

Mineral Resources of Sevier County Will be Determined by Survey

Project, Requiring Six Months to Complete, Will Cover Entire County — Information to Be Made Available to Commercial Enterprises.

Dec. 5, 1938

The Sevier County Mineral Survey, which will determine the mineral resources of the county during the next six months, under the supervision of Compere Pipkin, Mena, was begun Wednesday morning with a school of instruction for workers, at the WPA office in De Queen, where headquarters for the survey will be located.

William J. B. Suggs, Joe R. Smith, John T. Pearson, Benjamin H. Johnson and Miss Virginia Lou Parker, all of De Queen, reported for work on the project and were given preliminary instructions which will be carried on for the remainder of the week. Within a few days six or eight men will be added to complete the crew.

This project, which is said to be one of the largest white collar projects ever undertaken by the WPA, and is set up to cover 57 counties of the state, is being sponsored by the Arkansas Geological Survey, George C. Branner, state geologist, with County Judge O. Kolb as co-sponsor for Sevier county. It will cover the entire county. Thirty-eight counties are being covered by the survey at this time, all using skilled labor furnished by the WPA.

The purpose of the survey is to make an inventory of the mineralogy and geology of the county, in order that this information may be gathered into the office of the state geologist for the use of the public. In this way such information will be made available to industries and commercial enterprises which may

be interested, but because of the cost of a detailed investigation of this nature to an individual firm, and the abundance of mineral in localities hitherto known and prospected, have not before had their attention drawn to this section. It is the opinion of many experts that Arkansas is due to have a considerable industrial expansion within the next few years, and this survey is expected to center the attention of mining operators and potential employers on the state as a desirable location for such activity.

It is also contemplated that the survey will reveal a great deal of material which may be utilized by the municipal, county, state and federal governments, including gravel, building stone, steel alloy metals, etc., at a smaller cost than their present supply, thus affecting a saving to the taxpayers, and giving the government a potential supply of war materials within its own borders.

Sevier county is known to possess deposits of copper, lead and antimony capable of commercial exploitation, as well as other minerals which have been found from time to time by individual prospectors, and the survey may well expect to locate deposits of chalk, limestone, clays, marl, asphalt, cinnebar, and other minerals which make the county one of considerable importance in the resources of the state. It is not considered likely that spectacular discoveries of gold, silver, or oil will be made; but it is believed that com-

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mercial quantities of a number of minerals will be mapped, located, measured, estimated and tested during the progress of the project. Samples are to be taken from every section in the county and sent to the laboratories at Little Rock for complete analysis. This analysis, together with all the papers accompanying the sample will be retained in the files of the State Geological Survey for future use. Thus, if a commercial use is discovered for some mineral now believed to be of no value, it may be determined by inspection of these files where deposits of such mineral exist in the state, as well as its availability to roads, highways, water supply, etc. at any time in the future. This is considered one of the chief values of the survey.

All wells and springs will also be located and mapped, and information given upon them, and samples will be taken from many wells and analyzed for mineral content.

Such analysis often indicate the presence of mineral deposits in the vicinity, as well as the nature of the sub-strata which may be concealed by the soil and detrital material on the surface. Every person in the county will have an opportunity to lend a hand by giving information to the field crew concerning his well and what he believes to be on his land. Any information along these lines will be welcomed.

While many valuable deposits have been discovered by the survey throughout the state, it is to be understood that the field crew does not, and is not expected to identify the samples that it gathers, as facilities are not locally available for assaying or running water tests. The crew is also forbidden to disclose the nature of any findings unless requested by the owner of the land to do so.

Pipkin Speaker At Rotary Meet

Compere Pipkin, cadastral engineer directing a mineral survey of Sevier county now in progress as a part of a state-wide WPA project sponsored by the State Geological Survey, was guest speaker at the Friday meeting of the De Queen Rotary Club.

Mr. Pipkin gave a very interesting discussion, with blackboard illustrations, concerning the formation of the earth and deposits of minerals at various periods down through millions of years. He also told of minerals known to exist in Sevier county, and of information expected to be gained and filed in the state geologist's office by means of the survey.

At the opening of the program, T. F. Short gave a five-minute discussion of the vocation of Dr. C. A. Archer.

Roger Scott, De Queen high school senior, was introduced by M. F. Stanford as the club's junior Rotarian for the month of April.

The Rev. Archie C. Smith, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of De Queen, was introduced as a new member of the club.

Style Show of Minerals Includes Sevier Specimens

An unusual style show appears in the window of the WPA Mineral Survey office this week. It contains neither women's dresses, hair do's, dogs nor automobiles; but it shows nature's styles in limestones through the ages in many parts of the state. More than a score of specimens of limestone, marl, calcite, marble, chalk and fossils, collected from a dozen counties and at least four geologic ages, appear in the collection, which was gathered by men of the State Mineral Survey.

The latest styles on display are the chalk and marl specimens from the area southeast of De Queen. According to Compere Pipkin, supervisor of the survey, these are a mere 5,000,000 years old. "But," quoting Mr. Pipkin, "we find it difficult to think clearly in terms of more than four generations. It may be simpler if we reduce all time so that we think of each year of the earth's history as lasting for just one second. Then our White Cliffs chalk washed up on the spot where we now find it nineteen months and two days ago. The Ozan and Brownstown marls, respectively, had been there for some one and two and a half months before

that; and the little inhabitants of the De Queen and Dierks limestones had already been buried a year and nine months.

