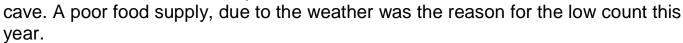
## THE CAVERN CAPER

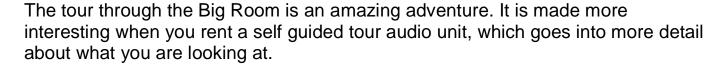
It has been at least 50 years since we last visited Carlsbad Caverns. The only change was us old folks. This time we rode the elevator down to 750 feet below

the surface. The mile and a half walk around the Big Room had to be at least 6 miles! We did it and felt lucky to have survived! Getting old ain't for sissies.

The night before the Cavern trek we wanted to go and see the spectacular bat flight at sunset. We arrived at the amphitheatre, along with a few hundred other folks, in time for an interesting lecture about the bats. At the appointed hour, we observed a few dozen at a time leave the cave. It was nothing at all like the hundreds of thousands of bats that usually darken the sky as they flee the cave.

Talking to the rangers revealed that the count now was about 25,000 bats instead of the million or so that usually inhabit the





We are on our way the next day to Decatur, TX. Here we will visit with our friends, the Leamers. Joan dates back to our grammar school days!

The drive across New Mexico is on two lane roads thru small one horse towns. In one small town, the main highway was closed for a Masonic parade. We had to wait twenty minutes for the parade to go by before we could continue!

Dave & Bonnie

