75 YEARS AT WIND CAVE

A HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL PARK
Although it seems quite probable that various Indians must have come across the small natural opening to Wind Cave during the centuries of prehistoric habitation of the Black Hills area, the first real discovery, that is recognition of the opening as something unique and interesting, occurred only with the arrival of permanent settlers. The first discovery was attributed to Lame Johnny in an early advertising leaflet which asserted that the accused horse stealer and mail robber had found the cave in 1877. The following year Lame Johnny, whose real name was Con Donahue, was hanged by vigilantes near the present northeast corner of Wind Cave National Park on what is now called Lame Johnny Creek. It is believed, however, that Lame Johnny was given credit for the discovery in order to capitalize on the notoriety of his name in early advertising.*

While several other claimants to the honor appeared in the following years as the cave became famous, in all probability it was Jesse Bingham, accompanied by his brother Tom, who first discovered the cave, early in the spring of 1881. Jesse had wounded a deer which he was

* In 1889 Lame Johnny's grave was opened by Mr. E. Dean and Mr. W. H. Sewright of Buffalo Gap. All the bones except the skull were in the grave and this was believed to have been sold earlier in Custer as a souvenir by some cowboys. Mr. Sewright and Mr. Dean took possession of the boot heels and shackles.
following up a ravine when he was startled by a loud whistling noise. At the same time he noticed the grass waving violently on an otherwise calm and windless day. When Tom joined him, they investigated and found an eight by ten inch hole in the rocks through which the wind blew with such force that it lifted the hat from his head as Jesse tried to peer into the hole. Upon this discovery they called their hunting companion, half-brother John Dennis, and played the hat trick on him. After some speculation as to what caused the wind, they marked the hole, and rode off in pursuit of the deer.

Some time later Jesse returned with friends and with great confidence proceeded to show them the trick, but much to his surprise the wind was blowing into the hole and sucked the hat from his hands, never to be seen again.*

It is not known whether Jesse and Tom penetrated the cave very far but it is reported that, with the help of friends, they opened an entrance directly next to the natural opening and that about the year 1887 Jesse Bingham, Charlie Roe and others built a small 8' x 10' log house over this opening using logs "borrowed" from John Raver, who was planning to build a cabin near the present site of the game ranch.**

A Charlie Crary of Custer is reported to have gone into the cave a short time after its discovery and in the fall he told Frank Herbert of his trip and that he had left twine along the route he had taken.

* Interviews with Charles Roe, Bob McAdam, J. M. Straight, and others. The date of discovery is somewhat in doubt. Charles Roe sets the date in the spring of 1880. This was also implied by Frank Herbert. Bob McAdam says about 1882 while Charles Stewart and others place the discovery in 1884 by John Wells. It seems best to accept the traditional date of 1881. No doubt the early interest in the cave was rather casual.

** Interview with Bob McAdam, August 1957. This small house is said by others to have been built by the McDonalds in 1890.
Since Herbert, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Girelle, Mayme Sprague, and two girls by the name of Cole were planning a trip to this vicinity to gather plums, they decided to investigate the cave. After obtaining a description of its location from Jesse Bingham, they searched for the cave a full day before one of the party located it by hearing the wind as he walked down the gulch. The next day they returned and squeezed through a narrow hole for six or seven feet, finding the twine which Crary had left to mark his route. They crawled downward for around fifty feet on hands and knees. The main hole seemed to continue downward at right angles. After having been in the cave for some time, they thought they heard running water and being thirsty they searched for it but failed to find the water. While doing this they passed through several rooms containing the finest kinds of stalactites and stalagmites.*

In 1884 a party from Hot Springs composed of John Wells, Ted Petty, Kennett Harris, and a young man named Walter entered the cave. Later in the summer Charles Stewart and his sister, Kennett Harris and his mother, and the young man named Walter entered the cave and remained until after midnight. When they returned to Hot Springs early in the morning, they found that a search party was being organized to look for them.

In September of 1884 perhaps the earliest newspaper mention of the cave occurred: "Joe Pilcher and several others of the Climax force

* Frank Herbert, Forty Years Prospecting and Mining in the Black Hills of South Dakota (Rapid City, 1921) pp. 106-8. The date of this expedition is not clearly stated though the book seems to imply the year 1880. In any case, it seems to have been in the same year as the original discovery.
visited the cave of the Winds Sunday and returned loaded with brilliant specimens of water formation. We mistook one for an icicle and attempted to eat it.\textsuperscript{2} This later item from the same paper probably refers to Wind Cave also even though the location is erroneous:

A wind cave near Hot Springs, in Fall River county, has been explored for 700 feet, and the end is not yet. A current of air is continually passing through it with sufficient force to blow one's hat off--hence its name. Congress ought to meet there.\textsuperscript{3}

In the spring of 1886 C. T. C. Lollich, Charlie Estes, Mr. Swiehart, and a liveryman, all from Buffalo Gap, visited the cave. They entered in the evening with lanterns, candles, twine, and a lunch and spent the night exploring. They came out after sunrise the next day. Lollich said they had to squeeze through a very tight hole to get into the cave. Down in the hole were the bones and droppings of small animals and other trash that had washed into the hole from the ravine. It was quite muddy inside the hole.\textsuperscript{4}

The first modern-sized visiting party is reported on July 17, 1886:

A large party consisting of Odo Reder and family, C. H. Walker and family, Miss Parker, and others comprising thirty or forty persons in all, supplied with tents, camping utensils and everything essential to comfort left this place \textsuperscript{7} for the Cave of the Wind on Tuesday, where they remained for a day or two exploring the labyrinthine mazes of that attractive wonder, and enjoying the refreshing winds that make that place especially enjoyable when the mercury is seeking the upper levels.\textsuperscript{5}

Mr. C. T. Martin also made several trips to Wind Cave during 1886 and 1887 with Arthur Collins, William Noble and others. He says "the original opening was an oblong hole, in the very bottom of the gulch, a bit larger than an ordinary wash boiler. The old hole was smack at the bottom where every drop of water coming down the draw went down and
into the cave. While three or four of us were down in the Cave one day, a heavy thunder storm struck the area. Torrents of water came through the opening, just at the time we were on the way out. We got a scare of course, but were not endangered. Maybe some wet feet." 6

Another early mention of Wind Cave occurs in an interesting booklet on the Hot Springs of Dakota published in 1888. After listing the attractions of this hopeful health resort it mentions that "not far distant is the Cave of the Winds, from whose mouth a rush of wind issues continually. This cave has been explored for a distance of two miles and may, when fully explored, exceed the Mammoth Cave in extent and interest." 7

This same year a number of cattle from Chadron, Nebraska which were being summer pastured around Horsehead disappeared. Smith Adams came up to look for them and, following a trail to Deadwood, caught up with Jess Bingham who was driving them. He had Jess arrested but the latter had influential friends and the governor refused to allow him to be extradited to Nebraska. The following year, when there was a new governor, the sheriff of Dawes County, Nebraska, assisted by the deputy sheriff of Custer County, Anderson, (though without much enthusiasm) apprehended Bingham on his ranch near Wind Cave.* He submitted quietly to arrest but asked permission to take his horse around the hill to tether it. In the company of this deputy sheriff, he proceeded to do

* An elevation overlooking Jesse's ranch, from which he spied out for trouble, received the name Bingham Peak, according to that fine pioneer feeling for nomenclature. Another of Jesse's exploits was the shooting of the last buffalo seen in this area, according to Carl and Friede Sanson in an interview July 2, 1958. He shot it on Bison Flats, south of the present headquarters area. Thereafter buffalo could only be hunted near Belle Fourche or farther away.
this but then leaped into the saddle and escaped through a salvo of poorly aimed shots. Charles Roe is said to have helped take his family and stock out of the state to Deerlodge, Montana where the hand of the law reached again in 1890 to bring Jesse back to Chadron. Put on $1500 bail, which is said to have been paid by a wealthy cattleman of the Black Hills, he returned to his homestead but was then heard from in Canada where he remained until his death.8

The disappearance of Jesse Bingham from the scene encouraged the appearance of other "discoverers" of Wind Cave, including John Wells for the year 1881 or 1884 and Edward Petty in 1881. Even the Bingham's came to give credit for the actual discovery to Tom Bingham rather than to his notorious brother, but most of the oldtimers in the area have continued to affirm that it was Jesse who was most clearly the discoverer, though Tom and John Dennis were probably with him at the time.9

For several years after discovery the area around the cave entrance lay open. In 1886 location certificates were filed on the cave by Frank D. Horton and Nels I. Hyde who soon abandoned them. Another was filed in January of 1889 by L. C. Faris. In 1890 a Mr. Day located three mining claims on the land which he is said to have sold in a short time for $250 to J. C. Moss, President of the South Dakota Mining Company.* Location certificates were filed on the cave by this company and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Custer County.10

* Interview with Bob McAdam, August 1957. Other officers of this company were M. A. Moss, treasurer, and R. B. Moss, superintendent. They also owned the Moss Engraving Company of New York City.
In April of 1890, Jesse D. McDonald, accompanied by his sons Elmer and Alvin, came to Wind Cave to manage the property for the South Dakota Mining Company. The McDonalds were, according to reports, a somewhat unfortunate family undistinguished by education or financial success. They appear first in Franklin County, Iowa near the town of Iowa Falls where Elmer and Alvin were born. In 1873 or 1874 the family sought better fortunes further west settling in Calliope, Iowa, a now defunct town near Hawarden. Here Mary, Evan, Roy, and Harry were born. In 1888 J. D. McDonald and the two older sons went to Thermopolis, Wyoming where they remained about a year before moving in the fall of 1889 to Four Mile in the Black Hills. It was apparently at this time that R. B. Moss employed McDonald, first at Four Mile or "Moss City" and then at Wind Cave. Rather frequent financial advances to the McDonalds at this time have been recorded. It is with the arrival of the McDonalds that the era of serious exploration and exploitation of Wind Cave begins. For the first time guided tours were conducted through the cave. One of the first "tourists" was a reporter from the Hot Springs Star who made the first detailed description of the trip:

> Upon arriving at the Cave we were met by Mr. McDonald who gave us lunch at his cabin. After lunch we set out up the gulch to the Cave entrance, which was located about 200 yards north of the McDonald house. We noticed the extremely cold wind as soon as we approached the entrance, and when we asked the cause of it, Mr. McDonald replied that many people would like to know

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* This date is inferred from Alvin McDonald's financial records of Wind Cave which begin on April 15th.

** The following are their birthdates: Elmer L, Aug. 1, 1871; Alvin F. Apr. 3, 1873; Mary S. Sep. 22, 1874; Evan Thomas in 1880; Roy S. in 1882, and M. Harry in 1887. J. D. McDonald was born in Linoway County, Mich. and was the son of a missionary to the Indians of Oklahoma.
the answer to that one. We descended ladders for 125 feet, straight down, and after crawling some distance further down rocky inclines and over deep fissures we reached what is known as the Brides Chamber, which is 200 feet underground. By this time we were almost exhausted after our long journey so we rested for some time and then proceeded deeper into the cave. After what seemed like hours, but was very likely no longer than 30 minutes we came to the Snowball house which, as the name implies, looks as if it had been plastered with snowballs. After another hard climb over rough trail and deep crevices we reached the "Postoffice", and our guide told us we had covered ¼ of the entire trip. The boxes for which the room is named are of a beautiful, thin, rocky, substance, formed by the mineral substance of the water which once filled the cave, collecting and solidifying as the water disappeared. Rhole's Misery, a narrow crevice through which we could barely make our way was next. Our guide told us it was named for a young man who got stuck there. Then came the Red Hall, 1000 feet below the surface, the Devil's Track, a dark narrow crevice above us, the top of which had never been seen. We tried to shine our candles up in to the top, but without success. The next drop was 115 feet down a rope. We are now 2000 feet underground, and this is as far as the cave has been explored. Our guide tells us it will take 2½ hours to return from here. On the way back we come to the Cataract. Here the guide takes us off the road into the largest chamber that has yet been discovered. Huge masses of rock thrown one upon the other, over which it is supposed that the great Wind River once thundered, forming a great Cataract. Next we come to the bed of the Wind River, resembling the bed of a river or road. This place is 75 or a hundred feet from the main trail, between the Post Office and the entrance.

The cave was discovered about six years ago by the noted cattle thief, Jesse Bingham. While riding in its vicinity in search of cattle, he was attracted by the continuous buzzing from some unknown noise, and upon trying to ride his pony toward the source of the noise, he found that the pony would not go. Dismounting he found his way to a small opening in the rock scarcely large enough to admit a man's body. After making this discovery a larger opening was made and improvements began in the cave. One of the first improvements which the McDonalds made at Wind Cave was an enlarged and more accessible entrance to the cavern. This opening is the same one used today, although it has been remodeled since then. Over the entrance to the cave a small story-and-a-half log house was
erected and lived in by the McDonalds. A heavy two-inch plank trapdoor about 4 x 7 feet covered the opening into the cave. At times wind blowing out of the cave would hold this door at a 45° angle. A cold storage cupboard was placed near this opening to take advantage of the air current in preserving food and keeping flies away (which were numerous in those days). On days when the wind was going the other way, it was difficult to raise the door and it often required the efforts of two or three men to do so.

Our picture of the early period of Wind Cave history is based largely on a rather remarkable diary kept by Alvin McDonald. Alvin was only 17 years old when he began exploring the cave and keeping his diary. As he begins the second year of his "Private Account" he tells, with some unconscious humor, the motivation for his effort:

****Introductory****

(To whomsoever may it read)

On the first day of January 1891 I saw fit to keep a record of the inside workings at Wind Cave, and, acting with the thought, I started a daily record which I called (perhaps familiarly) "The private account of A. F. McDonald permanent guide of Wind Cave." It was attended to pretty regular until the busy season "opened up" and then (through negligence) it was not attended to but little, and, as a consequence I will be obliged to describe some of my exploring trips taken last year to make a connection with trips made this year and those of last year that are recorded. My intention this year is to keep a correct account of the development and explorations of Wind Cave or any other caverns that fortune favors me to be exploring in. By the word "exploring" I mean "finding cavities that no human-beings have yet discovered.

Respectfully yours

[signed] Z. U. Q.

P. S. For the meaning of these initials or any other initials used in the pages of this book, inquire of the guide of any of the Celebrated Caverns of America.
What view of the early days at Wind Cave is given us by the self-styled "Permanent Guide?" For one thing, there seems to have been a very intensive opening up of the cave, with dynamite often used to blast open impassable crevices. The fragile formations were covered with quilts during the dynamiting to protect them, according to one report. The guide was so enthusiastic about the cave that he was apt to lead off on exploratory expeditions even when ordinary visitors came to see the cave. In January of 1891 Alvin made 27 trips in the cave, in February he made 33 and spent 119 hours and 45 minutes underground. At one point he complains, "I am getting homesick after staying out of the cave so long." It had been two days. Though all the McDonalds were making specimen collections, they seem to have been careful to take them only from inaccessible areas of the cave, preserving the natural beauties of the main trails: "I discovered on this trip (to my rage & disgust at somebody) that the head of the petrified swan was broken off. I felt like having a settlement with some one because the petrified Swan was the only attraction of the room that contained it." It was apparently somewhat hazardous to go on a tour with Alvin: "I went in the cave this morning for some parties that I supposed were lost but did not get far until I found them. Mr. Crookam & two visitors got separated from me last night near the Garden of Eden. A. C. McBride & I found Mr. Crookam in the Roe's Misery & the two visitors in Capital Hall. I a. Recovered Paradise." One imagines that they had a restful night in the dark of the cave. Then there were more minor mishaps: "After we had loaded up [probably with candles and ropes] & got started we met M. A. Moore of
Hot Springs, S. D. in the Post Office. He had a gasoline light of about 8 candle power with him. ... As we were coming out M. A. Moore's gasoline lamp caught, in Red Hall, on fire and melted to pieces. 22

The importance of Alvin for the development of Wind Cave was that he went about the exploration rather systematically. He gave a name to each room or interesting formation, estimated distances (wholly exaggerated), named the chief routes, and kept a record of explorations. He soon learned in his exploring that "In Wind Cave, whenever you find a passage that has wind in it, it shows the passage is of some importance." 23

A typical exploratory trip is described on February 18, 1891:

At 1:00 P.M. J. M. Moore & I started in the cave to explore for the stream of water that William Davis & Mr. Alltaffer tried to lead me to (but failed). Taking the Specimen Route we first began to explore to the right of the deep hole, near the angle of the old part of the route. We started in a small hole, that had, one red cord, three binding twine & one cotton wrapping twine in it. We stretched /sic/ a wrapping twine after us, so we could find our way out without getting lost. The farther we went in the larger the hole got, until we got into a fair sized room, about 16 feet x 40 feet x 10 feet high. The next passage we had to go through was uncomfortably small as we could hardly squeeze through it, but after we got through we found a fine, (but small) room that was hanging full of brown box & lattice work. From there we climbed up a hole about 30 feet on the angle of 45° degrees and found a room that had small stalactites hanging from the ceiling & stalaca all over the floor of it. We explored around there a while but found no way out, except the way we come in. Returning to the small room that had box & lattice work in it we went down a hole to the left (as we go in) to the depth of 30 feet or more & found ourselves in the room that M. A. Moore discovered on the 14th of January 1891. After exploring for about half an hour and finding nothing we returned to the deep hole on the old part of the route a different way from that which we went, coming back to the string just this side of the hole that we had to squeeze through when we went in. Coming back about 50 feet from the angle in the old part of route I thought it best to explore the small passage leading at a right angle to the left (as we come out). After we had went
about 25 feet we come into the largest room that I ever saw before in the Specimen Route, dimensions about 35 feet x 60 feet x 25 feet high. There were passages leading in every possible direction from it. We took a large passage in the South West corner of the room. The passage kept getting smaller and then opened up into a small stalactite room with dirt floor & red formation in general. From there J. M. Moore found a passage leading to the left & started to explore it for water formation, leaving me to explore another place in a different direction. In about 10 minutes J. M. Moore called me to come to where he was. I started towards him but got into a hole so tight that I had a hard time getting through, but succeeded after tearing a button of my jacket & found myself into a small stalactite room. From there we crawled into a passage to the left, that kept larger until we got into a room about 12 x 12 feet with 3 or 4 passages leading from it in different directions. I climbed up a hole to the left of the room to the height of 35 feet but found nothing except a little water formation and a good deal of hard climbing. When I got back to where I left J. M. Moore, he was not there, but I heard him calling to me to come to him & bring the string, for he had found a place where we would never stop going down when we once got started. When I got to where I could see him, he was about 12 feet below me & I had to jump about half that distance but found a soft lighting place. I found myself into a room that was nearly round and about 50 feet in diameter & had a white roof, brown sides, and red floor. From there we saw passages leading in every direction. Our first ball of twine ran out on us in this room & while I was tying the second ball of string to the end of the first, J. M. Moore went on an exploring trip by himself, but not out of hearing. He returned in a few minutes and reported that he had found a few small stalactites. We then stretched the string about 100 feet down the avenue to the east & come to a branch in the passage. Leaving the string at the junction of the passages J. M. Moore took the left and I took the right passage promising not to get out of hearing of each other. After I went about 25 feet I told J. M. Moore to stay where he was until I got back. I went a short distance and turned to the right coming unexpectedly on the small stalactites that J. M. Moore found a few minutes before. I then returned to the string & we started to explore for depth. I broke a rock out of the way & we went down into a room that we named "Turtle Room." From there we kept on down to the left until we come into a room that we could not see any way out of except the way we come in. We finally found a hole that we could get down, by breaking a few rocks out of the way. After I broke the rocks out of the hole J. M. Moore went down about 10 feet and found the hole again filled with loose rock. He broke the rocks out of the way and went down as far as he could get, (about 10 feet), making 20 feet in all, & then returned to me. We started out, but I found a hole to the left (after we got about 15 feet) that
led down. Breaking our way for about 4 feet we climbed down about 20 feet and then had to break out a few more stones. After getting the stones out of our way, we climbed down about 40 feet more & found the passage blocked again, (so tight that we could not break it out with the hammer), so we returned to "Turtle Room" & found a passage leading down from there. We went down about 50 feet all told & had to break out 2 holes to get through. We then returned to the room that our first ball of twine ran out in and found a large passage leading to the right, (as we go in) but left it for future exploration, as we had but a little candles & not any string. Elmer was at home when we got out of the cave (8:05 P.M.).

Prior to Alvin's time there were probably around a dozen rooms in the cave which had received names and become familiar to visitors. By the time of his death the cave had been embellished with almost 1000 names for chambers or objects and there were thirteen series of passages or "routes," whose length was rather imaginatively estimated at 81 miles. The present main route scarcely went beyond the Devil's Lookout, indeed, the crevice beyond the Post Office (Roe's Misery) was so small that few had gone through it. Bob McAdam recalls that as a youngster weighing 108 pounds he had to lie on his side to get through.* Early visitors probably spent most of their time in the network of passages near the cave entrance or in exploring the numerous blind alleys along the present main trail, as far as the Post Office. The present main trail is practically identical with what came to be called the Sampson's Palace

* As neighbors of the McDonalds, the McAdams became acquainted with them and Alvin is said to have frequently asked Bob to join him in cave exploration. Bob claims to have been with Alvin when a way was hammered through the cross crevice from the Devil's Lookout to Milton's Study and thence to Capitol Hall (later to be called Bishop Fowler's Cathedral and now simply Cathedral), Odd Fellows Hall (now the Model Room), and finally to Fallen Flats, which became the G.A.R. Hall and later the Assembly Room, a name previously used for a chamber near Monte Cristo's Palace. He also believes he was the first to enter the Garden of Eden and several other rooms.
Route, said to be six miles long. On the first part of this route was the "Oven," a long narrow passage which the McDonalds spent the better part of five weeks in March of 1892 deepening so that it could be passed through by stooping over only. This is between the second and third stairways near the entrance to the cave. The first discovery that Alvin reports in his diary was made on May 2, 1890 when Alvin, accompanied by his brother Elmer, followed a passage off the Oven into the "Elbow" and several other rooms which comprised the "Specimen Route." Three months later, on August 6th Alvin and two strangers extended the main trail from the Devil's Lookout to what was called the "Giant's Causeway." This was probably on this side of the "Cathedral." In November the route was extended beyond the present-day "Crossroads" which were then called the "Confederate Cross Roads." Many of the names have been forgotten in the intervening years so it is difficult to determine just when the present Assembly Room was reached. The discovery of the Crossroads led to a

* This account of the exploration of Wind Cave is taken from a section of Alvin's diary which summarizes the important discoveries. Though Bob McAdam vociferously disputes the authenticity of the diary it has been found impossible to prove a single error in it. Of course, Alvin may have been mistaken in assigning this or that discovery to himself or someone else and he may have claimed more credit than he deserved but there is a tone of genuineness throughout the document. The author does not shrink from revealing the unflattering facts of his life though there is a certain adolescent vainglory there too. The customary ambivalence of the diarist who seeks privacy and fame at the same time is evident. During his short period at the cave, he was considered by everyone to be the individual most acquainted with it and during his three years and eight months there he saw more of the cave than anyone before or after. His early death changed the course of Wind Cave history, ending cave exploration and contributing to the bickering over ownership of the property, just as the later untimely death of John Stabler was to contribute to the establishment of the national park.
rapid penetration of the so-called "Castle Garden Route" which followed
the presently well-known route from the Crossroads up "Summer Avenue"
through the "Masonic Temple" down to "Monte Cristo's Palace", which was
discovered on January 12, 1891. By February 10th the "Tennis Court"
had been found and on July 3rd "Saint Dominic Chamber" the "Blue Grotto"
and many other rooms along this route were discovered. On the 23rd of
July the "Pearly Gates" had been reached and discoveries continued to be
made on this route through April of 1893 when 119 named rooms or objects
were listed and it was estimated that its length was 15 miles.

