Methodist Preacher Says He Was First to Discover Pikney County Had Diamonds

J. E. Ralston, Oct. 8. — (A.P.) — The Daily News will say tomorrow that what is believed to be the first indisputable proof of the much-disputed diamond claim of Pikney County, N. C., was given last night by the Reverend R. J. W. Evangeline, of the Methodist church in Pikney County. The church men are said to be involved in a white suit against the British-American Diamond Company, and are scheduled to stand trial at the county court at Murfreesboro, October 15.

The Daily News story continues: "Mr. Evangeline, a member of the Board of Salvation of the Methodist church in Pikney County, says that the British-American Diamond corporation's prospectors discovered the diamond-bearing area in the Murfreesboro district from 1826 to 1828, in the city Monday and Tuesday, and a Mr. E. W. Evans, of the Methodist society, visited the Democratic office and related his memorable experience.

One of the most interesting aspects of the story is the fact that the death of the famous Methodist preacher, who was claimed to have been the first to discover the diamond mine in Pikney County, was said to have left the town with a feeling of mourning.

The Methodist preacher started on a mission to Murfreesboro, where he was to be buried, and was said to have reached the town in time to be present at the funeral. The preacher had been a prominent member of the Methodist church and was well known for his work among the poor and the sick.

The story goes on to say that the Methodist preacher had been a leader in the struggle for the rights of the poor and that his death was a great loss to the community.
A special meeting of the stockholders of the Arkansas Diamond Corporation was held in the Chamber of Commerce auditorium in Little Rock, Ark., on Tuesday afternoon, April 4, at 3 o'clock, for the purpose of electing a new board of directors to succeed the one who expired March 31, 1926.

Little Rock Group to Assume Control of Arkansas Mines.

ROSS, R. W., and the Mrs. W. F. Hartman, who hold 10,000 shares of the stock of the corporation, have agreed to purchase the other 50,000 shares of the stock held by the present directors of the corporation, and thus have assumed control of the company.

The new directors, who will meet to organize the company, are: R. W. Ross, W. F. Hartman, R. W. Breyburn, and T. Fuller.

The company was incorporated in Arkansas in 1924, and since that time has been engaged in the business of mining diamonds in the state of Arkansas.

The company has been very successful, and has accumulated a large financial surplus, which the new directors are now disposed to liquidate.

The new directors have already received offers from other companies for the purchase of the company's assets, and it is expected that the company will be sold very soon.

The new directors are confident that the company will be able to make a large profit in the near future, and they are now making plans to expand the company's business.

The new directors are also planning to build a new plant for the production of diamonds, and they are now in the process of negotiating for the necessary equipment.

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TEXARKANA WOMAN ACCUSED OF FRAUD

Arrested at Cincinnati in Arkansas Diamond Mine Case.

THREE MEN IMPLICATED

Walter F. Hinte, President of Company, Pleads Guilty, Then Asks Jury Trial.

Murfreesboro Diamond Mines in Operation Again.

Plans to Start Development of Diamond Mine.

Arkansas, June 19—A company representing E. B. Byrd of California, expects soon to start development of diamond fields in Pikes county, Arkansas. This was announced to the Arkansas Diamond Mining Company by Mr. Byrd, who owns most of the mining claims in that county. Mr. Byrd said that he was interested in the diamond fields near Murfreesboro and displayed a large map of the field, which he said was very rich.

He said his company also is interested in the diamond fields in Pike and Clark counties.

Company is to Start Work on Diamond Field.

California 'States' He Found Real Gems in Arkansas County.

CALIFORNIA- "States" he found real gems in Arkansas county, and he is sending them to his company in California, E. B. Byrd of California, who is represented by this company, has been in Arkansas for several days, looking over the work of the diamond mining companies.

He said that this company is going to start work on the diamond fields and is preparing to go to work on them.

Man who identified Arkansas gems dies.

New York, June 30.—Dr. W. J. Kunk, aged 56, the world's greatest expert on gems, died yesterday at his home in Triboro, N. Y., of a cerebral hemorrhage yesterday.

Dr. Kunk was the first authority on gems to identify and classify the rare diamonds found in Pikes county, Arkansas. He was last heard from by George O. Brainn, state geologist.

Dr. Kunk was at the Climax Diamond Mining Company in Pikes county August 1, 1908, and Mr. Brainn, who was with him at that time, says that Dr. Kunk identified the rare diamonds and declared that in quality they were equal to the best diamonds found in Africa. Dr. Kunk later came to Arkansas and identified the diamonds at the Climax Diamond Mine.

Arkansas Diamond Firm incorporated.

C. B. B. W. 3.

The Incorporation for the Arkansas Diamond Corporation, 214 Pershing building, St. Petersburg, Florida, has been filed by the secretary of state's office. John P. Byrd and others, attorneys, was organized for the purpose of the Pikes Diamond Exchange.

