UNIQUE FORMATION . . . Among the many spectacular rock formations abounding in Mammoth Cave National park is this "Wall of China."

MECCA FOR VISITORS

Distinctive Cave Formations Abound in New National Park

WNU Features

One of the nation's oldest tourist attractions and ranked second only to Niagara Falls as a mecca for visitors, world-famous Mammoth Cave in Kentucky has been dedicated as a national park.

Mammoth Cave, which boasts more than 150 miles of explored corridors, has been visited by millions of travelers during the past 125 years, according to the national park service of the department of interior.

Earliest reference to Mammoth Cave is dated 1799. Just how long before that date the cave was actually discovered is not known. According to legend, a Green river pioneer named Houchin discovered the cave while pursuing a wounded black bear that took refuge in the cavern.

Many evidences of earlier habitation and use of the cave by Indians have been observed. Among these evidences are several mummies, moccasins, pieces of cloth, bundles of reed torches, ladders, pottery, wooden bowls and various stone and bone implements.

The mummy of an Indian miner, which was found a few years ago, probably dates from the time of Columbus, but certain shell implements which have been discovered in the cave, indicate that it was used by the Indians perhaps 1500 years ago.

The real origin of the cave long antedates man's history and goes back to an early geological era.

The cave's passageways and formations present many distinctive features. On the fifth or lowest level in the cave is the Echo river, 360 feet below the ground's surface. Only a small part of its course has been explored. Blind fish inhabit the river. Strange names, such as the Frozen Niagara, the Hindu Temple, the Lion's Den, have been given to various of the spectacular rock formations.

Owned Cave in 1799

First owner of Mammoth Cave was a man named Valentine Simmons, who was in possession of the cave and 200 acres of surrounding land in 1799. A patent to the 200-acre tract was issued to Simmons in 1812 by Gov. Charles Scott of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

July 9, 1812, was a busy day for speculators at Mammoth Cave. On that single day the caverns changed hands three times. The first sale price was $116.67. Later in the day, it was sold for $400, and again for $3,000. On Aug. 25, 1812, one-half interest in the cave was sold for $10,000 to Hyman Gratz of Philadelphia. The other half was then owned by a Mr. Wilkins of Lexington, Ky.

The unusual interest in this property indicated by these rapid transfers in ownership at great increase in price was due to deposits of nitrate known as saltpeter found on the floors of Mammoth Cave.

Saltpeter, one of the principal ingredients in gunpowder, was given an extraordinary value in 1812 first by the French and British embargoes, which cut off supplies from Europe and later when the United States fought Great Britain. Equipment for bleaching the nitrate was constructed in the cave in 1812 and was operated from then until 1814. Saltpeter from Mammoth Cave contributed largely to American successes in the war.

Discover Formations

During the early mining operations considerable exploration was done inside the cave, which led to the discovery of strange formations and many miles of passageways, and in 1816 the cave was opened for the first time to the public as a scenic attraction.

In 1838 a Mr. Gorin of Glasgow, Ky., purchased the enterprise, and in the following year Mammoth Cave received international fame when the owner's nephew became lost in the underground maze for 39 hours. Private ownership and exhibition of the cave continued for nearly 100 years. Dr. John Croghan, a Louisville physician, acquired the property in 1839 for $10,000, and upon his death 10 years later, the cave was placed in trusteeship for nine nephews and nieces.

Meanwhile there was a growing desire on the part of Kentucky citizens to remove the celebrated cave from private ownership and preserve it for all time as a national park.

In 1924, the Mammoth Cave National Park association was formed at Bowling Green, Ky., and immediately began to collect funds through voluntary donations for the purchase of the cave properties. A bill introduced in congress by Representative Maurice H. Thatcher, authorizing the acceptance of the area by the federal government was signed by President Coolidge on May 25, 1926, and boundaries for the proposed park were set.

Big Cattle Contract Scrawled in Pencil

LUBBOCK, Tex.—Scrawled in pencil on a piece of tablet paper, a million dollar contract recently signed here represents one of the largest cattle transactions for many years.

In an effort to help restock dry Texas ranges, Sam C. Arnett Sr., banker-rancher, and Tobe Foster, oilman-rancher, both of Lubbock, purchased between 12,000 and 13,000 head of cattle valued at approximately one million dollars.

The cattle were bought from the Red River Cattle company of Tucumcari, N. M., through Albert Mitchell. All of the stock was bred by the ranch and bears its brand.

Arnett and Foster plan resale of the cattle to ranchers of this area in small lots to "restock some of these dry ranges out here."

Coins Replace Stones in Wishing Well

PHILADELPHIA — Boys and girls—and adults, too—now toss coins instead of stones in a "wishing well" located in northeast Philadelphia.

The pond, 36 inches deep, was originally constructed by Clifford A. Payton as a landscape project on his property. He put a few fish and turtles in the pond but, to his dismay, found the pond was the keystone of attention for neighborhood boys and girls who threw stones into the water.

Payton removed the fish and turtles. Much to his surprise, he found children — and frequently their parents — returning to the pond to toss in coins instead of rocks.

