

SELECTED ARKANSAS MINERAL COLLECTING LOCALITIES



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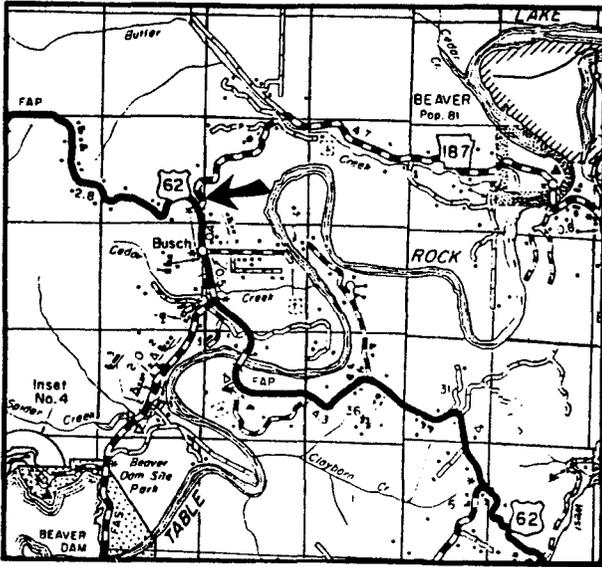
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FOREWORD

There are many mineral collecting locations in Arkansas on public property. However, most of the better known sites are on private property, claims on public property, or leases on private property. This guide is written to describe various mineral collecting locations and is not to be used or construed to be permission to obtain access to sites. Permission should be obtained from owners, lease holders, or companies before collecting any location not on public land. Federally owned or administrated properties are controlled by various Federal agencies and certain of these lands, such as Wilderness Areas, National Parks, and National Guard training camps are withheld from collecting. Highway right-of-ways (except interstate), navigable streams and the majority of Federal lands are open to hand tool collecting.

CARROLL COUNTY



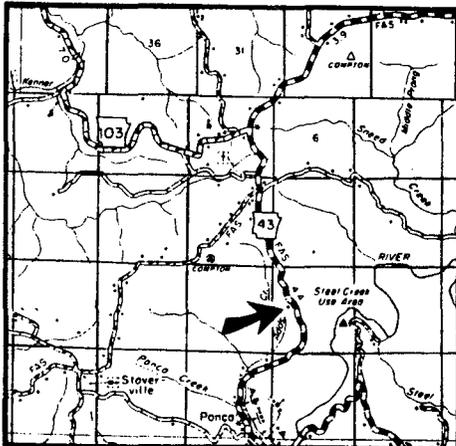
Banded Chert

1



Banded chert occurs 0.2 of a mile north of the Busch Post Office on the east side of U.S. Highway 62. This chert shows concentric banding of light and dark layers and polishes readily.

NEWTON COUNTY



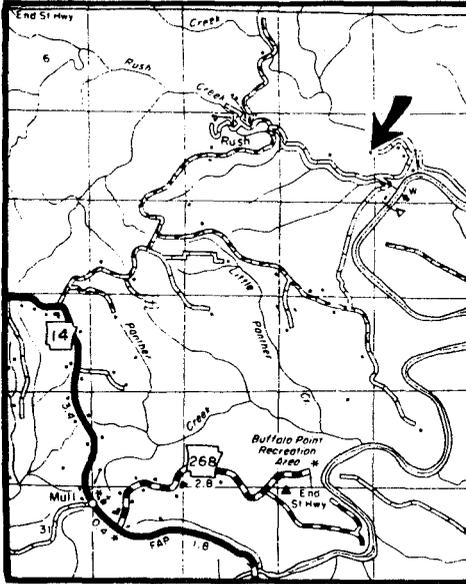
Galena and Sphalerite

2



Several abandoned lead mines may be reached by Arkansas Highway 43 north out of Ponca. Approximately 2.5 miles from Ponca and near the crest of the hill a dirt trail to the west is passable for a short distance downhill to near the mines. Good hand specimens of galena with minor sphalerite are found in the dumps.

