



THE CAPITAN REEF

Guide to Carlsbad Caverns & Guadalupe Mountains National Parks

Fall and Winter 1998/1999

Caverns Marks 75 Years in the National Park System

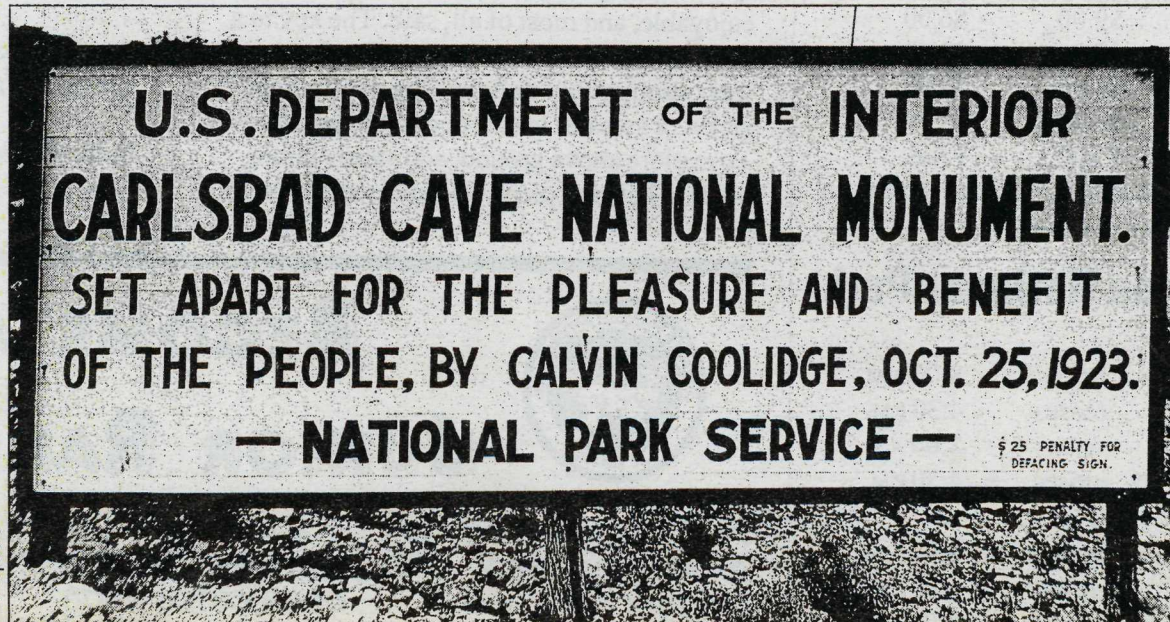
by Aleta E. Knight

This October, Carlsbad Caverns National Park will mark its 75th anniversary as a part of the National Park System.

The cavern and 720 acres of land around its entrance were originally set aside as Carlsbad Cave National Monument on October 25, 1923, by proclamation of President Calvin Coolidge. On May 14, 1930, seven years after the original designation as a national monument, Congress passed legislation enlarging the size of the area and changing its status to that of a national park.

Less than 100 years ago, the now famous cavern was relatively unknown. By the turn of the century, the cave had just begun to be explored. While Indians knew of the opening thousands of years ago, they probably did not venture into the depths. The first reported entry was made in 1883, when a 12-year-old boy named Rolth Sublett was lowered into the cave by his father.

In those days, millions of bats left the cave each evening during the summer months. An interest soon developed in mining the large deposits of bat guano (droppings), which



NPS photo

had accumulated over thousands of years, for use as fertilizer. Abijah Long filed the first mining claim for guano in 1903 on the 40 acres east of the cavern entrance.

A cowhand, James Larkin White, was the first person to explore the cavern extensively. His interest in the cavern caused him to leave ranching work for guano mining so he could spend his spare time venturing deeper into the cavern. After each trip, he tried to convince others of the beauty he had seen. He also began work on the first crude trails and started guiding

visitors through the cave.

Early trips were of a more rugged nature than what we know today. Entry into the cave was via a guano bucket attached to a 170-foot cable and hoist. Kerosene lamps provided the light and a lunch was required since the trip was an all-day affair.

In 1923, the General Land Office dispatched Robert Holley to investigate growing stories about the cave in southeastern New Mexico. Mr. Holley was extremely impressed and wrote a glowing report recommending that the cavern area be set aside as a

national monument. On October 25, 1923, President Calvin Coolidge signed the proclamation creating Carlsbad Cave National Monument to preserve "...a limestone cavern known as the Carlsbad Cave, of extraordinary proportions and of unusual beauty and variety of natural decorations..."

In the years following the establishment of the national monument, the cavern received worldwide recognition. Visitors from all walks of life have come to enjoy the natural beauty that is Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

Celebrating 75 Years!

On October 25, 1923, President Calvin Coolidge signed a proclamation designating the cavern and 720 acres of land nearby as Carlsbad Cave National Monument. To commemorate this event, Carlsbad Caverns National Park will host two days of special activities on October 9 and 10, 1998.

On October 9 at 10:00 A.M., at the Bat Flight Amphitheater, a rededication ceremony will be held. This will be an occasion to reflect on the purposes for which the park was established, to honor the people responsible for its creation and continuing stewardship, and to reaffirm our commitment to its future preservation and restoration. Special tours and activities are planned for the remainder of the day.

Superintendent Frank Deckert has designated 1998 as "The Year of the Employee" and, as part of the 75th anniversary activities, there will be an employee reunion. On October 10, a family fun day at Rattlesnake Springs Picnic Area and a reunion dinner that evening will be the featured activities. All former and current employees of the Cavern Supply Company and Carlsbad Caverns-Guadalupe Mountains Association as well as National Park Service employees and volunteers are invited to attend.

Contact Aleta Knight at 505-785-2232 x322 for more information.

Fall Colors at Guadalupe Mountains National Park

✦ Late October and early November are the prime weeks for viewing fall colors.

