

CARLSBAD CAVERNS

National Park

NEW MEXICO

OPEN ALL YEAR

Temple of The Sun



Carlsbad Caverns, National Park, New Mexico

CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK, is located in the semi-desert country of Southeastern New Mexico, in the rugged foothills of the Guadalupe Mountains. While many miles of passages have been explored, development has been limited to the 750 foot and 829 foot levels. An extension of the lower level may be seen at the "Jumping off place" in the Big Room.

Circular rock cooking pits and mortar holes on the surface and the paintings on the cave entrance wall attest to the occupation of the entrance and nearby area by prehistoric Indians. The Spanish Conquistadors are believed to have come into the Pecos Valley near the Caverns. Wagon irons and other relics of ambushed wagon trains are sometimes found.

Cattlemen, first permanent settlers, arrived in the 1880's, knew of the Cave, known as BAT CAVE; may have explored portions of it. The first real interest in the Cave resulted from the finding of its valuable deposit of Bat Guano, a nitrate-rich fertilizer. At the turn of the Century, mining began, and among the miners was a local youth, JIM WHITE, who took every opportunity to explore the Cave. Later, Jim became an unofficial guide and subsequently under National Park, Service, he was made Park Ranger and finally appointed Chief Ranger.

In 1923, a report by ROBERT HOLLEY, of the General Land Office, U. S. Dept. of Interior, so stressed the scenic beauty of the Cave, that CARLSBAD CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT was established by Presidential Proclamation on October 25, 1923. Nationwide publicity resulted, when the National Geographic Society published results of extensive explorations, made in 1923 and 1924, by DR. WILLIS T. LEE of the Geological Survey, U. S. Dept. of Interior. By Act of Congress, approved May 14, 1930, the area became CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK.

The bat flight is one of the Park's great attractions. Flying out through the Cave Entrance each summer evening, incredible numbers of bats spiral upward, stream southward over the Rim and later separate into flocks for night foraging. When night-flying moths and beetles are plentiful, millions of bats are in flight, but during the winter, with no insects available, most of the bats of the CARLSBAD CAVERNS migrate to warmer regions.

Bats return from their night flight of feeding just before dawn. The insect-eating bats of CARLSBAD CAVERNS are quite harmless and are beneficial to man, since they destroy harmful insects and also produce Guano, a valuable fertilizer.

The Main Corridor of the CAVERNS beneath the natural entrance is immense, but its beauty does not compare with that of the chambers beyond. These chambers—the Green Lake Room, King's Palace, Queen's Chamber and Papoose Room are unparalleled in their splendor. They are all seen before reaching the central point, where stop is made for lunch and rest. After lunch, you will enter the Big Room, the most majestic of the Caverns' many chambers. Formations here are massive as well as magnificent. At one place, the ceiling arches 285 feet above. In the Hall of Giants is found the Giant Dome, a striking similarity to the Leaning Tower of Pisa. On returning to the lunch room, elevators with capacity of 1,200 people per hour, will take you to the surface from a depth of 750 feet.

Adjoining the Visitor Center are a Restaurant, Curio Shop, Nursery and Kennel. This concession is operated by the Cavern Supply Co., Carlsbad, N. M., under government supervision. Its rates and services are approved by the National Park Service. This company also serves a moderate priced lunch in the Caverns luncheon. CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK, is open every day in the year. For complete tour information, write the Superintendent, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico.



