

GENERAL DATA - HISTORY OF OREGON CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT

Davidson Timeline:

1/22/1849 - Born in Monmouth, Illinois. He was one of 10 (C. Davidson, 1935) children.

1850 - Family moves to Portland.

1852? - They sold their claim "because Portland wasn't ever going to amount to much" (Grant's Pass Courier, 1960). They moved to Monmouth in Polk County, where Elijah attended public school.

1857 - Family moves to the head of Williams Creek in Josephine County in 1866.

1870 - Married Minerva Farris in 1870.

1870-75 - First three children born, Anna Davidson Wright, Barton, Mrs. W.E. Smith. Other children include sons named Winter (oldest, born in 1873), Autumn Forest and Summer. A total of 12 children were born, of which only two survived to the 1960's (Winter and Smith).

1874- Discovered cave. The gun he used to kill the bear with weighs 8 pounds and is 57 inches long (Muirhead, 1983). It may have lost its weight as it was said to have weighed 25 pounds in 1965. He used Chinese sulfur matches.

1883- 1908 - Lived at Crescent City, Bardon, Nome Alaska (mining gold) and near the Applegate River (mining gold).

1913 - His wife died. He sold his mining claim and bought a ranch on Williams Creek.

12/16 - Brought in nine bear skins to Grants Pass.

1920's? - He invited a neighbor family to dinner and served them deer meat, wild honey and raspberries, all foods he had hunted or gathered.

6/27 - Killed large cougar near his home.

9/19/27 - Died. Buried in Sparlin Cemetery in Williams.

General Timeline

Topic: Park history is tied closely to both preservation and recreational development.

1820's - Hudson Bay Company exploration is the first recorded presence of non-native people in the Siskiyou.

1850-1870 - Due to mining activities, this is the first substantial expansion of non-native people living in the Siskiyou. Other mining periods were from 1895-1920 and 1930-45.

1853 Kenbyville first settled
1859 Williams is established
Wade est. 1856
1874 - First record of cave entry by **Elijah Davidson** in the fall while hunting a bear. It is unknown how far he went into the cave. The hunting party included Carter (his brother), Moses, Julius Godwin (married Elijah's sister), Jimmie Dale and one or two others (Wetterau, 1968). One of these may have been a Yurok Indian hunting guide, William Norris, Sr. (Atwood, 1970).

According to Davidson's own account, he baited the entrance of the cave with a freshly killed deer and killed the bear the next day. Elijah's son and Carter's daughter (Wetterau, 1968) recount that Jules Goodwin accompanied him the next morning.

Alternative versions: Davidson in 1913 and The Rogue River Courier says that Davidson returned the following day with Ira Sparlin, John Kincaid and David Johns to explore the cave. Davidson in 1913 said this group found the bear he had shot the day before. However this trip more likely occurred in 1877 (see below). Rita Elliot (Davis, 1977) claims that Ira Sparlin returned to the cave the same day as the initial discovery or a day or so later.

According to Winter Davidson, Carter, Elijah and David John, Sr. came back to the cave a year later.

According to Michelson (1891), Elijah returned the day after the discovery and lighted his way with a pine torch. He became lost for four hours, breaking stalactites to mark the way he had come. He finally exited out a different way than the one he used to enter.

1875 - In July, Davidson explored the cave more extensively with W.W. Fidler (Halliday, 1977). Fidler wrote in 1877 in the Portland Oregonian that "the stalactites and stalagmites surpass anything ever dreamed of, and nothing I ever beheld in nature before so completely overcame me with suggestions of sublimity and beauty...It would be a shame to desecrate or deface anything so beautiful."

1877 - Cave trips include:

Davidson, his brother Carter Davidson and James Nail (Fidler, 1922). During a hunting trip, they used pitch pine for light,

small trees made into ladders and a rope tied to the entrance so as not to get lost. Sweet (1987) states that this was the first trip after Davidson's initial discovery.

Davidson, three women and five others (Fidler, 1922).

Davidson, John H. Kincaid, Frank M. Nickerson, John M. Chapman (the first trip after Davidson's initial discovery according to Watson, 1909, however some of his other information appear inaccurate.)

Davidson, W.W. Fidler, Ira Sparlin, David Johns Jr. (after July 5 and before July 26). A suggestion that "it looked like a shame to desecrate or deface anything in nature so beautiful" stopped vandalism on that trip (Fidler, 1977)

Fidler accompanies Simpson on a day-long horseback ride to the caves from cabin near the head of Williams Creek. (Fidler, 1909).