✦ Weekends in McKittrick Canyon are extremely busy, and access is limited. Those arriving late may have to wait several hours to enter. Rangers recommend that you visit during the week. On weekends, consider hiking the Devil's Hall Trail near Pine Springs Campground or in Dog Canyon.

✦ McKittrick Canyon hours are from 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. (4:30 P.M. after October 24th.) Other trails are always open.

✦ Plan to spend at least three hours to hike in far enough to fully appreciate the area.

✦ Help protect fragile park resources. Stay on the trail and out of the stream.

✦ Call (915) 828-3251 for current conditions.



Rod Menking

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Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Off-Season Hours—August 16, 1998 to May 21, 1999

Visitor Center	opens	8:00 A.M.
Big Room Route	opens	8:30 A.M.
Natural Entrance Route	opens	8:30 A.M.
Natural Entrance Route	last entry	2:00 P.M.
Big Room Route	last entry	3:30 P.M.
Visitor Center	closes	5:30 P.M.

Summer Hours—May 22 1999 to August 15, 1999

Visitor Center	opens	8:00 A.M.
Big Room Route	opens	8:30 A.M.
Natural Entrance Route	opens	8:30 A.M.
Natural Entrance Route	last entry	3:30 P.M.
Big Room Route	last entry	5:00 P.M.
Visitor Center	closes	7:00 P.M.

Cave Entry Fees

	with the Audio Guide	regular fee
Adults—age 16 and over	\$9.00	\$6.00
with Golden Access Passport	\$6.00	\$3.00
with Golden Age Passport	\$6.00	\$3.00
Children—age 6 and over	\$6.00	\$3.00
Children—age 5 and under	\$3.00	Free

Golden Eagle Passports are not valid. Guided tours require an additional fee. All fees are subject to change.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Winter Hours

Visitor Center	opens	8:00 A.M.
Visitor Center—after August 31	closes	4:30 P.M.
McKittrick Canyon	opens	8:00 A.M.
McKittrick Canyon—after October 25	closes	4:30 P.M.

Summer Hours

Visitor Center	opens	8:00 A.M.
Visitor Center—after May 23	closes	6:00 P.M.
McKittrick Canyon	opens	8:00 A.M.
McKittrick Canyon—after April 4	closes	6:00 P.M.

Fees

Park Entry	Free
Camping	\$7.00
With Golden Age Passport	\$3.50

For current weather information call Carlsbad Weather Watch at (505) 885-1848.

Weather

	Temperatures F°		inches
	High	Low	
Jan	53	30	1.04
Feb	58	35	1.04
March	63	38	0.87
April	71	46	0.57
May	78	55	1.26
June	88	63	1.48
July	87	63	3.08
Aug	84	62	3.77
Sept	78	57	5.22
Oct	71	49	1.41
Nov	61	38	0.65
Dec	57	33	0.67

Average annual precipitation is 21.06 inches. Pine Springs Weather Station, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, elevation 5,500'.

Welcome to Guadalupe Mountains and Carlsbad Caverns National Parks

You will find two worlds here: below, the underground world of caves with their high-ceilinged chambers, cool darkness, and beautiful formations; above, the scenic vistas of the Guadalupe Mountains, a vanishing relict conifer forest, spectacular canyons, and Chihuahuan desert lowlands.

Both parks protect a dynamic ecosystem of plants and wildlife. The intricate geology of the Permian period is exposed in the rocky heights of the Guadalupe Mountains and in the spectacular Caverns.

We want your visit to be educational, enjoyable, and most of all, safe. The key to a pleasant visit is to be prepared. For the cave, wear comfortable walking shoes and a light jacket or sweater for the cooler temperatures. To explore above ground, add sturdy hiking boots, a hat, and plenty of sunscreen to your

wardrobe. Never venture into the mountains or desert without a good map and plenty of water.

Our National Parks have been set aside for present and future generations. Rangers are available to help you enjoy your visit and will offer a variety of programs during your stay. Join them to explore your parks for a lifetime of good memories. If you need more information or assistance in any way, always feel free to ask a ranger. Have a great visit, but ensure that your sensitivity with park wildlife, plants, caves, and other resources leaves them protected forever.

Frank Deckert, *Superintendent*
Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Larry Henderson, *Superintendent*
Guadalupe Mountains National Park



BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER!



At Carlsbad Caverns, explore the park with Ranger Carl and Senorita Freeta, his adopted Mexican freetail bat. At Guadalupe Mountains, learn about the park at the visitor center and on trails.

Children will be awarded patches and certificates upon completion of activities described in booklets. Return completed booklets to park visitor centers or the National Park Service Office in

Carlsbad during regular business hours.

Booklets, certificates, and patches are free. Recommended for children ages 4-13. Allow 4 to 6 hours to complete. Ask a park ranger for details.

Are you traveling with a pet?

On a warm day the temperature inside a car can kill a pet. Do not leave your pet unattended; the kennel is the only safe place for your pet.

At Carlsbad Caverns pets are not permitted in the cave, but may be cared for at the kennel for a small fee.

At Guadalupe Mountains pets are not allowed on trails, in the backcountry, or in buildings. In the campground or parking lot, your pet must be physically restrained at all times.

Emergency call 911

The Capitan Reef is published with funds donated by the Carlsbad Caverns Guadalupe Mountains Association.

Carlsbad Caverns Guadalupe Mountains Association

P.O. Box 1417
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221
(505) 785-2232x480

Online Bookstore
www.ccgma.org

Carlsbad Caverns National Park

3225 National Parks Highway
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220
(505) 785-2232
www.nps.gov/cave

Guadalupe Mountains National Park

HC 60 Box 400
Salt Flat, Texas 79847
(915) 828-3251
www.nps.gov/gumo

Cavern Forsees Changes on the Horizon

by Ed Greene

Hundreds of thousands of visitors enjoy the massive chambers and indescribable beauty of Carlsbad Caverns every year. Most never give much thought to the tremendous effort that has gone into making the cave and the park accessible and enjoyable, nor to the effects those accommodations might have on the cave.

