LITTLE ROCK, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1927.

ARKANSAS MUSEUM MAPS DIAMOND CAVE

Makes First Scientific Exploration of One of World’s Wonders.

K. B. Bubhok, Curator of the Arkansas Museum of Natural History, has just finished a piece of work of unusual importance and scientific value to the students of the exploration and mapping of one of the greatest caves in the American continent—Diamond Cave near Jasper, Newton County, Arkansas. The mapping was done by Richard Buhok, the director of the museum.

From the official report of Mr. Buhok, we learn that the cave was discovered by a miner who had followed a vein of lead near the Arkansas River. The miner, who had heard of the existence of a cave, followed the vein for several miles and found that the cave was more than a mile long.

After a careful study of the cave, the miner decided to explore it and to see if there were any lead veins in the vicinity. He discovered a large number of lead veins, and the cave was opened up for mining purposes.

Mr. Buhok has been exploring the cave for several years, and his report is based on a study of the geological and mineralogical formations in the cave, as well as on the study of the fauna and flora of the cave.

**Map of Diamond Cave, Newton County, One of the Wonders of the World, Prepared After Exploration by Director of Museum of Arkansas Museum.**

**Chart of Diamond Cave.**

This chart of Diamond Cave, Newton County, Arkansas, was prepared by Richard Buhok, director of the Arkansas Museum, during a recent exploration of the cave. It shows the route of the cave and the various formations encountered. The elevations and dimensions of the cave are given in feet.

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2. Entrance
3. Indian Bem
4. Pink Bem
5. Mirror Lake
6. Mirror Lake
7. Mirror Lake
8. King’s Column
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Strange Formations Found in Interior of Onyx Cave
Near Eureka Springs Opened Recently for Tourists

Bella Vista’s Unique Cave Cabaret

Melbourne Cave Is
Immens Labyrinth

BY TOM SHERRIS

Recent explorations of the Melbourne cave, owned by Ralph Harris, five miles southeast of the town of Melbourne in Izard county, have revealed a maze of underground passages and corridors comparable to the catacombs of Rome. The largest discovery at the cave was another cave or cellar under the main entrance. From a small opening in the floor, a large, elaborately decorated garden, about half a mile from the mouth. Buildings of lights and ropes lighted the way; a small exploring party ventured into it. They followed the opening down a steep incline for 300 feet, where it forked suddenly into another large grove, deep within the bowels of the earth. They explored this grove thoroughly before coming out. Other openings lead from it, which will be explored at some future date. It is thought now that these openings will lead from one to another and reach down as far as the limestone formation extends. They will probably extend upward nearly to the surface of the surrounding mountains.

Venture into the old days, period, and you’ll find another of the main caves, a distance of two and a half miles. In the northwestern corner, on the side of a mountain along which state Highway 26 runs, there is a new cave. This, however, was only one of numerous underground passages. It will probably take several years to fully determine the ramifications of the many openings. Native acclimatized with the nature of the country predict that they will be able to follow some of the openings as far southwest as Gideon, on the White river, a distance of about 15 miles.

The main entrance of the cave is about 100 feet wide and 25 feet high. Fifteen automobiles could easily drive into it. Alas, several huge grottoes have been explored and cleaned up. These resemble vast, assembly halls. The largest are from 100 to 300 feet wide, and the roof in some places is 100 feet from the floor. That part of the cave already cleaned up would shelter a large part of the population of Izard county from a storm if they could reach it in time. Watching the millions of bats which hibernate there in the winter come out in the spring, one understands why Izard county has no mosquitoes.

Not every day, one gets a very vivid idea of what the inside of the Ozarks looks like. This is the part of the Ozarks that are called caves. In this cave Nature has brought out all of her secondary geological formations, natural to the Ozarks, and put them on display. Colorful walls and ceilings, hundreds of stalactites and stalagmites, that have been formed by water, during the past ages, are wonderful in both form and color. They are white, red, brown, green, in fact all colors of the rainbow.
Prim Cave Contains Many Natural Freaks

By Tom Shinn

There is another prim cave in Arkansas that has an upper and a lower part, and these are located on the east side of the town of Bentonville, in Harlan County, known as a two-year focus. It is not uncommon to find

Cave City's lower story consists of an insipid mixture of caves in the Arkansas Ozarks. It has no stalactites or other water formations, but it has a large or rare rock end of which, if it is a river, or the

A Two-Story Town

By Tom Shinn

There are no other towns in Arkansas that have an upper and a lower part, and these are located on the east side of the town of Bentonville, in Harlan County, known as a two-year focus. It is not uncommon to find

Cave City's lower story consists of an insipid mixture of caves in the Arkansas Ozarks. It has no stalactites or other water formations, but it has a large or rare rock end of which, if it is a river, or the
Arkansas Caves

Many Families Living in the Hills in the Northwest
Summer Heat, and Also to Store Their
the Caverns Have Springs Which

By PAUL W. MILLER

When the sun shines hot and the hot winds blow, the minds of Arkansans naturally turn to thoughts of cooler places. Some are forced to think about those cool places while they continue to fan and drink ice water; others get up and go seeking them.