Frank Nickerson claims to have also visited the cave with Davidson and John M. Chapman during this year.

1878 - At least three parties arrive in August at the same time, including the Robert A. Miller group. They used balls of string to find their way out.

1879 - Carter T. Davidson, Elijah's brother, signed his name in the cave.

1880 - Homer and Ernest Harkness, brothers, took a squatter's claim at the lower entrance (Watson, 1909).

1885 - Homer Harkness and brother-in-law Walter C. Burch (1859-1935) of Leland took out a mineral claim on 160 acres surrounding the cave (Walsh). They were unable to acquire title because the land was unsurveyed. They spent about \$1,000 enlarging passages and building surface trails during the next 2 years. The cost for the cave trip, camping, "medicinal" cave waters and good pasture was one dollar, as advertised in the Grants Pass Courier newspaper.

1886 - Harkness and Burch have camping accommodations near the Cave for visitors. MacDanniels and Burch cut a trail from Williams Creek over Meadows Mountain, across Lake Creek and to the caves from the northeast. The cabin was constructed sometime from 1886 to 1888.

1887? - Frank M. Nickerson and A. J. Henderson "took possession" of the cave and started Oregon Caves Improvement

Botanical explorations by T. J. Howell in Illinois Valley
(dates?)

Co. (Watson, 1909), However 1894 (Millard) may be a more accurate date as Steel had the Harkness brothers for guides in 1888.

1888 W.G. Steel found the cave of C.B. Watson & others on Aug 24

1889 - The Harkness company folded. The venture proved unsuccessful in part because the nearest railroad was 200 miles away and the area was sparsely settled. Homer left for Washington. mtis of Oregon published w/ chapter on the "Discovered country cave"

Quiett (1936) relates an apocryphal (Oregonian, 1936) story about California miners who found Oregon Caves. Believing that the cave formations were worth owning, they put up markers and measured their homesteads. They then went to the land-office to file their claims only to find that the property was in Oregon and not in California. So, rather than become Oregonians, they disgustedly abandoned their claim.

1891 - A "Captain" A. J. Smith of San Diego, California, W. J. Henderson and F. M. Nickerson held a mineral claim on the cave. A photographer and writer from the Francisco Examiner visited the cave soon after news of the discovery reaches the newspaper.

1894 - Smith secured a bond from Nickerson and his partners, employed surveyors to lay out roads and trails, hire men to explore and develop the cavern further, buy supplies, and put in entrance gates. A one story and two story cabin were apparently erected near the caves and a cabin was built on Sucker Creek, the place being called Camp Henderson.

Rubble was cleared to make caves paths from Feb. to Oct. Stalactites were broken to open up passages (USFS, 1924). The "Captain" may have never entered the cave (Watson, 1909).

A second group from the Examiner visited the Cave. They were guests of the Oregon Caves Improvement Company. A special cabin was prepared for the occasion (Watson, 1909). Within months the company was in receivership.

? - When liabilities amounted to several thousand dollars, the "Captain" disappeared. The company's property bought just sixty dollars at the sheriff's auction. Kincaid and Nickerson both continued as cave guides at least until 1909. In 1909 Nickerson's dog helped find the way to Paradise Lost (Watson, 1909)

1890? - Davidson took his 14 year old son in the cave. For the next few years almost everyone who visited the cave broke off stalactites to take home as curiosities.

1892 - C. J. Kincaid signed and dated a formation in the cave.

1891 - The San Francisco Examiner sponsored a well-publicized expedition to assist with full-scale development. Reporter Charles Michelson and the photographer, Mr. Worthington, went first to Grants Pass and then to Kerby by way of a stagecoach. About four miles below the mouth of the canyon (shortly past the intersection of Sucker Creek with Grayback Creek) the party gave up the wagons for a pack train. They axed their way through as nobody appeared to have been over the trail for two years.

The Oregon Caves Improvement Company's superintendent (Captain Smith) talked of a 500-room hotel, electric lighting of the caves and a streetcar line from Grants Pass to the cave (Halliday, 1977).

1894 - Second Examiner group begins blasting in cave to open passages.

