Happenings
Of the
State Mineral Survey
Of
Arkansas
Supervisors of various towns.
Districts Set for Survey of Minerals Of Arkansas

State Mineral Survey: Gazette Mar. 1938

Survey For Up-to-Date Surveys Of Minerals

Survey Shows Big Mineral Deposit

Arkansas Gazete, 4-1-38

State Mineral Survey: Gazette 3-20-38

Arkansas Gazete, 4-1-38

New V. W. Emergency

Mineral Found

Arkansas Gazete, 4-1-38

ASPHALT CONTRIBUTING MUCH TO PROGRESS OF CIVILIZATION, HISTORY OF INDUSTRY SHOWS

"Gazette" May 29, 1928. Little Rock, Arkansas

The asphalt industry is highly competitive, but the price trend has been downward. Paradoxical as it may seem, the price of one ton of petroleum asphalt in 1927 with $14.10 per ton has diminished from $14.10 per ton to $10.10 per ton in spite of the enormous increase in the demand.

Back in the day when Nehovahnesser was restoring Babylon to its former glory, there were only 160,000 tons of asphalt in construction and upkeep of roads. But today, the total materials consumed in all asphalt highways in the United States has increased to 862,000 tons.

Iron Ore Reported In Izard County

Sylacauga, June 4 — Indications are that the hills in the south end of Izard county, near Poca, may prove to be highly valuable with a paying iron ore.

B. W. Mensing has opened a mine in the town of Poca and more than 50 tons of ore has been mined and shipped for shipment and more has arrived. It is reported that the Moccasin Lake has been developed as a source of supply for the area.

There is an abundant supply of iron ore in the area, and the ore is reported to have been shipped to several thousand acres of land where it was expected to be profitable.

Another mine probably will be opened here soon.

Survey of Mineral Wealth Under Way In 32 County Area

Ark. Gazette, April 3, 1930

Thirty-two searching parties are surveying more than 450 men moved methodically over 32 Arkansas counties to determine the structure of the topsoil of the state. Following are the facts:

They were selected by trained men, afoam, with experience and keen sense of observation; hundreds of old timers, experts in the field of minerals, clays, minerals and whatnots will be able to give the right answers.

All the workers have been accurately located upon a series of maps.

The Geology Department, has turned over prospectors, largely with the aid of funds made available for the purpose by the Works Progress Administration.

A business man would call the task an inventory of the state's physical properties.

The concept of the project is: if there is a discovery - all visible and easily accessible deposits of oil, gas, coal, sand, gravel, and many other valuable materials - let's make collections thereof, and map them.

Iron Ore Reported In Izard County

The federal government is conducting a survey to determine the extent of the manganese deposits in the area. The survey has been successful and the survey team has determined that there is a significant deposit of manganese in the area.

The Survey of Mineral Wealth Under Way In 32 County Area

The survey team has set up a series of markers to indicate the location of the manganese deposits. The markers will be used to guide future exploration and development of the deposit.

Surveyors have been working in the area since March and have made significant progress. The survey team is expected to complete the survey in the fall of 1930.

Mineral Surveys Aid in Arkansas Development

The state highway department is conducting a survey of the manganese deposits in the area. The survey will help determine the extent and quality of the deposit.

The survey team will be working in the area for several weeks and is expected to complete the survey in a few months.

The manganese deposit is expected to be of significant value and will provide a valuable resource for the state.
Commercial development of Arkansas' zinc deposits, about which much has been said and written but the exact extent of which has yet to be determined, was seen as 'inevitable' by George C. Brauner, state geologist, yesterday. Mr. Brauner was questioned concerning the possibility of preventing activity in the state's zinc deposit areas following a district meeting of the state Council of Defense and Industry at Harrison Thursday night. At the meeting discussions were held concerning development in the state and possibilities of location of an electrolytic ore reduction plant in the zinc deposit areas.

Mr. Brauner, who has recently completed a study of zinc ore deposits, zinc production and uses in the United States, reported that the known reserves of recoverable zinc in the nation on January 1, 1936, were estimated at 3,000,000 short tons of zinc, at a price of about six cents per pound, at St. Louis, Mo.

