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

Gazette 3-6-38 By TOM SHIRAS.

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

Tounds 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 lowlying ranges of the Ouachitas and

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 American continent where monds occur in place in a peridotite

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 be-cause no one had ever found a diamond 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.

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 quartified in the limestone caves in the Ozarks. One jewel cutter at Eureka Springs, fashions this stone into broaches 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

kinds, quartzide, jasper pebbles and the

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 swallow 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 agle 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

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 washed. Most of the stones are distorted octrohedrans. 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 classified as commercial stones.



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

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 pecular 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

Before he bought the land on which

But John wasn't betting on diamonds. His theory was that this pecular look. Other Arkansas Stones.

Among the semi-precious stones found in Arkansas, the quartz crystal resemble tound diamonds.

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

Little Rock financiers paid him a landsome profit on his investment. But as few years ago in an interview, he said: "If I knowed as much about diamonds. They are beautiful stones, the said: "If I knowed as much about diamonds. They are beautiful stones, the said: "If I knowed as much about diamonds. They are beautiful with any place in the world.

Diamonds have been mined in Arkansas stones. It gets its color from cadium and is very beautiful when ass since 1906. Operations have been mined in Arkansas since operations began.

Special to the Gazette. 1-6-38 munusual stit was filed in Chancery Court here the into the sawnill office staff, as these people knew there were no Mrs. Hope and the sawmill office staff, as these people knew there were no Mrs. Hope and the sawmill office staff, as these people knew there were no Mrs. Hope and the sawmill office staff, as the people knew there were no Mrs. Hope and the sawmill office staff, as the people knew there were no Mrs. Hope and the sawmill office staff, as the people knew there were no Mrs. Hope and the sawmill office staff, as the people knew there were no Mrs. Hope and the sawmill office staff, as the people knew there were no Mrs. Hope and the sawmill office staff, as the people knew there were no Mrs. Hope and the sawmill office staff, as the people knew there were no Mrs. Hope and the sawmill office staff, as the people knew there were no Mrs. Hope and the sawmill office staff, as the people knew there were no Mrs. Hope and the client power has the limit of the sawnill of the sawnill of the sawnill of

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 Rush.

South Africa, which is a process of Garnets are found in Africa.

springs in Saline and Hot Spring counties, and jasper and agate are found in both Montgomery and Polk counties.

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.

ansas, diamond deposits was ansas, diamond deposits working found.

By the same token, volcanic eruptions brought oil to Texas, and gold to Colorado. In fact, and gold to Colorado. In fact, and gold to Colorado. In fact, and gold to Colorado.

Be Buried In Mid-Atlantic

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 23 (P).—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,

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. bodies will be exhume

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

The only place in Arkansas where diamonds ever have been found is near Murfreesboro, Pike county. reported last night that although he hand. dents 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 in-terest in the old Harlow sawmill on the Cotton Belt railroad.

When lumber was the leading industry bitious, and dressed beautifully.

Arkansas, between Camden and ForWhen the mill was nearing the end of Arkansas, between Camden and Forof Arkansas, between discovering the dyce were several big sawmills—at Eagle of its run, Mr. McDonald sold his in-Mills. Millville, Cotton Belt, Harlow and terest to Mr. Hope and returned to

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. McDenald of Camden, father of Mrs. J. S.

Denald of Camden, father of Mrs. J. S.

Pinehert and Norman and Jose Pine. terest in the mill to Mr. Hope, million- orate bridge party given by Mrs. Hope

but spent much time in Harlow and burial in mid-ocean.

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. that if the land had been 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.

Throp Will

R. Balang physician in Arkansas utility a leading physician in 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 medical for how as one of these in the mail for her, as one of these clerks would hold up that number of his fingers as the train sped by her

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

She was very attractive, socially am-

Camden. The plant continued to be

Rinehart and Norman and Jesse Rine-ciety columns of the Kansas City papers hart. Mr. McDonald later sold an in-carried the article concerning an elabaire lumberman of Kansas City.

Mr. Hope became a frequent visitor picked up off Arkansas lands owned by Mr. Hope became a frequent visitor to Harlow and Cainden. 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 to the result was mentioned again in Associated press and other dispatches this week, built a palatial home in Kansas City telling about plans for the strange but sept, much time in Harlow and

Arkansas

Authority on Gems

By Frances Stanley McGregor.



D. M. Stewart, Arkansas gem expert.

9-10-39 Gazette

"Those rocks are my own business," marks about the rocks! was the angry retort, and the speaker

had lost a watch, a five-dollar bill and "What's the idea of the rocks?" The a perfectly good suit of clothes to a surly tone was backed up by an effi- stick-up man, right out in broad dayzette's correspondent at Murireesboro cient looking gun in the stranger's right light, but the stick-up man had added insult to injury by making derisive re-

For the hold-up victim was speaking had a right to be mad. For he not only 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 twoand-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. Stifft'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 them, 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 decentlooking 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 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 sysare symmetrically arranged, except in tem. The atoms which compose a gem the case of those formed by amorphorus 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.