Since the discovery of Carlsbad Cavern in the late 1800's, the world-famous cave and surrounding environs have undergone almost constant, and sometimes drastic, change by humans. In the early years, shafts were excavated to remove guano mined from vast deposits within the cave. As word began to spread about this incredible cave, it wasn't long before curious visitors started showing up, wanting to see for themselves. They soon found themselves being hauled in and out of the cavern in a large bucket through one of those same guano shafts.

As the numbers of visitors increased from dozens to hundreds to hundreds of thousands, more and more accommodations were made for their safety and convenience. Roads were constructed, more shafts were excavated for high-speed elevators, and trails were constructed within the cave. Since the annual visitation to the park was greater than the population of any city in New Mexico, a large, city-like infrastructure was necessary to support those visitors. Water systems, sewer systems and electric service all grew atop the ancient reef, along with a visitor center, parking lots, a maintenance yard with gasoline tanks, a housing area for employees, propane lines and underground fuel-oil tanks.

As the infrastructure grew, little thought was given to the fact that all of it sat directly over the prime resource of the park, the beautiful, and delicate, caverns. But, as the twentieth century began to draw to a close, park managers were having increasing concerns

about how surface activities might impact the underground world. Included in the 1996 General Management Plan for Carlsbad Caverns National Park was a decision to systematically assess existing and potential impacts of surface structures and activities on the cave. The Colorado School of Mines was contracted to conduct the research and two reports were generated. The first, *Infiltration Pathways at Carlsbad Caverns National Park Determined by Hydrogeologic and Hydrochemical Characterization and Analysis*, a master's thesis by Mark Brooke, focused on infiltration pathways and basic water chemistry of the entire surface-to-cave system. The second report, *Determining Water Infiltration Routes from Structures Located Above Carlsbad Cavern*, by Paul

K.M. van der Heijde, Kenneth Kolm, Helen Dawson, and Mark Brooke analyzed the pollution potential from man-made structures and human activities over the cave and determined cave areas most vulnerable to contamination from the surface.

In a karst system, characterized by underground drainage, any structures located on the surface have the potential to degrade caves below. The research revealed that some contamination is occurring in the cave today, although it was not deemed to be serious, yet. However, the researchers also determined that the potential for future serious contamination of the cave is high and should be cause for concern.

The greatest potential for contamination comes from the activities and structures in the

maintenance yard, including a gasoline fueling area and the routine use of a variety of chemicals. Water runoff from the bat flight parking lot enters the cave almost immediately and contains hydrocarbons from the lot surface as well as any number of auto fluids that leak or are spilled from parked cars. A network of aging sewer lines connects all of the surface structures and develops leaks with increasing frequency. Armed with this data, park managers have undertaken a program of accident prevention and mitigation as well as removing potential sources of contamination wherever possible.

The long-term goal of eliminating contamination threats to the cavern will almost certainly include major changes to the facilities and operations on the surface. One of the first

steps in the process will be the preparation of a Development Concept Plan that will guide park managers in their decision-making. The public will be invited to participate in this major planning effort in order to insure their understanding of the problems and the range of management options, and to afford them the opportunity to suggest potential solutions.

The popularity of Carlsbad Caverns National Park shows no sign of diminishing and surface facilities and activities will always be necessary to insure a safe, enjoyable visitor experience and the protection of park resources. The application of sound science to the management decision-making process will ensure that the cavern continues to be a source of wonder, inspiration and unforgettable memories for generations to come.

Prairie Dogs Return to the Guadalupe Mountains

by Jim Cheatham

The black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) is being reintroduced to Guadalupe Mountains National Park. This member of the squirrel family once occupied an important niche and contributed to the biodiversity of grassland eco-systems within the Guadalupe Mountains. Having been extirpated from this region by past human activity, it is now the goal of the park to repatriate this important species.

Black-tailed prairie dogs inhabited land which became the park in at least five known areas until the mid-1960s. They were eradicated from these areas through poisoning by ranchers, who believed the prairie dogs to be in direct competition with livestock for food and felt their burrows to be a hazard on the range.

The prairie dog was a vital component of the park's ecosys-

tem. The disappearance of other species, such as the burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), often a cohabitant with the prairie dog, coincided with their eradication. Prairie dogs create an environment which promotes biodiversity in an area. Their colonies are areas of "patchy" vegetation which are ideal hunting grounds for birds of prey. Other birds, such as meadowlarks and grasshopper sparrows are attracted to such areas by the increased amount and visibility of seeds and insects. Forbs and grasses remain in a state of growth which supplies a greater amount of young, nutritious shoots for other grazing wildlife.

With a common interest, a neighboring ranch with prairie dogs is allowing the park to use their colony as a source. Trapping and transport of the prairie dogs began in early July '98 resulting in twenty-eight animals reintroduced as of late August '98. With increasing subsurface burrowing, an accurate census of the new colony is difficult to determine as it becomes less likely to observe all animals at one time above ground. Predation episodes by badger(s) have occurred as the prairie dogs take their place in the ecosystem's natural food chain. Burrowing activity along with nest building, browsing, and vocalizing by the new arrivals is encouraging and suggests that many have taken up permanent residence. More than thirty holes show signs of prairie dog inhabitants. However, further monitoring is necessary to clarify our results.

The project is still underway with frequent observation and periodic capture episodes as needed. Park Superintendent Larry Henderson asks that the public refrain from visiting the reintroduction site during this critical stage of the project in order to minimize intrusions to the developing colony. With the anticipated success of the project, in the not too distant future, visitors may be able to observe these prairie inhabitants restored to a portion of their natural environment.