"But these are all formations of the youngest of the four geologic ages represented, the 'Cretaceous.' If all formations lay quite flat, one upon another, we could remove the 'Cretaceous' formations until we should get down to the Atoka sandstone, the latest part of the next youngest age, called the 'Carboniferous', and then drill straight down thru dirt and rock—the toughest rock in the world—for more than three miles before we should find the third of these geologic ages. But we should have passed through three of the limestones.

"Returning to our historic view, we find the Bellah Mine calcite being laid down nearly four years ago, remembering always that we are counting only one second for each year of history. The specimens from the five northern counties were laid down near this same time, the hard blue lime from the Womble formation in Polk county being the oldest of the group. The Polk Bayou lime from Marion county, however, is the granddaddy of

all the formation represented. Geologists have variously estimated its age in the neighborhood of 33,000,000 years."

Of the local limestones and related rocks only the Annona chalk at White Cliffs has ever been extensively exploited though some lime crushing has been done from time to time in the older formations. The De Queen Commercial Club is at this time cooperating in the investigation of the De Queen Limestone Member, which passes through the City of De Queen, with a view to its commercial development. Reports of this formation are not yet available from the laboratory of the State Mineral Survey at Little Rock.

Everyone is cordially invited to come down and see the display. It may be interesting to note the different types of fossils (preserved forms of creatures living in past ages) that appear in the various formations, ranging from the ponderosa oyster shells of the late marls to the tiny forms of earlier ages. The age of different geological formations is determined by the types of fossils found within them.

The Mineral Survey is sponsored by the Arkansas Geological Survey, George C. Branner, State Geologist, and information concerning any formations in the county and further information will be available from that office.

Mineral Survey Of Sevier County Soon to Be Made

A survey of Sevier county for the purpose of locating and mapping mineral deposits and all evidence significant thereof, has been authorized by George C. Branner, state geologist in charge of the State Mineral Survey.

Compere Pipkin of Mena, who is directing a similar survey in Polk county, will supervise the Sevier county survey, and will have headquarters at the WPA office in De Queen during the several months the local survey is in progress.

A crew of 20 local WPA workers has been assigned for work on the survey. Mr. Pipkin came to De Queen Wednesday and began making preliminary plans for carrying out the project.

SEVIER

Pipkin Speaks to Commercial Club

Compere Pipkin of Mena, supervisor of the Sevier county mineral survey being made by a WPA project sponsored by the Arkansas Geological Survey, was the principal speaker at the January meeting of the De Queen Commercial Club, held Thursday night at the American Legion hut.

Mr. Pipkin explained the purpose of the survey, which is to obtain detailed information concerning all mineral deposits in the county to be filed in the state geologist's office and made available to anyone interested in development. In a general way he explained the work of making the survey, and invited suggestions and co-operation from the business men.

Various matters of business were discussed, including the placing of a sign at the Junction of Highways 70 and 71 informing tourists of the eight-block proximity of De Queen. This was referred to the highway committee.

President C. L. Leighton appointed a nominations committee as follows: Ed C. Henderson, chairman; Donald Knight and L. J. Dawes. The committee was instructed to make nominations for new officers and report at the next meeting.

A feature of the occasion was succulent De Queen broilers, prepared and served by members of the American Legion Auxiliary as the principal dish of the menu. Much enthusiasm was in evidence concerning the high quality of the chicken and the excellence of the frying thereof.

Commercial Club Meets Tonight at 7

The January meeting of the De Queen Commercial Club will be held at the American Legion hut tonight, beginning at 7 o'clock.

Among the speakers will be Compere Pipkin of Mena, supervisor of the Sevier county mineral survey, who will tell of the status and objective of that project.

There also will be discussion of various matters of interest to the club members.

Letters....

From THE PEOPLE

WPA Workers Plan Project of Their Own.

Editor Daily Citizen:

The State Mineral Survey, WPA Project No. 4750-9, has been discontinued due to conclusion of the appropriations. So the crew of 15 men and a girl are out of a job until new appropriations are made. Not to be outdone they have decided to cut wood to make groceries.

They want to get a track of timber to clear. They have a truck owned by Ward Copeland who works on the job and will haul the wood. The stenographer, Virginia Parker, and Joe Smith, who are not physically able to cut wood will sell for the venture. The rest will cut the wood and all will receive pay in accordance with the number of days they work, after the gas and other expenses have been deducted. They are all determined to eat until their job is opened again so that they can continue looking for minerals and mapping the geology of the county as well as taking samples to be assayed in the Little Rock laboratory as soon as it is completed.

Mr. Compere Pipkin of Mena, who is the county supervisor of the mineral survey, says that he will be back in De Queen Monday to help in the wood cutting as he says that he will have to live the same as the rest of the crew and he will need the exercise (so he says). Do you need wood?

Hugh Gore,
Mr. Pipkin's Assistant.