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 chorés 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 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.

knowledge or 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

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 col-

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

of which it was formed, it will start a good luck omen. The modern superstition was given birth in a popular novel, in which the villain did his vic-ious work through the powers of an locality in North America where 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

> "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 a hobby with Smith and he has had

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 mayor of that North Carolina city. in the field he would watch the traveling salesmen go by in hacks on the country roads. "Now, why can't I do that," he thought. When he was 18 he that," he thought. When he was 18 ne and his father were out in the fields Of Diamond 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 county diamond mines near Murfrees-Arkansas, and he has been in the jew-boro, A. F. Eisenbiess of St. Louis, elry business ever since, content to Mo., veteran diamond salesman, prehandle his precious gems, add to his dicted when he spoke at the annual knowledge of gemology and share it convention of the Arkansas Retail with Arkansas customers, and to go Jewelers Association at the Hotel on digging for new stones in familiar, Marion last night.

Gemologist Praises Arkansas Diamonds. Gazette __ 10-18-39

Diamonds found in the Arkansa 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 Freiderica 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 Run-1916; Dallas T. Herndon, 1917; Cole, 1918; K. P. Alexander, 1919; D. L. Phillips, 1920; Dr. Frank Vinsonhaler, 1921; Dr. Hay Watson Smith, 1922-23; Charles S. Stifft, 1924; Dean nall, 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; said the Long Dr. W. C. Langston, 1938. Mr. Cole has served as secretary of the organ-sas at a profit.

Globe Trotter Miss Zana Lawrence, a native of Nashville, Howard county, whose home was Bargaining and exchanging with Lecturing Here

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

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. all diamonds.

Cut into 12 separate stones the argest 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 olorless," he explained.
"The ancients thought an opal was the world, carved out of ivory and less than a half inch in size. It is

> Speaking of diamonds, the people are aware of the fact that diamonds 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.

many published in magazines and

former schoolmate, Jerome Flora,

Resumption Mining Seen Gazette 4-16-40

The European war probably will

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 20 years are 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 Lonpaid the expenses of the late Charles S. Stifft, 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 Arkan-

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 imperfecoutstanding individuality

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

only a few miles from the Pike county

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

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, be showing among his cole."

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.

Mount Sinai, But it is probable, be showing among his collection.

Short stay. He breezed in from New York one day last week and will probably leave just as unexpectedly.

Other Speakers.

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.; All the Norfolk public schools and exhibit his collection of curios.

Well probably leave just as unexpectedly.

Diamond Field Subject Of Offer

GAZETTE 6-I4-40

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 Thompson of Little Rock, corporation president, said that Mr. Blick had offered to pay \$2,500 for a oneyear option to buy all the corpora-tion's real estate, Mr. Blick being In a day or two Wally will make entitled to renew the option for a trip to Elizabeth City to visit his second year upon payment of \$10,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 acceptes 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 to be retained by the Arkansas Dia-

mond Corporation "in any event."

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

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

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, Picture Publishing Pichmond Va 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 proceds, minus selling expenses, and not be charged with production cost. In the event the option is not exercised, any buildings or improvements alsoed on the last would revert to the corporation.

The corporation has acquired and cancelled a mining lease of the Diamond Mining and Engineering Com-

Proxy forms have been sent to stockholders. The stock transfer books are closed until after the meet-

DiamondField Development Hoped For

DEMOCRAT 6-16-40

Neglected during most of the past decade, North America's only diamond field, located near Murfreesboro, Pike county, may be the scene of renewed explorations if stockholders of the Arkansas Diamond Corporation approve the granting of an option to Ray E. Blick of Chicago, Ill., at a special meeting in Richmond, Va., June 27. The corporation, chartered under laws of Virginia July 30, 1919, is a successor

to the Arkansas Diamond Company organized in Arkansas in 1908. Sam W. Reyburn, now chairman of the board of Associated Dry Goods, New York, and the late Charles S. Stifft, Little Rock jeweler, were among the organizers of the original company after W. J. Huddleston found the first Arkansas diamond on his Pike county farm following a heavy rain 35 years ago. J. C. Pinnix of Murfreesboro, who ecame chairman of the state Corporation Commission during the Futrell administration, and Mr. Stifft were notified of the discovery, later apprais-ed as genuine by Tiffany's in New

York.

Financing Proves Difficult.

Mr. Reyburn, then a Little Rock banker, and others offered stock for sale in Little Rock, but buying was not heavy. With Mr. Stifft and three other directors, Mr. Reyburn went to London for the purpose of obtaining British backing, but the British wanted to control the Arkansas mines and there was no deal, Albert D. Cohn, W. B. Smith and Arthur E. Van Etten were Smith and Arthur E. Van Etten were directors who accompanied Mr. Reyburn and Mr. Stifft to London, it was recalled by J. F. Loughborough, law-yer who is a former director of the

The late John T. Fuller, who at the time was manager of the mines at Bauxite, a geologist with experience in the South African mines, said that a test made in the Pike county field nearly 30 years ago was not conclu-

Lee Waggoner of Murfreesboro and the late John C. Peay of Little Rock, who acted as custodians of the property during a long period of idleness at the mines, occasionally found a dia-

Henry Ford is reported to have considered the deal involving the mines many years ago. Small diamonds could be used in grinding such things as bearings for automobiles, he was told. Mr. Ford, like many other prospective developers, is said to have wanted to control the field at a price too low to be accepted by the Arkansas in-

Most Stones Found Are Small. A 40-karat diamond is said to be the largest stone ever found in the field. A short time after the discovery, a Little Rock young woman visiting the mines was told she could keep a diamond if she found one, which she did. It was cut into a one-karat stone.