Extraction of Zinc.

"As the average domestic rate of production in the past 10 years has been 34,822 short tons of recoverable zinc, the estimated reserves will be sufficient to last approximately 11 years, or to 1948," he concluded.

"With the decrease of national rearmament and the price of zinc, it is expected to slow down, and with the domestic ore deposits should progressively take place. The importation of zinc, plus the necessity, for example, of New York, Newcastle, Lawrence and Sharps counties, will increase progressively during the coming decade.

Mr. Brauner said a total of 37,424 tons of zinc was recovered from Arkansas zinc deposits as compared to 21,876 short tons of zinc concentrates, of which about one-half was pure zinc

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"As the average domestic rate of production in the past 10 years has been 34,822 short tons of recoverable zinc, the estimated reserves will be sufficient to last approximately 11 years, or to 1948," he concluded.

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EXPERIMENTS IN ROCK WOOL MAKING AROUSE GEOLOGICAL INTEREST

"Gazette" 6.26.58.

Special to the Gazette.

Oister, June 26.—If chemists ever de
devolve a formula for putting fiber and
strength into rock wool, the variety making
it adaptable for weaving and wearing,
North Arkansas, doubtless would be able to
furnish raw material for millions of yards
of garments made of the same. There are
literally millions of tons of dolomite
and magnesite limestone, from which these
products could be made, and which is
found in almost every part of the territory.
Imagine picking up a 35-pound block, three-
throwing it into a hopper and converting it
into wool and cloth to suit a market of cloths.
That is not possible now, but chemists are
working on it.

The first Arkansan rock wool was
made as an experiment in the White
river country last week. Whether manufac-
ture of the product will become an
industry in this section is yet to be
determined.

One of the essentials in the
manufacture of rock wool is saline water.
This was provided for in Arkansas by
the Green River, 14 per cent alumina,
16 per cent calcium, 10 per cent magnesia,
and 4 per cent iron, chemists say.

A chemical perfect stone for the
manufacture of rock wool is known as
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and 4 per cent iron, chemists say.

Production Of Cinnabar Possible

Cinnabar "probably can be produced" in
Arkansas "as a profit under conditions
similar to those which have been
found in the west". The process is
being studied and the Arkansan district
may produce a large amount of quicksilver.

The report said, "Geologic indications
appear to have been further prospecting
development in favorable areas. It
seems likely that in a time of national
emergency, when coal is not a factor, the
Arkansas district can produce a large
amount of quicksilver."

Shreve and Shreve, in the "Geologic
report on the United States Survey of the
federal Department of the Interior reported
on the possibilities of the Cinnabar of the
West North Carolina District."

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appear to have been further prospecting
development in favorable areas. It
seems likely that in a time of national
emergency, when coal is not a factor, the
Arkansas district can produce a large
amount of quicksilver."

"It is possible that a thorough search
of the district would reveal deposits in
which a silver content is found."

They said, "Any new source of this
element is of course not without interest
because of the possibility of financial
benefits from the new mining district, the
Arkansas quicksilver district, has attracted
economic interest in the mining
industry and others."

HOW SILICA SAND FROM A NORTH ARKANSAS QUARRY FINDS ITS WAY TO THE WORLD'S GLASS FACTORIES

"Gazette" 6.26.58.

Special to the Gazette.

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VAST NEW FIELDS OF MINERAL ORES FOUND BY STATE SURVEYORS
Gazette, July 1939

Progress in mapping mineral deposits of the state in a WPA project under supervision of Dr. George C. Branner, state geologist, and R. C. Backstrom, WPA supervisor, was summarized by Dr. Branner yesterday in a progress report covering 1,857 square miles in 10 counties. There are 134 persons employed in making the survey.

