

OZARK AND OUACHITA MOUNTAINS OF ARKANSAS CONTAIN NUMEROUS PRECIOUS, SEMI-PRECIOUS GEMS

Gazette 5-6-38
By TOM SHIRAS.

Diamonds and pearls, amethysts and turquoise, garnets and topaz, sunstone and wavelite.

Sounds like a king's ransom, but it isn't. Just the jewel stones in Arkansas's treasure chest; precious and semi-precious stones buried deep in the low-lying ranges of the Ouachitas and Ozarks.

Arkansas probably has more varieties of precious and semi-precious stones than any other state in the Union, and Pike county is the only place on the North American continent where diamonds occur in place in a peridotite pipe.

For nearly a century, settlers traveled a trail that led across this pipe, and cursed it in wet weather, because it was slick and hard to drive a loaded wagon over. They called it soap-stone. In 1889, John C. Branner, state geologist, pronounced it peridotite, but because no one had ever found a diamond in it, refrained from classifying it as diamond bearing.

"Discovered" in 1906.

In August, 1906, 17 years later, John Wesley Huddleston picked up the first stone, and a few hours later another. The banker at Murfreesboro, offered him 50 cents for the pair. John "lowed" "that if they warn't wuth more than that he would throw them away." He finally cashed in on his discovery for \$39,000.

Like many other prospectors, he bet his all that the land on which the pipe was discovered would make him rich. But John wasn't betting on diamonds. His theory was that this peculiar looking formation was gold bearing. He panned it and didn't find a color, then he found diamonds.

Before he bought the land on which he found the stones, he was a hill farmer, owning a small farm near Murfreesboro. He sold his farm for a few hundred dollars, under the protest of his wife, and made the first payment on the land on which the diamond pipe is located.

Little Rock financiers paid him a handsome profit on his investment. But a few years ago in an interview, he said: "If I knewed as much about diamonds then as I do now I'd made a million."

Processing Diamonds.

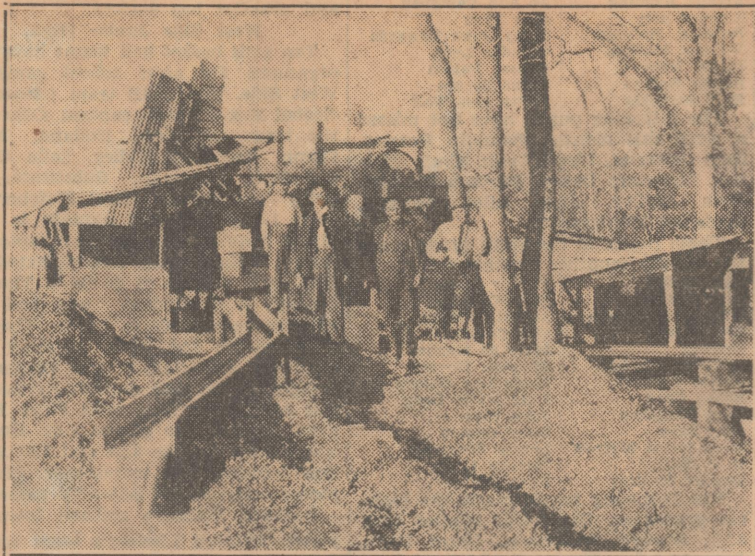
Diamonds have been mined in Arkansas since 1906. Operations have been spasmodic, not continuous. Much the same methods are used as are used in South Africa, which is a process of elimination. The diamond bearing formation slacks like shale when exposed to the air. For this reason the surface of the pipe is disintegrated to a depth of about 12 feet.

The first process it passes through is washing. One hundred loads, or tons of peridotite produces approximately one ton of solids. These solids are composed of small pieces of iron ore of several kinds, quartzite, jasper pebbles and the diamonds.

The diamonds are separated from these solids by two methods. The first is hand picking. The mass is dumped on a zinc-top table and carefully looked over, for the gems. The other method is known as the grease-board method. A simple grease-board is nothing more or less than a shallow trough about 16 feet long and three feet wide. The bottom is smeared to a depth of a quarter of an inch with heavy grease. It is set at an angle of 30 degrees and the solids flushed over it with water. The diamonds adhere to the grease, the rest of the material is carried on over into the waste dump. Why do the diamonds adhere to the grease? A rough diamond is naturally greasy like a duck's back. For that reason it presents a dry face to the grease, and the grease presents a dry face to the diamond and they cling together. The rest of the material being wet all over, is flushed on over the board, by a film of water between it and the grease.

Types of Diamonds.

Over several years, test washing in the earlier days of the field, one company got an average of 18 carats of diamonds to every 100 loads of dirt washed. Most of the stones are distorted octohedrons. They run in whites, blues, canaries and blacks, the latter called borts. Only a small percentage of the stones found are gem stones, the rest being classified as commercial stones.



View of a small diamond washing plant in the Arkansas diamond field in Pike county in its early days.

This is true of all diamond fields. The commercial stones are utilized for phonograph needles, settings for drill bits, diamond dust, etc. They bring a very small price, compared to the price paid for gem stones. The largest stone that has ever been found that has been reported weighed 40 carats. Those who are familiar with the industry figure that some 20,000 stones have been found since operations began.

Other Arkansas Stones.

Among the semi-precious stones found in Arkansas, the quartz crystal resembles the genuine diamond most. They cut nicely and remain brilliant until the facets get scarred. They are found in the vicinity of Hot Springs, and many of them are sold under the name of Hot Springs diamonds. They are also found in most of the other mountain counties of the state.

Amethysts are rare, but are found occasionally in Yell and Montgomery counties. They are beautiful stones, the best ones comparing favorably with any place in the world.

Turkey-fat, a yellow zinc carbonate, highly crystallized is one of the rarer semi-precious stones. It gets its color from cadmium and is very beautiful when cut and polished. It is found principally in the Rush Creek mining camp, at Rush.

Garnets are found in Magnet Cove. Sunstone and wavelite are found in the same place. The latter make very beautiful settings when cut and polished.

Onyx of all kinds and colors is found in the limestone caves in the Ozarks. One jewel cutter at Eureka Springs, fashions this stone into brooches and other kinds of jewelry.

Opal is found around the ancient hot springs in Saline and Hot Spring counties, and jasper and agate are found in both Montgomery and Polk counties.