If Mr. Blick's offer is accepted June 27, the Chicagoan will pay \$2,500 for a one-year option, with the privi-lege of renewing it for another year at \$10,000. Should the option be exercised, he would pay \$175,000 for the real estate. Proxy forms for the Richmond meeting have been sent to stockholders by Roy L. Thompson of Little Rock, present head of the cor-

DEMOCRAT 6-15-40 Diamonds.

owners of the inactive diamond mine near Murfreesboro were considering a proposal to sell the property confirms rumors that plans are under way to reopen the mine. These rumors have been circulating for some time, but no definite announcement had been made.

had been made. Reopening of the mine at this time certainly is logical in view of the fact that future delivery of diamonds from the South Africa-England-Holland monopoly are uncertain because of the war. If there are diamonds in paying quantities at Murfreesboro, there could be no better time to begin recovering them. Diamonds are not used alone to enhance milady's beauty. In fact, they are far more valuable for industrial purposes than as jewels. All industries which require precicision grinding or cutting of very hard substances must have diamond-

Arkansas Diamond Company's GAZETTE Postponed

Richmond, Va., June 27 (R).—scheduled meeting today of the cansas Diamond Corporation's stock-

Among matters to be discussed by the stockholders is a proposal for the corporation to grant an option for the sale of its Pike county (Arkansas) in Brazil. diamond fields.

or capacity. Time 6-3-40

Industrial Diamonds

In their rich, paneled offices off an L. S. awninged terrace overlooking the Hudson in downtown Manhattan, officials of the Dutch diamond firm of J. K. Smit & Sons were solemn last week. Amsterdam and their home office were in Nazi hands. So, too, they feared, were snow-haired Johan Smit, head of the firm, and Joop, the second of his three partner-sons, who was with the Dutch Army. Suddenly came a cablegram, signed by Johan's oldest son, Jan: how soon could Smit's Manhattan office get and ship 500 diamond-cutting saws to London?

Joyfully the Smitmen of New York, including third son Piet, concluded that some of The Netherlands' skilled cutters had escaped (without their equipment) to London. With relief they got busy on the saw order. It meant that Amsterdam's great diamond-cutting industry had not fallen entirely into enemy hands. To firms like Smit & Sons, which specialize in industrial diamonds, it meant that they could still supply the Allies' war-pressed industrial machine with indispensable dia-

mond tools.

For diamonds are not merely gems; they are also the hardest substance known to man, therefore the keystone of machine-tool production. In making automobile, aircraft, other products based on past 20 years. complete interchangeability of parts, only diamonds can bore pistons and connecting rods, dress grinding wheels to the necessary exactness. Diamond dies draw ignition wire to uniform size. Diamonds test the hardness of alloys in razor-blade and ice-skate factories. Diamonds tip the big drills that find gold under layers of rock. Diamonds cut tombstones and glass. from Chicago this week. Of the world's diamond production of around two and a half tons a year, 75% Diamond goes to industry.

More than half of this comes to the U. S. A single New England machine-tool Properties maker uses 100 carats a year (current price: \$10-\$50 per carat); the annual diamond bill of Detroit is in the millions. Optioned Hence many a U. S. industrialist had another reason for worrying about the news from Europe last week. The disruption of the Dutch and Belgian industry seemed sure to boost prices on industrial the Rock announced last night that diamonds—some thought by as much as stockholders of the Arkansas Diamond 250%. But worse than that: the conquest Corporation had voted by more than of England could tie the entire world dia-

sheepshank. diamonds lies in a dull, grey building at No. 8 Charterhouse Street, London, offices of Diamond Corp. and its subsidiary, Diaof Diamond Corp. and Diamond mond Trading Co. There, on an upper consisting of approximately 670 acres the lords of Britain's cushiest moning in Pike county, near Murfreesboro, Mr. nopoly linger over luncheons washed down with fine hock, occasionally notify their approved customers (and them only) that their application for a "sight" (buying visit) has been approved. "Sights" are no occasions for unbending. Customers look over parcels of stones, good and bad take

Blick will be entitled to renew the option is exercised he will pay \$175,000 for conveyance of the real estate, provided he accepts the title.

Mr. Thompson said that during the option period Mr. Blick would have the right to "enter upon and test and every line option payment of \$10,000 and if the option is exercised he will pay \$175,000 for conveyance of the real estate, provided he accepts the title.

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A Announcement yesterday that owners of the inactive diamond mine proposal to sell the property contirms rumors that plans are under over parcels of stones, good and bad, take

Corp. men seem relieved.

Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, who lives grandly at Johannesburg, makes occasional visits to London. Sir Ernest, knighted in 1921 for services to the Empire, is chairman of Diamond Corp., which controls 95% of the world's diamond production, chairman

of drills. This is especially true of ndustries now engaged, or soon to be engaged, in the manufacture of the engaged, in the manufacture of the engaged. of De Beers Consolidated Mines, world's most important diamond mining company.

As boss of both ends of Britain's diamond

Report on Arkansas Diamonds lish interests wanted to control the field.

The original company was successful. As boss of both ends of Britain's diamond cartel, he always lets his left hand know what his right is doing. When buyers get languid, Sir Ernest's tight little combination turns off the diamond supply like a kitchen tap. The supply: British and Belgian Africa, whose "pipes" (blue clay mines) and alluvial deposits yield 97% of the world's output. The other 3%, including black diamonds, is sifted haphazardly by natives from river alluvium

When World War II began, the British Ray E. Blick of Chicago, Ill., of-fered the Arkansas Diamond Corpor-black-listed dealers who could not conation \$2,500 for a one-year option on its real estate at Murfreesboro. He not let their purchases into the Reich. not let their purchases into the Reich. would have the privilege of renewing the option for another year for \$10,-000, and of exercising the option for \$175,000. The diamond mining firm, originally incorporated in Arkansas, now is a Virginia corporation.