Group county meetings of mineral survey workers have been held recently at Arkadelphia and Hot Springs. Progress was reported as follows:

List gives name of county, name of supervisor, number of square miles completed, per cent complete and minerals mapped:
- Garland county, Jus. R.ffie Jr., 159 square miles, 25 per cent complete; novaculite, quartzite, clays, fuller's earth, tripoli.
- Polk, Compere Pinkin, 216 square miles, 25 per cent complete; slates, novaculite, tripoli, building stone, gravel, clay.
- Scott, Lewis C. Crutchfield, 175 square miles, 38 per cent complete; limestones, sandstone, slates, clays, building stone; Saline, Francis M. Gribble, 143 square miles, 80 per cent complete; Bentonite, bauxite, ochre, clays, fullers earth,石膏石, gravel.
- Hot Spring, Lewis H. Hannum, 97 square miles, 18 per cent complete; titanium, barite, fuller's earth, building stone, lead, tripoli.
- Sebastian, W. R. Womble, 220 square miles, 47 per cent complete; building stone, tripoli, kimberlite.
- Howard, Joseph Rankin, 145 square miles, 85 per cent complete; quicksilver, asphalt, asphalt, chalk, marble, green sand, gravel.
- Pike, Arlington Waggoner, 135 square miles, 25 per cent complete; quicksilver, asphalt, clays, gravel, building stone.
- Clark, Robert W. Osborne, 156 square miles, 18 per cent complete; clays, marl, gravel, quicksilver, building stone.
- Desha, Other Rivers, 71 square miles, 25 per cent complete; clays, fuller's earth, sand and gravel.

The University of Illinois has done a considerable amount of research during the last few years on rock wool material, and according to their report, the two deposits found here are perfectly balanced. They have all of the necessary elements. One of the elements that is nearly always deficient is alumina. The stone from these two deposits has the alumina requirement.

Phosphate Rock

The survey has also disclosed a considerable amount of phosphate rock in Little Rock and Independence counties. This will probably prove valuable as a material for the manufacture of fertilizer and chemicals.

There have been no gold or silver ore or other precious minerals discovered. This supports a report made by John C. Branner, former state geologist.

A gold and silver survey was made in the late Eighties. Some silver was found but no gold.

Peculiar Metallic Mineral

A peculiar metallic mineral has been found near Center, in Sharp county. A large quantity of metallic nuggets and small builders, covering an area of approximately two square miles, that can't be accounted for geologically. They contain a large amount of iron, and the material is being analyzed for other elements. The nuggets resemble metallic meteorites, and it may be that at sometime in the distant past the area was pelted with a metallic meteorite.

The survey has also disclosed an enormous tonnage of iron ore in northern Arkansas, which may, at some time in the future be of tremendous economic importance. It has little value now because it is located too far from the iron and steel centers of the nation.

With the exception of some manganese ore found in Stone county, no manganese of any importance was found outside the Batesville-Claybank district, in Independence and Izard counties.

Tests show the mine's ore to possess a value of from $15 to $100 per ton in copper, gold and silver, officials said. The copper content varies from seven to 92 per cent.

The mine was opened during the World War by a company in search of manganese. About $100,000 was said to have been spent in erecting a large plant and in boring a tunnel about 900 feet long into the side of a mountain at a point about 150 feet from its top.

"Two shafts, one 90 feet deep and another 72 feet deep have been sunk in the tunnel, about 650 feet from its entrance, at a point where a "fault" occurs.

"The second shaft shows a vein of ore about six feet wide. The company plans to sink the shaft 150 feet deeper to the "geological water level," where it is believed the richest deposit will be found.

"The company has leased the mine. Dr. Stenger predicted that the opening of operations in Montgomery county will be the forerunner of a greater mining development in Arkansas.

"Reactivation of a proposed workmen's compensation law and the tax-exemption proposal, and the equalization of freight rates to enable the Southwest to compete with other sections of the country, would remove obstacles to mining development, he said. Temporary officers in addition to Dr. Stenger are Dr. J. D. Jordan, Little Rock dentist, president, and Miss Elizabeth Nelson of Little Rock, secretary-treasurer."
Somewhere along Little Crow creek, two miles east of Forrest City, St. Francis county, there existed some 75,000-80,000 years ago marine animals such as the primitive whale.

