

MAMMOTH CAVE

NATIONAL PARK

KENTUCKY



HISTORIC ENTRANCE TO MAMMOTH CAVE
DISCOVERED 1799

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

HAROLD L. ICKES, SECRETARY

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NEWTON B. DRURY, Director



Mammoth Cave National Park

KENTUCKY



Open All Year



THE MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK, authorized for establishment by Congressional act May 25, 1926, embraces an area of approximately 50,000 acres of beautiful forested hill country in addition to its caverns which were first discovered by the white man in 1799. The park is located in southwestern Kentucky, about 100 miles south of Louisville, Ky., and approximately the same distance from Nashville, Tenn., near U. S. Route 31-W. Persons desiring to reach the park can travel by automobile, bus, or train. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad and the Greyhound Bus Lines connect with taxi service at Cave City, a distance of 10 miles from the park. The round-trip taxi fare is \$1.50 a person.

HISTORY OF THE PARK

According to a legend, Mammoth Cave was discovered in the early days of Kentucky by a pioneer, named Houchin, who while pursuing a wounded bear saw it enter the cave.

One of the seven wonders of the new world, the cave has been attracting visitors for more than 125 years. Mammoth Cave played an interesting part in the early American history. During the War of 1812, saltpeter was leached from the "petre-dirt" in the cave and was used to make gunpowder.

Before the coming of the white man, the cave was used by the Indian. This is attested by the discovery of several Indian mummies, crude working tools, tree ladders, reed torches, moccasins, and numerous other evidences of the prehistoric man's habitation within the cave.

While legislation authorizing its establishment as a national park was enacted in 1926, there had been a movement many years earlier to obtain such a status for the area. Lands for the park have been acquired by the State of Kentucky through the Kentucky National Park Commission, by donation from the Mammoth Cave National Park Association, and by direct purchase by the Federal Government.

CAVE ROUTES AND INFORMATION

Mammoth Cave has two main entrances, one natural, known as the Old, or Historic Entrance, and the other man-made, known as the Frozen Niagara Entrance. The Historic Entrance is noted primarily for its immensity and historical features.



ON ECHO RIVER IN MAMMOTH CAVE

On the fifth and lowest level of the cave visitors are ferried over the mysterious stream which underlies Mammoth Cave. Echo River is 360 feet below the surface. In width it varies from 20 to 60 feet and is from 10 to 30 feet deep. Only a small portion of its winding course has ever been explored. During low water guides have explored several miles up the river before the ceiling becomes too low to allow further passage. The river channel is a symmetrically arched corridor from 10 to 35 feet high during normal water levels. When the Green River rises to flood stage, this arched passage is completely filled with water. Strange blind specimens of fish and insect life are found in the blackness of this cavern where natural light has never penetrated.



THE MARBLE TEMPLE IN VIOLET CITY OF
MAMMOTH CAVE

This phenomenon is a beautiful example of strange shapes created when water releases its limestone solution and deposits it in the form of stalactites and stalagmites, known as cave onyx or travertine. The huge mound was formed when stalactites forming from the ceiling were joined to the large stalagmite building up from the floor. The long pillar at the left illustrates another variation of this process. The chimes and the little stone icicles in the ceiling represent formations much younger in geological age than the Temple itself. Violet City was discovered in 1908, and in 1931 the Violet City Entrance was opened.

Trips over the four routes given below are conducted every day in the year.

ROUTE NO. 1, OR ECHO RIVER ROUTE, takes the visitor to saltpeter vats of 1812, Bottomless Pit, Fat Man's Misery, Mammoth Dome, Ruins of Karnak, and other interesting features. Time—2½ to 3 hours. Starts from Historic Entrance, hourly 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and at 8 p.m.

ROUTE NO. 2, OR FROZEN NIAGARA ROUTE, includes Onyx Colonnade, Drapery Room, Crystal Lake, September Morn, and Echo Dome. Time—1 to 1½ hours. Commences at Frozen Niagara Entrance. Transportation by bus from the Mammoth Cave Hotel included in price of ticket. The schedule is the same as Route No. 1.

ROUTE NO. 3, OR HISTORIC TRIP. This tour covers the Rotunda, saltpeter vats, Bridal Altar, Jenny Lind's Arm Chair, Giant's Coffin, Martha Washington's Statue, Chief City, the largest room in Mammoth Cave, Grand Portal, and Violet City. It also includes inspection of the mummified body of the prehistoric man found in Mammoth Cave on June 7, 1935, which is considered one of the outstanding scientific discoveries in history. Time—3½ to 4 hours. Starts at Historic Entrance, hourly 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ROUTE NO. 4. ALL-DAY TRIP. This route, said to be the longest cave route in the world, comprises most of the outstanding features in Mammoth Cave. Requiring about 7½ hours, the trip begins at the Historic Entrance each day at 10 a.m. (also at 3 p.m. during the summer months), emerging at the Frozen Niagara Entrance. Lunch served in Snowball Dining Room, 267 feet underground. Box lunch 60 cents.