The diamond mining firm, originally incorporated in Arkansas, now is a Virginia corporation. factories. Last week U.S. industrialists might well ponder what a Hitler-dominated cartel could do to mass production

Diamond Mine To Sell Lands Properties

on 670 Acres Near Murfreesboro.

Properties of the Arkansas Diamond Corporation near Murfreesboro, Pike county, were optioned yesterday by stockholders of the company to Ray E. Blick of Chicago, Ill., at a meeting at the company's principal office in Richmond, Va. Roy L. Thompson, Little Rock, president of the company, said today the option is for one year with privilege of renewal for one year with privilege to purchase at the end of the second year.

Murfreesboro, Ark., July 2 (P).—
Sale of Arkansas' long-idle diamond mines for \$175,000 to a corporation which proposes to operate them for industrial purposes was announced here today.

Deeds transferring title to 823 acres, including the 160 on which diamonds have been found, from the Arkansas Diamond Corporation to two lawyers, Robert J. Arthur of the second year.

The company has approximately

The company has approximately The company has approximately 670 acres of ground and is the only known place in North America in which diamonds have been found in the original rock. They were discovered in 1906 but mining activity has not been undertaken for the mast 20 years

Under the terms of the option, the company will receive \$2,500 for the first year, \$10,000 for the second company will receive \$2,500 for the first year, \$10,000 for the second year, \$175,000 for conveyance of the title, if the option is exercised, and half of the proceeds of any minerals produced during the option period, less selling expenses. The company will not be charged with cost of production during the option period.

Mr. Blick is expected to come here from Chicago this week.

Gazette 7-3-40

President Roy L. Thompson of Litseemed sure to boost prices on industrial diamonds—some thought by as much as 250%. But worse than that: the conquest of England could tie the entire world diamond industry into a Nazi-controlled heepshank.

The field was discovered in 1907 by a farmer who still lives in this vicinity. It was developed by a company composed largely of Arbanas citizens and turned over in notice of dissolution under the 1919 to the Arkansas Daimond Corporation, a Virginia corporation.

This company leased the property of state's office. The new 1919 to the property of th For absolute control of the world's new amonds lies in a dull, grey building at of Chicago, Ill. Acceptance was voted in a meeting at the corporation's principal office in Richmond. Va

right to "enter upon and test and explore" the lands. If minerals are pro-

Special to the Gazette. 10-4-40 Murfreesboro, Oct. 3.—H. D. Miser, government geologist of Washington, who arrived here yesterday to obtain additional infor-mation on the Arkansas diamond mines, said that he was ordered here by the War Department, the National Defense Commission and the RFC. His purpose is to bring up to date his report made in 1925. He said that he had no informa-

the field outright for \$175,000. named The field, discovered in 1906, has agent.

produced an unannounced number of stones with an estimated worth of several hundred thousand dol-

Owners Agree DiamondMine Chicago Man Gets Option Change Hands

Gazette 7-3-41

which proposes to operate them for the proposes to operate them for the proposes was announced the proposes was announced to be a corporation to the proposes was announced to be a corporation to the proposes was announced to be a corporation to the proposes was announced to be a corporation to the proposes to operate them for the proposes the propose

the Arkansas Diamond Corporation Arkansas, Governor Adkins today to two lawyers, Robert J. Arthur was asked to purchase in the name of Logansport, Ind., and Edwin T. of the state an emerald-cut 12.70 Schneberger, Chicago, Ill., were filed. karat Arkansas diemond-which a

to the newly-formed North American Diamond Corporation of which he, Schneberger and Walter G. Ridher, Schneberger and Walter G. Ridher, Schneberger and Walter G. Ridher and Walt

he, Schneberger and Walter G. Riddick, Little Rock, lawyer, are the incorporators.

Mr. Arthur said that he and his associates were holding title for "undisclosed principals," and that Ray E. Blick of Chicago, who obtained an option on the property from the Arkansas Diamond Corporation last year, was acting for the same principals. year, was acting for the same principals.

Mining to be Resumed.
"In view of the need for industrial diamonds at this time in defense preparations, the corporation

contemplates mining operations of the diamond mine," he said.

He said engineering work had been completed but said he did not know how soon mining operations would start.

Idle Since 1920.

Full scale operations have not been attempted since about 1920. A Smithsonian Institute report in 1923 said that 10,000 diamonds with a value of \$150,000 had been taken from the field.

Acquire Holdings.

have wanted to control it at a price too low to be accepted by Arkan-

all or none, and take them at Diamond Corp.'s price. Widespread among buyers is the impression that when the price is too high, and no sale is made, Diamond Corp. men seem relieved.

plore" the lands. If minerals are produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced during the option period, the corporation would receive half the produced was discovered by W. J. Huddleston, who found the first diamond on his farm after a heavy production. The field was discovered by W. J. Huddleston, who found the first diamond on his farm after a heavy production. The field was discovered by W. J. Huddleston, who fo come to Little Rock late this week.