MARION COUNTY



Smithsonite, Calcite, Quartz,
Dolomite, Greenockite, and
Sphalerite

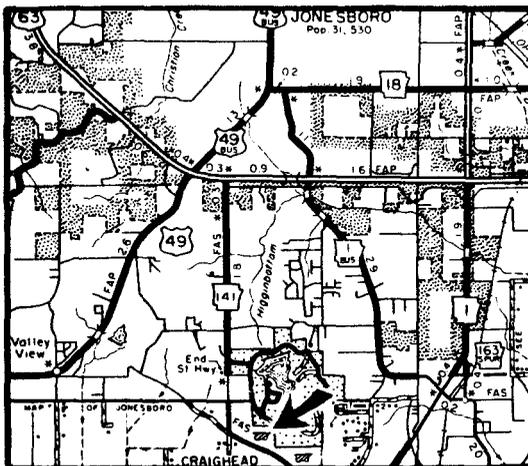
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A number of abandoned zinc mines are in the vicinity of the abandoned mining town of Rush. Take Arkansas Highway 14 north from Buffalo Point Recreation Area entrance (junction of Highways 14 and 268) approximately 2.7 miles to an improved dirt road, turn east, bear left at the first four junctions, then sharply right at the base of the hill.

Some of the old mines are within the boundaries of the Buffalo National River and as such, collecting is strictly prohibited. If in doubt of the park boundaries, check with a ranger.

CRAIGHEAD COUNTY



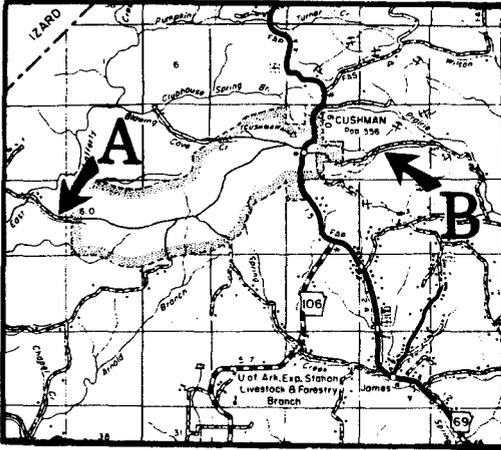
Agate

4



Several gravel pits are located north of a county road which connects Arkansas Highways 1 and 49. Banded agates with shades of brown and tan occur in the gravel beds of this area.

INDEPENDENCE COUNTY



Phosphate Rock (A)
Manganese Ore (B)

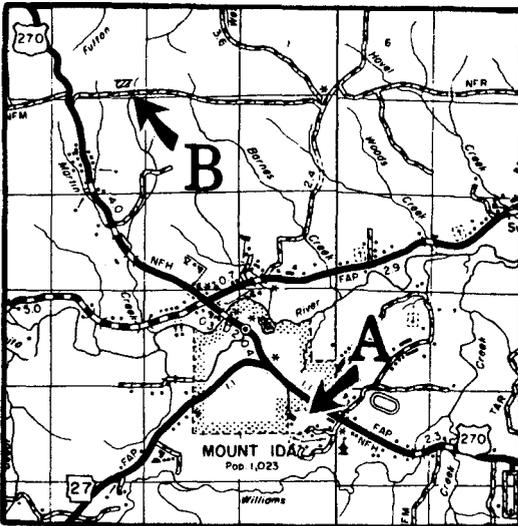
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(A) Phosphate rock occurs in a county road ditch 0.6 of a mile east of East Lafferty Creek. The phosphatic nodules are black when fresh and have a white coating upon weathering.

(B) Manganese ore is found 1.2 miles east of the county road and Arkansas Highway 69 in Cushman. Manganese minerals found in this area are psilomelane, braunite, pyrolusite, and hausmannite.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY



Quartz (A)
Wavellite (B)

