

Lewis and Clark Cavern, With New Jeep-Powered Railroad, Is Setting All-Time Attendance Records This Season

By FRANK QUINN

Lewis and Clark Cavern State park, once known as Morrison cave, a Montana scenic exhibit providing one of the world's outstanding fantastic displays of subterranean phenomena, is setting up this summer an all-time record for the number of visitors. The cavern is located approximately 40 miles east of Butte. To July 31, the cavern, operated by the Montana state park commission, attracted 11,157 sightseers as compared with 8,000 up to July 31 of 1946, a record attendance at the cavern.

And, park administrators point out, the cavern register this summer reveals that Montana is once more a focal point for international sightseers. In a three-day period the cavern register was signed by the following:

Kurt Kircher, Stockholm, Sweden; Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Stevenson, Gamboa, Canal Zone; George E. Kirk, Tiskikupa, Congo, Belgian Africa; Mr. and Mrs. J. Tandberg, Oslo, Norway; S. A. Suttles, Pala Maui, Hawaii; Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Parsons, London, England.



WORLD'S SHORTEST JEEP RAILROAD—This one-car "train" with an old Army jeep for an engine, travels on a track 2,400 feet long at Lewis and Clark cavern and is believed to be the shortest railroad of its kind in the world. It carries cavern visitors from the parking area to a power lift which transports them the last 465 feet up to the cave. More visitors than ever before in a single season are touring the cavern, 40 miles east of Butte, this year.

In addition, a check of the register reveals that visitors from every state in the Union have viewed the fantastic shapes and formations inside the cave which have been declared to equal in splendor any of the widely-known caves of the world.

The park is located in Jefferson county, along U. S. Highway No. 1 and the caverns are located in Cave Mountain overlooking the Jefferson river just east of Jefferson canyon at an elevation of 5,600 feet above sea level. The entrance to the cavern is approximately 1,300 feet higher than the highway which winds through the canyon below.

One reason for heightened popularity of the cave trip this year is the installation of a unique narrow-gauge railway from the parking area to the cave entrance. This railway, coupled with a 465-foot lift, which was placed in operation the last week, eliminates necessity of a tiring walk from the administration building to the cave entrance.

The railway, believed the shortest of its type in the world (it is 2,400 feet long), is operated, like the lift and other concessions at the park, by the Link brothers, Henry A. of

Absarokee; Elmer F. of Billings; J. G., Jr., and L. W. of Butte.

American ingenuity is responsible for the installation of the scenic narrow gauge. The railroad situated one-third up the side of Cave Mountain at an elevation of more than 5,600 is jeep-powered, with an Army jeep serving as an "engine." Its sole car will convey 45 persons in comfort each trip. The trip from the administration building at the start of the line to the power hoist requires eight minutes. Previously the walk to the cave entrance required 25 minutes.

From the scenic car can be seen the Tobacco Root, Bridger and Catalina peaks, the site of old New London, once a booming mining camp which boasted 46 saloons, ancient battle fields of the Indian tribes, and camp sites of the expedition of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, on their famous trek from St. Louis to the Pacific and return during 1804-06.

The thrill of a ride over the jeep-powered railroad is scarcely over before another and even more spectacular treat is in store for the visitor to the cavern. Eliminating the climb up the side of Cave Mountain to the entrance to the fairland of the cavern proper, a 465-foot lift now provides breathtaking transportation up the mountain-side. The lift, operated on 60-pound regular railroad track rails, by means of a power cable, carries 12 passengers per trip. It rises at a 38 degree angle and the trip requires two minutes and 55 seconds. Although breathtaking,

to say the least, the trip is made in complete safety. The cable installed is capable of carrying eight times the load sustained and is controlled by a safety apparatus able to handle 15 times the load it must control. An automatic switch at the top of the lift controls the hoisting operations and the sheaves are anchored in 75,000 pounds of concrete.

Much has been written of the beauties of the cavern tour which requires about one and one-half hours, with guide tours starting every half hour. Suffice to say that the trail through the cave is about three-fourths of a mile long, and that in that three-quarters of a mile, the cave's stalagmites and stalactites, produce brilliant and weird effects, which, heightened by the use of a complete, although concealed lighting system are unsurpassed anywhere in the world.

The trip can be made in perfect comfort without special clothing although women are advised to wear flat heels. Temperatures in the cave is constant between 46 and 50 degrees and the cavern is clean. Cavern formations include stalactites, stalagmites, scarfs, helices, boxes, cascades, crystals, columns, box work, flowstone and clusterites.

Following the cavern trip the visitor may inspect the museum in the headquarters at the parking area. A new concession building also provides light lunches, soft drinks, candy, curios, books and pamphlets and other tourist information. A picnic ground is also available for family or organization outings.

The admission charge for the trip, including tramway and lift charges is \$1.25 for adults; 50 cents for children 6 to 12 and no charge for children under six. The cavern is open from 8 a. m. to 9 p. m. each day of the week. For organized groups, prices are \$1 for parties of 25 or more adults and 35 cents for groups of 25 or more children.

The cavern was discovered in 1902 by Dan A. Morrison, a Whitehall prospector. Mr. Morrison operated the cave as a private entertainment for many years. In 1934 a preliminary survey of the cave was undertaken and development of a first class staircase and trails was started by the National Parks Bureau with the assistance of a CCC company. The cave, when developed, was turned back to the state. In June, 1941 it was dedicated as a state park comprised of 2,770 acres of land.

Although it won nation-wide prominence as Morrison cave for its underground wonders, improvements at the cavern under the Montana state park commission, now makes the fantastic subterranean wonderland one of the principal scenic attractions in the Treasure state.