WASHINGTON'S PIT

This yawning abyss, 107 feet in depth and almost cylindrical in shape, is one of the deepest pits in the Mammoth Cave. Gorin's Dome extends above to a height of 48 feet, making the distance 155 feet from the top of the dome to the bottom of the pit.

Cost including tax: \$1.54 a person for Routes Nos. 1 and 2; \$1.98 a person for Route No. 3; and \$3.03 a person for Route No. 4. Each additional trip, \$1.10 a person for Routes Nos. 1, 2, and 3; and \$1.98 a person for Route No. 4. Children under 16 years of age, no charge.

Organized parties of 20 or more: Routes Nos. 1 and 2, \$1.10 a person; Route No. 3, \$1.54 a person; Route No. 4, \$2.04 a person; and each additional route, \$1.10 a person.

GEOLOGY

Mammoth Cave has over 150 miles of explored corridors literally filled with spectacular features that require geology to explain but only eyes to enjoy. The simplified geological history of the region can be understood by the layman and is most interesting.

Some 300,000,000 years ago much of North America, and all of Kentucky, were submerged by a great ocean called the Mississippian Sea. In that ancient sea, just as in the modern oceans, sand, gravel, mud, and lime were being deposited at various places. The bottom of the sea in the Mammoth Cave region was covered with thick deposits of lime sludge which by geologic processes finally were consolidated into the Mammoth Cave limestone in which the caves now occur. In the millions of years which followed, the ocean withdrew incompletely from the continent, departing northward into Hudson Bay and southward into the Gulf of Mexico. Rainwater soaking into the ground dissolved tremendous masses of limestone, creating thousands of funnel-like depressions, called sink holes, on the surface and honeycombing the limestone below ground with mazes of corridors.

The corridors occur in five separate levels, and they have been explained as corresponding to five separate levels at

which Green River once flowed. During each stage, or level, ground water percolated downward through the rocks until it came to the base level established by the Green River. Then it flowed horizontally underground along this level, dissolving and wearing away the limestone and finally emptying into Green River. As Green River cut its channel deeper, it lowered the ground-water level correspondingly. When this level coincided with the position of less resistant portions of the limestone, these portions were more quickly carried away than the overlying rock, and a set of chambers was created at the new level. This happened five times, and today Echo River slowly flows along the fifth, or lowest, level in the cave and drains into Green River. It is about 350 feet from the ground surface to the lowest cave level.

This process of solution and excavation is the first stage of cave formation. It creates barren rooms and corridors. The second stage of cave history begins with the formation of dripstone, or secondary minerals. The beauty of the cave is greatly enhanced during this stage which may follow or overlap the first. During this process water dripping from cave walls and roofs deposits much of its burden of lime as stalactites on the ceilings or stalagmites on the floors. The water which trickles down the walls forms sheets that hang like folded draperies and masses that resemble fountains. A mineral, called gypsum, adds to the beauty of the cave through the formation of woolly masses, needles, pendants, flower-like growths, and grotesque coils of white translucent crystals. Manganese and iron oxide impurities in the ground water have tinted much of the gray interior with reds, yellows, and purples.

FORESTS

Typical of the Central Hardwood Forest Region of the United States, the park forests are composed principally of deciduous broadleaved trees intermingled with scattered pines and other evergreens. They cover about 60 percent

of the area inside of the park on the Green and Nolin River watersheds, an area which was entirely covered with virgin forests only 160 years ago. Many large veterans from this primeval forest still remain to enhance the beauty of motor roads and foot trails from which they may be seen.

A great variety of trees compose the forest cover, the most common of which are the various oaks and hickories together with beech, maples, gums, yellow poplar, ash, sycamore, and elm. Smaller species of trees and low shrubs fill in the spaces among the loftier sorts, and many of these produce abundant and beautiful flowers.

In late April and early May the flowering dogwood and redbud shows are on, having just been preceded by the shadbush or serviceberry. Later, the mountain laurel bursts forth with its large clusters of showy pink and white flowers to light up the depths of the forest and attract its many admirers.