In the meantime, the passage off the present-day Assembly Room
which led upward (and now has a wooden stairway) was ascended in June
1891, receiving the name "Cliff Climber's Delight," and "Fat Woman's
Misery." The "High Route" began at the head of this climb with a cham­
er called "Five Points", because of the five passages leading from it.
It was later to be dedicated as "Eastern Star Hall." This was in the
present Garden of Eden region. On the 4th of July 1891, the High Route
was lengthened by the addition of "Silent Lake" (the pool of water not
far distant from the middle level elevator stop) and 14 other chambers.
By July 7th the Garden of Eden had been discovered and numerous discov­
eries continued to be made, including connections between this route and
the Sampson's Palace and Castle Garden Routes. In October 1893 the route
had 75 chambers and was estimated to be 8 miles long.

In June of 1891 a passage off a chamber called the "Sceneries of
Wicklow" on the Castle Garden Route led to the so-called "Coloseum
Route" and a number of discoveries in the following months. On March
20, 1892 the most sensational discovery was made along this route:
It has been bad weather on the exterior part of this country all day. We expected a load of visitors from Hot Springs today but the weather has been so bad that they did not come. About 10 o'clock G. A. Stabler, J. D. McDonald, E. L. McDonald & myself started in the cave on an expedition. At first we hardly knew where to go, as there are so many places that need exploring, but I suggested that there was a good chance to explore in the Collesium Route and we decided to explore there as I was the only one of the party that had seen it, so the rest were curious to see... it and explore in it. The collesium Route, (as far as it is explored at the present date) mostly overlies the Castle Garden Route. There are three entrances to it from the Castle Garden Route that are already discovered. They are near the places named. The first one is between the Sceneries of Wicklow on the Castle Garden Route & the Garden of Gods on the Collesium Route. The second entrance is between the Council Chamber on the Castle Garden Route & the Fair Grounds, our latest discovery on the Collesium Route, while the third is between the Tennis Court on the Castle Garden Route & the Marble Quarry on the Collesium Route.

We entered the Collesium Route V.I.A. the Sceneries of Wicklow & from there we went through a winding passage to the Garden of Gods. Here we found the finest scenery in the cave. The roof is a series of beautiful arches, finer and more beautiful than any production of art. After looking through the room for a while we took a passage at the North-West corner and proceeded to explore it. We went through two small rooms & past a cataract of water formation before we got in any place that I had not explored before. From here we turned to our left and three of us explored while the other stayed with the string. The passage that George Stabler followed and the one that I followed came together so we joined and explored it together. I went through a small hole to the right and soon found a crevice shaped room that I thought I recognized so I called to the rest of the party & we proceeded to explore this new room as I found I was mistaken about ever being in the room before. We found that the room that I had discovered was of good size and had an opening at the top and one at the bottom. Elmer & I went down in the bottom for about 20 minutes but found nothing so returned to the remainder of the party. We tried the compass and found the crevice extended East and West. We then tried the passage that led from the upper part of the room & had better success after climbing up we turned to the North-West and found a chamber about 15 x 20 feet and about 8 feet high, in this room G. A. Stabler and I placed the following inscription. smoked on the roof.

Y.J.X.
Z.U.Q.
March 20th 1892
G. A. Stabler
J. D. McDonald
From this room Elmer found a passage leading to the right and he soon came on a string that was partly decayed with age. I found the string to be one that R. N. Norcutt, William Ranger & I had stretched on the 17th day of July 1891. That was at the same time that the Collesium was discovered. We then went to the Collesium by way of the string that we had found & after looking through the room for a while we decided to go to the Marble Quarry & explore from there. We started from the West End of the Collesium & went by the place that Mr. Ranger left a fine specimen of pop-corn-work. That place was at the bottom of a small hole that led down from near the west end of the Collesium. From there we went through a very long low passage to the Marble Quarry, arriving there at 2:30 P.M. Here we took a taste of lunch, for that was all of it, and after a rest we started for fresh adventure. We went out of the Marble Quarry by way of the North Entrance & after going about a hundred yards through an airy passage we arrived at the third entrance of the Collesium Route, the one that comes up from the Council Chamber. I thought of leading the party to explore to the North East of the entrance but I saw a passage leading to the West and I told the party to wait until I saw if it would pay to explore it. I then went in the passage and found that it turned to the North West and kept getting larger until I concluded that it would pay to explore and I then returned to the remainder of the party. We had gone a little farther than I went when George A. Stabler noticed a large hole in the roof. We were all looking up the hole & wondering how we could get up there when I suggested that we could follow that long rock and climb up from the other end of it. I did not know that we could get up there at the time that I made the suggestion, but only said so to break the monotony. The rock was about 40 feet long and laid North West and South East, the South East end was toward us. We started up the rock which was about 15 feet higher at the other end and when we got where the stone stopped there lay above us and on all sides of us an enormous cave. We went up in the room where we could see it better and we were on one side of...it but we could see neither the other side or either end of it. We found that the room extended North & South by the compass. G. A. Stabler & I explored to the explored to the South by our candles and string room. After we had ex- about an hour we found the that is the shape of the Stabler named the room the name is very appropriate unusually level and it kind of specimens that are We took special notice of of which some parts of rated. We estimated the 65 rods while the breadth will average about 5 rods making an
area of over 2 acres the average height is about 15 feet although in some places it is fifty. The Fair Grounds contains by a careful estimate 88481.25 cubic feet. We explored a hole in the North end of the Fair Grounds leading down and found a room lying to the North East. In the South end of this room I recognized a passage as the one the led to the North East and then to the North West of the third entrance of the Collesium Route. This of course added another circle to our list which is already large. We explored for a while longer and found a hole that leads to the third tier of chambers somewhere near the College. The upper end of it was near the North end of the Fair-grounds. We could drop a large stone down the hole and the effect was surprising. It would first strike the side about 20 feet below and then hit first one side and then the other until it got about 50 or 60 feet below. We could then hear it ring in the box-work and the next we heard was a thump on what we supposed was the floor of a room. By this time the sound was faint but we listened close and found that it rolled down an incline and completely out of hearing. In all my experience in the cave that was the first hole that I could find no bottom to by dropping a stone down. We had no rope with us and as we considered it dangerous to climb down without one we returned to the "Fair Grounds" and then prepared to go to the entrance of the cave. We went out of the Collesium Route by way of the Council Chamber. From there we went to the Vestibule by way of the Saint Dominic Chamber. There we left our packages and went to see the Tabernacle which is second only in size when compared with all of the different rooms in cave so far as explored at the present date. We returned to Vestibule and there prepared for a trip to the entrance. I guess the majority of the party were tired for when I suggested that we would go and see the Sailors Delight they said that they would rather use their muscle to get to the entrance with....We arrived at the entrance at 7:30 P.M. 25

Trips of this nature, though perhaps not always nine and a half hours long, continued to be made during 1892 and most of 1893. For the most part, the later discoveries were in less accessible areas of the cave and after Alvin's era were gradually forgotten. To this day, however, adventurers who leave the beaten trail are apt to come across the well-known "Z.U.Q." mark of Alvin or the "X.Y.J." of his brother Elmer, perhaps with a date or a notation of the name given to the
By January of 1891 Alvin had "given up the idea of finding the end of Wind Cave" but modern explorers would probably settle for finding the end of Alvin's trail-blazing.

The last entry in the Private Account is for October 20, 1893 when four more chambers were discovered on the Coloseum Route by John Stabler, Elmer McDonald, and Alvin. During the summer Alvin and his father had gone to the Columbian Exposition or Chicago World's Fair with a specimen display from the cave. After his return, Alvin was stricken with "walking typhoid fever" which was complicated by pneumonia, rumored to have been contracted when he supposedly got lost on an exploration. The latter was reportedly the real cause of his death on December 15, 1893, at the age of 20. Alvin was buried on the bluff overlooking the entrance to the cave he had loved so well and a statue, carved by Mr. Reardon of Buffalo Gap, was placed over his grave.

Alvin's younger brother, Roy, is reported to have done some exploring after this but since he was only in his early teens and the legal

* These letters were apparently derived in a mood of boyish romanticism by some process of reversing the alphabet.

** The McDonalds are believed to have visited the fair during the June to August gap in Alvin's diary. The fair also featured from Wind Cave a ten foot square map showing every explored chamber. This was made by George S. Hopkins, a civil engineer.

*** The Custer Chronicle of December 23, 1893 noted his passing: "Alvah McDonald, chief guide at Wind Cave, and son of the proprietor, died on Friday of last week, after a two week's illness with typhoid fever. For years had had been engaged in exploring the Cave, and making its innumerable passages accessible, and he was more familiar with them than any one else. As a guide he was always courteous and accommodating, willing to give visitors any amount of information or assistance they might desire, and his affable presence will be sadly missed by those who re-visit the Cave in the future."

**** Interview with Bob McAdam, August 1958. After Wind Cave became a national park the statue was removed, in keeping with the policy of dissociating a national area from private and local matters. During a flood
battle over ownership of the cave was soon to become heated, it is likely that no more important discoveries were made.

The question of ownership was to occupy the best energies of the interested parties for the decade preceding the withdrawal of the land on January 16, 1900 and the later establishment of Wind Cave National Park. Since this area was not surveyed until 1892, title was by possession only. The Moss family had bought out the squatter and mining rights of Mr. Day and put their employee, McDonald, in charge of the property.*

which swept down the valley, the statue, having been stored in a park building, was broken to pieces. In 1957 a simple bronze table was placed on Alvin's grave. The disappearance of some of the original names for rooms in the cave was also because they were considered inappropriate for a national park.

* A typical letter of J. D. McDonald to the Moss's reveals the fact of his employment as well as something of his personality and the conditions of that period. The spelling is his:

Moss City, 2/28/90

Mr. Moss

Dear Sir:

The Sweeds Staked out 4 mils placer to day they toock 60 acers of the best part of it but thay Dont Eny body think they can Ceep it Every body Except the Sweeds are on your side or at least they talck that way.

I dont thinck you Can Do Mutch here before the midle of april our Winter is set in Emerst it is vary cold ruff weather and lots of snow What Do you expect to pay your men Next Summer I think I can get you plenty of good men for 2,50 per day that will stick to you and worck for your Intrest I mean Carpenters Minners and Mill Men McKinna Brophy Henry and Old Johnney are waiting for a job but they say they wount worck for one cent less than 3 Dollars a Day and they aint worth it I wouldnt have them around if they would worck for nothing. I can get you a good teamster for 1,50 per day and Elmer says he will worck for 2,00 per day and do Eny thing you set him at I think I will let Alvin prospect this summer to many boys around is no good I had a letter frome my brother he wants to come out
After the survey attorney Ed L. Grantham advised them that their titles were mineral and possessory only in an agricultural district and that here he is a No one Carpenter he could put up your Mill or run your Engine you can get him for 2,50 per day

Now I Don’t Want you to think that I wants work in my relations for I Don’t all I want is to get a Crew of good strate men that will Erne theary money and when they Don’t Discharge them right away I have written to an Old Minner that I have None for years to see if he can come and what he will charge he would make a good foreman and get more work out the men in one day than McKinna would in 3 days

Now I want you to understand that all the men that I recommend are good strate ohenst sober men that will stick to you if you get in a tight place ore want a little Extra work done they will do it Don’t hire any body that uses Licker for you Cannot Depend on them if you are a going to make a success of this business out here you want a set of hands that you Can trust in any place you are a min to put them and if you have a foreman have one that is a judge of a day’s work and that will see that the man Does a good fair day’s work and if he Don’t attend to his business Discharge him and try somebody Else for there is a good Deal Depends on a good Foreman

Now do please write me a good Long letter and tell me something of your plans and about how many men you want and about how soon you want them and what wages you intend to pay there is a lot Honking around here that thinks you have got to Hire them and pay what they ask and some of them goes so far to say that No man Shall work for you for less than 3,00 per day but I Don’t think they will run many of your Cheap men off so far be what they will get back the same Day

I let Durst have your Heavy wagon to Haul lumber on I had to Do it or have a fuss he said he would make it all right with you He has had it 4 weeeks

McKinna has your other wagon and 2 sets of your harnesses and a good many of your tooles over then Whenever he wants any thing he just comes and takes it without Ever saying a word to any body I think it will be hard work to find all the things he has carried off for they are prity well battered he is getting awful sick of keeping your teams he didn’t take the Little Mulls so I Ceept them here I dont feel mutch graine

Hoping to here frome you soon

Yours Truly,

(Signed) J. D. McDonald.

A copy of this letter was sent to Wind Cave by Gladys Moss Bingham (Mrs. C. W. Bingham), daughter of R. B. Moss.
they should have their agent, McDonald, enter as homestead the property, entering into contract for deed to the South Dakota Mining Company, thus giving additional security to the title.*

After McDonald had agreed to sign a contract deeding the land he would homestead to the South Dakota Mining Company, a dispute arose between the parties. The following letter testifies to the growing mutual mistrust:

Four Mile near Custer City, S.D.

J. D. McDonald Esq.
Wind Cave, S.D.

Sir:

By direction of the South Dakota Mining Company - I hereby require you to at once furnish me a full accounting of all the specimens taken from the Wind Cave properties - during the time you have had charge of the same. Such accounting to include the value of all specimens taken by you from said claims, the amounts realized by you from sales thereof, and collected by you from visitors admitted to view said claims, and an account of your expenditures in connection therewith. Such reports to cover each month separate and distinct.

You will please make and hand to me the information and account above requested not later than the 20th of the present month and mail said report to me at Custer City, Custer County, S.D.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) R. B. Moss,
Agent and representative of the South Dakota Mining Co.

(Registered - Aug. 16, 1891.)

* This is probably the contract referred to in the following telegram, a copy of which was sent to Wind Cave by Gladys Moss Bingham:

1:30 PM Nov 25 1893
New York N Y

R. B. Moss -
No evidence has been taken heard nothing from any one I have McDonalds writing admitting the Contract.

S. J. Lowell
At about this time R. B. Moss was called to New York by the death of his father intestate and while he was gone McDonald is said to have taken the Wind Cave property in his own right.29

In June 1891 the John Stabler family moved to Hot Springs, an event that was soon to be important for the history of Wind Cave. * John Stabler

* Catherine Stabler Rose goes into interesting detail about her childhood memories of Western life and about the background of her family:

My father, John Stabler, one of five children, was born of George and Margret Stabler in a part log house (still there) near a mill pond near Mifflin, Juanita Co., Penna. in 1847. His father owned a blacksmith shop. He died when Papa (John Stabler), the youngest of the five, was quite young. His mother married Jake Meintzer and moved near Broadhead, Wisc. When Papa was 16 he ran away from home and joined the 7th Wisc. Cavalry. He was wounded at Chattanooga, Tenn. and discharged at the end of the Civil War.

He met my mother Lydia Raymer, daughter of a very religious family, of Rock City, Ill. They were married 1866 and had six children, all deceased except myself, three brothers older and 2 sisters younger.

In 1871, with their three sons, went west in a covered wagon where Papa acquired a grant of land from the government at Middle Creek, Nebr. This was near Milford where two of Papa's sisters lived on farms and also Mother's brother lived in Milford. The youngest son, only a baby, tumbled out of the back of the wagon while enroute. It was several miles later that they missed him. They retraced their tracks and found that someone had rescued him and were waiting for them. Papa was building a house and had not completed the kitchen. It still had it's dirt floor. Mother needed some soap and as she was about to step onto this dirt floor, she remembered she had some. Father saw a white flash, (it was night) and went over and killed a large rattle snake. And then one morning, (while kitchen was still being built) as she was starting breakfast on the outdoor fireplace, she reached for the frying pan and there curled up was a rattle snake.

Those were the dry years and grasshoppers came in clouds, would settle on a piece of grain and eat it to the roots, lay their eggs in the ground and rise up in a cloud flying to fresh fields. They left bare cornstalks and dry pits on peach trees. My family lived on barley coffee which Mother roasted, game that
had been in business in Nebraska before moving to Chamberlain, South Dakota where he operated the Brule Hotel. After business declined there,

Papa shot and a very few groceries. Our folks back east sent us barrels of clothes, bedding, nuts and necessities. Papa was a carpenter walking five miles each way for $1 per day. Mother was a tailoress and made clothes for people....

The youngest son, Raymer, died the summer of 1873 and I was born October 29, 1873....In 1874 we moved to Hastings, Nebr. where Papa and a Mr. Deisher went into the implement business. Country was new and crops good, lots of machinery was needed, so they made good. My two sisters were born here. While living here, I remember being sent to town on an errand. In the park I had to pass a man being hung.

They sold out the fall of 1879 and we moved to Lincoln, Nebr. where Papa started to make machinery in the Prison with convict help. I remember attending the circus and sitting on Jumbo's back....It was at this fair that Papa had an exhibit of his machinery and had built a spiral stair case. The first of it's kind and a great curiosity which drew large crowds....Papa's business here was not a success as the convict help was not satisfactory and also the bank where Papa had his money broke. (The bank president absconded with the money).

We bought a home in East Lincoln and Papa went on the road selling machinery. He made good but wanted a business of his own....The next fall after the blizzard of '88, we moved to Chamberlain, S. D. and ran a hotel, The Brule. The Sioux Indian track of land was being opened for homesteads by the government. Before the rush for these government claims our house was full all of the time. The winter of 1890 and '91, the last Indian war, the Battle of Wounded Knee, every woman and child who could afford to go left until the battle was over. I remember one Saturday night twelve Indian chiefs stayed in our house until Monday morning as no trains left on Sunday and Chamberlain was the end of the line. We had a small room across the hall from the office where they smoked their pipes and pow-wowed. They were great eaters. We left them in the dining room after all other guests were gone and then put everything we had cooked on the tables and they ate and ate. Then got up and shook themselves and sat down to eat again. They were on their way to Washington to see the White Father and negotiate peace.

One morning word came that Sitting Bull was on the boat that just came in, so everybody rushed down to see him. He was smart, shut himself in his cabin and charged people 50¢ to see him.

Not far from Chamberlain was Mitchell, S. D. where I remember visiting the Corn Palace, the only one in the world. Also took boat trips up Missouri to the Crow Indian reservation and
the family moved to Hot Springs and opened the newly constructed Parrot Hotel on July 4, 1891. It was located on the site of the present City

went to the Indian's church. Most of them sat out of doors and hunted lice on their children's heads and cracked them between their teeth. Visited the beef issue across the Missouri and saw the cattle slaughtered and divided among the Brule Indians. The Indian children would run around sucking the entrails.

After the crowds had filed on their homesteads, business dropped off so Papa sent Charles, my younger brother, with a party to Hot Springs, S. D. to look up a location. He found the Hotel Parrot on the right side of the Court House almost finished and rented it. Papa packed our furniture in two freight cars and shipped them to Hot Springs. Then he bought a covered wagon, team of horses and equipment, found another family, the Vet Schofields, to share the trip, and we started on a very interesting trip....We crossed the Missouri on a ferry, then over the Wounded Knee battle grounds which had been fought three months before. We found a few Indian war relics and ran into several war parties with their war paint on. The drinking water was a problem. We would fill our barrels only to find it was bitter and would have to dump it. The bad lands were just Indian trails and gumbo (mud). When it would rain it clung to the wagon wheels until they were a foot or more wide and would have to be scraped off. Luckily there was a store in the heart of the badlands as we used up all of our food in just one week. We thought we had brought enough for the two weeks it would take us to go through these badlands. Brother George shot some game which was scarce.

Mother caught poison ivy which covered her body, and she nearly died before we could get to a doctor. Before we got to Buffalo Gap we were pounded twice within an hour by hail stones. The stones piled up to the horses knees, broke some of the wagon staves and made black bruises on our hands where we had tried to hold up the canvas....

Just six weeks after the hailstorms of our trip, we were struck again. We hurried to get sick people and guests out as it broke all windows on the north side and blew down the chimney. It had battered the headboards which stood across the rooms. This storm flooded the Fall River which runs through Hot Springs and is warm water and Cold Brook which is cold and they meet just above the plunge bath. My brother, his wife and my sisters and many of our guests were in this plunge bath when the storm struck. It washed out bridges, broke the glass roof over the plunge bath and the tower. They scurried to shelter and had a rough time finding their clothes as lights had gone out....
In the summer of 1891 John Stabler visited Wind Cave and became interested in its possibilities. At this time it was in a very undeveloped state with no stairways, necessitating much crawling and climbing with the aid of ropes or ladders. The McDonalds are reported to have been anxious to sell a share of the property, being very much in need of money, a fact fully substantiated by Alvin's diary, so Stabler bought a half interest in the cave, probably early in 1892. Catherine Stabler Rose says that her father was unaware of the encumbrances on the property or he would not have entered into the partnership.

An interesting glimpse of this early period is provided by Catherine Stabler's letter:

The entrance to the cave was in a deep gulch. The original opening was a small oval hole about 8" x 12" worn smooth by water spouting out, a geyser. There are others (a geyser 12 miles south of Hot Springs at Cascade - live) and geologists who came from all over the world said that there were so many signs of its being an extinct geyser. The story went that two Bingham brothers hunting rabbits camped for the night on top of the gulch while one brother made camp and got supper, his brother went down into the gulch hunting and heard this wind coming out of a hole but covered with brush and debris washed there by floods. So he scraped away the brush and as he looked into the hole, the wind took his hat up into the air. He ran back to camp and told his brother that all hell had broken loose down in the gulch. In the morning they decided to take another look at this hole, and as they neared the spot, the first man threw his hat toward the hole and said "Watch it go up" but the wind had changed and took the hat in. They never saw the hat again. We found out later that this wind was governed by atmospheric pressure and turned out to be a true barometer. Clear days it blew out and the longer it was going to be clear, the stronger the wind. As a storm approached, the wind blew in and the closer the storm the stronger the wind.

The cave as we knew it was a number of crevices where we found the large rooms (running N. W. to S. E. - 50 to 150 feet apart) connected by ovens, as we called them, crawling on our knees and sometimes pulling ourselves through on our stomachs. Many times we would have to make a bridge of our bodies for the
others to cross on. We kept ourselves well padded where needed. Papa made a code of signaling by tapping rocks. One tap - two taps - three taps and then two and a one tap - all meaning something like Come, I've found a new room, I am lost; Am in the dark; etc. I still have this code that Papa made me.

I loved to explore and seldom missed a trip....On one occasion we were in there 18 hours with temperature of about 45 degrees. When we became tired we rested, but we never caught cold. In fact, we had some asthmatic people stay with us to go down and breathe that air.

One experience I remember - Papa and I were exploring and had, it seems, been in the cave about four or five hours, or more. The first part of the trip is pretty hazy to me but I distinctly remember going to the Post Office and turning right, then climbing up 100 feet and crawling around a dangerous corner, coming into a large room and after testing a half dozen openings I found the one with strongest draft and tied the ball of string to a small rock. We soon came to an oven where we couldn't get through on our knees, but had to crawl on our stomachs. It was the longest I had ever been through and wound up in a circular room 12 feet around and shaped like an Indian teepee, the center having a strong draft. There was a hole in the center of the floor. Papa was very tired and laid down to rest. (He often slept in the cave and never caught cold) I looked down this hole and seeing some rocks that I thought I could reach with my feet, let myself down, my arms resting on the floor until I got my balance. I sat down and lit some magnesium ribbon which I used in large rooms while guiding. I was greatly thrilled being the first person in a room no one had ever been in or seen before. It was truly beautiful. It was a very high room, about 100 feet by 50 feet wide. A portion of the ceiling about 30 feet by 15 feet wide had fallen just about the middle and in falling had cracked open. It had the iridescent chocolate colored crystals found no other place in the cave. The rest of the room including the floor was covered with what we called Satin Spar which glistened like diamonds. The prettiest room I ever expect to find this side of heaven. I called Papa and after exploring the room further, we gathered some of the loose pieces of crystal and started our long hard crawl out. As far as I know this room was never named as it was too hard to get there and was not shown.

