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CAVE LORE

GLENWOOD CAVERNS ADVENTURE PARK'S GIANT AND DRAGON DELIGHT CHILDREN

The Battle of the Dragon & the Giant took place in misty prehistory in The Barn in Glenwood Caverns, a tourist attraction within Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park. Grotto, the Dragon of Glenwood Caverns, roared and challenged Gregory the Giant, who was invading Grotto's territory, trying to steal his favorite foods: Moonmilk, Cave Bacon, and Cave Popcorn. The ensuing shattering fight shook the earth for miles around Glenwood Caverns. Grotto unleashed a giant burst of flame, leaving ashes on the walls (Cave Clouds and Moonmilk formations). The heat from Grotto's flaming breath was so strong that it caused steam to come up from the ground (the Vapor Caves of Glenwood Springs). Gregory the Giant fell back in defeat, leaving his footprints on the walls of the Barn (Moonmilk formations) and retreated through a hole in the wall to the Black Grotto (a huge room in Glenwood Caverns which is available only to experienced cavers).

LOVERS LOVE GLENWOOD CAVERNS ADVENTURE PARK

Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park is a favorite vacation place for couples. The fantasy of the otherworldly formations and the cool and dark of the inside of the caverns encourage cuddling. Romantic visitors can enjoy the spectacular sunset views while enjoying snacks or dinner at the Lookout Grille, the restaurant and bar located in the Visitor's Center at the top of Iron Mountain.

Lovers can enjoy the excitement of hoping for a Cave Kiss. Cave Kisses are a good luck event. Because Glenwood Caverns within Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park is a *living* cave, it is still growing new formations. The cave constantly forms tiny droplets of water, which fall, add to the formations below, and eventually create the fantastic formations visitors see today. Some visitors are fortunate enough to have one of these tiny drops fall on them and get a Cave Kiss. A Cave Kiss is a sign of good luck. If visitors could hang around a few million years, they would see those Cave Kisses build the formations seen today.

THE LEGEND OF THE FAIRIES OF THE HISTORIC FAIRY CAVES

Charles W. Darrow, a pioneering Glenwood Springs attorney, opened the Fairy Caves to the public in 1895. History does not record why he chose the name Fairy Caves, but historians have speculated that it was because fish-tail-like helictites found within the cave may have reminded Darrow of the wings of fairies.

Victorians frequently discussed the possibility of the existence of fairies, and perhaps Darrow and his family were familiar with the popular works of Andrew Lang, a Scottish scholar who published an extensive best-selling book series of fairy tales for children in the late 1800s. Fairies have always symbolized good luck and happiness. Nineteenth-century tourists, as well as today's visitors, share a desire for good luck and happiness.

Another theory of the origin of the name Fairy Caves is that one of Darrow's daughters felt that the light from her lantern reflecting off the droplets of water in the cave looked like fairies dancing around the caves. No matter what the real reason for the name Fairy Caves, the caves were magical and had an emotional appeal for the early Colorado pioneers. Today's visitors also feel the presence of the magical fairies. Both children and adults enjoy the fantasy of glittering fairies dancing around within the cave to bring good luck and happiness to all.