The field is the only place in the field is the only place in the late Charles S. Stifft, Little Rock jeweler, and Sam W. Reybrands ir Ernest Oppenheimer, who lives grandly it Johannesburg, makes occasional visits to London. Sir Ernest, knighted in 1921 or services to the Empire, is chairman of Diamond Corp., which controls 95% of the world's diamond production, chairman of the come to Little Rock late this week.

The field is the only place in the diamonds are known to occur in the original rock. Diamonds first were diamonds are known to occur in the original rock. Diamonds first were discovered in the field in 1906. Mining activity there has been virtually at a standstill since about 1920.

Sas Diamond Company was formed in 1908, the organizers including the late Charles S. Stifft, Little Rock banker, who late the late Charles S. Stifft, Little Rock banker, who late the late Charles S. Stifft, Little Rock banker, who late the late Charles S. Stifft, Little Rock banker, who late the late Charles S. Stifft, Little Rock banker, who late the late Charles S. Stifft, Little Rock banker, who late the late Charles S. Stifft, Little Rock banker, who late the late Charles S. Stifft, Little Rock banker, who late the late Charles S. Stifft, Little Rock banker, who late the late Charles S. Stifft, Little Rock banker, who late the late Charles S. Stifft, Little Rock banker, who late the late Charles S. Stifft, Little Rock banker, who late the late Charles S. Stifft, Little Rock banker, who late the late Charles S. Stifft, Little Rock banker, who late the plan fell through because Eng-

ceeded in 1919 by the Arkansas Diamond corporation, which grant-ed the option to Mr. Black.

Will Be Dissolved.

Diamond Corporation

Gazette 7-23-41
A meeting of stockholders to consider dissolution of the Arkansas Diamond Corporation, whose diamond mine acreage near Mur-

the RFC. His purpose is to bring up to date his report made in 1925. He said that he had no information regarding a widespread report that the new mine owners had applied for a loan from the RFC with which to begin operations.

No activity is under way in the field at the present.

Roy E. Blick of Chicago paid the Arkansas Diamond Corporation \$2,500 last July for a one-year option on the 670-acre field with a right to explore and test the grounds during that period. Under his agreement, Mr. Blick has the right to renew the option a second year for \$10,000 and to buy the field outright for \$175,000.

The field, discovered in 1906, has a Proceedings for the dissolution.

The stockholders will consider the The stockholders will consider the action at the August 7 meeting. The diamond company is a Virginia corporation. Officials, announcing the meeting, said there can be no further distribution until after dissolution and the settlement of the affairs of the corporation.

Approximately \$25,000 of the sale price is expected to be used by the company to pay an outstanding

company to pay an outstanding note, taxes and other obligations. Stockholders will share in a distribution of the remaining \$150,-

Deeds transferring title to 823 \$20,000 Stone

Democrat 8-20-41
As chief executive of the State of Mr. Arthur said that the property, New York diamond cutter said near Murfreesboro, had been leased should be purchased by the state as

A letter from Henry Herbert Day. New York, N. Y., said: "having the full consent of the owners, I take the liberty to urge upon your excellency not to lose sight of the singular opportunity present at this moment of obtaining for your state, in which the diamond mine is located, this most unique specimen. this most unique specimen.

"it's discovery is one that establishes historically for all time the appearance on your state's soil of our country's most valuable asset—the only one of its kind in existance in the United States."

The diamond was named the "Uncle Sam." The dealer said it was now owned by "well-known American diamond cutters of 50-years

Arkansas Diamond Company Surrenders Charter.

before the recent sale to Robert J. Arthur of Logansport, Ind., and Schneberger of Chicago

dissolution notice also was filed by P. A. R., Inc., a legislative reportorial service organized in Little Rock last winter by John F. Wells, former member of the Arkansas Corporation Commission. Henderson Motors, Inc., of England Littles 2000.

Huge Diamond Found

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

emocrat 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

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 supposes in competion, with 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 there 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 a party of Chicago cap-tialist; 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 Mur-freesboro, 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 Mur-freesboro, 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.



John Huddleston.

been cut and is now known as the home in Murfreesboro on November 12, "Uncle Sam" diamond with a cut rate 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 bal-

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 stone. 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 start. run onto any of the precious metal. ed 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 termined the diamond bearing pipe. It

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. want to find it myself."

That was John Huddleston's philosohis 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 soap-

"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

"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 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 de-Jackman rode up to my father's place, 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, scan- one was a yellow stone, heart-shaped, 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 I was sure of my ground. it was a diamond.

phy, and no doubt was responsible for ble, saddled my mule and started for the land I found the stones on. The Murfreesboro. Any glittering pebble opportunity seemed to be at hand to then would stop me anywhere. Riding make a stake for myself and wife and through the lane, my eye caught anthrough the lane, my eye caught anthrough the lane, my eye caught anthrough the lane, my eye caught another glitter, and I dismounted and picked it up out of the dust. It was a been raised on the land and knew how little different from the first one I to till the soil. I also knew the rental picked up, but I knew it was the same value of good farm lands. I figured up

> wondering who I'd sell the two stones too, and what I would get for them. Then I thought of Jess Riley at the the diamond pipe I found, and got it.