Jim Cheatham

Reintroduced Prairie Dogs at Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

Carlsbad Caverns

Tour times and prices are subject to change. Please call ahead for up-to-date information,

(505) 785-2232, extension 0, or visit our website at www.nps.gov/cave.

Call 1-800-967-CAVE (2283) for tour reservations. All times are Mountain Time.

	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p>BIG ROOM SELF-GUIDED ROUTE</p> <p>The Big Room is the "must see" tour for all visitors to Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Access this one-hour, one-mile, self-guided walk through a massive 14-acre chamber either by elevator or by walking the Natural Entrance route. The Big Room route is also partially accessible to people using wheelchairs, with assistance. Ask for an accessibility brochure.</p>	<p>Daily 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. May 22 to August 15, 1999—8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.</p>						
<p>NATURAL ENTRANCE SELF-GUIDED ROUTE</p> <p>On this self-guided route you will descend over 750 feet on a steep and narrow switchback trail. This one-mile, one-hour, self-guided walk is strenuous, and not recommended for anyone with health or walking problems. Return to the surface by elevator, or continue to the Big Room.</p>	<p>Daily 8:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. May 22 to August 15, 1999—8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.</p>						
<p>KINGS PALACE GUIDED TOUR</p> <p>On this 1.5 hour tour a ranger will lead you through four highly-decorated chambers 830 feet below the surface. Tours depart from the underground rest area. Reservations are required either in advance or the day of your visit. Additional fee required.</p>	<p>Daily 9:00 A.M., 11:00 A.M., 1:00 P.M., 3:00 P.M. Additional tours are offered during the summer.</p>						
Caving Tours		Reservations are required; call 1-800-967-CAVE.					
<p>LEFT HAND TUNNEL</p> <p>On this one half-mile lantern tour, your guide will highlight cavern history, geology, cave pools, and Permian Age fossils. Lanterns are provided. Tour departs from the visitor center.</p>	9:00 A.M.	9:00 A.M.	9:00 A.M.	9:00 A.M.	9:00 A.M.	9:00 A.M.	9:00 A.M.
<p>SLAUGHTER CANYON CAVE</p> <p>A heavy duty flashlight is required for this tour. Allow plenty of time to drive to Slaughter Canyon and 45 minutes for the strenuous 0.5-mile hike to the cave entrance. Carry water — the desert is dry, and the weather is unpredictable. Stay on the trail at all times and be sure to wear sturdy boots. Do not drive to the Carlsbad Caverns Visitor Center for this tour. Tours depart from the Slaughter Canyon Cave entrance.</p>	10:00 A.M. 1:00 P.M.	<p>Tours offered daily from May 22 to August 15, 1999 at 10:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. Weekends only during the rest of the year.</p>					10:00 A.M. 1:00 P.M.
<p>LOWER CAVE</p> <p>You will see evidence of early exploration, cave pools, and beautiful formations on this moderately-strenuous caving tour. Be prepared to descend 50 feet on ladders. Bring gloves and four AA batteries per person. Tour departs from the visitor center.</p>		1:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	
<p>SPIDER CAVE</p> <p>This is a very strenuous caving tour. Be prepared for tight crawlways, canyon-like passages, and bizarre formations. Bring your own gloves, knee pads, and four AA batteries per person. Tour departs from the visitor center and includes a 0.5-mile hike to the cave. Bring water for the hike.</p>	1:00 P.M.						
<p>HALL OF THE WHITE GIANT</p> <p>This is a strenuous, challenging caving tour to a remote and magical chamber in Carlsbad Caverns. You will be required to crawl long distances, squeeze through tight crevices, and climb up slippery flowstone-lined passage. Bring your own gloves, knee pads, and four AA batteries per person. Tour departs from the visitor center.</p>							1:00 P.M.

Hours

Off Season Hours—August 16, 1998 to May 21 1999

Visitor Center	opens	8:00 A.M.
Big Room Route	opens	8:30 A.M.
Natural Entrance Route	opens	8:30 A.M.
Natural Entrance Route	last entry	2:00 P.M.
Big Room Route	last entry	3:30 P.M.
Visitor Center	closes	5:30 P.M.

Summer Hours—May 22 to August 15, 1999

Visitor Center	opens	8:00 A.M.
Big Room Route	opens	8:30 A.M.
Natural Entrance Route	opens	8:30 A.M.
Natural Entrance Route	last entry	3:30 P.M.
Big Room Route	last entry	5:00 P.M.
Visitor Center	closes	7:00 P.M.

Cave Entry Fees with the Audio Guide regular fee

Adults—age 16 and over	\$9.50	\$6.50
with Golden Access Passport	\$6.25	\$3.25
with Golden Age Passport	\$6.25	\$3.25
Children—age 6 and over	\$6.25	\$3.25
Children—age 5 and under	\$3.00	free

Golden Eagle Passports are not valid. Guided tours require an additional fee. *All fees are subject to change at any time.*

Kings Palace Tour

Adults—age 16 and over	\$8.00
with Golden Access Passport	\$4.00
with Golden Age Passport	\$4.00
Children—age 6 to 15	\$4.00
Children—age 4 and 5	free
Children—age 3 and under	not permitted on tour

Caving Tours

Caving tours are challenging and exhilarating, but not enjoyable for everyone. Reservations are required and may be made with Visa or Mastercard.

A General Admission ticket is required (in addition to

special tour fees) for all guided tours except Slaughter Canyon Cave and Spider Cave. Children under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. See age limits listed below. *Tours, times, and fees are subject to change.*

Safety

If you have difficulty with low light, heights, or tight spaces you may want to avoid the more strenuous caving tours. All guided tours include a "lights out" experience.

