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SUMMER WHITE HOUSE NEAR
WIND CAVE GAME PRESERVE

President Coolidge's "summer White House," the Game Lodge of the Custer State Park Game Preserve in the Black Hills of South Dakota, is only a few miles north of one of the Federal big-game preserves. This is in the Wind Cave National Park, 4,000 acres of which have been fenced and maintained by the Biological Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. The preserve was established by Act of Congress in August, 1912, and its size will be nearly doubled this summer by inclosing 3,000 more acres.

Wind Cave, for which both the national park and the game preserve have been named, is one of the larger of the known caves in the West and, together with the big-game animals in the preserve, which may frequently be seen by passing tourists, attracts increasing thousands of visitors each year. It is on the main highway from Custer to Hot Springs, S.Dak., on the southern slope of the Black Hills, commonly known as the foot hills, a region made famous by Indian warfare.

The cave proper was named because of the current of air, often very strong, that blows intermittently in and out, varying in force and direction in response to changing temperature. It once served as channels for subterranean waters, which now follow other courses. Approximately one hundred miles of passage-ways have been explored, and guides have penetrated to a depth of 1,500 feet. There are said to be thousands of passage-ways that have never been explored, and a party that leaves the beaten trails is in grave danger of being lost. For this reason no one is permitted to enter the cave without an experienced guide.

Several men have claimed the distinction of discovering Wind Cave. According to one story, a cowboy was riding along the ravine when a gust of air from a small opening in the ground blew off his hat and, in this way, attracted his attention to the cave. Old settlers differ as to who was the actual discoverer, and a great deal is left to conjecture. The cave has many interesting and unusual geological formations.

The game preserve contains 150 buffalo, 144 elk, and 18 antelope, and, as it is a bird refuge also, many species of wild birds are protected there, including grouse and quail. The situation of the Wind Cave game preserve is ideal for the perpetuation of the big-game animals that in great numbers formerly roamed the Black Hills region. Near the game preserve and park is Buffalo Gap through which great-plains herds of buffalo are said to have passed in massed formation on their way to and from their winter range.

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