WPA Survey Reveals Interesting Mineral Resources In Perry County

(1) By A. H. Stephens

St. Louis branch of the National Lead Company called and wanted to find some iron ore. They told us that there were millions of tons of iron sulphide, known as froth ore. They said froth ore was profitable. I agree. I wanted to do the work. We explored the territory around Birmingham, Alabama and knew in the south that the mining industry was before the iron and coal industry was. We decided that the iron ore could be used for the making of iron and the mining of coal. We had the wood and the machines for mining. We were ready to get into the mining industry.

We traveled several days over the country looking for froth ore and the people of the country began showing us samples of minerals and telling us where to find more. So when Walter Glassco of Bigelow came here with his mining crew we were ready to direct them to the most likely places. They found lots of minerals and the overcropping of plenty more. Down near Houston and Copperas Gap they found at least half a billion tons of the hardest ore ever seen. It has not been completely assayed but the assay shows it to contain 30% of iron sulphide, and asked what they did with iron sulphide, known as froth ore.

Mr. Glassco had to go to another mine and leave the exploration of the iron ore. He had left his crew to continue the work.

The WPA survey of the Perry County area was completed in 1939. The survey was made by Professor Carey Coram of the University of Chicago. The survey report was published in 1940. This survey gives the basis of the Morriston anticline and shows what a great natural gas field Conway county has.

If we could organize a tri-county development, we could also organize a tri-county business men's association of the Arkansas Valley Paleozoic region. We could explore for ore, salt, and other mineral resources. If the state of Arkansas did not come along and help us, we would get the help we want from the Federal Bureau of Mines. A letter from the federal government would be a key.

I told Mr. Beckstrom of the WPA mineral survey that we would let you hear from us again.