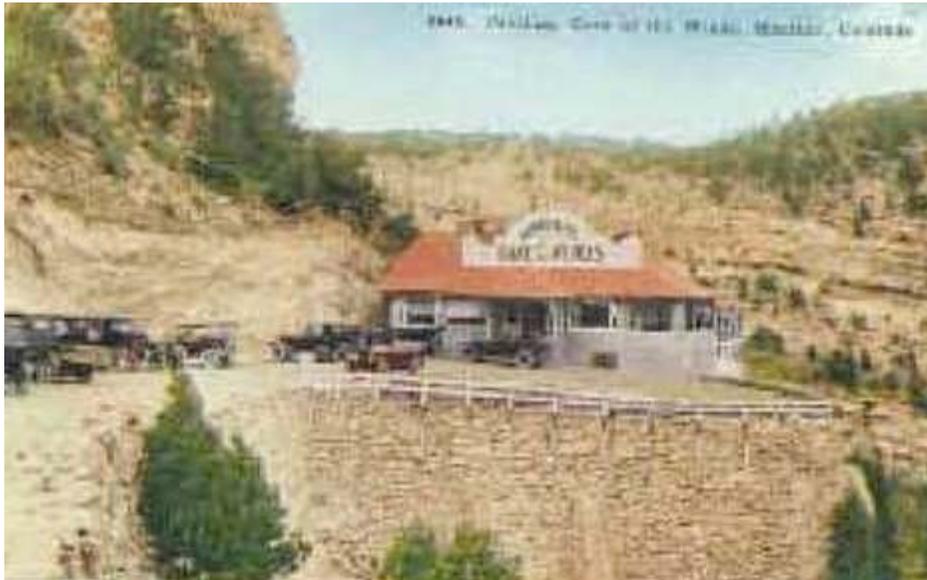


## Cave of the Winds:



### History:

The Cave of the Winds formed inside the Williams Canyon Limestone. This is Ordovician limestone which was formed about 450 million years ago. This is one of many caves in the area.



Original road to the entrance

Many caves were open for public tours but the Cave of the Winds remains the only one open

The cave was named for the moaning sounds that the wind produces when it blows across the main natural entrance. This entrance is located on the cliff face of Williams Canyon.

There is a legend that the Apache tribe migrated through the area, and there is a story that they encountered a cave that they claimed housed the Great Spirit of the Wind. This spirit was known to cause whirlwinds, sand devils, tornadoes and other wind based phenomena.



The Ute tribe had a legend that a Chief and his daughter hid in the archway entrance to the cavern to hide from attacking white men. They were later discovered by the daughter's lover, they had both died of starvation.

In 1869, Arthur B. Love who had homesteaded near the cave, entered the main passage but never opened it.



**Original cave entrance**

In 1870 General William Palmer named Williams Canyon during a ride, it was initially called Manitou Canyon. The Canyon is named after William Truman Williams, who was General Williams guide. The Canyon just north-east (Queens Canyon) was named after General Palmers wife, Queenie.



**The Presidential monument dedication**

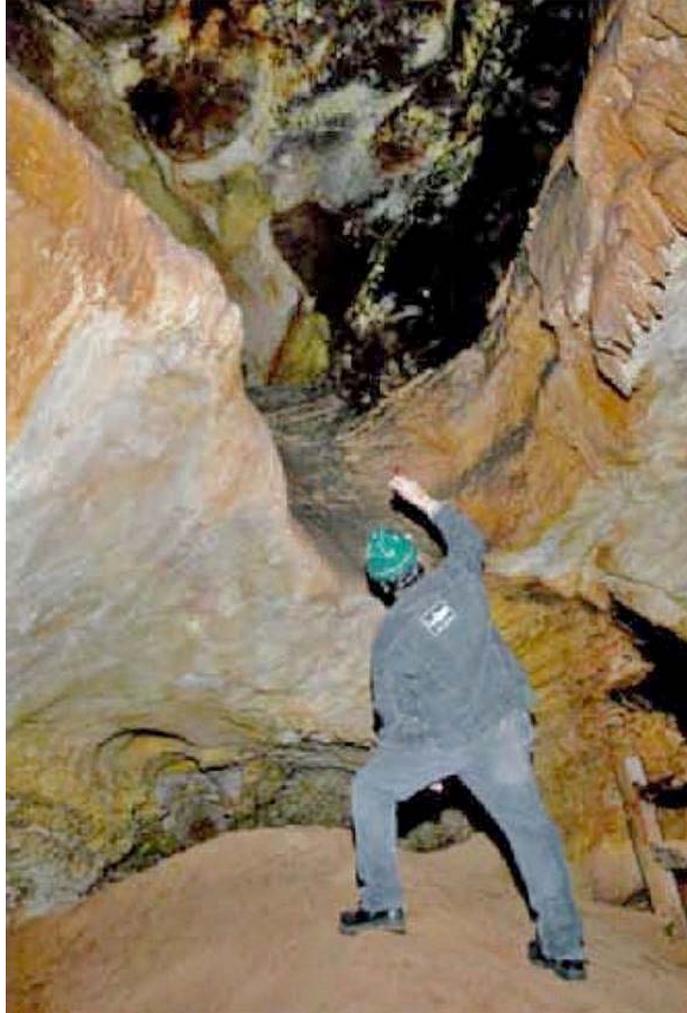
March 1875 – During blasting limestone in the Canyon Mr. Case & Willcutt discovered the opening to the cave. They started public tours, and eventually sold the location to Tom Green in 1876.



1880 – Charles Cross and the Boynton Brothers develop the lower level of the caves into a commercial attraction. They charged an entrance fee of \$1.00, which was apparently too much for the general public. The attraction closed later that year.



1881 – George Snider visited the cave with his brother and their friend Charles Rinehart, they excavated an area and discovered the room known as Canopy hall.



