



ENVOY

UNDERGROUND ICE—George Beck explores the icy interior of Crystal Ice Caves near Aberdeen. The caves remain open to the public as long as the road remains passable. The story of the discovery and development of Crystal Ice Caves is told on page 2. (Photo by Jim Papadakis)

The Find Of a Careless Moment...

BY PEGGY L. CARLSON

In 1956 David Fortsch, a geology student at Idaho State University, and Perry Fenstermaker, an Aberdeen school teacher, decided to systematically probe the depths of the Great Rift.

The two were ardent spelunkers and planned to descend to the bottom of every hole they could find. The very existence of the Great Rift was unbelievable to those outside the area. All the "expert" speleologists knew fissures in the earth were fairly common—and that they never amounted to anything. Fortsch and Fenstermaker decided to see what they could find.

In September of that year, on one of their many expeditions to the area, they descended to an ice floor in a particularly deep abyss about a thousand feet north of the well-known King's Bowl area. They discovered a tiny hole in the ice floor, but it did not look promising. They decided to turn back, surmising it was a dead end. Then, much to his annoyance, David Fortsch dropped his flashlight. Before he could grab it, it slid into the tiny hole and disappeared. Chagrined, he decided to go after it.

To his surprise, the ice hole became spacious after he had gone about 10 feet—his flashlight had landed in a world of ice never seen by any man before. A great crystal-like tower rose

majestically 25 feet into the air. Dazzling ice crystals reflected the beam from his light.

Amazed, the two spelunkers explored the icy underworld, marveling at its transcendent beauty. Upon their return to town, they excitedly told of their discovery, then wryly dubbed their find "Liar's Cave," for the townspeople were sure no such place existed in the hot, barren land of the lavas.

For the next eight years, the beauty of the Cave was seen only by the adventuresome few who dared to brave the rigorous descent by rope.

In 1961, Jim Papadakis, the original developer of Texas' Starb Caverns of Sonora, heard the story of the Cave. He recruited two cave-happy boys from Aberdeen to show him the area.

The ride was a fairly rough one—a typical back country road. The trio walked over the lavas to the spot they were seeking. Climbing to the top of the rough lava ridge, they hooked their ropes to the log that had been braced above the entrance by their predecessors. After making the initial descent by rope, a vertical drop of 90 feet, they spotted the tiny ice hole. Writing through it, they slid to the ice floor of the cave, much as children do on "slippery slides."

As the beams of light were reflected by the gleaming ice formations and crystals, Jim

dreamed of opening its beauties to the public. When he returned to town, he set out to make it come true. In the fall of 1963, after completing the voluminous paperwork and arrangements, he began the gigantic project of opening the Crystal Ice Caves for public viewing.

In the spring of 1964, a trail was blasted out of solid rock to the bottom of the King's Bowl, a gigantic sink of 150 feet deep which was created by a tremendous steam explosion. Stairs were constructed leading to the bottom of a small cave north of it. The large cave at the bottom of the Bowl had been explored over the years by many people and the only perennial accessible water supply for miles, Crystal Pool, is located in front of it. Because of an ice floor, its depth cannot be determined.

Bison skeletons were found near this part of the Great Rift, and it is believed that Indians hunting this part of the Snake River Plain drove them over the Rift and into it, assuring themselves of meat.

This development is unique as commercial caves go. It is the only rift cave in the world open to the public. Visitors touring the cave descend to a depth of more than 150 feet along a graded trail and a series of tunnels containing no stairs. The route follows the Great Rift.

A tunnel, 1,200 feet in length, has been excavated through the solid lava alongside the Crystal Ice Cave formations, and windows allow visitors a view into the illuminated interior.

The guides explain the significance of geological curiosities and formations as they lead the visitors through. At one point, deep within the tunnel, the guide eliminates all artificial light—with visitors' permission—showing what total darkness is like. Everyone reacts with mixed feelings to the eerie feeling of "total" darkness, feeling of "total" darkness. The caves have been visited by citizens of South America, Denmark, Canada, Sweden, Japan, New Guinea, Formosa, and others too numerous to mention, as well as residents of all our 50 states. Literally, they have

been visited by people from every continent in the world. All find it hard to believe that they will need a sweater or jacket, after enduring the oppressive heat of the hot summer months.

The one thing they fail to realize is why such a tremendous attraction is not furnished with a better road.

Some day, there will be an adequate road to this unique Southeastern Idaho attraction, and it will be equal to any in the United States. This is born out by the enthusiasm of the many visitors who travel there—some over and over again!

Papadakis is full of plans for the continued development of the caves. When he has completed the tunnel, an extension of approximately 1,000 feet to the completed 1,200, he will reverse directions in the Rift. Perhaps there is another marvel of nature awaiting discovery in this direction.

Meantime, the beauties of the age-old ice have been carefully preserved by thermopane windows and a tightly fit door leading into the last section of the 1,200-foot tunnel, as have the geologic

local curiosities, burned blades of grass, and tales of animal life which existed at the time the ancient craters were spewing forth their fury.

Sporadically, new items come to light and are carefully preserved by Papadakis' scientific ability. Some day, the whole story will be unfolded in a carefully planned visitors' center there.

One cannot help but marvel at the story preserved in the tiny Crystal Ice Caves Lava Field which is surrounded by vast lava fields and encompassed within the 20,000 square miles of the Snake River Plain.

The newest window open to public view reveals a scene not unlike that of the Nativity. A tall man with a long robe and a conical-shaped hat stands in front of a group of kneeling figures. Huge backdrops of ice glow softly in blue light and the wings of an angel-like figure are visible. Visitors react with "ohs" and "ahs" and in the quiet coolness of the regions under the earth, there is a feeling of reverence. How old is the ice? No one knows.