Democrat 1-30-38
Volcanoes Created

Arkansas's Diamonds 80,000,000 Years Ago

Washington—Volcanoes gave Arkansas its diamonds!

This statement was made Saturday by Dr. Hugh D. Miser, of the United States Geological Survey at a meeting of the Geological Society of Washington.

Some 80,000,000 years ago, he explained, a great circle of volcanoes dotted the gulf coastal plain, extending through Texas, Arkansas and Mississippi. These volcanoes erupted. And long, long afterwards, in the throats of this same group of volcanoes in Arkansas, diamond deposits were found.

By the same token, volcanic eruptions brought oil to Texas, and gold to Colorado. In fact, these extinct cones lie so far below the Texas soil that they were not discovered until drilling for oil and gas was begun.

Suit Asks Tax Sale Of Diamond Mine

Special to the Gazette. 1-6-38

Murfreesboro, Jan. 5.—An unusual suit was filed in Chancery Court here today by John L. Walston, acting as a taxpayer in behalf of Pike county, asking that a 30-acre tract on which a diamond mine is located, and owned by the Ozark Diamond Company, be sold for taxes due from 1933 to 1937, inclusive.

An injunction was granted by County Judge T. J. Jones in the absence of Chancellor A. P. Steel, against County Clerk C. G. Bolin, restraining him from certifying the land to the state Land Office.

Walston said that more than \$1,000 was due the county in back taxes, and that if the land had been certified to the state, the owners could repurchase it for \$30. The case, which will be tried January 18, is believed by court officials to be the first of its kind in the state.

Three Will Be Buried In Mid-Atlantic

Special to the Gazette. 1-30-38

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 23 (AP).—A strange burial in the deepest part of the Atlantic, co-mingling the ashes of a woman who once was entertained by European royalty with those of her husband and child will be given Mrs. Eleanor Massie Hope of Shreveport, La.

Sterling Stewart, Cass county lumberman, said today he was sworn to secrecy about some of the details but divulged that he was one of 11 persons asked to participate in the ceremony. Between New York and Liverpool the ashes of Mrs. Hope, her husband, George D. Hope, once prosperous lumberman, and their daughter, will be placed in a copper urn, covered with a floral blanket five feet square and cast overboard. Then the 11 persons will continue to Europe on a tour at the late Mrs. Hope's expense. The husband and daughter are buried here. Their bodies will be exhumed.

Stewart said Mrs. Hope once found so many diamonds on her husband's 10,000-acre timber holdings in Arkansas that she gave a bridge party and gave jewels to the winners. After her husband's death, Mrs. Hope went to Europe to live for a time.

"She wrote me frequently during the years she lived in England," Stewart said. "She was a house guest of Queen Mary. She danced many times with the Duke of Windsor when he was Prince of Wales. She entertained him at her home and he gave parties in her honor."

The only place in Arkansas where diamonds ever have been found is near Murfreesboro, Pike county. The Gazette's correspondent at Murfreesboro reported last night that although he had canvassed many of the older residents of the town, he had been unable to locate anyone who ever heard of Mr. and Mrs. George D. Hope.

EX-ARKANSAN'S GIFT OF DIAMONDS FOR PRIZES DISCOUNTED

Special to the Gazette. 37

Camden, Aug. 26.—The report of the strange burial planned for Mrs. Eleanor Massie Hope of Shreveport, La. in the middle of the Atlantic, co-mingling the ashes of a woman once entertained by royalty with those of her husband and daughter, brought to older Camden residents vivid memories of Mrs. Hope.

She and her husband, the late George D. Hope, wealthy lumberman of Kansas City, lived in Camden and at Harlow, 20 miles north of here, nearly a half century ago. Mr. Hope owned an interest in the old Harlow sawmill on the Cotton Belt railroad.

When lumber was the leading industry of Arkansas, between Camden and Fordyce were several big sawmills—at Eagle Mills, Millville, Cotton Belt, Harlow and Thornton.

One of the first of these mills was built at Harlow by a Dr. Glidden of Beloit, Kan. When his health failed, he sold his mill to the late J. A. McDonald of Camden, father of Mrs. J. S. Rinehart and Norman and Jesse Rinehart. Mr. McDonald later sold an interest in the mill to Mr. Hope, millionaire lumberman of Kansas City.

Mr. Hope became a frequent visitor to Harlow and Camden. At that time he was a bachelor. On a return trip from California he met Miss Eleanor Massie of Indiana on the train. After a short courtship, they married. They built a palatial home in Kansas City but spent much time in Harlow and Camden.

The McDonald family of Camden, the Elinor Davies family of Magnolia, the McKown family of Kansas City, Mr. and Mrs. Hope and the sawmill office staff formed a happy group. They built a tennis court and a community house, which had a game room and flower garden.

At this time Dr. J. S. Rinehart, Camden physician, was mill physician. Miss Ola Pryer, now Mrs. Jess Hollis of Hollis and Company, Little Rock, was a member of the mill office staff, as was Miss Sarah Massie, sister of Mrs. Hope, who later married Julius Barnes of Camden, father of Mrs. Cora Lee Barnes Porter of O'Fallon, Ill.

When Dr. Rinehart resigned to go to Chicago to do post graduate medical work, he was succeeded by Dr. Wylie R. Buffington, then of Magnolia, now a leading physician in New Orleans, La.

Harvey C. Couch, Arkansas utility and railroad executive of Pine Bluff, was then a mail clerk on the Cotton Belt railroad, together with G. M. Starnes of Tulsa, Okla. They passed

through Harlow on their run and when letters would arrive from Chicago for a "certain Camden young lady" who was visiting her father at the mill, they usually bore some notes scrawled on the back by these clerks. This miss always would know how many letters were in the mail for her, as one of these clerks would hold up that number of his fingers as the train sped by her house.

Mrs. Hope kept her Camden friends informed of the latest news in styles, music, books, plays and matters pertaining to the social life in a big city.

She was very attractive, socially ambitious, and dressed beautifully.

When the mill was nearing the end of its run, Mr. McDonald sold his interest to Mr. Hope and returned to Camden. The plant continued to be operated by the George D. Hope Lumber Company, but later fire destroyed the entire plant and the mill was discontinued.

It was about this time that the society columns of the Kansas City papers carried the article concerning an elaborate bridge party given by Mrs. Hope, where prizes were "genuine diamonds picked up off Arkansas lands owned by her husband." This created a sensation in Kansas City and every newspaper in the nation carried the article. It was mentioned again in Associated Press and other dispatches this week, telling about plans for the strange burial in mid-ocean.