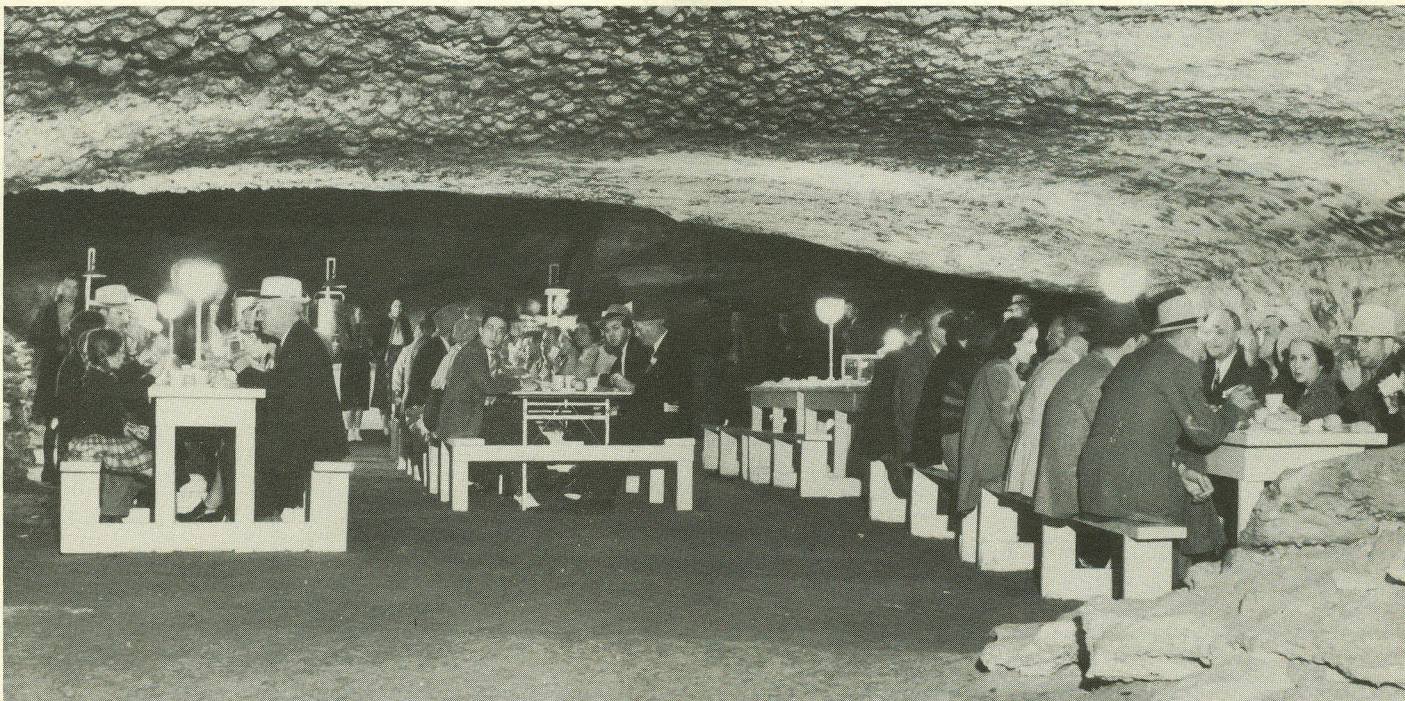
Other trees, with inconspicuous flowers, are favorites for insects in their search for nectar, while fruits of others provide food for numerous small animals, and attract many species of birds.

Autumnal coloration usually reaches its height in late October. The amount and brilliance of autumnal colors in any season depend upon the abruptness of the change from summer to autumn and upon the number of clear days.

Lofty steel lookout towers peer out over the tops of the tallest trees to remind all of the ever-constant menace of forest fires and caution everyone always to be watchful of his own campfire, matches, and smoking materials.

WILD FLOWERS AND SHRUBS

Beautiful floral families have taken up residence on the sunny hills and shaded ravines of Mammoth Cave National Park. The appeal is universal. Whether you be an expert botanist, hiker, camera enthusiast, or just a lover of the



SNOWBALL DINING ROOM

Visitors taking the all-day trip through the cave, beginning at the natural entrance and emerging at Frozen Niagara and covering 7½ miles en route, stop at this white dining room for luncheon or dinner. The ceiling is covered with a mass of crystal gypsum ovals from which its name is derived. A drinking fountain here supplies water from an upside-down well.

great out-of-doors, you may find the mecca of your recreational interest right here in Kentucky. Over 8 miles of nature trails, leading back into a fine hardwood forest overlooking the emerald-like Green River, have been designed for the pleasure of the visitor. On the daily nature walks, led by the ranger naturalist, most people suddenly realize a long dormant interest in flowers, shrubs, and trees. The relationships between plant groups and types of environments are nowhere better illustrated than along the trail walks in the park area. One does not have to be an ecologist to note how certain plants are limited to one rock type (limestone or sandstone) or to observe how the nature of the topography, whether steep or gentle slopes, flat or undrained, facing north or facing south, all go to determine what plants can live in a given area. These facts are all known to the botanist and can quickly be appreciated by anyone, once they have been pointed out. Most people quickly see and enjoy checking, for example, how polypody fern, the false foxglove, mountain laurel, and the other heaths (Ericaceae) are limited to the growing places, usually hill slopes, where the Cypress Sandstone occurs. Contrariwise, the beautiful walking fern and purple cliff brakes are usually found growing on limestone.

The Kentucky shrubs and wild flowers, most of which require favorable moisture conditions, are of great variety. Some of the more spectacular members of this class are the Solomon seals, wake robin, May apple, twin leaf, blood root, and Jack-in-the-pulpit. Also growing in this section is the beautiful shrubby Saint John's wort which has successfully been transplanted around the Mammoth Cave Hotel where the low bushes bearing beautiful flowers prove so appealing. In addition, in open prairie-like places many of the showy summer flowers are found. Everyone delights in seeing the purple cane flower, butterfly weed, blazing stars, and the earlier orange puccoon.