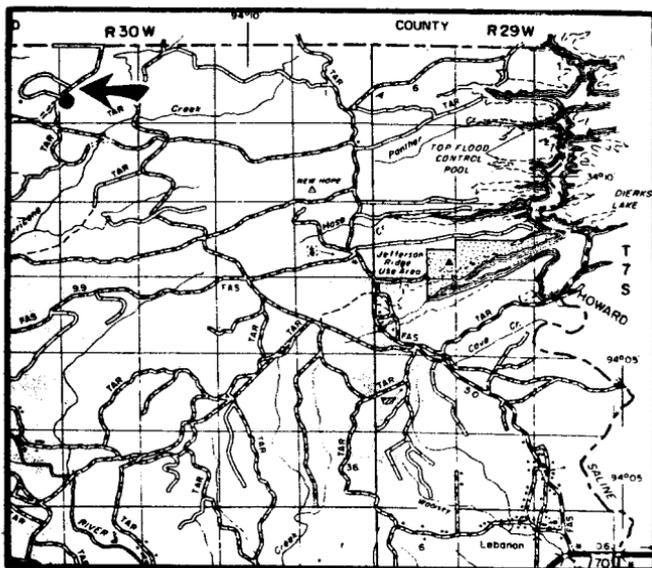
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(A) Located within the city limits of Mount Ida, Ocus Stanley's crystal yard displays quartz and other minerals from this area. Mr. Stanley operates a fee paid collecting area on Fisher Mountain and will gladly give directions.

(B) Northwest on U.S. Highway 270 approximately 3.5 miles from Mount Ida, turn right (east). Wavellite occurs at the county quarry, located approximately 0.7 of a mile east and on the north side of the road.

SEVIER COUNTY



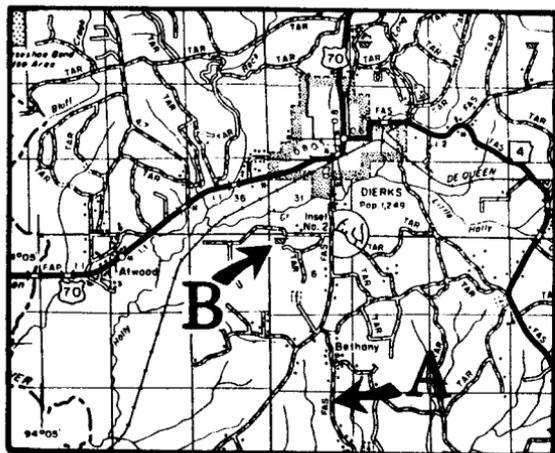
Antimony

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To reach an abandoned antimony mine, turn north off of U.S. Highway 70, 0.5 of a mile west of the Sevier-Howard County line. Proceed about 2.2 miles north past the turnoff to the Jefferson Ridge use area. Turn west (left) onto Weyerhaeuser Road No. 50,000. Proceed 3.6 miles (the second dirt crossroad) and turn right (north). Approximately 0.3 miles north is a faint crossroad. At this crossroads, the dump pile from the mine is on the northwest corner.

HOWARD COUNTY



Celestite (A)
Barite (B)

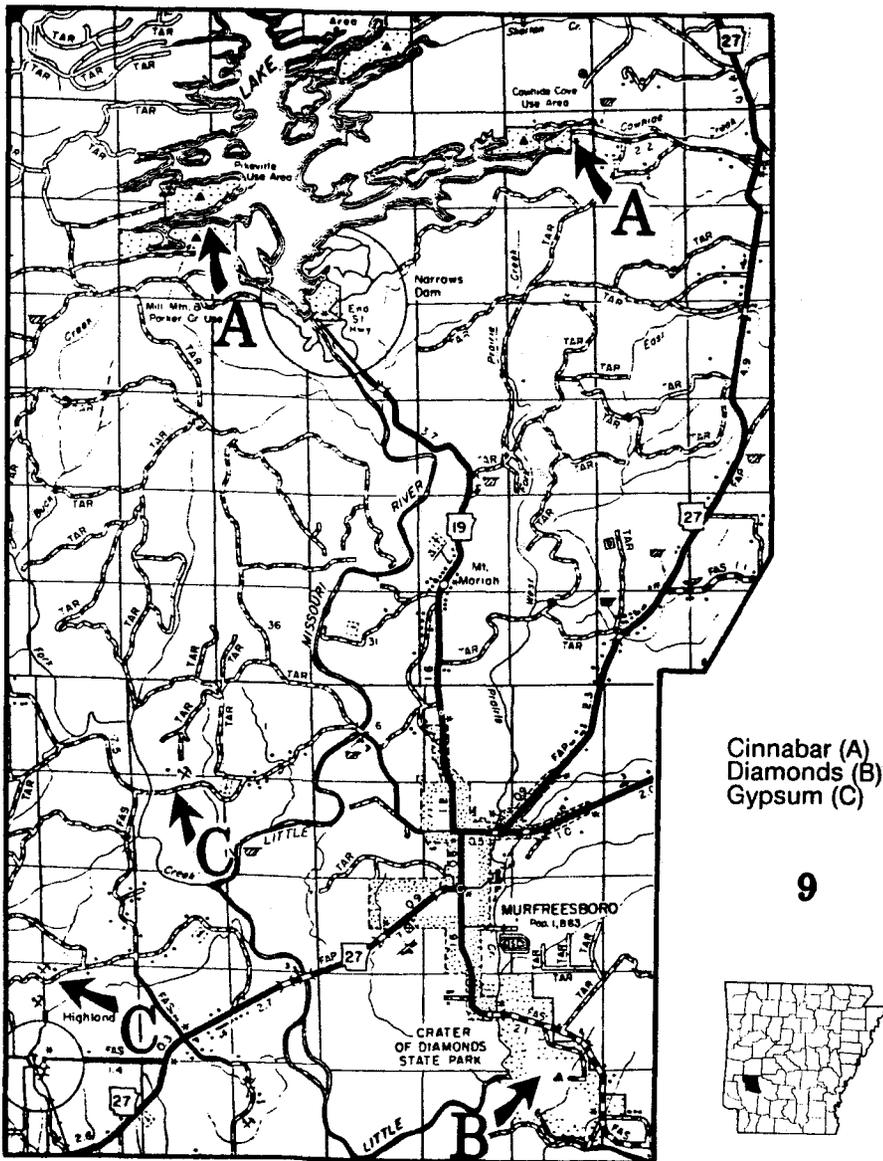
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(A) Celestite is exposed in a Howard County road ditch about 3 miles south of Dierks.

