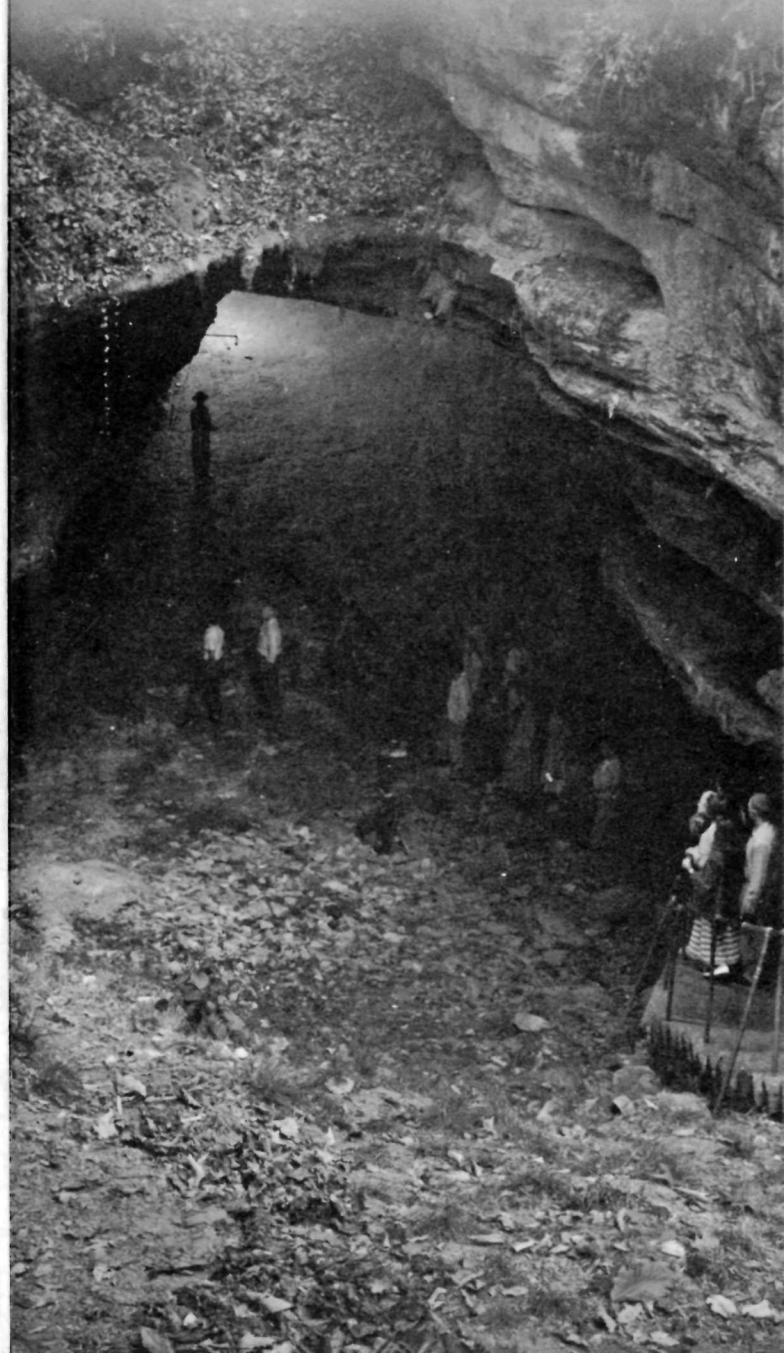
**United States
Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**



Revised 1965 U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1965 OF-774-245
For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402 - Price 15 cents

Mammoth Cave

NATIONAL PARK • KENTUCKY





Little Sooty Bats

More than 150 years ago tourists came from many parts of the world to see "the greatest cave that ever was." You and your family can now inspect its mineral deposits and enjoy its underground passages. These passages have inspired thousands of visitors before you. It is hoped that your visit will be a memorable experience.

You will enjoy your cave trips and your stay in the park much more if you take the time to read this booklet soon after you arrive. Reading time is only 20 minutes. We suggest, therefore, that you have a seat in the visitor center, your room, or your camp and invest the few minutes in this short narrative.

This booklet will give you many interesting highlights in both natural and human history. In just a few minutes you will learn how the cave was formed, who first discovered it, how it helped to win a war, and what animals live deep within its corridors. You will also discover how the area became a National Park and how park personnel protect and maintain it so that you may share its inspiring story with past and future generations.

LEARNING ABOUT THE PARK

THE VISITOR CENTER is the logical starting point of your visit. You will enjoy your excursions, both underground and on the surface, infinitely more if you understand what you are seeing.

An orientation program of color slides and narration is presented in the auditorium. The 14-minute program is designed to help you decide which of the varied cave trips to take.

There is also a large exhibit room in the visitor center where many exhibits explain in detail how the cave was formed, the why and how of cave deposits, the story of the prehistoric Indian in the area, white man's history, and the plants and animals in and out of the cave. The short time spent in looking at these exhibits, either before or after your cave trip, may well prove to be the most valuable part of your visit to the park.

THE AMPHITHEATER is the center of activity as soon as darkness comes. There, each evening during the summer, a park naturalist, using color slides for illustration, unfolds a chapter of the park story.

THE TRAILS will lead you on leisurely walks over the surface and give you an opportunity to become acquainted with the plants, the birds and other animals, and the surface aspects (sinkholes and other features) of the unique Karst topography that relate to the cave below. The trails are described on page 15.

HOW THE CAVE WAS FORMED

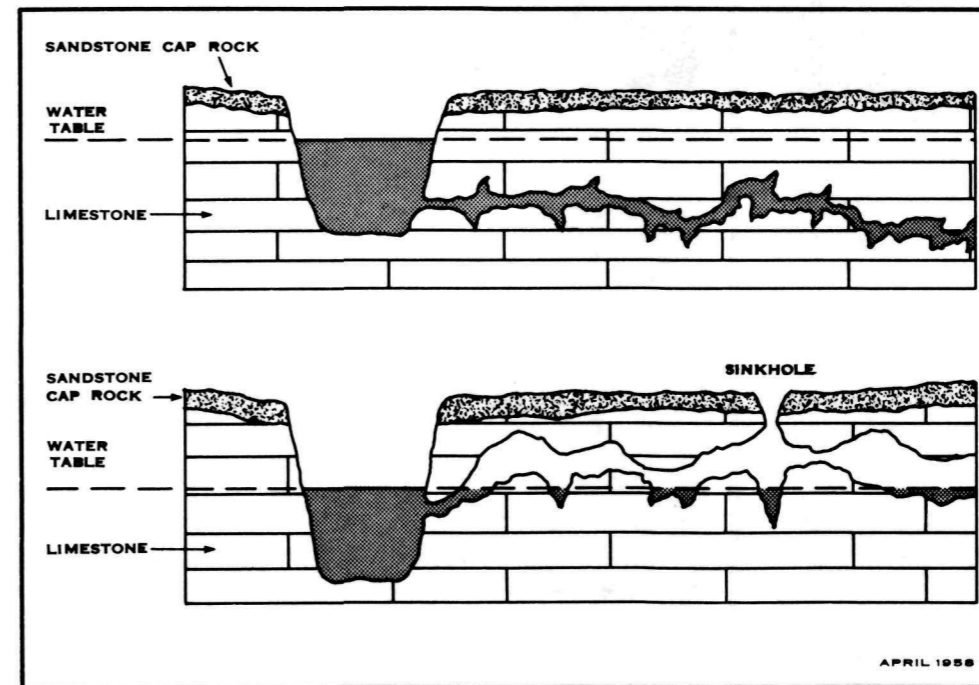
A shallow inland sea covered Kentucky 300 million years ago. Layers of sediments deposited on the bottom of this sea later became sandstone, shale, and limestone. Gradual uplifting of the earth's surface millions of years later drained the sea, exposing the rock layers to weathering and erosion.