The summer visitor cannot see everything in one short visit. From early spring until autumn there is a continually changing scene of fragrances and floral display which delight the hearts of young and old. No matter what date a vacationist arrives he will find scenes of wholesale attraction as a background for the fine recreational activities offered at Mammoth Cave National Park.

WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The variety of animal life in this park is typical of the



DOGWOOD

During the dogwood flowering season, the drives in Mammoth Cave National Park display a magnificent array of snowy dogwood blossoms.

southeastern region of the country. Lying in three geographic subdivisions, consisting of the Valley Sink in the South, the Knobs in the middle section, and the Hills in the north section, it affords many types of wildlife habitats which support the numerous animal forms. Representative species of the northern section of the country mingle with the southern types to some extent. The caves provide a distinctive animal life which is entirely different from the surface animals and of considerable interest to the park visitor.

The more common types of mammals, or fur-bearing animals, that are seen in the park are the raccoon, gray fox, red fox, opossum, cottontail rabbit, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, flying squirrel, woodchuck, skunk, chipmunk, muskrat, mink, weasel, mice, moles and shrews, and several kinds of bats.

Bird life in the park is of especial interest, more than 170 species having been reported. Quail, woodpeckers, mourning doves, crows, vultures, hawks, owls, robins, and cardinals are permanent residents.

Reptiles and amphibians have more than 60 species represented.

The cave life is unique among the fauna of the park. Bats are the most numerous and may be observed in Long's Cave, Colossal Cavern, and Bat Cave, as well as many other smaller caves. During the migrating season, or in winter hibernation, one may see thousands of these flying animals, singly, in small groups, or in large clusters hanging to the ceiling, or clinging to the sides of the caves not visited by the public. In some of the caves having streams or lakes the eyeless cave fish and cave crawfish are found, while the cave cricket is common in all the caves.

RECREATION

CAMPING—A permanent campground is located one-half mile from the Mammoth Cave Hotel. Tables, fireplaces, wood for fuel, comfort station, and running water are provided for those who enjoy picnicking and camping. Individual parking space for trailers, with running water, comfort station, and electricity, are provided in one section of the campground.



GREEN RIVER IN MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK

Green River with its verdant shores and steep rugged bluffs offers scenic attractions that are surpassed nowhere in the United States. Near Mammoth Cave Hotel are located the swimming beaches. Many visitors come up Green River from the Ohio by motorboat and camp at the river camping ground.



RANGER NATURALIST HIKES

During the summer twice daily hikes led by the ranger naturalist of the National Park Service unfold for visitors the many and varied surface attractions. More than 70 varieties of trees, including the flowering redbud and dogwood; hundreds of different kinds of flowers, ferns, and shrubs; nearly 200 different species of birds; and many forms of other wildlife make this national park a haven for the outdoor fan.

HIKING—Eight miles of trails wind through dense woods along the Green River bluffs and offer an opportunity for the nature lovers to observe the many varieties of trees, flowers, shrubs, and birds found in the park.

FISHING—Thirty miles of the Green and Nolin Rivers in the park supply the fisherman with a variety of fish including jack salmon, black bass, catfish, drum, red horse, and buffalo. A Kentucky fishing license is required, and the season is open through the year except during May. For complete fishing regulations in the park, contact the office of the chief ranger.

BOATING—Boating is becoming increasingly popular on the Green and Nolin Rivers in the park. The beautiful scenic bluffs along both rivers are a constant invitation to outboard and motorboat enthusiasts. The head of navigation on the Green River is just below the historic entrance to the Cave, which allows large motor boats to come well into the park.

TENNIS—Two splendid tennis courts surfaced with Kentucky rock asphalt are available immediately in the rear of the Mammoth Cave Hotel.

SHUFFLEBOARD—Four shuffleboard courts are available for visitors and are located in the rear of the Mammoth Cave Hotel.

SWIMMING—A temporary beach is located on Green River just below the historic entrance to the Cave and is available to visitors throughout the summer.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE

Beginning June 15 and continuing until September 10, the ranger naturalist conducts hikes, leaving the Mammoth Cave Hotel at 9:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. These trips are announced at the Mammoth Cave Hotel over a public address system. Illustrated lectures are also offered by the ranger naturalist at the amphitheater located near the Mammoth Cave Hotel on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights at 8 p.m. during the summer months.



PICNICKING IN MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK

The National Park Service has provided several attractive picnic spots in accessible areas. One picnic ground on the banks of Green River, another high up on the bluffs, and a third in a timbered area, provide variety and every facility for outdoor enjoyment. Stone fireplaces, tables, benches, an ample supply of firewood, and landscaped grounds offer comfortable scenic sites for family and group gatherings.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Mammoth Cave Hotel (open all year), cottages and cabins (open only during summer months), offer modern accommodations with excellent service. Hotel rates, European plan, \$1.50 without bath, \$3 with bath, single; \$2.50 without bath, \$4 with bath, double.

