

Caving

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to Kutztown State College for help. They showed us this film on caves and cave formations.

"We learned so much from the film that we decided our visitors might enjoy seeing it too," said Ann.

The film explains how caves are 'born' and how the various formations that can be found in caves are formed from mineral water dripping from the cave ceilings or cracks in the walls.

After the educational pre-talk, visitors can casually stroll down to the cave's entrance with their competent tour guide, one of the Rizzo family members.

The cave is strikingly natural, with only the artificial white lights breaking the darkness of its interior.

Wrapped in a welcome sweater, a visitor feels a rush of cool, damp air after stepping inside—a sharp contrast to the stifling heat outside the cave's mouth.

The tour guide, with flashlight in hand, leads the way through the cave, down gravel paths and up wooden steps, pointing out low passages and interesting stalactites, natural bridges,

and possible human remains.

Visitors can quench their thirst by sipping some of the crystal clear, cold water that is found in pools.

According to Ann Rizzo, Onyx cave was discovered in 1872 by Isaac Adams. She explained that Adams, the farm owner, was mining for limestone and accidentally stumbled into the cave.

Since its discovery, the cave has had a new owner seven times, she said, noting that Gordon Frazer owned the cave for 20 years before they bought it from him.

During the depression, the owner of the cave could not meet his financial obligations and the bank took over the property, renting it to college students who destroyed a lot of the formations during their stay, Rizzo sighed.

Onyx Cave, which is 922 feet long, was actually formed millions of years ago. It gets its name from the mineral, calcium carbonate, which crystallizes into the 'gem' called onyx which takes 365-400 years to 'grow' one inch.

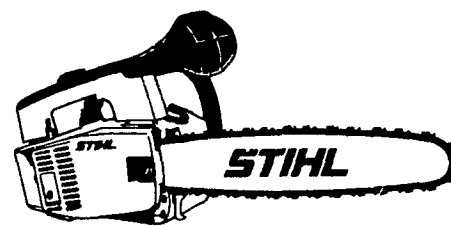
Theresa explained that cave onyx is also known as 'worry stone'. "You carry a piece of it around with you and rub it whenever you're worried. It helps ease your

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This column, known as the Totem Pole, is the longest one in Crystal Cave. It is estimated to be several million years old.

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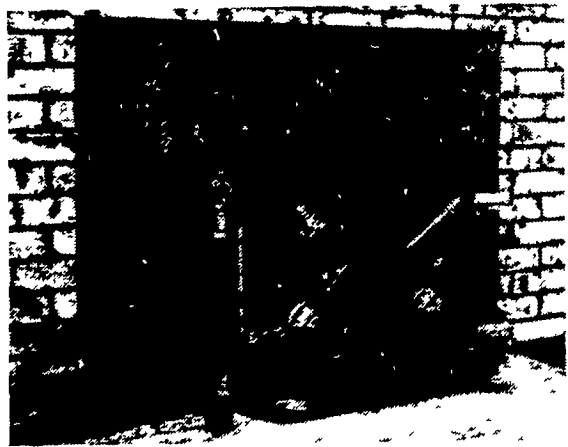
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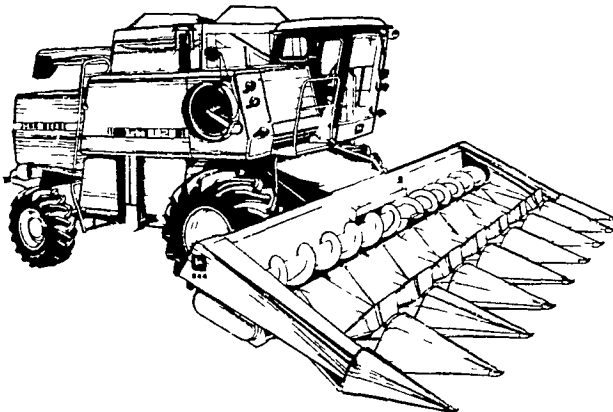


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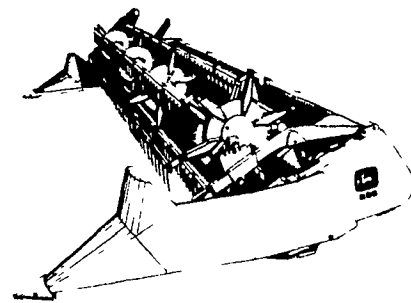
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