An erosion process, called solution, had much to do with forming Mammoth Cave. Water, containing small amounts of carbonic acid, seeped through the limestone and dissolved it to form cave passageways. These passages may be several million years old.

The farmland surrounding Cave City and Park City is often called the Valley of 10,000 Sinks. Instead of draining directly into streams, most rainwater and melted snow in this area goes underground through circular depressions, called sinkholes, made by the solution process.

As the water moves through the underground system, it brings fresh carbonic acid into contact with limestone. The Green River drains Mammoth Cave's underground water. As the river cuts its valley deeper into the rocks, upper passages of the cave are drained. Thus the upper cave levels became dry; some ceilings became higher as rocks forming them fell to the cave floor in an action called breakdown.

Domepits are like huge drainpipes that dissolved vertically as the rainwater seeped from land surface into the caves. Some you see are forming even today.



Thus Mammoth Cave was formed over a period so long that it is difficult for man to imagine. Silently and unseen, working in the huge corridors and passageways, in the mammoth pits and domes, and in the great "rooms," natural forces continue to dissolve new caves and decorate the old.

SPELEOTHEMS (Cave Mineral Deposits)

After the upper parts drained and became air-filled, water continued as an agent in changing the cave's appearance. As water, slightly acid because of its carbon dioxide content, seeped down from the surface, it dissolved some of the limestone. When this solution entered dry passages, water evaporated and limestone was deposited. Thus were formed the intricate patterns of travertine we see today.

TRAVERTINE (dripstone and flowstone) is produced very slowly. It is white in its pure state. However, in the Frozen Niagara section you will notice it sometimes has an orange or brownish cast. This is color added by iron compounds absorbed by the water on its way to the cave. Travertine (sometimes called cave onyx) includes the following:

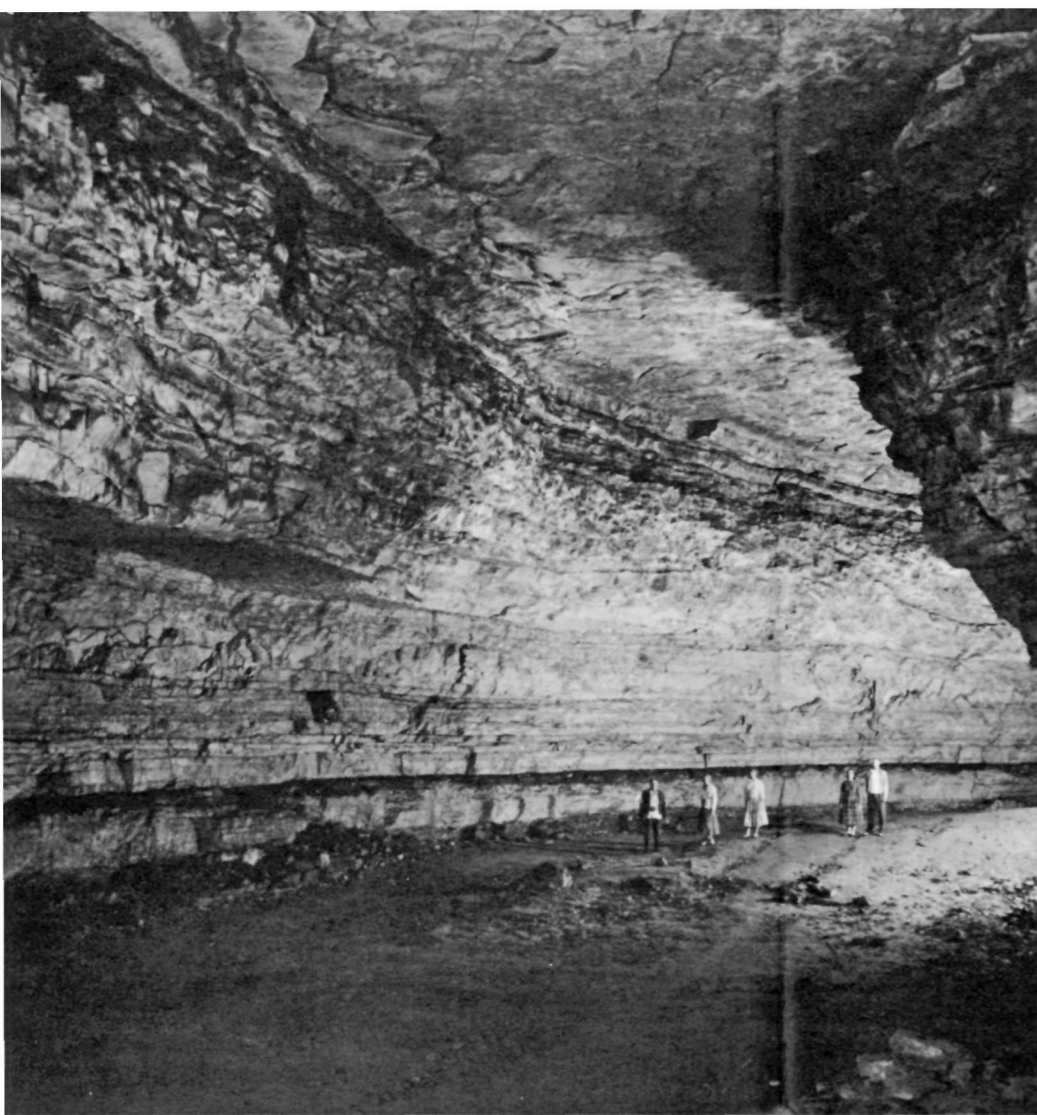
Stalactites—Icicle-like formations "growing" down from the cave ceiling where water enters the passage through cracks.

Stalagmites—Cone-shaped formations building up from the floor where water drips from stalactites directly above.

Columns—Formations resulting when stalactites and their corresponding stalagmites join after long periods of building.

As surface streams eroded through the sandstone-capped hills of the Mammoth Cave region, water entered cracks and crevices of underlying limestone and dissolved out underground waterways (shown in black).

