Mineral Find At Mabelvale
Is Soil Boon
Pulaski County Survey Reveals Cheap Source of Fertilizer.

A huge limestone deposit near Mabelvale estimated at 1,600,000 cubic yards, which was discovered some years ago, and then apparently forgotten, has been relocated and should be a boon to Pulaski County farmers, Robert C. Beckstrom, state WPA mineral survey supervisor, said yesterday.

The quarry lies about two and one-half miles west of Mabelvale, on Fourche creek, and near highway 29 and is easily accessible. New analyses show it to contain more than 10 per cent calcium carbonate, making it suitable for agricultural purposes, particularly in rendering land usable for alfalfa and the like.

"At the present time, Pulaski farmers are paying $2.60 a ton for crushed limestone brought in from the northern part of the state, but by using the material found within their own county, considerable money would no doubt be saved on cost of material, with the shipping cost virtually eliminated," Beckstrom said.

The WPA mineral survey office at 117 North Victory street, Little Rock, will be glad to furnish farmers with information as to ownership and the like, if requested.

The mineral survey of Pulaski County has brought forth some other interesting facts.

Good for Roads
In the west central area of Big Rock township, in and near Geyer Springs, have been found several deposits of quartzitic gravel, a material well adapted to road surfacing because it breaks down slowly and forms its own binder. This gravel runs about 80 per cent metal and 20 per cent clay. The largest deposit of this road-making material is owned and operated by Pulaski county.

In the extreme southwestern part of the township—four miles from Mabelvale—there is a large amount of kaolin clay which, while of low grade, is fairly plastic, suitable for earthenware pottery. The west central area of this township holds some of the best kaolin yet found in Pulaski county. A sample of this was analyzed by the chief soil chemist of the State Highway Department, who pronounced the alumina percent present to be exceptionally high. In a well drilled by Sam Parker at Mabelvale, strata of kaolin were found to a depth of 86 feet.

State Near Ferndale
In the region lying between Ferndale and Pineville are large deposits of slate mixed with sandstone and quartz. About three miles north of this village is a dike of sandstone 1,500 feet in length and 20 feet high. Shinnell mountain, which covers several sections of land is composed of shale with a covering of sandstone. Pineville mountain (one of the four points called Mountain pine trees) is composed of sandstone, and Blue mountain is of the same formation.

The survey of the water situation in this part of Pulaski county has been one of interesting discoveries.

One of the first tests made was on the grounds of the Confederate Home near Sweet Home, where lignite was found at a depth ranging between 15 and 20 feet, and in thickness from 15 to 30 feet. About five miles southeast of Mabelvale, near U. S. highway No. 107, lignite was also found in land owned by Sam Parker, who stated that the stratum is 15 feet thick. Because of the abundance of other fuels in Arkansas, lignite has never been produced commercially, although it is used in small quantities for domestic purposes in some localities.