MINERAL SURVEY
TO START SOON
IN LEE COUNTY

Lee March 3, 1938

Chamber of Commerce
Provides Office Space
And Transportation

Office space in the Alpha Building
was provided by the Chamber of Commerce for the crew of the
mineral survey to be made in Lee County by the Works Progress
Administration, with Ira W. Merritt, as
supervisor. Transportation is being furnished by the Chamber of
Commerce through the loan of a car by
J. N. Vail.

The project will furnish a payroll
of $712 monthly for several months,
so estimated.

The survey will be made along the
entire section of the Crowley’s Ridge
and adjacent land. Already a similar
survey has been made in the northern
section of Crowley’s Ridge.

The survey is state-wide and will
be conducted in 31 counties by a
crew of 450 workers. The work will
be extended to include 55 counties
later, Floyd Sharp, state WPA
administrator, stated Friday.

“Phillips and Lee Counties are
about the only states in what is known
as the Gulf Coastal basin that will be
surveyed. Not even the oil counties
in Southwest Arkansas are being
surveyed,” Mr. Merritt stated.

Locate Minerals
The survey will be to find out what
minerals can be found in the ridge.
“We will especially look for clays,
glass sands, pure water supplies, and
the like,” he stated.

The wells and springs in the ridge
area will be checked to determine
the flow, volume of water available,
and the quality of the water. Samples
will be taken in each 10-acre area,
the county to be blocked out in areas,
and these samples will be sent to
Little Rock to be analyzed to
determine if they have passed through
any minerals deep in the ground.

Efforts will be made to find de-
posits of clay that will be suitable
for making pottery, tile, bricks, stone
and earthenware and other clay
products.

“The clay samples will be sent to
the Nilsoak Pottery Plant near Ben-
ton to be tested. If any clays are
found we will soon know what they
are best suited for,” Mr. Merritt
stated.

He said that deposits of clay have
been found in the northern end of
the ridge that are excellent for mak-
ing bricks and other clay products.
“There is no reason why there
shouldn’t be similar deposits in this
end of the ridge,” he said.

May Find Coal
The survey will also be able to
determine whether there is any
gravel and construction material to
be found in the ridge. “Perhaps we
may find a stratum of lignite coal
which could be mined cheaply and
gold right here at a very low cost.
This is a very poor grade of coal,
but can be used in large furnaces,”
the supervisor stated.

The project is scheduled to run
until July 1, and perhaps longer.

The purpose of this survey is not
only to find out what minerals there
are in the ridge but to compile this
information so that it will be avail-
able in Little Rock for anyone who
desires it.

Manufacturers often inquire at the
State Geological Department for in-
formation concerning the various
mineral deposits to be found in the
state. The available water supply,
highways leading to the deposits and
other useful information will be in-
cluded in the reports.

Before actual work can be started
Mr. Merritt will conduct a short
school to instruct the workmen in
their duties. They will have to take
boreings, draw maps or sketches, and
know how to locate their position.

ACTUAL SURVEY
BEGINS SOON

Lee March 10, 1938

Workers Selected For
Geological Search

Ira W. Merritt, supervisor for the
geological survey in Lee County an-
nounced this week that the following
had been selected to aid in the min-
eral search: Herbert Whitehouse,
Vergil Bay, James K. Smith, James
Howton, Louis Kerr, Longley Kirby,
Tollie Copeland, and Dewey Anderson.

After a week or two of intensive
training the crew will begin the sur-
vey in which it is hoped to ascertain
what minerals are in Crowley’s Ridge,
and in what quantity.

The survey is being conducted in
about half the counties of the state.
Office space in the Alpha Building
is being rented by the Lee County
Chamber of Commerce for the sur-
vey work. A truck was loaned to the
Chamber of Commerce by J. N. Vail
to furnish the surveyors with trans-
portation.