The incorporators are Roy L. Lewis, president; Roy L. Lewis, vice president; John P. Brainn, secretary; E. B. Byrd, attorney; and M. R. G. Leigh, solicitor.

M. R. F. C. Murray.
In the Heart of the Impenetrable African Jungle a Huge New Diamond Field Has Been Opened and Gangs of Naked Natives Are Digging for Gems

By William Lyon Smymer, F. R. G. S.

Diamonds Going Through the Jigger Machine

Empire of Diamonds

(Diagram continued from Page 33)

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This earth is lifted with shores upon wooden troughs. By shal- lowness of troughs gravity carries the shal with the water. The hillside to the machinery which adeptly separates the diamonds from the pebbles, which is the technical name for earth in which diamonds are found.

The men who operate the mines are hill people who have lived all their lives in the vicinity of Mur- freesboro. One would think that there would be great precautions taken by the operators against theft. I was very much surprised when I found out that he men who work in the diamond mines are not afraid, are required to make as bold, and during the past 20 years of constant operation not one of them has ever been suspected of theft. The men are eager to report any "find" they make.

These tourists who contemplate visiting this section of America, this year would be well repaid to see by way of Murfreesboro and visit the only diamond mines in North America. Not only are the diamond mines novel and Interest- ing, but the country around Murfreesboro is one of the most pic- turesque in the state. I, as a native Arkansan, am pleased with its natural beauty.

Divers Puzzles and Pasti

Pike County Craters Idle as Working of Entire Area Is Made Impossible

By Bob Thomasson

Murfreesboro - We are often asked the question of the "diamond craters in Pike County. Will they ever be worked again?"

We answer them it is not going to happen. It has been almost 20 years since the divers bought the property from Huddleston's heirs. It is the second time in this area that the divers have been forced to give up. The first time was almost 30 years ago. The divers were not able to secure the financing necessary to continue the operations.

The divers are now focusing their efforts on other projects. The diamond craters in Pike County are not expected to be worked again.

Discovered in 1913.

Diamonds were first discovered in August of 1913 when a man named Johnson, who had been prospecting in the area, was faced with the task of removing the rocks from the ground. These two stones were not the only ones found, as Dr. George Kinser of the U.S. Geological Survey determined that the diamonds found were part of a much larger deposit. The discovery of diamonds near Murfreesboro excited the minds of capitalists and adventurers began to flock into the little quiet county.

The first thing to realize is that the working of diamonds is restricted to a certain area. The field was divided into several sections and the divers had to pay a fee for the privilege of working the diamonds in each section. The fee was paid by the divers and the money was used to finance the operations. The first two sections were paid for by the divers, and then the field was divided into smaller sections and the divers paid for those sections as well.

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Plant Abandoned

It was not long after the divers paid the fee that the operation was abandoned. The divers were not able to raise enough money to finance the operations, and they were forced to give up. The divers were not able to sell the diamonds or find a buyer for them. The divers were not able to sell the diamonds or find a buyer for them. As a result, the divers were forced to abandon the operations and leave the site.

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Ensign’s commission in 1896 he was assigned to a relief expedition in the Arctic. There he had two years of the most hazardous life a Coast Guard man can experience—the rescuing of stricken whaling-ships.

With the United States naval force at Brest in 1918, he did more rescue work. Once in a heavy sea which threatened to dash the boat under his command against a sinking destroyer, his maneuvers were skilful enough to save all forty-seven lives on the distressed ship. Since 1929 he has served as Commander of the United States Coast Guard.

As Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins announced this week that peace talks would begin once more, there were further repercussions from the explosions which bridges, curran and co. had set off.

Secretary of State Hull, sailing for the Pan-American Peace Conference at Buenos Aires, was delayed for nine hours while his ship dug substitutes for six striking seamen.

The Chamber of Commerce in Fairbanks, Alaska, shocked the town with the news that its food supply would be gone within thirty days unless coastwise shipping were resumed.

DIAMOND FINDS: New Capital Obtained to Reopen Mine in Arkansas Ghost Town

"And speaking of diamonds," James Buchanan Brady used to say, "I've got a few you might like to see. They're my hobby, you know."

Eleven years before this same gem specialist, "Diamonds" Jim Brady, died in 1917, a farmer, John Wesley Huddleston, was walking slowly over a treeless, volcanic rock sector on his property near Murfreesboro, Arkansas. Two bright stones attracted his attention. Hurrying into town, he sought advice. The stones were sent to Dr. George Kus, New York gem expert. Yes—they were diamonds: the larger, two and a half carats; the smaller, one and a half.

Neighbors made a rush, got options on the tract surrounding Prairie Creek Crater, site of the find.

