

Geological Survey Begins Thursday In This County

Johnson Co. 8/18/38

A crew of 18 men began work Thursday on Spadra creek as a start of a mineral survey of Johnson county by the Arkansas Geological Survey which is in charge of Dr. George Branner, state geologist, and Robert C. Beckstrom, state supervisor of the mineral survey of Arkansas.

The Johnson county work will be in charge of Joe T. Meek and the crew of workmen will be furnished by the WPA. Offices will be maintained in the basement of the court house from where the work will be directed.

It is planned to survey and map every section of the entire county for the purpose of securing samples of minerals and ores to be analyzed.

Laboratory for Mineral Survey Is Approved

Clarksville Herald-Democrat
8/19/38
A project for construction of a laboratory to test and analyze the minerals of the state has been approved by the president, officials of the Johnson county mineral survey announced Wednesday.

The project was sponsored by the Arkansas Geological survey and the building will furnish a much needed laboratory to analyze the several thousand samples which have been collected from all sections of the state.

The state mineral survey now is active in 37 counties, covering 37,000 square miles, and employs about 700 people. The object of the survey is to locate, map, estimate, sample and describe each section of land to determine surface indications of minerals. In many places, bore holes are made to determine the depth and extent of deposits which do not appear on the surface. Sub-surface cross-sections are being made of some of the districts where clay is the chief natural resource.

Maps are made of each township covered, showing developments and giving detailed information for future development and improvement of any area showing promise.

Plans are now in progress which will make it possible within a few days for the various counties to test the hardness and chloride content of wells and springs. This information will be compiled in bulletin form and maps will be made showing the results of the survey.

Offices of the Johnson county mineral survey are located in the Johnson County Progressive club suite in the Ragon building on Main street.

Story of Old Iron Mine Revealed as Clarksville Interest Booms

Clarksville, Ark., Dec. 17.—(Special)—A revived interest in an iron ore vein near the Summerland community, 18 miles northeast of here, said to have an assay of 56 per cent pure iron, has brought to light the story of an attempt to mine the ore more than 40 years ago.

A Works Progress administration state mineral survey crew directed by Joe T. Meek, county supervisor of the survey project, came upon the abandoned workings while the outcroppings of the vein were being examined. Meek has had samples of the ore tested and the analyses bear out the claims for the high iron content, he said.

Among those who remember the old mine is J. W. Lewis of Clarksville who was employed by the man who dug the shaft. The mine was begun in 1893 by J. J. Caldwell, who died in Lamar about 15 years ago, Lewis said.

Caldwell owned a sawmill and employed Lewis to run it. The mine was started, Lewis said, as a means of keeping the mill crew together. The country was sparsely settled and it was difficult to round up a crew so Caldwell, who had always had an interest in the outcroppings of the vein, decided to employ his hands in digging a shaft during the time there were no orders for lumber, Lewis recalled.

The vein was struck after the diggers had gone about 40 feet, Lewis said. Caldwell had the ore

analyzed and found that it was extremely rich in iron.

A hand-operated winch was rigged up and several tons of ore were taken from the diggings, Lewis said. A large quantity of ore still may be found around the top of the shaft.

Caldwell never attempted to market the ore after he found that the cost of transporting it by ox-wagon to the nearest railroad shipping point ten miles away was prohibitive, Lewis said.

Cave-ins have partly filled up the old mine and Meek's crew is now engaged in cleaning out the debris.

About 30 years after Caldwell dug the shaft, the late G. O. Patterson of Clarksville, who was referee in bankruptcy for the Fort Smith federal court district at the time of his death last January, became interested in the ore of the Summerland vicinity.

A file of letters, written by Patterson to smelters, chemists and railroads, is in possession of his sons, G. O. Patterson Jr., and Edward Patterson.

The letters date from 1925 and continue through 1931. Among them is an analysis of the ore which rates the iron content the same as found in a more recent analysis.

The letters also include several offers to buy the ore. The last one is from a railroad company which states that no special shipment rate for ore was offered in this area at that time.

FOR ENZO

Rediscovery of Old Shaft Recalls Attempt to Mine Iron Ore

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A revived interest in an iron ore vein near the Summerland community, 18 miles northeast of here, said to have an assay of 56 per cent pure iron and 80.08 per cent iron oxide, has brought to light the story of an attempt to mine the ore more than 40 years ago.

A Works Progress administration state mineral survey crew directed by Joe T. Meek, county supervisor of the survey project, came upon the abandoned workings while inspecting outcroppings of the vein. Meek has had samples of the ore tested and the analyses bear out the claims for the high iron content, he said.

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Cave-ins have partly filled up the old mine and Meek's crew is at present engaged in cleaning out the debris.

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The mineral survey here is sponsored by the Johnson County Progressive club and its headquarters are in the Progressive club offices in the Ragon building.

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