2-26-1881 – The caves are re-opened commercially. They added the floor in Williams hall. The cost of entrance was .50



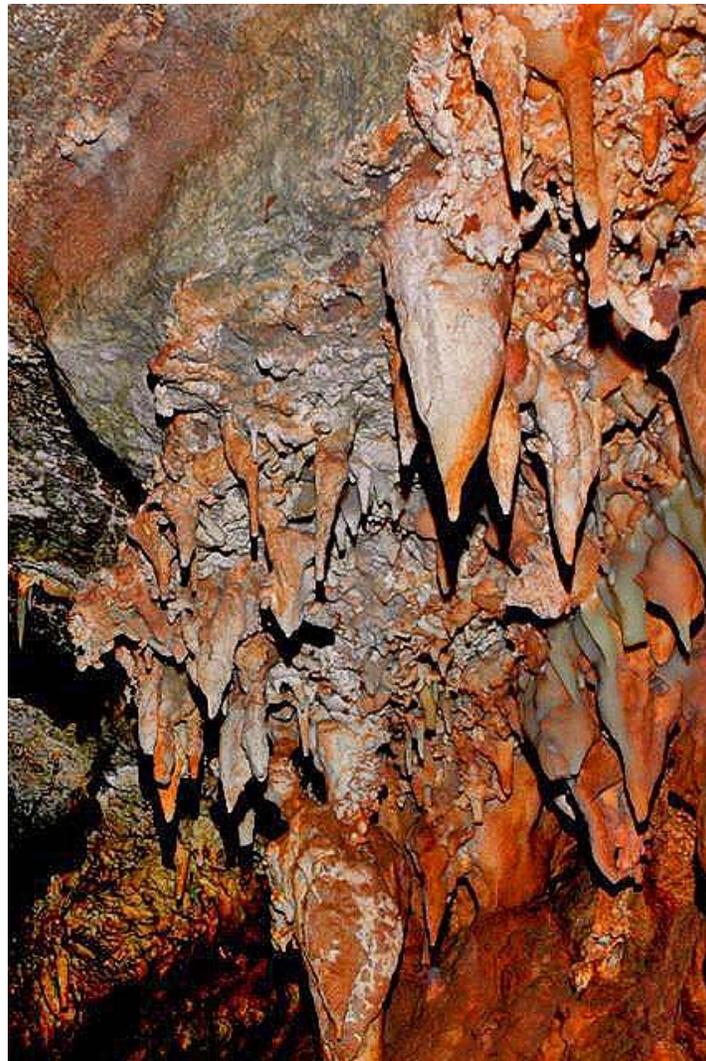
3-7-1885 – The Manitou Grand Caverns is opened to the public. The new road to the caves entrance from rainbow falls along fountain creek was not yet open, so the guests had to take a trail that was over 300 yards long.

4-20-1885 - The price of admission is raised to \$1.00

6-1885 – The cave being Managed by Rinehart opens a new chamber, the Hall of Crystal Flowers. The location is now called the Crystal Palace.

7-24-1885 – A makeshift monument is erected by visitors in the Grand Cavern. They completed three monuments in total and dedicated them to; General Ulysses S. Grant, Abraham Lincoln, and General Robert E. Lee.

10-01-1886 – The first of many lawsuits is filed by Rose Rinehart, the wife of the Cave of the Winds co-owner Charles Rinehart against George Snider. Rinehart charged that the Grand Caverns should be co-managed and owned by both Rinehart and Snider. The case was appealed and re-tried numerous times in the next decade, finally reaching the Colorado Supreme Court in 1894. The high court decided not to hear the case, allowing the earlier decision in favor of Rinehart (who has since died) to stand.



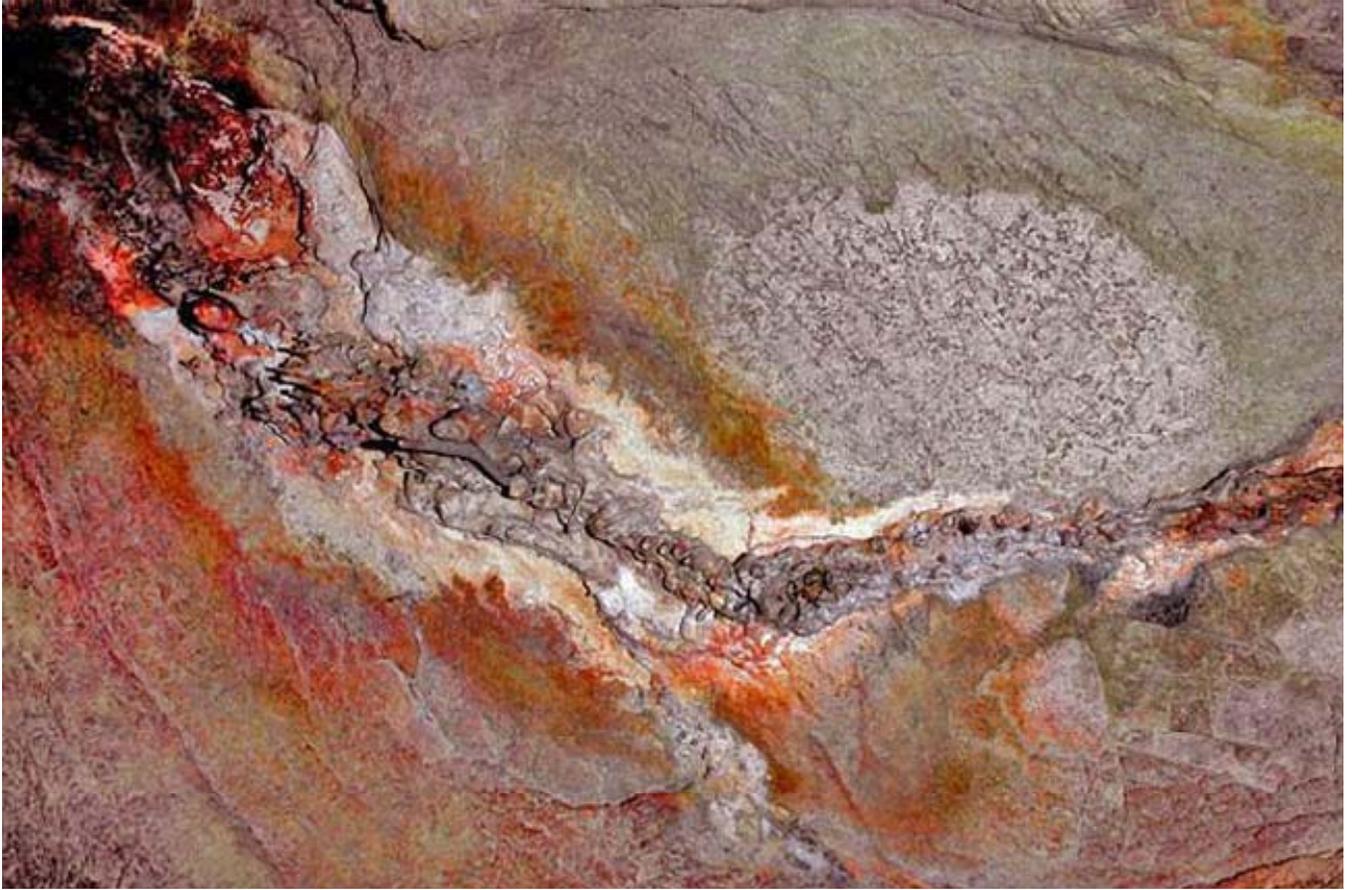
1892 – Middle Cave was discovered by Perry Snider and Charles Austin. Located between the Grand Caverns and the Cave of the Winds, the cave contains several sizable chambers that were well decorated. A few rooms, including Valley of Dreams, Oriental Gardens and the Adventure room are included in the current tour of the Cave of the Winds.