Among her Camden friends, however, the article provided much amusement as these people knew there were no diamonds on the cut-over land between Bearden and Thornton owned by Mr. Hope.

"It was nothing more than the fable of a clever hostess, or perhaps those lands were for sale," a friend of Mr. and Mrs. Hope said here today. "No doubt the diamonds were real, but Mrs. Hope probably bought them from some jeweler."

Mr. Hope died several years ago and Camden friends of the couple lost connection with Mrs. Hope until the news dispatch telling of the strange burial plans was published in the Arkansas Gazette.

Arkansas Authority on Gems

By Frances Stanley McGregor.



D. M. Stewart, Arkansas gem expert.

9-10-39 Gazette
"What's the idea of the rocks?" The surly tone was backed up by an efficient looking gun in the stranger's right hand.

"Those rocks are my own business," was the angry retort, and the speaker had a right to be mad. For he not only

had lost a watch, a five-dollar bill and a perfectly good suit of clothes to a stick-up man, right out in broad daylight, but the stick-up man had added insult to injury by making derisive remarks about the rocks!

For the hold-up victim was speaking the truth. Those particular rocks happened to be his business, and his hobby

Arkansas Jeweler Collects Gems Studies Their History for Information.

as well. He was D. M. Stewart, jeweler, and he was being held up right in the middle of one of his gem-hunting expeditions, this time just a mile from the Little Rock airport. He got back to town minus his suit and valuables, except for a diamond-set Masonic ring which he managed to take off and bury in the ground beneath his feet just in time, but he brought back the rocks the robber had taken out of his pants pockets.

That was several years ago. One of those rocks, a carnelian, now holds an important place in Mr. Stewart's collection of more than 150 precious and semi-precious gems, many of Arkansas origin. "It's not the most valuable, but it cost me more than any other stone in the collection," he said as he related the story.

An interest in "rocks" that began back in the days when he was a boy on an Alabama farm, 30 years of experience in handling gems of all descriptions in jewelry stores, and two-and-a-half years of intensive study culminating in a rigid examination have earned for Mr. Stewart the ranking of a registered jeweler of the American Gem Society. His registration number is 371, which means that in the 10 years the society has been in existence, less than 400 of the nation's jewelers have achieved that honor, unless the list has multiplied since July 13, 1939, the date his registration was announced.

The American Gem Society was founded by Robert Shipley, a Kansas jeweler. The nature and organization of the society is very similar to the old European craft guilds. Its high standards are recognized by men of the trade throughout the nation. Membership in the society means taking its courses in gemology, and passing examinations under qualified college and university professors.

Mr. Stewart, who has been in charge of diamonds at Charles S. Stiff's since 1913, speaks earnestly of the need for a more thorough knowledge of gems. "The purchaser of a gem must rely on the integrity of the firm from which he buys," he said. "Even then, if the jeweler is not thoroughly informed, the customer may not get what he pays for, because so many factors hidden from the eye affect the value of the gem. The public has a right to expect scientific knowledge on the part of the jeweler, for gems are blind merchandise."

"Just what makes the difference between stones?" we innocently asked, thinking, after all, that diamonds meant engagements, rubies were red, sapphires blue and opals unlucky unless you were born in October. We soon discovered our ignorance, for there came a deluge of scientific terms, faintly reminiscent of a geology course we took once, and having something to do, we gathered, with the origin and formation of precious stones. Just as we were going down for the third time, came a few words which seemed to be fairly substantial straws for the layman to grasp.

"Hardness." That was easy. "Refractive index," meaning the tricks the light will play on the stone. "Specific gravity." "Synthetic," a good Twentieth century word. "Yes, very decent-looking stones can be made by using materials of the same chemical composition as the true jewel," the gemologist said. "However, there are actually only two types of synthetic stones, those of the corundum species and those of the spinel species. All the variations are due to the addition of color, red for rubies, green for emeralds, blue for sapphires, and so on down the list. They almost look real, but they don't have the crystallization and inclusions of a genuine stone. But look at this!"

Through the tiny magnifying glass which Mr. Stewart uses to discover the inner secrets of his gems, we gazed at a large diamond. Beautiful as it had been on the counter, the stone came to life under the glass, with burst after burst of fireworks. It was easy to imagine why men could become lost in the love of such gorgeous gems and spend their lives in search and study of them.

The beauty of gems was recognized thousands of years before they were cut and polished as they are today. Diamonds in the rough probably were worn before man knew what it was to clothe himself. Much old world folklore and considerable history is linked to the love and search of precious stones.

"The stone in its formation is a living, growing thing," Mr. Stewart said. "It grows like a tree, from the inside out, but it is the slowest-growing thing in nature. If you place a stone in material of the same chemical substance of which it was formed, it will start again to grow."

The growth of the gem crystal is an orderly procedure. The atoms which compose it are arranged neatly and concisely. Most gems belong to a family, or species, and all stones of the same species belong to the same crystal system symmetrically arranged, except in form. The atoms which compose a gem the case of those formed by amorphous crystallization. These are the ones which do not belong to any species. "Think of rows of people sitting in a theater. That is the way the atoms are placed. Then think of those same people as they are crowding out of the theater. That is the way the atoms are put together in stones of amorphous crystallization," Mr. Stewart explained.

Diamonds are the hardest products of nature. Everyone knows that a diamond can be cut only by a diamond, but it was surprising to learn that it has to be cut along certain lines within the stone—cleavage lines they are called. The Junker diamond, found in 1934, as big around as an ordinary salad plate, is the largest diamond yet discovered. It was studied by several cutters to determine the cleavage lines. Finally an American cutter by the name of Caplin in New York undertook the job and did it successfully.

About those diamonds of which Arkansas boasts. "Yes, they are as good diamonds as you will find anywhere, and they are plentiful at their source in Pike county. But labor costs are so high as compared with those in most regions where diamonds are found.

Costs of labor at the famous Kimberly mines are a mere fraction of what would have to be paid in Arkansas. So it would be almost impossible to compete with them," he said.

There are many other stones found in Arkansas which have a commercial value, although not very much has ever been done about it, Mr. Stewart said. That brought up the subject of his collection and his own gem-hunting expeditions.

