County Mineral Survey Announced

Democrat, Mar, 1938
Washington Co

A geological survey of Washington county is to be made as a part of the state-wide WPA project and Roy M. Ward of Little Rock has come here to supervise the work in this county. The survey is for discovery, mapping and locating all mineral resources of the state, water, highways and transmission facilities to indicate availabity of the resources.

Ten junior engineers, a stenographer, a truck driver and timekeeper will be employed on the project which is expected to open March 1. The work is expected to begin about March 1. M Ward will hold a week's school for instruction of the workers before the field survey begins.

Mr. Ward is an electrical engineer, a graduate of the University of Southern California. Mr. Ward will have headquarters in the county judge's office at the courthouse

The project is sponsored by the state gealogy department under supervision of the state geologist and of Dr. Robert C. Beckstrom, former instructor in the Colorado School of Mines and Columbia university.

Information obtained in the survey will be catalogued in the state geology department where it will be available to anyone interested in Arkansas' mineral resources and will prove of inestimable value in determining the resources, Mr Ward said. Oklahoma made such a survey two years ago, under direction of Dr. Beckstrom and Oklahoma has already collected as much in severance tax as the project cost.

Wells and Springs To Be Analyzed

4/17/39 Washington County

Water wells and springs of Washington county are being investigated by the WPA mineral survey project, and samples of the water are to be tested in a laboratory soon to be installed, according to Roy D. Sharrock, county supervisor.

Money for purchase of equipment has been donated by merchants of Fayetteville. Field worker swill make an accurate record of the exact location of each well and spring from which samples are analyzed, and record of results will be attached to the field report and filed in the office of the State Geological Survey.

The records pertaining to quality and quantity of water in different parts of the s
a valuable addition to previous compilations on the water wells of Arkansas, the last of which, "List of Arkansas Water Wells," was issued by George C. Branner, state geologist, in 1937 The i
formation will be available to the public and will be of especial value in supplying data to those who intend to use ground water for industrial use.

Quality of the water available for human use is of paramount importance, but water that is acceptable for domestic purposes is not always acceptable for certain industrial uses also, it is explained.

TWO-THIRDS OF COUNTY SURVEY MADE

Part of Statewide WPA Project Lists Many Features of Area

BACKSTROM CHIEF

Northwest Ark Times
12/27/38

Limestone Deposits Valuable; Tripoli Located, 209 Springs Being Tested For Content

About two-thirds of Washington county has been examined in the survey of minerals, waters, caves and cultural features which is a part of a state wide WPA project sponsored by the State Geological Survey of which George C. Branner is director. The project was started last March and will cover the entire county before it is completed, it was reported today.

Robert C. Beckstrom is project supervisor and R. E. Vandruff the technical supervisor. R. D. Sharrock, in charge of the Washington county survey, through co-operation of the geological department at the University has been given use of an office in the chemistry building.

Up to Nov. 29, 616 square miles of the 955 square miles in Washington county had been examined by the men of the survey.

Limestone Important

Mineral of most importance from a commercial standpoint which has been located so far is the limestone deposits in various sections of the county. Four miles south of West Fork on the east side of Highway 71 the limestone ranges from 20 to 150 feet in thickness, with a stratum of shale from 5 to 30 feet thick immediately underneath. As these two minerals are the principal components of Portland Cement, and considering the concurrance of other factors necessary in making this material a manufacturing plant for this product seems feasible at this place, according to the survey report. Representatives of cement manufacturing companies in Kansas City and Chicago who have inspected this particular location have pronounced it an ideal one for a plant.

In the extreme western part of the county limestone is being utilized as building material for the school at Cincinnati. Across the county, in the northeastern corner, the members of the survey have located and mapped a limestone exposure along the north bank of White river with a thickness of 20 to 125 feet. This deposit is a mile north of Habberton and is of easy accessibility and well adopted to structural building and road making.

Tripoli Located

Tripoli, a mineral derived from disintegrated calcareous siliceous rock, has been located, mapped and samples sent to the laboratory in Little Rock for testing. This is a fine grained, soft, porous substance of whitish color, which when crushed is used as an abrasive for metals and is also used in the manufacture of paint and explosives and as a filter in cement making. One deposit of tripoli is in the western part of the county, eight miles west of Farmington, and another near Spring Valley in the extreme northwestern section.

From the 724 wells and 209 springs investigated and located on maps, samples of water have been taken for analysis to determine their usefulness, source and sanitary properties. All surface waters, streams, lakes and ponds, are being mapped and located and the information recorded in regard to their value for power development or recreational use.

All caves are being enumerated and described according to size, location, present use, name of present owner and the legend and history when known.

The survey is receiving co-operation of both private and public interests in Washington county. Through co-operation of the department of geology of the University, Dr. V. Sleight, mineralogist of the department, is testing water samples.

From beginning of the work farmers of the county have shown interest in the deposits of limestone and phosphate found on their land, and in one instance, a farmer, learning of the good quality of limestone on his land, immediately arranged to have a crusher built to make his own agricultural lime.

Opportunity is given the men engaged in the work to learn to utilize the mineral resources for their own benefit. Ten days of preparation is given before actual work begins, and study courses are available for those who desire further advancement.

The program of making a statewide survey of minerals of Arkansas will be of lasting benefit to the state.

Washington