5-4-1892 – Emma Thompson and George Scholtz were married in the Bridal Chamber of the Grand Caverns. This was the first recorded marriage in the Caves.

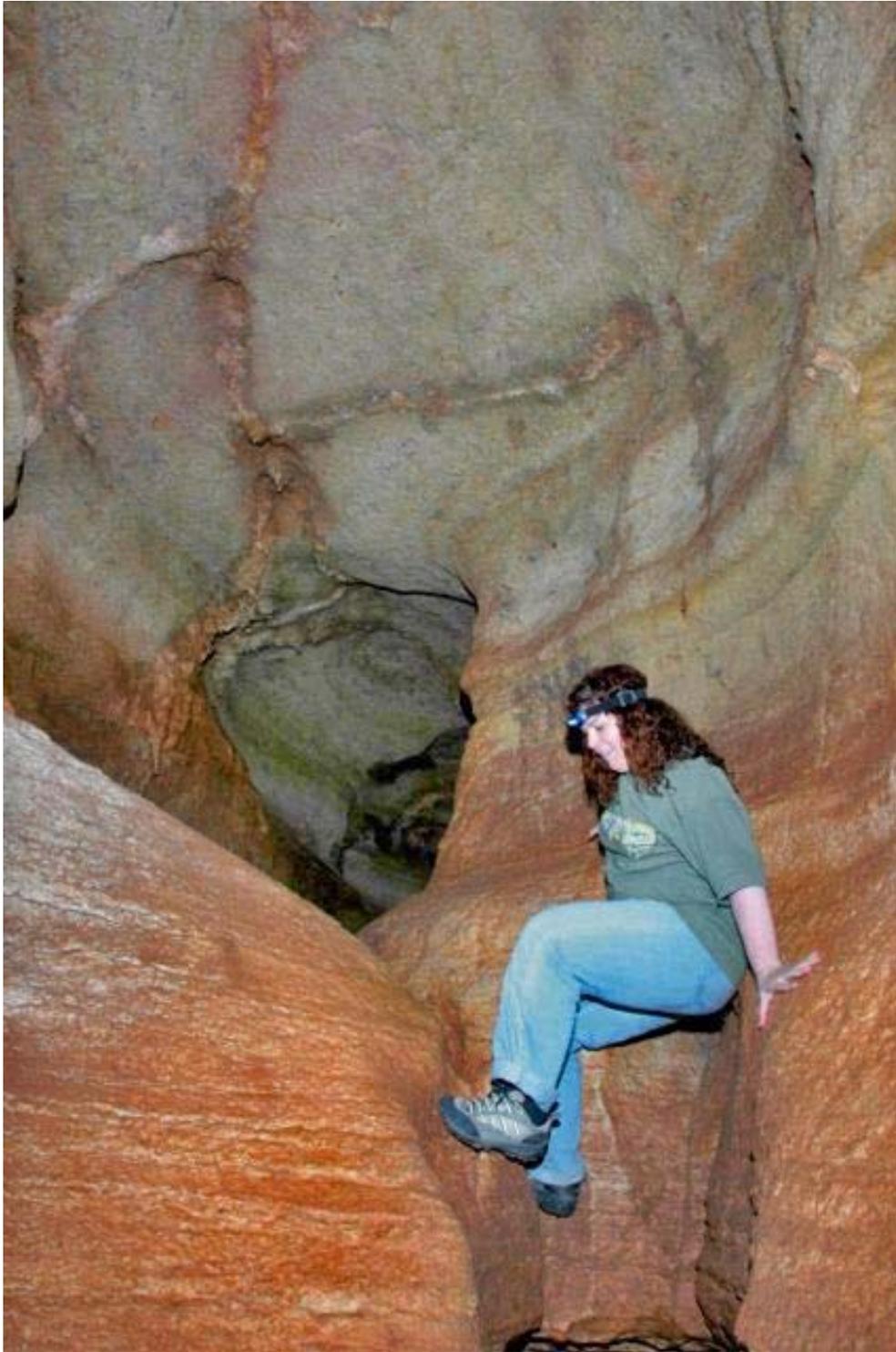


1-22-1895 – Temple Drive is opened to the public. This allowed visitors to drive directly to the new tunnel entrance.



10-11-1904 – The Grand Caverns are temporarily lit with electric lights for a “woodmen of the world” convention. This is the first time that the cavern was lit with electric lights.

1905 – Charles Austin ordered the first restoration of the Cave. W.O. Hooper, an employee of the Cave sprayed hydrochloric Acid throughout the tour route to clean off the past 20 years’ worth of black Magnesium soot.



2-1906 – Five new rooms were opened for the tours. The rooms were; the Crystal Palace, Finlay hall.



1907 – The Grand Caverns does not open for business. The Caves management did not have enough money to light both caves, so they chose to only light the Cave of the Winds.

7-4-1907 – Electric lights were added to the caves. Thomas Edison visited the caves because he was interested in the lighting.



9-13-1910 – John Hague and Alta Davis were married in the Cage of the Winds.