When the water table dropped, some of the passages were drained. These are the caves through which you walk today. The passages that are still filled with water will also eventually be dry, for as the water level of the surface river lowers, that of the underground streams will lower also.



The huge passageways were formed many thousands of years ago.

Draperies—Rows of stalactites that have grown together to form a sheet, or drapery, effect. Draperies are usually formed along cracks in the ceiling.

Flowstone—Formations that result when water flows over rock formations instead of dripping from them. A fine example of flowstone is Frozen Niagara.

GYPSUM forms decorations in the drier sections of the cave. Gypsum crystals develop on rock surfaces of walls and ceilings. During development, they push older growths outward into a variety of shapes. The process may form a crust over an entire wall or ceiling. When the formation is uneven, "blisters," or "snowballs," are produced by pressure from behind. A most beautiful stage is reached when the blister opens into soft, delicate shapes—flowerlike petals, rosettes, and fibrous masses that resemble cotton.

The beauty and variety of Mammoth Cave's deposits have drawn visitors like a magnet since discovery of the cave in 1798. As the latest member of this cavalcade, you have the choice of many cave trips to meet your interests.

PHOTOGRAPHY

In the cave you will need photoflash to get successful pictures. Cave parties are expected to stay together, so there is little opportunity for stops of any length. Light level in the cave is inadequate for motion pictures in color. Retain all burned flashbulbs until you reach a trash can.

On the surface, you will find many photographic subjects. Take your photographic problems to the photo shop in the hotel. Its staff has had much experience in cave photography, and will be glad to advise you.

"ALL OUT FOR THE CAVE"

Before each cave trip, this familiar call comes from the information desk. The number and length of trips vary from summer to winter, with fewer trips scheduled during the winter season (about September 1 to June 1). You can check on the current trips and also buy your tickets at the visitor center.

There is a nominal guide service fee for each trip. Guide fees do not apply to children under 16, but a responsible adult must accompany those under 12. Hold them by the hand and do not permit them to wander off the trail.

The map on pages 10-13 gives you some idea of the length of the trips as well as important trip features. A leaflet available at the information desk also describes these trips. Observing certain precautions can make your cave trips more enjoyable.

The trails are solid and reasonably smooth. In most places even a tall person can walk upright. You will never have to

crawl! Stairways, ascending and descending, make certain trips more strenuous than others, but the pace is easy, with frequent stops for rest.

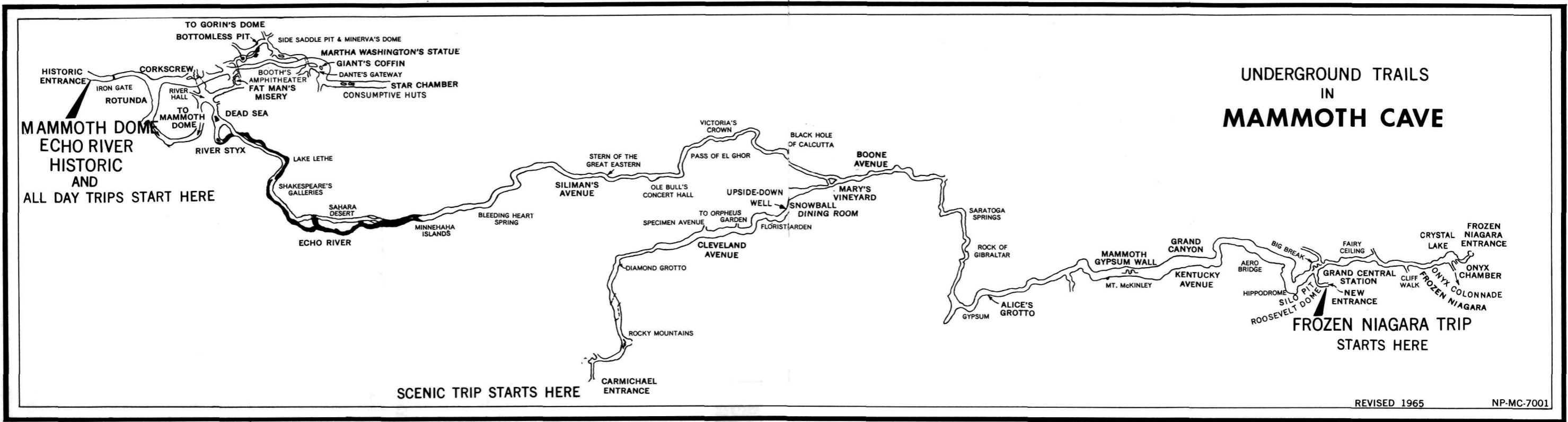
Wear a wrap. We recommend a sweater or a jacket. The cave is a chilly 54° and damp in spots. Slacks are more comfortable than shorts. Low-heeled shoes are a "must" and if they have rubber soles, so much the better.

Finally, have confidence in your park guide, a uniformed employee of the National Park Service. His knowledge of the cave comes from many years of experience.

If you have any doubts about your endurance, or that of your companions, ask for details of each trip at the information desk. This is a good idea in any case. Select an easy trip for a starter—either *Historic* or *Frozen Niagara* makes a good beginner's choice. Choose your trip and join the crowd hurrying down the hill to the Historic Entrance or boarding the bus for the short drive to the New Entrance at the opposite end of the cave. Here you go!

Wooden pipes used in saltpeter operations in War of 1812.





FROZEN NIAGARA (¾ mile—1½ hours). This trip, electrically lighted all the way, starts with a 250-foot descent by stairway from the New Entrance. En route you will look up at Roosevelt Dome, 130 feet high, and down at Silo Pit, 95 feet deep. Distinctive features of Mammoth Cave, such as vertical shafts result from water dripping and coursing downward along the intersections of joints. They are "pits" if you are looking down; "domes" if you are looking up.

Soon you will reach Grand Central Station, where four passages come together. A little farther on is The Big Break, a scene of devastation where long ago the ceiling collapsed, littering the floor with gigantic rocks. Nearby, a ceiling that didn't fall looms overhead. Smooth Ceiling, the most expansive ceiling in the cave, measures 250 feet by 85 feet.

Then, 75-foot-high Frozen Niagara comes into view, the largest known travertine formation in the cave. You will leave Frozen Niagara to look down on Crystal Lake, 60 feet below, and continue on your way to Onyx Colonnade. Here you see an impressive assortment of dripstone formations—stalagmites, stalactites, and columns that are no longer forming. The fragile stalagmites in the adjoining Onyx Chamber display wet and shining surfaces as evidence that they are still growing, and their slender size indicates rapid dripping.

