Plaque To Mark Center Of State

Gazette 4-17-36

The geographical center of Arkansas will be marked by a bronze plaque at 3rd in. Sunday by the Arkansas Society, Daughters of American Colonists, as a part of the Arkansas Centennial celebration.

Mrs. Chas. Miller, state regent, will preside at the dedication. The spot selected for marking is about 15 miles from Little Rock on the Hot Springs highway.

Mrs. John P. Wolfmeyer, honorary state regent, said that the plaque will be placed some distance from Little Rock as it is located on the Hot Springs highway, 12 miles north of Highway 65, the boundary of the city.

The marker is of concrete and bears a bronze plaque inscribed "The Geographical Center of Arkansas is 3½ miles north of the Arkansas State Highway System, the center is located on the Hot Springs highway, 12 miles north of Highway 65."

Plan to Mark Center Of State Held Up

Gazette 4-11-36

Anyone who knows exactly where the geographic center of Arkansas can do the Arkansas Society, Daughters of American Colonists, a large favor by suggesting the place for the marker.

The choice of a spot for the marker was made after the marker was selected by the surveying party. The spot was chosen because it is located on the Hot Springs highway, 12 miles north of the Arkansas State Highway System. The center is located on the Hot Springs highway, 12 miles north of Highway 65.

State Geologist Branner To Determine State Center Without Leaving His Office

This question of settling upon the geographical center of Arkansas is to be decided definitely tomorrow with the help of state geologist, George O. Branner, at the state capital.

Upon such designation hangs the question of a suitable location for the marker. A patriotic organization had planned to erect the marker on the Hot Springs highway, 12 miles north of the Arkansas State Highway System. The center is located on the Hot Springs highway, 12 miles north of Highway 65.

The newspaper called on all patriotic organizations to rally to the defense of our geographic center. "Fortifications should be erected at once around this cherished spot," the paper continued. "Mrs. Joseph Frauenthal doubts will permit use of the Civil War cannon of her famous uncle, the late Col. A. P. Robinson, and warning signs will be posted to Writes are posted to the same point as the marker. The final decision will be made by the state geologist, George O. Branner, at the state capital.

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And So, It Seems Center Of State Will Be Marked Northwest of Little Rock

April 27, 1936 (?)

Washington—Little Rock is near the actual center of Arkansas, no matter what formula is used to determine the scientific center of the state.

Through one method of figuring, the center of the state would be located at a point 12 miles northwest of Little Rock. Another would place the center at a point nine miles east of the Capitol building in the city.

This was the finding of government experts given today to Mrs. Charles H. Miller of Little Rock, state regent of the Arkansas Society, Daughters of American Colonists.

Plans of the organization to mark the center of the state for the centennial led to the appeal made to the United States Geological Survey by Sen. Joseph T. Robinson, at Mrs. Miller's request.

Although acknowledging both centers, dependent upon which method of computation issued, the survey leaned toward the point northwest of Little Rock, and this will probably be used.

The location was selected through the use of the following formula:

"The geographical center of the state may be defined as that point on which the surface area would balance if it were a plane without thickness, or in other words the center of gravity of the surface."

Dr. George C. Branner, state geologist, used the "center of gravity" method recently to determine the geographical center of the state, fixing the point just within Pulaski County near Pulaski. A marker designating the center had previously been erected at a point about 15 miles west of Little Rock on Highway 70.

State-Center Marker Sites Suggested

The monument authorized by the Arkansas Society, Daughters of American Colonists, to mark the geographical center of Arkansas may be placed with accuracy at any point on Highway 65 within a one-mile radius of a spot selected by the Arkansas Geological Survey, George C. Branner, state geologist, has advised officials of the society.

In a letter directed to Mrs. Charles H. Miller, state regent, Mr. Branner explained methods of determining the state's center used by the United States Geological Survey and the state geological office, and said that any point within a mile of the spot chosen, which is in the southeast quarter of Section 18, near the Pulaski-Pulaski county line, may be regarded as an accurate location.

The site selected by the state geological office is about one mile south of Pulaski, and the area within the one-mile radius embraces parts of both counties. The boundary line between the two counties at this point is Pulaski bayou, which virtually parallels the Arkansas river and lies about one mile east of it.

A bronze marker intended to commemorate the location of state's center was built by the Daughters of American Colonists at Collegeville, approximately 18 miles north of the location suggested by Mr. Branner, but the question of accuracy of location was raised before the marker had been dedicated.

College Professor Says Branner 'Warm' On Site for Marker

Conway (Ark)—Paulkner county's hope of obtaining the geographical center of Arkansas weakened under continued scientific pressure today, Dr. H. L. Mallin, professor of geography at Arkansas State Teachers College, lined up today with his professional colleagues, Dr. George C. Branner, state geologist, in placing the marker on Palamun creek near Little Rock.

His personal investigations put a decided crimp in the accuracy of local historians who wanted the center located on Cadron creek.

"Dr. Branner is getting warm," Dr. Mallin said to Conway civic club, "in fact, he may be right. I calculated the center was located near Pulaski county side of the line.

"The state geologist and plumb-lines put the center on the Pulaski county side of the line near a bridge over Palamun creek on Highway 65. Meanwhile, Daughters of American Colonists showed no inclination to spend the removal of the monument now located southwest of Little Rock on the Hot Springs highway."

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