Since his boyhood days down on the farm near Lineville, Ala., he has loved to dig in the earth and examine its treasures. As a boy he would desert his farm chores to play at prospecting. "I panned out many a pile of dirt, and every now and then I would find a bit of gold. I didn't know the names or values of the stones, but I would sort them out according to their kinds, and polish them as best I could, just for the fun of playing with them," he said.

He has never lost his love of digging. Incidentally, one of the by-products of that hobby is a very fine collection of Indian relics. However, he digs principally for stones. In his collection, in addition to the carnelian, there is a lustrous rose quartz, beautifully pol-

ished, which he found in Pulaski county. There is a garnet from Magnet Cove, a many-lined agate from northern Arkansas, and many others.

Bargaining and exchanging with other collectors has added many stones to the collection, most of them in the rough. There is a sapphire, and that brought up a story, for Mr. Stewart's knowledge of gem lore is as complete as his scientific background. The early Persians believed the earth rested upon a sapphire from which the blue of the heavens was reflected. "That is why it is still called the celestial gem," he explained.

"It is said that the Ten Commandments were carved on sapphire rock on Mount Sinai. But it is probable, because of the formation of the mountain, that it was lapis lazuli, which is easier to cut," he said, as he displayed specimens of both gems from his collections.

There is a topaz, crystal clear. "We generally think of topaz as a brownish-yellowish stone. But precious topaz is colorless," he explained.

"The ancients thought an opal was a good luck omen. The modern superstition was given birth in a popular novel, in which the villain did his vicious work through the powers of an opal. So the stone became associated with evil." The Hungarian opal which he has in his collection is a beautiful stone, seemingly innocent of any evil intent.

"No, I could not place a commercial value on my collection, for, you see, I wouldn't sell it. To me, it is priceless," Mr. Stewart said, in the spirit of the true collector.

Mr. Stewart had no idea of becoming a gemologist when he left the Alabama farm. He left simply because he had no yen for farming. As he plowed in the field he would watch the traveling salesman go by in hacks on the country roads. "Now, why can't I do that," he thought. When he was 18 he and his father were out in the fields plowing. "Son," his dad said, "you are 18 now, and a man. From now on you can do what you want."

He plowed one more round, took his horse in, went to town, and got a job as a grocery clerk. Soon he, too, was traveling the country roads as a salesman in Tennessee. In 1900 he came to Arkansas, and he has been in the jewelry business ever since, content to handle his precious gems, add to his knowledge of gemology and share it with Arkansas customers, and to go on digging for new stones in familiar places.

Gemologist Praises Arkansas Diamonds. Gazette 10-18-39

Diamonds found in the Arkansas mines at Murfreesboro are as valuable as any in the world, D. M. Stuart, gemologist, told members of the Little Rock Science Club at the Frederica hotel last night. He said Arkansas diamonds were unable to compete with others because of labor conditions. He said it was cheaper to import diamonds than to mine them here.

Reviewing the history of diamonds, he said the Arkansas diamonds were as hard, if not harder than others. Past presidents of the club were honored last night. They are: A. D. McNair, 1913; C. M. Barber, 1914; Dr. M. D. Ogden Sr., 1915; Dr. Scott Runnels, 1916; Dallas T. Herndon, 1917; H. S. Cole, 1918; K. P. Alexander, 1919; D. L. Phillips, 1920; Dr. Frank Vinsonhale, 1921; Dr. Hay Watson Smith, 1922-23; Charles S. Stiff, 1924; Dean H. Boyd Edwards, 1925; Dr. R. F. Darnall, 1926; S. M. Wassell, 1927; W. S. Mitchell, 1928; F. M. Huckleberry, 1929; Dr. S. F. Hoge, 1930; George C. Branner, 1931-32; J. A. Larson, 1933-34; Dr. B. L. Robinson, 1935; John R. Bullington, 1936; Dean E. Q. Brothers, 1937; Dr. W. C. Langston, 1938. Mr. Cole has served as secretary of the organization since 1919.

Globe Trotter Lecturing Here Norfolk Ledger, Va. Wallace Smith Returns For Brief Stay

Nov. 1939
H. Wallace Smith, globe trotter, international photographer and lecturer, is back in Norfolk for a short stay. He breezed in from New York one day last week and will probably leave just as unexpectedly.

While here, however, Wally will deliver a number of lectures in the Norfolk public schools and exhibit his collection of curios.

Wally is showing among his collections replicas of the famous Yonker diamond, one of the most perfect, largest and most valuable of all diamonds.

Cut into 12 separate stones the largest is 130 carats, the smallest 5.30 carats. The collection is made up as rings and makes a very attractive display. He also boasts of owning the smallest elephant in the world, carved out of ivory and less than a half inch in size. It is perfect in every detail.

Speaking of diamonds, the people are aware of the fact that diamonds are mined in Arkansas, the only locality in North America where this precious stone is found.

The discovery was made in Arkansas on August 1, 1906, when two stones were found by John L. Huddleston near the mouth of Prairie creek in Pike county. In May, 1908, a small diamond washing plant was erected and the business of mining started.

Taking pictures has always been a hobby with Smith and he has had many published in magazines and art books.

In a day or two Wally will make a trip to Elizabeth City to visit his former schoolmate, Jerome Flora, mayor of that North Carolina city.

Resumption Of Diamond Mining Seen Gazette 4-16-40

The European war probably will bring renewed activity in the Pike county diamond mines near Murfreesboro, A. F. Eisenbiess of St. Louis, Mo., veteran diamond salesman, predicted when he spoke at the annual convention of the Arkansas Retail Jewelers Association at the Hotel Marion last night.

He said that as soon as Antwerp, Belgium, the world's leading diamond center, becomes involved in the war, there will be a shortage of stones in North America.

The "diamond trust" at London, which controls most of the rough diamond industry, is convinced that there is a good supply of diamonds in the Pike county fields, if the fields are mined properly, he said.

The quality is equal to any on earth, he said. Mr. Eisenbiess explained that his company bought the first large diamond found in the Arkansas fields more than 30 years ago. The stone in the rough weighed more than seven and one-half carats.

When the company decided to cut the stone last year, it obtained a perfect oblong blue gem weighing nearly two and one-half carats, which fully repaid the concern for its investment, he said.

He said the "diamond trust" of London paid the expenses of the late Charles S. Stiff, Little Rock jeweler and diamond expert, and Samuel W. Reyburn, then a Little Rock banker, now of New York, to England for a conference on the Pike county mines.