HISTORIC (1½ miles—1½ hours). This is an easy trip starting at the Historic Entrance, the natural entrance to the cave,

featuring parts of the cave shown for more than 100 years. Saltpeter vats of the War of 1812 stand in the Rotunda and also at Booth's Amphitheater. The saltpeter found in the cave was a major source of the nitrate used to make gunpowder during that war. Beyond this you will see Martha Washington's Statue. A little past the Giant's Coffin is the site of the world's first tubercular hospital—with remnants of its two stone buildings still standing. In the Star Chamber, a traditional tableau is recreated with modern lighting.

Indians of long ago went into Mammoth Cave, deeper than they went into any other known cave. On this trip you will hear their story and see artifacts and a mummy 2,000 years old.

ECHO RIVER (3 miles—3 hours). Beginning at Historic Entrance, most of this trip is electrically lighted, but you carry a lantern part of the way. There is some climbing (137 steps in one place) and the trail near the river may be damp.

You'll go down Broadway from the Rotunda to the Giant's Coffin, then turn off to go lower into an area of pits and domes. You will look down into the 105-foot Bottomless Pit. For many years this was the end of the trip; but you'll go farther now and squeeze your way through the winding corridor known as Fat Man's Misery. From River Hall you'll go down to Echo River, 360 feet below the surface, the lowest depths

of the cave open to visitors. The ride in the flat-bottomed boat is impressively mysterious. After returning to River Hall, you will go up through the cave's highest known dome—Mammoth Dome, 192 feet from top to bottom. You will return to the Rotunda by Little Bat and Audubon Avenues, and leave by the Historic Entrance.

On this trip, you will also see the famous blindfish of Mammoth Cave. They were first discovered in Echo River in 1838.

SCENIC TRIP (4½ miles—4½ hours). This rather strenuous but rewarding trip asks nothing more than normal endurance. From Carmichael Entrance, a long flight of steps takes you past a giant rockfall called Rocky Mountains and into Diamond Grotto with its sparkling ceiling of gypsum. Marks left by oil lamps testify to tourist trips through the cave many years ago.

You can rest while lunching in the Snowball Room, where food is brought from the surface by a 267-foot elevator. Gypsum "blisters" on walls and ceiling gave this chamber its name.

Boone Avenue, a winding passage with symmetrically curved walls, is more than 50 feet high in some sections and in many places narrow enough to touch from wall to wall with arms outspread. From these eerily winding channels, you come upon a sparkling display of gypsum flowers and needles. Then you

UNDERGROUND TRAILS IN MAMMOTH CAVE

**FROZEN NIAGARA TRIP
STARTS HERE**

will proceed into Grand Central Station. Thereafter, the route is the same as that of the Frozen Niagara trip.

MAMMOTH DOME (2¼ miles—2 hours). During the winter, this trip replaces the Echo River trip when the river is at flood stage. The two trips are the same except for the passage from River Hall to Echo River and the boat ride.

ALL-DAY TRIP (7 miles—7 hours). This trip takes you the entire length of the cave, from Historic Entrance to Niagara, and incorporates most of the features of the other trips. Although it involves much walking, it follows good trails, and the guide sets a deliberate pace.

A bit of scenery included only in this trip comes at the end of the Echo River boat trip. Instead of turning back, you cross to the opposite side of the river and proceed through corridors that grow increasingly drier and more comfortable. You will see some notable gypsum flower displays. From the tremendous room where violinist Ole Bull was heard in concert in 1851, you continue on to Mary's Vineyard, marked by grape-like clusters of travertine in the ceiling.

Around the next corner you will find it hard to believe that you are still in a cave 267 feet below the surface. In the Snowball Room, you will lunch in the atmosphere of a sidewalk cafe where the "streetlights" glow from lampposts under a sky of gypsum snowballs.

WHAT TO SEE AND DO ON THE SURFACE

SINKHOLES. Many surface features inside and outside the park help to tell the story of how the caves were formed. Most noticeable are the depressions called sinkholes, or "sinks," that pit the rolling Kentucky lowlands along the entrance roads to the park. They are the results of solution and the collapse of cave ceilings.

You can see numbers of sinkholes on Ky. 70 and 255 as you drive through the region. A spectacular example is Cedar Sink located about 4 miles from headquarters. In this large depression, a stream emerges from a cavern, flows on the surface, and is again lost underground.

THE RIVERS. The park's most important stream, Green River, enters the park area from the east. It pursues a winding course across the park for about 25 miles before Nolin River joins it at the western boundary. Along the way, Green River is joined by underground streams, such as Echo River. This active circulation of underground and surface waters is essential to cave forming. The circulation would not be possible if Green River were not there to serve as an outlet. The lowest cave levels are the youngest; the topmost, driest levels are the oldest. As long as the underground waters continue to circulate, new passages will be formed.

THE BOAT TRIP. This trip down Green River and back will rest you if you have spent an active day in the caves. It

Blindfish from the Echo River.



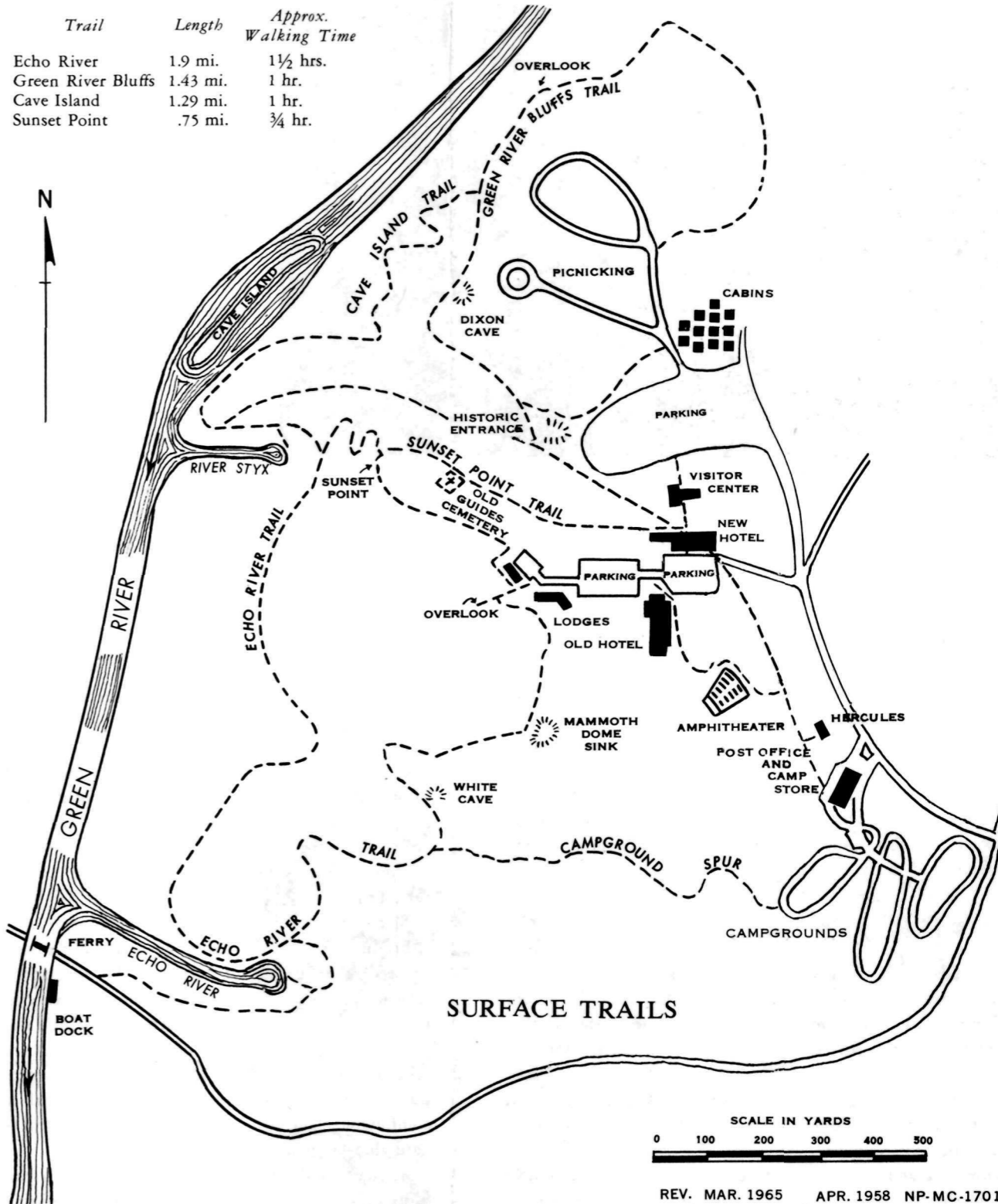
Deer antlers are "in the velvet" in spring.

