

To:

Indian Cave Commissioners

Ted Wirth, (2702 Downer St., Billings)

Rockwood Brown, (P.O. Box 1215)

Harold Hagan, (2610 Golden Blvd.)

Conna May, (P.O. Box 1363)

Chester Brooks, (519 Glen Drive)

Addison Bragg, (401 S. 38th St.)

And other interested individuals

Mayor Willard Fraser, (City Hall)

Stuart Conner, (805 Midland Bank Bldg.)

James Thompson, (117 N 27th St.)

Vern Prill, (Park Dept., City Hall)

Vince Ames, (Billings Geological Society, 1122 N 28th St.)

Ashley Roberts, (Director of State Parks, State Highway  
Dept., Helena)

John McLaughlin, (Supt. Yellowstone National Park  
Mammoth, Wyoming)

Kenneth Carter, (District Scout Executive, 928 Broadwater Ave.)

From: Will Clark, Commission Chairman April 19, 1965

Re: Work Day on April 17, and other matters.

1. The Work Day at the Caves Park, on Saturday, April 17.

a. Accomplished:

-Installed 3 wooden picnic tables, firmly anchored.

-Installed one cement picnic table.

-Dug holes for and installed 2 privies.

-Roughed out trail to privies.

-Installed archaeological sign built by Highway Dept.

-Constructed new trail as laid out by Wirth and Conner.

-Constructed 2 fence-gates, now locked with chains and padlocks.

Four common keys: one each in possession of Mayor Fraser, Vern Prill (City Park Dept.), Stu Conner, and Will Clark.

-Installed 2 new "Pedestrians Only Beyond this Point" signs.

-Installed 5 "Firearms Prohibited" signs, as received from

Ashley Roberts, State Parks Director.

-Cleaned junk out of spring.

-Picked up a huge pile of trash, mostly beer cans.

b. Persons involved:

-Major work was done by the boys and men of Boy Scout Troops 99, 4, 33, and 98. Our major thanks for organizing the work crews goes to Mr. Leonard Douglas, Neighborhood Scout Commissioner. Mr. Kenneth Carter, District Scout Executive kindly put us on the trail of those troops.

-Archaeological supervision (and a lot of digging time) were given by Mr. Feyhl and Mr. Christiansen of the Billings Archaeological Society.

-Mr. Fisher, who supplied some blade work on the trails.

c. Materials supplied:

-3 knocked-down wooden picnic tables, supplied by Mr. Cucciardi of The Builders Mart, assembled by the Will Clark family beforehand,

then stained and installed by the Boy Scouts.

- 6 steel anchor posts (left over from last fall's fencing job).  
Top plates welded on by Roscoe Steel Co.
- 2 pristine privies, on loan from Yellowstone National Park.
- 5 bags Cretemix (concrete mix), given by Mr. Jerry Graham of Graham Lumber Co.
- Signs from State Parks Division.
- One cement picnic table (5 more are promised), from the Billings Rod and Gun Club, and built by Robinson Lumber Co.
- Use of trailer at a reduced rate, from Mr. Drake of Roll Away Rentals. Used to haul privies from Yellowstone National Park, and to take the many items out to the Caves Park site prior to the Work Day.
- Use of tractor and blade from and by Mr. Fisher.

d. Thanks due for prior work or arrangements.

- to Ted Wirth and Stu Conner for staking locations of trails, tables, and privies.
- to Stu Conner, for arranging for archaeological supervision. Those men, by the way, found some interesting items.
- to Conna May, for his genuine but unfortunately unsuccessful efforts to extract some ranch gates from ranch-supply houses.

e. Still in the mill:

- Sign blank, custom built for and paid for by the Billings Geological Society, is now at the Sign Shop at Yellowstone Park. Mr. Vince Ames of that Society developed a geological text for the sign, and it is to be routed by that Sign Shop. The sign blank was delivered to Yellowstone when Clark went up to pick up the privies.
- Pile of trash, which was collected by the Boy Scouts, must be hauled away.
- 5 more cement-base picnic tables must be installed. Only 1 more is actually ready for installation.

2. Statement of Indian Caves Commission Account.

(Account #85-176-0 in Security Trust and Savings Bank)

Receipts

Donation, from Mrs. Jean Anderson . . . . .	\$25.00
Donation, from Mr. Fred Martin (of Livingston). . . . .	8.00
Total Receipts . . . . .	<u>\$33.00</u>

Expenditures to date

Aldrich Co. - log bolts to assemble wooden picnic tables . . . . .	\$10.92	
Roll Away Rental-reduced price on trailer rental. . . . .	10.00	
Aldrich Co. - U-bolts . . . . .	1.60	
Saunders Lumber Co. (survey stakes). . . . .	2.95	
Total bills paid . . . . .	<u>\$25.47</u>	
Balance on hand . . . . .		<u>\$ 7.53</u>
		<u>-25.47</u>

Unpaid obligations

Saunders Lumber Co. (misc. small hardware items: bolts, chain, padlocks, staples) . . . . .	\$6.64	
Gasoline - actual out-of-pocket gasoline expense paid by W. Clark for only April 16,17,19. Trip to Yellowstone Park to get privies, plus many trips in Billings in picking up items for Caves Work Day. .	\$14.12	
	<u>\$20.76</u>	
In the hole . . . . .		<u>-20.76</u> -13.23

3. Other Items

-Ted Wirth has completed the plans and drawings for the wooden plank fence we hope in time to build around the parking area.

-We still need to get the parking area gravelled. Mr. Mayor: can you use your persuasive influence to get this promised job done. If you can also have them dump an extra load or two of gravel in the corner of the parking lot, we certainly could use it on our trails.

-As the Commission members know, Chet Brooks is being transferred by the National Park Service to Washington, D.C., but the Mayor has refused his resignation from the Indian Caves Commission. Instead, Chet Brooks is officially the Washington Representative of the Indian Caves Commission.

-To fill Mr. Brooks' local position, the Mayor has appointed Addison Bragg.

-It looks as though we'll need to have another Work Day soon, in order to get some more of the picnic tables installed and (hopefully) the trails gravelled.

-On Sunday the 18th, I found the Caves Park teeming with people. On making a single and casual car-tally, I counted 30 cars in the lot. Also, I found all four strands of the barbed wire fence cut at one point, obviously to allow motor cycle access. The fence was patched up at once.

-Because of the state of our finances, we need to raise some funds. Suggestions are welcome.

-We have an offer from a retired man who is willing to move his trailer to the Caves and serve as caretaker for the summer, gratis.

Everything considered, the Indian Caves Commission has been able to come quite a long way in realizing goals of Phase I of its development plans. Soon to be arranged is a formal mounting of the plaque from the Smithsonian. Perhaps (sigh) someday the City Fathers will realize what a valuable asset they have at the Indian Caves, and at least authorize a modicum of maintenance by city crews.

Cordially,



Wilson F. Clark  
Eastern Montana College