

NOTE ON STALACTITE FORMATION

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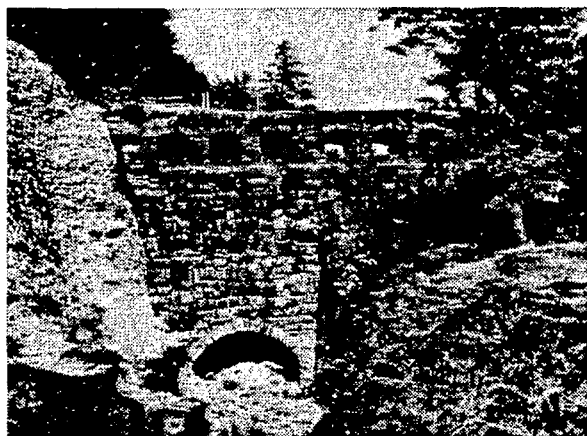


Figure 1. Old dam on North Santiam River, 50 miles east of Salem, Oregon.

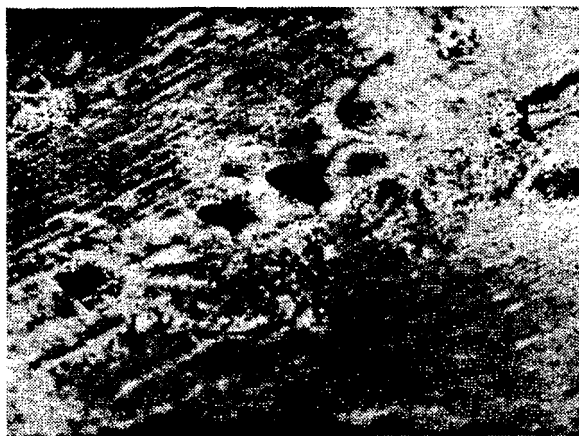


Figure 2. Stalactite formations on spillway ceilings are from 18-20 mm. in length. Shadows are produced by the stalactites.

In the September, 1970 issue of the C.R.S. Quarterly, a list of research problems were presented; among them was a suggestion to investigate the growth rate of stalactites. Based on the two accompanying prints I conclude that stalactite growth may be more rapid than postulated.

This pictured dam is located on the North Santiam River, 50 miles east of Salem, Oregon. It was built in the late 1890's to provide power to manufacture paper from straw; the project was abandoned in 1912, but the dam is still standing as shown.

Of rock rubble construction, very little grout was used, and a thin veneer of cement less than 25mm. in thickness formed the ceiling of the spillways at the top of the dam.

All of the spillway ceilings show evidence of stalactite formation, apparently from the meager amount of lime present in the mortar. Those shown in Figure 2 are from 18-20mm. in length. Evidence of vandalism suggests that longer ones may have been chiseled out.

Since the rubble on top the spillways is scarcely a meter in thickness, it seems unlikely that there would be much opportunity for extensive percolation, and indicates that stalactite formation may occur much more rapidly than presumed by classical geologic dating.

This information could substantially affect the time span of the geologic column and contribute to the ever-growing volume of evidence for a recent, Scriptural creation.

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