is particularly beautiful at sunset and refreshingly cool at mid-day, and you will never forget the mysterious quiet of the river on a moonlight cruise. Trips are frequent throughout the day from May to October. The round trip is 12 miles and takes an hour. (Write to M. E. Nash, Cave City, Ky., 42127, for rates and other information.)

THE TRAILS. To help you enjoy the surface features of the park, winding trails have been constructed through the woods and along the river. The trails are most beautiful during spring and autumn, but they are also shady and pleasant in the cool of an early summer morning. For a start, try the self-guiding Cave Island Nature Trail. This 1½-mile trip takes you from the visitor center down past the Historic Entrance to Green River and return. Interpretive stations along the way give information on the many biological and geological features you will see. At one point you will enjoy a splendid view of Green River almost 400 feet below.

ANIMAL LIFE

Blindfish, the first blind cave animals ever studied, are found in Echo River in the depths of Mammoth Cave. They were discovered in 1838; in 1842 the first scientific description of them was written. There are also blind crayfish, shrimp, and other animals. Their characteristics are lack of pigment, absence or degeneration of eyes, and a keen sense of touch.





Surface trails beckon hikers and photographers.

Aboveground, the lush forest provides a home for the white-tail deer. Woodchucks, cottontails, and squirrels are much in evidence near the visitor center; and chipmunks look for hand-outs in the picnic and campground areas. Watch for a lively little lizard, the five-lined skink, by your doorstep.

Kentucky has long been famous for its rich variety of bird-life. Early in the 19th century the famous ornithologist, John James Audubon, was astonished to see great roosts of the passenger pigeon along the Green River. The pigeon is now gone but many kinds of birds will still brighten your visit. The park lists of birds is a long one and includes robins, bluebirds, several thrushes, woodpeckers (including the striking pileated woodpecker), crows, various hawks, both the scarlet and summer tanagers, and many kinds of warblers.

FOREST AND FLOWERS

In midsummer, you will be particularly conscious of the dense hardwood forest that covers much of the park. Oaks and hickories predominate; redcedars and pines are scattered about through the broad-leaved trees. In autumn, there is a long span of colorful foliage in which beech, ash, dogwood, sycamore, sumac, blackgum, and, above all, oak and maple have a part. In spring the white and pink blossoms of dogwood and redbud intermingle.

Flowers that most typically belong to this part of Kentucky are the hepatica, early saxifrage, blue and white violets, spring-beauty, yellow adderstongue, Dutchmans-breeches, cutleaf toothwort, crested blue iris, and butterfly milkweed; these

are the early bloomers. Later look for black-eyed-susan, purple coneflower, ironweed, goldenrod, and closed gentian parading their colors until late autumn.

THE SEASONS

SUMMER. The sultry days of summer may discourage many visitors from hiking in the park, but this is a rewarding time to be about.

It is true that there is a lull between the abundant flowers of spring and the numerous composites of autumn. But it is summer when we find beautiful terrestrial orchids, such as the yellow lady's slipper or the yellow fringed orchid.

Now we may see small spotted fawns following their watchful mothers.

Many birds are busy feeding their young.

Bright swallowtail butterflies flit in and out among the butterflyweed; the buzzing of bees and the constant song of the cicada—or "locust," as so many people have misnamed this insect—at midsummer give evidence of nature's busiest season.

All during the succession of hot summer days you can find relief in the cave or at the Historic Entrance, where cool drafts travel unceasingly outward. Nights in the park are cool and comfortable, and you usually need a sweater at the evening naturalist program.

AUTUMN. Aboveground, the park is in a state of high glory; the rolling hills are a blaze of color, and Green River Valley flames with red, orange, and yellow. The river itself is truly green as it is at no other time of the year. The

birds arriving from the north keep the skies alive with their numbers. On occasion you may hear the resounding honk of the migrating geese. If you hear it, look overhead for their majestic "V" formation winging southward across the autumn sky. On the ground the woodchucks are ceaselessly eating to fatten themselves for their long hibernation. The sumac and blackgum are the first vegetation to change color; maples, oaks, and ash come a few weeks later, as the dogwoods turn a brilliant red. Days are mild and clear; nights, crisp and chilly.

WINTER. As the cave offers relief from heat in summer, it is an equally pleasant place to escape from freezing temperatures in the winter. However, on many winter days, surface temperatures encourage hiking and campfire picnicking.

On the surface are places where, on freezing days, air leaves the cave by cracks and fissures in the ground. Frost forms around these openings where moisture in the warm air from the cave condenses and freezes.

Vistas of the river and valley are never better than in this season, when the view is unobstructed by foliage. You become aware of the scattered evergreens—redcedar and pine—standing out fragrant and green in a brown-toned world.

Occasionally you may see deer on the trails or by the roadsides during the winter. The bird population—robins, cardinals, chickadees, juncos, and crows—is much in evidence.

SPRING. Flowers around the cave mouths are the first sign of this happy season, and hepatica is its chief harbinger, as well as the last flower to disappear in autumn. Look, too, for springbeauty and white cutleaf toothwort—blankets of them—and early saxifrage along the well-traveled path to the Historic Entrance.

Walk through the woods; you will see dogwood and redbud blossoms overlapping the new spring green of hardwood trees.