(B) Sand cemented by barite crystals is exposed in a small exploration pit 1 mile south and 0.75 of a mile west of Dierks.

PIKE COUNTY

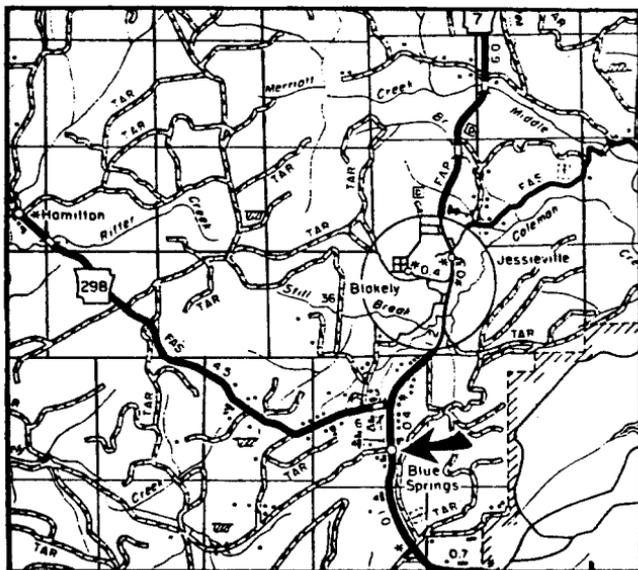


(A) Cinnabar occurs at the end of the cove between the Pikeville public use area and the Parker Creek use area on Lake Greeson; and 2.2 miles west of Arkansas Highway 27 in the road ditch.

(B) The only kimberlite pipe in North America which has been mined for diamonds is 2.5 miles southeast of Murfreesboro. A daily fee is charged to hunt for diamonds at the Crater of Diamonds State Park.

(C) Gypsum, celestite and various fossils occur in abandoned gypsum mines north of Highland.

GARLAND COUNTY



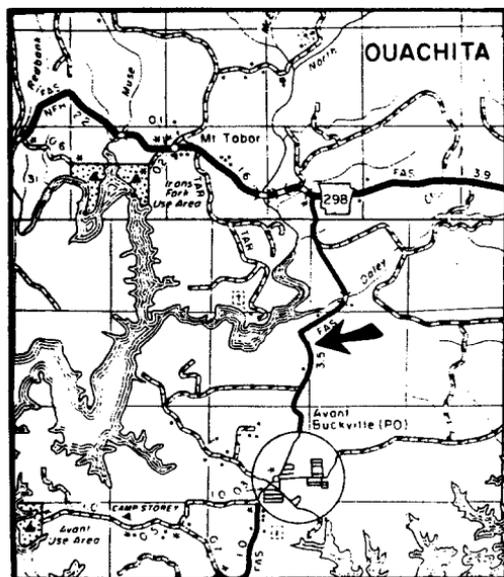
Quartz Crystals

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Coleman's quartz crystal mines are located near Coleman's Rock and Mineral Shop in Blue Springs on Arkansas Highway 7. This is a fee paid commercial attraction with collecting done on a finders-keepers basis.

