

Collectors Edition

# Grand Canyon Caverns Inn



CAVERNS

OPEN

INN

YOU'VE ARRIVED! ROUTE 66 LAND MARK "MUST SEE"  
GRAND CANYON CAVERNS  
ENTRANCE  
RESTAURANT • BAR • POOL • RODEO'S



Souvenir Magazine





One thing that you will find when visiting the Grand Canyon Cavern is there is always a **NEW** project, construction and/or improvements taking place.

This one, will not only be one of the biggest but most obvious, as well as photographed. The project will become the largest Route 66 Mural in the world.

**31 panels 4 x 8, 124 feet long**

1,072 total square feet. The mural will feature major icons on the road, going from east to west. It will be placed on top of the front building from end to end.

Design/Artwork, construction plans and material to be used in the project are being worked on for a completion date of spring of 2020.

Accompanying photos show the building where the mural will be placed, an artists rendering of the mural and the artist with one of the panel concepts.



**Len, 'The Artist', Nordmann**

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[lennordmannartist@gmail.com](mailto:lennordmannartist@gmail.com)



**MOTHER ROAD**  
Enterprises

**Pulse Custom Magazine** is a NEW subsidiary of Mother Road Enterprises who published the Route 66 Pulse newspaper.

Our mission is to become a partner with **YOU** in Marketing, Promoting and Advertising you the client, by creating a Souvenir Magazine for your customers.

This copy is a sample of the kind of material we can do for you. When we say CUSTOM we mean the content will be all about you with other articles/photos that give your customers a true Collectable Souvenir of their visit to your business or event.

This concept can be used by businesses, events, communities and individuals that want to showcase themselves with a professional magazine in both print and digital format.



Contact us for more information on how you can get started.

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# Editorial

There are many interesting, unusual and historical places on Route 66. And each have their own attractions, mystic and history. And as with all things in life, we each have our own special memorial ones. For me the Grand Canyon Caverns is one of them, starting in 2002, when Hampton Inn & Suites and I teamed up to do the ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS project.

Meeting, working with and getting to know John McEnulty, managing partner and co-owner of Grand Canyon Caverns, along with his partners Mike Kadletz (creates of the Cavern Suite) & Diane Carson, has turned into a great friendship, one that led to my starting Mother Road Enterprise. Many of my tours spend a day or two here, always a highlight for them.

Every time I come here, which is often, there is something NEW to see, enjoy and appreciate, making the caverns a must visit a few times a year.

While many of the photos in this issue are from our staff, there are three we want to recognize: first is Kathy Wiser-Alexznder, in the article on page 16-19. You will see Kathy's photos & articles in many of our issues.

Efern Lopez, who has become one of our most popular roadies/photographers. His skill as a photographer matched to his creative skill in marketing/merchandising are unequal.

Patrick Chatelier is not only a recognized professional around the world but someone we partner with on photography tours of Route 66 and the Southwest USA.

Also check out my friend Walter Feller's awesome site, [www.digital-desert.com](http://www.digital-desert.com). Here you will find more information on the southwest US than anywhere on the internet.

The artwork on pages 12 & 13 and 5, as well as the article/photos on page 2 feature Len, THE ARTIST, Nordmann.

Special thanks to Cline Library, Special Collections and Archives, NAU for their assistance and support.

## Jim Conkle

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# Grand Canyon Caverns

Peach Springs, AZ

*Story by Howard Sheldon*

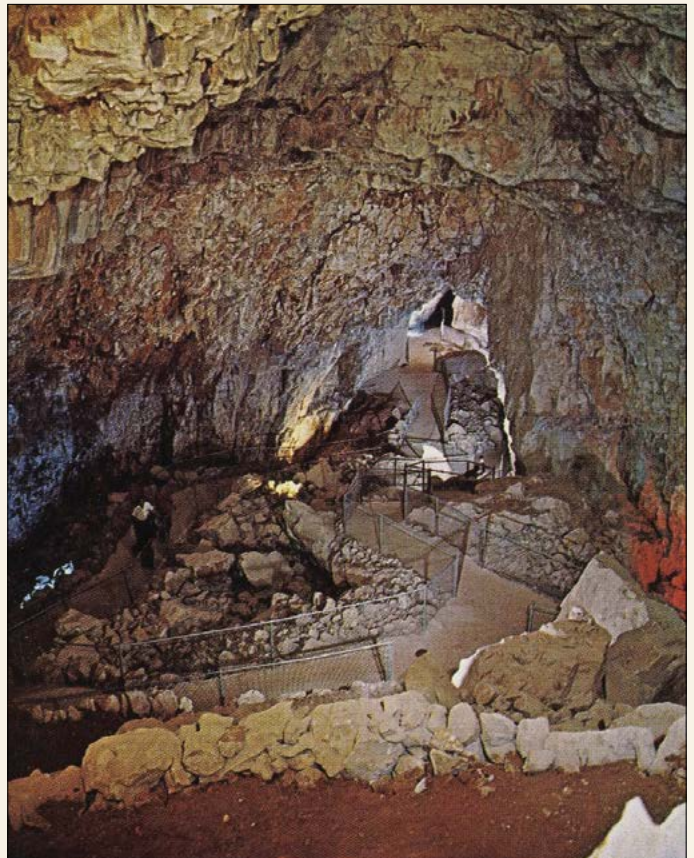
**In 1927, a heavy rain widened the natural funnel-shaped opening to the upper level of an unknown system of caverns in western Arizona. A woodcutter for the Santa Fe Railroad by the name of Walter Peck found the entrance one evening on his way to a poker game at the nearby Yampai railroad siding house. The caverns were probably his only true winnings.**

Walter took a gamble and named them Yampai Caverns. The caverns have changed names several times. Up until 1957 they were also known as the Coconino Caverns, then changed to Dinosaur Caverns; since 1962 they have been called the Grand Canyon Caverns.

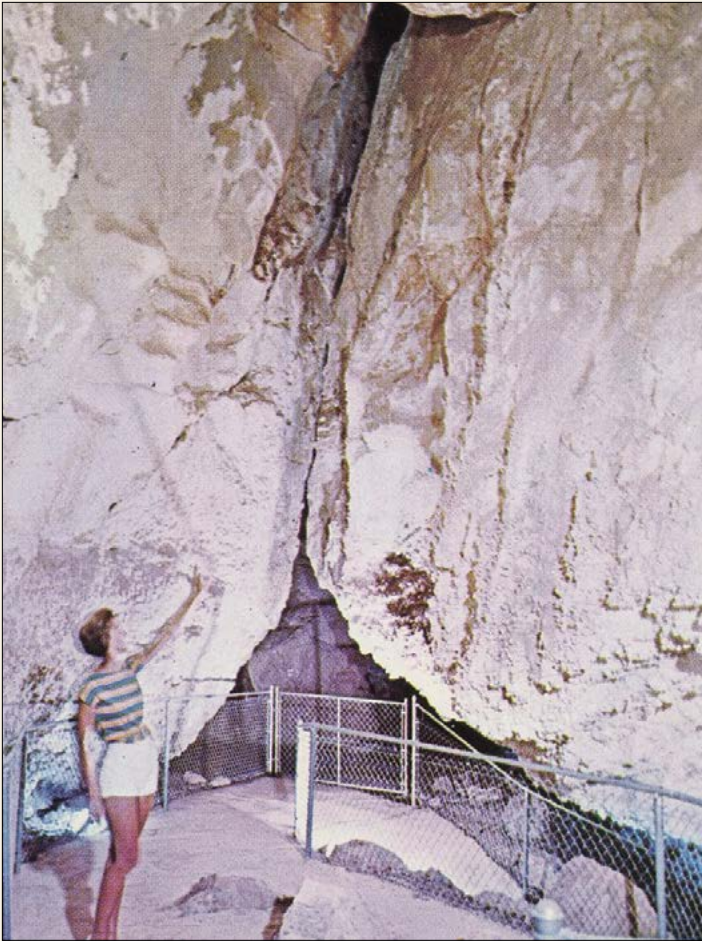
The following morning, Walter and some friends brought ropes and lanterns with them to the new hole in the trail. They tied a rope around the waist of a local cowboy and lowered him into the hole. By the time the cowboy's feet touched the floor of the hole, 150 feet of rope had been let out and he found himself in a very large and dark cavern. Using a coal oil lantern, he began exploring; but the only thing that excited him was that he thought he had found a very rich vein of gold when the light picked up some sparkle in the rocks.

Gathering up a sack full of samples, he tugged on the rope and was hauled to the surface. Upon reaching the surface, he quickly showed the samples and then told of finding the remains of two humans and part of a saddle at the 50-foot level. By the time the newspapers had finished with the story, the human remains were those of prehistoric cavemen and there was no mention of the saddle. Soon, scientists had come from the east to pick up and study the bones. While this was occurring, Walter purchased the property and the Caverns, preparing to mine the gold.

However, when Walter saw the assay reports on his gold mine, much



to his dismay, no gold was found, only lots of iron oxide or rust! He had wagered his money on an empty funnel-shaped hole. But, being an entrepreneur, he soon came up with a solution. He would charge 25 cents to enter the Caverns where the "cavemen" had been found. He developed a very primitive elevator. Visitors were tied to a rope and lowered into the hole. Each visitor had to furnish their own light source. Upon reaching the floor of the hole the visitor could explore the caverns on their own. It would have been unwise to untie the rope and stray far, for if their light failed, the inexperienced explorer might not find the rope again!