Cabin rates, \$2 and \$2.50, single, 50 cents additional for each person to cabin room. All cabins have toilets and showers.

Rates are subject to change.

Hotel dining room service or excellent coffee shop facilities are available at all hours.

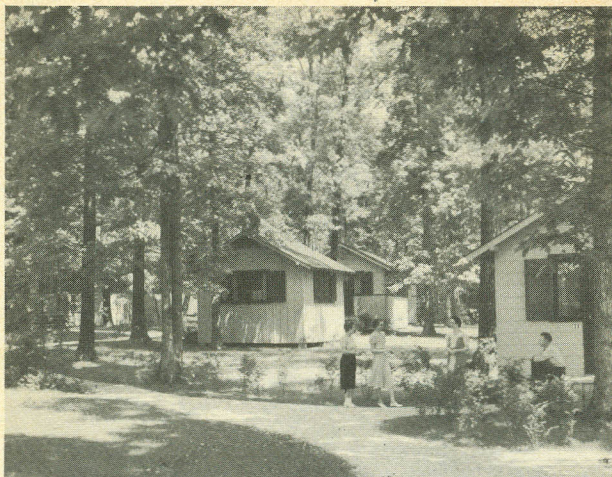
ADMINISTRATION

Comments or suggestions for the betterment of services in the park are welcomed. Address all communications to the Superintendent, Mammoth Cave National Park, Mammoth Cave, Ky.



MAMMOTH CAVE HOTEL

Comfortable and modern, this long southern type hotel has accommodations high in quality and reasonable in price. Mammoth Cave Hotel is equally famous for its delicious foods, which carry the flavor reminiscent of the old plantations.



CABIN AREA IN MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK

Almost hidden and beneath the sheltering trees that blanket the Green River bluffs are 16 new cabins opened to the public in 1939. Though rustic in their setting and design, these cabins are equipped with every modern facility and tastefully furnished in varied color schemes. Among the cabins are single-room, two-, three-, and even four-room cabins to meet the needs of family groups and parties of different sizes.

RULES TO BE OBSERVED

It is unlawful to mar, deface, or remove any rock, stalactite, stalagmite, or other natural feature. Flowers, ferns, or shrubs should not be picked.

Fires should be built only in designated campgrounds and should be completely extinguished before leaving. Matches or burning tobacco should not be thrown on the ground or from an automobile.

Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds unless special permission is received from the office of the superintendent.

Hunting or molesting any wildlife is not allowed.

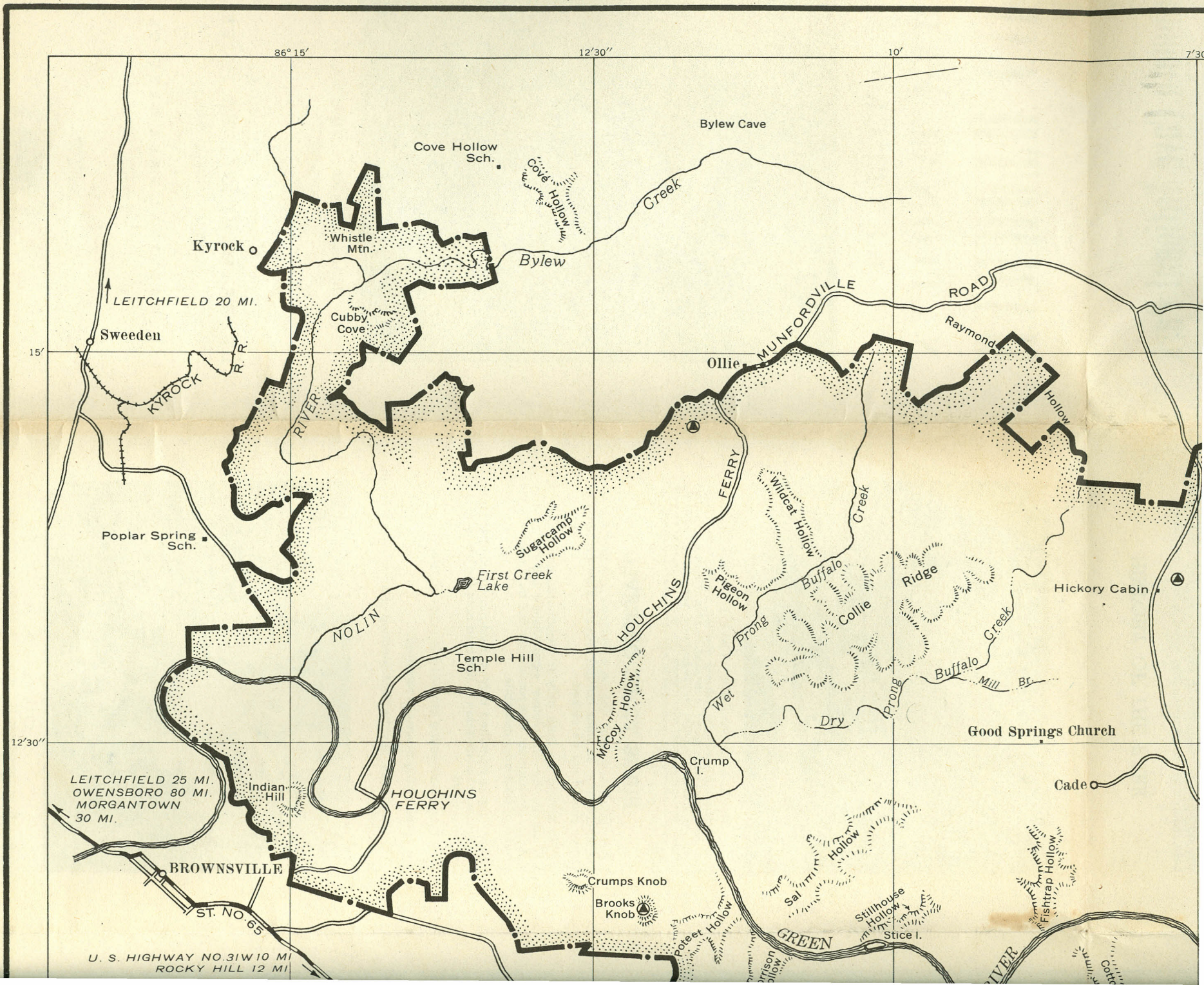
A State fishing license is required.