There were three routes opened the first being The Garden of Eden in the winter of 1891 and 92. Many of the rooms were named by the guides and many more were named by the visitors themselves. The Prairie Dog and Mound was named by one of the guides who picked up a large rock which looked like the shape of a prairie dog and placed it on this mound; Snow Ball - many shapes of snowballs; Post Office - little boxes lined walls; M. E. Church - our first stop in guiding to rest and we generally sang a song; Odd Fellows Hall - we took pictures of the people here. And, as we left Odd Fellow's Hall we had to cross a stone which looked like a turtle so this was named Turtle Pass. The
Cross Roads we branched off to the right to go to the Garden of Eden. One room had large stones we sat on and called this room Stone Quarries. Here we had all the tourists blow out their lights and while explaining the cave I said "Now, I will show you something you never saw before" and I put out my light. Of course, it was total darkness. Some were amazed, and some frightened and all called for "Lights".

The second route, the Fair Grounds started at the Crossroads... Among the Fair Ground route rooms was the Kimball Music Hall where you could tap the columns and play an octave. Johnstone's Camp Ground - where Johnstone, the mind reader, slept on his three day journey through the cave for the pin head.

The third route The Pearly Gates was opened in 1892 and was so named by my brother-in-law (Mamie's husband) Oscar Merwin. He said it reminded him of what the Pearly gates would look like. The Blue Grotto of the Pearly Gates route had a 500 foot level, the lowest we had ever been. The Raymer Room named by my Grandfather Raymer when he went through the cave at the age of 81.

I started exploring in 1891 and guiding in 1892. A few people visited the cave that first season of 1892. We explored winters and my family spent 11 winters blasting and opening routes and making them passible for women to go through without overalls. My father, mother, brother Charles and family and myself lived on my homestead. I had the deed to the only spring of water a mile away and when the stage coaches would come to water horses, would pick me up to guide the party. Papa visited all the hotels in Hot Springs, getting people to come and tour the cave. I continued to guide steady for 11 years until 1902.... We would take three parties a day. At 1 o'clock, 5 o'clock and 12 P. M. We couldn't get the Indians to go through except one party of 10 or 12 who were in missionary work. They chanted their Indian songs all the time they were in the cave.

There was a canyon near our house with some kilns above us where prospectors melted rock for gold and the small nuggets washed down where our chickens would pick them up. Most were small but I found one over 1" long in a chicken gizzard which assayed over $7.00 pure gold. We could always use the money, so I sold them. This one brought $10.00.

* Letter of April 1957. In January 1899 Catherine married Charles F. Ottman. Catherine continued to guide in the cave but in the spring of 1903 they sold their homestead and bought a place near Mayo. Four years later Charles filed on a homestead three miles southwest of the cave and in 1909 they bought an additional place in Coldbrook. When the government brought the buffalo to the park in 1913, Charles worked building the fence and Catherine cooked for the workmen and guided in the cave. The following year they moved to Vernon, New York.
In 1892 the Wonderful Wind Cave Improvement Company was formed with J. D. McDonald, George H. Bronte, John Stabler, Charles Stabler and M. V. B. Osmer as stockholders. Either at this time or somewhat later John Stabler became superintendent and overseer of the cave. Many improvements in the property were made, passageways were opened, stairways built, and in 1893 the Stabler or Wind Cave Hotel was constructed. This was a two-story log structure which was first constructed on the hill and then moved down nearer the cave, when it was discovered that visitors were loath to climb the hill after a cave trip. Two wings were added, one served as an office while the other had a kitchen and two bedrooms. The first floor of the main section served as a dining room. It was advertised that three routes had been opened up in the cave at an expense of $25,000. A daily stage line was operated to the cave from Hot Springs by Chris Jensen.

Chris Jensen, who became a supporter of Wind Cave, had been running a stage line to Cascade in 1890 in opposition to the Petty Brothers. Cascade was a new resort 10 miles southwest of Hot Springs at bountiful Cascade Springs where warm waters bubble up at the rate of 2000 gallons per minute. Promoters were busy constructing beautiful sandstone buildings at this resort in anticipation of an expected railroad right of way which never materialized. When Fred Evans, who was more largely interested than anyone else in the growth and prosperity of Hot Springs, approached Jensen and asked how much he would take to discontinue service to Cascade and operate stages to some other point, Mr. Jensen replied, "Two hundred and fifty dollars a month." After shaking hands, Mr. Evans said, "Hereafter you will operate stages from Hot Springs to Wind Cave and back free of charge."
As reported in the July 24, 1891 issue of the *Black Hills Weekly Journal*, of Rapid City, Jensen then walked into the Petty's livery establishment and eventually inquired as to how much Petty would offer to have the Jensen stages pulled off the Cascade run. Pocketing the three hundred dollars given him by Petty, Jensen promptly prepared the coach to take a load to Wind Cave. Alvin's diary mentions on July 25, 1891 that "Evans has stopped the free stage," however, Jensen continued to operate stages to Wind Cave for many years at reasonable rates and to add to his reputation as a story-teller: "On the road to Wind Cave he often told attentive tenderfeet his story about the Indian massacre of which he was the sole unhappy victim. 'Yes, madam, I'm buried right up there at the head of that box canyon.'" In the meantime that popular resort, Cascade, became a ghost town, and many of the buildings were eventually torn down to be used in the construction of other structures in Hot Springs.

In 1893 R. B. Moss started legal proceedings against the Wonderful Wind Cave Improvement Company for the restitution of property and premises, $1000 damage for withholding them and $2700 for rents, issues and profits. He claimed that the company had been extracting minerals and mineral specimens and selling and disposing of them to the great detriment of the property and himself, and that they were still advertising and threatening to continue to extract and sell the minerals.*

* The case was in the Circuit Court, Seventh Judicial Circuit, in Custer County. Moss was the agent of the South Dakota Mining Company, a corporation organized under the laws of the Territory of Arizona. The complaint was dated July 25, 1893.
In the meantime the Stablers had taken up homestead claims in the vicinity of the cave, supplementing those held by J. D. McDonald over the entrance and Elmer McDonald in the area around the present elevator building. In order to protect his investment in the cave, John Stabler took care of all the legal details in fighting the suit of the South Dakota Mining Company. This company ran into financial difficulties and, though the case was in court for several years, a decision in favor of either party was not reached. The McDonaldfs and Stablers continued to hold possession of the area and exploit the increasingly profitable business. The course of this business friendship was not smooth, however. The following letter presents the McDonald version of this relationship:

J. D. McDonald, upon the anxious solicitations of John Stabler, proprietor of the Hotel Parrott in Hot Springs, sold to said John Stabler for a few hundred dollars, mostly in trade... one third interest in the income that would accrue from fees paid by visitors for guides, candles, use of overalls and caps etc; said John Stabler and his two sons, George and Charlie Stabler to put in their time at the cave as Guides and to help with the work of further exploring and opening up of the cave, or chambers in the cave. He also gave the Stablers the privilege of running a hotel at the cave; they to furnish everything and receiving all profit from said hotel.

The smooth tongue of John Stabler also induced J. D. McDonald to turn over all books and collections to George Stabler. Between them they did most of the business, incidentally transferring most of the coins to their own pockets, besides carrying out enormous quantities of specimens which they sold and traded with as they chose. J. D. McDonald was owner and manager, but nominal manager only. John Stabler was soliciting agent (met tourists at Hot Springs)....

Meanwhile the Stablers bought ranches and stock while the McDonalds had to charge their groceries during the winter to live. John Stabler's oily tongue and cheery smile still had J. D. McDonald hoodooed. He could not and would not see how things went. He thought the Stablers were infallible. But he had overlooked his dutch wife Maggie. She saw and she knew and after a time things began to happen.
In the spring of 1896 J. D. McDonald made the Stablers show the office books and finding (in their own accounts) that they had overdrawn their allowance enormously, he kept the books and put Elmer McDonald in charge of them and the office, giving the Stablers a chance to pay back what they showed that they had overdrawn, in small payments. They were angry and quit work.

Moss, mentioned before as J. D. McDonald's one time employer, was a mine speculator from New York, but at one time living in Custer. While there, he employed a number of men, among them one Peter Folsom, of Custer. Moss left for the east owing this Folsom (and others) for work and Folsom, in order to recuperate himself (so he thought) went around doing assessment work on various claims (mineral claims, so called) at one time owned by Moss. To this man went the Stablers and together with him, McAdams (a bunch of cut throats, living near the cave, and one W. Ranger, (their tool), of Hot Springs, they broke into J. D. McDonalds house, covering the entrance to the cave, and when J. D. McDonald and his son, Elmer, tried to go into the house, they met them in the door with guns, saying, that they had minerals in the cave and they were there to protect their property and no McDonald could enter. This was in the winter of 1896-97 more than a year after Mr. McDonald had proved up and got the receivers receipt for his land.

To tell all that followed would make a large volume. No justice prevailed. J. D. McDonald resorted to law, but they (the Stablers) had the cave, the money, the lying tongue and the cut throats, and they won everywhere. They held it thus for more than three years, taking visitors through, carrying out specimens, selling and storing them. Finally Chauncey Wood, lawyer for the McDonalds, carried the case to U. S. Land Office. The government sent agents and mineral experts to investigate and who testified that there are no minerals in the cave. The case was decided in favor of J. D. McDonald in U. S. land office at Rapid City and at the general land office at Washington D. C., but when it reached the secretary of the Interior, he held it for U. S. as a natural curiosity with recommendations for it to be turned into a national park, which has since been done. (Sec of Int. name was Herman) When Elmer McDonald attempted to prove up on his homestead, the Stabler-McAdam contingent contested him, and the Garden of Eden and other parts of the cave being under his land, that also was set aside by the government. Incidentally the Stablers proved up on their homesteads later, without any interference whatever from the McDonalds.

J. D. McDonald, after many hardships, left for Montana. Elmer McDonald, after working two years as Guide for the government, and after 12 years residence at the cave left with his family for Hot Springs. Neither has received one penny in recompense from the government for all the time, labor and expense contributed by them in exploring and developing the cave.
Contrary to this report, it seems probable that J. D. McDonald was eager to sell an interest in the cave to John Stabler, judging by the financial condition of the McDonalds at the time. It is also believed that a half interest was sold rather than a third since Stabler was a successful businessman unlikely to enter into such a precarious position when he was probably shrewd enough to see that if McDonald was willing to sell at all a half interest would cost no more than a third. No evidence has been found that the Stablers pocketed more than their share of the profits from the cave nor that J. D. McDonald took the books away in 1896. John Stabler was sometimes called "Honest John"* and had apparently been well-respected wherever he had gone, though he was guilty, perhaps, of some rather questionable promotionalism in regard to the cave, but this was certainly in keeping with the times and the frontier. Although the Stablers did not come to the cave empty-handed, they assert that their financial affairs were in a poor condition when they were forced to leave, most of the profits from the cave operation having gone back into its improvement.

Conclusive evidence of the guilt of one or the other party is not forthcoming in this largely private affair—even close family friends seem to have been unaware of the details of the controversy. Perhaps there was a measure of culpability on either side—certainly of misunderstanding. It is to be noted, however, that the Stablers seem never to have lacked for friends to assist them in protecting their interests while the McDonalds were more isolated.

* As in his obituary in the Hot Springs Star, c. March 18, 1901.
The question of ownership of Wind Cave became incredibly complicated as time went on so that it is not surprising that the memories of the oldtimers who attempt to clarify these circumstances tend to collapse in the face of the complexities. The aggravating circumstance was the lack of a government survey of this area which made impossible the establishment of a clear title. It has been noted that mining claims were located on the property by various parties as early as 1886 but these provided only a degree of protection to the owner, dependent on annual proofs of improvement and valuable mineral deposits. This was the type of possession which the Moss interests established in 1890, though they were later to hear from earlier claimants. When their agent, J. D. McDonald, took the property in his own right on the basis of an agricultural claim following the land survey of 1892, suit was brought against him by the South Dakota Mining Company, the organization of the Moss family, as has been noted. This was in July of 1893, but in February of this year Peter J. Folsom had filed mining liens on Wind Cave and other Moss claims because of their failure to pay him for the assayment work which he had been hired to do on their claims. This case continued through the summer of 1893 with Folsom filing a second claim against the South Dakota Mining Company for failure to pay a second assayment contract. It is difficult to explain the actions of the Moss family at this time. Apparently they were close to bankruptcy because of too extensive speculation, which is doubtless the reason why the suit against McDonald by the S.D.M.Co. was never heard of again.36

The early months of 1894 saw increased difficulties for the Moss's
when at least one other suit was brought against them by third parties not interested in the Wind Cave property. In March the S.D.M.Co. defaulted in the first Folsom suit by not answering his complaint and in May Judge William Gardner appointed Edwin H. Flynn Referee to take statements and proofs in the case and present his conclusions to the court. Acting on Flynn's judgment, Judge Gardner ordered the Moss's to pay Folsom $700 plus costs which made the total $833.49, the mining claims to be auctioned if the bill was not satisfied. This was on May 14th and on June 2nd the Sheriff of Custer County auctioned off the claims of the South Dakota Mining Company, which were purchased by Folsom, the deed to be legalized at the end of one year.

A few months later Folsom's second suit against the Moss interests came before the court and on November 12, 1894 Judge Gardner, acting on Referee Flynn's advice, ordered that Folsom be paid $329.44 plus costs.

In the fall of 1895, Folsom moved recognition of his title to Wind Cave and the other Moss claims and on October 7th the court confirmed his purchase of these properties.

In the meantime the homestead claims of the McDonalds and the Stablers continued to be on file, J. D. McDonald holding the quarter section of land directly over the entrance to the cave while Elmer McDonald held the 160 acres directly south of it, the dividing line running east and west somewhat north of the present elevator building. J. D. McDonald's mother, Susanna, patented her homestead directly west of Elmer's claim on December 10, 1895. There is some question how this land could be patented so soon after the survey, which was made in 1892, but perhaps a private survey was run from the east boundary of the township, which had been surveyed in 1881. J. D. McDonald probably received
his receiver's receipt at this time.* It is reported that McDonald, "who
was very ignorant", believed this receipt to be title to the land and that
he thereupon attempted to throw the Stablers out and take complete control
of the property.39 This may have occurred in 1896 or later.

On April 22, 1896 Larimer C. Faris and Frank Holten filed suit
against J. D. McDonald claiming "for a long time hitherto have been,
the owners" of the Wind Cave property. This claim pre-dated that of the
Moss's but the case was dismissed several years later for want of prose-
cution.40

Early in 1897 the Stablers joined forces with Peter Folsom and
contested McDonald's prior claim to the property (in his attempt to get
a patent on his homestead). McDonald still held possession of the cave
apparently, but the Stabler faction sought to strengthen their case by
filing new mining location certificates on the cave area on March 3, 1897.
Charles Stabler, Will Ranger, Oscar Merwin (husband of Minnie E. Stabler),
and R. W. Calkins were the signatories.41 The mineral is said to have
run up to $3.00 a ton and to have been assayed by Joe Pilcher of Custer,
later to become the second superintendent of Wind Cave National Park in
1910, (who sometimes got amazing results in his assays--one pulverized

* Requirements for homesteading were essentially those provided in the
law of 1862. Five years from the date of filing for a claim, the home-
steader was issued a "receiver's receipt." This was at the time of the
"proving up" or "final proof." After a delay of varying length the
appropriate government agency checked the fulfillment of the requirements
of land improvement and occupancy (7 months each year) and transferred
the title or patent on the land to the applicant. Homesteaders had to
be citizens or have announced intention of becoming citizens and had to
be either 21 years old or the head of a family. Usually 160 acres was
the maximum homestead grant although more was allowed later under certain
conditions.
This was during the mining excitement at Ragged Top near Deadwood, which helped to put the court in a receptive mood to set aside McDonald's receiver's receipt. J. D. McDonald and Elmer filed separate suits against the Stabler group in March and April but a countersuit by Folsom in May led to a temporary injunction against the McDonalds. Sheriff Frank Wallace was ordered by the court to take possession of the cave and the following day was ordered to turn it over to Folsom. Elmer McDonald thereupon began sinking a shaft from his homestead claim to tap the Garden of Eden but was also served a restraining order. These cases were dismissed a few years later, except for the case of Elmer McDonald vs. Ranger in which the judgment was against the former. He was ordered to pay $40 and costs but filed a claim of exemption affidavit and escaped payment.

The son of one of the lawyers involved in the litigation writes in a later newspaper article his memories of the case, though probably not very reliably:

The usual testimony with reference to the agricultural occupation and improvement, and efforts to show mineral values were made; but there was the greatest difficulty on the part of any party to show any substantial facts in support of their right of possession or title. Hardly a spear of grass could be offered in evidence by the McDonalds, and not a nugget of gold or any assay certificate could be shown by the Stablers. It was very apparent from the start of the proceedings that each party was hoping to prevail by reason of the weakness of his opponent's position, and also the hope that the real prize for which the parties were contending would be lost sight of by the United State government or at least not brought prominently into the case. The hearings were had from time to time over a period of many months as witnesses could be gathered up by one side or the other and brought into the land office to give their little mite toward sustaining one side or the other. It was an expensive and a tedious operation. Probably never in the history of
a litigation was evidence so sadly needed, so sparsely provided, and so vigorously opposed by the opposite parties as in this case. The attorneys in the case, seeing whither matters were drifting, and having but little doubt as to what the final result would be unless a compromise was made held joint conferences with their clients and every effort was made to agree upon the matter and divide up the property so everybody would have a share.... As illustrating the tenseness of the situation during the conferences one of the attorneys innocently, and without any thought of antagonism, produced a small pocket knife with which to sharpen the pencil he was using to jot down notes. Instantly three or four bowie knives and revolvers flashed into view from the various pockets and other places of concealment, in the hands of a like number of glary eyed litigants and witnesses.

A one-fiftieth fractional interest was the obstacle to a final settlement. The bitterness and jealousy was so great that this insignificant fraction which was claimed by one party and resisted by the other together with the stubborn disposition and bad feeling which already existed resulted in no compromise being effected....

In the year 1898 Peter J. Folsom, Edward P. Ricker, and John Stabler incorporated the Black Hills Wind Cave Company of Custer County. Folsom was president while Charles Stabler was vice president; George Stabler, secretary; Peter Paulson, treasurer; Folsom, John Stabler, and Fred H. Whitfield were directors. John Stabler was also general manager. In an annual statement dated January 4, 1899 the capital stock was stated to be $500,000, all of which was paid in. The company had no indebtedness, no outstanding credits, had paid no dividends, and had made no net profits. This was apparently during the time of continuing litigation but Elmer McDonald was nevertheless working as a cave guide for the company.

The bitterness of feeling can be gauged by the famous "heifer trial" of the spring of 1899 between J. D. McDonald and Charles Stabler. In dispute was a 2-year-old dark roan heifer branded (NW/12) on the right side, which was valued at $25. McDonald claimed that it was his
and that it was unlawfully held by the defendant. Margarethe McDonald, J. D.'s second wife who was in the process of divorcing him, appeared and asked to be made a party defendant. She said the calf had been hers, that she had sold it to her son, George Drinkhahn, who had in turn sold it to Mrs. L. A. Stabler and Winnie Stabler, for whom it was being held by Charles Stabler. On April 3, 1899 the jury failed to reach a verdict in this case so it was referred to the circuit court with the parties each to file $100 for court costs. Following this it was decided "the Plaintiff's undertaking in Claim and Delivery, is held by the Court to be wholly insufficient and irregular in that the sureties thereon have not justified as required by law." The case was dismissed at the plaintiff's costs and the property was returned to the Stablers.

When the continued litigation led to an appeal from the land office to the Department of the Interior, the government's attention was directed to the cave. Lucius J. Boyd, Vice Dean of the South Dakota School of Mines, accompanied by Prof. Slagle, professor of chemistry, Prof. Paxson, assaying, and four assistants, visited the cave in 1898 and made a 19-page report, which contained the basic scientific data upon which Wind Cave National Park was established. The cave was reported to be "one of the most extensive... in the union." There was "an excellent force of thoroughly competent guides," and the "cave is dry and free from refractory dust." The average temperature was 48° in the cave and "the day I was there I estimated the 'take in' at entrance door, to be not less than 150 miles per hour!" The cave consisted of up to nine levels and
15 series of parallel fissures with 30 miles of passageways open to the public. The Fairgrounds was estimated to cover an area of three acres while the box work was viewed as "a subsequent formation after the erosion took place leaving a space for the box work to form." At the 300 foot level a 1\(\frac{1}{4}\)-2\(\frac{1}{4}\) inch marble formation of fair commercial value was reported while in the "Chamber of the Gods" at the 500 foot level a gold lode assaying $80 to the ton was reported. "Through the kindness of Mr. Stabler who is now in charge of the cave..." the party was "permitted to select, and take some very valuable and handsome specimens of the natural curios from the cave." 49

Late in the year 1899 General Land Office Agent C. W. Greene visited Wind Cave and also made a report. The following letter probably refers to that proposed visit:

Wind Cave, S. Dak.
Nov 23, 1899

Mr. C. W. Greene
Hot Springs, S. Dakota

Dear Sir:

You can go into Wind Cave with Elmar McDonald any time you please do you think you can bring out a large bottle of good whiskey.

Respfuly yours,

/signed/ P. J. Folsom.

(I complied with the above request /s/ G. W. Greene Spl. Agt. G. L. O.) 50

Agent Greene's report contained a careful description of the cave as well as a statement of the holdings in the cave area. He noted that there was no evidence of legitimate mining or mineral development. 51
These reports convinced the Department of the Interior that the cave was of sufficient size and interest to be reserved as a national park. Thus, on January 16, 1900, a temporary withdrawal was made on the necessary lands subject to the valid rights of any existing entries. The advent of a new national park was underway.

After J. D. McDonald was forced to vacate his house over the cave entrance, he went to live on his wife's claim about half a mile south of the cave. This was his second wife, Margarethe Drinkhahn, whom he married on August 14, 1894.* She had a son, George, by a previous marriage. In 1899, following an altercation in which Margarethe is reported to have chased J. D. out of the house with a butcher knife,** he moved to a claim near Mayo, a few miles south of Custer. According to Floyd Bond, a neighbor, he had a beautiful collection of Wind Cave specimens which were destroyed when his cabin burned down one night in 1900 or 1901.52 McDonald had hastily left the cabin leaving a candle burning when he heard that the Stablers were taking over the cave. It is at this time, according to Bond, that McDonald was locked down in the cave, one of the more sensational events in the history of Wind Cave, that seems to have really occurred. By this time the government had withdrawn the cave lands so it is doubtful what McDonald hoped to accomplish in the way of protecting his property, or what the Stablers were doing if the report

* After their divorce in the spring of 1899, Margarethe found a third husband, Fred Scholl.

** Interview with Bob McAdam, August 1957. The first Mrs. McDonald, Lucy Anne, is said to have walked over to J. D. McDonald's mother, Susanna, one day with the baby M. Harry whom she deposited in her lap and walked out of the house, to be seen no more for a number of years.
is true that "they were taking over the cave."