> 1896 National Forestry Commission ^{main, Sargent,}

1901? - Proctor (1915?) combined the Examiner and Smith into one venture, stating it took place about 1901. Hearst, the main financial backer of the Examiner, was said to have asked Smith to pay off the debt, but Smith died soon after (Proctor, 1915?). However, little of this account accords with other sources.

The Examiner group cleared land below the entrance and apparently erected a small cabin and graded a road for several hundred feet on the east side of Cave Creek in the early 1900's (MacDaniels, 1920).

^{The proposed Southern Oregon Forest Reserve}
1903 - ~~Siskiyou National Forest~~ was withdrawn from entry. This prevented private claiming of the cave under mining laws. ^{The proposed}
~~March 2, 1907~~ ^{the reserve, claiming that it would} ~~preclude a railroad from Grants Pass to~~ ^{many locals oppo.}

1907 - Four sections, including the land on which the caves were located were withdrawn on August 12 from all forms of entry (including mining) on 8/12 for a "proposed" National Monument. ^{In the historical} ~~pending a survey~~

Robert Veach attempted to locate a mineral claim on the cave area. When informed of the withdrawal of land from mineral claims by the Forest Service, he and partner G. O. Ouim applied of a special use permit for a cave resort.

^{The Rogue}
A Rogue River Courier says "Every citizen of this country is vitally interested in having the Oregon Caves exploited to the fullest extent."

1908 - Ouim continued to apply for a special use permit for the cave. Based on the policy of not allowing commercial monopolies on Forest Service lands, H. V. Anderson's special use permit

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~~1900~~ ~~1899~~ USGS Prof Paper No. 4 published The Forest of Oregon by Henry Gannett. (Prof Paper No. 4) the result of three years work in surveying the forest resources of the state.
1905 US Forest Service established ~~1901~~
~~1901~~ Forest Reserves transferred to from the USDI to USDA Feb 1
US FS created July 1

was not approved. The area was surveyed in October. Siskiyou National Forest was created. Oregon Caves are "very much mutilated."

1909 - 360 visitors to cave. Monument is established on July 12 (Proclamation No. 879). Taft's proclamation states "any use of the land which interferes with its preservation or protection as a National Monument is hereby forbidden". The monument is to be administered by the US Forest Service.

According to Carter Davidson's daughter, Elijah was upset about misinformation concerning his finding of the cave and would have nothing to do with the monument's operations (Acklen, 1977).

By now, the single floor cabin has had its door, floor and part of the roof ripped off for campfires. The two story cabin was also vandalized (Oregon Observer, 9/12).

1910 - Grazing allotments in National Forest land had been delineated along Sucker Creek and Grayback by this time (Brown, 1960).

1911 - 500 dollars is spent for the construction of 2 1/2 miles of new trail at the caves end of the trail from Williams Creek and on replacing 35 wooden ladders in the cave. The wooden ladders last about two years (MacDaniels, 1920).

A small log tool and store house is constructed by the cave guide 525' below the caves to house equipment when not in use. Tents house the guide, his wife and 10 year old boy.

A railroad was started from Grant's Pass to Crescent City. The automobile dirt road to the head of Williams Creek was "in fair condition."

Watson inquired about a use permit for a resort facility for the cave. T. H. Johnson applied for a special use permit to light the caves.

1911-1913 - Cave guides and guards Vickers Smith, Richard Sowell and Dick Rowley improved cave trails.

1912 - A Portland group announced plans for building a motel at and a road to the caves. Mrs. Sowell had a special-use permit for the Government Camp just outside the Monument boundary (75' above present lower parking lot? - (McDaniels, 1920), providing meals and tent lodging.

Senator Bourne agrees to push for national park designation. Representative Hawley asks the Forest Service why certain permits for development have not been approved.

Anderson applies for a permit to light the cave hydroelectrically and build a two story log structure close to the present Chateau site. He also says private money is available to build a wagon road up from Sucker Creek. A newspaper article promoting development complains of "seemingly unnecessary delay" and "red tape" from the government.

1912? - A permit for T.H. Johnston to provide cave guides, light the caves and maintain safe cave ladders is typed up but never dated or signed.

The Dept. of Agriculture solicitor renders an opinion that the Forest Service has no authority to issue a permit for building a hotel on a Monument (Graves, 1912). Representatives of the Dept. of War, Interior and Agriculture meet and decide that Monument should not be developed and managed by private parties even under departmental restrictions (Adams, 1912).