Pioneer citizens of that community probably could not be convinced of that statement but there came to Little Rock yesterday three persons who have proof that such animals existed.

They are Dr. Gilbert D. Harris, professor emeritus of paleontology and stratigraphic geology of Cornell University, E. Laurence Palmer, assistant professor of rural education at Cornell University and Mrs. Palmer, said by Dr. Harris to be one of the outstanding paleontology research workers in the world. All live at Ithaca, N. Y., site of the university.

They left Ithaca in a car Friday noon and arrived in Arkansas Tuesday afternoon. When they reached Little Rock they had traveled 1,476 miles. They are on a month’s trip to do research work in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi along geological lines. They are paleontologists and paleontology is a science that deals with the life of past geological periods.

Display Arkansas Finds

A Gazette reporter was introduced to the visitors at the Alamo Plaz court last night by Dr. George C. Brauner, state geologist. The New Yorkers displayed a collection of fossil shells along with the vertebral of a large primitive worm, which they found around Little Crow creek. They plan to remain in Little Rock until Monday and then will visit White Bluffs near Redfield, Jefferson county. Their trip in Arkansas is sponsored by the Cleveland county, El Dorado and to Shreveport, La.

Dr. Harris, 74, recalled that in 1892 he began work on a survey for Arkansas which was completed several years later. The report when published was titled, “Tertiary Formations of Southern Arkansas.” At present, Dr. Harris is interested in the development of the Palaeontological Research Society which he founded in 1897.

Specimens To Be Studied

When the month’s research trip is completed, fossil specimens collected by the geologists will be studied at Ithaca to be studied. Mrs. Palmer explained that study of the collections will determine the probable number of geological formations existing in the area of the three states.

She explained that fossil collections are traces of impressions of an animal or a plant of past geological ages.

Through the geologists’ work many natural resources are discovered and existing resources further developed, Dr. Brauner said.

Optimism In Zinc-Lead Mining Area

Special to the Gazette

Yellville, Sept. 17.—A feeling of optimism among those interested in the zinc and lead mining industry, in view of the late improvement in some of the heavy industries, such as steel, automobiles and the building trades, all of which draw heavily on zinc stocks under normal business activities, is evident in this area.

Under the slump which had prevailed since August, 1937, zinc production has been cut short by reason of curtailed demand, together with decline of ore prices. Levels below cost of production are evident in the area.

During the first nine months of 1937, account of 1,000 tons of free-high grade zinc ore was mined and sold by local miners while they were developing new ore bodies, mostly on several locations. The ore brought a gross price of about $23 a ton without having to be milled, while the only equipment for mining, as a rule, consisted of picks, shovels and a little dynamite.

Ore Sold at Diggins

The miners sold their ore at local buyers at their diggings, realizing a living wage from their output. An example, one miner who made a crop in the meantime, produced and sold at local buyers a ton between the first of February and October from his lease. During the two years, several outside enterprises became interested in mining projects on a substantial scale, some acquiring leases and starting erection of mine and mill equipment. But from August to November the price of ore fell off nearly one-half with the result that practically all such operations were suspended.

In connection with the step-up of the past two months in some lines of business, the present price has made perhaps a higher percentage of advance than that of any other basic commodity. The feeling that zinc prices will go still higher as business may improve with the fall season. In that case, a return of development activity in the

Crane district is assured, as inquiries for mines and leases of merit are being renewed from different states, Mr. Hand said.

Zinc Reserves Getting Low.

Another vital factor that tends to stimulate more interest in the zinc industry, especially in undeveloped territory, is the startling revelation, through a recent world-wide survey, that zinc reserves of the United States and other countries are getting near the point of exhaustion, insofar as the older established centers of production are concerned. The survey referred to, and which commands recognition by government authorities, disclosed that zinc reserves in the United States were approximately 4,000,000 tons at the beginning of 1937. With an annual zinc consumption of more than 500,000 tons over a 10-year average in this country, it is apparent that unless new sources of production are opened up, the country soon may face a grave emergency, since zinc is essential in manufacturing industries and in war materials.