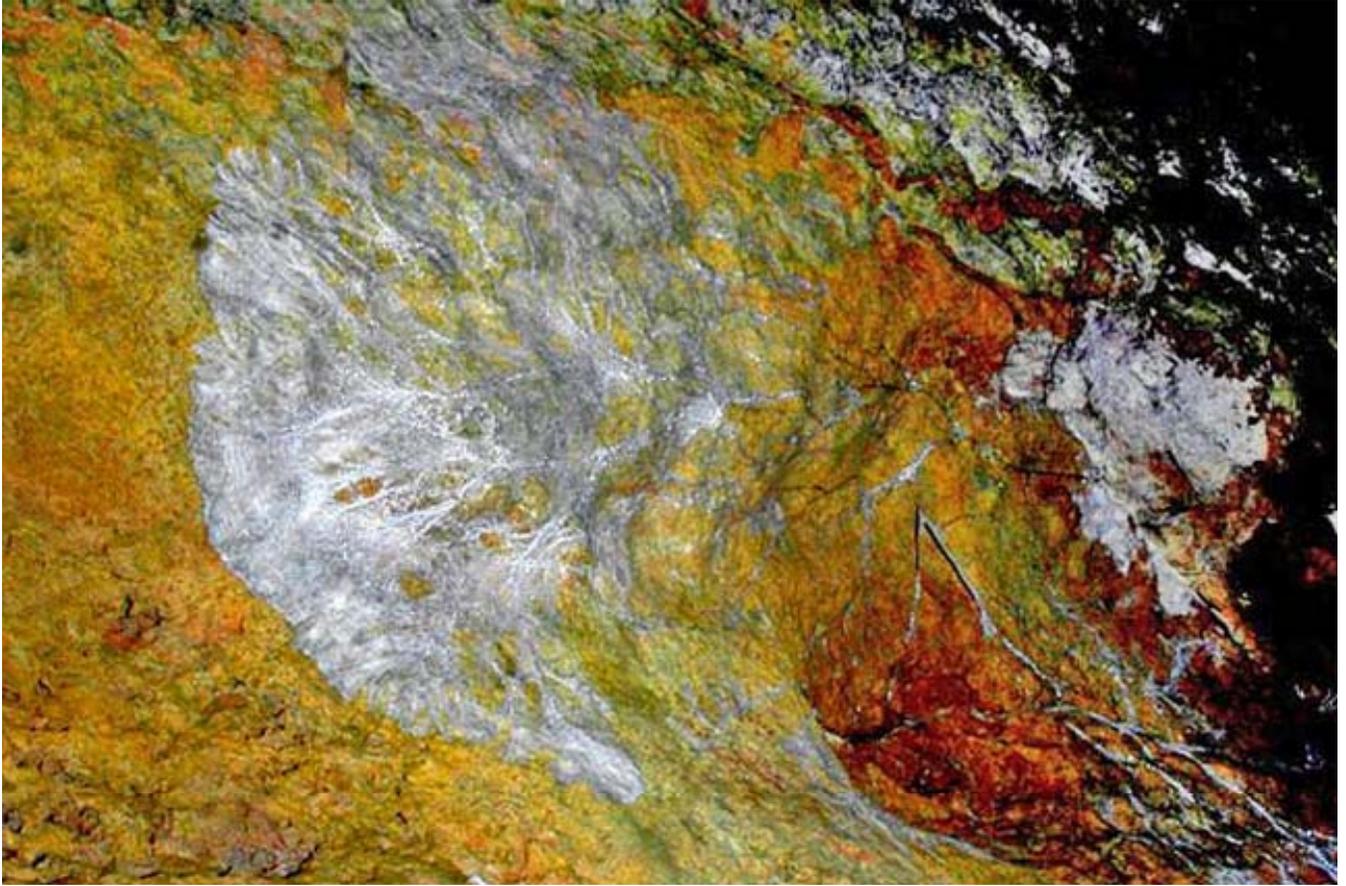
10-1910 – Two unmarried women were touring the cave and were disappointed with a room on the tour, they asked the manager if they could add a small cigar box which unmarried women could place hair pins in hope of finding husbands. The management agreed. The legend is that

the women returned the following year and they were both married. This room is now known as the Old Maid's Kitchen.



1911 – The entrance to the caves were dynamited shut to discourage vandals from damaging the caves.

1911 – The cave was sold to D.H. Rupp, J.F. Sanford and R.D. Weir (7/10/1911) they opened Centipede cave. The new attraction was next to the road that lead to the Cave of the Winds. They charged .50 entrance to the caves.



10-1912 – The entrance to Manitou Cave was smashed open by burglars who stole all of the lamps along the tour route.

10-25-1913 – Charles Austin of the Cave of the Winds, purchased the 65-acre tract of property that contained the Manitou Cave for \$20,000. Weir, Sanford and Rupp finally sold out.



6-12-1914 – Local capitalists purchased Charles Austin's half of the interest in the Cave of the Winds for \$300,000. The remaining half was owned by the Snider family who helped re-organize a corporation to run the caves.



7-30-1915 – The serpentine drive from Manitou to the Cave of the Winds is completed for a total cost of \$8,000

6-26-1921 – George Snider died in Los Angeles, he had sold his interest in the caves in late 1916. His body was brought back to Colorado and buried in the family plot in Evergreen Cemetery in Colorado Springs, in an unmarked grave.



5-22-1929 – A new room is opened in the Cave of the Winds. It was discovered early in 1929 by George Snider's nephew, Ben Snider and cave employee Guy S. Boyd while they were searching for a route between the Cave of the Winds and the Middle cave. The new room was beyond the

Rat Hole (now called the Fat Mans Misery) at the end of the commercial section of the cave. Visitors were allowed to enter a contest to name the room. The winner received \$100. By the end of the contest over 25,000 names had been entered. The winner was “the Temple of Silence” submitted by former owner Charles Austin and Mrs. W.E. Greffenius of Fort Collins, Colorado. They split the prize money.



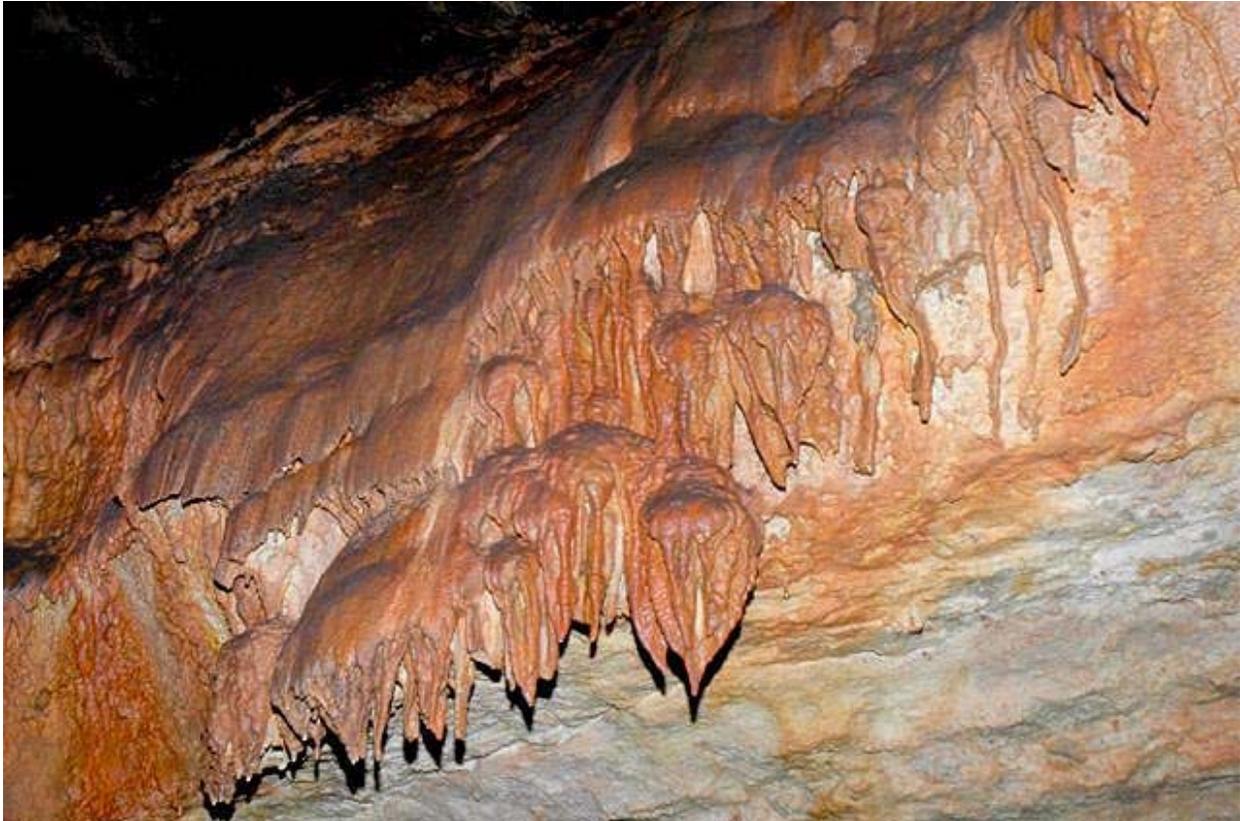
1929 – Ben Sinclair and Guy S. Boyd excavated a connection between the Cave of the Winds, Middle Cave and the long-closed Manitou Grand Caverns. After connecting the three caves, the Middle cave entrance is sealed and selected groups are permitted to make the long journey to the historic Grand Cavern.