Attorney A. Shaw advises that as a National Park, the Forest Service would be authorized to grant the desired concessions. Anderson circulates a petition to have Oregon Caves changed to a National Park.

1913 - A local group (Game and Fish Protective Assoc.) pushes for creation of a 200,000 acre national park to facilitate hotel and road building. Senator Bourne and Congressman Hawley both introduce bills in Congress to change the Monument to a national park status. The Bourne bill provides for mining and for permits by restaurant and hotel keepers, but not for economic monopolies.

The Bourne increase in acreage (36 square miles) proposed is opposed because the "caves are small and disappointing to most visitors," and it would prohibit timber sales and grazing. Hawley's bill asks for 240 acres and allows for timber sales and grazing. This bill is supported by Forester Graves (Courier, 12/12/13).

The head of the Forest Service intends to ask Congress for authority to grant permits for hotel and other purposes in National Forest and then revoke Monument status so it would again become part of the National Forest. He anxious for such development as development of timber "is still some ways off." in Siskiyou NF. He feels it would be difficult to have a national park enacted because of the large number of such requests for National Parks in the west. His plan is approved by the Grants Pass Commercial Club.

An automobile road up the Applegate River valley leads to Steven's ranch, with a ten mile hike to the caves. Camping tents and bedding was intermittently provided at Steven's ranch by the Grants Pass Commercial Club from at least 1913 to 1917 (Argus, 6/10/15, Macduff, 1917). The total cost from Portland (including railroad fare) was about eighteen dollars.

1915 - Act of 1915 authorized lease of Forest Service lands for hotels, summer resorts and other recreational uses.

1916 - Rowley says that Lerman notified him that concessions would not be granted within the Monument (Lerman, 1917). This is denied (Lerman, 1917). The Secretary of Agriculture says "it is our policy to encourage the development of recreation areas, like the Oregon Caves, in every way possible." (Houston, 1917). The District Forester believes that Grants Pass developers "are entitled to some voice in fixing the conditions for permits." (Cecil, 1917).

The telephone at the cave works poorly because of connection with an overloaded 'farmer' line.

1917 - C.W. Howland, Rowley's brother-in-law began furnishing accommodations for tourists at Caves Camp (Lain, 1917). Saddle and pack horses were furnished upon advance notice. Mules, horses and footpower carried people up the last 10 miles to the caves.

Meals at the end of the Williams road were fifty cents; tents for two rented for 1.25 and mules could be hired for 2.50 each (Sunday Oregonian).

1920 - 1,800 visitors. They traveled 10 miles by one trail from the Williams Valley via Stevens ranch or 8 miles by trail from the Holland Valley via Grimmett's ranch.

Two toilets and a small terrace built by Rowley on a level with the main entrance and used for a table and temporary camps are now in use.

Rowley surveys part of the cave.

1920-22 - Car makes it to within 1 1/2 miles to caves in May. Road officially opened on June 26. Only 50 cars were allowed on the highway at any one time to prevent congestion. The loop at the caves had room for 20 to 30 autos. The 11.7 mile road cost \$ 295, 000.

1922 - McIlveen ran a tent camp and provided food at the cave under the first contract granted by the Forest Service. Meals

were 75 cents and one dollar. Two-person tents were one dollar per night. The mess tent is on the present Chalet site. Carbide lamps (15 cents) and coveralls (35 cents) are rented by the concession.

Dick Rowley and J. H. Campbell open up stream passage from Ghost Room and another passage running in the general direction of the main galleries. Most crawlway along main route are eliminated.

Senator Stanfield introduces bill to Congress to light the caves and provide a shelter for visitors.

The Assistant District Forester (Buck, 1/14) says that "the administration of the Service will be judged largely by the character of the service rendered by the permittee. It is therefore very much to our interest to see that proper services are required and rendered." "Lighting of the Caves should be done either by the Forest Service or by some public body rather than by a concessionaire, who would then have a legitimate proprietary interest in the Caves and the Caves' improvements.

Visitor is reprimanded for breaking formations (Courier, 9/16/22). District Forester Cecil says visitors are defacing cave walls with carbide lamps and urges electrification to put an end to this (Coquille Valley Sentinel, 1922).

A new road is built between Grant's Pass and Crescent City and is six miles shorter than the Holland route. (The Oregon Motorist, 8).

The Oregon Cavemen incorporate to publicize Grants Pass and the caves. They hold a ceremony in the caves and appear at public gatherings, "kidnapping" politicians and pretty women.

