

The “HOLE” Trip

With the compliments of the Newspaper of the Caverns here are a few facts and sidelights of interest to visitors about to enter the largest natural hole ever discovered in this earth.

Carlsbad Caverns provide an unforgettable trip through the beautiful and amazing 'underworld.' The Newspaper relates the experience in fourteen pages of stories, pictures, and names of visitors. Available after the trip at 25c per copy.

BUY IT WHERE YOU REGISTERED

A fine souvenir of your trip . . . a worthy remembrance to mail to your friends.

REGISTERING

Realizing the timidity of many, we of the newspaper do not question visitors further than their names and city. We are glad, however, to print more informative data such as occupations; offices held in clubs, or lodges; honeymoons; any particular achievement of public interest, etc. All information for today's paper should be recorded before the cavern trip.

CAVERN ODDITIES

If the world's tallest building had been erected on the lowest level of the caverns, its flag pole would be 50 feet underground.

The cavern elevators travel through shafts 754 feet long. If a shaft of the same length were constructed in the tallest pyramid of Egypt, the passengers riding to the top would be unable to leave the car. Why? Because they would be 303 feet in the air above the pyramid's peak.

The rate of growth of cavern formations fluctuates widely. It is dependent on the amount of water available, the thickness, permeability and consistency of the rock material through which it passes, the rate of evaporation and the percentage of dissolved carbon dioxide in the water. All of these are variable factors. We do not know enough about climatic conditions here from 4 B. C. until 1492 to make any guess as to the amount of growth of the Giant Dome during that period.

Considering the many thrills experienced during a cavern trip which naturally arouse questions, one might well wonder just what question is most frequently asked. Think hard. You'll never guess it. By actual and often repeated tabulations, the foremost question by all odds is, "Where is the rest room?"

When bats emerge from the caverns on their evening forage for food, they screech loudly yet the spectator hears only the faint flutter of bat wings. Scientists tell us the bat "voice" has a pitch too high for the human ear to detect.

The only person ever to fall down the 750-foot elevator shaft at the caverns is still living and none the worse for his experience. He is a park ranger who stepped in when the car wasn't there. Miraculously he grasped the cables and slid to the bottom. Now, by mechanical device the cars will not move until the shaft door is locked.

Consider the business section in your own home town and then visualize the one that could be built in the largest room of the caverns. It could be a street of average width with hotels, department stores, drug stores, filling stations, etc., on both sides of the paving. Some of the buildings could tower as high as 20 stories and the street extend for thirteen blocks.

All stalactites (formations hanging from above) regardless of their size are hollow. Icicles are a different task for "old mother nature." She makes them solid.

The newspaper of the caverns is published 21 miles from the nearest town in New Mexico; is one of the largest papers in the state; carries 40 to 50 pictures daily involving an engraving cost of \$800 to \$900; is sold only to cavern visitors and individuals throughout the nation who order copies by mail. The financial loss on such a project would seem to be tremendous. On the contrary, the paper shows a substantial profit every day in the year.

Caverns were first explored June 2, 1901.

Visitors travel 3 miles of the 23 explored.

Lunch served 750 feet underground. Price 50 cents.

Charge for trip: Adults \$1.50. Uniformed members armed forces free. Children 12 to 16, 50 cents, and children under 12 free. Day Nursery at Caverns available for small children, fee \$1.50. Jim White, first Cavern explorer died April 28, 1946.

Temperature in Caverns, summer and winter, is 56 degrees. Humidity 85 to 92 percent.

First trip begins at 10:30 A. M.; second 12 noon. Earlier and later trips are seasonal.

Visitors may return to surface by elevator which shortens trip by an hour.

The entire Cavern trip, walking both in and out, requires approximately 5 hours.

Cavern entrance is six miles from the beginning of Park area at White's City.

Donald S. Libbey is superintendent of Carlsbad Cavern National Park.

Papers are available only at White's City. All buses stop for them.

The caverns became a National Monument Oct. 5, 1923; a National Park May 14, 1930.

The first steps in the caverns were built in 1926. The trails used today were built during 1928 to 1936 inclusive.

The paved highway leading from White's City to the caverns was completed in 1935.

The elevators were installed, first 1931; second in 1932.

First electric lights were installed in 1926.

The Park area includes 78 square miles and more than 100 known caves.

There are no over-night accommodations for visitors within the park. White's City, at the entrance, provides cottages for approximately 500 guests, with shower in every room. Cafe, drug store, bar, curio shop and service station are conveniently located.

All visitors going to and returning from the caverns must go through White's City. Visitors who register here before entering park may secure a paper, including their names, after the cavern trip.

The Newspaper of the Caverns is published at White's City; first issue was June 23, 1940.