1935 – The Valley of Dreams opens to the public. An inscription on the wall of the Valley has been attributed to George Jeffries, said to be an official from the Union Pacific Railroad. According to legend he had visited the cave prior to it being a commercial attraction and was so impressed by it that he helped fund the opening of the cave. He only asked to have the inscription placed on the wall.



1940s – During WWII the Cave of the Winds was listed as an official air-raid shelter by Civil Defense Authorities.

5-10-1958 – The Cave of the Winds Scenic Attractions Company leases the cave operations to a group of four corporations. They were given a 99-year lease at a cost of more than one million dollars.



6-12-1959 – Serpentine drive was opened to two-way traffic. Lighting was added to Williams Canyon for nighttime viewing.

1974 – present day fluorescent lighting was added to the tour route.



6-15-1980 – Manitou Grand Caverns re-opened the “spelunker” tour. The cost was \$100

9-5-1981 - A time-capsule is place in Canopy hall by the Cave of the Winds owner Lou Carey and Manager Grant Carey. Material in the capsule includes a guide’s shirt, badge, \$100-dollar bill, a video cassette, brochures and pictures of the cave, a flashlight, a bible and two personal letters.



11-6-1982 – Cavers from the Colorado Grotto of the National Speilogocal Society discover George Snider Hall at the northern end of the Grand Concert hall. This is the first new chamber to be discovered since 1929.



1-7-1984 – Members of the Colorado School of Mines, U.S. Air Force and the Southern Mountain Grotto discover extensive passages in the central portion of the system. A climb up a sheer wall in the Shale's Belly on January 14 led to the discovery of the Silent Splendor passage, they continued to discover passages and rooms.



5-1-1988 - The new Adventure room opens to the public. It is the first new room to be opened since 1881, it is dropped from the tour route. It is the first room to be dropped from the route since the lower level of the cave was closed in 1895.



11-1988 – A group of boy from the El Pueblo Boys Ranch in Pueblo, assists caver Gene Dover in excavating a short loop through the Old Curiosity Shop to the norther end of the Fat Mans Misery passage. In spring of the following year the Old Curiosity Shop opens to the public.