The London trust wanted complete control of the fields, but the Arkansas owners refused to sell. Mr. Eisenbiess said the London group still believes that diamonds can be mined in Arkansas at a profit.

Discusses "Romance of Diamonds."
Speaking on "The Romance of Diamonds," he said that contrary to popular belief, brilliancy and color are more important in a diamond than perfection. He said many diamonds, even though they have a slight imperfection, are classed gems because of their outstanding individuality.

Diamonds are considered a safe investment, easily transported and salable everywhere and at any time, he said.

Mr. Eisenbiess married the former Miss Zana Lawrence, a native of Nashville, Howard county, whose home was only a few miles from the Pike county mines.

Advertising Benefits Discussed.
Brom Ridley, advertising manager of the Gazette, discussed benefits of newspaper advertising to jewelers. He compared various media with newspapers in effectiveness, coverage and cost. He said he never had known a retail merchant who intelligently prepared a year's campaign of advertising and carried it through, who ever willingly quit advertising.

Other Speakers.
Other speakers were R. C. Hoppe, research engineer for Elgin National Watch Company; Robert J. Slagle, vice president of the National Retail Jewelers Association, Houston, Tex.; Miss Velma Lea Fant of Fort Smith and H. T. Purvis of Jonesboro.

Business Session Today.
A business session at 9 a. m. today and election of officers at 11 a. m. will conclude the two-day convention.

Diamond Field Subject Of Offer

GAZETTE 6-14-40
Granting an option to Ray E. Blick of Chicago, Ill., to buy real estate holdings of the Arkansas Diamond Corporation near Murfreesboro, Pike county, will be considered at a special meeting of stockholders at the corporation's principal office, Room 1003 of the Electric building, Richmond, Va., at 10 a. m. June 27.

Proposal Outlined.
A letter to stockholders from Roy L. Thompson of Little Rock, corporation president, said that Mr. Blick had offered to pay \$2,500 for a one-year option to buy all the corporation's real estate, Mr. Blick being entitled to renew the option for a second year upon payment of \$10,000. If the option were exercised, he would pay \$175,000 for a conveyance of the real estate, provided he accepts the title after examining abstracts of title.

During the option period Mr. Blick would have the right to "enter upon and test and explore" the lands. If minerals are produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the proceeds, minus selling expenses, and would not be charged with costs of production. If the option is not exercised, the corporation would become owner of any buildings, equipment or improvements placed on the lands by Mr. Blick. Considerations for the options are to be retained by the Arkansas Diamond Corporation "in any event."

The corporation has acquired and cancelled a mining lease formerly held by the Diamond Mining and Engineering Company of Arkansas.

Proxy Forms Offered.
Proxy forms to be used at the meeting have been sent to stockholders, to be returned to 114 East Second street, Little Rock. Directors ordered the stock transfer books of the corporation to be closed for 15 days before the meeting.

Diamond Mine Owners May Sell Property DEMOCRAT 6-14-40 Arkansas Corporation Considers Option on Holdings.

Stockholders of the Arkansas Diamond Corporation, owner of diamond-producing land near Murfreesboro, Pike county, will consider a proposal June 27 to grant an option for sale of its holdings. The proposal will be considered at the company's principal office, Room 1003, Electric Building, Richmond, Va.

Notices to stockholders from Roy L. Thompson, Little Rock, president of the corporation, said Ray E. Blick of Chicago, Ill., had offered \$2,500 for a one-year option with permission to renew for a second year at \$10,000. The option would be given for final purchase of the real estate for \$175,000.

During the option period, Mr. Blick would have the right to "enter upon and test and explore" the lands. The option would provide that if any minerals are produced during the period, the corporation would receive half the proceeds, minus selling expenses, and not be charged with production cost. In the event the option is not exercised, any buildings or improvements placed on the land

Huge Diamond Found

Rio De Janeiro (UP)—Discovery of a flawless white diamond, weighing 107 carats, and valued at \$50,000, by a prospector in the Jextijuco River near the town of Itaituba, state of Minas Geraes, was reported by the National News Agency yesterday.

Democrat 9-14-41

Gazette 10-7-41
"Uncle Sam" Diamond.

Q. What is the "Uncle Sam" diamond? A. A diamond weighing 40.23 carats was found on the property of the Arkansas Diamond Mine in Pike county, Arkansas, in 1924. This has been cut and is now known as the "Uncle Sam" diamond with a cut rate of 14.3 carats.

Diamonds Mined in Arkansas Sold to Satisfy Loan.

Special to the Gazette. 11-12-41
Hot Springs, Nov. 11.—Adolph Chanosky, Fort Worth (Tex.) mining engineer, returned today from Murfreesboro where he is making surveys in connection with mineral deposits in which, he said, the government is interested for defense purposes.

He said that in Murfreesboro he attended the only event of its kind ever held in the United States.

"The Bank of Murfreesboro had loaned money on 29 diamonds that had been taken from the mines near here several years ago," he said. "Sheriff J. L. Branch sold the diamonds at public auction. The bank bought them for \$354.25, the amount of the loan.

"I was told that this was the only time that diamonds found in this country had been sold in the rough where they had been mined.

Mr. Chanosky said he had been told that at a party of Chicago capitalists may begin operations in one of the diamond mines soon.

Discoverer Of Diamonds In Arkansas Dies

Special to the Gazette. 11-13-41
Murfreesboro, Nov. 12.—John Wesley Huddleston, 84, who discovered the first diamond in Pike county October 4, 1906, died at his home here today. The discovery was followed by the mining of diamonds for many years. This is the only area in North America where diamonds have been mined.

As a result of his discovery, Mr. Huddleston became known as "Diamond John." He was a farmer for many years, retiring about 15 years ago. He lived alone.

Surviving are four daughters, Mrs. Delia A. Harrison of Murfreesboro, Mrs. Mary McKinnon and Mrs. Willie Goodlett of Corpus Christi, Tex., and Mrs. Eunice Gentry of El Dorado; a brother, Drew Huddleston of Murfreesboro; a sister, Mrs. Harritt Wagner of Murfreesboro, and two half-sisters, Mrs. Markia Harris of Murfreesboro and Mrs. Mollie Hatch of El Dorado. Funeral services will be held at 1 p. m. Thursday at Japany cemetery, three miles south of Murfreesboro.

