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First National Bank of Southern Oregon

BEAUTIES OF CAVES

(Continued from Page One)

to wonder. Corridor and causeway, tiny wiggle-hole and immense chamber, the lower caves stretched on and on, every nook and cranny and gallery richly and marvelously decorated by fantastic bric-a-bac and marvelous statuary.

The walls of these caves are of marble, solid and beautiful, and the decorations are of limestone, dissolved and crystallized out of the ice cold water which is everywhere dripping from the walls. These ornaments, odd, quaint, gorgeous, cannot in a word, be described, but it can here be said that they consist of domes, pillars, frostwork, flower gardens, clovery ledges, wonderland cities, remote, unattainable lakes and rivers, ripply beaches, statuary, busts of well known men and women, portraits of Old Nick, great hams and slabs of back, frost encrusted, heads of animals known and unknown, hanging gardens where enormous cabbages are growing side by side with snowy calla lilies.

The order of march through the caves was as follows: A narrow causeway led us from Watson's Grotto to the petrified gardens, where in a large chamber, curious limestone formations resembling vegetables caused many an exclamation of wonder on the part of the travelers. Further on, high above us, so that we had to hold our lights and peer into the darkness hung the gigantic Satan's Cradle.

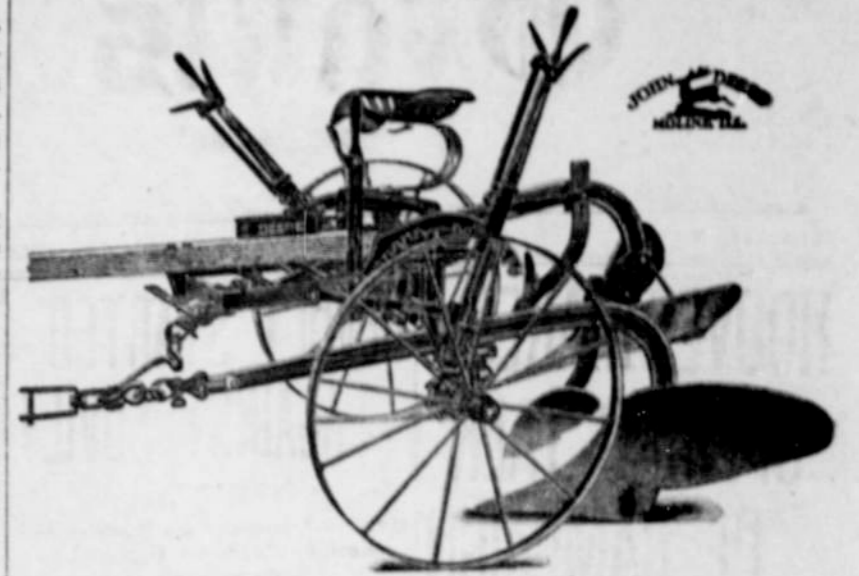
The guide carefully explained that here his satanic majesty is in the habit of rocking to sleep many a little imp, and even crouching therein himself. On hands and knees we crawled along and came presently to the Bee Hive Grotto, where nests of wasps, hornets, mud-daubers of all descriptions hang from the wall. These are, of course, limestone formations, for no bees ever penetrate into this 3300 feet of inky black cavern where the darkness is absolute. It may be added parenthetically that Mr. Rowley in all his travels through the marble halls has never come across any animal life. In his opinion the animal eye, like the human eye, is totally incapable of piercing that total blackness of the earth's interior, and a bear or a cougar would be entirely lost in the caves,

once the animal proceeded a few paces from the entrance.

In order to demonstrate the utterness of this cave darkness, later on

when we were a matter of 1600 feet underground, the guide ordered all of the lights extinguished. It was

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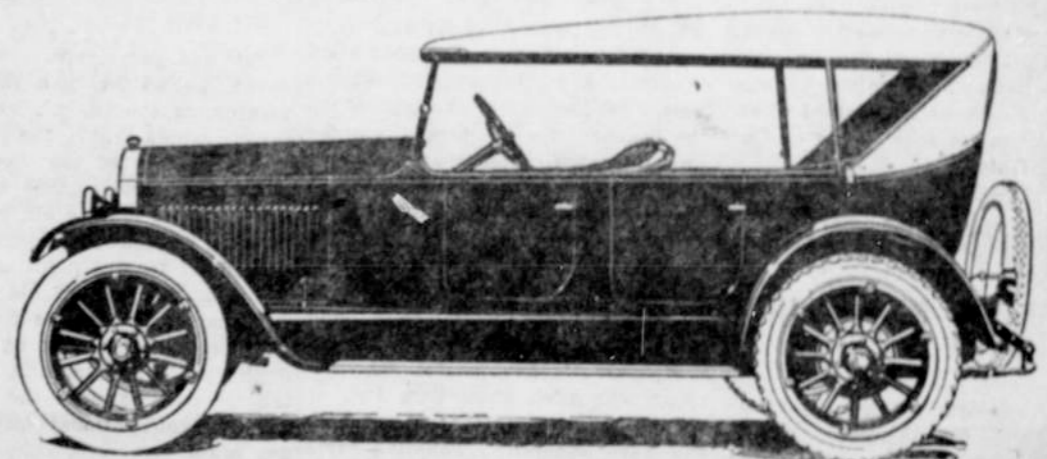
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