



## Sad News-Good News Begins 1996

We begin this year with sad news. Bill Herkert, president of the Crystal Cave Development Company, died in early December.

Herkert, 77, had been in failing health for sometime. "He was a wonderful fellow," recalled Larry Hahn, president of Exploration Inc. of Nevada.

"Bill patiently waited for us to find this river, but he just couldn't wait any longer. We're hoping that he'll meet us at the River of Gold because he wanted it so badly," Larry added, his voice choked with emotion.

But this year also begins with good news. Everything, for a change, is going well and on schedule.

We've completed our 58-foot tunnel over to the void that we started late last summer. The void is now about 6-feet across, 12-feet wide and shoots straight up about 16-18 feet.

It veers slightly to the left, traveling downward about 15-20 feet. "We can see down the hole, but we can't get through it," explained Larry.

So the crew went back to their starting point, and 20-feet beyond that, where they made a cutout. We decided to

follow a 1-foot diameter solution tube which seems to be breathing air. The new tunnel was angled at 20 degrees to the left and then driven over 20-feet to intersect the first fault.

Now we need some accuracy in determining the direction of these faults, so on Jan. 21 Jim Hanhardt is coming out with his laser survey equipment.

"We're going to survey the tunnels accurately," Larry emphasized.

Immediately after that, we're going to tunnel left toward Crystal Cave -- along the fault we've identified as Schnaard's Fault.

"Hopefully, we'll intersect the passage system that Jim [Hanhardt] is so fervently sure is there," he added.

The plan is to average one-round, or 6-feet of blasting every two to three days, which means we should be at our goal within three months.

### **Exploration Inc. of Nevada**

This newsletter is published three times a year to keep Investors advised of the progress being made at Camp Kokoweef in the on-going search for the lost River of Gold, and as a reminder to all Investors that their investments are due.

President ————— Larry Hahn

Newsletter Editor ————— Vicki M. Bertolino

EVIDENCE AND SUGGESTIONS FOR LOCATING EARL DORR'S ORIGINAL PASSAGE  
IN CRYSTAL CAVE SO WE CAN FIND OUR WAY TO THE RIVER OF GOLD

A small map (below) drawn under the supervision of Earl Dorr, in 1954, shows his long, descent starting from the bottom of the Lower Cavern in Crystal Cave. **THAT** is why 95<sup>0</sup>/<sub>0</sub> of the work in Crystal was done to explore under the "45 degree fault"! ( See map on page 3 )

Old stories, the small map, and mother nature, may have thrown **EVERYONE** a real curveball, in Crystal Cave, by requiring anyone who will succeed in this quest to go up the Rat Hole! It's **not** a natural thing to do. It earned this name honorably by being one miserable, tight, steep, twisting, **upward**-trending hole ultimately leading into the Skyroom.

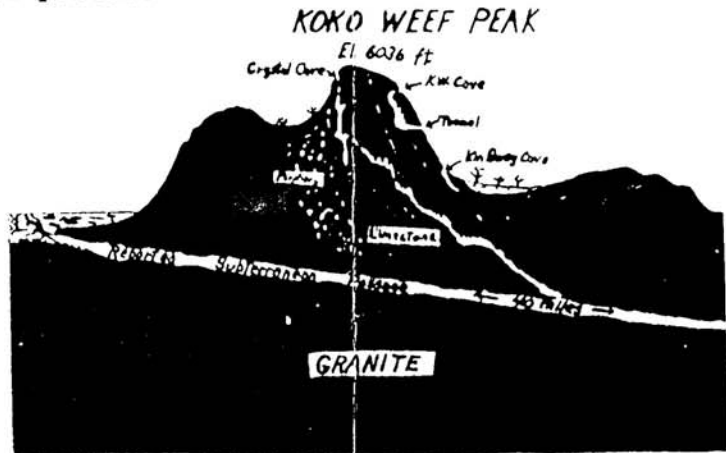
In the late 1940's, before any work had been done in Crystal Cave, a group of cave explorer's, organized by Dr. Halliday, reported finding fractured flowstone and a "thin trail of ash" near a "small alcove" (see map) But when the Raise was drilled up to the lower cavern, from underneath, the rocks and boulders were removed; leaving that miserable Rat Hole stranded high and dry above the lowered floor of the upper tunnel level. Note the Rat Hole begins to go up from the level where Dorr wrote his name on the wall. Stories indicate he left the cave from here and everyone, until now, assumed he went down from there. Maybe he went up to go down!!! One account related Earl went through a spot that was so tight he was afraid to go there at first. Well, the Rat Hole discouraged all but the most determined of cave crawlers!