Arkansas Diamond Discoverer

The Late John Huddleston, a Pike County Farmer, Contributed a Unique Chapter to The North American Continent's History of Mineral Development.

By Tom Shiras.

Gazette 1-4-42

If John Huddleston, who died at his home in Murfreesboro on November 12, and who is remembered as the discoverer of the first diamond in its original bed of peridotite on the North American continent, had not believed in the old maxim: "Nothing risked, nothing gained," there probably would not have been a diamond field in North America today.

John Huddleston, early in 1906, had a hunch, or an idea, that the land which now is the Arkansas diamond field, contained gold. He and his wife sat on the porch of their modest farm home one day early in 1906. John's mind was on land; a particular tract of land that lay along Prairie creek, a short distance from their home. Land had always been a topic of thought with John, for he saw in it the source of all wealth.

"I'm going to buy that 160 down on Prairie creek," John announced to his wife. Mrs. Huddleston was inclined to be cautious and conservative. They would have to sell their farm if they bought it. She demurred.

"Something queer about that land," John replied. "Different dirt from any in this section. All sorts of pretty pebbles and bits 'o mineral in it. I have a hunch there is gold in it."

That 160-acre tract had intrigued John Huddleston for years. He closed his eyes, took the pipe from his mouth and let the blue tobacco smoke float out of his mouth, and his imagination ran riot. He could buy that tract for \$2,000, and could pay \$360 down on it. He bought it, mortgaging it for the balance.

John Wesley Huddleston told me his story and the story of the discovery of diamonds when he was 63 years old. I went to Murfreesboro especially for this interview. Walter Mauney of Murfreesboro, who has been associated with diamond mining in the Arkansas field since it started, went with me up to John's white cottage that morning. There was a comfortable bench before the big fireplace, and we all sat down and lighted our pipes and started to talk. I caught a true picture of John Huddleston that day.

The Ozarks have developed the same type of hardy prospectors who first discovered most of the big mines in the West. John Huddleston was of this type. He was not an educated man, but had plenty of practical sense and a determination to do what he thought should be done.

At that time he was 63 years old, but his eyes were still sharp. At 25 yards he could put six bullets from an automatic revolver into the small heart of a pine log, and at 50 yards could with a rifle still "bust" a squirrel's eye. During the afternoon the writer spent with him on the diamond pipe he discovered, it was very noticeable that his keen, gray eyes were always on the ground. A hundred times he stopped and picked up a small piece of glittering quartzite, pebble or fragment of iron ore that he thought might be a diamond, but he found none that day.

Lee Wagoner, John Huddleston's brother-in-law, and a diamond miner since the first work started, joined the party in the afternoon. We finally located the exact spot where Mr. Huddleston picked up the first diamond, and I took the photograph that illustrates this article, showing Mr. Huddleston pointing directly at it.

John Huddleston probably was the only prospector in the world who started out to look for gold and found diamonds.

"I have been interested in minerals ever since I was a boy," he told me. "An old prospector by the name of Jackman, who used to stop at my father's house 50 years ago, I reckon, was responsible for this interest. Every time Jackman rode up to my father's place,



John Huddleston.

he brought his saddlebags filled with new ore samples, and would always tell me big yarns about the great wealth in the earth, to be had for the finding. I began to prospect then at odd times and have been at it off and on ever since. Sometimes I change the program, and hunt for pearls in the mussel shells of the Little Missouri river, and find them, too. I always feel good when I find a pearl or something with mineral value. Jackman's tales of riches in the earth always ring in my mind. But I do not get deeply interested in anything the other fellow finds. I want to find it myself."

That was John Huddleston's philosophy, and no doubt was responsible for his betting on his 160-acre purchase all and more than he had.

He continued: "I had a hunch that there was gold on this diamond pipe when I bought it, but had no thought of ever finding a diamond. The soil was different from anything I had ever seen. Full of crystals and bits of mineral. When it got wet, it became slick, and in the early days we all called it soapstone, not knowing any better, because it resembled soapstone.

"The dirt on the surface was black. Where the rains had cut gullies, it showed yellow under the black, green under the yellow, and blue under the green.

"As soon as I got my deed to the land, I started to prospect for gold. I dragged an old tub and wash pan all over the tract, washing and panning, but I didn't find any gold. I was disappointed, but kept on working, hoping to pick up a few moss agates if I didn't run onto any of the precious metal. About then I started crawling, so I could see the ground better, and picked up everything that sparkled, and I found some mighty pretty crystals.

"On the afternoon of August 8, 1906, I was crawling on my hands and knees, about the center of what has been determined the diamond bearing pipe. It was blistering hot. So hot that heat

waves shimmered before my eyes every time I looked up. I was crawling along a little ridge, about like a sweet potato ridge, when my eyes fell on another glittering pebble and I reached for it. I wiped the sweat from my forehead and looked at it carefully. I had picked up hundreds of glittering pebbles during the last few months but as I turned this over and over in my hand, scanning it closely, I knew it was different from any I had ever seen before. It had a fiery eye that blazed up at me every way I turned it. Of course, I wasn't sure, but I had a feeling that it was a diamond.

"I hurried to the house with the pebble, saddled my mule and started for Murfreesboro. Any glittering pebble then would stop me anywhere. Riding through the lane, my eye caught another glitter, and I dismounted and picked it up out of the dust. It was a little different from the first one I picked up, but I knew it was the same kind.

"I hurried along to town in a trot, wondering who I'd sell the two stones too, and what I would get for them. Then I thought of Jess Riley at the bank, and when I got to town I headed that way.

"Of course Jess didn't know a diamond from a crystal, and all he would offer me for them was 50 cents. If I hadn't had such a strong notion that they were something besides ordinary crystals I reckon I would have sold them.

"If that's all they're worth, Jess, I'll throw them away," I told him, and walked away, wondering who to tackle next.

"Then I thought of J. C. Pinnix, a lawyer, who was a friend of mine, and drifted over to his office. We both looked the stones over and figured out they just weren't common crystals. He said he would send them to a Little Rock jeweler for identification, and I let him do it.

"In about two weeks I received a letter from the Little Rock man, say-

ing that if the stones were not something else—I forgot what he called it—they were diamonds. Then I found another one. The first one I found turned out to be a steel-blue gem weighing one and three-eighths carats. The second one—the one I found in the lane—was the same type, and weighed two and three-eighths carats. The third one was a yellow stone, heart-shaped, and it weighed one-half carat. I sold this one for \$100, a heap more than Jess offered me for the first one. Then I was sure of my ground.