In the north Arkansas hills there are a few families who are fortunate enough to have a cooling place close by their homes. These are the Arkansas caves.

One such family is that of J. C. Copp, farmer who lives a few miles northwest of Calico Rock. A few yards from the Copp home is a cave that is a favorite spot during the hot summer months. Not only is it cool, but the view from the entrance is one of the most beautiful in the county.

If Copp happens to kill a beast on one of the hot days and does not sell all of it that day he can take it to the cave and hang it inside and wait until the months pass and then sell the rest of it. If he wishes to store watermelons or cantaloupes in a cool place in order to make them cold and more tasty, he has only to carry them far back into the cave. Then he makes a place for them and there for a few hours. The cave is also a wonderful place for storing milk and butter.

Calico Rock also has a small cave that is used for storing watermelons and cantaloupes. It is located in a deep, dark, hollow where the sun's rays strike only for a few moments each day. Picnic parties know the value of such places more than anybody else.

Between Calico Rock and Brockwell, near Flat Rock, there is a small spring of water gushing from the mountain side and a strong wind also accompanies the water. So strong is the wind coming from the tunnel that it blows the weeds and grass for several feet in front of the opening.

Another similar phenomenon is in Stone County, a few yards south of White River and about a mile west of Calico Rock. The spring is a small one, but the water is cold. The wind coming from the earth there is so strong that there is a roaring sound which can be heard in the hillside. At any place it stands and looks before this natural fan, one imagines at first that the wind is the result of a train running over the rocks somewhere far up the other hillside. But as he listens closer he discovers that the sound is constant and is coming from within the hill itself.

Some have tried to explain such unusual conditions by saying that the long, narrow channel followed by the wind caused through the hill had another opening somewhere and everything is so formed as to cause a draft through the tunnel. At any rate it is there and it has a magnetic attraction for anybody who chances to pass that way when the mercurial is near by.
Nature's Beauty Underground

Beneath Ozark Hills Huge Caverns Lead to Marvels of Nature's Art—Conventions Are Held in Great Halls Once the Rendezvous of Indians, Where Fugitives Fled for Refuge, and Mineral Substances Add Delightful Colors to Fantastic Stalagmites and Stalactites.

By MARY ELIZABETH OVERHOLT

Nature made a bright garden spot in the Ozark region and endowed it lavishly with every imaginable scene beauty. Then as though it was not enough to have made the surface of the Ozark hills a study in loveliness, the inside was wrought into incomparably weird and mystic grandeur. The beauty of the interior of these hills has been unobserved for centuries, and even now only partially known, but in a few places doorways to the inner recesses have been opened and visitors may marvel over the wonders shot away in caves.

The Ozarks have been longed for and one thoroughly explored. One general characteristic of these caverns is a small opening, which led to the supposition that the caves were small. Many have low, narrow passages and corridors that made progress difficult but yielded rooms and corridors extend on and on. In Diamond cave, said to be Arkansas’ most beautiful cave, and one of the most beautiful in America, there is a passageway so narrow that many visitors cannot get through. This passage is known as “Pat Man’s Misery,” but just beyond it is one of the most beautiful rooms of the cave, known as “Ring Robinson’s Temple.” This room contains snow columns carved in fantastic shapes, fairy latticework, statuary, and graceful capes of filmy white. Standing in a corridor farther on is the lovely “Angel of the Grotto,” an appealing white-robbed angel with folded wings.

Diamond cave was named by a hunter who tracked his game to the opening of the cavern and who lighted a torch and found a fairly large room which went on. The points of light reflected from the fairy fiction of the vaulted room in which he stood suggested the name which has clung to it.

Evidently the Indians knew about this cave and used it, for they left traces of their occupancy. “Red Room,” near the entrance of the Indians long ago, used for local gatherings, but evidently it was a rendezvous of the Indians long ago. The cave is reached by a zigzag path 400 feet along the side of the side of Hudson mountain. Three years ago an expedition representing the Arkansas Museum of Natural History mapped the cave and named 160 stalactites of interest in it. The explorers went only through the outer rooms. Many groups have taken food and water for a thorough exploration of the cave. They reported that they became involved in winding corridors, small cell-like rooms, vauluted auditoriums and columned passages, with no indication of having reached the end of the cave.