In 1936, during the Great Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) work camps constructed a wooden staircase at the cavern entrance, then a series of wooden ladders for the descent. Finally, in 1957 a beautiful wooden swinging bridge was added to allow access to the Chapel of Ages. The trek is estimated to be approximately 15 stories of walking in and out if you were to compare it to a building.

After this phase of construction was completed, the price was increased to 50 cents, but now more than one person could enter the Caverns at a time. This was the only way in and out of the Caverns until 1962, when an elevator became operational. It had taken two years of blasting a shaft 210 feet deep plus an additional 18 months to install a modern-day elevator. The original natural entrance was then sealed off forever.

As it turns out, the remains of the two humans were members of the Hualapai Indian tribe who had died the winter of 1917. As the story goes, a group of Hualapai Indians were out cutting firewood when two members fell sick from the flu and died. Due to the frozen ground conditions and a need for an immediate burial, the two fallen brothers were dropped in a well-concealed hole that no one would ever disturb. Six years later Walter Peck stumbled upon that same hole in the ground. The permanent sealing of the natural entrance to the caverns was done out of respect for the religious beliefs of the Hualapai Indians. The natural entrance is a sacred burial ground.

Exploration at the Grand Canyon Caverns is ongoing. Curious wafts of air seeping through niches and floor fissures provide proof that other caverns await discovery deep below. Existing below the present day Grand Canyon Caverns, 1500 feet below ground level, two large

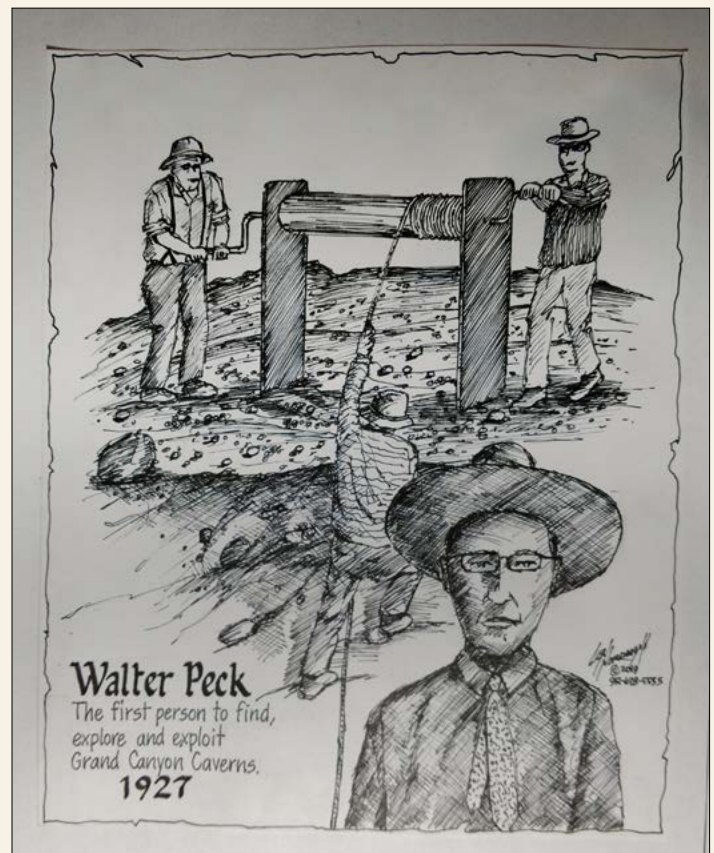
rooms were discovered with seismic testing. What is down there is food for any wild imagination. At present, it is too costly to reach the rooms unless a natural way can be found. Since December 1949, spelunkers have been exploring regions in the caverns too dangerous for the public to visit, in the hope of finding more rooms and passageways.

Over the years, a number of unfortunate creatures have wandered into the caverns, only to have their fate sealed in a slow death with no way out. The remains of a giant ground sloth (*Glossotherium harlani*) was found and a model has been created. "Gertie" is 15 feet tall; it is estimated that the living sloth would have weighed approximately 2,000 pounds. The giant ground sloth became extinct between 11,000 and 20,000 years ago. Its living relatives are the modern-day tree sloth or three-toed sloth, the armadillos and the anteater. A mummified bobcat was found around 1950 and is believed to have fallen into the caverns about 100 years previous to its discovery.

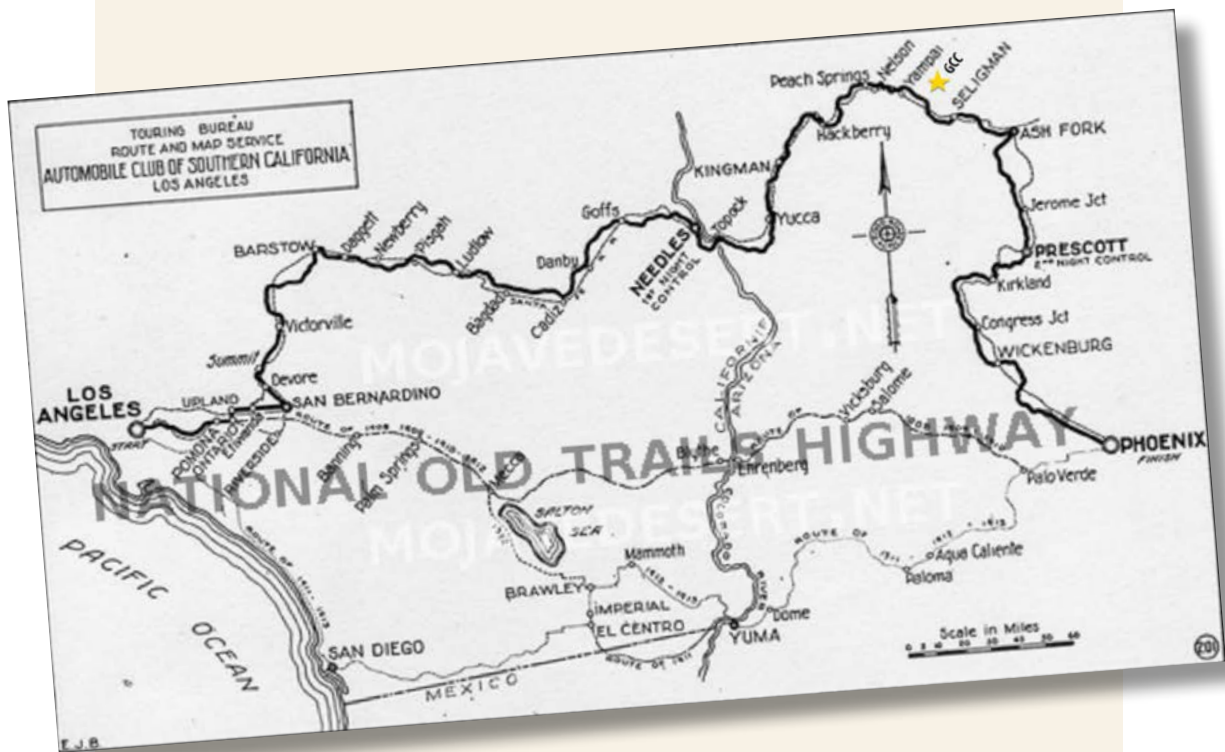
Grand Canyon Caverns is a natural limestone cave 210 feet underground. Here are a few facts about the caverns that you will find fascinating:

The temperature is a constant 57F/14C degrees F. year round, with a humidity of 35%, making this a dry or dead cavern. Water has not been inside for a long time, although there is physical evidence that water was present and helped form the cavern's features. The tour guides point out depressions in the limestone walls where waterfalls once existed. Fossils of prehistoric clams, scallops and evidence of sea turtle remains have been found lithified in the limestone walls as well.

Only three percent of all caverns in the world are dry, which adds to this cavern's uniqueness. This modern cavern is lifeless. Bacteria and viruses cannot live longer than 72 hours in this environment.



# National Old Trails Highway



Interstate 40 roughly follows the original Route 66, which followed as close as possible, the Santa Fe RR. Following the railroad tracks made it easier to obtain supplies and help from the presence of settlements already established.

In 1914 the Automobile Club of Southern California placed signs along National Trails Highway, from Los Angeles to Kansas City, and made maps to promote the road.

This road passed right through the property that is now the GRAND CANYON CAVERNS. In fact, it came close to where Walter would lower paying folks into the cavern.

For more interesting history check out Walter Feller's web site [www.digital-desert.com](http://www.digital-desert.com)







# Grand Canyon Caverns

**D**iscovered in 1927 by prospector Walter Peck, who turned it into a roadside attraction, charging .25 cents admission. The public was lowered in a rope chair to view the caverns.

One of, if not the largest, Dry Caverns in the world, the Grand Canyon Caverns are the largest Dry Caverns in the US. Dry Caverns compose only 3% of all caverns in the world.

The constant temperature of 57F/14C, with humidity around 35%, has the affect of no living creatures in the caverns, other than staff and visitors.

In 1935, the CCC\* and WPA\* made an agreement with Peck to build a new entrance to the caverns. Then in 1962 the 210ft hole was blasted to allow the elevator to be installed, which is still in use today. The old entrance was sealed off to honor the burial place of the Hualapai Indians.

Another major element was added to the caverns in 1962. The US government because of the Cuban Missile Crisis, were looking for locations to stockpile provisions. The Caverns were designated as a Fallout Shelter able to house 2,000 people. Those supplies are still there today.