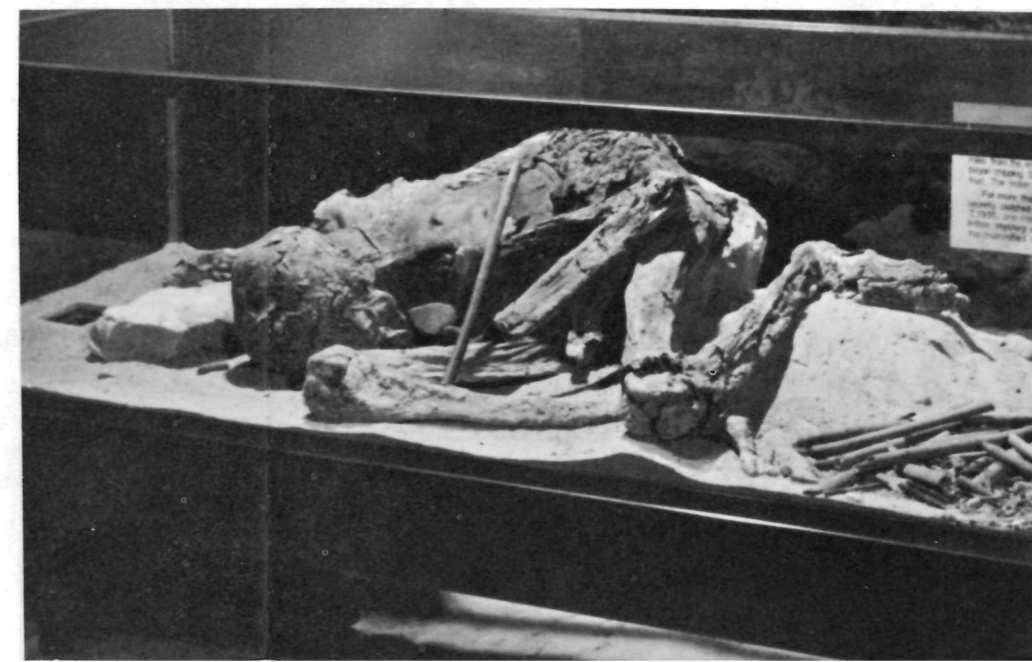
Bird migrants are arriving, the phoebe is seeking nesting sites in the cave entrances, and as many as 16 varieties of nesting warblers will be coming back to the park after their winter's stay farther south. If you go for a stroll, the paths will be filled with melody—from early morning until dusk.

HISTORY

EARLIEST DAYS. About 2,000 years before Europeans came to this continent, Indians lived in the Mammoth Cave area and visited the cave itself. Partly burned torch sticks and other artifacts have been found along the trails. Pottery, gourds, sandals, and woven rope have been recovered.

That these Indians went far into the cave was established in 1935 when an Indian mummy was found wedged beneath a huge boulder about 2½ miles from the opening known today as the Historic Entrance. More than 2,000 years ago, this Indian was trapped on a ledge as he scraped the wall of the passage for its gypsum. Many cave walls bear scars made by gypsum-hunting Indians, who must have valued the mineral for reasons unknown to us.

The date given for discovery of the cave by the white man is 1798. Legend says a local hunter was the first to set foot inside it when he pursued a wounded bear into the entrance to the cave. It was also in 1798 that pioneer Valentine Simons entered in Warren County records "200 acres of second-rate land lying on the Green River," and including "two peter caves."



Desiccated body of Indian, who was trapped in cave more than 2,000 years ago.

These same saltpeter caves a few years later were to give Mammoth Cave a particular niche in our national history. It was the nitrate contained in the "petre dirt" that was used by the United States to manufacture gunpowder during the War of 1812.

The total yield of saltpeter for war purposes was 400,000 pounds. "Petre dirt" was hauled long distances through underground corridors to leaching vats where the nitrates were extracted. These same vats and hand-drilled wooden pipes are in their original positions not far from the Historic Entrance.

After the war, many proprietors exhibited the cave to a public curious about the saltpeter operations, but it was not until 1837 that serious exploration began. It was then that a 15-year-old boy named Stephen Bishop, among the cave's first guides, crossed the Bottomless Pit on a slender pole, opening the way to extensive uncharted corridors and passages. Bishop guided the many eminent scientists who visited the cave thereafter, and achieved world renown before he died in 1859. He is buried in what is now the park.

The last private purchaser of the cave was a Louisville physician, who established an underground tuberculosis sanitarium there in 1843. It seemed to him a hopeful experiment because of the even temperature and purity of the cave air, but his patients failed to recover. Two of the stone cottages used in the experiment are still standing. The doctor's heirs remained in possession of the cave and the 1,610 acres surrounding it until 1926.

IT BECOMES A NATIONAL PARK. In 1911 Kentucky Congressman R. Y. Thomas introduced the first bill to establish the cave as a National Park, but the area was destined to remain in private hands for many more years. In 1924 patriotic Kentuckians formed the Mammoth Cave National Park Association. The association petitioned the President in behalf of the project. In 1926 Congress authorized the establishment of the park, provided that the State of Kentucky would acquire and donate the necessary acreage.

During the 1930's, before it was fully established as a National Park, the Mammoth Cave area benefited greatly from

work performed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, under National Park Service direction. Much of the land had been misused for many years, the soil was seriously depleted, and there was widespread erosion. The work done at that time helped heal the man-made scars.

The people of Kentucky, represented by the Mammoth Cave National Park Association and the Kentucky National Park Commission, acquired the minimum acreage needed. In May 1936, the minimum acreage was formally accepted by the Secretary of the Interior. In 1941 Mammoth Cave National Park was fully established as the 26th National Park, and the cave was thus placed under full protection from damage and exploitation in perpetuity.

HERE COME THE VISITORS. During the years when private owners operated the cave, visitors came by steamboat up Green River from the Ohio, by stagecoach from Bowling Green, and by rail from Louisville. Great artists—singer Jenny Lind, violinist Ole Bull, and actor Edwin Booth—performed in auditoriums far underground. Among the visitors who carried whale-oil lamps and emerged from their tour with soot-blackened faces and clothing, were the Emperor of Brazil and the Grand Duke of Russia, in 1859.