5-1991 – The first “Laser Canyon” show is presented

5-1995 - A new tour called the “Lantern Tour” begins in the Grand Caverns



4-1999 – William Canyon floods, destroying many roads



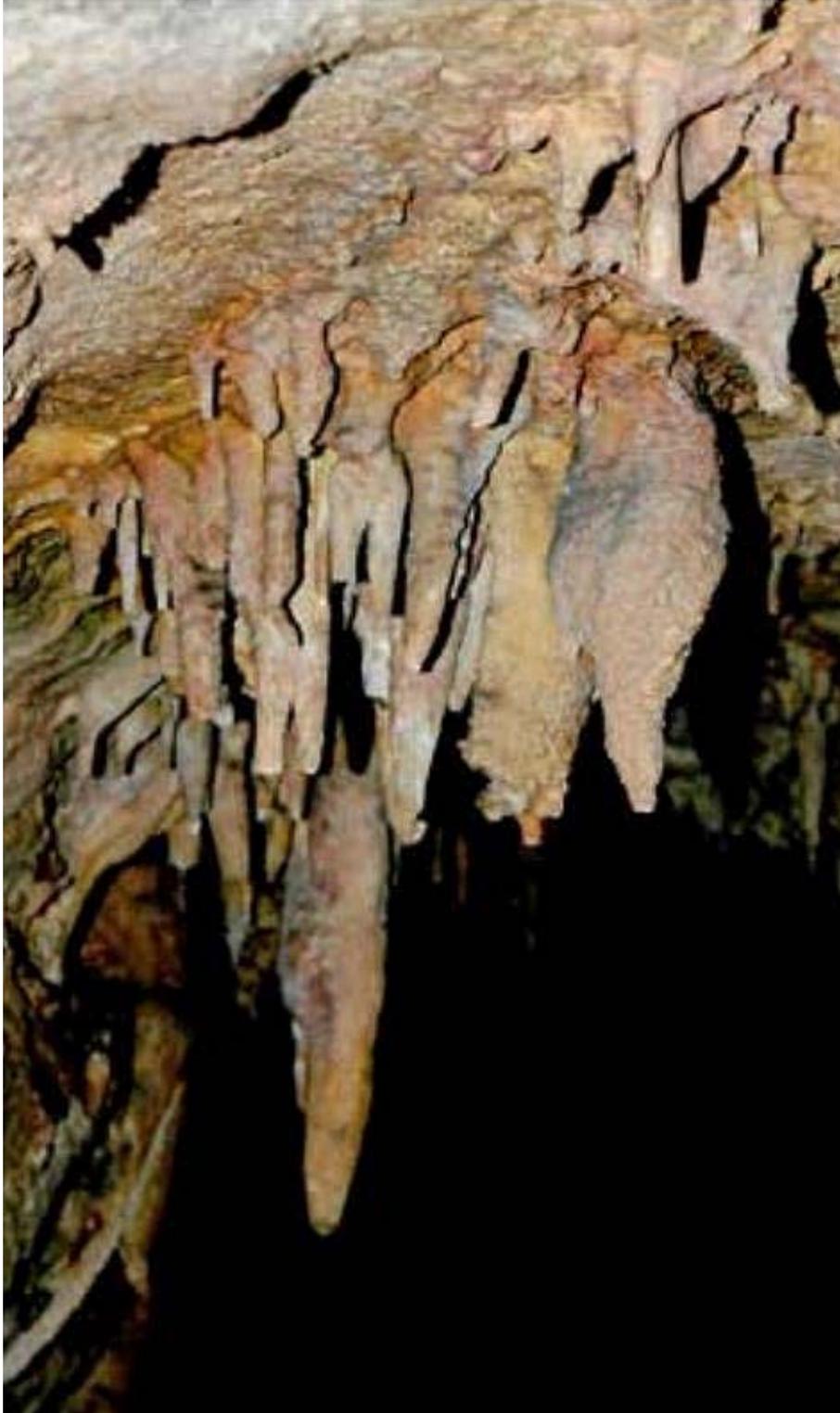
**Reported Paranormal Activity:**

Our contact has been caving in the Cave of the Winds for many years, and has heard stories from employees and many guests. The common stories are reporting seeing extra people or guides on the tours. They have had many different guest report seeing extra guides (wearing the standard uniform) following the tour, but all of the guides were accounted for.



When our contact was on a caving trip to the Grand Cavern, the entire group reported hearing another group slowly closing in on them. When they went to introduce themselves to the group they could not find anyone.

Our contact reported seeing the shape of a person who was on the path in front of him. He said that he could not make out any details because he was being backlit from a lantern of the other side of the path. He claims that while he was walking towards this person they “just vanished”

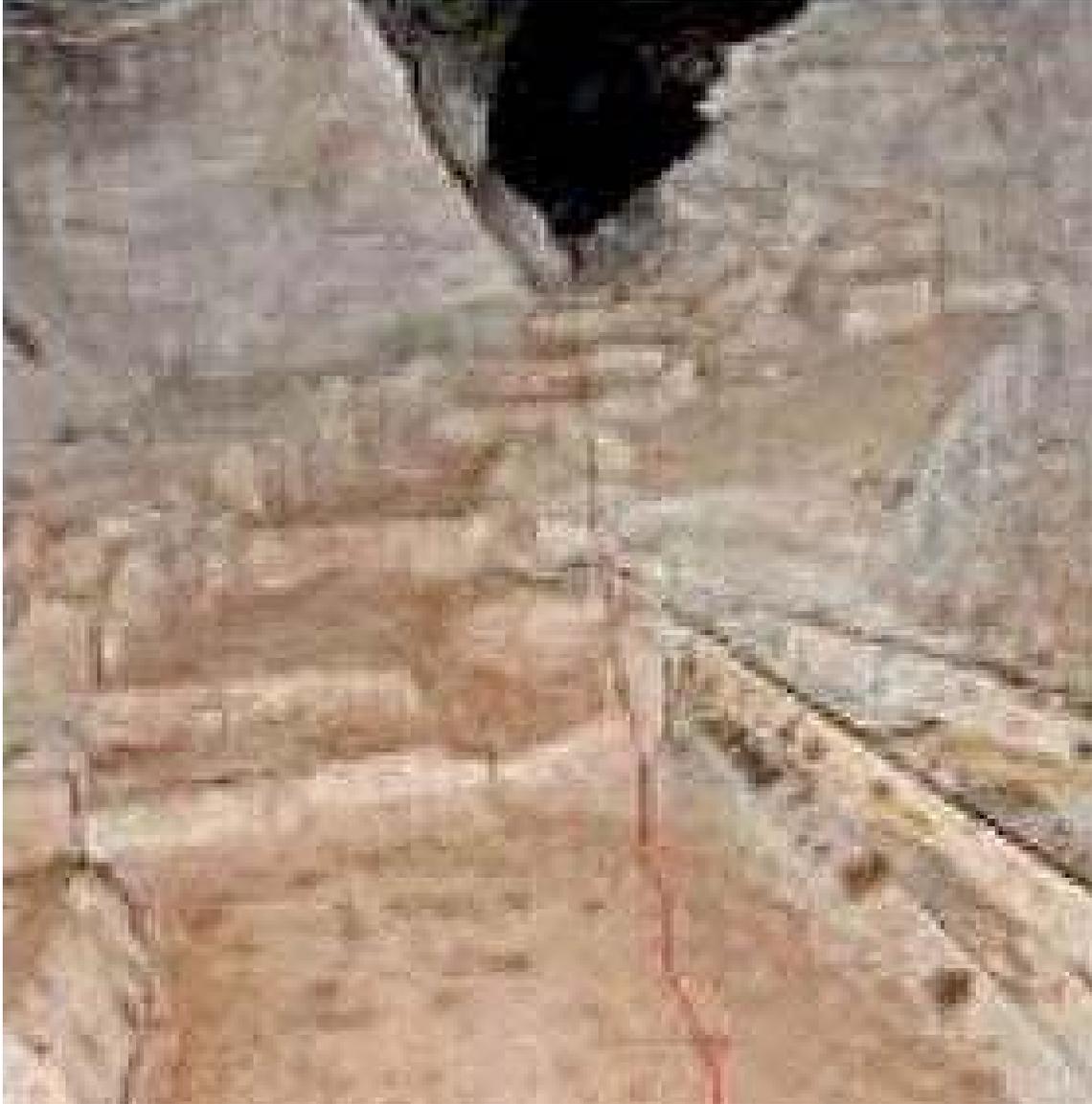


There are several Emergency “Call Boxes” throughout the caves to allow communications from the tours. Several people have reported hearing the phones ring from the caves when nobody was on a tour.

They claim that they have left some of the call box phones “off the hook” to listen to the empty caves and report the sounds of groups walking through the caves.



There are also reports from the gift shop. They have a phone system that they say will ring even when the phones are not plugged in.