Over the years the name has changed four times. First was Yampai Caverns, next was The Coconino Caverns. In 1957 they were known as The Dinosaur Caverns. In 1962 they became The Grand Canyon Caverns.

Today you can sleep in one of the top 10 most unusual hotel rooms in the world. Imagine spending the night in the oldest, darkest, deepest, quietest and largest hotel room in the world, 220 feet deep in the cavern.

Eat lunch/dinner in the Grotto. For those staying in the cavern hotel room it is a short walk.

The Grand Canyon Caverns is really a resort. With a motel, restaurant, two gift shops, convenience store, airport, hiking, RV parking and side trips to the Grand Canyon and Playgrounds for the kids.

NEW in 2019, Bunk House Village-Five New Units, starting with a two bed-room, two bath with living room and kitchen.

Adding a visit to the caverns should be on everyone's Bucket List.

- CCC, Civilian Conservation Corps
- WPA, Works Progress Administration





# THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS TO ENJOY GRAND CANYON CAVERNS & INN BEFORE & AFTER YOUR HAVASUPAI NATION ONE DAY GRAND CANYON RAFTING ADVENTURE

## The Caverns...4 Ways to tour... Guided Tours, Off trail exploratory tour, Paranormal Experience and overnight stay.

22 stories underground, are the 3rd largest dry caverns in the world (largest in the USA). Access by private elevator, the temperature is a perfect 65 degrees 24/7/365. Huge caverns, large enough to hold a football field. They are dry, nothing lives in them, no bats or insects. Guided tours daily. Also located in one of the caverns is the caverns suite. The largest, oldest, deepest motel in the world! If you feel like arousing your senses, you can spend the night. It is a wonderful once in a lifetime experience. See rock formations, a sloth, mummified bobcat, before and after, and other great things including a light show. We have our regular tours (about an hour), our exploratory tour which is off trail and way down under (2 to 3 hours), and our Ghost Walk, an evening tour conducted by flashlight searching for paranormal ghost activities of people that have gone before us.

**A must do event!**

## 6 Ways to spend the night! Our Motel, RV Park Caverns Suite, Bunk House, Open Air Rooms, and huge tree filled campgrounds.

*The place to stay before and after visits to Supai*

We operate the classic Route 66 roadside motel with clean and quiet rooms. We point out the quiet part because most motels along this area run along the train tracks, which have lots of noisy trains running on them 24/7. We do not. We also have well appointed rooms and Wi-Fi. Our Open Air Rooms (OAR's) are rooms located within our 800 acres, away from people, that have railings 3 feet high for walls, comfortable double beds and no ceiling but a blanket of stars to sleep under. We have 3 of them: One with a double bed around the rodeo area 10 feet in the air, another with 2 beds, called the corral room not far from the RV park, then the mountain top that has 3 beds.

**Book these early, they go fast!**

## Our Bunkhouse

**Great for small groups or large families.**

Huge kitchen and super large living room for meeting etc with fireplace. Sleeps 10 comfortably in beds, fits 10 more scattered around. Outside fire ring and lots of hiking trails.

## Our RV Parks

**Our large quiet RV Park has room for 100's of RV'S,** and they are spread out among trees and trails. Yes, 48 of them have hookups.

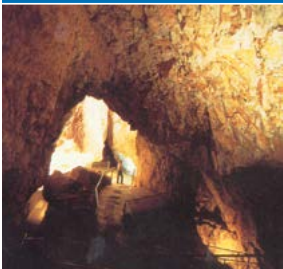
We have nice shower rooms, a huge fire ring, stage, a huge BBQ area and other great things to host a RV rally, bike rally or music event.

## Our Campground

**Great private campsites** with access to all we have to offer.

## Restaurant, Bar, Food, Groceries, Gas and services.

**Yes, we have it all.** A great Restaurant that seats hundreds. We have hosted dinners for rallies of over 600 people. Or you can stop by our store and get what you need, fill up with gas and maybe have a drink to settle you down after a long drive.



# FRED HARVEY

## GRAND CANYON CAVERNS DINOSAUR CITY, ARIZONA

(Between Kingman and Williams on Rt. 66)

WILLIAMS, ARIZ.  
NEWS  
W. 1, 585

APR 25 1968

### Fred Harvey Takes Over Dinosaur Caverns

As of April 17, Fred Harvey System assumed management of Grand Canyon Caverns (Dinosaur) and the coffee shop, dining room, motel, curio shop and other facilities at Dinosaur City. The caverns, and Dinosaur City are located 25 miles west of Seligman on Highway 66.

Dalton Meeks is manager of the Harvey interests at the caverns. He was manager of Grand Canyon Inn at Grand Canyon for the past seven years, and for 12 years was with Utah Parks Company.

Ben Quinn, Fred Harvey general manager at Grand Canyon, made the announcement that the company had taken over management of the caverns and accommodations at Dinosaur City, but that ownership of the tourist attraction did not change.

A great deal of development has been done at the caverns during the past 10 years to build it into a major tourist attraction. Underground walkways are paved and well lighted, and continuous exploration is going on. Visitors are transported by elevator 21 stories underground to tour the huge chambers.

The caverns are open year around. There are picnic and campgrounds near the caverns, as well as full accommodations at nearby Dinosaur City.



*Fred Harvey*  
AN Amfac COMPANY

GRAND CANYON CAVERNS  
DINOSAUR CITY, ARIZONA

### BREAKFAST SPECIALS TO START THE DAY RIGHT

1

Fruit Juice or Chilled Fruit  
Toast and Jelly or  
Sweet Roll and Butter  
Fred Harvey Coffee  
.60

2

Fruit Juice or Chilled Fruit  
One Egg  
Two Strips Bacon  
Hashed Brown Potatoes  
Toast and Jelly  
Fred Harvey Coffee  
1.25

3

Fruit Juice or Chilled Fruit  
Two Hot Cakes  
with  
Syrup and Whipped Butter  
One Egg  
Fred Harvey Coffee  
1.25

4

Fruit Juice or Chilled Fruit  
One Egg  
Two Hot Cakes  
Syrup and Whipped Butter  
Three Strips Bacon,  
Link Sausage or Ham  
Fred Harvey Coffee  
1.75

5

Fruit Juice or Chilled Fruit  
Two Eggs  
Three Strips Bacon,  
Link Sausage or Ham  
Hashed Brown Potatoes  
Toast and Jelly  
Fred Harvey Coffee  
1.75

6

Two Fresh Ranch Eggs Any Style  
Hashed Brown Potatoes  
Toast and Jelly  
.90

VISIT THE FAMOUS GRAND CANYON CAVERNS TODAY!  
TOURS DEPART EVERY 30 MINUTES

SC470

### HELP WANTED AD in a Phoenix newspaper

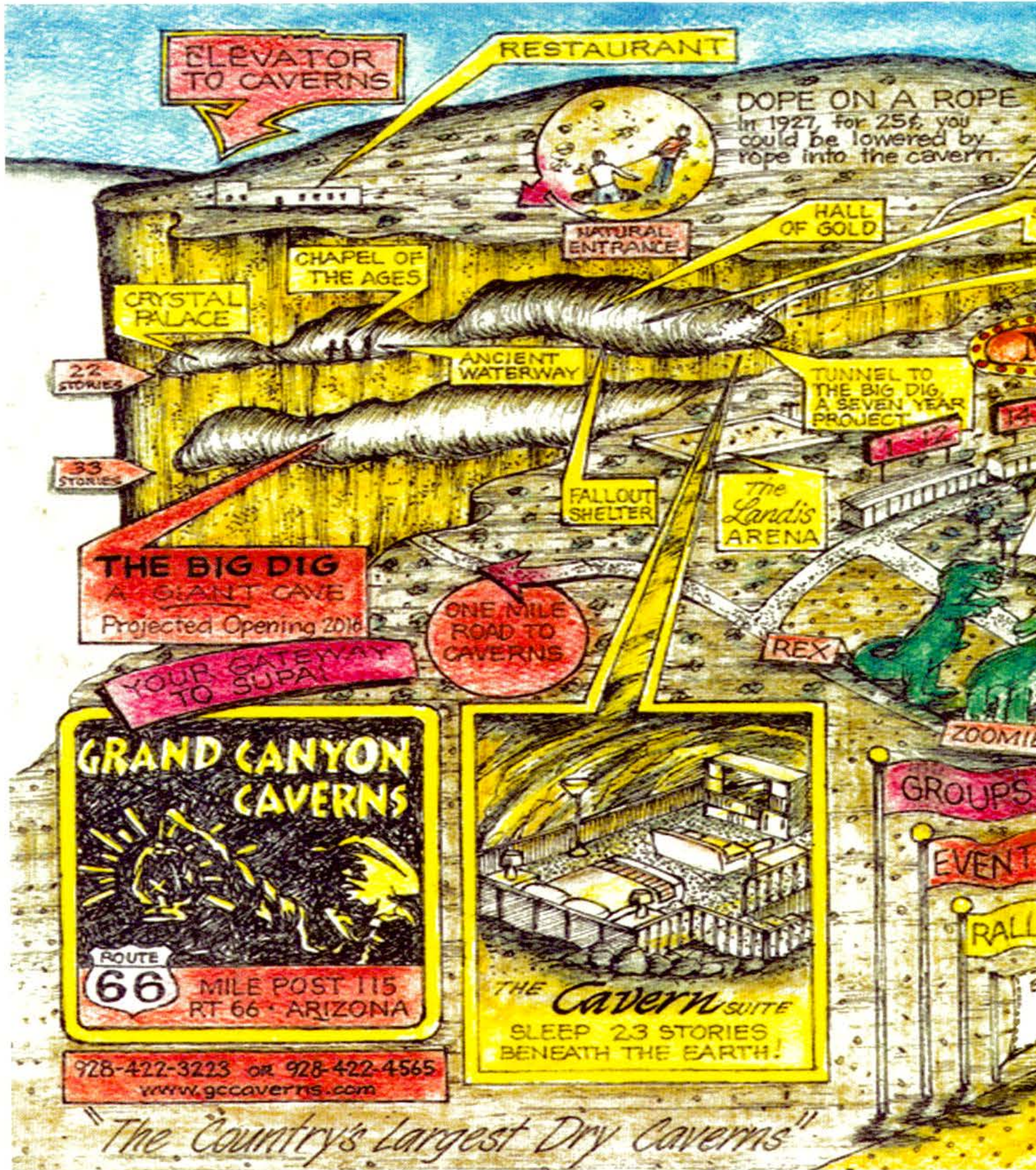
Immediate and permanent openings for TOUR GUIDES. 21-30, single, bondable, good speaking voice, can deal with people effectively. Automobile and selling experience helpful, but not necessary. Training, liberal benefits, reasonable living. Start \$1.40 per hour. Phone Mr. Meeks or Mr. Schlarbaum, at Dinosaur Number 1 (through Prescott operator)