Dogs and cats must be kept confined or on a leash while in the park.



CRYSTAL LAKE

Crystal Lake, an emerald green body of water, is 270 feet beneath the surface and is from 3 to 38 feet deep. During this boat ride visitors may look above into Moonlight Dome, 94 feet high. A dry pit 68 feet below Crystal Lake is separated by a large stalagmite called Plymouth Rock, which forms a natural dam for the water of Crystal Lake.



0' 7'30" 5' 86°2'30"



15'

12'30"

MUNFORDVILLE 15 MI.
CUB RUN 3 MI.

HORSE CAVE 6 MI.

INDEFINITE
COUNTY BOUNDARY









MAMMOTH CAVE
Entrance
PARK HEADQUARTERS
Residential Area
Mammoth Cave
HOTEL
Cabin

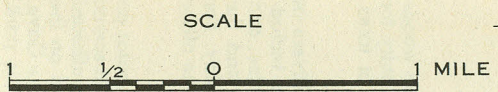
MAMMOTH CAVE FERRY

Valley

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK KENTUCKY

LEGEND

-  Park Boundary
-  Improved Roads
-  Unimproved Roads
-  Trails
-  Campgrounds
-  Park Entrance Station
-  Fire Lookout Observation Tower
-  Picnic Area



37°
07'
30"

86°15'

12°30'

10'

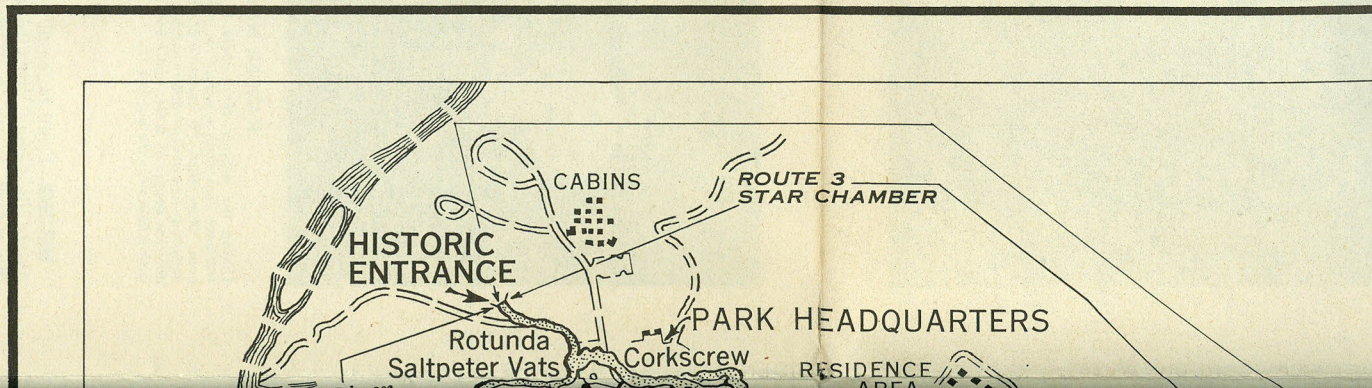
7°30'