HALL OF GIANTS



KING'S PALACE



GREEN LAKE
8 FEET DEEP

GREEN LAKE ROOM



VEILED STATUE

VEILED STATUE



PAPOOSE ROOM

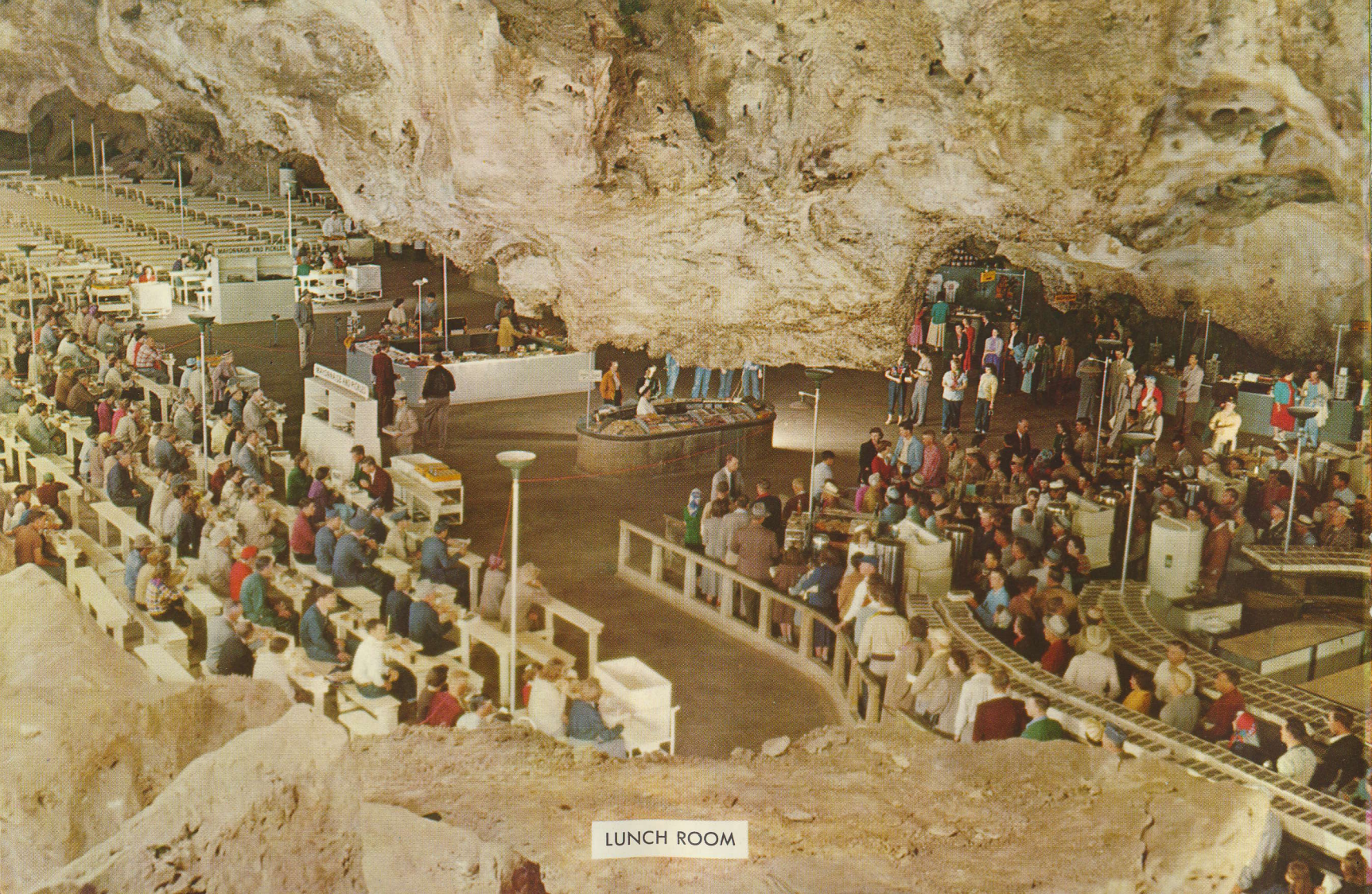


CRYSTAL SPRING DOME



DOLL'S THEATRE

DOLL'S THEATRE