In thinking this over, I remembered there is a 6 foot diameter hole in the upper (hanging wall) of the 45 degree fault. This is a significant, cavern feature under a totally unexplored area above the 45 degree Fault. Only the bottom of this 6 foot hole is visible and it is plugged with crushed popcorn rock and red clay. Now I believe it could be open above it - especially because it will intersect Schnarr's Fault! At that spot it should become bigger! ...And, the best part?...

...It's only 30 feet from the Rat Hole!!!

At our recent January meeting we eagerly discussed working in this "new" area. (It's always been there - just not pleasantly obvious) We're very optimistic about finding something in Crystal Cave! What we find could help direct the tunneling back along Schnarr's Fault from the Carbonate King side. Let's hope we **solve** this 69 year puzzle. We'll keep you posted.

by: Ralph Lewis  
1-23-96



**Sketch was made under Dorr's direction in 1954.**

KOKOWEEF PEAK

CRYSTAL CAVE  
280 FT. DEEP  
NATURAL OPENING

KOKOWEEF CAVE

CARBONATE KING ZINC MINE (1940's)  
... EXISTING TUNNELS ARE  
BEING EXTENDED NOW

KIN SAVEY CAVE  
125 FT. DEEP

ARTIFICIAL  
CLOSURES

PROPOSED TUNNEL

CLOSED BY DEBRIS

PROJECTING SHELF ROCKS

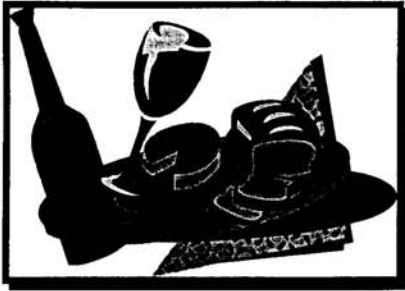
THESE SHELF ROCKS HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED FOR EIGHT MILES

CEILING TO  
FLOOR  
HEIGHT IS  
3000 FEET

STREAM FLOWING ON BOTTOM OF SUBTERRANEAN CHASM  
IS ABOUT ONE MILE BELOW THE SURFACE

1996 ANNUAL!  
PICNIC!  
SUNDAY  
JUNE 2





about very much, so we believe it is in every investor's interest to hear this. We'll detail:

- ⇒ What we're going to do.
- ⇒ Why we're going to do it.
- ⇒ What your involvement should be.
- ⇒ What the share value of your investment should be.
- ⇒ How you'll be involved with the entire operation should you choose to be.

We do hope that you will all show up this year and get a first hand look at our accomplishments. We've even

made the premises more habitable. Unlike last year, the air conditioning works throughout the entire building. We even have people movers this year to transport you to the mining operation.

As usual, we ask that each of you bring your favorite dish to share. We'll provide the hot dogs, hamburgers, relish, condiments, ice, drinks, plates, utensils and all of the other needed equipment to insure success and enjoyment for all.

For those of you who need to book a room, call Larry Hahn at 702 649-6819, and he'll try to help you.



## Everything is going well for a change

Except for our usual operational costs, we're pleased to report that everything is going well for a change.

Our seismic system is finally operational, thanks to an investor who has given us enough money to buy the directional transducers that we needed. We're putting this on hold, though, for about a month just in case we get lucky in the Carbonate King Zinc

Silver Mine venture!

We have had our usual round of breakdowns and problems. We blew a hub on the LHD which cost \$3,000 to repair; we need to pay for a variety of minor repair jobs that amount to \$4,000; and we need fuel at a cost of \$4,000.