1923 - The Forest Service granted a concession to the Oregon Caves Co., corporation of ten Grants Pass businessmen, including A. E. Voorhies. The company built the Chalet ("guide headquarters") for about \$5,000 and took over the guide service. The northeast side of the Chalet holds a dining room and kitchen while the southwest side has a store, office, store room and restroom with plumbing by Dec. (Cleatin?, 7/11). The sewage field empties right into head of stream. Four tents houses for visitors are put up above the Chalet. Latrines are on both sides of the ravine.

A summer resort including store is to be put at the mouth of Grayback Creek. Because the Chalet and sewage system cost more than anticipated, the company successfully asks the Forest Service to allow them to delay development there (Cleatin?, 7/11, McDaniels, 2/22). The company agrees to repair broken

formations caused by visitors on tours. The company asks for the right to maintain tennis courts, bowling alleys, pool tables and other "sources of amusement." (Baker, 1923). Even after spending \$6,000 in improvements, the company nets a profit of \$2,000 from \$6000 in gross receipts.

Grayback Campground costs \$998. The Lindhome resort provides board, lodging, a store and gasoline 1/2 mile from Monument (Cleatin?, 7/11)

Rowley finishes replacing wooden stair with steel ones.

Road becomes passable again by late April. 10,000 people visit the cave. Latrines established at caves.

1924 - A small parking lot is built south of the caves as overnight guests object to leaving their cars 900 feet away in the larger parking lot (McDaniels, 2/22). Because of crowding, camping is no longer allowed on the larger parking lot.

1925 - Cabins and electrical plant built. The cabins have running water. The plant is just above the northeast end of the Chalet. Electricity installed in buildings, cottages and tent houses (increased to 10). Lights on hung on trees. Lunches and dinners served by members of the home economics department of the Oregon Agricultural College at Corvallis. A nursery is provided for children too small to make the cave trip.

A cumulative total of \$372 has been spent on widening passages and \$4,392 on cave trails and ladders. It costs 63,489.25 for the Forest Service to run the Monument.

1926 - A hard surface was put on Caves Highway up to Milepost 6. Seven cabins, a guide shack (studio), a guide dormitory (above large parking lot) and a road about 500' long south of the caves are built. The studio is used to store lanterns and other equipment.

To keep stream water clean, the septic field is carried around the hill to where the old carbide house used to stand. Several "objectionable" buildings are removed.

Net profits eliminated close to half of \$10,000 concession debt.

Town of Cave Junction established.

1927 - The Caves Highway was widened to 18', repaired and gravel added to most areas. "All dangerous curves are being eliminated." (Courier, 5/6/28)

The concession can house about 56 people. The guide headquarters can house 14 guides and has flush toilets.

The easily available dead timber is nearly exhausted. "Partly defective and least desirable trees" are cut for firewood (Billingslea, 7/14) and brought in along an extension of the small parking lot road.

1928 - A gasoline and carbide heating system installed in cabins.

Concession spends \$9,646 and makes a profit of \$1,322.

1929 - \$35,000 appropriated by Congress for constructing exit tunnel, cave lighting and cave water pipes.

The Forest Service proposes to divert a portion of guide fees to maintenance of the cave's developments.

The Forest Service surveys part of the cave, yielding a total of 1860 feet (Knutson, 1971).

1930 - 3 miles of wiring and 30 switches are installed in cave by NePage-McKenny Co. of Portland for \$22,521. The 180 lights (134 50 watt, 36 100 and 200 watt, and 10 500 watt bulbs) are run by an 80 horsepower diesel engine. "The specification for the cable conductor and the outlet boxes will be drawn in such a way that the job will be permanent for all times." Water Pipe installed in cave. The shelter for the standby generator unit is installed.

The concession argues that the cave development (lighting and water) will increase their costs (Baker, 12/12). Senator McNary opposes asking the concession to maintain cave developments and feels that fees should be lowered so as not to allow the concession to "profit unduly by reason of the outlays of federal funds (Lancipp?, 11/29).

1931 - Caves Highway becomes fully paved and widened; 25 men work on it for several months. A service station in the large parking area now operates at the caves.

The Associate Forester states that reducing guide fees "would have a cheapening and depressing effect." He argues that the government and the concession should evenly split profits for a monopoly permit.