★ Sunday TV Log ★

- 4-Beagles (color) 2:30 p.m.
- 4-Magilla Gorilla (color) 3:00 p.m.
- 2-8-Pro Football-Bills vs. Dolphins (color) 5:30 p.m.
- 4-Champ Bowling (color) 7:00 p.m.
- 3-5-Pro Football-Colts vs. 49-ers (color) 4:00 p.m.
- 4-True Adventure (color) 4:30 p.m.
- 4-Three Worlds of Gulliver (color) 5:00 p.m.
- 7-Regional Report 5:00 p.m.
- 3-5-Lassie (color) 5:30 p.m.
- 3-5-Genie (color) 5:30 p.m.
- 2-8-Dennis the Menace 5:30 p.m.
- 7-Monkey's Uncle, Tommy Kirk (color) 6:00 p.m.
- 7-NET Journal 6:00 p.m.
- 3-5-Ed Sullivan with Beatles (color) 6:30 p.m.
- 4-Voyage (color) 6:30 p.m.
- 2-8-Mothers-in-Law (color) 7:00 p.m.
- 7-PBL-News, Arts (color) 7:00 p.m.
- 2-8-Bonanza (color) 7:00 p.m.
- 3-5-Smothers Brothers (color) 7:00 p.m.
- 4-FBI (color) 8:00 p.m.
- 2-8-Kid from Brooklyn, Danny Kaye (color) 8:00 p.m.
- 4-Dray of Anne Frank (color) 8:00 p.m.
- 8-Seminole, Rock Hudson (color) 8:00 p.m.
- 7-Sherlock Holmes (color) 8:00 p.m.
- 3-5-Mission Impossible (color) 8:00 p.m.
- 3-News, Weather, Sports (color) 9:00 p.m.
- 5-Gunsnake (color) 9:00 p.m.
- 3-Prism and Movie "Diary of Anne Frank" 10:00 p.m.
- 4-5-8-News, Weather, Sports (color) 10:00 p.m.
- 5-Basketball (color) 10:40 p.m.
- 2-Make Giddings (color) 10:40 p.m.
- 4-Good Company (color) 10:40 p.m.
- 7-NET Playhouse 10:50 p.m.
- 2-Joe Pyne (color) 10:50 p.m.
- 8-N.Y.P.D. (color) 11:05 p.m.
- 4-Joe Bishop (color) 11:05 p.m.
- 5-Bend of River (color) 11:05 p.m.

★ Saturday TV Log ★

EDITORS NOTE: Information for the television log is furnished to the Journal by the TV stations. Complaints about listings should be made to the TV station involved.

- 6:00 a.m.
- 4-Farm Report (color) 6:30 p.m.
- 5-Sunrise Semester (color) 7:00 a.m.
- 2-8-Super 6 (color) 7:00 a.m.
- 3-5-Frankenstien Jr. (color) 7:30 a.m.
- 4-Casper (color) 7:30 a.m.
- 2-8-Super President (color) 7:30 a.m.
- 5-Herculoids (color) 8:00 a.m.
- 3-4-Fantastic Four (color) 8:00 a.m.
- 2-8-Finstones (color) 8:00 a.m.
- 5-Shazzan (color) 8:30 a.m.
- 4-Spider-Man (color) 8:30 a.m.
- 2-8-Samson and Goliath (color) 8:30 a.m.
- 5-Space Ghost (color) 9:00 a.m.
- 3-4-Journey (color) 9:00 a.m.
- 2-8-Birdman (color) 9:30 a.m.
- 3-5-Moby Dick (color) 9:30 a.m.
- 4-King Kong (color) 9:30 a.m.
- 2-8-Atom Ant-Secret Squirrel (color) 9:30 a.m.
- 3-Superman-Aquaman (color) 9:30 a.m.
- 5-Christmas Parade (color) 10:00 a.m.
- 4-George of Jungle (color) 10:00 a.m.
- 2-8-Up Cat (color) 10:30 a.m.
- 4-Beetles (color) 10:30 a.m.
- 2-Cool McCool (color) 11:00 a.m.
- 3-5-Johnny Quest (color) 11:00 a.m.
- 4-8-American Bandstand (color) 11:00 a.m.
- 8-Duel at Silver Creek, Audie Murphy 11:30 a.m.
- 5-Road Runner (color) 11:30 a.m.
- 3-4-College Football - Texas Tech vs. Ark. 12:00 Noon
- 5-Capt. Kangaroo (color) 12:45 p.m.
- 8-Cool McCool (color) 1:00 p.m.
- 5-Young Americans (color) 1:00 p.m.
- 2-Ma and Pa Kettle Back on Farm, 1:15 p.m.
- 8-Milkman, Donald O'Connor 1:30 p.m.
- 5-NFL This Week (color) 2:00 p.m.
- 5-NFL This Week (color) 2:30 p.m.
- 5-Managers in Action 8-Branded (color)

Best Sellers

Compiled by Publishers Weekly

- FICTION
- "The Gabriel Hounds," Sew-
- art
- "Topaz," Uris
- "The Confessions of Nat Tur-
- ner," Styron
- "The Closen," Potok
- "The Arrangement," Kazan
- NONFICTION
- "Our Crowd," Birmingham
- "Twenty Letters to a Friend,"
- Alliuvya
- "Anyone Can Make a Mil-
- lion," Shulman
- "Nicholas and Alexandra,"
- Massie
- "The New Industrial State,"
- Galbraith

TWO THEATERS

ABUILDING IN BARCELONA BARCELONA (AP) - In a move to restore drama activity in this Catalan city, Jose Colas-da is constructing two theaters. The local impresario is ready with plans for a third playhouse if the initial projects go well. At present there is little legitimate theater activity in Spain outside Madrid.



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