According to the Stablers, John Stabler had believed that it would be possible to reason with J. D. McDonald and end the dispute but he finally saw that this would be impossible. It is reported that the McDonalds would retreat to their cabin over the cave entrance whenever there was trouble believing that "possession was nine points of the law." Apparently, they believed this would still be efficacious after the government had withdrawn the land and put George Stabler in temporary charge of the property. At a time when George was away, McDonald and son Roy took possession of the cave house and barred the door. It was reported that McDonald had hired a gunman from Texas to shoot John Stabler, and Catherine Stabler remembers the night when the Stablers sat up with guns stationed at various points in the hotel. The next day neighbors came to their aid, including Bob and Sam McAdam and Pete Folsom. The latter had brought an axe and began to strike lightly at the barred cabin door whereupon Sam McAdam is reported to have said, "Give me that axe, I'll break the damn thing to pieces." The door began to fly and the McDonalds retreated to the cave. The attacking party is said to have waited 24 hours before the McDonalds came up and tapped on the trapdoor saying they would give up. Sam McAdam is supposed to have given J. D. a kick in the pants as he was leaving the cabin. Other reports of this affair state that the McDonalds were kept in the cave three days but this is probably deduced from newspaper accounts like the following, which were written after everything was over:
Prisoners in a Cave

Today word comes to us from Custer County that a few days ago J. D. McDonald and son Roy moved back to their house on the Wind Cave ranch. The Stablers and McAdams set onto them and run them into the Cave, where they are now kept prisoners. They are without food and in a short time must starve to death. If there be any fair men in our city, such an outrage will not be permitted. While in view of the last decision of the Interior Department, the McDonalds have no legal rights there, neither do the Stablers possess any rights there. The time has surely come when such lawlessness needs a check. We ask that this matter be taken up and the McDonalds liberated. The deputy sheriff was appealed to and states that inasmuch as the property is now a government reserve he has no authority to interfere. Were this position correct, but it is not, the fact that two lives are in danger should prompt any officer to do all in his power to save the imprisoned. The days of outlaw rule are certainly past in the Black Hills and men who will not recognize law should be taught a lesson. 56

Whatever may have been the troubles, legal and otherwise, of the "owners" of Wind Cave from 1890 on, it was a time of growing popularity for the tourist attraction. Alvin McDonald recorded total receipts of $464.65 from the cave for the year 1890 while in 1891 they were $749.57. A 50¢ entrance fee was charged at about this time though it was raised to $1.00 by 1896. 58 An estimated 1800 people made the tour through the cave each year from 1892 to 1901. 59

The cave was by no means the only attraction of the trip by "magnificent tally-ho stage" from Hot Springs. A petrified man was also on view for the price of 10¢. Newspapers of the day were reporting numerous finds of this type though it is said that this particular specimen was constructed in the Hotel Parrot of plaster of Paris by the same Mr. Reardon who later carved Alvin's statue. At least one eyewitness of whom there is report, came away convinced of its genuineness, reporting
that you could see the bullet hole that killed him and the bone where his fingers had broken off. After awhile the petrified man was taken down into the cave for further exhibition but this caused it to crack and peel and it was thereupon sold to a man from Wessington Springs, S. D. 60

The Stablers also caught prairie dogs which they displayed for the amusement of visitors. They were captured by placing a barrel of sand over a prairie dog hole and allowing the sand to sift down through an opening. Eventually, the prairie dog would be in the barrel as he sought to dig the sand away. Later, John Stabler was bitten by one of these tamed animals, receiving an infection from which he never fully recovered.

One of the most popular formations in the cave was a prairie dog and mound, located a little beyond the Bride's Chamber. The dog was a small formation brought there from another part of the cave. Visitors sometimes tried to carry it off as a souvenir; a woman from Chicago finally got away with it but returned it when reached by letter. 61

In 1892 the cave had its first famous visitors when William Jennings Bryan and Governor Lee of Nebraska visited the cave in the summer. John Stabler guided them through the cave and was photographed with them in the Odd Fellows Hall. This acquaintanceship led to Stabler's appointment as commissioner for the Omaha Exposition and as delegate to the stock growers association at Denver January 25-27, 1893. He sent an exhibition of specimens to the state fair and also a large collection to the Smithsonian Institute at this time.*

* "In speaking to Billie Bryan, Papa [John Stabler] once said 'I wish I might talk like you.' Billie Bryan answered 'I wish I might laugh like you.'" From a letter of Catherine Stabler Rose, April 1957.
A younger visitor about this time was Ruey Scofield, at nine months of age probably the youngest tourist during this period of rough trails and steep climbs. He had been born a few months after the Scofield family came west from Chamberlain with the Stablers. When told that Ruey was the first baby to be taken through the cave, Mr. Scofield, who had carried him, is reported to have said he would be the last baby taken through if he had anything to say about it. 63

In 1893 a rather exotic visitor appeared in Hot Springs named Paul Alexander Johnstone. He was a well-known mind reader. When John Stabler asked him if he thought he could find something hidden in the cave he replied in the affirmative so arrangements were made by W. U. Germond and Alvin McDonald to hide a scarf pin in the underground maze.

According to Catherine Stabler, Johnstone climbed into an open spring wagon with his manager, Germond, and an Associated Press reporter and drove blindfolded the 12 miles of very bad road to the cave in 45 minutes. This drive usually took 1 1/2 to 2 hours. One of the horses dropped dead upon arrival and the other was never good for anything afterwards. As he entered the Stabler Hotel, John Stabler was being shaved by his son and Johnstone took the razor and shaved him a few strokes. When he went to the cave entrance, he sat on the top step leading down into the cave and cried "I've lost my power," repeating it several times. Finally, still blindfolded, he jumped up and said "Come, I see the way." A guide followed some distance behind them in case they should get lost, carrying food and blankets for their needs. After three days and nights, or 73 hours and 20 minutes, according to one report, the pin was found in
Standing Rock Chamber, near the Pearly Gates. It took so long because the men who had hidden it had forgotten just where it was. This episode gave a name to one room, "Johnstone's Camp Ground," where the party slept on the third night of the search. This room is a little beyond the Fair Grounds on the present main route. Later when John Stabler was suffering from a serious illness, Johnstone hypnotized the pain away and is said to have helped him more than any doctor or medicine.

A little after this time it came to be a fad to dedicate rooms of the cave to various organizations. Besides the rooms that had been named with organizations in mind like the Masonic Temple, Eastern Star Room, Odd Fellows Hall, YMCA Hall, DAR Hall, Knights of Pithias, Epworth League Pavilion, and perhaps the Elks Room; the Women's Christian Temperance Union dedicated a room near Silent Lake in August of 1892. "Here the flag and white ribbon keep each other company in perpetual night, the darkness being broken only by the candle and magnesium light, the sunlight having never penetrated that abyssmal depth," says an early guidebook. There was also a Grand Army of the Republic Hall. "This hall was dedicated in June, 1899, during the soldiers' reunion at Hot Springs, ninety-six old soldiers being present at the dedicatory services. A monument was erected upon an eminence within the hall to the memory of the heroic dead who wore the blue, but are now sleeping the sleep of the departed patriots. The committee requested that every old soldier visiting the Cave leave his name, company, and regimental designation at the foot of the monument. The G.A.R. Hall is well named. About it are
natural fortifications more durable than were constructed upon many a battlefield. Overhead are calcite formations representing breastworks, stockades, etc., the handiwork of nature's creation. The G.A.R. Hall later became the Assembly Room and the monument was unfortunately removed. In 1897 the M.W.A. dedicated Woodmen Hall on the Pearly Gates Route. The first "apartment of the Fair Grounds" received the name "School Room of the South Dakota Teachers' Association" in August, 1899 when Professor Brown, president of the association, held class here with 52 teachers acting as pupils. Near by the east wing of the Fair Grounds was dedicated June 22, 1901, to the South Dakota Federation of Women's Clubs.

"The guide points out Trilby Foot, explaining that here the president put her foot down on allowing anyone to take relics from the Cave." In 1956 while work was being done in this part of the cave, a small stone marker inscribed "S.D.F.W.C. 1901" was found, which had been forgotten in the intervening years. There is also a record of the dedication of Workman Hall in May 1900 by the A.O.U.W. This room later became the Bachelor's Quarters.

A guidebook which appeared in 1901, written by Dr. E. C. Horn, retains the enthusiasm of this period in its florid style:

The guides affirm that 100 miles of passages have been explored, and the end remains apparently as mysterious as when the first mile was completed. Of the 3,000 chambers discovered, the largest covers three acres and is known as the "Fair Grounds," being one acre larger than the largest room in Mammoth Cave, Kentucky.

Three routes have been opened to tourists at enormous expense. The three routes, the Garden of Eden, Fair Grounds, and Pearly Gates, now open, can be traveled with safety and at a minimum expenditure of energy. There being an excess of oxygen in the
Cave, the weary traveler is invigorated by visiting the Cave and reveling in its mazes and marvels.

The Cave, so far as known, has twelve paralleling crevices or fissures ranging from 50 to 300 feet apart. These paralleling crevices are connected by side passages with no regularity in occurrence.

Besides the paralleling crevices there are, to complicate matters, eight tiers of chambers overlying one another. Hence the Cave presents to imagination the appearance of a building eight stories high and wide enough for twelve arcades with rooms on either side. It is also likened unto a colossal sponge, and to one who has visited the underground giant the comparison is an apt one.

The different geological formations found in the eight tiers are a study within themselves. In the upper tier stalagmites arise from the floor; some are almost ready to unite in a bond of fellowship with stalactites which for countless years have been on the downward journey from the ceiling. Some there are which formed a union thousands of years ago and are still growing.

The frost work is the distinguishing formation of the second tier. Here crystals of the purest white abound in needle-like form, some attaining a length of two inches.

In the third tier box-work appears in its most delicate form, becoming more transparent in the fourth tier.

Pop corn appears in the fifth tier and continues through the sixth and seventh. Crystals of various colors are more plentiful in the sixth and seventh tiers. In the eighth tier the box-work is heavier and darker, approaching indigo blue in color. Many of the beautiful decorations are accounted for by the action of water quite heavily charged with silica and carbonate of lime. The formations are thicker in the lowest tier because that tier was longest submerged, and the receding water held in solution more solid substance. The box-work formation is an unsolved, but probably not an unsolvable, problem. Various reasons may be advanced in accounting for it.

The author next describes a trip in the cave on the Garden of Eden Route:

This is the shortest route, requiring about two hours' time, and is intended for those in a hurry, having only a limited amount of time at their disposal, and for old people, cripples, etc., desiring a taste of the underground marvel.

Having donned our caps, we set out for the cabin covering the entrance, only a few hundred yards from the hotel. Here we register our names, so that should any accident happen to us our home address may be easily ascertained. Accidents do not happen because everyone is glad to follow the guide's instructions, but this precaution is taken, recognizing that a human being, an intricate machine, is liable to cease business at the old stand at any moment. Not having time to read the register to learn
what illustrious people have made the trip before us, we register quickly, assured that all the good, bad, and indifferent have returned to the civilized world safely, which braces us for the trip of a lifetime, going from the known to the unknown, from daylight to the densest darkness.

Here the guide hands to each person a candle, requesting all to follow the guide and fear no danger. The candles being unlighted, a few hasten to light theirs even before descending the steps, only to have them extinguished by the strong current. Having descended a short distance, we light our candles and proceed with less fear.

Just 155 feet below the entrance we reach an apartment called BRIDE’S CHAMBER. Here a plucky girl was married to the one she loved, having doubtless promised her painstaking mother that she would not marry the young man in question on the face of the earth. This procedure would enable one in such a predicament to keep both promises by straining the truth almost to the limit....Our attention is next called to a freak of nature not seen except in Wind Cave. Burning a ribbon of magnesium, the guide directs our attention to the phenomenon, and umbrellas are wished for as we behold the unexpected PETRIFIED CLOUDS. It is needless to state that the unexpected may always be expected while touring in a region of perpetual surprise.

Looking overhead we notice a myriad of SNOW BALLS, each adhering to the frescoed rock as if lately driven to their rest by the recently liberated school boy. This appearance produces a chilling sensation, but the normal temperature returns when the deceived visitor learns that the nearest snow is not less than two hundred miles away to the northward, and that what we see above us and around us are carbonate of lime formations only. They appear so much like well-formed snow balls, however, that the very elect are deceived.

To avoid a possible storm which threatens from the direction of the Petrified Clouds, we hasten toward the CHURCH STEEPLE. Petrified objects galore are pointed out by the guide, among them being a PETRIFIED WHIRLWIND. One dusky son from a southern clime allowed his imagination to become sufficiently elastic to conceive of a petrified bird singing a petrified song.

Passing the Church Steeple, we enter the POST-OFFICE. Here mail addressed to every clime is held as if awaiting claimants. The presence of box-work resembling the typical post-office box gives this chamber its name.

Leaving this medley of letters and cards we pass into ROE’S MISERY. Here an early guide named Roe got stuck and had to be pulled out by means of a rope.

The next chamber is called RED HALL, the prevailing color being red. Here the visitor is shown LIBERTY BELL, which is cracked just like the original at Philadelphia. What formed it? is the usual question. No living man knows, but it is supposed to be the work of a geyser spurting up from the floor....
The next point of interest is the Devil's Lookout standing 65 feet high. Here in silence are two pigs, one having an ear of corn in his mouth as if ready to run for a more congenial spot. A New York lady discovered the two pigs, and remarked, "Isn't it perfectly wonderful that I should be the first one to discover the pigs?" The guide replied, "It is easy for people who have been in the habit of seeing such animals to find their likeness here in the Cave." He was saved from her wrath by being the only one who knew the route....

The guide leads us on into the wildest, roughest, and most rugged chamber, known as the Giant's Causeway.

We then make a graceful prolonged bow and file under the Arch of Politeness into Lena's Arbor, then on into Bishop Fowler's Retreat, where our attention is called to the beautiful grotto named Lover's Retreat. Here a youthful couple, having lingered behind and being lost from the party, were found by the guide with clasped hands and in the meshes of Cupid. The midnight darkness of that subterranean world has no terrors for Cupid.

Advancing through Pop Corn Alley we enter Odd Fellow's Hall. Here we observe the All-Seeing Eye, three links, two goats, and the canopy over the Noble Grand. Music is provided from the Midway Plaisance, producing the unique Tom-Tom....

And so on through Turtle Pass, the Cross Roads, Stone Quarries, G.A.R. Hall, Cliff Climbers' Delight, Fat Woman's Misery, Eastern Star Room, and the Garden of Eden, and back again.

The other routes are also described in such detail as to be impossible to include here. At this time the Bee Hive, Crystal Palace, Wind River, and Grand Canyon Routes were still being entered by those who wished to see everything. Mr. Horn describes the Grand Canyon Route:

The Grand Canyon Route, with Elephant Hall and Monument Room at its terminus, is a continuation of the Devil's Lookout crevice. Few take this route. Probably not more than one tourist in a thousand dares face the dangers of the 110-foot climb down the perpendicular walls of the Grand Canyon. The ride down Echo River in Mammoth Cave, Ky., might well be classed as the journey of a tenderfoot compared with the Alpine trip of this unique route....Having descended the walls of that canyon without a rope,
using the guide, however, as a bridge in places, and being seated upon the old elephant's back in Elephant Hall, I said to the guide: "If we should lose our lights, or have them extinguished and have no matches, how would we ever escape from this deep and dangerous subterranean prison?" He replied: "Since I am the only one this side of Montana that knows this route, it is possible, under such circumstances, that centuries might roll by before our unbleached skeletons would be found by some venture-some exploring party and preserved for study as fossils of an extinct race." This rather depressing information unfolded a possible chapter of unwritten history within my imaginative horizon that caused me to tremble with fear....But when the summit of the Grand Canyon is scaled, equilibrium of both mind and body is regained and the semi-blood-curdling experiences of the past two hours seem only as a dream.

Hastening over craggy rocks, steep precipices, and deep pits, through apertures impossible of access by the fat man; down declines glacier-like, sprinkled here and there with crystals glittering and pellucid; walking under sparkling diamond formations and between giant columns of stalagmites and stalactites, under towering domes, and through starry grottoes connected by marvelous avenues, we reach the well-beaten path traveled on the regular routes by tens of thousands of tourists, and seek the outer world by ascending the 156 steps whence we started.70

Not to be left unmentioned among the visitors who saw the cave during this period of flamboyance is a special category of "tourist." In 1896 a wedding party arrived at the cave to request permission to be married in the subterranean depths. The ceremony took place in the Odd Fellows Hall on November 9th. A second cave wedding occurred in 1920 in the Garden of Eden, perhaps a more felicitous choice of locations.71

On the 26th of December 1899, the Commissioner of the General Land Office had recommended to the Secretary of the Interior that the lands in the Wind Cave area be temporarily withdrawn from settlement. In January the necessary authorization was received in the following letter:

Department of the Interior
Washington
The Commissioner of the
General Land Office.

Sir:

Referring to your office letter "P" of the 26th ultimo recom­
mending that you be authorized to temporarily withdraw from
settlement, entry, sale or other disposal all of Section 1 and
The SE 1/4 NE 1/4 and Lot 1 of Section 2, Township 6 S., Range
5 E., B. H. M., South Dakota, pending final determination of
the question of the advisability of recommending the setting of
said lands apart as a National Park for the purpose of preserv­
ing the beauties of the natural curiosities of the Wind Cave,
the authority requested is hereby granted and you will make the
temporary withdrawal of the lands described as per your recom­
mendation.

Very respectfully,

(signed) E. A. Hitchcock
Secretary.

On January 16, 1900 Assistant Commissioner of the General Land Office,
W. A. Richards, notified the Register and Receiver at Rapid City, S. D.
of this authorization and directed him to carry out the withdrawal.
He noted that "this temporary withdrawal of these lands or any permanent
reservation of the same resulting therefrom, will not affect any bona
fide settlement or other valid claim thereon, properly initiated prior
to the date hereof which is duly made of record within the statutory
period."

Additional withdrawals of land were made on July 12, 1901 and April
7, 1902. The Commissioner of the General Land Office also recommended
to the Secretary of the Interior additional withdrawals on May 1, 1902
and June 6, 1902 but these apparently were not made prior to the establish­
ment of the park. The following cloth warning sign was posted in May
on the boundaries of the withdrawn land:

L.M.S.                    H.H.J.
A.R.G.

NOTICE

Department of the Interior, General Land Office,
Washington, D. C., May 7, 1901

These Lands, viz: Section One (1) and the S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the
N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ and Lot One (1) of Section Two (2), Township Six (6) South,
Range Five (5) East, Black Hills Meridian, having been withdrawn
from settlement, entry and other disposal, are together with

WIND CAVE

The Property of United States except where title has passed
from the Government by patent; and are open to the public without
any restrictions except as hereinafter set forth.

NO SPECIAL OR EXCLUSIVE PRIVILEGES WILL BE GRANTED

All persons are prohibited under penalty of the law from
charging or receiving any fee or other valuable consideration
for the privilege of visiting the Cave or any part of these
premises; and from removing therefrom or in any way disturbing
any natural curiosities, specimens or objects of interest.

ALL PERSONS ARE LIABLE TO BE PROSECUTED

to the full extent of the law who commit within the Cave or
upon these premises any trespass whatever, who remove specimens
or natural curiosities therefrom, or work in any manner what-
ever any injury, waste or damage of any kind to these lands or
to the government property thereon.

J.I.P.

Approved: Thos. Ryan,                  Binger Hermann,
Acting Secretary                 Commissioner of the General
Land Office.

The disposition of the Wind Cave area was under discussion at this
time. In February Representative Eben W. Martin, of Deadwood, had written
the Secretary of the Interior suggesting that Wind Cave be added to the
Black Hills National Forest area. The following month Commissioner Binger
Hermann of the General Land Office also recommended to the Secretary of the Interior that the withdrawn lands be attached to the National Forest, but in May the Secretary decided against this and directed Commissioner Hermann to prepare a bill to establish Wind Cave National Park.\footnote{76}

In the meantime Special Agents of the General Land Office, M. A. Meyendorff (who was then in charge of the proposed park area) and Myron Willsie visited Wind Cave and submitted a nine page report on May 24, 1902. An underground survey of the cavern had been made which "extended as far as it was found practicable to do so under the conditions existing at present in the cave, the want of adequate openings and of suitable stairs having barred progress in certain directions in which further extensive chambers are known to exist." The report continued:

The formation indicates that the cave may extend for a distance of one mile East, one mile North, and from two to two and one half miles South and West, underlying Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, East, half Sections 4, 9, 16, Township 6 South, Range 5 East, and Sections 34, 35, 36, Township 5 South, Range 5 East, Black Hills Meridian.

The plat shows the line opened and explored, through which it is possible to go without crawling, some parts of these lines are very narrow and low; at other places the crevices open into great caverns and grotesque-looking rooms. The plat shows in many places, by dotted lines, where unexplored crevices branch away from the explored and opened portion of the cave. Many of these crevices have been crawled through and large grottoes reported to have been found in such places. Many tons of specimens have been taken, and through that portion of the cave opened there are places which show the marks of the specimen hunter.

Edward C. Horn, Ph.D., who made somewhat of a study of the Wind Cave, claims that there are 3,000 chambers and 100 miles of passages, and while this statement is too extravagant for the present, it is not improbable that future exploration will testify to Mr. Horn's prophetic eye.
Until May 7, 1901, when the Government withdrew from settlement the lands immediately surrounding the Wind Cave and appropriated the Wind Cave, it was held, under asserted rights, by private parties, who opened up the crevices and made it possible of access for about one mile, and from summer of 1892 until the Spring of 1901 two or three families about the cave made their living by guiding through and selling specimens from the cave. During that period there were on an average about 1800 people visiting the Wind Cave annually, and during the period traffic in the Wind Cave flourished.

To uncover its wonders and beauty, to open the door to scientific research, the work of exploration should be carried on systematically. To estimate the cost of such exploration is not practicable. The only manner in which work can be prosecuted would be by annual appropriations of from $2500 to $10,000.

On June 10th a draft of the Wind Cave bill was sent to the chairmen of the Committees of Public Lands in the House and Senate and the following day Senator Robert J. Gamble of Yankton, introduced the bill in the upper house and, on the 13th, Congressman Lacy of Iowa introduced it in the House.

* A bill to set apart certain lands in the State of South Dakota as a public park, to be known as the Wind Cave National Park.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there are hereby reserved from settlement, entry, sale or other disposal and set apart as a public park all those certain tracts, pieces, or parcels of land lying and being situate in the State of South Dakota and within the boundaries particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the Southeast corner of Section 13, Township 6 South, Range 5 East, Black Hills meridian, South Dakota; thence westerly to the Southwest corner of the Southeast quarter of Section 16, said Township; thence northerly along the quarter-section lines to the Northwest corner of the Northeast quarter of Section four, said Township; thence easterly to the Southwest corner of Section 31, Township 5 South, Range 5 East; thence northerly to the Northwest corner of said Section; thence easterly to the Northeast corner of Section 31, Township 5 South, Range 6 East; thence southerly along the Section lines to the Southeast corner of Section 7, Township 6 South, Range 6 East; thence west-
This bill passed the Senate on June 19, 1902 but did not receive action in the House beyond the favorable report by the Committee of Public Lands (H.R. Report No. 2676 on S. 6138). Early in the next session on December 12, 1902 it passed the House and was approved by President Theodore Roosevelt on January 9, 1903, to become the organic act of the park. 78

erly to the Southwest corner of said Section; then southerly to the Southeast corner of Section 13, Township 6 South, Range 5 East, the place of beginning: PROVIDED, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to affect any valid rights acquired in connection with any of the lands embraced with the limits of said park.

SEC. 2. That said park shall be known as the Wind Cave National Park, and shall be under the exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior, whose duty it shall be to prescribe such rules and regulation and establish such service as he may deem necessary for the care and management of same.

SEC. 3. That the Secretary of the Interior be, and is hereby, authorized, in the exercise of his discretion, to rent or lease, under rules and regulations to be made by him, the cavern underlying the above-described lands, and also pieces and parcels of ground within said park for the erection of such buildings as may be required for the accommodation of visitors.

SEC. 4. That all funds arising from such rentals or leases shall be covered into the Treasury of the United States as a special fund, to be expended in the care and improvement of said park.

SEC. 5. That in cases in which a tract covered by an unperfected bona fide claim or by a patent is included within the limits of this park the settler or owner thereof may, if he desires to do so, relinquish the tract to the Government and secure other land outside of the Park, in accordance with the provisions of the law relating to subject of such relinquishment of lands in forest reserves in the State of South Dakota.

SEC. 6. That all persons who shall unlawfully intrude upon said park, or who shall, without permission, appropriate any object therein, or commit unauthorized injury or waste, in any form whatever, upon the lands or other public property therein, or who shall violate any of the rules and regulations prescribed hereunder, shall, upon conviction, be fined in a sum not more than $1000.00 or be imprisoned for a period not more than 12 months, or shall suffer both fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court. (S.6138 and H.R.15086)
One of the early boosters of Wind Cave as a national park was S. E. Wilson, a political leader in the Black Hills who was well known to the Republican Congressional delegation. Along with other interested citizens of Hot Springs, he made an effort to gain Congressional support for the park bill. Congressman Eben W. Martin of Deadwood also became an enthusiastic supporter of this bill and then, for many years, of the park.