Slayer Is Killed by State Police

ROME, Ga., Aug. 9.—(AP)—Homer Shedd, 56-year-old tenant farmer, hunted all night following the fatal shooting Friday of his eight-month-old son and wounding of his estranged wife, was killed Saturday by a state trooper.

Shedd died as he had vowed to do, violently, rather than surrender. State Trooper John E. Hulseby, on the patrol only two months, felled him with one rifle shot virtually on the doorstep of a home being built by Grady Bradshaw, a wealthy farmer for whom Shedd had worked.

The trooper said Shedd had gone to the home of Mrs. Fanny King, next to that of Bradshaw, and had shoved a cocked shotgun through a window, threatening to kill her and her family.

Mrs. King screaming from the house and Bradshaw, hearing her cries, set out in pursuit of the fugitive along with several other citizens of the posse.

Hulseby and another patrolman had just left their patrol car when they saw Shedd dashing toward the new home of Bradshaw. Hulseby, a veteran of the First Infantry division, called upon him to halt several times and when the farmer whirled on him he shot him through the heart at a range of approximately 100 yards.

Meanwhile, the 18-year-old wife of Shedd was in a serious condition in a Rome hospital. Wounded also by her husband was her six-year-old brother, shot in the arm, Rome Assistant Police Chief Smith Horton said.

Examination of the farmer's body revealed that he had been hit in a clash with Floyd county deputies Friday afternoon. He had suffered a wound several inches long in his left arm and had bled profusely.

Men Who Get Up Nights Often Lose Their Pep

If you have to get up 3 or more times a night, your rest is broken and it's no wonder if you feel old and run-down before your time. So if you get up nights or suffer from Bladder Weakness, Painful Passages, Backache, Leg Pains, Nervousness, Rheumatic Pains, Circles Under Eyes, or Swollen Ankles, due to non-organic and non-systemic Kidney and Bladder troubles, you should try **Cystex** (a physician's prescription). Usually, the very first dose of Cystex acts to ease the pain and the kidneys flush out excess acids and wastes which may have caused your trouble. Tired Office? To prove what Cystex may do to bring you joyous help from the pains and distress due to above mentioned Kidney and Bladder troubles, get Cystex from your druggist and give it a fair trial exactly according to the simple directions. Unless completely satisfied and delighted with your rapid improvement, your money back is guaranteed. So don't suffer another day without trying Cystex.

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REPORT SUCCESSES

NANKING, Aug. 9.—(AP)—Press dispatches said Saturday government troops had captured Fushien and Hsingcheng, approximately 40 miles west of Tientsin, giving them the upper hand in a triangular area formed by Peiping, Tientsin and Patong. Constant fighting has been reported in the area during the last few days.

KILLED BY LIGHTNING

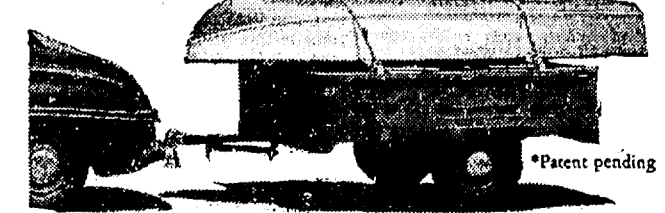
ENTERPRISE, Utah, Aug. 9.—(AP)—Apparently killed by lightning during a thunderstorm Friday night, the body of 18-year-old Darrell Laub was found on his father's farm near here.

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No-Host Dinner Club Entertained Tuesday

WHITEHALL, Aug. 9.—Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Harden entertained their No-Host Dinner club Tuesday evening at their home. Places were laid for the following: Mr. and Mrs. Andy Less, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. King, Mr. and Mrs. George Hakola, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hanson, Mrs. Carrie Crane, Mrs. Lillian Tebay, and the hosts.

Mrs. Robert Taylor and children, Tony and Susan, accompanied by Mrs. Taylor's mother, Mrs. M. W. Murphy, of Minneapolis, returned last week from Detroit lake, Minn., where they had spent the past month.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Brown returned Monday to their home in Helena after visiting several days with Mr. Brown's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Brown.

Mrs. Fay Bartley is spending two weeks visiting in Terry at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bartley.

Mrs. Alice K. Gustafson left Monday for Bozeman after visiting several days at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William Gustafson.

Mrs. J. K. Gustafson and infant son of Havre were overnight guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. William Gustafson.

Miss Doris Flanigan and Miss Mildred Flanigan returned this week after spending a week's vacation at the Diamond S Ranch hotel near Boulder.

Mr. and Mrs. George Wolfe and son, Robert, left last week end on a two weeks' vacation trip to Utah, Nevada and California.

Retail Credit Meeting Set

Plans have been completed for the reactivation meeting of the Butte Retail Credit association at a dinner at the Filian hotel Wednesday at 8:30 o'clock.

Response and reservations from members and prospective members, not only from Butte, but from Anaconda and Dillon, have been most gratifying, according to Larry F. Smith, association president.

Speakers for the evening will be Herb G. Barnes, of Vancouver, B. C., president of the 10th district of the National Retail Credit association, and Walter Jensen, executive secretary of the Northwest Credit Council.

The local association is planning to become affiliated with the National Retail Credit association, a non-profit organization which carries on a national program of credit education and determination of policy regarding credit, Smith reported.

Methodist Groups Plan Picnic

Mount Bethel Trinity Methodist Sunday school class and the Women's Society of Christian Service of Walkerville will sponsor a joint picnic Thursday afternoon at Columbia Gardens.

Luncheon will be served at 1 o'clock. Members are to bring their own luncheon and dishes. Ice cream will be furnished by the groups.

Cuba's National Federation of Retailers has bought a radio station graphed at an estimated height of 29,000 feet, almost 5 1/2 miles high.



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