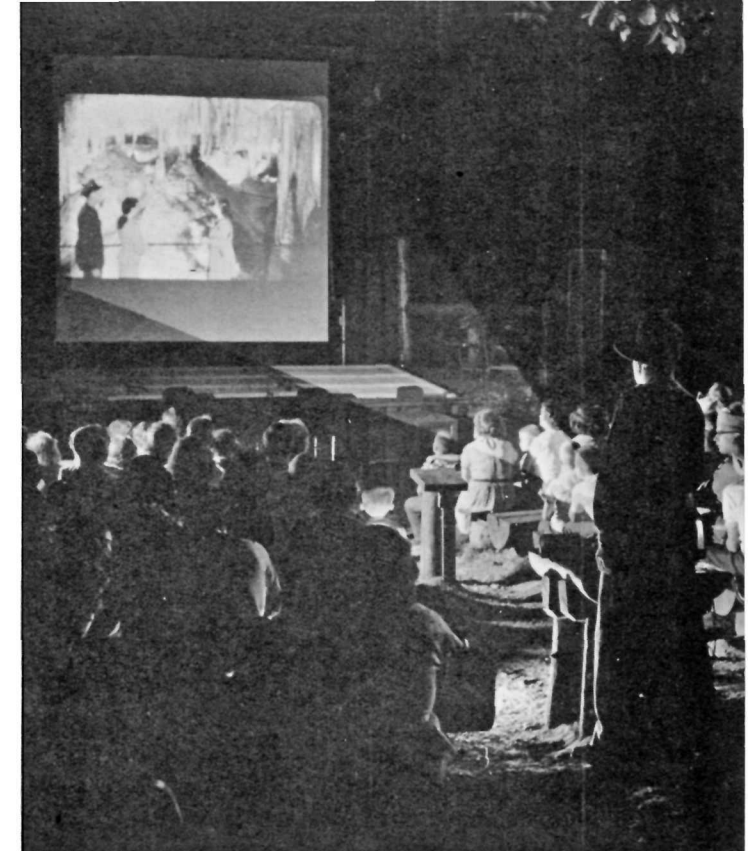
An early commercial brochure on "America's Natural Wonder" advised that "bloomers or Turkish dress" were proper attire for ladies, and that gentlemen might rent suits for the trip. It admonished a lady "in no case, except that of illness," to take her escort's arm, explaining that "it is fatiguing to both parties." Should a visitor become lost in the cave, he was forewarned to "remain in the place where you first became confused, and not stir from it until rescued." (Good advice today, too.)

By the beginning of the 20th century, the cave's beauty had been marred in the more heavily traveled passages as visitors, using pointed objects or smoke from oil lamps and candles, continued to mar fragile walls and ceilings with their names and initials. Once the area became a National Park, protection of its features from such thoughtless vandalism became a major concern.

HOME READING

The Eastern National Park and Monument Association, a nonprofit organization, lists some very readable books on this and other famous caves. You can buy the books at the park or you may order them by mail; write to the association, Mammoth Cave, Ky., 42259, for a complete list, with prices. The following is a partial list:

Geology of the Mammoth Cave National Park Area, by Ann Livesay (illustrated).



An illustrated talk.

The Story of Mammoth Cave National Park, by Margaret M. Bridwell.

Celebrated American Caves, by Charles Mohr and Howard Sloan.

HOW TO REACH THE PARK

BY AUTOMOBILE. Mammoth Cave National Park is about halfway between Louisville, Ky., and Nashville, Tenn. It is 32 miles northeast of Bowling Green, Ky.

From points south and west, take U.S. 31W from Bowling Green to Park City. Then take Ky. 255 to the park entrance. From here it is 5 miles to park headquarters.

From points north and east, take U.S. 31W to Cave City. Park headquarters is 10 miles from Cave City on Ky. 70.

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad provides transportation to Cave City; Greyhound buses stop at Cave City and Park City. Taxi service is available from both cities to the park. The closest commercial airport is at Bowling Green.

Camping is enjoyed by many visitors at Mammoth Cave.



STAYING IN THE PARK

MAMMOTH CAVE HOTEL has comfortable rooms with and without bath and is open all year. The motel-type lodge and electrically heated cottages are also open the year round. Unheated cabins are available from May to September. If you expect to stay in the park during the summer travel season, we suggest you write to National Park Concessions, Mammoth Cave, Ky., 42259, for rates and other information, and make your reservations well in advance. Accommodations are also available at nearby Cave City and Park City.

CAVE TRIP INFORMATION AND TICKETS are available at the visitor center.

THE CAMPGROUND AND PICNIC AREA, open all year, are equipped with tables, fireplaces, and comfort stations. Camping is on a first-come, first-served basis, and limited to 14 days. Water and sanitary facilities are limited in winter.

THE POST OFFICE is in the camp store near park headquarters; it is open daily for incoming and outgoing mail. Have your mail sent in care of General Delivery, Mammoth Cave National Park, Ky., 42259.

Church services (interdenominational) are held each Sunday in the hotel at 4 p.m. the year round and at 8 a.m. during the summer months. Catholic services at Our Lady of the

Caves Church between Horse Cave and Cave City at 7:15 and 8:30 a.m. during summer months—in winter at 8:30 a.m.

HELP US PROTECT THIS PARK

THE CAVE formations and natural decorations have been thousands of years in the making. Once injured, they cannot be replaced. You may see examples of vandalism, most of which occurred before the cave came under National Park Service protection. You can prevent further damage by being careful not to disturb the formations.

FIRES are allowed only in designated campgrounds and picnic areas. Extinguish them completely with water before leaving. Do not throw cigarettes or matches from automobiles or along trails. Fire is *No. 1 enemy of the National Parks*.