"Some Little Rock men began to write to me and ask me if I would sell the land I found the stones on. The opportunity seemed to be at hand to make a stake for myself and wife and children. Good farm land always appealed to me as an investment. I had been raised on the land and knew how to till the soil. I also knew the rental value of good farm lands. I figured up in dollars and cents what I would have to pay for the amount of land I wanted. It came to \$36,000. I asked this for the diamond pipe I found, and got it. I surmise that if I had known then, what I know about diamonds now, I would be worth a million dollars. But I didn't."

A diamond pipe is an area rent asunder by volcanic action and filled from below with volcanic matter geologically termed peridotite. How deep the peridotite extends into the bowels of the earth has never been determined. Some holes have been drilled into it thousands of feet deep but never penetrated it. Its depth still remains a geological mystery.

To grasp intelligently the nature of the diamond pipe John Huddleston found, shut your eyes and imagine a hole in the ground of unknown depth, with an area of 85 acres shaped like a goose egg. An immense, empty caldron. This suddenly begins to emit smoke and steam, and is filled with liquid mud (peridotite) from below.

Democrat 3-18-44
**To Search River
Bed for Diamonds**

Search for diamonds in the bed of the Little Missouri River, near Murfreesboro, Pike County, is authorized in a lease issued yesterday to Dr. Charles L. Bacon, Denver, Colo., by state Revenue Commissioner Murray B. McLeod.

The lease was issued under an old law authorizing lease of mineral rights in stream beds.

The location is near the Pike County diamond mine, only one in the United States. Dr. Bacon believes that diamonds from the 65-acre volcanic pipe near the river bank, may have washed into the river.

The diamond mine was discovered in 1906, but in recent years no mining operations have been carried on.

April 13, 1944

**CAPITOL
Gazette
Diamond Mining
Project Falls Through.**

Because of a faulty state lease the plan of Dr. Charles L. Bacon of Denver, Col., to mine diamonds from the bed of Little Missouri river near Murfreesboro has failed, Revenue Commissioner Murray B. McLeod said yesterday.

The Revenue Department found after Dr. Bacon had been granted a lease on several thousand feet of river bed that that portion of the river is not classified as navigable and therefore the state cannot lease it.

A telegram, followed by a letter of confirmation enclosing the \$1 Dr. Bacon paid for the lease were forwarded to him. The letter was returned yesterday, marked "refused." The state would have received one-eighth of the proceeds from mined diamonds.

**Would Seek
Diamonds In
River Bed**

Gazette 3-18-44
Diamond mining operations in the Murfreesboro vicinity, carried on intermittently by several interests from 1912 to 1928, may be resumed as the result of a transaction announced by Revenue Commissioner Murray B. McLeod yesterday.

Mr. McLeod drew up a lease, approved later in the day by Attorney General Guy E. Williams, which will enable Dr. Charles L. Bacon of Denver, Col., to try his luck at finding the gems in the bed of Little Missouri river in Pike county.

He said Dr. Bacon holds a theory that diamonds known to exist in a 65-acre crater of an extinct volcano on the river bank three miles south of Murfreesboro, have been washed into the river bed and may be uncovered for a mile or so downstream.

If the operations, which appear to contemplate dredging the river bed, are successful, the state will receive one-eighth of the proceeds. A law allows the state to lease up to 1,000 acres to an individual.

Operations Discontinued.
Diamonds were discovered in the crater by John Huddleston, a farmer, in 1906 and a minor land boom resulted. In 1912 the Ozark Diamond Mining Corporation and the Kimberlite Diamond and Washing Company erected washing plants. Other interests subsequently have held the property but operations were discontinued 16 years ago.

Authorities have estimated that 100,000 diamonds with a total weight of 20,000 carats, about 90 per cent of which were industrial stones, have come from the mine. One of these, originally weighing more than 43 carats but cut down to 16, is owned by Schenck & Van Haelen, a New York cutting firm.

Tests carried out by the Ford Motor Company showed Arkansas industrial stones were 28 per cent more efficient than select diamonds from the company's own stockpile.

Still Idle.
Despite a wartime demand for industrial diamonds, the state's diamond crater has gone undeveloped for lack of capital and priorities for the necessary machinery.

Arkansas Gazette
5-21-1944

**Diamonds In Arkansas and In
Other States.**

A 34.46-carat diamond, second in size only to one of 40.22 carats recovered in Arkansas, has been found in West Virginia, but Arkansas remains the only diamond mine state in the Union.

Diamonds have been found in alluvial or glacial deposits in Georgia, North and South Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, Wisconsin, California, Oregon and Indiana, and what might be called extra-terrestrial diamonds have been extracted from meteorites that fell in Arizona.

But these have all been isolated cases. It is still true that Arkansas possesses the only known diamond-bearing "pipe" of peridotite on the North American continent and is the only state where diamonds can be mined as they are mined for example in South Africa.

Scattered through this in small particles are crystals of different kinds, bits of iron ore, garnets, amethysts, other pebbles and diamonds. Then the whole solidifies, like a pot of cooling mush, becoming one compact mass.

This discovery is the contribution John Wesley Huddleston made to Arkansas and North America.

Urges Use Of Arkansas Diamonds

Gazette 1-16-42

Washington, Jan. 15 (AP).—President Roosevelt referred to Donald M. Nelson, chief of his War Production Board, today an Arkansas proposal for the development of industrial diamonds of the Pike county area for the production of precision tools essential to the war program.

This action was taken after a conference with Gov. Homer M. Adkins, Senator Caraway and Representative Cravens, who took a sack of Arkansas diamonds to the White House including a 12-carat stone.

"There is no question but that with a federal loan of about \$6,000,000 to finance mining equipment the diamond areas of Pike county would prove a tremendous impetus to the defense program," Governor Adkins said.

"The diamonds, both of industrial and ornamental nature, compare favorably with those of South Africa and South America. However, our interest is in the mining of industrial diamonds for precision tools needed in plane and other production."

The president said Nelson would refer the matter to an expert of the War Board.

"Owners of the area have an investment of about \$500,000 which they are willing to forget about until the government has recaptured whatever investment it makes," said Governor Adkins.

Governor Cites Figures.

Mr. Adkins said about 4,000,000 carats was the normal annual consumption in this country, and it was desirable to develop the sole domestic source. Industrial diamonds have come chiefly from South Africa and Brazil, and are essential in producing precision tools and machinery.