"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

"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

ning it closely, I knew it was different and it weighed one-half carat. I sold this one for \$100, a heap more than Jess offered me for the first one. Then

"Some Little Rock men began to "I hurried to the house with the peb- write to me and ask me if I would sell children. Good farm land always appealed to me as an investment. I had in dollars and cents what I would have "I hurried along to town in a trot, to pay for the amount of land I wanted. It came to \$36,000. I asked this for bank, and when I got to town I headed I surmise that if I had known then, what I know about diamonds now, I would be worth a million dollars. But

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 feed deep but never penetrated it. Its depth still remains a geo-

logical 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.

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 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 Lattle Missour river near Murfree boro 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.

not 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 "re-fused." 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

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 1000 correct on individual. 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

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

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

12/2/944 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 THE whole solidifies, like a pot of cooling mush, becoming one compact mass.

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

Urges Use Of Arkansas Diamonds

Gazette 1-16-42

Washington, Jan. 15 (A).—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

"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 to the defense program," Governor Adkins said.

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 preduction."

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

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 Mr. Adkins said about 4,000,000

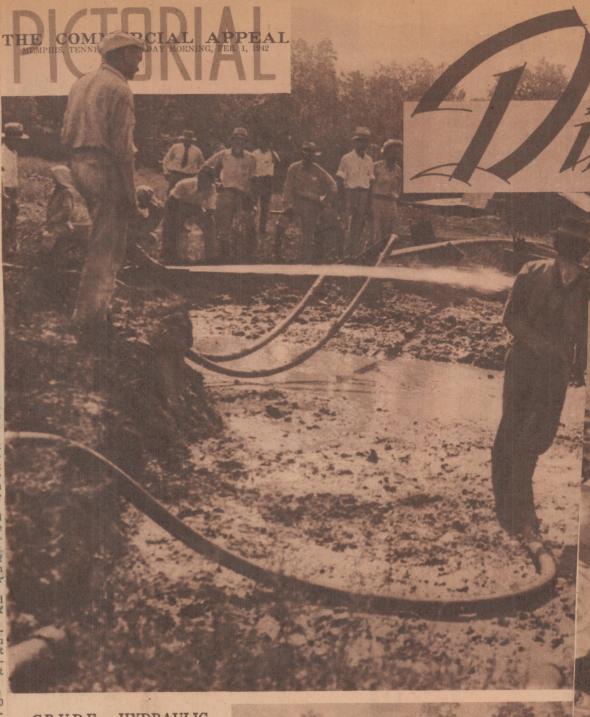
are 25 per cent harder than those obtained from South Africa.

Governor Adkins plans to remain here until Saturday.

Arkansas Diamond Field Offers Great Opportunities.
Gazette f-18-42
Arkansas has a monopoly on at

least two essential war materials. 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 of the reasons given for Hitler's drive on Africa was to secure commercial diamonds which he sadly

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



CRUDE HYDRAULIC MINING FOR DIA-MONDS 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.



andidates, led by their campaign manager, Frank Mazor, 35 North McLean (front, at eat) and dates, led by their campaign manager, Frank Mazor, 35 North McLean (front, at eat) lend; and behind them (second row) Mary White, for secretary, and Marjorie Radiord, for girls' vice president; (third, row) Robert Love, for boys' vice president; and R. F. 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 in the state of the second row of the second ro



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 McNibounced on the stage while Campaign Manager Nozor was speaking nounced "I'm the dummy come back to life, so I can vote the Green tick this year!"



WILL DEVELOP PIKE COUNTY'S DIAMOND FIELD

Company to Spend The field was discovered in 1907. North American Diamond Company to Spend The field was discovered in 1907. North American Diamond Company to Spend The field was discovered in 1907. North American Diamond Company of Hot Springs, res-\$1,000,000.

Gazette 4-21-42

By JOHN L. FLETCHER.
(Staff Correspondent of the Gazette.)
Hot Springs, April 20.—Governor
Adkins, closing the first day's sessions of the Southern Governors
Conference, announced today that
the North American Diamond Corporation of Indianapolis will invest.
\$1,000,000 in development of the
Pike county diamond mines for war Pike county diamond mines for war

The county diamond mines for war purposes.

The company will search for industrial diamonds with which to manufacture precision tools used to make war's engines of death. It will be equipped to handle 750 yards of material daily.

Decision to develop the presents.

Decision to develop the property will end the neglect which has been evident in the Arkansas mines while America's manufacturers of war equipment have depended upon the supply of industrial diamonds from South Africa and Brazil.

Diamond Lost From Display Recovered.

Gazette 5-2-42
A.20-carat diamond set in a piece of diamond-bearing rock and reported stolen Thursday from the state minerals exhibit in the Hotel erafe the mines had made no approach to the minerals and federal officials expressed concern because two companies formed early this year to operate the mines had made no approach to the mines had ma Marion lobby was not stolen after erate the mines had made no apall, state Publicity Director Glen parent move to reopen the proparent Marion lobby was not stolen after erate the mines had made no apall, state Publicity Director Glen parent move to reopen the proparent move the proparent move to reopen the proparent move to reopen the proparent move the proparent mov rock in which the rough stone was imbedded was bund to have fallen into draperies covering the display stand, Mr. Green said. The diamond was valued at approximately

DiamondFirm To Work Pike County Fields

Special to the Gazette. 5-5-42
Hot Springs, May 4.—Diamondbearing soil in Pike county is due for development in addition to work planned by the American Diamond Company, C. T. Cotham, Hot Springs lawyer, representing the newly-organized National Diamond Mines, Inc., said here today. The company, he said, was prepared to spend \$100,000 on its lease of 120 acres near Murfreesboro.

