TWO-THIRDS OF COUNTY SURVEY MADE

Part of Statewide WPA Project Lists Many Features of Area

BACKSTROM, CHIEF

Limestone Deposits Valuable; Tripoli Located, 269 Springs Being Tested For Content

About two-thirds of Washington county have 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. Brauner 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. Vanduff 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. Four miles south of West Fork on the east side of Highway 71 the limestone ranges from 20 to 100 feet in thickness, with a stratum of shale from 5 to 30 feet thick immediately under the limestone. As these two minerals are the principal components of Portland Cement, and considering the concurrence 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 the White river with a thickness of 20 to 125 feet. This deposit is a mile north of Hubbardton and is of easy accessibility and well adapted to structural building and road making.

Tripoli Located

Tripoli, a mineral derived from disintegrated calcareous silicious 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 the 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. Slicht, 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.