Among other features that attract the attention of visitors are the crystal columns, where a lily-of-the-valley bottom forms the roof of rooms and corridors, a replica of the bat cave Arkansas 40 feet long and well fitted, “Ring Tut’s column,” a polar bear, a white crane, fireplace, and many fantastic and magical statues and pillars.

Subterranean rivers, bottomless pits, underground grooves and caverns, spring pockets of icy water, all add to the difficulty of exploration. Most of the caves are cold. Some are swept by dry wind, evidently through an unseen opening. In others is the strong, unceasing stillness felt where there is no wind. Diamond cave has an unvarying temperature of 65 degrees and Wonder cave at Bella Vista has a summer and winter temperature of 69 degrees. Others are cooler and still others not so cold.

Ozark cave in hard county is being explored and plans are under way to light it and open it to the public. Unlike many of the other caves of the Arkansas Ozark, it has a large opening for a main entrance, about 100 feet wide and 30 feet high. It has other openings also into some of its rooms and corridors. If it is as large as explorers believe, it should have several outside entrances. It is believed that it extends 15 miles down the mountain side to the White river near Ozark. The walls of the cave are almost solid onyx. Many onyx columns rise 100 feet high and measure 15 feet in diameter at the base. Large auditoriums, with ceilings 100 feet high, some of them 200 feet long, separated from other rooms by onyx columns occur frequently in this cavern. Lately a cellar, or lower story of the cave, was discovered. The opening was found in the floor of a stalagmite garden and a descent of about 250 feet brought the party to a large grove. Openings from this grove extend down into other caverns, and there are probably many grottos down through the limestone formation. This curious succession of stairways, labyrinth of openings and passages, underground grottoes, and curiously beautiful formations, have led to the belief that this may prove to be one of the most interesting caves of North America.

The cave lacks the subterranean streams frequently found in the Ozarks but it has pools of cold water that appear to have neither source nor outlet. In the Ozark region there is sufficient moisture in the soil to give to the stalactite and stalagmite formations many beautiful colors. In the Melbourne cave red and amber, shading into brown, vary the crystal and white columns and formations in the many curiously shaped and designed that only Nature could have conceived. Magenta, zine, and iron have all had a part in making this cave beautiful, and their colors can be seen in the stalactite and columns of most of the Ozark caves. It is to these minerals that the “Red Rooms” of Diamond cave owes its rich coloring.

Onyx cave near Eureka Springs is similar in formation to the Melbourne cave but is not so large. Although not completely explored, it has been lighted and opened to visitors. The murmurs of an underground stream may be heard but cannot be found. This cave has weird, beautiful effects, both in coloring and formations. Its bottomless pits, chasms, and onyxes make its exploration beyond the lighted area a huge task but an interesting and delightful adventure. The chasms have been bridged and walks built in the rooms open to visitors.

Another Ozark cave that has been explored far enough to make it of interest to visitors and yet a mystery, is Wonder cave at Bella Vista. It is reported that during Civil war days Jesse James was forced to take refuge in this cave. The opening at Bella Vista where he entered was guarded and when he did not reappear in 10 days it was reported that he had starved or fallen accidentally into one of the yawning pits of the cave. The guard was removed, but Jesse James had emerged 40 miles distant in Missouri through an opening on that side of the cave.

Legends connected with Indian history, pioneer days, and many Civil war tales, cling to this cave. One of the principal points of interest in Wonder cave is the night club room, a quarter of a mile from the entrance, lighted and furnished, one of the most fantastic amusement halls to be found anywhere. This is America’s only natural underground night club and it is modeled after some of the artificial underground night clubs of Europe. The novelty of the cave auditorium gives it a distinct advantage over artificial caves. The dance pavilions easily accommodate 200 visitors and the night club is kept open until three in the morning during the season. Seats for spectacles are provided and the corridors and adjoining commodious rooms accommodate 2,000. This is a favorite place for conventions, religious gatherings and social affairs.

Under a ledge of rock near this cave is a spring of icy water and one feels a breeze just as keen. Wraps are in order for one who lingers near this spring.