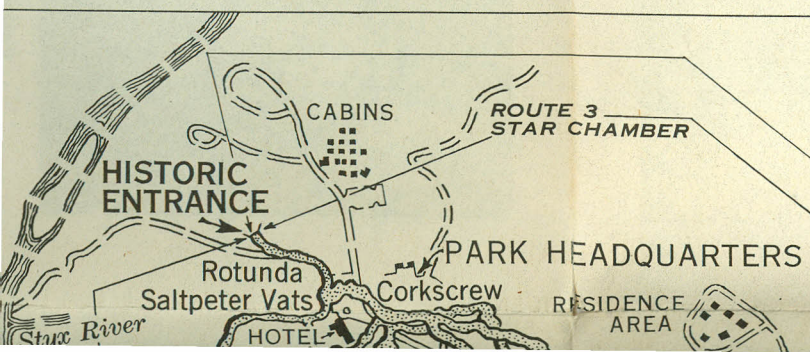
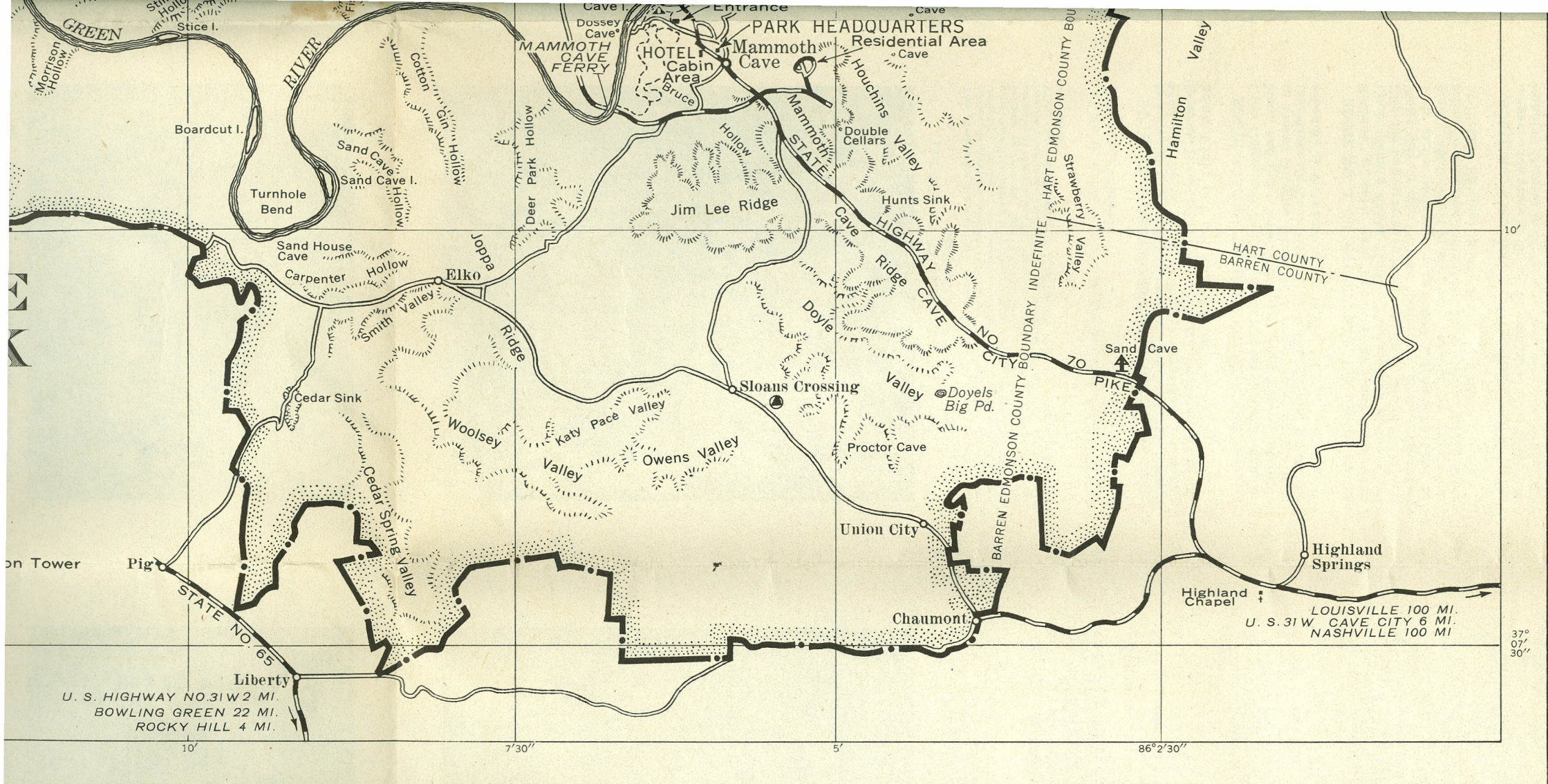
U. S. HIGHWAY NO. 31 W 10 MI
ROCKY HILL 12 MI

U. S. HIGHWAY NO. 31 W 2 MI.
BOWLING GREEN 22 MI.
ROCKY HILL 4 MI.

MILEAGE CHART TO MAMMOTH CAVE

Atlanta	370 Miles	Louisville	100 Miles
Birmingham ..	318 Miles	Memphis	331 Miles
Charleston	635 Miles	Nashville	100 Miles
Chicago	405 Miles	New Orleans	699 Miles
Cincinnati	212 Miles	Pittsburgh	489 Miles