**Extension cord coming from main cavern**

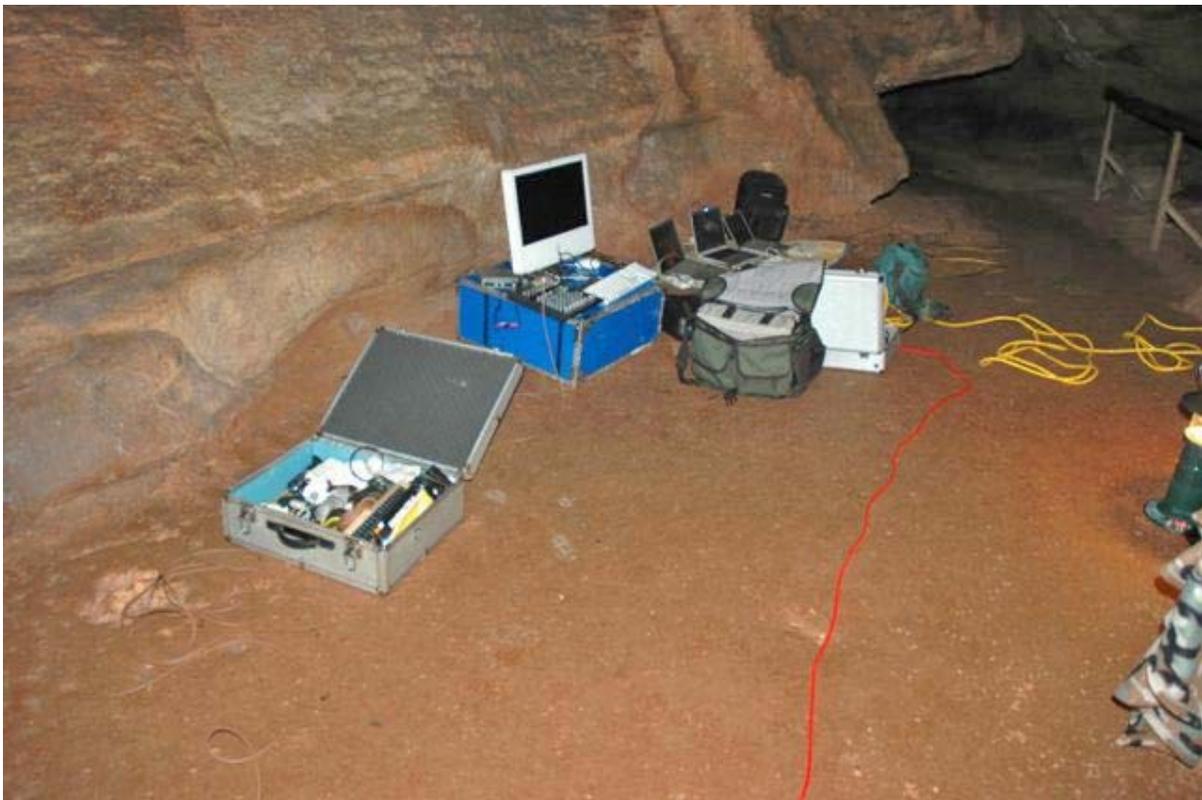
There have been reports of shadow people being seen at the gift shop counter.

There are reports of seeing Native Americans wandering throughout the caves.

The man who discovered the caves has been reported wandering near the original entrance and around the Monuments



Our investigation:

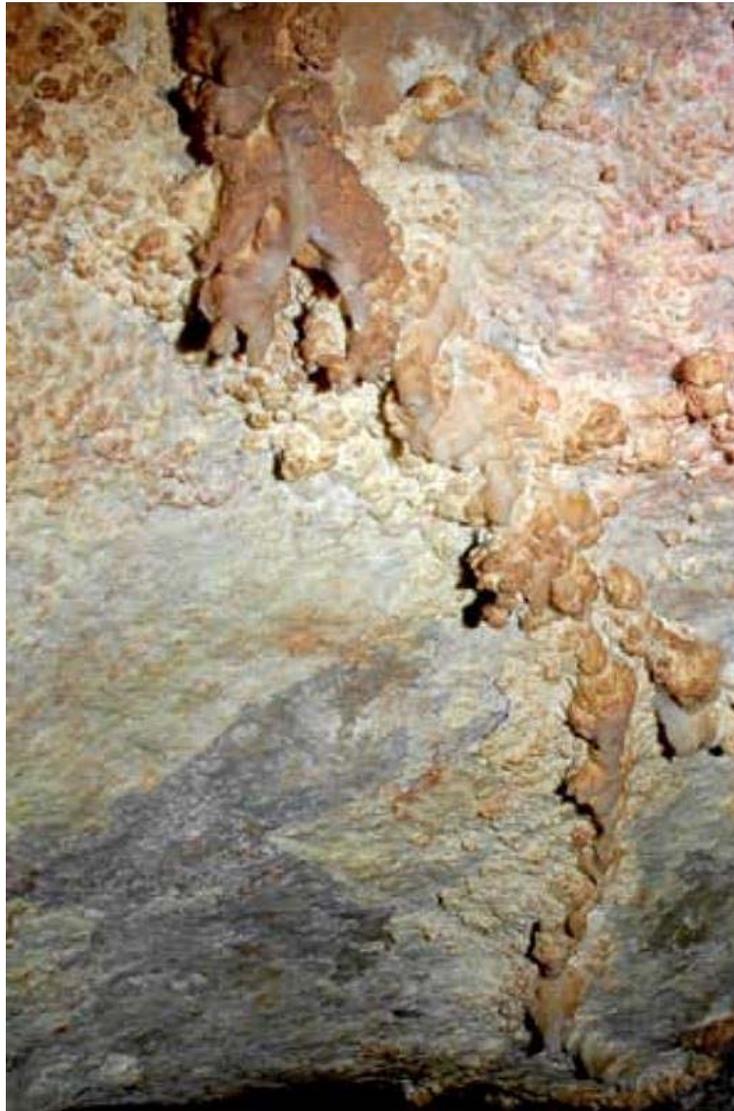








We started the investigation by hauling in the equipment. This was one of the most labor intensive tasks that we have taken on. The cave has openings that we would have to go through with our equipment that measured only 42 inches wide and about 50 inches tall. The shape of some of the passages made the trek difficult, we had to leave some of the boxes behind because they would not fit through the tunnels. Some of the passages were keyhole shaped, that meant that any equipment being carried had to be held out in front of you while crouching and walking with one foot in front of the other due to the shape of the passage.



Because there is no power at the back of the cave where we would be monitoring, we had to take an extension cord. This was one that we had used on a previous investigation and knew its limits. The extension was just over 860 feet long.

We setup two base locations, one across from the monuments and one between Lovers Lane and the Concert Hall.

**Equipment:**

4 infrared capable cameras connected to a DVR along with a still camera, and several EMF measurement points near the Monument area of the cave



In Lovers Lane we placed one microphone and one infrared capable video camera and two EMF Metering points.

In the Concert Hall room, we placed two infrared capable video cameras and 2 microphones connected directly to a monitor and two EMF monitoring points.

The investigation lasted about 7 hours and EMF measurements showed that with the exception of our equipment there was no measurable EMF.



Temperature readings were consistent throughout the night at 54 degrees with an almost 100% humidity.

During the evening several people reported what they said sounded like a violin in the Concert Hall room. The interesting thing about it was that it sounded like it was coming from behind the walls of the cave.