The diamonds will be mined for war purposes. Mr. Cotham reported that a survey by the company had been submitted to the WPB and that the board instructed company officials to proceed.

The survey was reported to have

and that the ground will yield "one diamond karat for each five cubic yards of dirt." The property adjoins the old American Kimberlite Mining Company land. It is said to possess gems harder than those from Brazil or South Africa, Yellow, brown and white diamonds. low, brown and white diamonds are found there, Mr. Cotham said. A United States Geologic report showed the white diamonds had a

Lafayette, Ind. Journal & Courier 4-3-42

PLAN TO OPEN

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., April 30 (AP)—The North American Diamond corporation of Indianapolis will start immediately a \$1,000,000 development program in the longidle Arkansas diamond mines near here to obtain stones for war

Announcement of the proposed development program was made

here by Governor Homer M. 000 carats to 2,500,000 carats anAdkins.

The corporation leased the dia the Pike county deposits would promond properties near Murfreesboro last summer.

Fully scale operations have not

NO MOVE MADE

AT DEVELOPING

Remains Idle.

industrial stones increased with the

advent of war, apparently was no

nearer solution than ever yester-

pressed concern because two com-

erate the mines had made no ap-

The mines were sold in July, 1941,

by Little Rock officers of the Ar-

kansas Diamond Corporation to the

North American Diamond Corpora-

tion for \$175,000. The actual pur-

chaser was C. H. Wilkingson of Logansport, Ind., who exercised an

option on the property obtained by

Ray E. Blick of Chicago, a federal

Mr. Wilkingson came to Little

Rock with his lawyer, Robert J.

Arthur of Logansport, and paid for

the mines with a certified check.

Mr. Arthur announced that mining operations would be started "in

view of the imperative need for industrial diamonds at this time in

ernors' Conference was in session there. It was during these sessions that Governor Adkins announced the North American Diamond Corporation would invest \$1,000,000 in development of the mines.

Company Officials Inquire

state Utilities Commission said Mr. Blick and George M. Vitt, the new

corporation's engineer, visited the commission offices last July and

inquired about possible sources of power for mining operations.

"They said they would need 500 kilowatts of power at the begin-

ning and expected the requirement to increase to 2,500 kws within a year," Mr. Kimzey said. "That's the

last time I have seen them."

The corporation has not applied

for power, Mr. Kimzey said he was

Mr. Miller said a survey of the property near Murfreesboro was made last summer.

"A building in Murfreesboro was rented to house the labor," he said,

time later."
Mr. Miller said the demand for

industrial diamonds, for use in making precision tools, has increased in the United States from 1,000,-

but the lease was cancelled a short

About Power Facilities.

national defense preparations."

WPB Advisor Confers

With New Owner.

official said.

Arkansas Gazette

10,000 Diamonds Valued been attempted since about 1920. At \$150,000 Removed.

Accurate figures on the production were never made public but sonian Institution reported in 1823 that 10,000 diamonds, with a conservative value of \$150,000, had been removed. Mr. Miller said he with a conservative value of \$150,000, was a 4 1-2 carat gem taken from with a conservative value of \$150; owns a 4 1-2 carat gem taken from the field. The field was discovered in 1907.

praised at \$2.500.

C. T. Cotham of Hot Springs, resident agent for the National Diamond Mines, Inc., which was incorporated last May to develop a 120-acre tract near Murfreesboro, said the company had not started mining operations and contemplated none soon.

ed none soon.

The United States supply of in-

The United States supply of Industrial diamonds is imported from South Africa, state Geologist Richard J. Anderson said.

Mr. Miller said Japan purchased the entire output of Brazilian mines two years ago for eight times the market value.

Pike County Field "We should have been forewarn-

Diamond 10-8-42 The mystery of Pike county dia-Field Survey mond mine development, a subject of speculation since the need for

Under Way
GAZETTE 6-6-43

Long-idle diamond properties in Pike county soon may be turning out industrial stones needed in the manufacture of war machine tools, the United States Bureau of Mines indicated yesterday.

J. R. Thoenen, the bureau's district engineer, disclosed that holes have been drilled and samples have been sent to laboratories at Rolla, Mo., for ore dressing and concentration tests. He said Dr. C. S. Ross of the United States Geologic-

al Survey is co-operating in the investigation.

Mr. Thoenen said federal officials determined to explore the Pike county possibilities at the request of Governor Adkins and the North American Diamond Corporation, owner of the largest diamond area.

"This preliminary drilling and testing is not designed as a complete and conclusive test of the potentialities of the property but merely to gain some indication of the diamond content of the ground at various elevations below the surface and to study the material so that the proper mill design can be made for a more extensive and definite test," Mr. Thoenen said.

Howard A. Miller, regional technical advisor for the War Production Board's Mining Division here, said he went to Chicago later to confer with Mr. Blick, who had given his address as Room 1333 in the First National Bank building. The office proved to be quarters for a law firm, Mr. Miller said. He was advised that Mr. Blick was out of town but, an hour later, Mr. Blick reached him by telephone. The result of their conference was not disclosed. "Bureau engineers are hopeful that the diamond content will continue of sufficient grade at depth to permit economical mining and establish a domestic source."

The nation's industrial diamonds

not disclosed.

Mr. Blick came to Hot Springs last April when the Southern Govare being imported from the Brit-ish-owned mines in South Africa.

Diamonds in Demand.