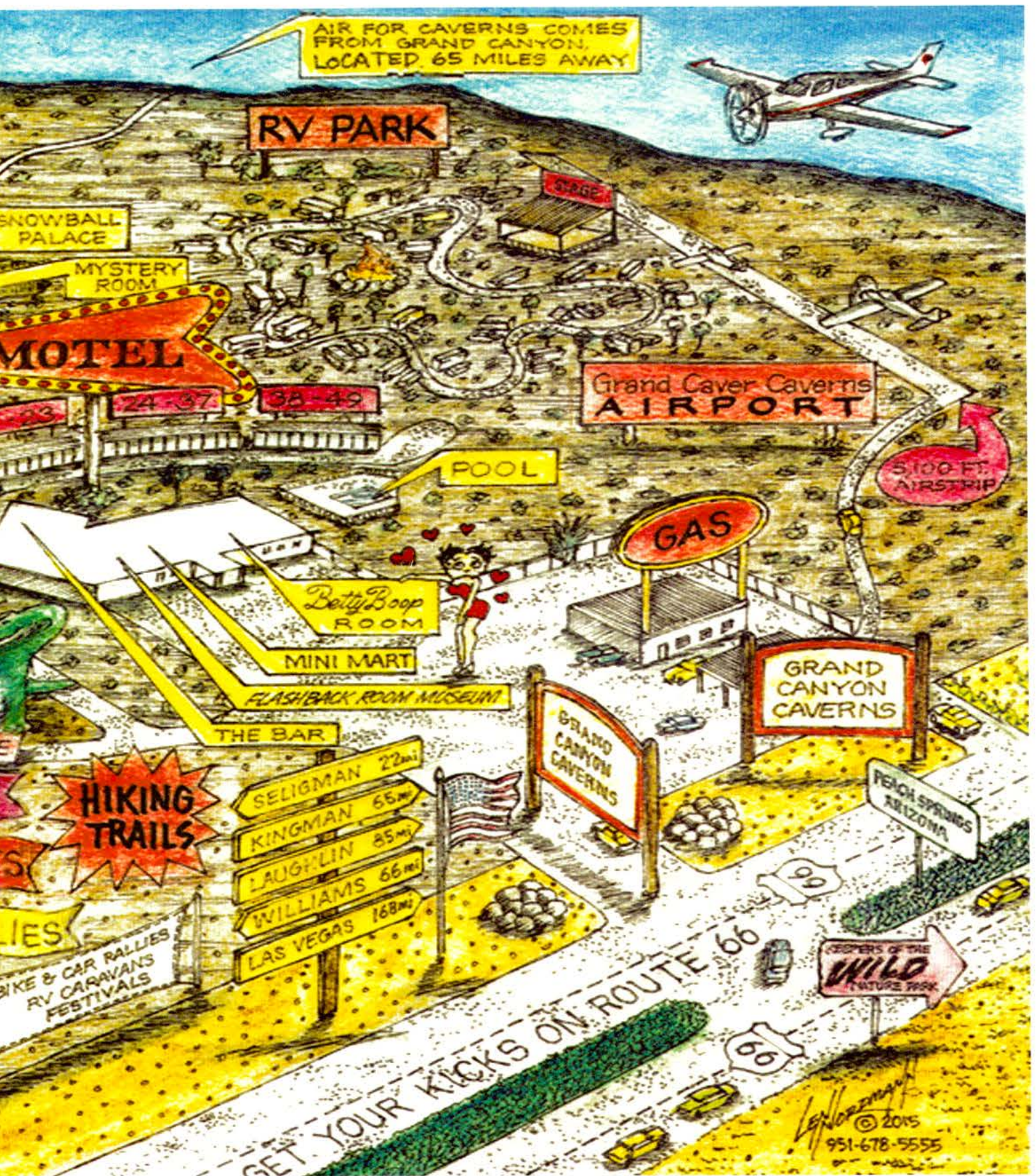
In 1962, in response to the Cuba missile crisis, the Federal government was looking for locations to stockpile provisions, as well as Fallout Shelters. The Grand Canyon Caverns were selected to house 2,000 people for an unknown period of time.



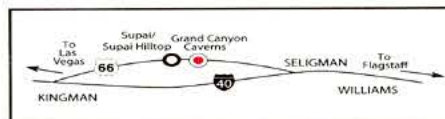
**These supplies are still in the caverns and visual on the tours.**

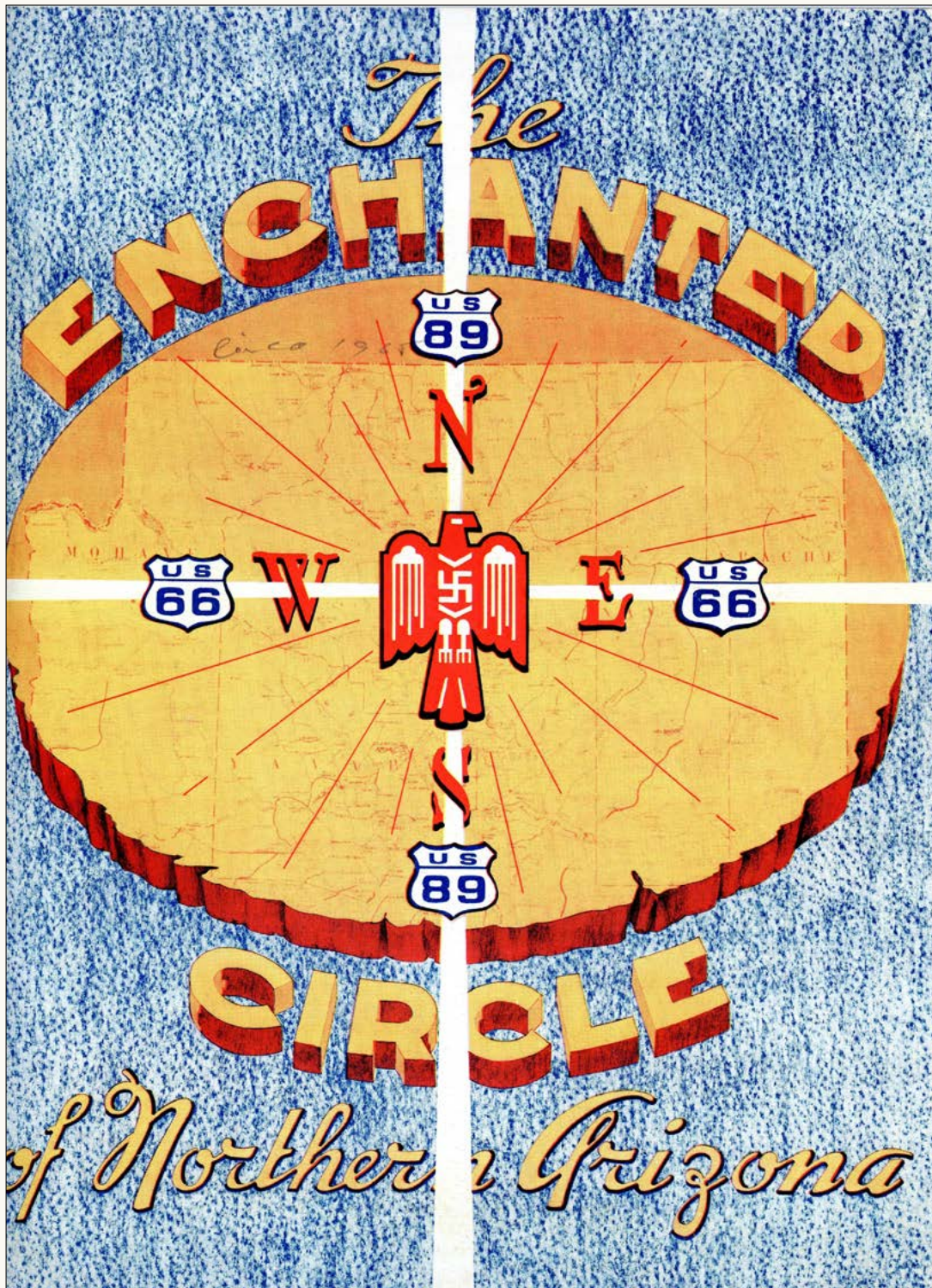


**GATEWAY TO S**  
 Mile Marker 1  
 Peach Springs  
 928.422.3223  
 www.gcca



**SUPAI ARIZONA**  
 15, Route 66  
 g, AZ86434  
 or 928.422.4565  
 caverns.com





**"T**he swastika was a widely used Native American symbol. It was used by many southwestern tribes, most notably the Navajo. Among different tribes the swastika carried various meanings. To the Hopi it represented the wandering Hopi clans; to the Navajo it represented a whirling log ( tsil no'oli' ), a sacred image representing a legend that was used in healing rituals.