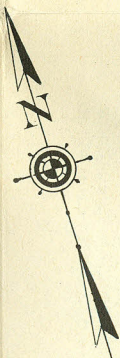
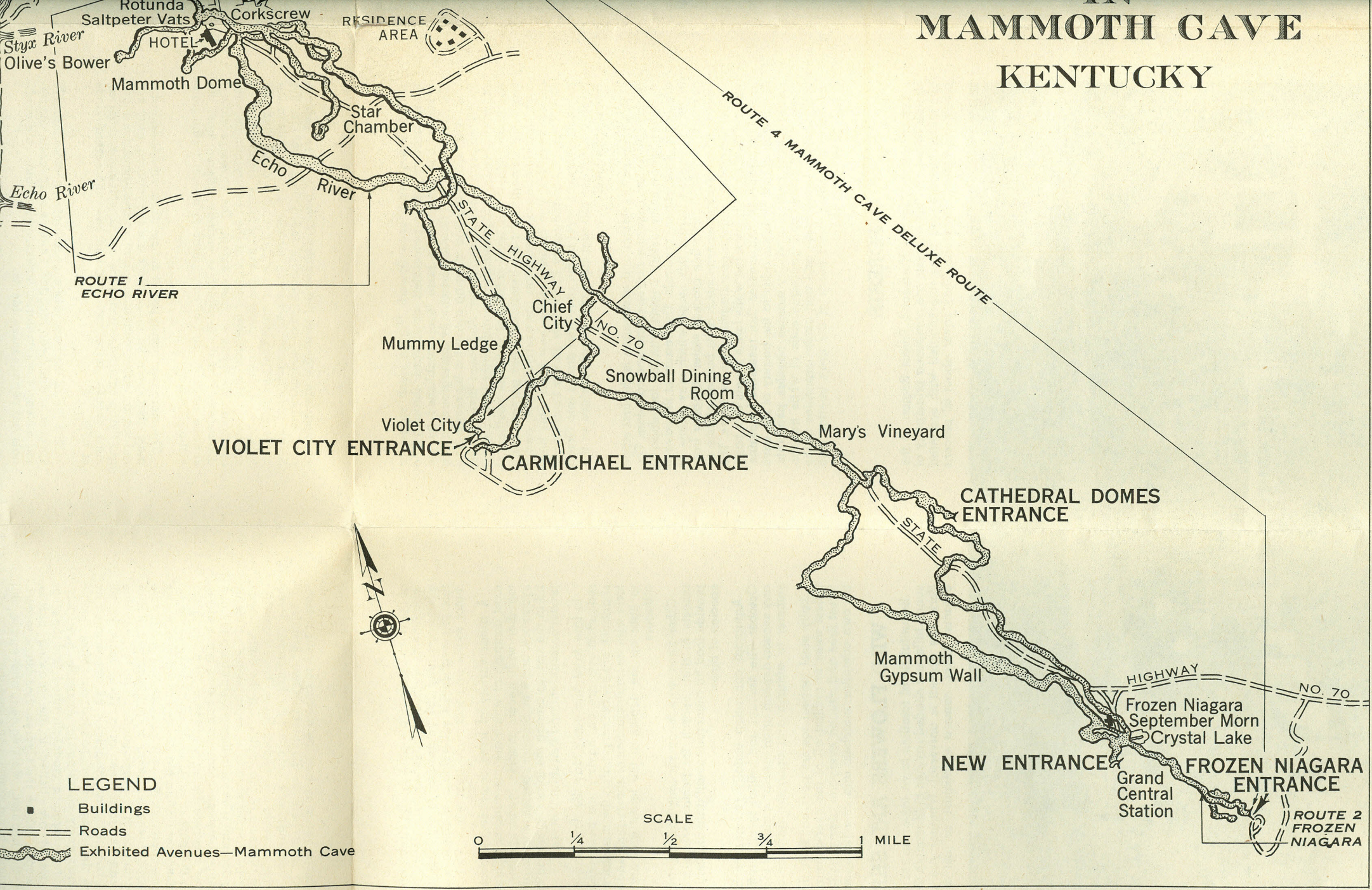


TRAVELED ROUTES IN MAMMOTH CAVE

LOUISVILLE 100 MI.
U. S. 31 W. CAVE CITY 6 MI.
NASHVILLE 100 MI

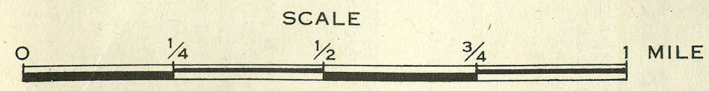
MAMMOTH CAVE

KENTUCKY



LEGEND

- Buildings
- == Roads
- ~ Exhibited Avenues—Mammoth Cave



1/21/41 N.P.M.C.-7001

DRAWN BY H. B. HUNTER