There seems to have been little opposition from the Stabler and McDonald families to the movement to make the cave a national park. In February 1901 John Stabler died suffering from Bright's disease and the infection caused by the bite of a prairie dog and his family probably lost some of its interest in the cave. Catherine Stabler says "as the two Stabler sons' families had had to scrimp so, (because all profits were put back into the cave exploring and building) they were willing to listen to Senator Martin of Hot Springs when he said if they would not fight, they'd receive payment for what they had invested and for the buildings. The cave was left open and anyone could come in and guide as no superintendent was appointed that year. We never received one cent and have always felt very bitter that we were treated so unfairly." 79

J. D. McDonald, "after many hardships, left for Montana. Elmer McDonald, after working two years as Guide for the government, and after 12 years residence at the cave left with his family for Hot Springs. Neither has received one penny in recompense from the government for all the time, labor and expense contributed by them in exploring and developing the cave." 80
Despite the absence of any clear title to the cave, it seems probable that the interested families would have received some compensation had they appealed the decision of the Secretary of the Interior or taken their case to the Court of Claims but, after so much unwise litigation, they were unprepared to conduct a rational defense of their interests.

The park that came into being in January of 1903 was, with the exception of Section 18 in Township 6 South and Range 6 East, which was excluded, and the eastern half of Sections 4, 9, and 16 of Township 6 South and Range 5 East, which were within the reservation, a square approximately four miles on a side. The park had an area about $16\frac{1}{2}$ square miles in extent. The portions of Sections 16 and 36 which fell within the park and were normally set aside as school lands were relinquished to the park by the State School Commissioner in 1906 for equivalent land elsewhere in the public domain. The claims of J. D. McDonald and Elmer McDonald in Section 1 were cancelled in 1901, "as a result of a contest; evidence of cultivation and improvement was not such as to show that the applicant had acted in good faith as an agricultural claimant." The homesteads of Peter Paulson, husband of Edith Stabler and an early stage driver to Wind Cave, and Thomas W. Moffit east of the McDonald claims were also cancelled, probably after abandonment. The homesteads west and south of the McDonalds were patented or title subsequently passed to the individual holder. George Stabler, Mrs. Susan McDonald, Catherine Stabler, and Mrs. Margarethe Drinkhahn owned these homesteads, each about 160 acres in extent. In Section 35 Jonathan C. West patented 80 acres in 1904. Charles Stabler held 120 acres without title to the east and south of
Wind Cave National Park
Act of January 9, 1903

Mr. West, but was forced to vacate this in 1905. By early in 1909 all the lands within the park had been acquired by the government except the West property, which was purchased by the government in 1913 and became known as the "Game Ranch" when it was made the headquarters of the local agent of the United States Biological Survey.*

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* J. D. McDonald made Rapid City homestead entry 4149 on January 15, 1894, for lots 3, 4 and the S\(\frac{3}{4}\)NW\(\frac{1}{4}\), Section 1. The final certificate, number 1600 was issued on June 4, 1895 and the entry was cancelled February 15, 1901. Elmer McDonald made entry 4148 on January 15, 1894, which was cancelled on February 12, 1901 as a result of contest 1414. Susan McDonald's homestead was patented December 10, 1895, sold to Josie E.
From the first land withdrawal on January 16, 1900 until December of 1902, General Land Office Special Agent M. A. Meyendorff, who was stationed at Rapid City, had charge of the proposed park area. Captain Seth Bullock, first Supervisor of the Black Hills National Forest, was appointed Custodian of Wind Cave by his old friend Theodore Roosevelt in December 1902 and placed Forest Ranger George Boland in immediate supervision of the Wind Cave area.* Boland was located at Pringle when appointed to this

Booker in 1899, thence to Elmer McDonald on June 12, 1901. He sold it to George and Minnie Stabler on October 9, 1906, who added it to the 320 acres they already held, having purchased Catherine Stabler's homestead in the spring of 1903. Stabler had patented his own claim on September 11, 1905. This tract of 480 acres was sold for $3840 on January 19, 1909 to Howard J. Oden, who reconveyed it to the government. Margarethe Drinkhahn (McDonald Scholl) patented 160 acres May 18, 1901 which she sold to Joseph Hattenbach in October 1905. It was then acquired by the Collins Land Company who transferred it to Ted E. Collins November 25, 1905. He relinquished it to the government with a deed dated February 28, 1908. Catherine Stabler patented her holding on September 26, 1902 and sold it to George and Minnie Stabler, as previously noted. (Register of Deeds, Custer County Courthouse, Custer, S.D.; Letter, State Supervisor, Montana, Bureau of Land Management, Theo E. Ander, July 31, 1958; WASO, NPS, Microfilm Records of Wind Cave National Park, NIS-328).

* Boland was born in New York State May 1, 1847 and was one of the first settlers in the Black Hills, coming here in 1876. He was one of 18 pioneers who elected to remain in the Hills during the historic Indian scare of that year. Until 1885 Boland operated a stage station at Buffalo Gap. He served as Custer County Commissioner from 1880 to 1881 and was appointed postmaster of Buffalo Gap in 1880. In 1885 he became one of the first trustees of the Dakota School of Mines at Rapid City. He was elected a senator to the Dakota Territorial Legislature in 1885, though his family recalls that it was "probably a rump session" because his name does not appear on the rolls. However, they still have his certificate of election. Boland knew Lame Johnny well and his wife served him breakfast on the morning he was being taken to Deadwood for trial as a horsethief and road agent. This was at the time he was lynched. Boland was quite a horseman and owned a stallion named "Poison" which competed in a race from Chadron, Nebraska to Chicago in 1893. The horse was on the winning team. (Rapid City Daily Journal, May 2, 1954.)
additional responsibility. After his appointment Boland retained the Stablers as guides and they also continued to operate their hotel at the cave. Bob McAdam and Mrs. Boland did some of the guiding and the McDonalds are thought to have remained in the vicinity for several months also. 

On June 29, 1903 Congressman Martin recommended to the Secretary of the Interior the appointment of William A. Rankin as Superintendent of Wind Cave National Park. Thus on August 1, 1903 Rankin became the first superintendent of the park with a salary of $75 per month out of a total appropriation of $2500.00. For almost 6 years, until April 30, 1909, Rankin was to guide the affairs of the young national park, the eighth to be established and the only cave in the system at the time.*

The first Annual Report, dated October 16, 1903, suggests how modest were the beginnings of Wind Cave National Park:

Honorable Secretary

On entering duty as Superintendent of Wind Cave Nat. Park, South Dakota Aug. 1, I found the entrance to the cave, which is in the bottom of a deep ravine or gulch protected by a good, log house 16 by 18 feet in dimension, and by cracks being pointed and walls whitewashed once a year will keep the building in fairly good condition for years.

The dwelling house, or hotel (as it is called) is a one and a half story building 22 x 33 feet with two wings one on either side 18 x 33 feet; there has never been anything done to the house, only boarded and battened with rough lumber on the outside, and the partitions on the inside consist of a few studing, cheese cloth and building paper. The roof on wings leaks badly. A great many of the windows are broken and boards nailed over them. The house had been built about ten years, and was never much of a house. The condition of the building both inside and out is bad. It stands on the brink of the ravine and a worse

* An elevation in the northern part of the park was named Rankin Ridge in his memory during the superintendency of Earl M. Semingsen. A fire lookout tower was established here.
place for a building would be hard to find.

Facing the house less than fifty feet away stood an old board stable or barn built about ten years ago; attached to it was a pig pen, cow shed, chicken coop etc. Cattle are allowed to roam at will around the place, as there is no fence to keep them away. The roads through the Park are in bad condition in a great many places being washed out and very rough. The bridges, which are four in number, are all unsafe to drive over, one being broken so teams have to go around a considerable distance.

Water is the most difficult thing to contend with here. As all water has to be hauled two and one half miles, none being available nearer.

(Signed) Wm. A. Rankin, Supt.

In August of 1903 Seth Bullock recommended the adoption for Wind Cave of the regulations covering Yellowstone and Yosemite Parks. He also thought it would be advisable to fence the area around the cave entrance to keep cattle away.

The next day Bullock reported that the Custer-Hot Springs telephone line, which had been put in around 1892, was about to be abandoned. The section to Hot Springs could be purchased for $200 and maintained for about $30 a year. However, local ranchers decided to buy the line and so the park received telephone service through this neighborhood company.

There was a small uproar within the bureaucratic organization after the report of Special Agent George F. Wilson of the General Land Office to the Commissioner of the GLO on August 29, 1903 to the effect that Chris Jensen had reported that the Stablers were selling specimens from the cave and that they had removed a ton when they moved from the cave area. A subsequent letter of Seth Bullock to Rankin denied this accusation and asserted that there had been adequate government protection of the area since his appointment. It was also noted that the General Land Office had preceded Bullock in custody of the area. Rankin reported to the
Director that the cave spoliation had occurred before the property passed to government ownership. 88

As previously mentioned, George Stabler abandoned operation of the Wind Cave Hotel in October. During this month there was correspondence between the Superintendent and the Secretary of the Interior concerning the advisability of remodeling the hotel, which it was estimated would cost from $1000 to $1500. 89 The old barn, which had stood so unpleasantly near the hotel, was moved 50 feet, or about 200 yards from the cave entrance to a location approximately that of the present administration building. The barn and a corral were to remain here for a number of years. 90

During this time the cave operation continued to run as in the past. Five guides conducted the tours which were scheduled at 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Rankin reported some inconvenience due to water running into the cave whenever there was a heavy rain but in December this was corrected by a stone high water wall which was built with part of a $150 allotment for repairs. 91 Cave exploration of 14 routes was mentioned at this time. 92 There was a brief flurry of excitement a few days after this when it was reported that J. D. McDonald was planning to sink a shaft and tap Wind Cave. This was probably from his son Elmer's claim, south of the cave entrance, where an earlier attempt had been made. To add to the excitement was the report that a place had been discovered on the Susanna D. McDonald homestead where wind issued from the ground. 93

The hotel was not being used at this time and the superintendent advised against reopening it. When Mrs. Rankin was granted the first
meal concession in May, however, it was found convenient to use the hotel as a dining room.94 Meals were served at noon for 50¢. This probably allowed those on either cave tour to eat before or after the strenuous trip. The meal concession was renewed in the following years, through 1908.

In March the first fencing of the headquarters area was begun. A one-half mile square was fenced at a cost of $273.00.95 During April authority was granted to construct a 150 barrel cistern with eaves and a pump for $125. This would end the necessity of hauling all water 2½ miles.96

At this time J. C. West offered to sell his homestead to the park for $1000 but funds were not available. Subsequently Mr. Rankin purchased the property in his own right. The acquisition of the Stabler Hotel was considered in May. It could be purchased for $400 and remodeled for about $1000. During the 1904 Fiscal Year, $626.25 was spent on roads and bridges, $61.00 on repairs to the cave house, and $550.00 for lumber and materials.96 The latter was for repair of the office-residence of the superintendent.*

In September Rankin reported the survey of the 2½ mile line from Beaver Creek which showed that a gravity line could be constructed. The estimate of needed appropriations for 1905 included an item of $3000 for a new superintendent's residence and $500 to buy the Stabler Hotel.

* The following neighbors were among those who worked in the park: S. P. McAdam, Robert McAdam, J. E. Ward, at $2.50 per day, and P. F. Paulsen with a team at $4.00 per day. Mat Hamilton, F. H. Klingbil, George Hamilton, John Raver, and P. Petersen worked with the McAdam's brothers and Paulsen in building the new residence for the superintendent.
This was not granted but in June of 1905 work was nevertheless started on the proposed residence. By December the building was finished and the superintendent had moved in. Later this structure was to become the dormitory for seasonal rangers.  

From February 26 to March 10, 1905, Superintendent Rankin was on leave to attend the inauguration of President Theodore Roosevelt in Washington. He was one of Seth Bullock's party of Rough Riders; many prominent residents of the Black Hills area were in this group.

In January 1906 it was reported that Seth Bullock had been appointed U. S. Marshal for South Dakota but that he might continue to render assistance to Wind Cave National Park "that does not interfere with performance of duties as marshal."

The following letter is about the last evidence of controversy over property at Wind Cave:

Hot Springs, South Dakota
April 17th, 1906

The Hon. Secy of the Interior.
Washington, D. C.

Sir. The hotel and office building at the entrance of Wind Cave was built by my late husband John Stabler. years before the Government took possession of Wind Cave, and by right is my property. This property has been occupied by Supt. Rankin & wife who have conducted a hotel in said building and although Supt Rankin has intimated that he would endeavor to get me pay for said buildings he refuses to pay rent or give up possession of buildings. I cannot find anything in the Constitution of the United States whereby the government or any of its officers can take private property for private gain. If I cannot get relief through your office. I shall look farther.

Yours respectfully
(Signed) Mrs. L. A. Stabler
Hot Springs 100
South Dakota
In May Rankin informed the Secretary of the Interior that he had never been requested to pay rent and the George Stabler had abandoned the building in 1903. Mrs. Rankin was using it to serve meals and it was very necessary also as a shelter for tourists. Nothing more was heard of this affair. No appropriation was forthcoming to pay for this structure which was, it is true, of little value.\textsuperscript{101}

In May it was necessary for Superintendent Rankin to inform the Secretary of the Interior that it seemed inadvisable for the superintendent to serve as cave guide because of other duties. The free-lance guides collected up to 50¢ per person, at this time, but some were quitting because of failure to make living expenses.\textsuperscript{102}

The Annual Report of FY 1906 recorded a total expenditure of $1,599.65: $1,287.40 for the superintendent's residence, $147.50 for grading, and $164.75 for roads and bridges.\textsuperscript{103}

In November J. H. Gillespie & Company contracted to install the Beaver Creek water line. Rankin now owned the J. C. West homestead and deeded the water right of way across his property to the government with the understanding that there would be a stand pipe in his pasture to water stock. By March 1907 the line was completed and the reservoir graded at a total cost of $3,350. In the meantime a hydrographic survey had been made by Cleophas C. O'Harra which advised against sinking an artesian well, reported that a proposed 11,600 foot pipe line to Little Beaver Creek was feasible and would doubtless prove satisfactory, but recommended that a pipe line from the Stabler Spring, 2100 feet west of
The Annual Report for 1908 mentioned the dilapidated condition of the hotel which was occasioning slighting remarks on the part of tourists. It was recommended that it be torn down and replaced privately by permitting someone to build in the park. The first mention of transportation permits occurs at this time.* Roads were being widened to handle the increased travel and to make it possible for teams to meet on the road. During June the park had 644 visitors, 36 of them campers and 326 coming by public conveyance. 108 Rules and Regulations for the park were formulated at this time and posted on cloth markers throughout the park in June.**

In 1909 Superintendent Rankin resigned and was succeeded by Joseph E. Pilcher on May 1st.*** The latter was living on a ranch west of Custer, which he had patented as a mining claim, at the time of his appointment.

During this year there was rather extensive repair of park property. The old Stabler Hotel was whitewashed and a new roof was put on the north wing. A number of windows were replaced. The exterior of the cave house was painted, the roof was raised two feet, the interior walls were sealed and weatherboarding was put on the outside while tourist conveniences were arranged within the building. A 10' x 10' blacksmith shop was

* First permittees were Chris Henrikson, Bert Underhill, F. B. Smith, A. D. Goddard, Oney Aldrich, T. A. Smith, and J. M. Brady.
** See Appendix A.
*** Pilcher was born at Recine, Ohio in Meigs County on August 18, 1851. He was a member of the Black Hills Mining Men's Association and was an officer in the association. In 1901 he was secretary of the White Cloud Gold Mining and Milling Company. His ranch west of Custer is the present Kidwell Ranch.
constructed in the vicinity of the cave entrance. There was also mention of an "old shed now used as a barn and not worth repairing." This was probably the structure which the Stablers had built near their hotel. 109

In January 1909 an order authorized grazing of livestock on the park by permit, a practice that was to continue for a number of years. Permits for transportation were issued to five applicants, all having engaged in this business the year before. The first automobile running regularly to the cave is reported at this time. It was an EMF driven by Frank Shoberg. Mrs. Joseph Pilcher was concessioner at the hotel, serving the complete meals of "baked ham and roast beef both with several vegetables and desert for $.50." It was not uncommon for visitors to come to the park just to eat. 110 The guides continued to charge the usual fee of 50¢ per visitor. This included a candle, white cap, and magnesium ribbon. 111

During the winter of 1909-10 the water line froze up and Rufus J. Pilcher, son of the superintendent, hauled water all winter from Cold Creek for domestic use and for the Pilcher's seven or eight head of cattle and horses. 112

During this year the following occurred, as reported by Rufus Pilcher:

An inspector came out from Washington...and was amazed to see the stone residence, since no appropriation had been made available. I think he left still wondering how it was built. The answer was; an appropriation for stone bridge abutments furnished the stone, quarried on the Park, and labor for road work and cave improvement took care of the rest. It took figuring in those days even if the dollar was worth more. 113
On March 14, 1910 Joseph Pilcher died at the cave after returning from a Hot Springs hospital where an exploratory operation a few days previously had disclosed an incurable illness. He was succeeded by his son Rufus J. Pilcher, who was officially appointed superintendent on April 26th.*

A few days later another misfortune was reported at the park by Superintendent Pilcher:

I regret to report that the Park was visited by an extensive fire March 23-25, which had its origin outside the Park near the south boundary, and several miles from the Cave. This propelled by a strong southwest wind was making rapid progress toward the Cave when we discovered it. Immediately on discovering the fire I gathered together all the available men not already fighting it, neighboring ranchers etc., and two Forest Rangers from the Black Hills Forest Reserve. We succeeded in stopping the progress toward the buildings surrounding the Cave after it had entered the fenced in enclosure some hundred yards from the Superintendent's residence; and further checking the northeast progress at Wind Cave Canyon, turning it southeast out of the Park. The fire was finally arrested and extinguished after the whole male population of the country turned out and the town of Buffalo Gap, thirteen miles southeast threatened; the prairie fire having burned out several ranchers in transit. This conflagration aided by one of the severest wind storms recorded far exceeded any similar one ever visiting this portion of the Hills.

The fire has benefitted the wild hay on the Park, and has done little damage to the matured and half-grown timber, but has destroyed to large extent the reproduction of young pine and scrub cedar. Though the timber on the southeastern portion of the Park, consisting mainly of pine and scrub cedar, is scattering and of slight extent compared to the northern portion, we could little afford any damage to it. However everything possible was done to combat the flames and to lessen the damage to the Park and its property. I am indebted to a great extent to the neighboring ranchers and to the Forest Rangers for assistance.

Approximately 2500 acres of the Park were burned over, and nearly double that outside of the Park.

* Rufus Pilcher was born in Custer, S. Dak. on January 15, 1887 in a log cabin on Main Street. "Mother advised the time was 4:00 A.M. and the temperature -44 deg. F. One old friend always recalled the date, because her first husband froze to death that morning." Pilcher served as a guide at Wind Cave during the year before his superintendency. (Letter to Merrill J. Mattes, May 23, 1953).
During 1910 ten permits for transporting visitors to the cave were issued; five for automobiles and five for wagons. The month of August recorded 1068 visitors, which was thought to be the largest monthly total to that date. Warren T. Pilcher and Peter Paulson were guides during that season and Harold Peterson was granted license No. 1 for photographing visitors. 115

The visit of one distinguished gentleman has been recorded:

One day during the summer of 1910 when supervising the entrance and registration of entrants to the Cave I noted on the register the name, "J. J. Pershing" written in a rather bold, clearly legible hand. The name Pershing immediately reminded me of the Pershing Rifles, the crack squad at the University of Nebraska, where I had lately attended while taking civil engineering. I had noted a rather robust gentleman in khaki riding pants and boots at the register, and reasoned perhaps, that the gentleman was perhaps of the Army. I spoke to him relative to his entering the Cave, and he produced a pocket aneroid barometer, and asked if there was any objection to his taking the instrument in the Cave for the purpose of observing levels. I replied there was no objection, and I would welcome the opportunity to know the altitudes of the various levels, since there was at that time no information available to me as to proper depths. A survey had been run previous to my tenure, and a blue print was on record. However there were no altitudes marked on the print nor accompanying field notes. The position of various chambers and their dimensions were shown on the plat with respect to surface but entirely in flat plane.

That there were no field notes is understandable. The guide's story as to depths of the various chambers, and passage ways as I soon learned to believe after being at the Cave for a while was pure tradition handed down from the days of private exploitation. The tourists were willing believers, as I found by experimental probing while guiding them. It makes a nicer story to carry away, and relate to posterity that one descended 500 feet beneath the surface, and travelled three miles than only half that much. Barometric readings would tell me the approximate truth at least, until I could get the Department to furnish me with accurate figures.

After advising the guides that I would personally conduct our visitor through the Cave, we left the party of some 100 or more and went down to the entrance, where we set the aneroid at 4000 feet, which if my memory does not fail me, is the approximate altitude of what was then the cave house floor.
During the course of the conversation I asked Pershin g what relation he might be to the Pershing Rifles at the U. of Nebraska. He countered by asking me what interest I had in this locally well known organization. I told him of my connection with the University. I was not a member of the Rifles. I ducked military drill there because of two years service in the Company I, 1st South Dakota Infantry in 1904 and 1905 at Custer. He replied that he organized the Rifles while at the Cornhusker hang out as commandant of cadets of the ROTC. I said, "What rank are you now?"

He laughed, and replied, "I am one of the new brigadier generals. I am on leave and on the way east from Cheyenne, Wyoming to resume command." I might add, that in addition to being in mufti, he wore a closely trimmed Vandyke beard. I have never seen a picture of him with a beard, nor talked to people who knew him casually who had either. His amusement was no doubt due to my ignorance at that time of the storm aroused by his promotion from captain to brigadier general by Teddy Roosevelt. He jumped some 180 grades, as I recall, and his father in law, Senator Warren of Wyoming, Chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, got the brunt of the uproar. Colliers particularly wrote an expose! Few people outside the Army knew who Pershing was in the summer of 1910. His brilliant career subsequently, including World War I, seems to have justified Roosevelt's judgement.

After explaining some of the history of the Cave, and the peculiarities of wind suction at the mouth; theory as to formation and formations, as I had gotten the story from geologists I had taken through, we started down. I believe we took the Pearly Gates route, the longest, first. We included the Blue Grotto, the deepest of the explored routes, and I distinctly recall the aneroid reading of -235 feet; the guides story was 500 feet beneath the surface. We continued and I lit up the various chambers with the magnesium ribbon guides carried in those days to better show off the beauties of pearls, popcorn, frost and boxwork. We took readings of nearly all the chambers as we went, finally ascending to the Fair Grounds, where I was disillusioned by finding that huge chamber so near the surface, whereas we had been telling tourists it was so many hundred feet below the Cave entrance plus the height of the hill it lay under. I took him off the main travelled routes to places like the specimen chambers, where early exploiters gathered specimens for sale; the Noah's Beard, to me one of the most fascinating formations in the Cave, and wound up by going to the Garden of Eden, and off the route where the few remaining stalactite and stalagmite formations remained intact. Altogether we spent about two and a half hours and saw all three routes in about the same time we used then to take a party to one route.
The acquaintance of General Pershing, especially in an unofficial capacity for those hours in the Cave, and subsequently when I visited him at the Evans Hotel in Hot Springs, where we talked of various subjects including his Philippine campaigns, and his Indian campaigns as a junior officer, was an experience I treasure. I never saw him afterwards, although he offered at the time to aid me in the event I desired to take the Army exam for appointment from civil life. War did not appear imminent in 1910, and when I did eventually get in the cavalry in 1917, I did not have the fortitude to communicate with the commander in chief of the Army to remind him of his offer.