Caving Tour	Adult fee <small>age 15 and under half price</small>	Age limit	Tour length	Group limit
Left Hand Tunnel	\$7.00	6	1½-2 hours	15
Slaughter Canyon Cave	\$15.00	6	2-2½ hours	25
Lower Cave	\$20.00	12	2-3 hours	12
Hall of the White Giant	\$20.00	12	3-4 hours	8
Spider Cave	\$20.00	12	3-4 hours	8

Aboveground Activities & Facilities

Facilities include a visitor center, exhibits, restaurant and gift shop, kennel service, and bookstore. Ranger programs, walks, and demonstrations are offered daily. Other activities include:

Nature Trail

This one-mile, paved, partially-accessible trail begins at the visitor center and highlights desert plants.

Walnut Canyon Drive

A one-hour drive through the Chihuahuan Desert, this 9.5-mile gravel road is suitable for most vehicles except trailers and motor homes.

Rattlesnake Springs

This historic oasis includes a picnic area, shade trees, restrooms, and excellent bird watching. Day use only.

Backcountry Hiking & Camping

The park's wilderness offers day hikes and backcountry camping (permit required). Rangers at the visitor center can provide free permits, trail and weather information, and backcountry camping tips. Topographic maps are recommended.

Taking children into the cave



Tips for taking children into the cave...

- strollers are not permitted in the cave; child-carrying backpacks are recommended
- young children usually do not enjoy the Kings Palace guided tour; the age limit is 4
- children under age 16 must remain with an adult at all times
- involve your children in the Junior Ranger program; they can earn a patch while learning about the park
- take your child to the restroom *before* you enter the cave

Enjoy the cave safely

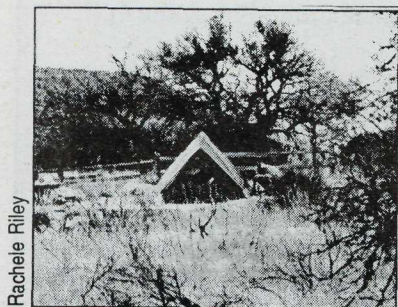
Do

- stay on the paved trail
- supervise children closely
- wear a jacket, the cave is 56 degrees year-round
- use child-carrying backpacks; strollers are not permitted in the cave
- ask park rangers for help
- rent the Audio Guide to get in-depth information about the cave
- leave your pet at the kennel, not in your car

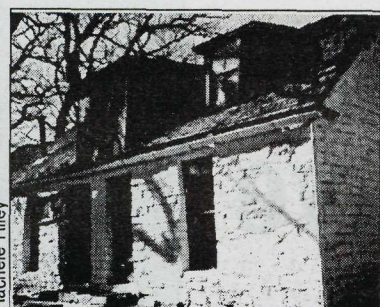
Don't

- touch the cave formations, the oils on your hands waterproof and stain them
- take gum, candy, food or drinks into the cave
- use tobacco in the cave
- throw coins or other objects into the pools

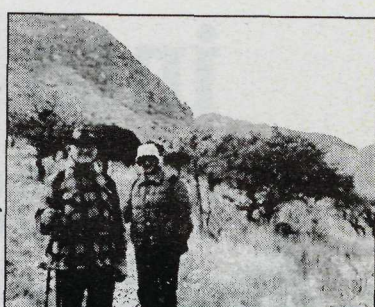
Guadalupe Mountains



Rachele Riley



Rachele Riley



Rachele Riley



John Cwiklik

Plan your trip wisely!

Facilities and services within and near Guadalupe Mountains National Park are extremely limited. Gasoline and other automotive services are not available. The nearest service stations are 30 miles west or 35 miles east. Bring everything you need with you.

Camping in the park

Water and restrooms are available; but there are no showers, RV hookups or dump stations. The fee is \$7.00 per night, per site, \$3.50 with a Golden Age or Golden Access Passport. No wood or charcoal fires are permitted; camp stoves are allowed.

Pine Springs

Twenty-one tent and nineteen RV campsites available on a first-come, first-served basis. Two group campsites are available for groups of twenty or less. Reservations (for group sites only) can be made by phoning (915) 828-3251.

Information and exhibits

Headquarters Visitor Center at Pine Springs

Elevation 5,740'. On U.S. Highway 62/180, 55 miles southwest of Carlsbad and 110 miles east of El Paso. Open every day except Christmas. Hours from Memorial Day to Labor Day are 8:00 A.M.- 6:00 P.M.; Labor Day to Memorial Day 8:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M. Information, natural history museum, introductory slide program.

Frijole Ranch History Museum

Cultural exhibits of the Guadalupe Mountains area. Staffed intermittently throughout the year.

McKittrick Canyon

Highway entrance gate is open 8:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M., Mountain Standard Time; 8:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M. Mountain Daylight Savings Time. Closing time changes when time changes to or from Daylight Savings Time. Outdoor exhibits, slide program.

Backpacking

Eighty miles of trails lead through forests, canyons, and the desert. A free permit is required if you plan to spend a night in the backcountry. Permits are issued at the Pine Springs Visitor Center and the Dog Canyon Ranger Station.

Wood and charcoal fires are prohibited. Camp stoves are allowed. Pack out all your trash. Collecting of plant, animal, or mineral specimens is not permitted. Pets are not allowed on park trails. Firearms are not permitted within the park.

Preparation is the key to an enjoyable backpacking trip. Wear appropriate clothing and be prepared for changing weather conditions. Carry plenty of water—there are no water sources in the backcountry. Rangers recommend one gallon per person per day in hot weather.

Topographic maps, hikers' guides, and information can be found at the Pine Springs Visitor Center and the Dog Canyon Ranger Station.

Day Hiking

Trails range from easy, paved nature trails to strenuous all-day trips to the high country. Maps, *Day Hikes* brochure and recommendations from a Ranger are available at the Visitor Center.

Featured Trail: The Pinery

by Kathy Elmore

A stroll along the Pinery Trail takes visitors from the hectic pace of modern life into a simpler, quieter time. At one third mile in length, the Pinery Trail is a wheelchair accessible byway into a lesser known part of the park's history.