The new 20 year hotel permit charges the concession \$100 a year and allows the concession to change the proposed site of the Lodge (Chateau). The separate special use permit authorizing the concession to furnish guide service can be terminated at any time by the Forest Service.

date? - Concession is charged 50% of net profits resulting from tour guide fees (Buck, 1935)

1932 - Lunch and dinners both cost one dollar, breakfast, 50 cents. An art studio at the caves has probably now been established.

1933 - The timber for the Lodge (Chateau) was cut, taken from an island in the middle of Sucker Creek by the Baldwin Ranch and hauled to the mill by truck. The Villair and Anderson Mill on Caves Highway at Milepost 14 milled the lumber. The cedar bark siding was taken from a railroad tie cutting operation up Grayback Creek from Grayback Camp.

A Forest Service patrolman for \$400 a year patrols, cares for and maintains campgrounds 100 days each year when not fighting fires. A District Ranger makes inspections of campgrounds and caves for less than \$150 annually. Administration of the monument costs about \$700 per year. On June 10 a federal Executive Order orders transfer of the administration of Oregon Caves from USFS to NPS.

1934 - Six story Lodge (Chateau) completed. Total cost is 50,000. Construction plans started in 1929. Stocks were sold to finance it. The Lodge (Chateau) is steam heated. Madrone (Arbutus) balusters support a fir handrail. The ballroom is maple floored and the fireplace on the fourth floor (lobby) is made of marble rocks blasted during construction. A stream runs through the third floor dining room and is crossed by two bridges.

Steak dinners cost one dollar and chicken dinners cost 75 cents. Breakfast costs 35 to 60 cents; lunches are 60 cents. Year-round lodging for two ranges from \$2.25 to \$8. The cottages cost \$2.50.

Civilian Conservation Corps

Topic - The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) had a great influence on recreational development in the Monument during the 1930's.

The Civilian Conservation Corp employed young men in a variety of conservation, fire prevention and recreational work throughout most of the country.

The CCC ran Camp Oregon Caves near Grayback Campground until 1941. All that now remains is the chimney. Pay was \$1 per day. \$25 of each of their monthly wages was sent back to the workers' families. Ages of the workers in the CCC ranged from 18 to 25. The Army took care of medical expenses. There were seven cooks in 1936. The men all wore army fatigues. Movies and

a ranger campfire talk were each presented once a week. The 90 member crew went to Crater Lake each April (Hahn, 1986) to spend the summer months at Annie Spring. At least three men thought very highly of their CCC experience (Scott, 1986, Reed, 1988).

Cave projects include finishing the exit tunnel, widening passages, removing low ceilings, putting in railings, cementing rocks along trails, installing stairs, and removing cave. The water line is converted for using compressed air tools. Finch recommends that "some work should be done to improved dangerous places and the picturesque squeezes and low bridges should be left."

Surface projects include cleaning roads, enlarging the road from the Lodge (Chateau) to the lower parking lot, removing stumps in lower parking lot, reducing 4 acres of fire hazard around the cave buildings, roofing generator building, tree planting and one acre of landscaping. Men rotated between working inside and outside of the cave.

CCC construction includes: a 38,000 gallon reservoir, campfire circle, auto and tool shed for the ranger (now concession garage), incinerator and ranger quarters (below large parking lot). Water pipes were hauled uphill by block and tackle by the men going downhill attached to the tow line. 8,000' of pipe were installed.

The CCC also install 11.7 miles of telephone lines; materials cost \$880. The cumulative trail cost was \$13,100 and included oiling to reduce dust. The Big Tree trail is rerouted to bring materials up the pipe line and the Cliff Nature Trail and No Name Trails are built or the former at least widened.

CCC built picnic grounds, including sanitation, cost \$779. Construction of rock retaining walls around the Lodge (Chateau) area took 1 1/2 years (Scott, 1982). The two bronze plaques at the entrance to the Monument are replaced with a wooden sign that is still in use.

CCC projects outside the monument: 75' bridge over Sucker Creek, a small dam on Lake Creek, 10 acre topographic survey, 2.5 acres of campground improvement, campground latrines and access road, 10 campfires, 700' of pipe in campground, a community house in the campground, insect pest control and transplanting 250 trees and shrubs.

The CCC, which existed for nine years and three months, has remained one of the most popular of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal Programs. 2 1/2 million men eventually served in the CCC. The extensive development and park expansion

made possible by the CCC was in large part responsible for the modern national and state park systems.