On the first day after the fish were removed, Payton fished out $6 from the pond. Since then, proceeds have averaged $3 a day.

Farm Topics

New Device Controls 'Cancer' of Buildings

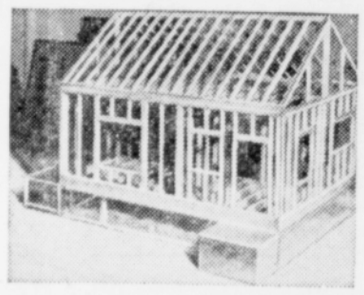
Pipes Enable Chemical To Reach Termites

Termites, the "cancer" of buildings, now can be controlled. Through all the ages the tiny insect that feasts on wood in homes, farm buildings and other structures has been a constant destroyer. Annual property losses run far into the millions.

Ordinary control measures could not get at the intricate tunnels hidden away in difficult and impossible to reach places.

A new device, hailed as an effective means of combatting the destructive pest, was demonstrated at the annual convention of the National Association of Home Builders in Chicago by W. B. Hill of Memphis, Tenn., nationally known as a termite expert.

His method consists of installing a series of slotted pipes at the time of construction in all inaccessible areas, including dirt-filled porches, sun parlors, stoops, steps and fireplaces. Annually a perforated pipe is slipped into the allotted pipes and all hidden areas are treated with a powerful chemical toxic blown through openings in the pipes.



In this novel display, a colony of termites is feasting on the framework in a model home structure. It provides dramatic proof of the destructive ability of the tiny insects.

Hill, who has spent 20 years figuring ways of waging war on the termite, also has devised a display showing live termites at work. Enclosed in glass, his small scale model home has an army of hungry termites actually at work constructing their intricate network of mud tunnels or shelter tubes. It shows the worker, the soldier on guard and the immature, young potential queen who swarms in the spring.

Beware the 'New Look,' Crop Specialist Advises

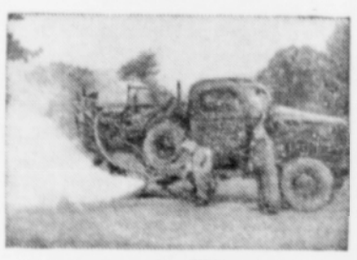
Beware the "new look," especially in crop varieties. That is the advice of Joe Robinson, Iowa State college agronomist.

"New varieties seem to hold some sort of magic charm over many farmers," stated Robinson. "I am happy to see the farmer change to new varieties whenever they can increase his yield but just because a variety carries a new name is no indication of its value."

Robinson pointed out that performance records are more important than newsness.

Selection of suitable hybrid corn varieties creates another problem. Unlike other crops, some hybird corn varieties are produced by only one concern. Eligibility of both the private hybrid lines and the experiment station lines for certification depends on the performance record in a corn yield test.

Mosquito Control



Use of DDT, 2,4-D and other newly-developed weed killers is aiding efforts for mosquito control. Cost of some of the new insecticides, however, makes their use prohibitive on large mosquito breeding areas. Ditching and other more permanent methods still must be resorted to in those areas.

Photo, from the New Jersey agricultural experiment station, shows an aersol fog generator used by a mosquito extermination commission.

Income From Poultry Increases in Nebraska

Sale of poultry and eggs has been accounting for 9 to 12 per cent of the cash farm income in Nebraska, according to figures compiled by J. H. Claybaugh, extension poultryman.

Yearly egg sales have been more than 50 million dollars and as high as 57 million for the past five years. Sales of poultry have averaged more than 20 million, reaching a peak of 27 million

IN THESE UNITED STATES

Revival of County Fairs Features Harvest Time

WNU Features

Long an adjunct of harvest-time festivities throughout the nation, the county fair showed a marked revival this fall after removal of wartime entertainment restrictions.

American fairs were born at a time when farming was the country's predominant interest, explaining the agricultural character which has prevailed at the events.

Fairs are older than the nation itself, Delaware's first fair having been held in 1690 at New Castle. A fair at Baltimore opened in 1745.

Halted by Wars

The War of the Revolution stopped many fairs, including that at Lancaster, Pa., but some were resumed in later years. Fairs held at Parrot's Grove in the suburbs of Washington, D. C., were attended by President and Mrs. Jefferson, cabinet officers and diplomats, but they ended with the War of 1812.

Those early fairs lacked the carnival attractions of today. Agricultural and trade exhibits were dominant. Entertainment features were incidental—itinerant. Punch and Judy shows, wandering Scotch and Irish bagpipers. Peddlers, then covering the country in great numbers, brought their entertaining patter to the fairs.

The farm exhibits have continued through the years. Horses, cattle, sheep and other live stock still compete for blue ribbons. Housewives vie for prizes for the best cakes, canned fruits and vegetables, jellies and pickles, quilts and other needlework.

Sideshows Popular

Before the 20th century, fairs were selling concessions for lunch rooms, ice cream, candy, peanuts and popcorn. These helped to pay the prize money and other expenses. Sideshows behind great pictured canvases lined the "midway."