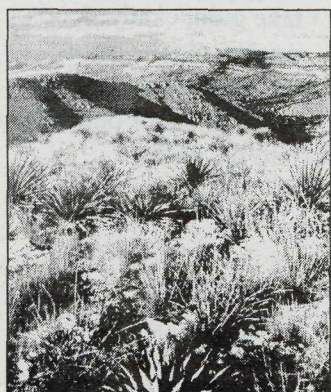
It begins at the Headquarters Visitor Center and winds gently through alligator juniper, oak, and soap tree yucca to the ruins of The Pinery, the only existing remnant of a Butterfield Overland Mail stage station that lies in close proximity to a national highway. Visitors can pause and imagine how it was for those adventurous travelers of 140 years ago. At 5,700 feet in elevation, the weathered limestone walls once enclosed the highest station along the route's 2,700 miles. For eleven months, from September 1858 to August 1859, Celerity coaches passed regularly along this road, braving Indian attacks and scarce water in order to make it from St. Louis to San Francisco in twenty-five days. The solitary walls stand today as a mute reminder of John Butterfield's instructions to his drivers: "Remember, boys, nothing on God's earth must stop the United States mail."

The ruins aren't the only attraction. Wayside markers identify native plants such as cane cholla, Texas madrone, sotol and Apache plume. Depending on the time of year, a tall agave stalk can display orange blossoms or the dried seed pods that remain after they bloom. "Life on the Edge" describes how the wide variety of lifeforms are interdependent, and a marker draws attention to "The Ubiquitous Grasses," explaining how important these seemingly innocuous plants are to man and wildlife. Brilliant neon-green barrels of snakeweed draw the eye, and the giant silhouette of a dead Ponderosa pine stands as a silent sentinel to the Pine Fire, which raged through 6,000 acres of the park in 1993. Skeletal arms of dead oak trees and the blackened stems of plants topped with vibrant new growth remind observers of the important role fire plays in the park's ecosystem.

A stroll along this trail often brings a profound silence that is broken only by the wind or the song of a bird. The panorama of the Guadalupe Mountains escarpment embraces visitors on the north and west, while the view to the east and south flows down to the flats of the Chihuahuan Desert. Sometimes a huge fog bank overlays the land below like a still pond, and at other times the mountain is blanketed in clouds or obscured by sheets of rain. Mule deer can frequently be seen highstepping along, a single pile of seed-filled scat attests to the passing of some unknown animal in the night, and lizards lie basking on the warm trail. These small, fleet creatures can disappear in the blink of an eye, while large black beetles lumber slowly on their way.

The Pinery Trail is a favorite with visitors and park staff alike; strategically placed benches invite one to linger for a while. For those who are pressed for time, have physical limitations, or simply crave a moment of solitude, the Pinery Trail is an excellent way to experience the park.

Dog Canyon



Evan Hager

The Dog Canyon area lies in a secluded, forested canyon on the north side of the park at an elevation of 6,290 feet. It's a great place to begin a backpacking trip for those coming through Carlsbad.

Dog Canyon Ranger Station and Campground

Located at the end of New Mexico State Highway 137, 70 miles from Carlsbad and

110 miles from Park Headquarters. The campground has nine tent sites and four RV spaces.

Hiking at Dog Canyon

Hike the 0.5 mile nature loop around Indian Meadow, the 6.4 mile round trip hike to Lost Peak on the Tejas Trail, or the 4.5 mile round trip hike to Marcus Overlook on the Bush Mountain Trail.

Area Attractions

Living Desert State Park

(505) 887-5516
Open daily except December 25. Wheelchair accessible.

Winter Hours

Labor Day to May 23,
9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Last tour entry—3:30 P.M.

Summer Hours

May 24 to Labor Day
8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.
Last tour entry—6:30 P.M.

Fees

Ages 13 and up—\$3.00
Children 7 to 12—\$1.00
Children 6 and under—free
Group discounts available.

Come face to face with a mountain lion at Living Desert State Park, a unique zoo and botanical garden offering an opportunity to experience the Chihuahuan Desert first-hand. See a large collection of live animals, including the rare Mexican gray wolf, and the roadrunner, New Mexico's state bird. There is also an unusual collection of cacti and other succulents from around the world. The tour is a 1.3 mile stroll. Plan to spend about an hour and a half.

The park is located high atop the Ocotillo Hills overlooking the northwest edge of town, just off Highway 285 and features exhibits, an art gallery, gift shop, and refreshments.

Carlsbad Museum and Arts Center

418 West Fox Street, Carlsbad
(505) 887-0276
Hours 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Free Admission

Exhibits feature art, archaeology, and local history with changing exhibits every other month.

Lincoln National Forest

(505) 885-4181
Maps are available from the Guadalupe Ranger District office located in the Federal Building, 114 S. Halegueno, Room 159, in Carlsbad, New Mexico. The forest encompasses 285,000 acres for hiking, caving, camping, picnicking, horsebackriding, hunting and sightseeing.

Sitting Bull Falls

Located seven miles southwest of State Highway 137 on Forest Route 276, this 130 foot falls is one of the highest in New Mexico. Picnic area, trails, and restroom. Day use only—no camping. Wheelchair accessible. Day use fee.

Five Points Vista

Eleven miles south of State Highway 137 on Forest Route 540. A panoramic view of the desert from the top of the Guadalupe Mountains. Interpretive signs explain natural features.