Finding by means of General Pershing's aneroid that the story we had been passing out to the thousands of visitors to Wind Cave was somewhat exaggerated put me in rather a quandary as to whether or not I as superintendent should as head of a government institution continue to foster such myths. I decided to try out giving out the truth occasionally when I assisted the guides. I met with disappointment, and got into controversy with visitors with previous trip experience, or who otherwise knew the old spiel. After all it took no more effort to traverse the miles of the long story, and descend to the depths of that deeper version, and still have the long tale to take home.

There and then, I decided that until the Park Service did make an official survey, and supply an accurate set of figures for public information, the old guide story with all its mythical lore would stick. As far as I know the Cave is still 500 feet deep.

In the fall of the year another interesting visit occurred when Chief Stinking Bear, an Ogalala Sioux of Pine Ridge and his party, including squaws, went through the cave.

Superintendent Pilcher submitted a budget estimate of $16,000 in 1910. His farsighted estimate included a water system, the fencing of two square miles of range, increasing the superintendent's salary to $1500, and installing an electric lighting system for $3500. After receiving his appropriation of $2,500, Pilcher resigned. Appointments were entirely political in those days and his resignation was prompted by the fight over patronage between a Senator and Congressman Martin, in which the
former was successful. Capt. Seth Bullock's position in relation to the park was purely advisory by this time. 118

Pilcher remained for two months as secretary and guide under his successor until July 1, 1911, and then, having passed the ranger examination, became a fire guard for the Harney National Forest where he established the Lookout Station on Harney Peak the following year. Later he became an assistant motion picture director in Hollywood and a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force. Wind Cave was to wait 20 more years for the electric lighting system he had envisioned. 119

In the Annual Report of the Department of Interior for the Fiscal Year 1910, Richard Ballinger said:

Owing to its inaccessibility and the fact that its scenic attractiveness is not sufficient, in all probability, to inspire a greater number of visitors to the park, it should be classed as a local or state park and can never in any sense of the word become a national park. 120

Thus the superintendents for the next 20 years could carry on only maintenance and protection activities and give service to the public, due to the exceedingly small appropriations and the fact that the superintendent was the only permanent employee until 1919 when one park ranger position was added. Only minor construction could be performed during these years. The Superintendent's Annual Report for 1912 gives us a glimpse of the important constructive activities carried on in a typical year of poverty:

Filling the lawn and sowing seed on it, fencing the intake to the water system and also a spring near the Superintendents house, repairing the fence around the Cave and the Superintendents house, covering the lawn with manure, painting the porch of the
On the basis of a study made in the Black Hills by J. Alden Loring in the summer of 1911, the National Bison Society under President Franklin W. Hooper, chose Wind Cave National Park for a buffalo range in South Dakota. They requested that Seth Bullock make an examination of the needed land and asked Representative Martin to seek Congressional approval. He introduced a bill to establish the Wind Cave National Game Preserve which was approved on August 10, 1912.*

The establishment of the game preserve was probably the most important event in the first 25 years of the national park. A sum of $26,000 was made available by the Bison Society for the acquiring of additional lands and a permanent water supply, to build a fence, erect the necessary buildings and care for the animals. This was more money than the park had received during its first decade. It was to be expended by the U. S. Biological Survey, an agency of the Department of Agriculture. 124

During 1913 preparations were made for the arrival of the nucleus herd of buffalo being presented through efforts of the Bison Society. The original herd of buffalo, totaling 14 head, from the New York Zoologi-

* There is established a national game preserve, to be known as the Wind Cave National Game Preserve, upon the land embraced within the boundaries of the Wind Cave National Park, in the State of South Dakota, for a permanent national range for a herd of buffalo presented to the United States by the American Bison Society, and for such other native American game animals as may be placed therein. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to acquire by purchase or condemnation such adjacent lands as may be necessary for the purpose of assuring an adequate, permanent water supply, and to enclose the said game preserve with a good and substantial fence and to erect thereon all necessary sheds and buildings for the proper care and maintenance of the said animals.
cal Society arrived at the new game preserve on November 28, 1913. The next spring three female calves were born and the herd had become established. In 1914 21 elk were brought from Jackson Hole, Wyoming and the same year the first antelope were introduced in October as a gift from the Boone and Crockett Club of New York. By 1915 the game animals totaled 16 buffalo, 16 elk, and 11 antelope and had become an attraction almost equalling the popularity of the cave itself. The following interesting account (somewhat edited) of Fred M. Dille suggests the difficulties involved in restoring the game animals to their original habitat:

Well! I should say I might know something about the Park Antelope Herd as I was day nurse and night nurse for the original bunch, three days and three nights enroute, until they were liberated safely within the enclosure.

Through the influence of Dr. Hornaday of the Bronx Park, the Boone and Crockett Club put up the funds and the Biological Survey made the arrangements with a Mr. Blazier of Brooks, Alberta to capture and rear for six months young antelope to be delivered in October at $125 per head. The contract was for not exceeding twelve head. He had ten. The crates were for double capacity, two in each crate which was a good idea as it kept them quiet. Feed taken along was oatmeal and a sack of alfalfa leaves.

With some delays, you cannot hurry the job working with antelope, we got off. Brooks station was nothing but a whistle stop somewhat east of Calgary—an immense plain region. Next stop, Great Falls, Montana where Mr. Blazier left men and returned northward with fifty dollars worth of U. S. nickels and two bottles of Kentucky Rye. Funny about those nickels, as we were leaving Brooks a bar keep handed Blazier fifty dollars in U. S. currency and asked him to bring him that much worth of nickels. Seems he had bought some slot machines down in the States last year and couldn't manipulate them with those Canadian nickels. Did you ever see a Canadian five cent piece? It's about as large as the nail on your little finger and silver. From Great Falls it was a straight run to Billings and then to Edgemont, S. D.

Efforts to capture and crate adult antelope for restocking purposes had been tried out at Yellowstone but were disastrously unsuccessful. Antelope are crazy to handle. So the wise heads
of the Biological Survey figured it was best to try to capture the kids when first born and rear them on a bottle. This was successful, the only drawback being that the antelope were too tame and not afraid of any dog or man. One was killed in that way by a shepherd dog that went into the pasture with "his man" and presto. And it was reported that they would just stare at a coyote and that the chief loss was from bobcats dropping on them from limbs of trees. But if this way of obtaining antelope has that drawback, at least the young from these semi-tame antelope are wild, so guard them from harm the first year and let the young loose to care for themselves the next year.125

The national park received no appropriation whatsoever during the 1913 fiscal year but at this time was allowed to retain whatever revenues came from other sources which amounted to $528.26 this year.126 Despite the lack of money, the old hotel was finally torn down at this time and replaced by a Registration Office containing dressing rooms for the use of visitors preparing to enter the cave. The new building was a one story structure of wood 20 by 40 feet built on the site of the old hotel.127

During 1913 the government secured title to the last tract of land within the original boundaries which was still in private hands. The 80 acres owned by former superintendent Rankin were purchased by the Biological Survey and became the headquarters of their activities in the park.128

A new telephone line from the south boundary of the park to the residence of the superintendent was built at this time by the Peoples Telephone and Telegraph Company of Hot Springs. This was probably a much needed improvement, the old telephone service being, no doubt, quite undependable.129
In November 1913 Superintendent William Boland resigned and was succeeded on November 15th by Custodian Fred Merle who served until December 1st when Acting Superintendent Fred M. Dille assumed direction of park activities. Dille was chief of the Biological Survey.

In 1914 the Registration Building was enlarged and reconstructed. A small pavilion for the use of visitors and auto drivers was erected. Transportation permits were still requested by several at $50 per car. An end to the promiscuous grazing was sought by issuing of permits in January--around 200 head of horses belonging to nearby residents were wintering on the park. There was also considerable trouble with wood poachers. To deal with another problem, the superintendent was instructed to remove advertising and defacing signs from the park and to prosecute the guilty parties.130

At this time the superintendent was still the only official upon a regular salary. During the summer he was assisted by two or three guides, who conducted the three-hour cave trips twice daily. The fee was still 50¢ per person. * According to a contemporary witness, the guides were not as competent as in the past:

* In May, for example, the guides received the following fees: Mrs. Marie Wilson, $26; Jay J. Crane, $6; Truman Reed, $5; the superintendent, $15.50. In July Mr. Reed earned $100 and Miss Florence A. Dille $75.
In a darkness that had never known the light of day the candle's glow emphasized the gravity of every face in the tour party. A woman moaned. A child asked questions. The fat traveling man's head glistened in cold sweat. All eyes were turned on the 15-year old girl guide.

We were lost in that hole of fascinating mystery, mostly unexplored at the time, but already growing famous in 1914--as Wind Cave....

When this writer visited the cave the first time in 1914, the management furnished men with coveralls and women with dusters to protect clothing. There were an assorted dozen in the party, and a young girl, who said she had done tours before volunteered to take them through.

The route into the cave was down a ladder, through the wind hole, and once beyond that we were given cans that had a candle on the inside of them. When lighted the light out of the open end was like a reflector lamp. We carried them as we trailed along single file. There were many interesting scenes, formations, and weird designs to inspect as we went along.

In bigger chambers the guide lit a strip of magnesium tape that cast brighter light while it burned itself out. We were enjoying the tour for about an hour when the guide suddenly became silent. She flashed her light to right and left as she led along, trying to recognize landmarks but failing to find any she had to tell us she was confused. Lost. We were all lost in Wind Cave.

It was a terrifying moment. National publicity given a man recently lost in a Kentucky cave made the whole party jittery. To those complaining, groaning, and sweating it out the girl said: "If we don't come out in a couple of hours a search party will come in to hunt for us."

She made us put out all the candles but one in front of the column and one behind, to make them last as long as possible.

"Shall we back-track and try and see where we got off the trail or shall we wait here until found?" she asked us.

We voted to back-track. There were, at the time, three routes for tours in the cave. The Pearly Gate, Fair Grounds, and Garden of Eden (sic). We had selected the Fair Ground route which had the biggest chamber, a cavern of some acres in size.

Our back-tracking did not get us anywhere but in about a half hour we saw the lights of another tour party and attracted their attention. They were on one of the other routes so we followed them back to the exit hole, which then was the same place we came in.
At this time the Acting Superintendent, Dille, recommended that a stone building should be built over the entrance: the cave "is an attraction of such a nature as to be placed in ridicule by not having a neat stone structure about the entrance." A cement storage tank for spring water was also desirable and the headquarters area lacked "that completing touch which can not be supplied excepting with some green grass and a few transplanted trees." 132

On August 1, 1914 Dille was succeeded by Superintendent Thomas M. Brazell who was to remain in charge of the park for nearly five years. During 1915 he reported the construction of an underground reservoir of one foot thick masonry, with a capacity of 450 barrels and connected to the water system. It was located 70 feet higher than the park residence and 300 feet away. The capacity of the spring was reported to be about 40 barrels a day at that time though it had run as low as 4 barrels in dry weather. The two tanks comprised an 800 barrel storage space which was deemed ample for all needs. 133

Recommendations for the year 1915 were that the license fee for transportation of visitors to the cave be abolished, that $3,000 be provided for the installation of electric lights throughout the entire cave, that two miles of game fence be built near the headquarters to keep about 25 animals where they could be seen by visitors, that a mile of macadamized road and other road and bridge work be done to the amount of $800, that the supervisor's salary be raised to $1,500 with a dollar per day allowance to maintain a horse for range service, and that two park rangers be employed, one from May 1 through September 15 at $90 a
month and a second from June 15 through September 15 at $75 a month. However, for the year 1915 the usual appropriation of $2,500 obtained. In June 1915 Mark Daniels, General Superintendent of the National Park Service, visited Wind Cave. In a letter to the Secretary of the Interior, he reports that his first impression was one of anger at conditions at the park which turned into amazed appreciation of the superintendent and his family in meeting situations far beyond the call of duty. He thought that lighting the cave was a prime need but recommended that it was not feasible to wire the cave but to have individual storage batteries and swivel search lights in each cavern. Stone steps would cut maintenance costs. He also recommended a general clean up and extension of the water system.

In February 1916 it was reported that "on account of sudden and severe changes in the temperature (in cave) owing to blast of wind from an outside temperature of 25° to 40° below zero, the ceiling in many places cracked, with portions of it falling, and the whole had to be sounded and weak spots removed." The March report goes on unhappily:

Sometime Sunday, the 26th a large rock which we estimate to weigh about two tons, dropped from the ceiling in the cave, falling upon and breaking one of the landings and one flight of stairs, and railings thereto attached. The place of the accident was about 75 feet from the entrance to the Cave, on the main trail, and was caused no doubt by contraction and expansion due to the freezing and thawing, and to the water continually soaking through from the surface. This is the first instance in the history of the Cave, so far as I am able to learn, where a rock has become dislodged or any other disturbance occurred, except by workmen employed on the trails within the Cave. Two trips with visitors were made through the Cave after the rock fall.
The superintendent's Annual Report for 1916 gives a rather extensive account of the park wildlife:

More than 60 varieties of birds are found here at some time of the year. Many kinds of birds stay the year round, but most of them are migratory. The bobwhite, yellow-legged prairie chicken, and pintailed grouse are present within the park, and are increasing.

The prairie chicken and grouse are of a migratory trend, and at times leave the park; many of these do not return...it is thought that some prairie chickens stay here all the time....

Coyotes and bobcats (lynx) are common and an occasional gray wolf is seen. The combined efforts of forest service, game preserve, park management, and settlers have tended to materially reduce the number of predatory animals in this vicinity the past year.

Weasel, mink, skunk, and porcupine are found here; the first two are rare, the latter numerous. The weasel, mink, and coyote are a menace to bird life, though the magpie, a most beautiful bird itself, is the most destructive of all to bird life and should be exterminated.

Since their introduction, the buffalo, antelope, and elk had been popular with park visitors, attracting larger crowds than would have come to see the cave only. The animals were enclosed in a pasture of 4,000 acres in the western part of the park except for a few kept in a smaller enclosure alongside the road where they could more easily be seen by the public. In 1916 the buffalo herd was strengthened by the importation of two bulls and four cows from Yellowstone Park which brought the herd to a total of 42 head in 1918. In 1918 25 elk were brought from Yellowstone increasing the herd to 90. A second group of nine antelope arrived in the park from Brooks, Alberta in the fall of 1916 but some years passed before the antelope herd became established in sufficient numbers to maintain itself. In 1924 it was down to seven animals, all female but in August the Biological Survey secured a "fine
big yearling buck, which was shipped in here from Reno, Nevada....He
remains close to the big fence at all times, apparently begging for
sweets from our visitors, and seems to be very fond of human compan-
ionship." For many years Mr. A. P. Chambers was the local representa-
tive of the Bureau of Biological Survey in charge of the game preserve.* At this
time he assisted a government trapper in control of animal predators
found in the park. In 1922 during a brief period of trapping five cats
(lynx), 21 porcupines, five coyotes, three skunks, one raccoon, and one
black-footed ferret were caught. Five coyotes had left one foot in the
traps also.139

In June of 1916 the cave entrance fee was reduced to 25¢. This was
probably designed to increase the popularity of the trip, which was
slowly rising in popularity, many visitors arriving by private car and
camping in the park.140 Another source of park revenues was the grazing
permit. In 1916 429 cattle at 75¢ a head and 253 horses at $1 a head
were grazing on the park. During the next few years this increased to
811 head of cattle (in 1920).141

Many improvements were carried out in 1918. On the highways leading
into the park signs were placed showing the hours of the tours, which
were scheduled at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. at this time. One bridge was replaced
with an earth fill and culvert. Much of the road was raised and widened.

* After some 16 years at Wind Cave, Chambers died on January 12, 1929
suffering from actinomycosis which he had contracted from the antelope
in August 1926.
Two rooms and bath and hot air heating were added to the superintendent's residence. All buildings were repainted on the outside except the recently constructed auto shelter. Inside "closets" of a non-freezing kind were added in the Administration Building and a modern septic vault for the sewage system. A large corral was built and a neat footbridge was erected across the gulch from the Administration Building to the statue and grave of Alvin McDonald. A two rail iron fence was placed around his grave. A new specimen case was built. Nearly 200 feet of new stairs and landings were constructed in the cave and a dam was built in the park which created a lake nearly three acres in extent. The park shared half the expense of a telephone line to the game preserve. Numerous minor projects were completed also.142

By order of state authorities the cave was closed to the public on October 20th because of the quarantine against Spanish Influenza. The cave remained closed till April of 1919.143

In March Superintendent Thomas Brazell resigned and was succeeded on the 16th by his son Roy W. Brazell. He was assisted by a full-time ranger; however, during the summer it was reported that not enough temporary rangers were available to handle the number of visitors. The increased traffic was thought to be due to the publicity the park and the Black Hills were receiving. A souvenir concessioner, Mr. A. A. Underhill, is mentioned this year for the first time. The exclusive right of transporting visitors to the cave from Hot Springs had been held since the first of the year by Bert Underhill. The transportation arrangement had previously caused considerable annoyance but not a single complaint had
been heard since the inauguration of this exclusive permit system. A park information bureau was maintained at headquarters to supply information on roads, hotels, and other national parks to visitors.

The year 1920 was one of bad weather. What was described as "the worst snow storm in history" hit the area in April, lasting for about 15 days. High winds left drifts of from 12 to 20 feet and there was five feet of snow on the level ground. Though the temperature was a mild 30 to 42, neighbors of the area lost up to 200 head of cattle each. Telephone lines were down and mail had to be brought in on foot over 15 miles. Automobile traffic was not restored until May 3rd. Several of the game animals died as a result of the bad weather, including a nine-year old buffalo bull and two calves, and four mature antelopes.

Despite the bad weather, on May 3rd a bridal party from Hot Springs arrived at Wind Cave, bringing the chaplain from the Battle Mountain Sanitarium to perform the wedding ceremony. The Garden of Eden was chosen for the occasion. "One member of the party stated that he 'thought that was running the matrimonial business into the ground' but the principals said that they wanted to begin their wedded life at the very bottom." The bride had promised her mother that she would marry no man on the face of the earth. 38 years later, in June 1958, the couple, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Magorian, now of Auburn, California, revisited the cave.

The July and August Narrative Reports to the Director of the National Park Service contained the following unusual accounts:
On the 14th of the month the Southern Black Hills experienced a mild earthquake, the shock being felt for a distance of about 60 miles. No great amount of damage was done though a few window lights have been reported broken in Hot Springs, and Custer as a result. Some members of the party of visitors who were in the Cave at the time said they could notice the shock, however a careful examination of the interior of the Cave fails to disclose any rocks that were dislodged nor have I been able to locate any other damage to the formations within the Cave.

On the night of the 30th this section of the country felt for the second time in about six weeks, the tremor of an earthquake. This disturbance was considerably more noticeable than the former which occurred July 14th. This last one commenced about 1 minute before nine p.m. and consisted of three separate and distinct shocks of longer duration than the previous disturbance. Careful examination of the cave interior does not disclose any damage.

During the summer Assistant Director of the NPS, Arno B. Cammerer, visited the park for a day. The superintendent reported that his brief visit could not "but redound to the benefit of the park in every way. The service, through first-hand information acquired on the ground is more intimately acquainted with the park, its problems, and its needs."

On August 16, the park was visited by Baron Eugen Fersen and his mother the Baroness Medem of Moscow, Russia, who were at Hot Springs for a few weeks rest and recreation. The Baron was a near relative of Count Polstoi [sic], the distinguished novelist, metaphysician and teacher.

In April 1921 the first airplane landed in the park area during experiments sponsored by the Hot Springs Commercial Club to find a suitable area for a local airport. A Minneapolis firm was attempting to establish an air passenger route to the Black Hills and would include Hot Springs if a suitable field could be found.

The park and the grazing permit holders arranged at this time to
hire a range rider, Sherman Ferrell, who would look after the cattle on
park land and report to the superintendent any cases of trespassing or
abuse of grazing privileges. The superintendent had charge of the rider
and the park paid $75 toward his salary for the year.152

The June Monthly Narrative Report sings the continuing woes of a
superintendent with a niggardly appropriation:

For years we were able to point with pride to our park
roads as they were, for a long time much better than any other
roads in the locality, but this year conditions are just the
reverse, and we are humiliated by having to apologize for our
lack of good roads, and explain their absence and the apparent
lack of that progressive spirit so much in evidence all around
us. It is embarrassing to know that the statement has been made
that the park road is the worst six mile stretch of road between
Denver and Deadwood, and particularly so when it is in all prob-
ability the truth.153

The report goes on to tell of a "big, heavily loaded truck" which went
through one of the old wooden bridges on the 29th but "luckily no one
was injured nor was the machine." Once more "the old eyesore" was
patched and propped up so that "our road is still open."154

During this month a large party of Boy Scouts from Clinton, Iowa
visited the cave. In addition to 191 scouts there were 86 adults
including doctors, nurses, ministers, moving picture operators, reporters,
drivers and mechanics, the whole party coming in 5½ cars and 7 large
trucks. Senator Peter Norbeck and family, Col. Shade of the State High-
way Commission, and J. A. Stanley, a Lead, S. Dak. newspaper man also
accompanied the group which totaled 304 people. Dr. C. C. O’Harra,
president of the State School of Mines at Rapid City, was invited to
accompany the group through the cave and gave a short talk on the cave
and its formations when they reached the G.A.R. Hall. "The boys of the party and also the drivers and those in charge were a very courteous and gentlemanly bunch of fellows which fact was largely responsible for the success and pleasure of their trip."

In the Annual Report for 1921 the superintendent recommended:

Because of the yearly increase in number of visitors, which will necessarily mean the employment of more rangers, I recommend that Congress appropriate funds for the erection of a building suitable for ranger's quarters. The park's activities are increasing every year, and as it develops we will need more help. At present there are no quarters provided for employees, and all of the help, laborers, and temporary and permanent rangers, must of necessity live at the superintendent's residence. For obvious reasons this is unsatisfactory and not conducive to efficient operation.

The year 1922 was chiefly notable for the destruction of animals in the game preserve. During February 11 antelope were killed, apparently by bobcats, and in March 14 more were missing. The bodies of the dead antelopes were found to be covered with ticks which was thought to have weakened them. One buffalo was also killed. The winter was unusually cold that year with the temperature dropping as low as 40°. During the summer there was a severe hailstorm with stones as big as baseballs. In August a cloudburst washed out miles of bridges and roads in the Hot Springs area.

Travel arose during this year to a record high with 31,016 persons registered from October 1, 1921 to September 30, 1922. 8,271 of these made the cave trip, which ran at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. during the season and in the afternoon only during the winter. In September the transportation franchise was transferred from Underhill to Roy W. Juckett who
offered an improvement in the form of a closed car. Private transportation was becoming more and more important.\textsuperscript{159}

The transportation concession for 1923 was held by Larson & Dean who provided a large 16 passenger White truck costing $6,500 and a five passenger Willys-Knight touring car. The number of campers was larger than ever before while over 92 per cent of the cave visitors arrived in private automobiles. In May a small temporary structure operated by Mr. E. A. Fuson was opened as the first experiment in refreshment concessioning. It was a floored frame structure with a canvas roof and it stood near the cave entrance on the north side of the superintendent's office. It was explained that "because of the effort to make the trip through the cave (which takes from 2 to 4 hours) many of our visitors feel the need of refreshments after coming out and they have been very much disappointed because this convenience had not heretofore been provided."\textsuperscript{160}

In January 1924 it was reported that considerable interest had been shown in the discovery of several new caves in the Black Hills. Considerable work was being done on one in Custer State Park which would, however, not be open during the coming season. Another cave had been discovered on the Hall Ranch five miles southeast of the park headquarters. Vapor could be seen coming from the crevice on cold days.\textsuperscript{161}

In July George A. Stabler, then of Cortez, Colorado, visited the cave and noted that in the 18 years since he had seen the cave very little vandalism had occurred. Stabler said he had been a guide at the cave for 15 years.\textsuperscript{162}
During 1925 work started on the long awaited rebuilding of the north-south park road. A new house over the cave entrance was also constructed during this year. Within the cave narrow openings were widened, trails were leveled, stairs were sloped more gradually and widened, especially near the entrance, and other improvements were made. 163

The following year the superintendent stated that a larger supply of water had to be established "if this park is to continue to operate." 164 In September the cave entrance fee was raised from 25¢ to 50¢. 165

In October the following experiment occurred with the aid of some newfangled radio equipment:

After a heated argument yesterday morning between park ranger Snyder and O. F. Hill, Field Man for the Neutrofound Radio Manufacturing Co., and A. C. Williams, Sales Representative of the Dakota Iron Store, of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., there followed a conclusive and unquestionable demonstration that radio reception was possible far in the interior of Wind Cave.