"The history of the swastika goes back to the origins of the Eurasian Continent. The swastika is an important symbol in Hinduism and Buddhism, among others, and was also used in Native American and Jewish faiths prior to World War II. By the early twentieth century it was regarded worldwide as symbol of good luck and auspiciousness."

# THE ENCHANTED CIRCLE

OF NORTHERN ARIZONA



## NATIONAL PARKS

- Grand Canyon  
Coconino County
- Zion  
Southern Utah
- Bryce  
Southern Utah

## NATIONAL MONUMENTS

- Rainbow Bridge  
Southern Utah
- Navajo National Monument  
Beta-ta-kin Ruin  
Keet Seel Ruin  
Inscription House Ruin  
Navajo County
- Pipe Springs  
Mohave County
- Wupatki Ruins  
Coconino County
- Sunset Crater  
Coconino County
- Walnut Canyon Cliff Dwellings  
Coconino County
- Montezuma Castle  
Yavapai County
- Canyon de Chelly  
Apache County
- Petrified Forest  
Apache County

## POINTS OF INTEREST

- Boulder Dam and Lake Mead  
Mohave County
- Fortification Mountain  
Mohave County
- Dinosaur Tracks  
near Tuba City
- Grand Falls  
n.e. of Flagstaff
- Painted Desert  
in Apache, Navajo and Coconino Counties
- Coal Canyon  
near Tuba City
- Blue Canyon  
near Tuba City
- Navajo Bridge  
over Colorado River on U.S. Highway 89
- Sycamore Canyon  
near Williams
- Lowell Observatory  
near Flagstaff
- San Francisco Peaks  
Flagstaff
- Arizona State Teachers College  
Flagstaff
- Whipple Barracks  
Prescott
- Montezuma Well  
Yavapai County
- Cathedral Caves  
near Ashfork
- Coconino Caverns  
near Peach Springs
- Havasupai Canyon  
Indian reservation in Grand Canyon
- Echo Cliffs  
Along U.S. Highway 89 in Coconino County
- Stoneman Lake  
south of Flagstaff
- White Horse Lake  
near Williams
- Bill Williams Mountain  
at Williams
- Mingus Mountain  
on Highway 79 between Jerome and Prescott
- The Elephant's Feet  
near Red Lake in Navajo County
- Navajo Mountain  
n.e. Coconino County
- Pillars of Hercules  
Coconino County
- Meteor Crater  
near Winslow
- Ice Caves  
foot of Sunset Crater near Flagstaff
- Mormon Lake
- Lake Mary  
south of Flagstaff
- Smoki Museum  
Prescott
- Oak Creek Canyon  
between Clarkdale and Flagstaff on Highway 79
- Mogollon Rim  
southern Coconino County
- Tuzigoot Ruins  
near Clarkdale
- Granite Dells  
Prescott
- Awatobi Ruins  
near Keams Canyon Apache County
- Monument Valley  
Navajo County
- Museum of Northern Arizona  
Flagstaff
- Hopi Indian Villages  
Navajo County
- Kaibab Forest  
northern Coconino County
- Hassayampa Mountain  
summer resort near Prescott
- Lakeside  
region of trout fishing lakes Apache County
- Vermillion Cliffs  
along U.S. Highway 89 in Coconino County
- Keams Canyon  
Navajo County
- Greer  
fishing center White Mountains
- Mount Baldy  
White Mountains Apache County

*A Wonderland of Color  
and Scenic Beauty*

The Enchanted Circle of Northern Arizona! Nowhere on earth's surface can you find its equal, no area of similar size in all the world can match its color and picturesqueness, the romance of its trails and byways, the delightful exhilaration of its climate.

Fine highways will offer you safe conduct throughout this scenic land of expanse and beauty. Chambers of commerce, service stations and public officials will guide you, will do everything in their power to make your journey an unforgettable experience. Wherever you travel in this truly Enchanted Circle, you will find accommodations to please any taste. Luxurious ranches and resorts, fine hotels, modern auto courts and trailer camps — everything you can desire — are at your disposal all along your carefree way.

May we wish you happy traveling — and extend to you the hand of good western fellowship in offering you this salutation—

WELCOME TO THE ENCHANTED CIRCLE!



# Underground on ROUTE 66

## Go deep underground at Grand Canyon Caverns

### **T**here's a dinosaur in the driveway.

Close by there's a miniature golf course and vintage hotel and restaurant reminiscent of the 1950s and 1960s era. A little further down the driveway there are horse stables, a rodeo area, trails for hiking and biking and an RV Park and campground.

Everything at Grand Canyon Caverns is designed to resemble a bygone era while still offering the comforts of 2019. It's quaint and intriguing but the real secret lies 210 feet below the surface where tours are given in one of the largest dry caverns in the country.

The attraction is located 12 miles from Peach Springs, Arizona, and five miles from Indian Road 18 that dead ends at the Grand Canyon where hikers and Grand Canyon enthusiasts begin their descent to Supai Falls deep in the interior of the Grand Canyon.

Starting in 1927, tourists began exploring the caverns, descending

below ground suspended from a rope. Today, visitors take the easy route, descending 210 feet of 21 stories, in an elevator. The elevator, completed in 1962, now takes around a minute to descend or ascend. Once you reach the bottom, there is just over a mile of concrete sidewalks that were installed using a chute from a hole in the surface where the cement was first mixed and sent to the bottom.

Taking one of the six different tours ranging from handicapped accessible to physically demanding cave spelunking, those visiting the attraction have the option to stay the night inside the cave.

The Cavern Suite, located 210 feet below the surface, is a complete hotel room, with two queen beds, a hideaway couch, TV, shower, toilet, table and chairs, and even comes with a basket of midnight snacks.

More information at [www.gccaverns.com](http://www.gccaverns.com)



JUL 64



DISTANCES

From Seligman, Arizona.....	25 miles
From Williams, Arizona.....	66 miles
From Flagstaff, Arizona.....	96 miles
From Phoenix, Arizona.....	196 miles
From Kingman, Arizona.....	65 miles
From Las Vegas, Nevada.....	168 miles
From Grand Canyon, Arizona.....	123 miles
From Albuquerque, New Mexico.....	419 miles
From Los Angeles, California.....	423 miles

Open 7 Days a Week • Summer 7 AM • Winter 8 AM



Tour tickets available at the Grand Canyon Caverns and at the Park Motel office



RESTAURANT AND CURIO SHOP

The Grand Canyon Caverns Coffee Shop serves excellent food in a setting of spectacular Arizona desert beauty. Plan to eat and enjoy the view either before or after your visit to the Caverns. Take time, too, to browse through the Caverns' gift and curio shop. And if you're in the mood for a picnic, you'll find many campsites with campground facilities spaced all around the entrance to the Caverns.



WHEN VISITING THE GRAND CANYON CAVERNS PLAN TO STAY AT THE PARK MOTEL

The Park Motel, at the Highway 66 entrance to the Grand Canyon Caverns, offers luxurious air-conditioned rooms and a full round of resort activities for your family.

Facilities include a heated swimming pool, tennis court, shuffle board, archery range, nine hole 3-par golf course and a private trout pond. The Park Motel restaurant and coffee shop serve fine food in an attractive air-conditioned setting. A spacious cocktail lounge adjoins the restaurant. The Gift and Curio Shop carries a fine selection of souvenirs and authentic Arizona Indian artifacts.

Fly your plane to the Grand Canyon Caverns. A 4,200 foot runway is immediately adjacent to the Park Motel. Modern tie-downs, 80/87 and 100/130 octane gasolines are available. The Park Motel is within easy reach of all major Southwest activity centers. It's just a comfortable one-day drive from Albuquerque or Los Angeles.

This brochure has been prepared as a service to the Grand Canyon Caverns by the Park Motel.



GRAND CANYON CAVERNS

One of Arizona's Natural Wonders

On Highway 66 In The Heart Of The Arizona Desert Dinosaur, Arizona



Gary Ringsby, Director



THE HALLS OF GOLD



SNOWBALL PALACE

GRAND CANYON CAVERNS

Looking for beauty...and excitement? Discover the GRAND CANYON CAVERNS. The stunning splendor of this natural wonder is something you and your whole family will never forget. The magnificent cave formations and gorgeous colors leave a lasting impression of nature's wonder with every visitor.

