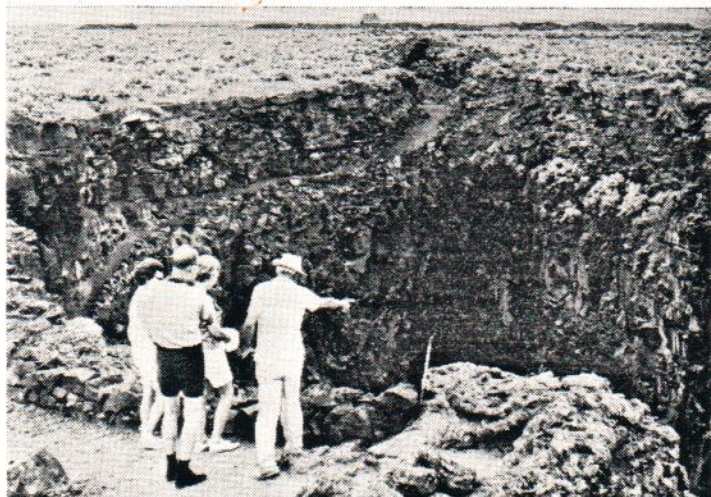


FMC COUNTRY



King's Bowl, gigantic lava sink in Great Rift, location of Crystal Ice Cave. Vertical drop is about 200 feet.



Ice cave country. Pahoehe Lava flow, 22 miles from America Falls, 47 miles from FMC, Pocatello.



View from second window. Visitors walk through tunnel. Ice protected from outside air by thermopane windows.

Crystal Ice Cave

By Peggy L. Carlson

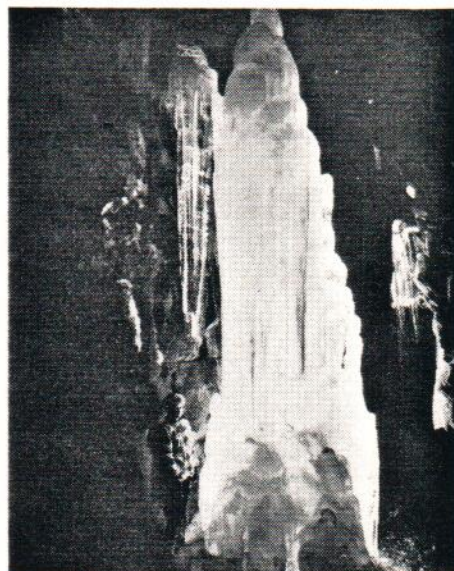
On the edge of over 20,000 square miles of lava flow and Snake River Plain lies one of Idaho's natural wonders. It is Crystal Ice Cave, being developed for the public by Jim Papadakis.

Discovered in 1956 by amateur spelunkers, the dazzling beauty of the gigantic ice deposits went unseen until Mr. Papadakis, original developer of Texas' Caverns of Sonora, started work.

Today he has excavated a 1200 foot long tunnel through solid lava rock, installed air tight doors and thermopane windows and opened the breathtaking sight to anyone interested in seeing this nearly unbelievable ice display in the middle of Idaho's hottest summertime desert.

Crystal Ice Cave is located in the Great Rift lava fault near Aberdeen. It is over 150 feet below the surface, easily reached by walking trail.

When Mr. Papadakis completes an additional 1000 feet of tunnel, a continuation of the path he already has developed, he intends to start exploring other portions of the Great Rift crevasse.



Crystal tower, 25-foot-tall icicle. Other portions of Great Rift thought to be 50 miles deep.



Nature's ice carving of the Nativity scene. Temperature 150 feet below Idaho's desert is constant 32 degrees.



Diana Bauer of American Falls holds her breath beneath a blanket of delicate ice crystals lest they fall.