Due to increasing desertions, the feeling that the camps were going to be used as military training centers and the start of World War II, the popularity of the CCC did decline among the workers and the public during its final years.

Courses taught in the CCC camps were designed to assist the men in obtaining jobs after leaving the camps. In 1940, some of the training CCC workers received was revamped to meet defense needs. Drilling without guns was started in 1941.

The Army wanted to mobilize the first CCC (the ECW) but was reluctant to cooperate with other government agencies.

As the CCC program was being terminated, maintenance work in the parks suffered dramatically.

The office in the Chalet has by now been moved to the northeast side and a two story restroom built at the large parking area (Doerner, 4/4). The cabins by now are electrically heated.

Oregon Caves and \$165,446 of Forest Service developments is transferred to the National Park Service on 4/1.

Park ranger Finch is told not to interfere with what is being done. He records "Everything connected with the Chateau is organized and under the management of Mr. Sabin" (concession manager)... Many powerful institutions are determined to keep it as it is." (Finch, 1934). The NPS director tells Finch to start an "agitation" in Grants Pass for the enlargement of the Monument but then to stay in the background until the agitation reaches the "point of being a demand from the people". Mr. Harvey of Grant Pass Chamber of Commerce is contacted.

The ranger feels that he has "no particular niche to fill." He cheerily greets every visitor entering the monument five days a week (Finch, 1934). He also gave campfire "speeches" to visitors and the CCC.

The proposed creation of a national park, sponsored by park concessionaires and other locals, includes Bolan Lake.

Over 20% of people entering the monument do not visit the caves (Finch, 1934). Only 11% of the visitors are not from Oregon or California (Finch).

Some of the 266' of 2300 volt cables across the cave trail show sign of wear. Finch recommends that they be encased in concrete under the trail.

Cattle range over the Monument (Finch).

1935 - Park Service director tells president of Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce that there would apparently be no justification to expanding the Monument except for a minor addition to include the Big Tree. Further expansion would interfere with cattle grazing. (Cammerer)

1936 - The Forest Service rules to share concession profits enhanced by government activities at the Monument. The Oregonian newspaper (6/25) argues that the concession would operate at a loss if they have to pay 50 % of their guide service profits to the government, as visitation and use of the lodge has decreased during the depression. The Park Service negotiates a 15 year single contract with the concession that covers all its operations. This revokes the Forest Service permits.

USFS declares some refuge in ~~the~~ ^{the NM's proposed expansion area}
Road to Grant's Pass is as windy as the road to the Caves.

1937 - Exit Tunnel completed.

1938 - The caves are lighted by commercial power from Holland. Wires into cave are in non-metallic, armored cable. The diesel plant is reconditioned for standby service (Courier, 2/25). 200 high-powered light are added to caves. Lights every 60' are added to the cave exit trail. Lamps close to the ground are used for summer and high ones for winter. Als. ~~electric~~ ^{electric} lighting standards

First mention of algae in cave (Dunham, 1939).

1939 (latest) - Cave telephones installed after 1934.

1940 - Rangers give campfire programs in front of caves.

1942 - Chalet rebuilt, 3rd floor added and north wing lengthened. The public contact and comfort station at one end of the large parking lot is built at a cost of \$5000. The guide dormitory was remodeled. The guide shack (also called studio or lamp house) was removed. It was used by guides until a tour was started.

(this was
to Chalet)

Richard Sabin, nephew of George Sabin, is now general manager of concession.

1943-44 - Visitation drops to below 4,000 per year.

1944 - New concession contract approved.

1945 - A Congressional Committee on Claims recommends that the concession only pay those fees for 1934 and 1935 that would have been required if the 1936 contract had been in force (\$100 per year). A bill to effect is passed in Congress.

1946 & 1956 (1957)- Cave lights overhauled and improved

1949 - Guide dormitory appraised at 9,124, NPS quarters at \$6000, auto and tool storage shed at \$600 and seven cabins at \$4,679. The Lodge (Chateau) quadruples in value from its original cost. The chalet is valued at \$64,778.66. The rental cabins are valued at \$4,679.07.

1952 - Ranger gives talks of about five minutes duration at night campfires in front of the Lodge (Chateau). No permanent interpretive rangers are at the Monument.

Concession - By now the Chalet is used as a ticket office, curio shop, soda fountain, nursery and dressing room. The two upper floors provide dormitory quarters for the women employees.