Developing in size and beauty for over 300 million years, the Caverns were formed by the slow, but relentless action of water. Shells and skeletons of microscopic sea dwellers were deposited on the floor of ancient inland seas, forming limestone bedrock. When the seas receded, rain water oozing through primeval surface vegetation acquired carbon dioxide and formed a mild acid solution. The acid solution slowly trickled down into minute cracks and crevices in the limestone bedrock.

CREVICES BECOME CAVES

Over countless years, the acid-laden water dissolved the limestone bedrock, enlarging the crevices and forming underground water basins. The dazzling crystalline walls and pastel shades of the cave system resulted from the minerals deposited by dissolved limestone as the water evaporated. Volcanic action, including earthquakes, fashioned the underground water basins into cavern contours. Occurring eons ago, these violent upheavals of nature caused gigantic boulders to fall to the cave system floors, thus leaving immense and rugged rock ceilings of spectacular beauty.

The development of the Caverns closely paralleled that of the nearby Grand Canyon. The Colorado River has carved deeper and deeper into the rock of the Grand Canyon for millions of years. As the river cut ever lower, the water table of the surrounding countryside dropped accordingly. This steady lowering of the water table, coupled with the

lack of rain on the Arizona desert, has created an atmosphere totally devoid of moisture in the Caverns. The Grand Canyon Caverns is one of the largest completely dry and well preserved cave systems in the world.

INHABITANTS

The Caverns had inhabitants long before the dawn of recorded history. The Redwall limestone walls hold fossils of many prehistoric sea and land dwellers. The largest of these fossils found in the Caverns, a giant ground sloth, was estimated to have lived over 30,000 years ago. Prehistoric American Indian tribes, long lost in antiquity, knew of both the Caverns and the Grand Canyon. The Hualapai Indians knew of the upper level of the Caverns long before the arrival of white men to the area. The tribe looked upon the Caverns as a revered and sacred place. Mystery and legend surround the Caverns even today. Elders of the Hualapai Tribe still caution the Tribe's young people that the original entrance to the first level of the caves is a sacred place and should be observed as such.

CONTINUED EXPLORATION

The existence of the Grand Canyon Caverns first became general knowledge in 1927, in that year a heavy rain widened the natural funnel shaped opening to the upper level of the cave system. A wood cutter for the Santa Fe Railroad found the entrance one evening while on his way to a "little game with the boys" at the nearby Yampai railroad siding house. The railroad workers and ranch hands who then explored the caves named them the Yampai Caverns after the nearby siding house.

Even today, exploration never ceases at the Grand Canyon Caverns. Intriguing drafts of air seeping through niches and floor fissures give credence to the theory that other caverns

await discovery deep below. Recent electrical resistivity tests which measure the changes and the structure of the earth's crust have proven that these lower levels of the Caverns do exist.

The depth and unchanging humidity of the Caverns keep the underground temperature a cool and comfortable 56° F. Some of the most beautiful formations found in the Caverns were created as a result of both the stable temperature and the Cavern's atmosphere. An example of this is the pure white snowball-like mineral formations of selenite found in the Snowball Palace, one of the Cavern's many rooms. Selenite, a delicate mineral, loses its luster and eventually disintegrates outside the cavern. The selenite almost appears to melt before your eyes in the alien atmosphere.

THE CAVERNS TODAY

The present entrance to the Caverns was created to enable the installation of a specially-designed elevator to convey visitors to the Caverns' vast chambers. 27 stories beneath the earth's surface. As you step from the elevator, you enter an underground world of indescribable beauty. A precisely-engineered lighting system accentuates the infinite variations of natural grandeur. Paved walkways lead into the Caverns' many rooms and halls. No expense or effort has been spared in order to make your visit as comfortable and as enjoyable as possible.

The guides who lead each tour through the Grand Canyon Caverns are expert on the remarkable story of the development of the Caverns and the history of each dramatically beautiful room. A complete tour of the Caverns takes only 45 minutes. 45 minutes of enchantment for the whole family. You may, however, remain at the Caverns as long as you wish. The splendor of this natural wonder creates memories you will always cherish.



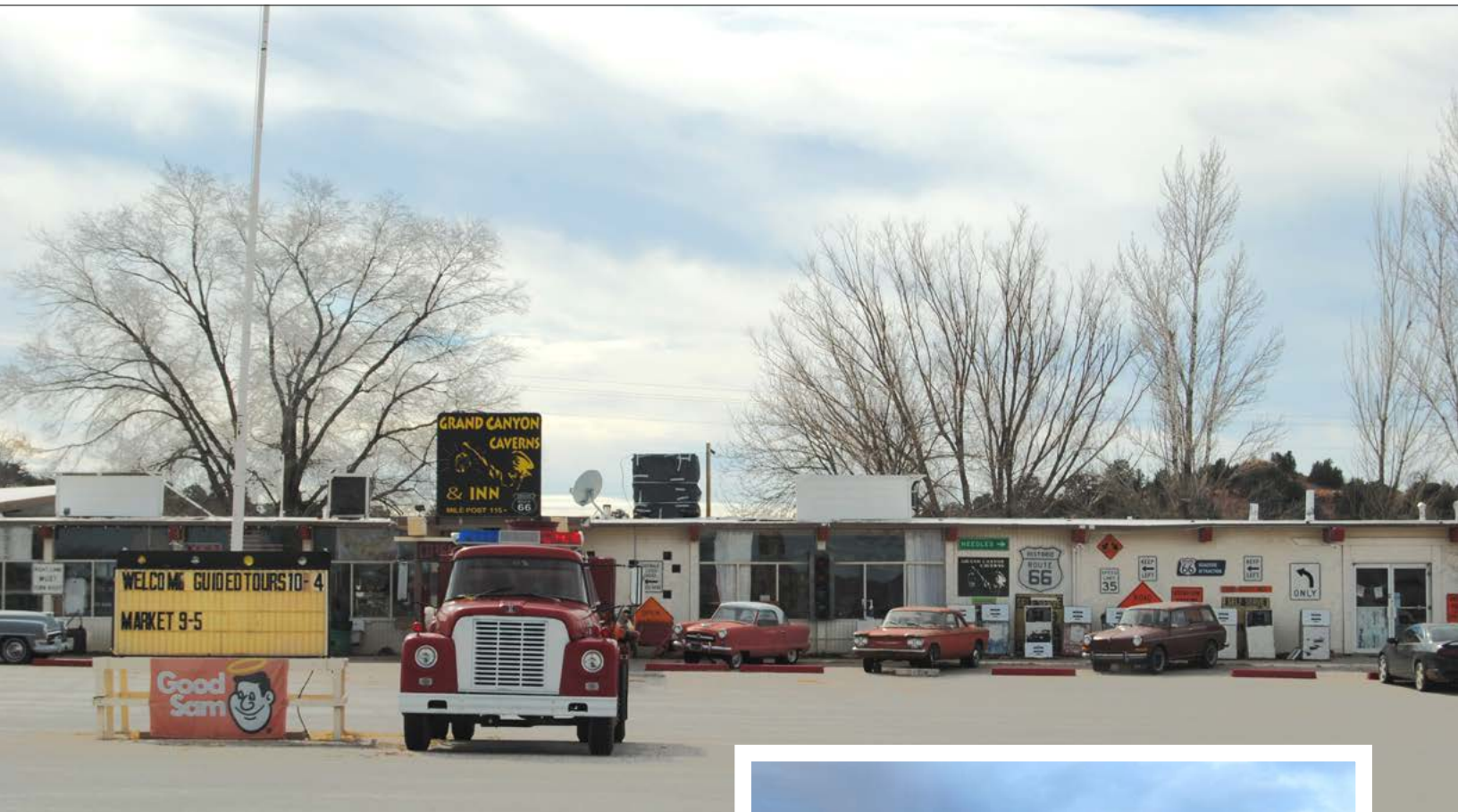
CHAPEL OF THE AGES

# Legends of America

# Grand Canyon Caverns

## Arizona

Story by Jim Hinckley



Grand Canyon Caverns Inn, Arizona by Kathy Weiser-Alexander

**N**ever judge a book by its cover is an old adage easily applied to many places scattered along Route 66. However, there are few places where it is more fitting than Grand Canyon Caverns west of Seligman, Arizona.

As you pull into the dusty parking lot where battered monuments to America's automotive heritage bask under an Arizona sun, the first impression is that this was once a grand roadside resort now fallen on hard times. However, time spent on a caverns tour, savoring a





slice of homemade pie in the restaurant, playing nine holes of miniature golf in the shadow of towering dinosaurs, or simply lounging in front of the motel will reveal that this initial impression is one part carefully crafted illusion and one part a fact that the passionate owners are working to reverse.

The caverns, as locals refer to the resort, is a microcosm of Route 66 evolution from concept inception to renaissance. As an example, Route 66 was born of the good roads movement that gave rise to the National Old Trails Highway, and segments of the pioneering highway with original stone infrastructure are located a short distance to the east of the caverns natural entrance.

That highway was quite popular during the infancy of the road trip, a truly American past time that linked a passion for the automobile with the national quest for adventure. In 1914, it served as the course for the last of the great Desert Classic races derisively dubbed the "Cactus Derby" by journalists. That race coursed from Los Angeles, California to Ash Fork, Arizona before turning south toward the finish line in Phoenix, and featured two of the top names in motorsports at that time, Louis Chevrolet and Barney Oldfield.

This would also be the road followed by Edsel Ford in the summer of 1915 as he and friends journeyed west from Detroit to the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco via the Painted Desert and the Grand Canyon.