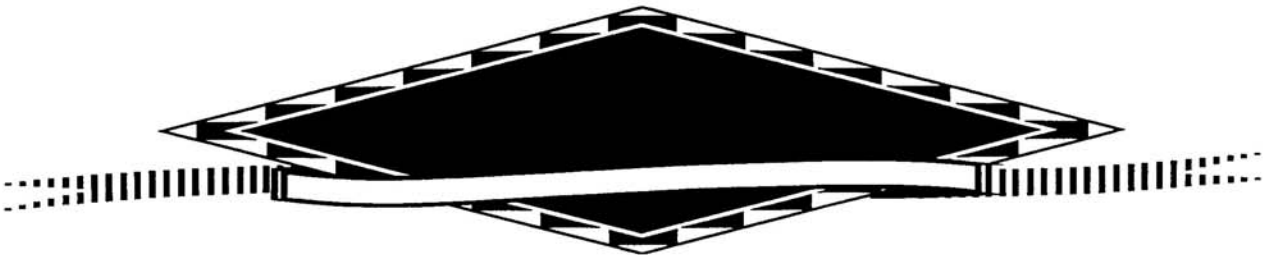
Other than that, we have our usual expenses for rent, food, dynamite and blasting powder, so we do need to restock our cash

drawers until we enter that back door.

Mainly, though, we need your participation.

This might be our year to celebrate more than we have in the past.

As you know, we've always been optimistic, but we truly believe that this will be the year that will tell the tale -- the year we uncover our ***River of Gold!***





YELLOW

= EARL DORR'S  
POSSIBLE PATH

# CRYSTAL CAVE (side view)

CRYSTAL CAVE  
NATURAL  
ENTRANCE

LIMESTONE SURFACE

45° FAULT

SKY ROOM

UPPER  
CAVERN

ORIGINAL  
LEVEL OF  
NATURAL  
DEBRIS

LOWER  
CAVERN

MEAT  
GRINDER  
BOULDER

DORR

RAT HOLE

POSSIBLE  
HIDDEN PASSAGE  
IN HANGING WALL

6 ft. diameter  
popcorn and clay  
PLUGGED TUBE

ALCOVE

thin  
trail of  
ash  
(burned fuse?)

POWER'S  
HOLE

HANGING WALL  
FOOT WALL

+/- 30  
FEET

CRYSTAL CAVE  
UPPER WORKING LEVEL

TO TRACK LEVEL  
Man Made Access Raise

Schnarr's Hole

NOTE:  
The Rat Hole is  
on Schnarr's Fault

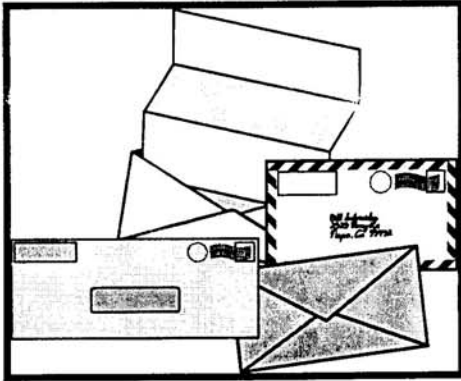
Sketch by: RALPH LEWIS  
1-23-96

## ***Full Speed Ahead!***

Winter of 96 might be rough on the East Coast, but out west it's been mild. December is usually slow at the mine because of the chilly temperatures and people busy with Christmas -- shopping and visiting relatives and friends.

"But now we want to move forward with a blast!" insists Larry who invites anyone who wants to help -- or get out of the cold if you live in the East and South -- to come up as often as possible. Whenever we can get a crew together, we continue diamond drilling in the old tunnel and use the seismic equipment as often as possible to accumulate information.

Not only can we use your physical help, but your fiscal help as well.



We need to restock our fuel, dynamite, blasting powder and cupboards. Rent is due.

That takes cash -- and since investments have not been coming in as regularly as they should be, we need to restock our cash drawer as well.

"This is your regular 4-month reminder about your investment. So, if you have any money left over from the holidays, we sure could use some. If not, we'll still go forward, but we do hope you will help us out by sending in your investment now," asks Larry.

## **Picnic Plans Begin**

With everything going so well, and if we continue to average 33-feet of blasting a month, we should have some good news to share with you in June.

This year, our Investor's Family Picnic is scheduled on June 2, the first weekend after Memorial Day. As usual, we'll have good food, good times and hopefully good news.

We encourage as many of you as possible to visit. It's important that you see first hand how your investment is being used. It's also important that you meet the other investors because we are one family with one goal -- to find that River of Gold!

We'll talk more about the Picnic in the May newsletter. For now, we hope each of you will mark your calendars for June 2.