Brantley Lake State Park

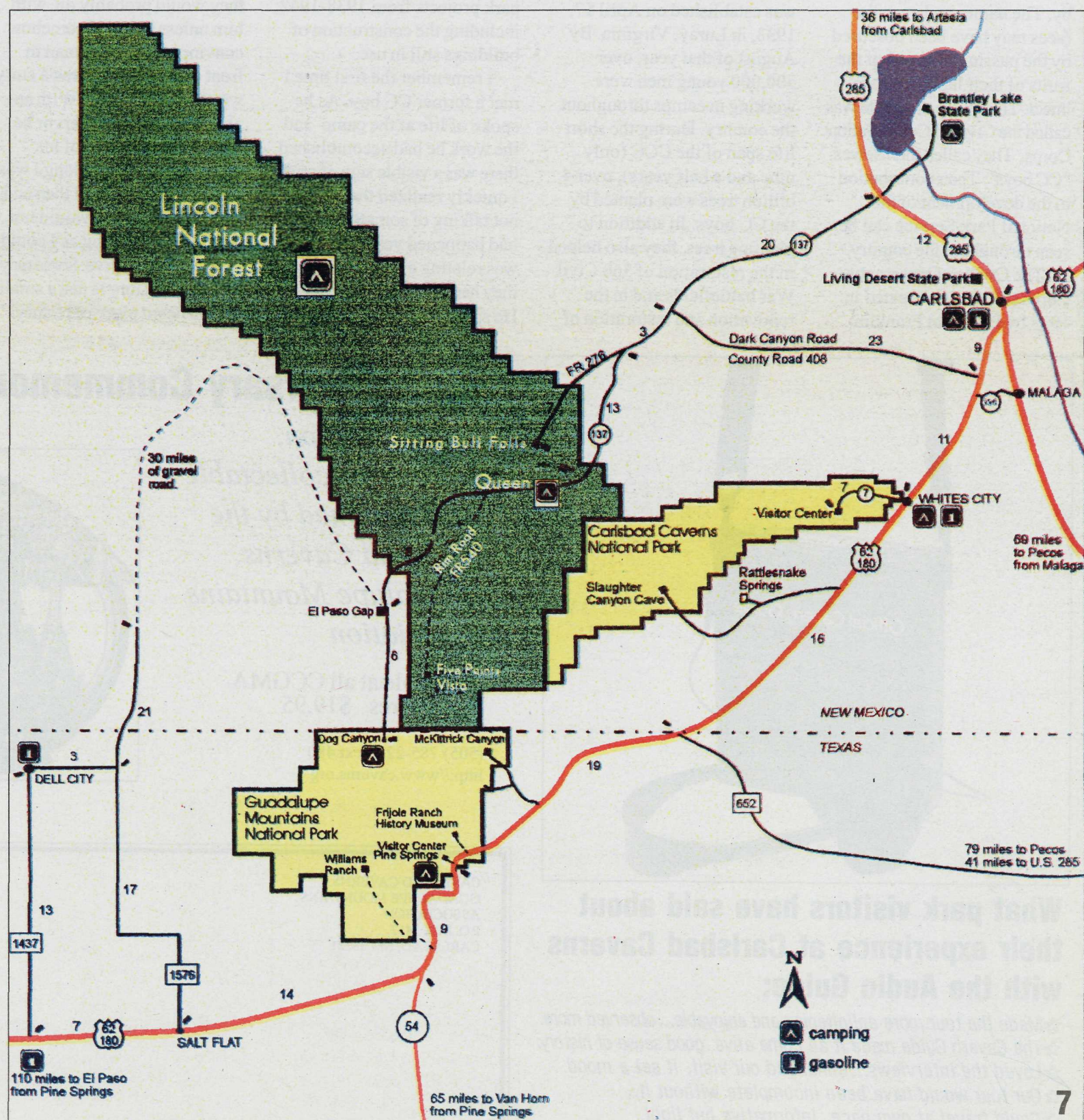
(505) 457-2384
Open all year. Wheelchair accessible.

Fees

Day Use—\$3.00 per vehicle
Camping—\$11.00 per night
Primitive—\$6.00 per night
Group picnic shelter reservation fee—\$30.00 per day

Located 12 miles north of Carlsbad on U.S. 285. The campground has 51 sites with water and RV electric hookups, a dump station, restroom with hot showers, tables, and grills.

Other facilities include picnic areas with sheltered sites, tables and grills, 2 playgrounds, a fishing pier, and a visitor center. Two boat ramps with paved parking areas are available. A group picnic shelter is available on a reservation basis.



"CC Boys" Made Valuable Contributions to Development of National Parks

by Dave Hutson

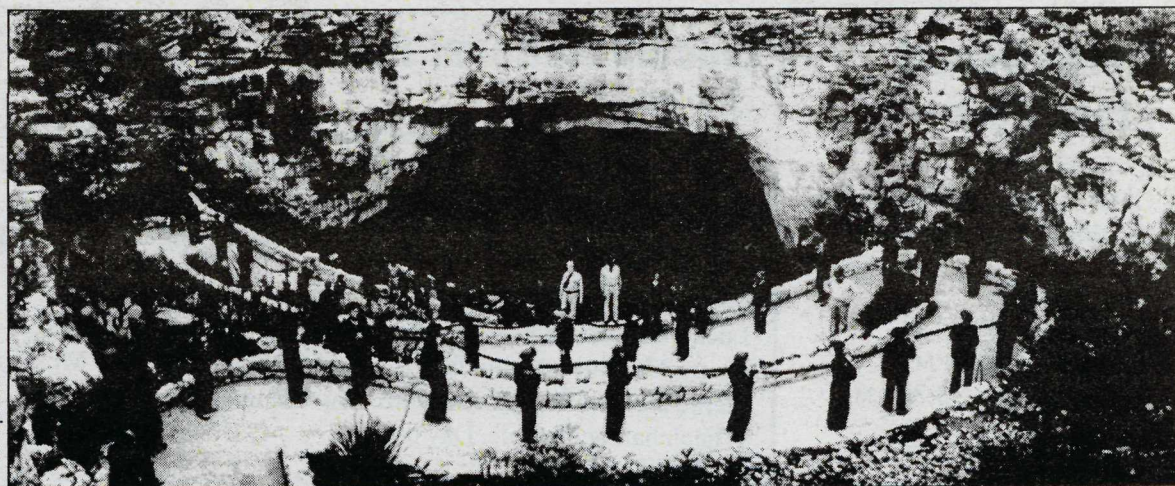
The story of our country is written in the lives of the people who came before us. Most of us know the story well and readily acknowledge the value of our rich heritage. But the story of our nation is also filled with people and events that have seemingly disappeared into the faded pages of history.