Ozark Only Unexplored Region.

As far as is known to the mining profession, the Ozark district of North Arkansas is the only unexplored area of zinc resources remaining in the country to be developed upon a comprehensive mining scale, renewed estimates of development experiments afford proof that ore deposits are of uniform high quality and commercial extent, whereas prospect tests have been opened for more than 1,000 feet into the ore formations, while ore output from those works returned profits to operators. From present proved workings, which barely scratch the ore formations in a few places, a production of approximately 50,000 tons has been realized. Ore reserves now in sight through extent of prospect workings and reasonably anticipated through extensions of those developments onto adjacent grounds, are conservatively estimated by competent mining judges at 1,000,000 tons. Unexplored ore-bearing formations in other areas of the field are explored and covered by a large extent of ore reserve dubblines will disclose far greater magnitude, as pressed in an opinion by the late Dr. John C. Brauner, former state geologist, when he was in his official report on that field; “So far as the extent of the ore deposits is concerned, it is safe to say that it is so great that it is unknown. Prospecting that has been done has not uncovered the hundredth part of the ore bodies.”

Establishment of electrolytic smelting works in the Ozark zinc and lead area has received considerable attention in the past year or so, but reception of the past several months has not been inspiring to such projects, and nothing has been done on that line either than selection of an approved location. It is reported that this undertaking is to be renewed as mining conditions improve.
Unusual Night
Earth Tremor
Shakes City
Democrat 9-17-38
Everything Fared From ‘Gas on Stomach’ to Millenium.
Little Rock and vicinity became like California in one respect last night at 9:30 o’clock as an earth-
quake of 30 seconds’ duration shook the city. While the tremor was quite perceptible, there were no injuries and little damage was done.
Reports of the quake also came from various points throughout the state, and from several cities and towns in Tennessee, Missouri and Oklahoma. The Rev. J. A. Murray, seismologist at St. John’s seminary here, which discontinued operation of its seismograph several
months ago, said the quake probably was caused by a slight recurrence of conditions which caused the Madrid (Mo.) earthquake of
1911.
This quake, which dumped the town into the Mississippi river and created several lakes, was the most severe ever recorded in the United States, he said. Father Murray described last night’s quake as a “minute disturbance.”
Windows Are Broken.
But to thousands of residents of Little Rock, who watched their homes sway enough to make pictures, rattle dishes and, in some in-
stances, knock glassware from tables and shelves, it was not so “minor.” There were reports also that wind-
dows were broken and plaster crack-
ed.
The trembling was very pronounced in the upper balcony of the packed Capitol theater—where this report was at the time—and one indignant woman addressed some uncomplimentary remarks to a gen-
tleman sitting behind her because she thought he was shaking her seat.
One city dweller said her momentary dizziness to “gas on the stomach.”
The police and fire departments, and the telephone officers, reported that hundreds of calls from excited residents came in after the tremor was felt. Being accustomed to the earth upheavals, they were at a loss to know what had happened.
Internes at St. Vincent’s infir-
mary reported that the tremor shook bottles from a table in the labora-
tory. W. R. Smith, 1516 Battery street, said the quake caused a large crack down the center of stone steps in front of his house.
Negroes See Millenium.
The congregation of the Greater Arch Street (Negro) Baptist church had visions of the millennium when the tremor mysteriously rocked walls of the church during services. Another note of religion was in-
jected into the quake excitement by some who recalled the Biblical prophecies of wars and rumors of war, and “earthquakes in divers places” just before the end.
Residents in the Park Hill area reported the tremor as severe. “Judge” Charles Gaffney, living on Skyline Drive, obliquely jibbed the matter for one excited neighbor who phoned his home for confirmation of “house rattling,” with the in-
formation that “It’s nothing serious. Just the hillside shifting down into Dark Hollow.”
