

State Mineral Survey Starts This Week

Searcy Co. 3-4-38

Lester Hall Named Supervisor for Searcy County.

A statewide mineral survey to be made by the Works Progress Administration through sponsorship of the Arkansas Geological Survey was started in 31 counties of the state Tuesday of this week, it was announced by Floyd Sharp, WPA administrator.

Headquarters for the project will be at 117 Victory Street, Little Rock, Arkansas, supervised by Robert C. Beckstrom. The purpose of the project is to locate, measure, estimate, describe, test and map the accessible resources of the state, such as construction materials, minerals, and water tables for use in determining their adaptability for economic use.

With the initiation of the project the first of the week, Lester Hall was named as county supervisor for Searcy county. It was stated that a total of 450 workers will be used in the 31 counties, and later the work will be extended to include 55 counties. Total employment in all counties were estimated to be near 600, with possibly 15 workers in each county.

Supervisors for the county were selected by Mr. Sharp, with the cooperation of Kenneth O. Warner, personnel director, and Geo. Branifer, state geologist. A two weeks school was conducted and persons with the highest grades were selected.

Survey For Minerals Is Now in Progress

Searcy Co. 3-11-38

A state-wide mineral survey to be made by the Works Progress Administration through sponsorship by the Arkansas Geological Survey was started in 31 counties Tuesday, Floyd Sharp, state WPA administrator, has announced.

The purpose of the project is to "locate, measure, estimate, describe, test and map the accessible resources of the state, such as construction materials, minerals and water tables for use in determining their adaptability for economic use."

A total of 450 workers will be employed in the 31 counties. The work will be extended to include 55 counties later, Mr. Sharp said. Total employment in all counties will be 600 with approximately 15 workers to each county.

Lester Hall has been selected as supervisor for Searcy county. Mr. Hall recently attended a two-weeks' school for supervisors.

SURVEY GETS UNDERWAY

Searcy Co. 3-11-38

Twelve Begin a Week of Training Here Monday

The mineral survey of Searcy county is scheduled to get underway March 15th, and will be conducted by Lester Hall, supervisor of this county. The survey is a part of a state wide survey to determine the different minerals of the state, their quantity, and is to include all kinds of construction materials, water, etc.

The first of this week the following who will assist with the survey in Searcy county began a week's school in the court room at Marshall, preparatory to their work: Ralph Coker, Howard Renfro, Paul Greenhaw, Albert Hollis, Jasper Newton, Howard Sanders, Hugh Massey, Roy Martin, Ural Griffin, Herman Gire, and Dewey Horton. Others will probably be employed later to assist in the survey. Miss Modean Bohannon has been employed as typist.

A few field trips will be made by the group this week, but actual work is not scheduled to begin until March 15th. The entire county will be traversed and specimen of rocks, minerals, construction material, and water will be gathered.

Supervisor Lester Hall Reports on Progress Of Mineral Survey

Searcy Co. Aug. 17/38

The mineral survey of Searcy county is somewhat over half completed. To date we have detailed information on more than 25 zinc mines in the St. Joe and Tomahawk districts. This information includes cross sections of rock formations in which the mines are located as well as samples that are to be analyzed by the Arkansas Geological Survey laboratory. Numerous outcrops of zinc that merits considerable prospecting have been located, mapped and sampled. These mines and outcrops should receive considerable attention at a future date.

Another mineral that should be of interest to Searcy county farmers, if not of commercial importance, is the phosphate rock. Aside from the possible use of this phosphate in the manufacture of acid phosphate, it may be used advantageously in the raw state. This rock does not contain any soluble phosphate but if crushed and mixed with the soil it slowly changes to acid phosphate through the chemical action of percolating ground waters and organic acids of the soil. This crushed material has an advantage over commercial acid phosphates in that the benefits last over a period of years, since

the breakdown of the ground phosphate is much more slowly than the commercial fertilizers.

Considerable amounts of the phosphate rock have been found in the northern part of this county in Section 18, Township 16 North, Range 17 West; Sections 5, 8, 11, 14, Township 15 North, Range 16 West; Sections 31, 32, in Township 16 North, Range 16 West. Many other lesser deposits have been sampled in various sections north of Buffalo river. Several sections south of the river have phosphate outcrops that might be further developed.

The possibilities of the limestone and "black marble" are too numerous to mention. The limestones range up to .98% calcium carbonate content. The limestones should prove an economical mineral fertilizer for local uses and with improved roads and methods of transportation, may at a later date prove of a commercial value.

Other minerals that have been sampled that are of no commercial importance at the present time, but add to the mineral possibilities of Searcy county are iron ore, manganese, and iron sulphide (iron pyrites). The latter is a source of sulphuric acid. Several rather extensive beds of pyrites have been mapped.

We are working at the present time on the copper prospects, and we hope at a later date to have information that

maybe of interest in further developing the copper mines.

Aside from the mineral prospecting, we have found a number of fossils that should be of interest to the students of geology as these fossils provide the only way for determining former plant and animal life that existed in other geological ages.

Our survey wishes to take this opportunity to thank the people of Searcy county for the courtesy and cooperation shown our field men.

LESTER HALL,
County Supervisor.

Will Erect Adequate Laboratory to Test and Analyze State Minerals

10/25/38 Marshall
Information was received October 11 from Washington stating that a project for the construction of a laboratory to test and analyze state minerals has been approved by the President. The project is sponsored by the Arkansas Geological Survey with a much-needed laboratory to analyze the samples now collected, mapped, and classified by the State Mineral Survey. Several thousand samples from sections of the state are now on hand to be tested or analyzed.

The State Mineral Survey is now active in 37 counties, covering 37,000 square miles, and employing about 700 people.

Searcy county is included in this mineral survey.

Including Lester Hall, supervisor of the project, and Miss Modean Bohannon, bookkeeper and typist, there are 15 persons working on the mineral survey in Searcy county, bringing in a monthly payroll of \$750. The project in this county has been underway for some time and Mr. Hall stated this week that the survey was 75% completed.

The object of the survey is to locate, map, estimate, sample and describe each section of land to determine the surface indications of minerals. In

many places, more 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 the cultural development which, with mineral and water maps, gives 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 chlorides of water wells and springs. This information will be compiled in bulletin form and maps will be made showing the results of this survey.

Searcy

Laboratory Project
March 14 2013
For State Approved

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The State Mineral Survey is now active in thirty-seven counties covering 37,000 square miles, and employing about 700 people. The object of the survey is to locate, map, estimate, sample and describe each section of land to determine the 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. Subsurface 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 the cultural development which with the mineral and water maps, gives detailed information for future development and improvement of any area showing promise.

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