In the evening a party consisting of Mr. Hill, Mr. Williams, Roy Brazell, Supt. of Wind Cave National Park, Mrs. Brazell, and park rangers McCain and Snyder, carried the necessary apparatus and paraphernalia into the Odd Fellows Hall, a large room one half a mile within the Cave and easily 300 feet below the surface of the earth. In that underground atmosphere of crystal splendor and elegance the receiving set was assembled, a rude aerial stretched the length of the room, and soon a few manipulations of the tuning dials brought in station K. O. A., Denver, with remarkable clarity and with loud speaker volume. A score of other stations were heard, among them being W.C.C.O., W.R.R., and K.V.O.O., the Dallas, Texas station (W.R.R.) being the farthest one from which audible reception was secured.

Buried in a huge limestone vault, that is classed as a dry cavern, many difficulties were experienced in "hooking up" the set and successfully "tuning it in". Wind Cave's smooth and dry trails are very gratifying to the visitor; but this pronounced absence of water, and with nothing but dry hard limestone above, below and at the sides, rendered the securing of a good "ground" impossible. The iron that causes so many of the Cave's noteworthy scenic spots to scintillate with a dazzling rainbow crystal magnificence, was an obtrusive factor in radio reception,
and helped more than a little to upset an otherwise perfect magnetic balance. And it seems that the honeycomb structure of the Cave, presenting as it does a series of air cells, limestone walls and rooms and tunnels of gigantic magnitude and unknown numbers, must have offered much impedance to the oscillating radio waves as they pursued their course to the point where our alert was waiting to intercept them.

Several experiments were made with varying results. An efficient "ground" not being available, a counterpoise was tried. This, however, made no appreciable difference and was abandoned. Everything being hurriedly and cruelly erected, the results secured were remarkable, and both Mr. Hill and Mr. Williams, who are great Neutrowound enthusiasts, could hardly decide whether the rapturous splendor of Wind Cave or the performance of their pet set was the more wonderful.

This is the second demonstration of such a nature. Last winter Superintendent Brazell's Radiola Super-Heterodyne, using an indoor loop, was employed for the test. It, as did the little six tube wonder last night, gratified it's owner and others of the party with the first subterranean radio concert recorded in this part of the country.

The summer of 1926 saw a record number of visitors to Wind Cave with Friday, August 13th the biggest day for visitors in the history of the park when 474 entered the cave. The total for the three months June, July, and August went over the 20,000 mark. Visitors from every state, from Canada, and a number of foreign countries were registered.

The year 1927 also recorded over 20,000 visitors. The park now had four permanent personnel; the superintendent and the game warden and two rangers. A natural curiosity reported at this time was the wind currents at the cave entrance which were more erratic in their habits than usual. On Friday, January 14th the emission of wind could be heard a half mile away.

The main project during 1928 was the gravel resurfacing of the north-south road across the park. The Bureau of Public Roads handled
Since some rectification work would be necessary on the six mile road, $54,000 was programmed for the job. This was the first appropriation for improvements in the park since the $1,500 expenditure for a small ranger cabin in 1925.

On July 28, 1928 Director Stephen T. Mather, of the National Park Service made an inspection tour of the headquarters. This was his only visit to Wind Cave National Park. At this time the park had a new superintendent, Roy Brazell having been succeeded by Superintendent Anton J. Snyder on June 10, 1928 after the resignation of the former.

With the 1st of July the schedule of trips through the cave was changed to include a 10:15 a.m., 3:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. trip, as well as the usual trips at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. The record for daily attendance was broken on July 6th when 556 visitors went through the cave.

Early in the year 1929, a second game pasture fence was completed to enclose 3,600 acres. This supplemented the original enclosure in the western part of the park. During the winter for the first time it had been necessary to feed the animals because of overstocking on the original pasture. 100 tons of hay were consumed by the animals. The Biological Survey was building a dam on Cold Spring Creek in the northern area of the park at this time. Senator Peter Norbeck gave backing and support for its construction and subsequently, when it was found that the proposed lake was over a porous stratum of rock which allowed most of the water to escape, it was dubbed "Peter's Puddle," instead of the more pretentious Ti-Tan-Ka Lake. The dam did provide a connection for the
Though the appropriation for the park was increased for the 1929 fiscal year, revenues exceeded the appropriation for the second successive year--this time by almost $2,500. Attendance records were again broken on July 6th when 610 paid entrances were recorded.

During the fall a collection of specimens from Wind Cave was sent to the South Dakota State Highway Commission for a display advertising the attractions and scenic features of the State. Superintendent Snyder first consulted the Washington office of the National Park Service about the request of the highway commission where it was decided that an exception to the rule should be made. This was believed to be the first collection of specimens to leave the cave since the creation of the park. It was said that there had been visitors to Wind Cave who would have given a thousand dollars for such a collection.

In March of 1930 Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Gideon were granted a permit to operate all the authorized public service utilities at Wind Cave. They purchased the operating properties at Wind Cave from Mrs. Fuson and began a program of improvement of the facilities. A new and much larger temporary building replaced the original structure which would be superseded later on by a permanent structure, according to plans. New modern sanitary lunch room equipment was installed in the spring. For the first

* Mr. Gideon came to the Black Hills in 1918 and was originally a construction contractor, designing and building the State Game Lodge in Custer State Park as well as the cabins, many of the roads, and pigtail bridges in the park. For a number of years he and his wife operated the State Game Lodge, made famous by the visit of President Calvin Coolidge in 1927.
The following jubilant press release followed shortly thereafter:

The Interior Department Appropriation Bill carrying appropriation for all activities under the administration of the Department of the Interior for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1930, has received final enactment and was approved by the President on May 14, according to a telegram received by Supt. Anton J. Snyder of Wind Cave Nat'l Park from the Nat'l Park Service at Washington.

The bill carries a $54,900 appropriation for Wind Cave National Park of which $39,900 is for the construction of physical improvements, and $15,000 for administration, protection and maintenance, and represents an increase of $41,400 over the park's appropriation for the current fiscal year. $24,500 of the $39,900 has been secured at the instance of a Senate amendment by Senator Norbeck, and provides $15,000 for electric lights for the cave, and $9,500 for a water system in addition to the $7,400 approved for that project in the House appropriation bill. The other construction projects are a bunk house and a sewer system.

Although funds for the construction of physical improvements are immediately available, it is not at this time believed that any of the projects, excepting the road work, may be completed before fall. The road work which is programmed includes the completion of the crushed rock surfacing on the park road, and the oil processing of the entire new road beginning at the south boundary of the park and ending at the Biological Survey dam on the North boundary, and will be in charge of District Engineer A. E. Palen of the Denver office of the Bureau of Public Roads.

From the viewpoint of this office the park's 1931 appropriation is going to mean almost a complete innovation in the activities at the Cave. With more and adequate facilities for the comfort and convenience of the park visitors Wind Cave's popularity is surely to increase.

It is difficult to say just which one of the park's new improvements has been the most badly needed. Suffice it to say here, however, that the electric lights will reveal new beauties of the cave that have long been hidden in the flicker of the tallow candles.

During the fall of 1930 and on into the following spring the improvements made possible by the larger appropriation were pushed toward completion so that the 1931 travel season might benefit from the new facili-
ties—the electric lighting of the cave, improvements in the water system, and a ranger dormitory for the seasonal employes who had previously lived in tents on occasion. A power plant for the new system was brought from Carlsbad Caverns. 177

Superintendent Snyder was succeeded on March 16, 1931 by Edward D. Freeland who remained at the park for eight years. Mr. Snyder transferred to Carlsbad where Freeland had previously been located.

At this time the boundaries of the park were moved to enlarge the area. Congress approved a measure to include the beautiful wooded canyon of Beaver Creek on March 4, 1931. On June 16th Bob and Fanny McAdam signed an agreement selling to the government two good springs of water and 101 acres of land to protect the springs and agreeing to provide a right of way for the pipe line. This was at a cost of $9,500. This land lay north-west of the park. Senator Norbeck and Superintendent Robertson of Custer State Park cooperated in the negotiations for this purchase. 178

During 1932 the necessary extension of the water system to include the new springs was completed. A four-room employee residence was constructed, a two-car garage was added to the superintendent's residence, and the old wooden stairs and trestle to the cave entrance was replaced by a new trail. Oil surfacing of the north-south highway was finished in October. 179

In 1933 displays of wildlife and rock specimens were provided for the enjoyment of the public. The car shelter, oil and ice house were moved to a less conspicuous location. 180
In March 1934 Jewel Cave National Monument was placed under the supervision of the superintendent of Wind Cave. One ranger was stationed there as a guide and for protection purposes and the cave was opened for three months, starting June 1st. 181

During this year another four-room residence was constructed. A machine shop and a shed with a nine-car capacity were also built. Work was carried on improving the cave trails also. 182

In June an Emergency Conservation Work Drought Relief Camp was approved for Wind Cave and on July 16th a full-fledged CCC Camp was established. At first the men, who numbered 240 enrollees by the end of the month, lived in tents but soon a large camp was constructed a little south of present Quarters #27, itself a part of the camp. The camp consisted of a mess hall with kitchen and store room in a T shape 20 x 60 and 20 x 80 feet, a supply building with cooks' quarters 20 x 60, supervisory quarters for ECW 24 x 36, a bath house and laundry 20 x 60, a headquarters building 16 x 24, a recreation hall 20 x 80, eight barracks 20 x 60, a hospital 20 x 60, two latrines 12 x 20, and a garage 24 x 50. 183 Many of the improvements which enhanced the beauty of the park were made with the manpower of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

In late summer work was begun on an elevator shaft to tap the Garden of Eden region, making possible a one-way trip through the cave:

A considerable amount of preliminary work was necessary before actual sinking of the elevator shaft could begin. Accurate surveys were first made of the main part of the cave and of the surface above it. Maps were drawn from these surveys.
In deciding upon the location of the shaft, these maps and possible elevator sites were carefully studied from a standpoint of service to the public, preservation of natural features, and practical construction problems.

The first four feet of shaft excavation (8 feet, 10 inches by 16 feet 3 inches) were in soil and gravel. Then unstable rock was encountered. The first cave was reached at 13 feet below the surface. Several caves, usually filled with clay, were present in the unstable rock passed through to a depth of 52 feet. Here, upon strong limestone, after sinking to 75 feet, a ring or bearer collar was cut back 3 feet into the rock to support the upper part of the concrete shaft lining.

Then the concrete shaft lining was poured from 48 to 6 feet below the surface, as the temporary shaft timbers might have given trouble in holding back the heavy ground. Sinking was then resumed, cutting a landing station in part of the cave at 119 feet below the surface, and another at 195 feet. Timbering was continued to 85 feet.

Numerous caves of all sizes were encountered, giving much trouble in drilling and blasting. In sinking to the depth of 212 feet, only 38 feet were entirely in solid and stable rock (limestone).

The inside dimensions of the finished shaft are 14 feet, 3 inches by 6 feet, 10 inches, with walls one foot thick.

On June 18, 1935 the Otis Elevator Company began the installation of the elevator. This was completed on October 12th and on Sunday Afternoon, October 27th, the superintendent held open house at Wind Cave for all residents of the Black Hills. The elevator was described as:

... in every respect the latest modern type of high-speed elevator, traveling 700 feet a minute, with all the latest safety devices that make it practically impossible for anything to happen to endanger the lives of the passengers.

As the shaft itself is only 204 feet deep, the trip from the lower landing to the surface takes only 16 to 20 seconds with the full load of twelve passengers....

The new plant that furnishes power for the elevator is 120 H.P. high-speed Diesel, built by the Cooper-Bessemer corporation.... The generator built by the Ideal Electric company has an output of 62 K.W. at 2,300 volts....

The cooling system for the new power plant is rather unique in that it is a closed system with a 2-inch water line
running down the elevator shaft and out into an isolated room in the cave, where the water circulates through 2,300 feet of pipe in coils and then returns to the powerhouse.185

More than 1,400 people visited the park during the Open House to inspect the new buildings, elevator, powerhouse. 800 visitors made the trip through the cave, coming up on the elevator. During the afternoon the Hot Springs High School Band of 40 pieces played on the terrace of the administration building. Coffee and doughnuts furnished by the superintendent and Mr. Gideon were served to visitors. Senator Peter Norbeck and family and Gutzon Borglum and family from Mt. Rushmore were among the notables present.

Considerable work was done prior to the open house to improve the appearance of the power house and elevator penthouse. The latter was a temporary building constructed of corrugated iron which the superintendent said would "continue to be an eyesore until...replaced by a permanent building. It now resembles a California cotton gin or a stamp mill of the type seen in Black Hills mining areas."186

With sufficient funds and the large labor force of the CCC Camp much more construction work was accomplished at this time. The old shingled superintendent's residence was moved up the hill from near the road and remodelled. A new home for the superintendent was constructed. Work was begun on a new administration building in February of 1935. An area within was reserved for the concessioner. According to Howard W. Baker, Resident Landscape Architect at the time, the type of architectural style chosen for the park was northern Spanish architecture, "which harmonized
with the landscape, having a not too rustic but pleasing character."

Since the thirties building in the park has adhered to this style precedent. In the cave the wooden stairways, which often lasted no longer than two seasons, were replaced by concrete stairs and iron railings. Around the headquarters area 5000 trees and shrubs were planted. 187

On July 1, 1935 Game Keeper H. Harrison Hoyt of the U. S. Biological Survey turned over to the park all property pertaining to the game preserve and Wildlife Ranger Estes Suter was placed in charge of it. The divided authority in the park, with area supervision in the Department of the Interior and game supervision in the Department of Agriculture, had never been entirely satisfactory. The necessary legislation to end this situation was approved on June 15, 1935. *

At this time the park office was moved to the newly completed administration building. The old building was partially razed while the old administration unit was moved elsewhere to be used as a warehouse. A trail was completed to the cave entrance from the new building. Ten seasonal rangers were employed at this time with a schedule of 13 trips a day leaving on the hour from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. 188

In September the parking area north of the headquarters was enlarged by earthfilling. Work was begun on a trail to the elevator building. 189

* 49 Stat. 378, 383. Section 601. A later act approved June 16, 1938, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to dispose of surplus buffalo and elk in the Wind Cave Game Preserve. 52 Stat. 708.
In December the elevator refused to function properly due to a defective resistance coil and the precipitation of moisture on switches and other controls from the cooling of warm moist air rising through the shaft. It was thought that air-tight doors for the cave elevator entrances would solve the problem but some further difficulty was encountered.\(^{190}\)

In January 1936 the entrance fee to the cave was raised to 75¢ for adults and 15¢ for children 16 and under. The elevator service and the many other improvements were thought to justify the increased cost of the tour. In March rates were set at 75¢ for adults, 25¢ for children 12 to 16, and 15¢ for children 5 to 12.\(^{191}\)

On January 30th Sam Anderson, a CCC enrollee stationed at the Wind Cave camp, was presented with a medal signifying his selection as one of thirty-one "All-American" athletes in the entire Civilian Conservation Corps. He was awarded his medal in recognition of excellent playing on the Wind Cave baseball team during 1935. He captained the Wind Cave team which won the CCC championship of South Dakota in September. At the close of the season of 37 games his batting average was .521.\(^{192}\)

During this period 60 enrollees and four section leaders were engaged in relocating the 7-foot fence surrounding the game animals. The range was being increased to 11,000 acres by moving the fence to the park boundaries. This change would enable park visitors to view the game from the highway without looking through fences giving "much of the thrill experienced by early settlers when wild animal life was still plentiful in this region."\(^{193}\)
The project of running the fence along the park boundary ran into difficulty at the northwest corner of the park when the adjoining rancher, Bob McAdam, objected that it would block an old wagon road he was accustomed to using. The long drawn-out argument was eventually ended by not fencing this area for the time being. The enlarged range was reported to have an affect on the animals:

It was interesting to watch the antelope the first day they found they could get on new range, following removal of part of the old fence north of headquarters. They covered the entire east range in a comparatively short time, running in all directions, but have now settled down to quieter feeding. Only 26 antelope have been seen at any one time.

A roundup of all the buffaloes was made at this time for an accurate count and for the purpose of branding the younger animals. It was found that it was more efficient to roundup the animals with automobiles than with saddle horses. Three cars were used with Superintendent Freeland, John Chambers and Estes Suter driving. All but 13 buffaloes were corralled. They were branded with a small numeral on the left horn, indicating the year of birth. The herd totaled 171 head at this time.

The following news release in February concerned the buffalo herd:

Old "Sandy", the patriarch of the buffalo herd in Wind Cave National Park, finally succumbed recently to the rigors of his twenty-fourth winter in the Black Hills, and with his passing there ended an unusual life for one of his species. There are doubtless hundreds of buffaloes which have been born on the plains or in one of the many buffalo refuges in North America and which have spent their last days in some municipal park or zoo, but "Sandy" was one of the few of his kind to be born in a zoo and to die on the open range. In 1912, when it was decided to establish a buffalo herd in this refuge, the first animals brought into the park were five cows and one three-year-old bull, all shipped by express from the New York Zoological Garden. This young bull, because of his
unusually light color, was soon nicknamed "Sandy," and as his color did not change neither did his name for the balance of his life.

By his fourth or fifth year "Sandy" had developed into an unusually large bull despite his early "city life," and lorded it over his constantly increasing family as bull buffaloes will, retaining his leadership of the Wind Cave herd even after others of his kind had been shipped in from Yellowstone National Park, and seeing his band increase to almost two hundred—one of the few large buffalo herds remaining in the world. This leadership "Sandy" relinquished only a few years ago, when advancing age and waning strength robbed him of first rank among his fellows and finally made of him a lonely old great-grand sire who grazed the rolling grasslands of the park by himself, content to leave the mastery of the herd to the younger bulls.

Late in December Superintendent E. D. Freeland, Ranger Estes Suter, and John Chambers, all of the park staff, found "Sandy" in the northeastern part of the park in such a weakened condition that his days were very apparently numbered. A day or so later this veteran of so many Black Hills winters was still in the same place, so weak that he was unable to rise to his feet, and a merciful death was administered to him.

Permission having been granted by the Director of the National Park Service to donate "Sandy's" remains to the South Dakota State School of Mines, at Rapid City, his skeleton was removed from the park in January by representatives of the school, and within the next several months it will be prepared for mounting as an exhibit in the college museum.197

On March 1st Ranger Suter discovered the "first known cave-in on the regular cave trail. No one had been in the cave for several days so the time of the fall /could/ not be stated. About two cubic yards of rock dropped from the ceiling of the main passageway at the foot of the first straight stairway below the entrance, demolishing a flight of wooden stairs some eight feet long and effectively blocking the trail to ordinary travel. This collapse was undoubtedly the result of the work of frost during and after the severe weather of January and February. A crew of CCC enrollees had cleared away all of the fallen material by the afternoon of the 1st, and the wooden stairway was replaced the next morning."198
Extreme heat (19 days of temperatures 100°F or more) and continued drought combined to decrease park travel by 19.5 per cent under July of the previous year. The increased danger of fire led to the establishment of a fire control checking station on the south side of the park which was manned by CCC enrollees. Out-of-state tourists were stopped and warned regarding the danger of fires. On the 31st a whirlwind started a fire during the burning of a fire guard around the headquarters. About 80 acres was burned, half being within the headquarters fence. The fire was soon under control.199

Rattlesnakes were reported to be far more abundant than in previous years with a large number being killed around the headquarters. On July 17th a visitor, Mr. William D. Timms of Hawthorne, New Jersey, was struck on the leg by a rattlesnake while he was walking to the administration building from the elevator. The accident occurred at eight o'clock in the evening. Mr. Timms was immediately taken to the CCC Camp hospital, where he was treated by the camp physician. "The bite apparently was not serious and Mr. Timms suffered little or no pain, although his mother--suffering from shock at her son's injury--had a slight heart attack and required more attention than Mr. Timms."200

In August the reconstruction of the cave entrance, which had occupied several months, was completed except for landscaping and backfilling. The old trapdoor entrance was replaced by the present natural-looking opening. During July and August the old hourly trip schedule was modified to give better service. Between 9:30 and 4:30, trips also left on
Eighteen-year-old Leona Wilson of Belle Fourche, S. Dakota definitely proved that the blind can "see" when she made a trip through the natural limestone cavern at Wind Cave National Park a few days ago. Although the young woman's blindness was not revealed to park employees before the trip began, she successfully completed the one-hour tour as one of a regular party guided by Temporary Ranger Eugene Pelton.

Miss Wilson showed more actual appreciation and realization of the beauty and delicacy of the cave and its formations than any other member of the party, Ranger Pelton said. She "saw" the delicate fins of the boxwork, the "pearls" of the dripstone, and the minute crystals of the frostwork formations—all with her fingers. The ranger made a special effort to draw her attention to the several distinct types of formation (travertine) found in the cave. Miss Wilson made the 3/4-mile cave trip without noticeable difficulty and without assistance except for the guiding hand of a companion. Upon returning to the surface she expressed a genuine appreciation and thorough understanding of the cave and its formations.201

On November 6th the Wind Cave Quartet, composed of enrolled men at Camp Wind Cave, journeyed to Rapid City to broadcast a 15-minute program over a local radio station. They were accompanied by Supt. and Mrs. Freeland. The latter had trained the young men and played the piano accompaniments. They won several contests in the succeeding months.202

In November a new concrete stairway replaced the old wooden one just inside the cave entrance.203 Shortly thereafter the rewiring of the long route in the cave began. The original wiring of 1931 withstood the cave moisture for only two seasons. In February the lighting of the Blue Grotto section was almost completed. Cables and fixtures were hidden as much as possible.204
At this time remodeling of the Ranger Club House was occurring. Part of the superintendent's old dwelling was being converted into a residence while the remainder would become a dormitory for the rangers. In July 1937 an attempt was made to give visitors an improved cave tour. Trips left every half hour as formerly but after the short tour the guides asked their parties if they would like to see more of the cave and, if answered in the affirmative, would then lead them on the long route and through the Blue Grotto—the whole trip lasting about two hours. This was made possible by the reopening of the Fair Grounds route which had been closed for some time. People in wheel chairs were also given a chance to see the cave via the elevator. It was planned to have wheel chairs located at the elevator building for this purpose.

In the summer of 1938 the second annual encampment of Sioux Indians from the Pine Ridge Reservation occurred July 7th to 11th. The Indians made camp in a little meadow two miles north of headquarters. "On the 7th a buffalo was killed for them and the process of butchering, dividing of the meat and the cooking of meat in the paunch in the afternoon attracted many interested visitors.... Each evening the Indians danced around the camp fire and the dances were attended by several hundred people. The encampments did not become a tradition at Wind Cave, however, this being the last one.

During September the new elevator building, upon which work had begun the preceding December, neared completion. Built entirely by the CCC, it
was a beautiful structure of cream-colored native sandstone.

