

## The Oregon Caves National Historic District



Home of the View-master

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Landmarks provide a  
**Stage for Stories**

## William Gruber

An optical engineer, he had an idea to use two cameras, eye width apart, to take two pictures simultaneously to create a three-dimensional image



*William Gruber*

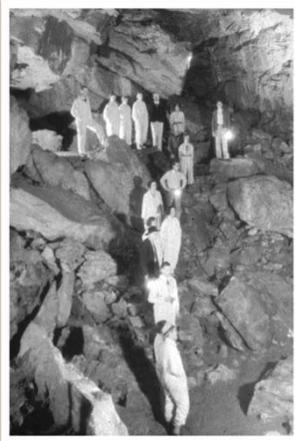
## William Gruber



*William Gruber*

By serendipity, he was trying out his invention during a trip to the Oregon Caves

According to  
Gretchen Gruber,  
his daughter:



"My parents spent the night at the chateau, then during the day went on a cave tour. At the end of the tour, there was a tourist attraction called the 'Wishing Stone' ... My father walked past it, but my mother rubbed it. She said she wished something would happen with William's invention"

## Harold Graves

After the tour a man saw  
Gruber taking pictures with  
two Kodak Bantam cameras and  
asked him what he was doing.



Harold Graves,  
President, Sawyers Inc.,  
an Oregon postcard company  
based in Portland

## Birth of the View-Master

"They started talking and continued late into the night. Over dinner ... they roughed out plans on how to put Gruber's invention into production."

- Gretchen Gruber



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