GARLAND COUNTY

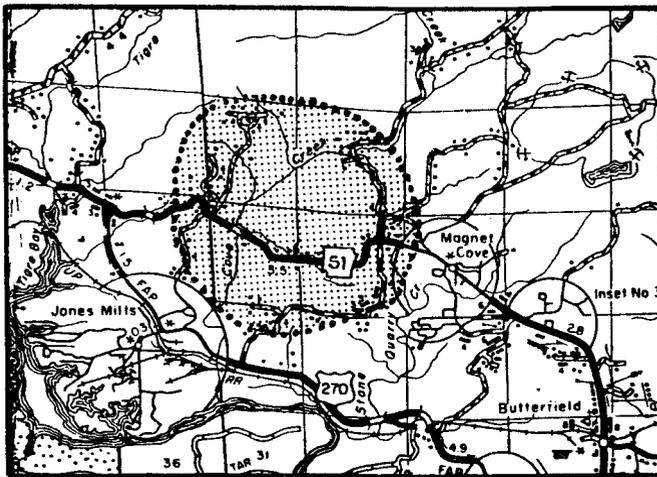


Wavellite and Variscite

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West of locality No. 6 on a county road approximately 1.8 miles north of Avant, wavelite and variscite occur in the road ditch and on the hill to the east. Locally known as "cat's eye", radiating rosettes of green wavelite and green crusts of variscite are sought after by many collectors.



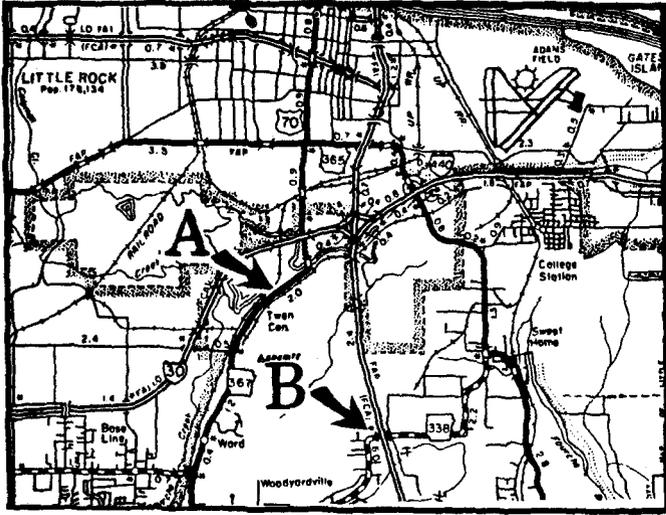
Magnet Cove

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- (A) Spheue nepheline syenite occurs at the curve on the north roadbank on Arkansas Highway 51 about 0.5 miles west of Cove Creek.
- (B) Carbonatite occurs in the north roadbank just west of the Cove Creek bridge on Arkansas Highway 51. Locally, the carbonatite contains carbonate-apatite, monticellite, magnetite, perovskite, kimzeyite, and biotite.
- (C) A boulder containing eudialyte nepheline syenite pegmatite is near the southwest corner of the Cove Creek bridge abutment just south of location B.
- (D) Weathered biotite, melanite garnet and residual masses of nepheline occur in the south bank of Arkansas Highway 51, near the Magnet Cove Church.
- (E) Magnetite, melanite, nepheline and rutile may be found on the shoulders of Arkansas Highway 51, 0.25 of a mile east of the Magnet Cove Church.
- (F) Pyrite occurs in Cove Creek approximately 0.2 of a mile east of the iron bridge (Road north from Highway 51, east of Magnet Cove Cemetary).
- (G) Smoky quartz and brookite occur on a small hill due south of the cemetery at the junction of Arkansas Highway 51 and the barite mine road (N. L. Baroid sign on Highway 51).