In the history of the National Park Service there is a group whose accomplishments present a vivid reminder of days gone by. The names and even the faces may have been obscured by the passing of time but the fruits of their labors remain intact. This group of people was called the Civilian Conservation Corps. They called themselves, "CC boys". Their contribution to the development of the National Park Service can be seen throughout the country.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was created in 1933 by President Franklin

Delano Roosevelt. Approved shortly after he entered office in January, it was one of the fastest Congressional Acts ever passed. As one of the earliest of the New Deal programs, the purpose of the CCC was to relieve unemployment during the Great Depression. Designed primarily for young unmarried men, it provided the National Parks with the manpower for some much-needed conservation work.

The very first CCC camp was established on April 17, 1933, in Luray, Virginia. By August of that year, over 500,000 young men were working in camps throughout the country. During the short life span of the CCC (only nine and a half years), over 4 billion trees were planted by the CC boys. In addition to planting trees, they also helped in the restoration of 360 Civil War battlefields and in the renovation and restoration of



NPS photo

CCC workers carrying power cable into the cave.

over 4,000 historic structures. At Carlsbad Caverns the CC boys labored on a variety of park projects from 1938-1942, including the construction of buildings still in use.

I remember the first time I met a former CC boy. As he spoke of life at the camp and the work he had accomplished, there was a visible sign of pride. I quickly realized that he was not talking of something that had happened years ago; he was relating events as though they had occurred yesterday. He spoke with pride, but there

was also a touch of sadness in his voice. Though his memories were alive, he recognized that they would probably die with him unless he could somehow convince this young man in front of him that his was a story worth remembering. With an almost evangelistic fervor he began sharing more of his experiences. Before long I was hooked. I determined then and there that his story would not be forgotten as long as I could help to keep it alive. Some may feel that his story is just a small, insignificant piece of history.

But to me it represents much more. His story, and that of all the CC boys is not about rocks, or dams or trees. It is about the human experience and that is the very essence of history.

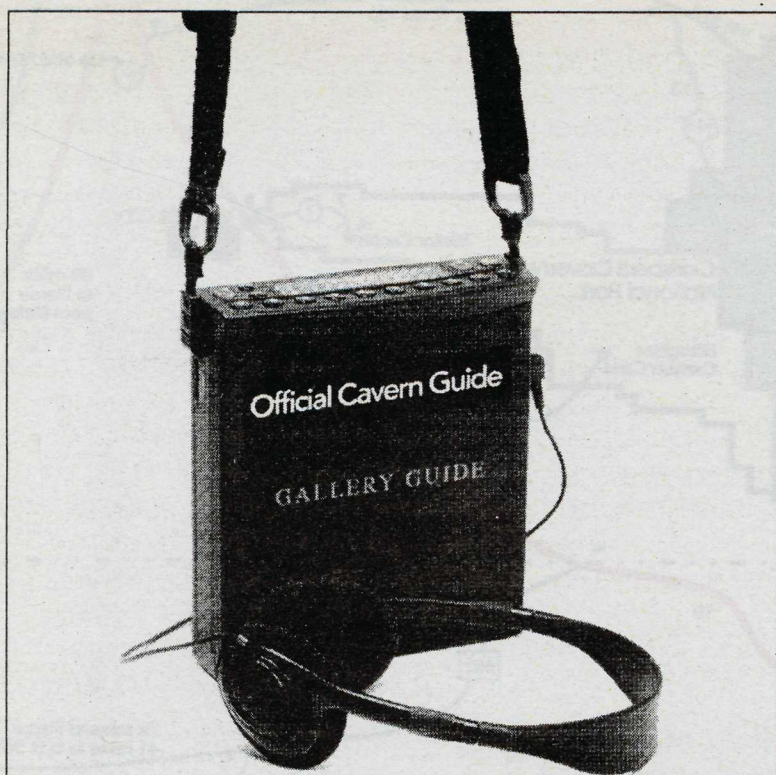
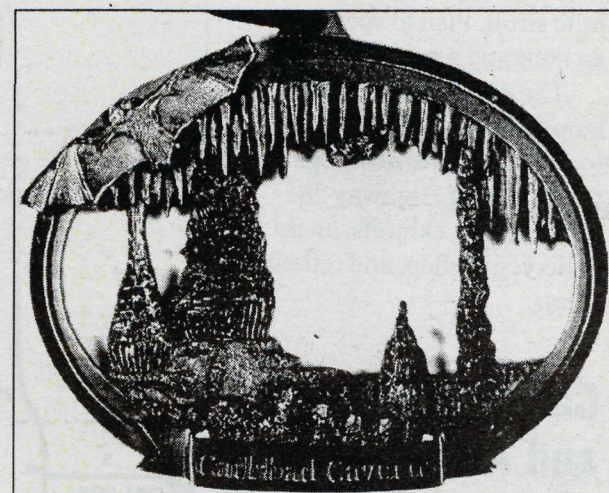
Most of the present generation have probably never heard of the CC boys; their stories don't get much ink in the history books. Fortunately for all of us, one only has to look at the fruits of their labors, the enormous volume of conservation work done in the National Parks, to recall the boys, and to put faces with the story.

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<http://www.caverns.org>



What park visitors have said about their experience at Carlsbad Caverns with the Audio Guide:

- ☆ Made the tour more enlightening and enjoyable...observed more.
- ☆ The Cavern Guide made it all come alive...good sense of history.
- ☆ Loved the interviews...enhanced our visit, it set a mood.
- ☆ Our tour would have been incomplete without it.
- ☆ Could travel at own pace, informative but light.
- ☆ Clear, well-understood program...impressive.
- ☆ The tour explained things my dad can't.

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