

TREASURE OF THE CRATERS

Field Project

C. G. Hammer
Idaho Falls, Idaho
November 30, 1990

From the very beginning of the Craters project, I have considered the Old Man of the Craters rock as the key landmark in finding the cave that contains the gold. But even back during those first years of searching, I was hearing about a second profile, or Indian Head Rock. No one knew where it was. It wasn't until Cliff, Seta, the kids and I were out, about three years ago and walking the old Indian Trail crossing North Crater Flow, that a new lead on this presented its self.

The Old Man of the Craters rock did not fit the description as it was far more than one half mile from the highway like the instructions say it should be. Also, it is supposed to be a large volcanic rock rising above the surrounding flow. The Old Man of the Craters rock is situated in the cinders of Paisley Cone, not in lava flow.

While we were crossing North Crater Flow on the old Indian Trail, the kids were finding small caves in the rock just off the trail. It occurred to me that a flow still that near the vent would very likely have a lot of small caves due to the fact a large amount of the gases are still in the moulton lava and would create the small gas bubble type caves when it cooled. In exploring the flow we found that to be true. There was an abundance of small caves in the lava that would be perfect living space in any season or type of weather, and also near the trail. Then I remembered, there are six large pinnacles of rock standing upright in the flow, north and east of North Crater. We checked them out and bingo -- the long searched for Indian Head Rock was found.

The detailed instructions for finding the treasure cave indicate that there has to be one man made marker. The Indian Head Rock casts a shadow to a mound of lava westward. Half the distance between the mound and the Indian Head Rock, southward from the Indian Head, the cave will be found. The cave and the Indian Head Rock are both natural features. It is not likely they could have a natural mound twice the distance from the Indian Head Rock as the distance to the cave. Very likely a man made mound will be found west, and a little bit south of the Indian Head. It may be large enough to be noticable or it may only be three or four rocks high like the marker where the old Indian Trail passes from the red cinder of North Crater into the broken lava.

The exact detail of the locating system indicates that this is not a cave you will just walk up and see the entrance. After all, a large accumulation of wealth is concealed there. I believe the entrance will be at the base of a ridge of lava, with loose lava rock, looking very natural, concealing the entrance. So natural, that even the outlaws could miss it without the locating instructions. People who worked the outlaw trade, in those days,

Treasure of the Craters-2

like most people at that time, were very good at tracking and equally good at covering their tracks. Very likely, you will see only rocks with the weathered side up, concealing the entrance.

Once found, there is also booby trapping to think about. A firearm set to shoot an intruder may or may not function after all these years. There is also the possibility that an overhead rock has been set to come crashing down when you move rocks to get in. Then of course, there is Idaho cave legislation, making it against the law to remove or even move anything in a cave. If that is not enough, there is also Federal law against removing such items from a National Park or Monument. We will work around all this though.