LUNCH ROOM



THE CAVEMAN



ENTRANCE TO KING'S PALACE

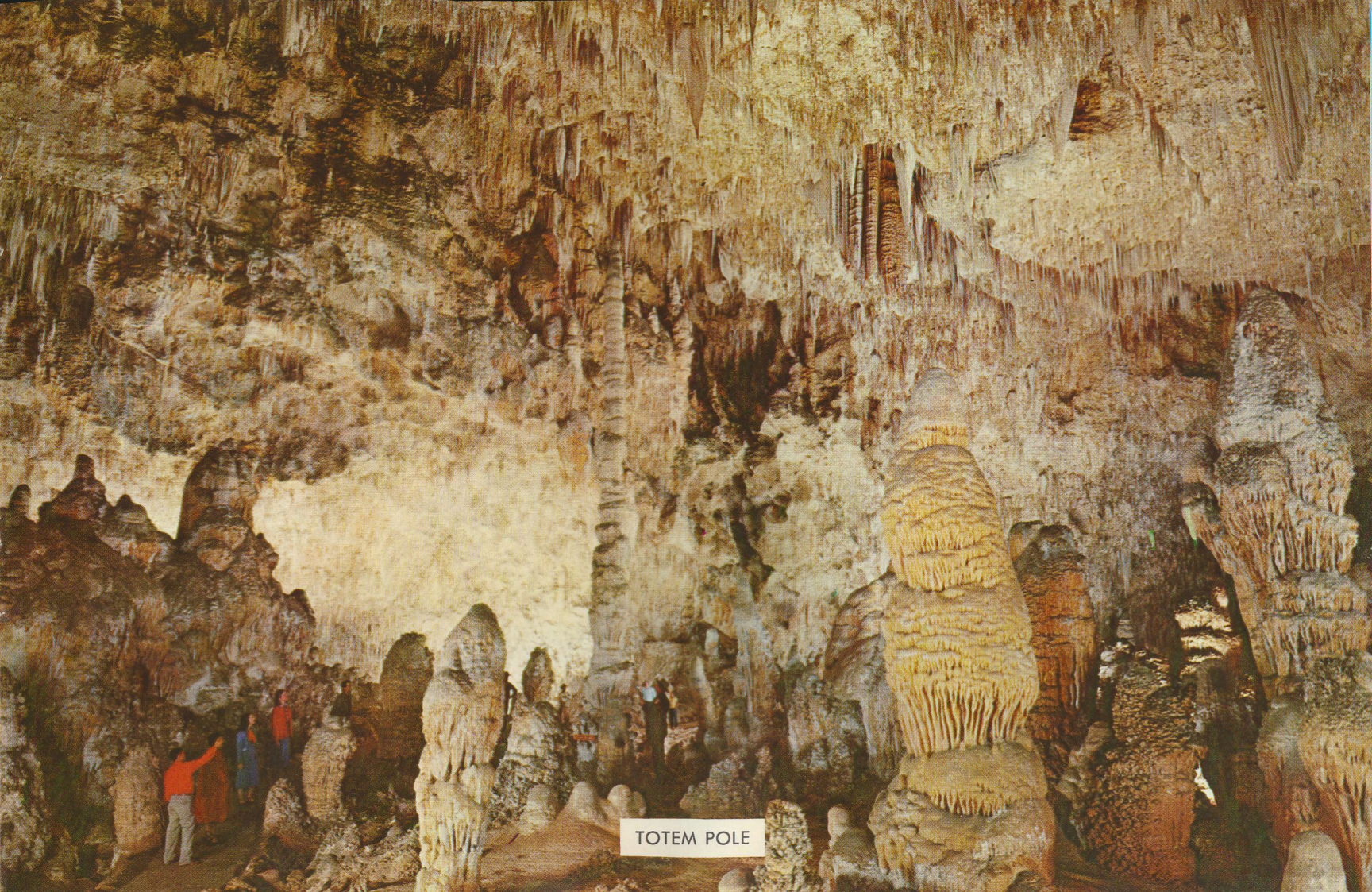


FROZEN WATERFALL



FAIRYLAND

CAOYU LAND



TOTEM POLE



WISDOMS CAVE

MIRROR LAKE

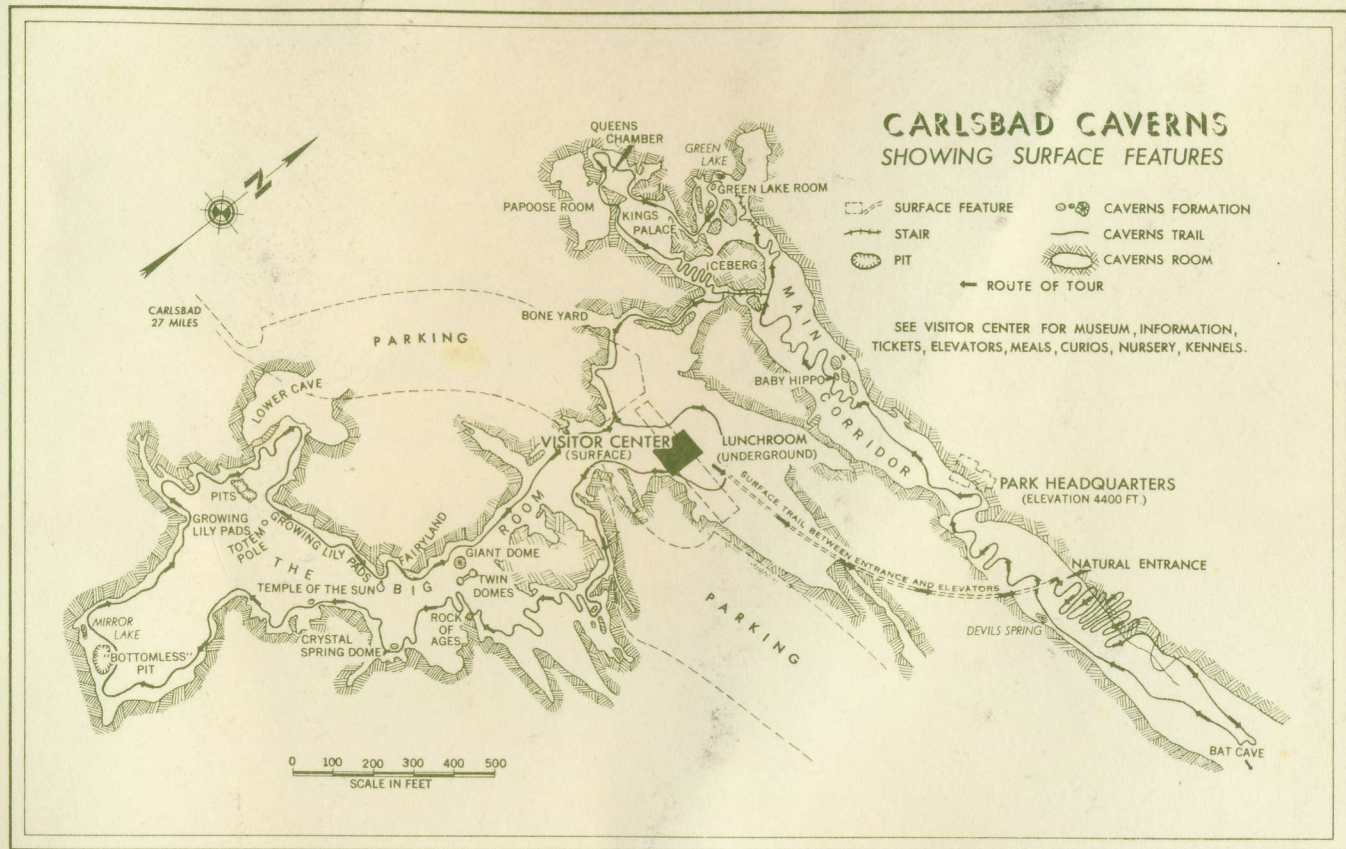
MIRROR LAKE



VISITOR CENTER



ROCK OF AGES



MAP COURTESY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 CURTEICHOLOR 3-D NATURAL COLOR REPRODUCTIONS (REG. U.S.A. PAT. OFF.)



NATURAL ENTRANCE