The Arkansas governor said a plant to recover diamonds from a volcanic deposit about 50 miles southwest of Hot Springs, Ark., would cost \$5,000,000 to \$6,000,000.

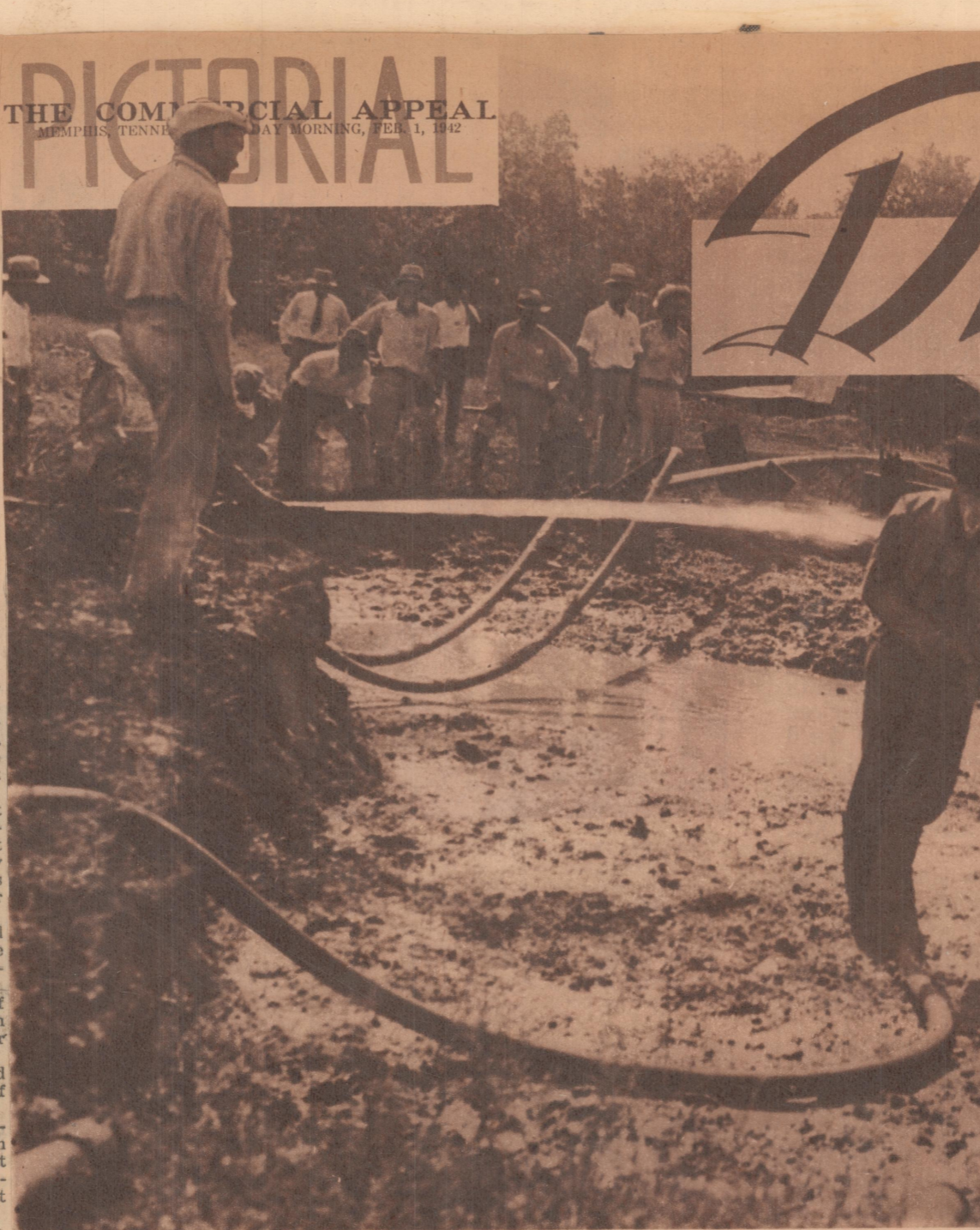
The mine—unused for some time—has produced about 80 per cent industrial diamonds, and its gems are 25 per cent harder than those obtained from South Africa.

Governor Adkins plans to remain here until Saturday.

Arkansas Diamond Field Offers Great Opportunities.

Gazette 1-18-42
Arkansas has a monopoly on at least two essential war materials. Aluminum and diamonds. Pike county has the only diamond producing area in the United States. The United States government has long ago put its stamp of approval on that field. It is not commonly known that commercial diamonds used in industry are more valuable than those that become jewels. Ninety-seven per cent of the diamonds of the world are produced in South Africa. The other three per cent come largely from Brazil. One of the reasons given for Hitler's drive on Africa was to secure commercial diamonds which he sadly lacks.

An effort is being made to induce the government to develop the Pike county fields to make the United States independent of other sources of this essential war material.



CRUDE HYDRAULIC MINING FOR DIAMONDS IN ARKANSAS saw the rocky land washed down with powerful streams, the clay sluiced through boxes in the old house shown in the distance. Such operations continued until about 1931, after the rolling mill had ceased work.



THE GREEN TICKET PARADED THROUGH THE HALTS WITH A BAND as the candidates, led by their campaign manager, Frank Nazor, 35 North McLean (front, at left) worked hard for votes. Next to Nazor is George Johnston, candidate for president; and behind them (second row) Mary White, for secretary, and Marjorie Radford, for girls' vice president; (third row) Robert Love, for boys' vice president, and R. R. Polk, for commissioner of social activities; (fourth row) "Boo-Boo" Barbour, for treasurer, and Ben Zook, for defending attorney; in rear (holding "white" sign) is Robert Johnson for prosecuting attorney. Absent when picture was taken was Lane



ONE OF THE NUMEROUS STUNTS was that of the Gold Ticket, which in a stairway, a life-size green-clad dummy, bearing a sign: "He voted 1941." The Gold Ticket's stunt backfired at the auditorium session, when the Green Ticket introduced a student similarly clad (Allison McN) bounced on the stage while Campaign Manager Nazor was speaking pronounced "I'm the dummy come back to life, so I can vote the Green tick this year!"



"A VOTE FOR THE GOLD TICKET IS A VOTE FOR THE GREEN TICKET"