1955 - A bill is introduced into the US House of Representatives to expand the monument to include its water supply but the bill does not pass.

1957 - Cave lights overhauled and improved. Tour path covered with asphalt.

1958 - A bill is reintroduced into the US House of Representatives to expand the monument to include its water supply but the bill does not pass.

1958 or 1959 - The gate was installed. Some bats, while attempting to navigate between the spaces in the gate, became entangled in the metal bar angles where they died. Filling in the angles with silicone rubber apparently mostly eliminated this problem.

1959 - William Halliday's group begins surveying the Cave.

Early 60's - Ladder going from Ghost Room floor to the top of the breakdown was replaced with stairs. Exit trail was paved.

1961 - The diesel generated is sold. Sharp rocks in the ceilings of low passageways are removed or smoothed throughout the cave.

1962 - Spiral stairs in cave installed.

1964 - Flood and debris flow in Chalet (gift shop) and lower floors of Chateau (lodge). Concession damage estimated at \$100,000. Government property damage estimated at \$82,500. The Lake Creek bridge is severely damaged.

A young guide placed the concession manager's wife in a snowplow as the waters rose. He panicked and left the plow. When she also tried to leave, she was swept under the plow but survived (Sweet, 1987). The guide then ran back to the plow and helped her to safety.

William Halliday's group finishes mapping the Cave. Maps shows about 7500' of passage.

Late 60's - Colored lights phased out except in Paradise Lost. The CCC automobile and storage shed is torn down.

1965 - Lodging at chateau ranges from \$6.50 to \$21 for suites.

1966 - Lower parking lot enlarged.

1969 - Study shows that the Monument contributes three million tourism dollars to the surrounding economy annually (Herald and News, Sept. 14).

1971 - The Bureau of Land Management rules that a marble mining claim about 1/2 mile from the Monument is invalid, based on withdrawal of four sections of land around the cave in 1907 from use of all kinds under the public land laws, including the mineral laws.

7,400' of cave passage surveyed to date.

1972 - Mineral rights are withdrawn (Public Land Order 5226) outside the original 4 section withdrawal to protect potable water source.

1973 - Cave tour route repaved.

1974 - Metals stairs replaced at the Imagination Room, Limbo Rock, Paradise Lost and above and immediately below the Bird of Paradise.

1976 - Spotlight in Ghost Room moved from the breakdown top by Angel Falls to the Ghost Room Terrace. The shelter for the standby generator unit is torn down.

1978 - Boundary change (Public Law 95-625) authorizes approximately 8 acres in Cave Junction for a visitor center.

1984 - Below ground telephone cables laid to monument.

1985 - Chateau rates range from \$39 (single) to 44 (double). Cave tour rates are 4.50 for adults and 2.50 for children.

1986 - Removal of construction rubble in cave begins. About 10,000 square feet of cave is opened up for the first time in about fifty years.

1987 - Three culverts diverting River Styx and 64 cubic yards of construction rubble were removed from cave. The CCC may have installed these culverts in 1935 (Whitworth, 1935).

1988 - 205 cubic yards of construction rubble removed from cave. All cabins over cave removed except one. The cave tour price is 5.75 for adults, 3.00 for children.

1989 - Except for a few sections of paved trail, most of the area between the Spiral Stairs and the main entrance is restored.

Names: Names for Oregon Caves are Elija's Cave (1877), The Great Limestone Caves (1886), The Great Oregon Caves (1902), The Marble Halls of Oregon (1907), Oregon Caves (1909), Josephine Caves and Josephine County Caves (1915, 1909 (Oregon Observer), 1922, Oregon Journal and 1938 (W. Davidson).

Rowley called the entrance Davidson's Entrance in 1916 and Elijah's Entrance in 1917. It was also called the Lower Entrance to distinguish it from the Upper Entrance (110 Exit).

The current name for Cave Creek dates to 1913. It was called Logan Creek in 1888.

Exploration: Almost three miles (over 15,000') have been mapped. The known depth is 400'. The deepest known cave in the world is Re'seau Gouffre Jean Bernard in France, 5,036' deep. The longest known cave is Mammoth Cave, now over 335 miles. Early accounts of the length of Oregon Cave were exaggerated (9 miles (Courier, 3/16/13)).

1922 - Several hundred feet of hitherto unexplored passages found (MacDaniels, 1922). about 100 dollars spent on winter exploration by Rowley and a helper.