Wonder cave would have been wonderful even if man had not improved on it. The "Crystal Valley" and "Crystal Palace" are among its admired features. "Devil's Crater" is an interesting black pit, seemingly bottomless. According to Indian legend, it was used by Satan as an entrance and exit to his own underworld kingdom. Here, as in other Ozark caves, stalagmite and stalactite formations take on beautiful shapes and colors and make sufficient decoration for this quiet, still world which has a templed grandeur and an awesome quality because of its remoteness from the noise and motion of the outside world.
Miss Mary Lawson of the Geological Survey, Has Begun Compiling a List of Caverns in the State. She Has Explored Many With Her Associate Worker, Ted Medearis of the State Planning Board.

When Miss Mary Lawson of the Arkansas Geological Survey undertook the task some time ago of compiling a list of caves in the state, she soon found she had assumed a task of far larger proportions than anticipated.

The store of information which daily pours in from all conceivable sources grew more and more bulky; however, instead of discouraging her, this fact seemed to stimulate her interest and activities, and now the work is well under way, with the hearty endorsement of George C. Brauner, state geologist, and the Arkansas Planning Board.

One of the latest caves to be explored by Miss Lawson and her cave-exploring associate, Ted Medearis, of the state Planning Board, is located in the mid-lower Mississippi Valley, about 10 miles northwest of Batesville. While they regard it as one of the most interesting caves yet explored, they point out that it is only another step in the development of a highly interesting and valuable phase of state geological work and state planning.

**Formation of Caves.**

There is something ghostly and yet intensely interesting about caves; a sort of fascination that begins in early childhood, and never quite leaves us. Perhaps this is why caves hold such an attraction for tourists and sightseers. It is one of the reasons why so many of these natural phenomena, when properly developed, become commercial assets to the communities or states in which they occur. The best-known type of cave is that formed in calcareous rock, or limestone, by the dissolving effect of rainwater containing carbon dioxide. Falling rain absorbs carbon dioxide as it passes through the atmosphere, forming a solution of carbonic acid. This solution, flowing through capillaries under the ground, comes in contact with the limestone and eats out a portion of it, leaving a cavity. Later, the water finds an outlet at a lower level, and the cavity is left partially dry. Water continues to seep in at the top of the cave, carrying with it minute quantities of dissolved limestone and depositing it as a coating on the walls and ceiling of the cave. The constant dripping of the water causes long formations resembling icicles to grow downward from the ceiling, which are stalactites. Where the water drops from these onto the floor, similar icicles grow upward; these are stalagmites. Where the water flows down the sides of the cave, a white, crystalline coating is laid down, known as "stalagmite drapery." These formations develop into the strange, beautiful, and unique shapes which constitute the principal attraction to visitors.

**Arkansas Caves.**

The best known caves in Arkansas are the Diamond Cave, near Jasper, and the Wonderland Cave, at Bella Vista. The former is very large, and boasts a great many of impressive formations, most of which have been given names corresponding to the things they resemble. These include King Solomon's Temple, King Tut's Skeleton, the Siamese Twins, Liberty Bell, and the Spirit of St. Louis.

The Wonderland Cave is unusually large, and has been used for some time as a night club. There being ample space for dancing and dancing, it has been used for several conventions. It is a story that the famous outlaw Jesse James died at one time trapped there, and that he escaped after several days by finding another opening several miles from the entrance.

**Historical Interests.**

Many of the caves contain relics left there by pre-historic tribes. The Rock House cave in Cƨburne county and the Big Hurricane cavern in Scobey county contain hieroglyphs and pictographs made by early tribes of Indians, and in the Slaty House cave in Newton county was found the entire skeleton of an infant, wrapped in rags and lying in a willow basket. The Rock House cave in Independence county is said to have been the home of Indian massacres. A band of Indians who sought

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Here are 36 of the 57 Arkansas caves already charted to date by Miss Mary Lawson of the state Geological Survey. Miss Lawson is shown with her cave-exploring associate, Ted Medearis of the state Planning Board.

The caves are:
- 1. Blowing Spring Cave
- 2. Wonderland Cave
- 3. Diamond Cave
- 4. Slaty House Cave
- 5. Devia Den
- 6. Fincher's Cave
- 7. Alum Cave
- 8. Highland Cave
- 9. Ash Cave
- 10. Denny Cave
- 11. Majestic Cave
- 12. Spring Mountain Cave
- 13. Mt. Magazine Cave
- 14. Diamond Cave
- 15. Elmore Cave
- 16. Slaty House Cave
- 17. Crystal Cave
- 18. Madison Cave
- 19. Bighorn Cave
- 20. Swindler Cave
- 21. Wind Cave
- 22. Rock House
- 23. Jenkins Spring Cave
- 24. Pruitt Cave
- 25. Cushion Cave
- 26. Slaty House Cave
- 27. Celia Cave
- 28. Rock House
- 29. Meshed Cave
- 30. Prim Cave
- 31. Ferrell Cave
- 32. Clubhouse Cave
- 33. Crystal Cave