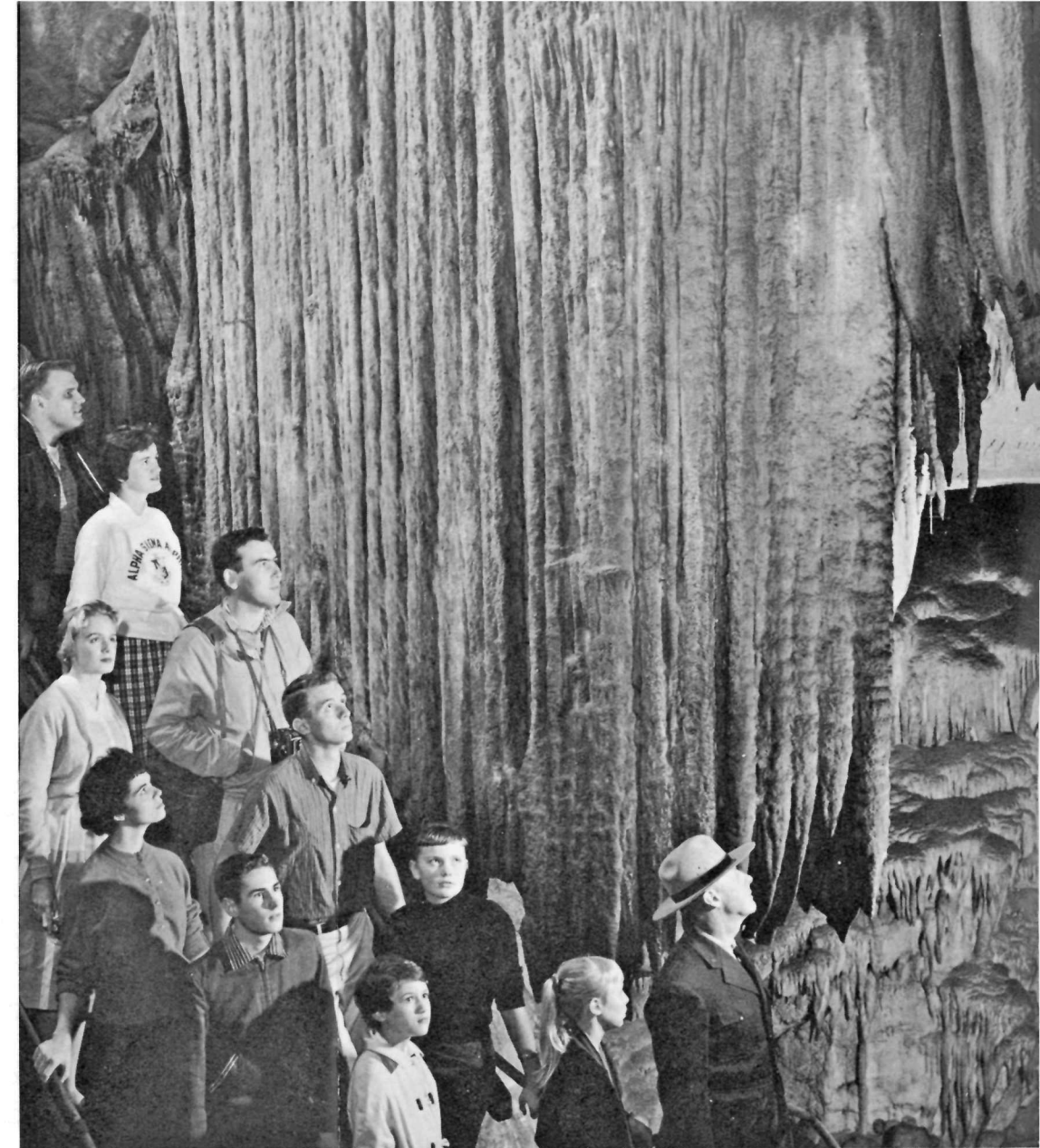
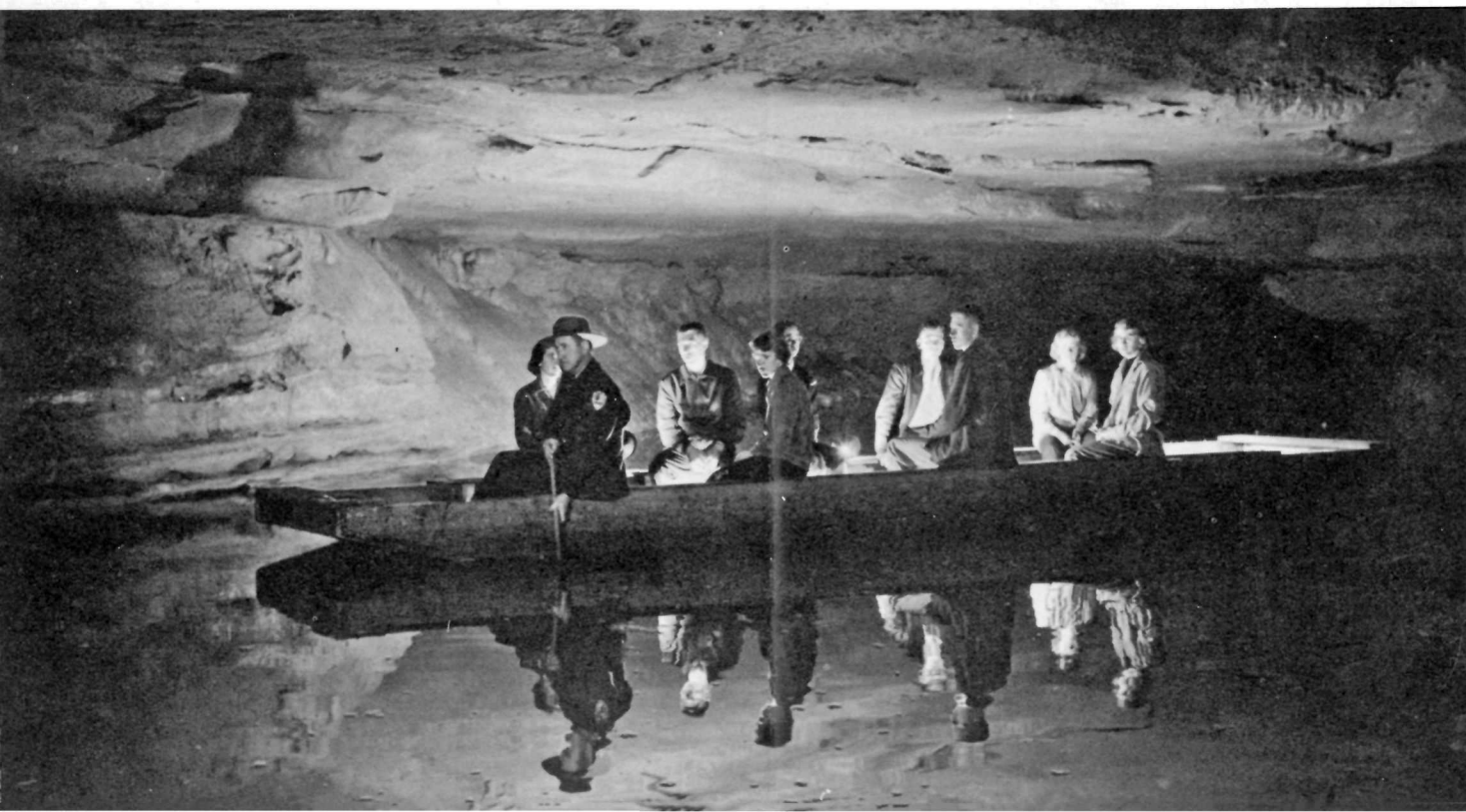
CAMPING is permitted only in designated campgrounds. *Bring your own fuel.*

FISHING SEASON is open throughout the year. For regulations, inquire at park headquarters.

PETS are allowed if leashed or otherwise physically restricted. They are not permitted in the cave or visitor center.

MOLESTING WILDLIFE, or disturbing rocks, trees, and wildflowers is forbidden. Leave these for others to enjoy.

Boating on the Echo River.



The "flowing" travertine of Frozen Niagara.

PARK RANGERS are the park's protective force. Their job is to help you enjoy your visit and to assist you with any problems. If you wish to report an accident or a fire, or are in any kind of difficulty, see the nearest park ranger.

PARK NATURALISTS are the park's interpretive force. Their job is to impart a dual story to you—the fascinating cave attractions below ground and the natural beauty of the plant and

animal life above ground. They tell the story at campfire talks, at the museum, on nature hikes, and through publications.

PARK GUIDES are the third group of uniformed personnel. They conduct the guided walks in the cave and have the same authority as park rangers and naturalists. You are in their care and subject to their jurisdiction on your cave trips.

All uniformed personnel are here to help make your visit a pleasant experience. Please feel free to seek their aid.