"Williams, Arizona, Thursday, July 15, 1915 - Found Cadillac and Stutz crews at Harvey Hotel at Williams waiting for us. All got supplies at garage. Talked to Ford Agent. Got going about eleven. Had lunch at Ash Fork. Loafed along; found it very hot. Bought some gas and oranges at Seligman. Stutz broke another spring about 15 miles out and returned to Seligman. Cadillac and Ford went on to Kingman, arriving at midnight, Brunswick Hotel. Very rough and dusty roads. Wired Los Angeles Branch for axle parts. Day's run 146 miles."

As an attraction, the caverns themselves date to late 1926, the year of certification for U.S. 66. Legend has it that itinerant cowboy named

Walter Peck was taking a short cut to a local poker game when he stumbled on and almost into the entrance. After an initial exploration of the cavern, Peck decided to capitalize on his discovery. For ten cents, later a quarter; he would provide tourists with a lantern and lower them into the cavern by rope using a hand crank winch. Among friends, he dubbed this dope on a rope. A replica of his contraption stands in front of the caverns visitor center and restaurant.

Route 66 itself ran a mile or so from "Yampai Cavern" but some innovative marketing and promotion ensured a steady flow of customers. In 1936, utilizing used lumber from the Hoover Dam project northwest of Kingman, a staircase and swinging bridge provided easier access. Following this improvement was the development of a trail system and a name change to Coconino Caverns.



World War II and gas rationing brought tourism traffic to an almost complete standstill. There were, however, bored GI's at the Kingman Army Airfield some sixty miles to the west and the cavern remained an income producer for owners.

The post-war surge in tourism and the golden age of Route 66 in the



1950s gave rise to a dramatic transformation of the caverns complex. Indicative of its prominence as an attraction is the four-lane segment of the highway at the entrance to the property; aside from urban corridors in communities such as Williams and Winslow, this was the only multiple lane segments of Route 66 between Albuquerque and Los Angeles.

A name change to Dinosaur Caverns and the addition of a motel, service station, and lounge reflected the growing popularity of the caverns. The addition of an elevator salvaged from a demolition project in Phoenix and an emergency exit metal staircase salvaged from a New York City demolition project relegated the old wooden stairs and bridge to attraction on the cavern tour. By 1962, the year that the name changed to Grand Canyon Caverns, the complex was experiencing a dramatic transition. Soon the complex consisted of two restaurants, a forty-eight room motel, a service station that never closed, and a gift shop, as well as a storage depot for Civil Defense supplies as the caverns were designated an official fall out shelter. There were also a rodeo grounds and an airstrip.

Next to the Grand Canyon itself, this was the most visited attraction in the state of Arizona. Still, with the completion of I-40 and the bypass of Route 66 between Seligman and Kingman in 1978, business plummeted. The caverns remained open, but one-by-one, components closed; first one restaurant and then the lounge. The service station and garage followed. Upkeep and maintenance became a hit and miss proposition, and the motel manifested this.

Fast forward a few years. The resurgent interest in Route 66 sparked an international renaissance. Once again, traffic began to flow along

Route 66. The caverns resort complex, however, languished. There was a question if the renewed interest in Route 66 and its roadside gems came too late.

Enter John McEnulty, a Los Angeles printer with a passion for hiking into Supai and the Grand Canyon. The ideally located Grand Canyon Caverns Inn served as his base camp for these adventures. With each visit, he witnessed the growing toll inflicted by indifferent owners, and years of neglect.



His attachment to the resort itself and fond memories of childhood vacations that included stops at places just like this initially sparked the desire to own the complex. The ever-growing popularity of Route 66 and the history of the complex associations with that highway fu-

eled thoughts that, perhaps, a new lease on life for the resort might be possible.

With an infectious smile, investors, a passionate zeal, and the help of his son Sean, McEnulty began turning back the hands of time while commuting to Los Angeles to fulfill the obligations of the regular job. As renovations commenced, John set his sites on 1964, which was the year he selected for freezing the resort in time.

Every week John commutes to the caverns. Every week a renovation turns back the hands of time. Each week the addition of a metal sculpture, a well-worn old car that fosters the illusion of this being a time-worn roadside relic, an addition to the eclectic museum, or a change in the menu reflects his unleashed imagination and unbridled enthusiasm for the old resort, and breathes new life into the caverns complex. All of this, however, is only the beginning of a new chapter at Grand Canyon Caverns.



The recent discovery of new levels in the caverns, and plans to open them for tours in the fall of 2016 are but one of many exciting new developments. Trail rides, wagon rides, disc golf course, ghost walk tours in search of Walter Peck, and the quirky but challenging miniature golf course among the towering dinosaurs and the golf cart graveyard are another. Likewise, with the fully updated and renovated RV park that recently garnered accolades from Good Sam, or the Caverns Suite, the world's deepest hotel room.

The ever-increasing popularity of Route 66 and McEnulty's visionary stewardship ensure that the Grand Canyon Caverns will become a destination for a new generation of enthusiasts. That includes the bicyclists taking advantage of Adventure Cyclist recent designation of the double six as a bicycle-friendly highway, or the electric vehicle owners who stop to charge batteries while touring the caverns as they venture toward Kingman, home of the world's first electric vehicle museum.

Grand Canyon Caverns today is a delightful time capsule where the past, present, and even the future of Route 66 flow together seamlessly. It is also refreshing little oasis at the heart of a vacation paradise, and a wonderful place for beginning an adventure along the 160-miles of smiles that is Route 66 in western Arizona where the longest uninterrupted segment of that storied highway flows to the Colorado River.

So, the next time you motor west and choose the highway that is the best, add a stop at the caverns to your itinerary. And, if the schedule allows, check into the Caverns Inn, get your key, and step back to 1964 as you settle into a clean, comfortable pleasant little time capsule for a restful night's sleep.

Route 66 continues westward about 13 miles to Peach Springs, Arizona.



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#### Kathy Weiser-Alexander

Founder/Editor

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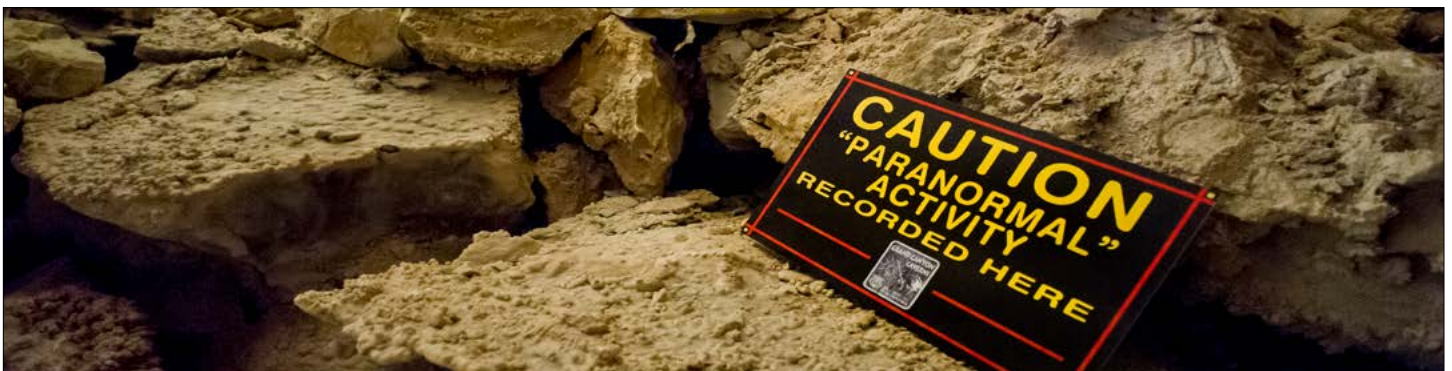
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# ARIZONA ROUTE 66