There are several of the caves in the state that have figured in the Civil War. The Slaty House of Independence and Marion counties and the 81st cave of Newton county were used as sources of salt peter, used in making gunpowder for the Confederate soldiers. Others are reputed to have been used as places of refuge and as storehouses for supplies during the war. It is Fincher's cave, near Fayetteville, that Washington county is indebted for the preservation of its rocks. When Fayetteville, the county seat, was threatened with destruction by Federal troops, a threat which eventually carried out, the county records were pushed under cover of night to this cave and kept there through the period of the war.

**Used by Bootleggers.**

As might be suspected, there have been caves where caves were used by bootleggers. The Wind Cave in Sebastian county was used for the illegal production of liquor in pre-prohibition days, until federal agents apprehended the violaters and they agreed to conform with government requirements. The Prim cave in Izard county evidently has a clean record in this respect, for it is claimed that moonshiners will not ferment inside it.

**Search for Treasures.**

There seems to be a tendency for human beings to strongly associate the idea of buried treasure with caves. This is only natural, since many famous books, including "The Count of Monte Cristo" and "Tom Sawyer," contain instances of this kind. Several Arkansas caves have, from time to another, been industriously ransacked with pick and shovel, although the treasure-seekers have been robbed only of bones and with other archaeological specimens.
Auto Trip Through Electric Lighted Cave Soon May Be
"Coolest Drive Ever!"

St. Joe—An auto drive through a cool, dimly lighted Ozark cave will be possible by the end of the summer, it was announced today. The cave, the northernmost of the series of caves in the St. Joe National Forest, is the site of a project that will provide an automobile drive through a cave for use as a rest camp and scenic drive.

Reaching "Back O' Beyond" from St. Joe requires only a short drive; the winding, well-marked road from the north takes you to the cave entrance, only a few miles south of St. Joe, and a mile or so east of the cave itself.

To reach "Back O' Beyond" you first travel north out of St. Joe on the highway that follows the gravel county road toward Poplar Bluff on the river, and then you follow that road to the foot of the bridge over the river at Poplar Bluff.

The entrance to the cave is under the bridge, and you can see it as you drive down the hill, which is quite steep. The road is not paved, and the surface is rocky and uneven.

Above is a view of the entrance to the cave, showing the large opening that leads into it. The entrance is about 25 feet wide and 15 feet high, and it appears to be quite large. The opening is surrounded by a wall of rock, and there is a small stream running along the bottom of the entrance.

On the left side of the entrance is a small waterfall, and on the right side there is a small pool of water. The water is clear and appears to be quite cold.

The cave itself is quite large, with a ceiling height of about 20 feet and a width of about 50 feet. The floor is covered with sand and rocks, and there are many small pools of water throughout the cave. The lighting is quite dim, but the walls are decorated with beautiful rock formations and stalactites and stalagmites.

The cave is a popular destination for nature lovers and spelunkers alike, and it is definitely worth a visit if you are in the area. The drive to the cave is a beautiful one, with scenic views of the river and surrounding landscape. The cave itself is an amazing site, and it is definitely a must-see for anyone who enjoys exploring nature.

Scene Near Back o' Beyond

In the distance, the river winds through a valley, and the sound of the water echoes through the cave. The air is cool and damp, and you can feel the moisture on your skin. The walls are covered with large, intricate formations that seem to stretch on forever. The light from the opening above filters through the rock, casting long shadows and creating a surreal atmosphere.

You can see the silhouette of a person standing in the distance, and they appear to be taking photos or videos. As you approach them, you realize that they are not alone. There are several people exploring the cave, and they are all wearing safety gear and backpacks. They seem to be enjoying the experience, and you can hear them discussing the formations and the history of the cave.

As you move deeper into the cave, the formations become more complex and the temperature drops. The ceiling is lower, and the walls are more intricately formed. You can hear the water dripping from the ceiling, and the sound is soothing and calming.

Finally, as you reach the far end of the cave, you see a small opening that leads out to the river. The view is breathtaking, and you can see the sun shining through the trees above. You can hear the sound of the water and the calls of birds, and you feel a sense of peace and tranquility.

The cave is an incredible natural wonder, and it is a testament to the beauty of the natural world. Whether you are a nature lover or a spelunker, this cave is definitely worth a visit. It is a place of wonder and awe, and it is a reminder of the beauty that can be found in the natural world.