Enthusiasm provoked a boom for Murfreesboro. Engineers, geologists, miners, capitalists and adventurers arrived, doubled the population.

Mines Seek—A corporation was founded, with banker Samuel Wallace Heyburn at the head, to operate the Arkansas Diamond Company. Bankruptcy tests closed the initial plant in 1908. Eastern capital arrived and the mine opened and closed several times. By 1912 two washing-plants were erected and operations went on slowly, with interruptions, until 1920. Then diamond prices decreased, enthusiasm waned, the Arkansas field virtually closed. A couple of million dollars had been sunk in the sundry ventures.

Now the Arkansas Diamond and Engineering Company, leasing from the Arkansas Diamond Corporation, is planning to reopen America’s early diamond mine.

The field consists of 700 acres of a high plateau in Pike County, sixty of which are of the peridotite, diamond-containing soil. As far back as 1845, geologists have known this type existed in Arkansas and in 1860 one investigating scientist found the soil much like the kimberlite at South African mines. The tract was on the crater of an old volcano, extinguished by flood many centuries ago.

Five separate companies have worked their way into ownership of various parts of the field. Led by Bay Thompson, heavy-act, jovial Little Rock printer, the principal owners are ready to put up $400,000 to resume operations. Better times and a rise in the diamond market are assuring them.

Yield—Once expected to furnish annual profits of $1,200,000, the Arkansas mines in twenty-five years of operation have yielded about $100,000 worth of diamonds. State Geologist George C. Branner said information available to his Department

Better times and a rise in the diamond market bring Arkansas mines to life again.
Diamond Rush Ghost Village May Be Boomed Again

KIMBERLY, Ark., Nov. 7 (A.P.) — Here is your ghost-village where old-timers recall the Arkansas Diamond rush of 1909. They are taking new operations at the Phoebe county mines, possibly the one producing the greatest field in North America. Better times prompt the talk that the depression the last field in 1909.

The principal interest in this is that business is moving in the market. The old-timers are reviving rocks and laying plans for a new campaign. The new interest has a market of activity in the company, especially with the making of the mining companies. No information has yet been issued from the figures showing complete production.

The Diamond Geological Survey of Texas, a subsidiary of the Arkansas Diamond Corporation, controlling most of the company, said today:

Never on Large Scale

An associate, Roy L. Thomson, president of a Little Rock printing company, said previous operations had never been on a large scale. "But we did operate at a profit for years," he said, "and it can be done again in normal times. The Arkansas diamonds are harder than those from Africa and they bring prices just as good."

A United States geological survey bulletin published in the area described the Pike county mines as "the only such mines on the North American continent." It said the field's largest "find" was a 45-carat stone picked up in the summer of 1914, another of 35.85 carats found in 1919, and a third of 17.99 carats taken from the workings in 1917.

"The number of diamonds that have been found near Murfreesboro, Ark. (Kimberly's leading producer), since their discovery in 1906, is known only in part, for the mining companies have withholding from publication the figures showing complete production," the survey commented.

State Geologist George C. Brunner said, however, that information available to his department showed 68,000 diamonds, aggregating 12,600 carats, had been mined in the Murfreesboro-Kimberly producing area, a treacherous, 40-acre tract of volcanic rock.

Surface operations never have been attempted. All mining has been in shallow, open cuts and the hydraulic method has been used "wash cut" the crumbled rock. But most of the stones have been removed by hand, after picking up the soil.

When John H. Bulted, of Murfreesboro (businessman), picked up two diamonds on his property 50 years ago, he started a get-rich-quick rush into southeastern Arkansas.

People were quitting jobs and home-ties to share in a new bonanza.

State Land Commissioner George W. Neal, a resident of Murfreesboro in those days, tells the story:

"Excitement was high. People swarmed into Pike county from everywhere. Most of them had little money and no equipment for mining. They didn't care—they had come to gather diamonds. But the land where the gems were discovered was quickly taken up by corporations.

"Endured, the amateur prospectors continued to rush in. The town of Kimberly sprang up overnight. It had business houses, a bank, and hastily-thrown-together residences.

"Others came disillusioned. The newcomers' money gave out; productive land had been leased to the corporations, which nearly guarded it. Hopes dashed, the would-be-seekers started back to their homes."

Kimberly is now a ghost-village. The buildings are still there, but it has fewer than 40 residents.

Neal recalled that land-holders in the area staged a "candlelight diamond hunt" at night.

"They used to advertise those homes widely and people came from miles around," he said. "After everyone brought a candle and started out after paying a fee of $1. The only ones who made any money out of it, so far as I know, were the sponges."

Dr. Bulted said the Arkansas diamond is found in "dikes of volcanic rock", known as peridotite, which closely resembles the material in which diamonds are found in South Africa. He said the strata are probably brought to the surface by explosions within the earth.