Several members reported seeing something moving at the back of Lovers Lane and also reporting hearing some “shuffling around in the same area

\*\*Note: According to South Park, the Cave of the Winds is home to ManBearPig (half man, half bear, half pig). We concluded that this may have been what we heard and saw in the back of Lovers Lane.

### **A second visit:**

After the first investigation of the Grand Caverns at the Cave of the Winds, we knew that we would have to return to collect more data.



We decided that we would only take laptop computers and small video cameras and leave a lot of our equipment behind.

We arrived at the caves around 7:00 p.m. and started to load in all of the equipment. This time it only took one trip to the back of the cave to get all of the equipment in.

Video cameras were located in Lovers Lane, the Concert Hall and the Monument Room.

Microphones were located in the Concert Hall and Lovers Lane

We had several EMF monitoring points in all of the locations

We used a total of 12 cameras, 2 thermometers, 3 EMF meters and six people



The base camp was located in the area between the Concert Hall and Lovers Lane.

After an initial quiet time, we decided to place two members in the back of Lovers Lane. The first to go were Bryan and Baxter, they spent about 20 minutes. They reported hearing what they described as sounded like a “motor running”. They took another volunteer to the back with them and listen. The sound was no longer heard.

Bryan left the area for a few minutes and upon his return, Baxter and the volunteer reported seeing “lights at the back of the tunnel” Bryan eventually reported seeing these same phenomena.



After some research it appears that this was caused by a condition known as Prisoners Cinema  
*“The **prisoner's cinema** is a phenomenon reported by prisoners confined to dark cells and by others kept in darkness, voluntarily or not, for long periods of time. It has also been reported by truck drivers, pilots, and practitioners of intense meditation. Astronauts and other individuals who have been exposed to certain types of radiation have reported witnessing similar phenomena.*

*The "cinema" consists of a "light show" of various colors that appear out of the darkness. The light has a form, but those that have seen it find it difficult to describe. Sometimes, the cinema lights resolve into human or other figures.*

*Scientists believe that the cinema is a result of [phosphines](#) combined with the psychological effects of prolonged exposure to darkness. Others have noted a connection between the form the lights take and Neolithic [cave paintings](#)." – Wikipedia*

The rest of the investigation consisted of hourly EMF sweeps and placing different volunteers in various areas of the caves that were being monitored by our equipment.

Upon returning from a break, Baxter reported seeing a "man standing in the small tunnel to the left of the entrance to the Monument room. When he went to investigate he could find no one.

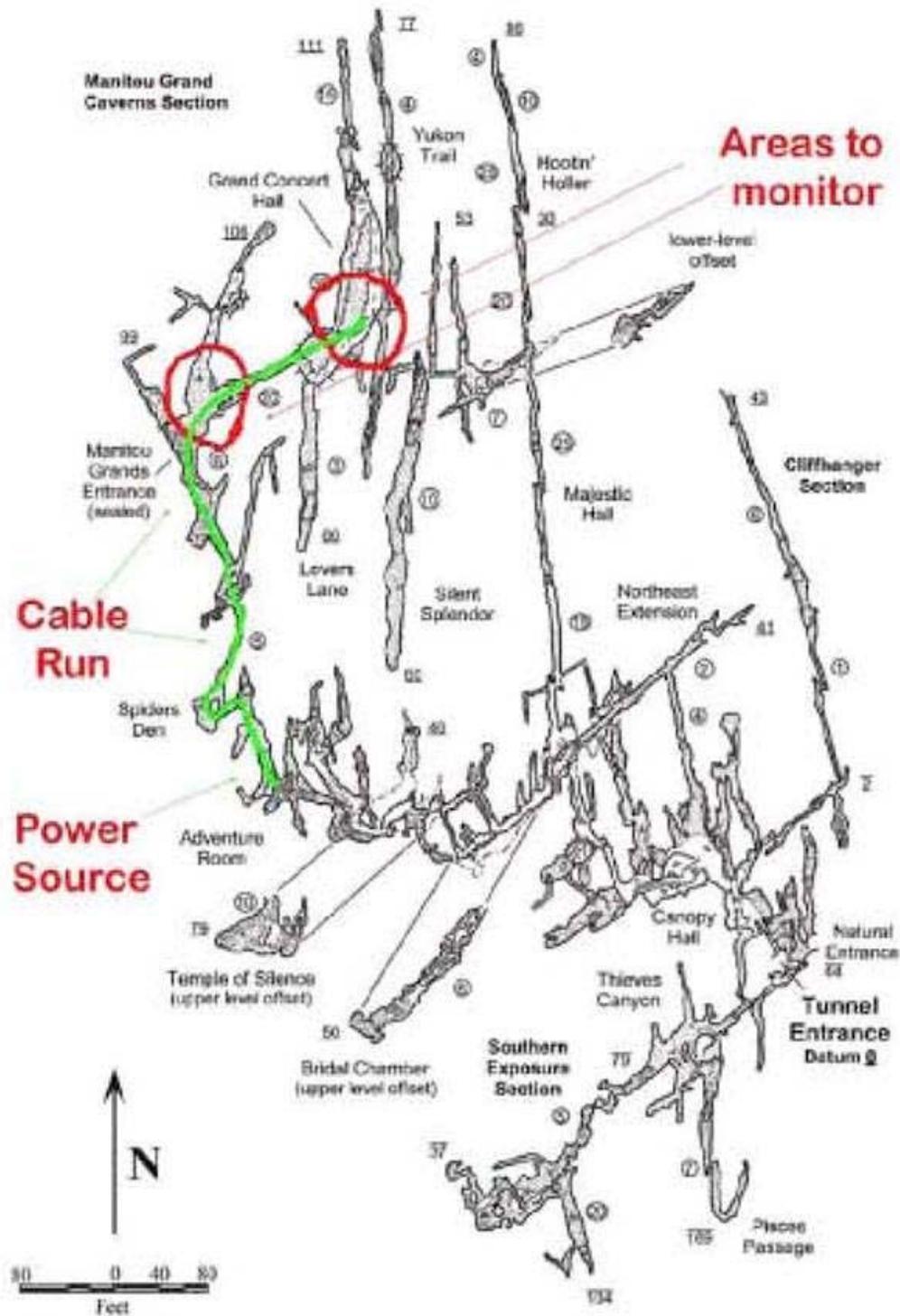
### **Conclusions:**

After spending some considerable time in the Caverns, we have discovered some of the reported phenomena can be explained through normal human psychology and physiology. There are still many different places to examine and stories to research at the location.



# Cave of the Winds

## El Paso County, Colorado



Total Surveyed Length: 10,765 feet (2.04 mi.)  
 Total Surveyed Depth: 289 feet

Drawn by and Copyright © 2009 by Paul Burger  
 version 1.1.05