"Rosco Basco, the wild man" supplied the barker with a mouth-filling name. Machines that measured sledgehammer blows, the boxing kangaroo, the strong man, the bearded lady, and high divers into shallow tanks proved popular.

Away from the noise of the fast-talking ticket sellers, the music of the hurdy-gurdy on the merry-go-round ground out its limited repertoire of gay 90s favorites — "Sweet Marie," "Comrades," "Daisy."

Painting Blouses Is New Pastime For College Coeds

DELAWARE, Ohio—Coeds of Ohio Wesleyan university gazed longingly at those intriguing hand-painted blouses in shop windows. They gazed longingly until a peek at the half-hidden price tags assured them a college budget would permit no such extravagances.

With typical college girl ingenuity, the coeds solved the problem. Now, by the simple expedient of brush-wielding, the coeds not only match the original creations of the store windows but also add a touch of originality by using their own designs.

NEW COED ACTIVITY . . . Brush-wielding coeds of Ohio Wesleyan university finds the new craze for hand-painted blouses both pleasant and profitable

From a small beginning, the blouse-painting craze has developed into an important "extra-curricular" activity, particularly in the home economics and art departments of Ohio Wesleyan.

Bettie Jane Buchanan of Barberton, Ohio, is credited with originating the idea on the campus. An art major, Miss Buchanan started the trend when she made the first hand-painted blouse as a gift for her mother.

Wisconsin Firm Has Bookkeeping Service by Mail

KENOSHA, Wis.—Designed to rescue the struggling small businessman from accounting confusion, a "bookkeeping by mail" service is making headway here. Organized less than a year ago with three clients, Kenosha Business Service now is helping more than 30 varied enterprises solve tangles over profit and loss, income taxes and government forms.

Charles E. Goodell and Earle Munger are operators of the service. Clients now include restaurants, filling stations, bowling alleys, drug stores, retail merchants, taverns and night clubs, automobile dealers and garages, and a printing firm.

Man Pits Strength Against Horse Team

CENTRALIA, Ill.—There's still some dispute on the question of whether a team of horses can dislodge a 200-pound man bracing himself with his heels in a hole in the ground. In the first test, Bob Hill, 254-pound, 6 foot 2 inch tavern operator, won a $100 wager. On the second trial Hill was seriously injured.

"Off We Go"

AVIATION NOTES

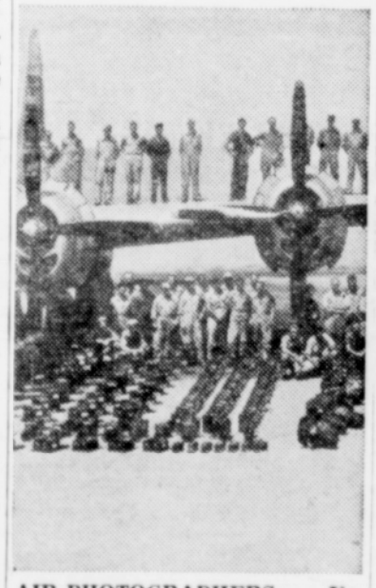
BOOMING BUSINESS

Servicing and supplying the swarm of private airplanes now buzzing in American skies is becoming a big business. Some 2,000 airplane sales and service stations already have sprung up at airports large and small throughout the country. Their services are not confined to gas and oil checks, the major portion of their income being derived from sales of planes, flying instruction and replacing of worn-out parts.

With the present wide interest in personal planes, particularly among ex-servicemen, these operators expect plane sales to be their biggest revenue source for several years. In fact, they expect to chalk up 250 million dollars worth of sales from their one branch alone before the end of 1947.

Total income for the service firms will reach the 350 million dollar mark by the end of next year, it is expected. The estimate covers the multitude of stations, which range in size from small outfits employing one or two men up to mammoth enterprises like Pacific Airmotive corporation, which has 700 employes on its rolls.

Although new plane sales will continue to soar for several years, the operators expect plane maintenance to be a major factor in their future operations. Maintenance men estimate that upkeep and servicing costs on a light, single-engine plane will average $900 yearly for the first five years of its life. After that, yearly upkeep will be nearly half the original price of the craft. Their average price is $3,000.



AIR PHOTOGRAPHERS . . . Using one of their eight F-13 photographic planes as a background, photographers of the army air forces' air photo unit at Bikini atoll line up a few of the many types of aerial and movie cameras used for the atom bomb explosions.

ILLINOIS ADVANCES

During the past year the number of certified civilian airports and landing areas in Illinois has doubled, according to Robert Dewey of the state department of aeronautics. Progress also has been noted in the improvement of existing fields and construction of new airports. Dewey reports that there are now 152 civilian airports and 92 landing areas certificated or in the process of being certificated in the state.

Leading Freight Item

Bituminous coal ranks first in carloadings and tonnage of any freight commodity handled by railroads of the United States. Approximately one-eighth of the freight revenues of American railroads is derived from bituminous coal traffic.

Co-Ops Are Big Business

Membership in farm cooperatives has passed the five million mark, and the business handled totals more than six billion dollars annually. Grain cooperatives have the biggest dollar total.

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