Skyline Drive residences proclaimed it a “big night” in which the usual quietude of that wooded section was shattered, what with excitement from the tremor and a box seat for hours afterwards to the Bruce Lumber Company fire, di-
rectly south from there.
Telegraphic reports of tremors continued to pour into the Demo-
crat office this morning from cities and towns in all parts of the state, particularly in the northern por-
tions. All placed the time of the shock between 9:30 and 9:40 p.m.
Utilities operations and communica-
tion facilities were undisturbed, however. The 48-mile pipeline from Lake Winsor, from which the city obtains its water supply, was not damaged. Water Department Engineer Marion L. Crist reported.
Out in south end, near Twenty-
eighth and taud streets, one young man rushed out of his house figur-
ing an automobile had gotten out of control and hit the side of the house. Neighbors mingled in the street, reporting that pictures sway-
ed on the walls and the floor lamps rocked back and forth on their stands.
Looks Under Bed.
One wife told that when the tremor came her spouse crawled out and looked under the bed. Sus-
picions that not even an earthquake would stirle her’s in life were confirmed by another, who said that when members of the family rush-
ed about excitedly asking each other the trouble “there he sat, wanting to know what was the matter with us . . . we were crazy.”
Another, whose lord and master read placidly through it declared he sat up the remainder of the night not to miss the second or third tremors which neighbors predicted always followed the first.
Felt Over State.
At Logone, some 24 miles east of Little Rock, the quake was reported as rather severe, with the vibration from north to north. The quake was particularly noticeable in two-story houses. Windows were rattled violently, rocking chairs swayed, and it was believed a traveler of very little more violence would have done actual damage. The telephone ex-
change received many anxious in-
quiries. One woman reported a clock on a mantelplace was moved to one side by the quake.
Most towns reporting said the tremor was felt at 9:30. At Mari-
anna the disturbance continued se-
veral seconds and even the most sub-
stantially built houses were shaken.
Harrisonburg reported the distur-
bance lasted about one minute and
gave the time as 9:30. The quake there was the first in 15 years.
Walls of homes at DeValls Bluff shook for three minutes, the Demo-
crats’ correspondent reported, and the time was given as 9:40.
Eureka Springs reported dishes and furniture rattled by the quake at 9:40.
Helena reported two separate and distinct shocks about 9:30.
At Searcy, shaking of beds aroused those who had retired early, and windows in the most substantial brick homes and at Harding college vibrated.
Colton Pratt reported the time of the earth tremor as 9:30 and the duration 30 seconds. Houses swayed and furniture and pictures on the walls of homes moved. The shock was the most severe felt there in modern times.
A similar report came from Wynne, where buildings shook and pictures rattled on walls at 9:30.
Stuttgart reported the tremors lasted half a minute. Floors in homes swayed, windows and china rattled and early sleepers were awakened. Movement of floors and ceilings was easily discernible. The quake was declared the most severe in a quarter of a century.
Felt in Oklahoma.
Tulsa, Okla., 69-Slight earth tre-
mors were felt by many Oklahomans last night, but no damage was re-
ported.
The tremors, believed part of a widespread quake which extended through Central Arkansas and West-
ern Tennessee, occurred at 9:30 p.m.
Residents of scattered areas of Southwestern Tulsa from the downtown district to the Arkansas river reported having felt slight earth tremors. O. W. Skipperman reported wa-
ter jiggled from a glass of water on the table on the fourth floor of the First Methodist church. Telephone operators on the fourth floor of another building said the shock moved their roller chairs.
Muskogee residents reported the tremor was felt there. Telephone operators at Okmullee said they also felt the phenomenon and that it vibrated their switchboards.
Little Rock Gazette 9-17-38
Quake Causes Damage.—Friday’s night’s 30-second earthquake was blamed yesterday for a two-inch wide crack found in a four-inch concrete support to one of the two canons in front of the arsenal at the City park here. Captain A. M. Freeman said he was certain the crack was not there Friday night. Each cannon is supported by two four-inch pillars, but none of the other three was damaged.