At one time during the erection of the elevator building... it was necessary to shut down the power plant in order that workmen laying stone in the vicinity of the transformer room would not be endangered by high voltage wires. This necessitated the use of lanterns for lighting in the cave for a few trips, and forced visitors to climb over a hundred feet of stairway in order to get out of the cave, a circumstance which had not occurred since the installation of the elevator in 1935. Rangers and visitors were dramatically reminded of the days when such a lighting arrangement was taken for granted, when visitors doggedly climbed out of the cave on every trip. On one trip, during the power shut-down, after having covered about half of the scheduled trip, the lights suddenly flashed on, illuminating the trail and distant recesses of the cave. The party was amazed at the charm and appropriateness of the illumination and the effect that the lantern light could not begin to give.206

In October the annual buffalo roundup occurred. As in years past, vehicles were used to herd the animals. A complete filming of the roundup was made by Movie-Tone News to be released a short time later. The buffalo count stood at 288 head.209 During August it had been determined from test plots that approximately 3,353 tons of feed were produced on the open range during the growing season and that approximately 1,678 tons were consumed by the wildlife during that period.210 Toward the end of the year 64 buffalo were shipped to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation for restocking its herd. This was part of the policy of maintaining the Wind Cave herd at the size suitable for the capacity of the range.211

In January 1939 a scale model of a longitudinal section of the cave was made for display in the lobby of the administration building. Representing 140 feet of passageway at approximately the 200 foot level,
preparations for the model consisted of taking a profile of the area to be represented with cross sections about every three feet. The negative was built out of common molding plaster on a scale of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to one foot. This was greased and the cast made. Coloring of the interior of the model was accomplished by mixing with water clay and limestone from the cave itself.212

On March 20, 1939 Superintendent Freeland left Wind Cave for his new assignment as Coordinating Superintendent of the Southeastern National Monuments and Acting Superintendent Howard B. Strickling took over until May 26 when Harry J. Liek became superintendent.213

At this time, after consultation with the Regional and Washington offices and the Smithsonian Institute, an area on Beaver Creek was set aside for an archeological investigation. The finding of several skulls and parts of skeletons had led to the belief that it was the site of an early Indian burial ground. No excavation was planned until funds were available for an archeologist to be assigned to the project. *

* The following news release was made in December 1938:

Early Black Hills history records many instances of Indian raids on communities and homesteads and the killing of solitary prospectors and trappers. Stories are common of persons who were presumably attacked and killed by Indians while traveling alone, and whose remains were never found.

Whether or not the individual whose skeleton was uncovered in Wind Cave National Park on December 5 suffered such a fate is not known, but the fact that no traces of a coffin or orderly arrangement of the bones was found, would indicate the possibility of an extremely informal burial. The skull was turned up by a CCC crew about three miles from Park headquarters on Beaver Creek, under about two feet of earth. Several Indian arrowheads and chips previously had been found near the spot. Further search
During the summer a very severe drought made necessary a reduction in the size of the buffalo herd. 57 animals were sent to nearby Indian reservations and dude ranches leaving 115 head in the park herd. A special allotment of $1,000 was received for the purchase of feed for the buffalo and elk. 214

In August the power plant broke down and for several months the cave lights and elevator could not be used. The park was just short of electrification by the REA from Custer when the war ended the project for the duration. The old plant was patched together and gave a degree of service through the war. 215

In April 1941, after many months of stone-cutting and construction, the stone guardrails along the parking areas north and south of the administration building were completed by CCC labor. 216 The old CCC camp buildings were being torn down as the men had been transferred to other camps. In October the side camp at Wind Cave was closed after operating 20 months. It was resumed for a short time but in March the old CCC camp was completely obliterated. 217

On April 16th 1942 the entrance fee to Wind Cave was reduced to 50¢ and the 15¢ charge for children 5 to 11 was eliminated. It was hoped

uncovered the jawbone, containing several well preserved teeth, arm and leg bones, knuckle and foot bones, a part of the vertebrae and one small piece of a rib. The skull will be sent away for analysis in an effort to discover the age and sex of the person, and to determine, if possible, the approximate date of death and whether the person was white or Indian. Monthly Narrative Report, December 1938. March 1939 Monthly Narrative Report.
that this would encourage a larger percentage of park visitors to make
the cave tour.

The advent of the national emergency was soon felt at the park. Travel in the spring was decidedly lower than in previous years. Many of the seasonal rangers entered the armed forces. The CCC forces, which had done so much to improve the park, curtailed their activities. The first casualty of the war involving park personnel occurred in December 1942 when 1st Lt. Floyd E. Love, a former seasonal ranger in 1939 and 1940, was reported missing in action on the European Front. He had been a Flying Fortress pilot.

In June 1942 moving pictures showing methods to be used in combating incendiary bombs and forest fires were shown to all park personnel and their families. During the winter an experimental sawdust burner was installed in the principal clerk's residence to determine the feasibility of the method of economy. Savings were found to be substantial and they were installed in the other residences as a contribution to the war effort.

In August two murals painted by wildlife artist Walter Weber were received. Each was 5 feet by 8 feet, one showing an elk herd in the northwestern part of the park with Mount Coolidge in the background and the other depicting the buffalo herd with Buffalo Gap in the distance.

A new problem for superintendents of national parks was reported in the summer of 1943:

Airplanes from the various bases in South Dakota, Nebraska and Wyoming have been noted in constantly increasing numbers over the park area. One two-motored bomber, or transport, spent an hour zooming down to within 50 feet of the residences and the
buffalo herd. The buffalo herd was stampeded and broken up and the animals were rather "cagy" for several days. The nearby bases were contacted and disclaimed any knowledge of the plane, stating that only four-motored planes were attached to such fields. It is not possible to positively identify the planes as the numbers are no longer placed where they are visible to ground observers.  

In March 1944 a diesel power unit was transferred to the park from Mount Rainier National Park to replace the old, increasingly unsatisfactory unit which had been used since 1935. On July 26, 1945 the electric system was considerably damaged by a severe electric storm. One transformer was shorted, one large fusebox completely destroyed, and two sections of cave lights were out of commission for five days.

With the coming of VJ Day and the termination of gasoline rationing a great influx of travel occurred. The travel for the second half of August was 283.46% above that for the first half. Resort hotels and cabin camps throughout the Black Hills were filled to capacity and in many instances people were turned away.

In February 1946 a large leaning rock fractured just above its base and came down blocking the cave trail. This was at elevation 3977 and was the second large rock to come down between elevations 4080 and 3977 within three years, a cave in having occurred in March of 1943. The rock weighed about eight tons and it was necessary to break up and remove the resultant debris.

A few months later the park was visited by a storm with a heavy 7\(\frac{1}{2}\) inch rain which caused a flood doing $10,000 to $15,000 damage in the park. Water and sewer lines were damaged as well as the park telephone.
lines, the first five-hundred feet of electric wires in the cave were washed out and destroyed, 10 flood gates were obliterated, sections of the north-south highway were washed out as well as park trails and walks, and many sections of fence were destroyed. The cave was closed for three days and all personnel placed on emergency work. 228

President Truman approved a bill in August to divide up the Custer Recreational Demonstration Area between Wind Cave and other public areas. The gross acreage of Wind Cave National Park was thus increased from 11,718.17 to some 28,059 acres. The new areas could not be utilized by the game herds, however, until new boundary fences were constructed but the policy of allowing grazing by permit was ended on the land acquired. 229

In November, at long last, the Black Hills Light and Power Company completed construction of the long-awaited electrical system and the park received 24-hour service for the first time. It was found that the cost was considerably lower than that of the diesel unit. 230

At this time considerable publicity was given the park when a collision occurred between a Burlington Trailway Bus and a buffalo bull. 231

Some difficulty with poachers on park land occurred at this time. Night patrols were run in an effort to halt this practice but the problem continued for a decade. 232 The antelope suffered the most from this depredation. By 1951 there numbers were down to one male and some 50 females but in January 12 bucks were received from a surplus at Yellowstone. The range was being enlarged at this time by construction of a boundary fence for the enlarged park. 233
The park wildlife was receiving considerable attention at this time. John King, a graduate student at the University of Michigan, did a three-year study of the prairie dog colony located in Shirttail Canyon which he completed in 1951.\textsuperscript{234}

Approximately 100 head of buffalo escaped from the park and mingled with the Custer State Park herd in April. The transient elk herd was creating the biggest problem, however. At one time 1,300 head were counted in the park and it was believed the various bands had all migrated onto park lands.\textsuperscript{235} In February 1952 efforts were made to drive some of the elk into Custer State Park using aircraft, jeeps, horseback riders, etc. Between 500 and 700 elk were driven to the north boundary at Highland Creek but fence openings were poorly located and none of the animals entered the state park. Later some elk were baited across the boundary.\textsuperscript{236}

On September 11, 1951 a roundup of the park wild horse herd was held. 26 animals were impounded and detailed descriptions and brands were secured so that owners could be located.\textsuperscript{237}

In the spring of 1952 a party of four technicians, authors, photographers and research specialists headed by Erwin L. Verity entered the park to make sound recordings and photograph prairie dogs, buffalo and antelope for a new Walt Disney movie short, patterned after "Beaver Valley" and "Olympic Elk." Tom McHugh made a buffalo behavior study while photographing the herd. He returned in the fall and in February of 1953 to photograph the prairie dogs in their winter environment. In
August Warren Garst of Walt Disney Productions, Inc., brought three black-footed ferrets to the park, having purchased them near Phillip, South Dakota, at a cost of $225 each. The ferrets were used in connection with photographing of the Shirttail Canyon prairie dog town. Two of them escaped and the third was released later, thus stocking the park with this rare animal. This picture was eventually entitled "The Vanishing Prairie" and the world premiere was held in Hot Springs on August 17, 1954. The majority of the wildlife species and scenes were shot in Wind Cave National Park. \[238\]

In May 1952 Mr. and Mrs. William Anderson of Educator Films began photographing a film to be entitled the "Grass Lands Story." All forms of wildlife, birds, and insects were included. While photographing a skunk in his natural environment Mr. Anderson was sprayed thoroughly and was forced to come out of Shirttail Canyon in his shirttail. The Andersons returned in 1953 to complete their film. Their work was connected with the Encyclopedia Britannica. \[239\]

Other wildlife items during this period include the sighting of a mountain lion in March 1953 near the west boundary. \[240\] In 1955 431 buffalo were counted in the park, using a helicopter from Ellsworth Air Force Base. Reduction was carried out a short time thereafter. \[241\] That summer the park range was described as being comparable to the natural range found by the first pioneers--"the grass was stirrup high." \[242\] A wild turkey was observed near the cave entrance the following April, probably from Custer State Park where they had been introduced earlier. \[243\]
Acting Superintendent William J. Watson succeeded Superintendent Harry J. Liek on May 9, 1950. He served until succeeded by Superintendent Earl M. Semingsen, who took charge on August 2, 1951.

In May 1952 the fire lookout station on Rankin Ridge neared completion. It consisted of a 40 foot cedar pole surmounted by a crows nest. The station was manned on a part-time basis on days of critical fire danger. In 1956 a steel tower replaced the original tower.\(^2\)\(^4\)

In September 1952 the fire danger rose until on the 27th a telegram was sent the Regional Office notifying it of a fire danger of 95%. On the 30th a fire, caused by a road oil distributor explosion which sprayed the dry grass along the roadside with hot soot and sparks, raced over an area of approximately 505 acres before being brought under control. 185 men and many tanker and pumper units furnished by volunteer fire departments in the Black Hills fought the fire. The estimated cost of the fire was $8189.44.\(^2\)\(^5\)

January 9, 1953 marked the Golden Anniversary date for the establishment of Wind Cave National Park. Advance press releases to all Black Hills newspapers were prepared. Forty businessmen, friends and representatives of civic organizations from Hot Springs, Custer, Buffalo Gap and Pringle, South Dakota visited park headquarters to express their appreciation and good wishes to the National Park Service. The Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce prepared a flatteringly worded scroll which was presented to the superintendent by Ex-Governor Leslie Jensen. The visitors were entertained by the superintendent's wife at a reception after brief
In November a party of Sioux Indians from Pine Ridge presented Superintendent Semingsen with a Buffalo Head Dress during a colorful ceremony at park headquarters. Congressman E. Y. Berry and Mrs. Berry, Duane McDowell, secretary to Senator Mundt, and a group of Hot Springs citizens attended. The superintendent was adopted into the Sioux Tribe and given the Sioux name "Totonka To-kah Key," meaning, "Leading Buffalo." Congressman Berry, Chief Ben Chief and the superintendent gave talks at the ceremony.

A unique joint club meeting of the Igloo and Hot Springs Kiwanis Clubs was held in the Assembly Room of the cave on the evening of May 25, 1954. 54 people attended and were served a buffaloburger dinner, cafeteria style, by Concessioner M. C. Gideon. Photographs and a news article were sent to the Kiwanis publication.

In June Secretary of the Interior, Douglas McKay, and Mrs. McKay, and secretary visited the park.

In the summer of 1955, 45 minute tours were added to the schedule for the first time as an alternative to the 1½ hour trips. Other improvements for visitors included an interpretive slide program in the auditorium. This was first offered in 1952 as a half hour program and was later shortened.
deposition on the frostwork ledges, a "black light" was installed in the Fair Grounds in 1956. A short time later flood lights were established in the Temple to make possible amateur photography.

After research into early records by Ranger Harold Jones in 1952-53 and careful estimates of years where records were lacking, it was found that the millionth visitor through Wind Cave would occur during the 1955 travel season. On August 10th Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Bell and daughter Pamela of McDonald, Kansas were recorded as the 1,000,000, 1,000,001, and 1,000,002 park visitors to be conducted on a tour of Wind Cave since its discovery in 1881. The Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and local businessmen entertained the Bells with all expenses paid, during their two-day visit in this vicinity.

In 1956 an interesting discovery was made which was but another sign that Wind Cave is probably much more extensive than presently known:

A long-forgotten breathing hole into Wind Cave was rediscovered on February 16 by Park Ranger Aaberg and Park Naturalist Bryant. The discovery was made under peculiar circumstances. Only occasionally are conditions just right to cause conspicuous column of condensed moisture to rise from the cave entrance. February 16 was such a day with proper conditions—sub-zero cold and a strong wind rushing out of the cave entrance. Only one known natural entrance to Wind Cave has been described in the literature. However, during a visit to Wind Cave in 1955, oldtimer Elmer McDonald (son of one of the cave's early operators) confided that he had once found another small opening up the side draw NW of the cave entrance. Realizing that the opening would be difficult to find, it was thought that conditions on February 16 were such that locating the opening might be easier. After careful searching up the draw, a small waft of condensed water vapor was spotted coming from beneath a large rock, and thus the opening was rediscovered. The location is approximately 200 yards up the side draw from the cave entrance. Excavation will be necessary to explore this passage and to determine its relationship to the rest of the cave. This passage is not near any of the explored part of the cave.
In June 1956 the office safe in the headquarters building was burglarized. Thieves got away with $1,282.75.256

In September Highway 87, linking Wind Cave and Custer State Park with a surfaced road, was opened with appropriate ceremonies. This would make more accessible to the ever-increasing traffic the northern areas of the park.257

Wind Cave was now 75 years old--that is in human terms it had reached the respectable seniority of three score and ten and more. The brachiopods and the Pahasapa limestone might smile from their 300 million year dignity at this upstart reckoning but 1881 was as clearly a birthday or birth-year as any in the slow evolution of the underground enchantment. Casually discovered, called a mine, exploited, partially despoiled, fought over, neglected, it is not strange that there is occasionally a neurotic cave-in display of bad temper now that she has come into her own. The early days were colorful but had those conditions continued there would probably be no reason to stop at Wind Cave today; the beauties would have disappeared. The first thirty years of governmental supervision served primarily to preserve Wind Cave until the day should come when appreciation would bring funds for development. Since about 1930 preservation has been joined by development and the park has made rapid strides toward fulfilling its status as an area of national interest. As the first 75 years were drawing to a close, a great program of development was beginning, Mission 66, which would assure that many more millions would someday be able to enjoy the surface and subterranean beauties of Wind Cave National Park.
24. Ibid.
25. Ibid.
26. Ibid., January 23, 1891.
27. Interview with Mrs. Irene E. Long, August 23, 1957.
28. This copy was also contributed by Gladys Moss Bingham.
30. Interview with Bob McAdam, August, 1957.
31. Letter from Catherine Stabler Rose, April, 1957.
34. Letter from Catherine Stabler Rose, April, 1957.
35. Undated statement contributed by Mrs. Irene E. Long, Authorship unknown.
36. Custer County Courthouse, Office of the Clerk of Courts.
37. Ibid.
39. Letter from Catherine Stabler Rose, April, 1957.
40. Custer County Courthouse, Office of the Clerk of Courts.
42. Interview with Bob McAdam, July, 1958.
43. Letter from Dr. R. W. Calkins, May 16, 1952.
44. Interview with Bob and Fanny McAdam, August, 1957.
45. Custer County Courthouse, Office of the Clerk of Courts.
46. James W. Fowler, article entitled "Wind Cave" in an unknown newspaper dated April, 1929.
47. WASO NPS, Microfilm Records of Wind Cave National Park, NIS-328.
49. WASO NPS, Microfilm Records of Wind Cave National Park, NIS-328.
50. Ibid.
51. Ibid.
52. Interview with Floyd G. Bond, July 13, 1957.
53. Interview with Bob and Fanny McAdam, August, 1957.
54. Letter of Catherine Stabler Rose, April, 1957.
55. Interview with Bob McAdam, August, 1957.
57. The Private Account, February 3, 1891.
58. Ibid., and an undated newspaper article in a Rock City, Ill. newspaper, contributed by Catherine Stabler Rose.
60. Interview with Mrs. George M. Smith and Mrs. Mary Gregory, July 7, 1958.
62. Interview with Mrs. George M. Smith and Mrs. Mary Gregory, July 3, 1958.
63. Ibid.
64. Letter from Catherine Stabler Rose, April, 1957.
65. E. C. Horn, Mazes and Marvels of Wind Cave, p. 16.
66. Ibid., p. 15.
68. Ibid., pp. 6-7.
69. Ibid., pp. 8-14.
70. Ibid., pp. 34-35.
72. A photo-copy is in the "History File" at park headquarters.
73. Ibid.
74. WASO NPS, Microfilm Records of Wind Cave National Park, NIS-328.
75. An example was donated by Bob McAdam.
76. WASO NPS, Microfilm Records of Wind Cave National Park, NIS-328.
77. Ibid.
78. Letters from Edmund B. Rogers, April 7, 1952 and C. A. Wilson, October 18, 1951.
79. Letter from Catherine Stabler Rose, April, 1957.
80. Undated statement contributed by Mrs. Irene E. Long, authorship unknown.
82. Interview with Bob and Fanny McAdam, August, 1957.
83. WASO NPS, Microfilm Records of Wind Cave National Park, NIS-328.
84. Ibid., Letter of August 3, 1903.
85. Ibid., and interview with Bob and Fanny McAdam, August, 1957.
86. Ibid., dated August 29, 1903.
87. Ibid., dated December 21, 1903.
88. Ibid., dated December 24, 1903.
89. Ibid.
90. Interview with Carl and Friede Sanson, July 2, 1958.
91. WASO NPS, Microfilm Records of Wind Cave National Park, NIS-328, dated December 16, 1903.
92. Ibid., dated February 1, 1904.
93. Ibid., dated February 24, 1904.
94. Ibid., dated February 2, 1904 and May 23, 1904.
95. Ibid., dated March 29, 1904 and April 17, 1904.
96. Ibid.
97. Ibid.
98. Interview with George Howell, June 26, 1958.
99. WASO NPS, Microfilm Records of Wind Cave National Park, NIS-328.
100. Ibid.
101. Ibid.
102. Ibid.
103. Ibid.
104. Ibid., dated December 4, 1906.
105. Ibid., dated April 1, 1905 and May 1, 1905.
106. Ibid., dated December 2, 1907.
107. Interview with Bob and Fanny McAdam, November 17, 1951.
108. WASO NPS, Microfilm Records of Wind Cave National Park, NIS-328.
109. Ibid.
110. Letter from Rufus J. Pilcher, undated.
111. Ibid.
112. Ibid.
113. Ibid.
114. WASO NPS, Microfilm Records of Wind Cave National Park, NIS-328.
115. Ibid.
118. Letter from Rufus J. Pilcher, October 19, 1952.
119. Ibid.

121. History File, park headquarters.


123. WASO NPS, Microfilm Records of Wind Cave National Park, NIS-328.


127. WASO NPS, Microfilm Records of Wind Cave National Park, NIS-328.

128. Ibid.

129. Ibid.

130. Ibid.


134. Ibid., p. 1045.

135. WASO NPS, Microfilm Records of Wind Cave National Park, NIS-328.

136. Ibid.

137. Ibid.


139. ARAR, WASO NPS, Microfilm Records of Wind Cave National Park, NIS-328.


143. WASO NPS, Microfilm Records of Wind Cave National Park, NIS-328.


145. WASO NPS, Microfilm Records of Wind Cave National Park, NIS-328.

146. Ibid.

147. Ibid.

148. Ibid.


150. WASO NPS, Microfilm Records of Wind Cave National Park, NIS-328.

151. Ibid.

152. Ibid.

153. Ibid.

154. Ibid.

155. Ibid.


157. WASO NPS, Microfilm Records of Wind Cave National Park, NIS-328.


159. WASO NPS, Microfilm Records of Wind Cave National Park, NIS-328.

160. Ibid.

161. Ibid.

162. Ibid.

163. Ibid.

164. Report of the Director of the NPS to the Secretary of the Interior for FY 1926 and the Travel Season 1926, p. 119.

165. Ibid., p. 118

166. Press Release of October 22, 1926 from Wind Cave National Park.
167. Monthly Narrative Report, August, 1926. Hereafter abbreviated "MNR."

168. MNR, January, 1927.


170. MNR, July, 1928.

171. Ibid.


176. Press Release from Wind Cave National Park, May 16, 1930.


178. MNR, October, 1931.


180. Ibid.

181. Ibid.

182. Ibid.

183. MNR, July and September, 1934.


185. Ibid.

186. MNR, October, 1935.


188. MNR, July, 1935.

189. MNR, September, 1935.

190. MNR, December, 1935.
191. MNR, January and March, 1936.

192. MNR, January, 1936

193. Ibid.

194. MNR, March, 1936.

195. Ibid.

196. MNR, February, 1936.

197. Ibid.

198. MNR, March, 1936.

199. MNR, July, 1936.

200. Ibid.

201. MNR, August, 1936.

202. MNR, November and December, 1936.

203. MNR, November, 1936.

204. MNR, January and February, 1937.

205. MNR, March, 1937.

206. MNR, July, 1937.

207. MNR, July, 1938.

208. MNR, September, 1938.

209. MNR, October, 1938.

210. MNR, August, 1938.

211. MNR, November and December, 1938.

212. MNR, January, 1939.

213. MNR, March and May, 1939.

214. MNR, December, 1939.

215. MNR, August, 1939 and June, 1942

216. MNR, April, 1941.
217. MNR, April, October, November, 1941 and March, 1942.
218. MNR, April, 1942.
219. MNR, January, 1943.
220. MNR, June, 1942.
221. MNR, December, 1941.
222. MNR, August, 1942.
223. MNR, June, 1943.
224. MNR, March, 1944.
225. MNR, July, 1945.
226. MNR, August, 1945.
227. MNR, February, 1946 and March, 1943.
229. Ibid. and MNR, August, 1946.
230. Ibid.
231. MNR, November, 1946.
232. MNR, September, 1946.
233. MNR, January, 1951.
235. MNR, April, 1951.
236. MNR, February, 1952.
237. MNR, September, 1951.
238. MNR, April, May, July, 1952; February, August, 1953; and August, 1954.
239. MNR, May and July, 1952 and June, 1953.
240. MNR, March, 1953.
243. MNR, April, 1956.
244. MNR, May, 1952 and May, 1956.
245. MNR, September and October, 1952.
246. MNR, January, 1953.
247. MNR, November, 1953.
249. MNR, June, 1954.
251. MNR, July, 1952.
252. MNR, May, 1952 and April, 1956.
254. MNR, August, 1955.
255. MNR, February, 1956.
256. MNR, June, 1956.
257. MNR, September, 1956.