PULASKI COUNTY



Syenite

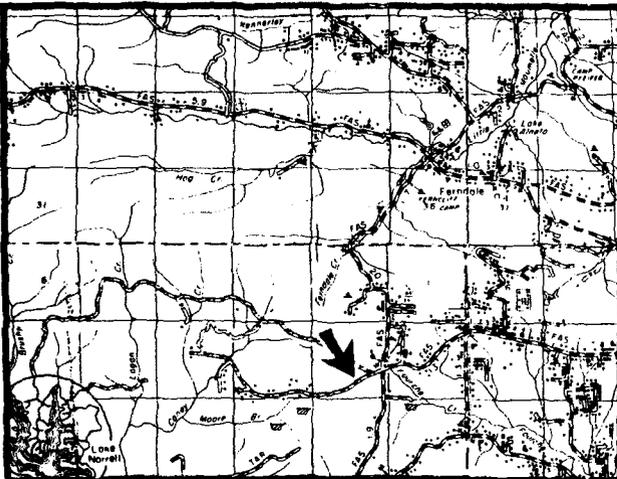
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(A) A variety of syenite termed Pulaskite occurs 0.3 of a mile south of Fourche Creek on Arkansas Highway 367.

(B) Nepheline syenite occurs along the road ditch at the Dixon Exit on U.S. Highway 65 and 167. Also, nepheline syenite and pulaskite are exposed in road cuts north on U.S. Highway 65 from this junction.

SALINE COUNTY



Talcose Shale

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Talcose shale occurs approximately 3.5 miles south and 0.7 of a mile west of the community of Ferndale. This exposure is close to soapstone mineralization exposed in nearby pits.

Publications of General Interest

Bulletin 6 -- MINERAL RESOURCES OF ARKANSAS, revised 1959. 84 p. (A summary of the geology, mineral resources, and mineral industry of Arkansas.)

Bulletin 11 -- A BROOKITE DEPOSIT IN HOT SPRING COUNTY, ARKANSAS by D. F. Holbrook, 1947, 21p., 2 pls., 2 figs.

Bulletin 12 -- MOLYBDENUM IN MAGNET COVE, ARKANSAS by D. F. Holbrook, 1948, 16 p., 2 pl., 2 figs.

Bulletin 21 -- QUARTZ, RECTORITE, AND COOKEITE FROM THE JEFFREY QUARRY NEAR NORTH LITTLE ROCK, PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS by H. D. Miser and Charles Milton, 1964, 29 p., 11 figs., 5 tables.

Bulletin 22 -- FOSSILS OF ARKANSAS by Tom Freeman, 1966, 53 p., 12 pls., 15 figs., 1 map.

Bulletin 23 -- MINERAL SPECIES OF ARKANSAS -- A DIGEST by J. Michael Howard, 1987, 182p., 122 figs.

Info. Circ. 23 -- MERCURY DISTRICT OF SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS by B. F. Clardy and W. V. Bush, 1976, 57 p., 4 pls., 8 figs., 3 tables.

Info. Circ. 24 -- ANTIMONY DISTRICT OF SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS by J. M. Howard, 1979, 29 p., 1 pl., 4 figs.

GB-73-4 -- FIELD TRIP GUIDE TO FOUR MAJOR MINES IN CENTRAL ARKANSAS, 1973, 16 p., 6 figs.

GB-80-2 -- A GUIDEBOOK TO SOUTHWESTERN ARKANSAS by B. F. Clardy, 1980, 12 p., 5 pls.

GB-82-1 -- FIELD GUIDE TO THE MAGNET COVE AREA AND SELECTED MINING OPERATIONS AND MINERAL COLLECTING LOCALITIES IN CENTRAL ARKANSAS by C. G. Stone, J. M. Howard, and D. F. Holbrook, 1982, reprinted 1985, 31 p., 16 figs.

GB-86-1 -- GUIDEBOOK: ECONOMIC GEOLOGY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS by Arkansas Geological Commission, 1986, 31 p., 14 figs.

MP-14 -- SYMPOSIUM ON THE GEOLOGY OF THE OUACHITA MOUNTAINS-- Vol. II, edited by C. G. Stone et al., 1977, 74 p., many maps and illustrations.

Free Publication list on request

From: Arkansas Geological Commission
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