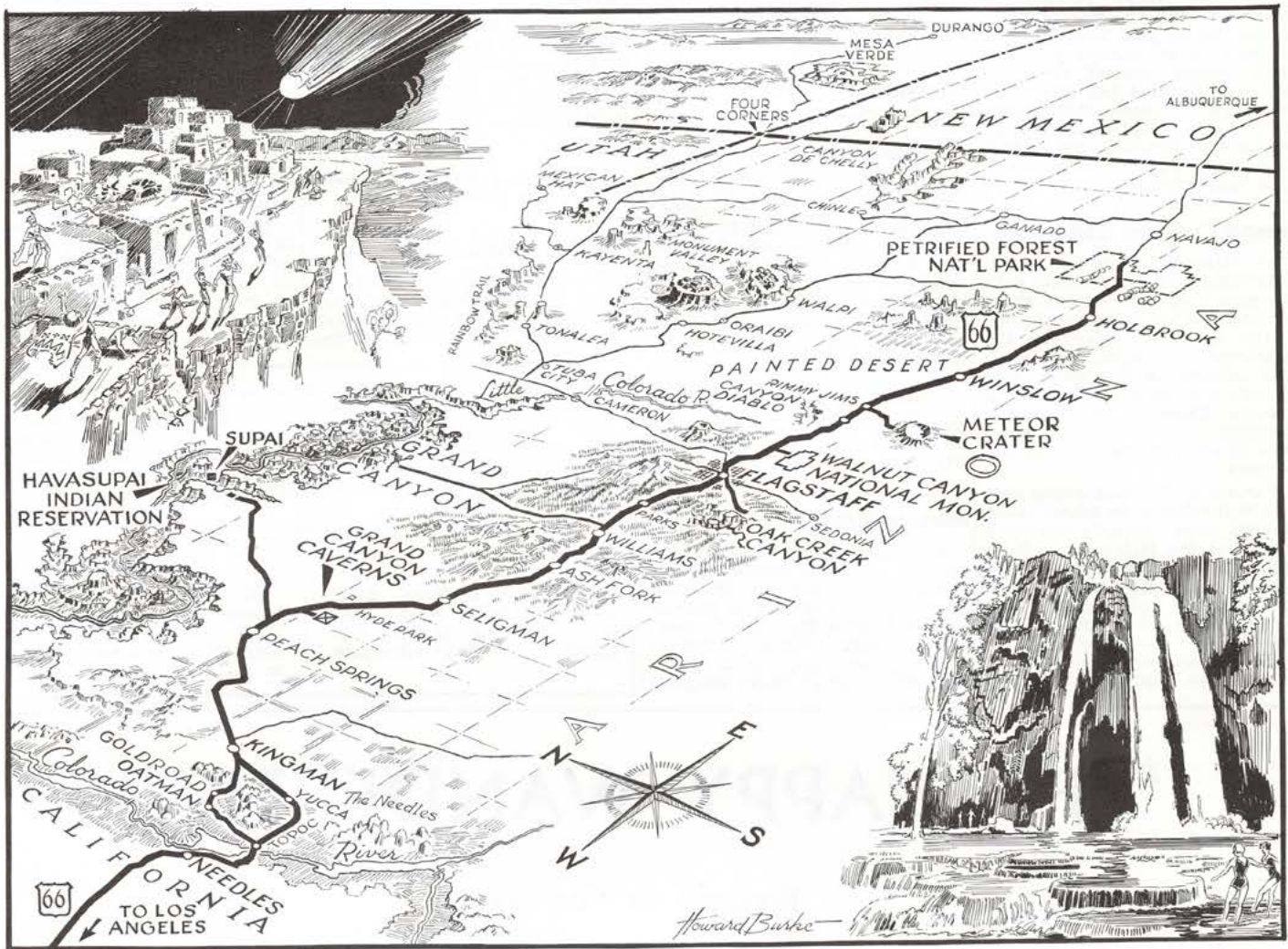
by  
SLIM BARNARD

Courtesy of your Southern California Ford Dealers

MAP No. 155

## EXPENSES

Gasoline .....	\$32.60
Lodging (2), two nights.....	21.00
Meals (2), three days.....	27.50
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$81.10</b>



## TRAVELOGUE



### "Get your kicks on Route 66"

Among the most famous highways in the United States there is scenic Route No. 1 along the California coast, the old Boston Post Road in New England, and the Pennsylvania Turnpike. But

none of them seem to be as well known or packed with as many side trips as Route 66. Stretching more than 2000 miles, it is the main artery from Los Angeles to Chicago. It has been the inspiration for both a song and a popular television series.

Your HAPPY WANDERERS have traveled Route 66 on many occasions and have found that portion of the highway which passes through Arizona to be the most varied in its topography and places of interest.

### Follow the Markers

Leaving Los Angeles, we drove east on the San Bernardino Freeway and followed the markers over Cajon Pass toward Barstow and through Daggett. This is California Route 66 and heading east through the desert flatland, we drew nearer to Needles on the western side of the Colorado River.

### Fort Mohave

Across the river from Needles is the town of Topock where the

remains of Fort Mohave rest on a bluff near the spot where the famous Beale's Camel Expedition crossed the river in 1855. Fort Mohave was the western anchor of the military road across Arizona and was built in the 1860s to provide protection for the wagons and people crossing the state. In later years the buildings of the fort were used as administration buildings by the ancestors of the same Indians who often attacked it.

(Continued on back)

**KCOP Channel 13 — HAPPY WANDERERS (In Color) — Every Friday Night 7:00 p. m.**

## A Short Side Trip

Leaving Route 66, temporarily, we headed north through the Mohave Valley for a side trip to Oatman and Goldroad. In the late 1800s, Oatman was a wide open mining camp and, between 1902 and 1910, \$18 million worth of gold was taken out of the area. More recently, Oatman was the site of many an exciting scene in the motion picture spectacular, "How The West Was Won."

Further up the road is the once thriving town of Goldroad, where Jose Jerez, a Mexican prospector, made history in 1900. Working the nearby hills, he discovered gold samples that assayed at 40 ounces per ton. Soon people poured into the area and swelled the clapboard dwellings to more than 5,000. By the early thirties, the mines had shut down but not before more than \$7 million in gold had been extracted.

## Grand Canyon Caverns

At Kingman, your HAPPY WANDERERS connected with 66 again and traveled the short distance to Peach Springs which is the trading center for the handicrafts made by the Hualapai Indians. A few miles east of here we came to the Grand Canyon Caverns where Gary Ringsby, the son of the owner, took us on a guided tour of the caverns.

Carved by the submerged portion of the Colorado River, these caverns were virtually unknown to all but the Hualapai Indians and a few intrepid spelunkers until 1927. At that time, a railroad worker came upon them and not long afterward visitors began to frequent the attraction.

Many discoveries were made in the area that was once an

Indian burial ground. Prehistoric skeletons, the bones of a giant ground sloth, extinct for 20,000 years, and many marine fossils, 300 million years old, were unearthed here.

The elevator from the entrance descends twenty one stories to the main chamber and a constant temperature of 56 degrees. Emerging from the lift, we entered a large hall and noticed the huge limestone deposits that seem as though they have been extruded from every point in the cavern. Listening to Gary Ringsby, he told us that a vast network of unexplored chambers extends 1400 feet beneath the floor of the room we were standing in.

## Gateway to The Grand Canyon

Further east on 66, and not too far from Flagstaff, is Williams, Arizona, which is called "The Gateway to the Grand Canyon." Surrounded by green meadows and the pine trees of the Kaibab National Forest, Williams is a sportsman's delight. Here, in the quiet of the high country, one can fish for trout and bluegill, or hunt for antelope, elk, bear, lion, deer, and all game birds.

Lodging facilities here are quite good and Williams is only an hour's drive from the Grand Canyon.

## Meteor Crater

Passing through Flagstaff, the lumber center of northern Arizona, we stayed on 66 until reaching the turn off to Meteor Crater. This is the world's largest and was formed 12,000 to 15,000 years ago by a giant meteorite that probably weighed

between 3 and 10 million tons. Scientists suspect that a minor planet exploded long ago and sent a chunk of its surface hurtling toward the earth at more than 90,000 m.p.h.

A near perfect bowl, and the best preserved of all the world's meteoric craters, it is 4,150 feet across and 570 feet deep. It has a three mile circular rim that rises 100 to 150 feet above the surrounding country. At the edge of the rim is a small museum which details the history of the crater and its formation.

## Winslow

East of the crater, at the southern tip of the Navajo Indian Reservation, is the town of Winslow. This town, in the center of the Zane Grey country, is the southern gateway to the Navajo and Hopi lands. Pilots know the area as the location of the largest and finest airport in northern Arizona.

## Petrified Forest

From Winslow it is only 14 miles to the Painted Desert which is part of the Petrified Forest National Monument. The

Painted Desert is a relatively concentrated area where the sandstone plateaus, buttes and mesas are splashed with unusually vivid colors.

The adjacent Petrified Forest is composed of rock-hardened trees, none of which are standing, that form one of nature's strangest oddities. It is believed that these trees were floated into the area by streams during the Triassic geological period, some 160 million years ago. The logs, in time, were buried by sediment, mainly of volcanic ash, and became impregnated with mineral solutions which hardened in the pores of the wood. Later the region was uplifted and wind and rain wore away the outer layers of sediment and revealed the palette of colors that one sees in petrified wood today. The Petrified Forest National Monument is open year round but is closed in the evenings to prevent pilferage of specimens of petrified wood.

From this point it is possible to keep going east on 66 until you arrive at the Windy City. But on the other hand, it might be fun to turn around, as we did, and retrace your steps along Route 66 as it traverses Arizona.

### BEST SEASON

April to November is the best time to visit Arizona Route 66. However, the western portion, near the Colorado River, gets hot in the summer and could be visited in the winter. The eastern portion is high and receives snow and icy winds in the winter, but can be visited the rest of the year.

### WHAT TO WEAR

#### Men

Comfortable walking shoes, a sport shirt, slacks and a sweater or jacket. Sun glasses are always advisable.

#### Women

Comfortable shoes, capri-blouse combinations, warm coat or jacket for chilly evenings. Include a hat for shade in the summer months.

# The Happy Wanderers TV show

was a staple on Los Angeles TV in the 1960's. It featured Slim and Henrietta Barnard. On each of their trips they added a map, what the trip cost, what to wear and what to see. A truly Down Home production. In 1965 it was the most popular local television show in Southern California.



GIGANTICUS HEADICUS located at the site of the old Rancho Restaurant, at mile marker #75, was the idea and work of the husband/wife artists, Gregg Arnold & Alie Reynolds-Arnold. Now a part of the Grand Canyon Caverns family, its new name is **Route 66 Antares Visitor Center & Art Gallery.**

Stop for the photo op, visit the gift shop and have a great meal. Add to your Route 66 memories.

Gregg Arnold can be reached at [antaresartstudio.com](http://antaresartstudio.com) or [kozecorner@yahoo.com](mailto:kozecorner@yahoo.com)