"Industrial diamonds are in great demand in the war program," he continued. "If a commercial source can be established in Arkansas it will help greatly in the conduct of the war and, in addition, increase the state's revenue. the state's revenue.

"The state Geological Survey, Bureau of Mines and federal Geological Survey are co-operating in an intensive study of all Arkansas mineral resources. The major program at the moment is the search for new bauxite deposits. The bureau, in co-operation with the federal survey, already has discovered several million tons of hitherto unknown bauxite.

To Expand Program. "The present exploration program will be expanded by the addition of new drill rigs, which will double the number in operation. It is hoped that funds may become available soon for further investi-

GAZETTE 6-13-43

Why the Neglect Of Pike County's Diamonds?

A statement issued last week by an engineer of the United States Bureau of Mines deepened the mystery surrounding the government's failure to utilize Pike county's commercial diamonds while

ty's commercial diamonds while sending all the way to South Africa for stones mined by the British.

The industrial grade of diamonds are used to cut and grind machine tools and other articles now used in furthering the war effort.

"The deposits in Pike county are considered by authorities to parallel."

in furthering the war effort.

"The deposits in Pike county are considered by authorities to parallel in mode of occurrance the famed South African fields," said an unpublished portion of the statement.

"The same type of peridotite pipes are present with the diamonds occurring in the brecciated material forming the core or volcanic neck. As in South Africa, concentration of the diamonds in the surface material has resulted from weathering and erosion of the exposed rocks.

"Up to the present time, all mining in Arkansas has been done in this surface material. Little, if any, testing has been done in the lower levels where it may be expected the concentration of marketable diamonds will be less than at the surface.

"While no leves spreassful oper-

surface. "While no large successful operation has been conducted in Pike county, the deposits have intrigued many engineers and geologists. The gem diamonds, so far found, are known to be the first quality and comparable to the best from South Africa. The industrial grade found also is reported to be of comparable quality with those from the South African mines. This is authenticat-

African mines. This is authenticated by the premium paid for selected industrial stones from Arkansas when they have been available."

If all of these things are true, why has the United States government helped maintain the British monopoly while permitting the Arkansas diamonds to remain in the statement last night.

Some state officials have acceded to British demands that no competition to Great Britain's South African mines be permitted.

Materials For Diamond Mine Denied

Arkansas Gazette
Washington, Aug. 25 (AP).—The
War Production Board twice rejected requests for machinery to
develop an industrial diamond field
in Pike county, Ark., an official said today, because it concluded output would not justify expense in war-vital materials.

Virtually all industrial diamonds are imported through the Diamond Corporation, a British firm. A WPB official said imports are suf-ficient to meet needs of United States industry. He said a year's reserve or more is on hand. Request for priorities by an Ar-kansas diamond company first

reached WPB more than a year ago, asking for about \$225,000 in machinery to develop industrial diamond mines there. A WPB committee decided the field's possibilities were too small.

The company revised its request only to suffer a second re-

Governor Interested In Pike County Field.

Governor Adkins has made several trips to Washington in an effort to obtain co-operation of the War Production Board in develop-

New Interest In Arkansas Diamonds

Washington, Sept. 6 (AP).—Uncle Sam is grubstaking a \$3,900,000 search for new mines this year, sending out prospectors for the new style "precious metals" needed for

war.
Secretary of Interior Ickes reported today the department's scientific sourdoughs are going to 30 states and Alaska to hunt for mitical and essential mineral de-

30 states and Alaska to hunt for critical and essential mineral deposits, with the stress on a search for new copper and zinc lodes.

Gold and silver have no part in the program. It is such things as tungsten, vanadium, mercury, molybdenum, manganese, tin, iron and nickel that are being hunted.

Crews will range from north of the Arctic circle to Texas, and from Maine to Washington. Industrial diamond "diggings" of Arkansas will be examined, along with coal indications in Nevada and Oregon, and other mineral signs ranging from asbestos to zinc.

from asbestos to zinc.

States in which exploration projects are planned, and the number ects are planned, and the number for each state include: Alabama, one; Arizona, five; Arkansas, two; California, seven; Colorado, four; Connecticut, one; Georgia, two; Idaho, two; Kansas, one; Misnouri, five; Montana, four; Nevada, seven; New Hampshire, one; New Mexico, eight; North Carolina, three; Ohio, two; Oklahoma, two; Oregon, two; Pennsylvania, three; South Dakota, two; Tennessee, three; Texas, three; Utah, four; Vermont, one; Virginia, four; Washington, three; Wisconsin, one, and Wyoming, two.



Gazette 10-9-43 Kimzey Hopes Diamond Mines Will Be Reopened.

A recent allocation to the Bureau

small scale since 1920, with only occasional explorations since 1927.

The War Production Board killed the most recent attempt to reopen large scale operations when it refused a priority request for machinery exploration in the develop Pike County diamond mine fields. Donald Nelson. WPB chief,

Diamond Mines To Get Attention

available soon for further investigations in the North Arkansas zinc fields."

A recent allocation to the Bureau of Mines for development of the nation's resources provides hope that the diamond mines of Pike county may be reopened, state Geologist Joe W. Kimzey said yes-tenday.

A dispatch from Washington reveals the government will spend \$3,900,000 in a search for new mines this year, and that the program will include an examination of Artenday. kansas' diamond mines, which have Mining operations have been on a not been in production for many

told Governor Adkins over the telephone last week he would reopen the request. The governor has made several trips to Washington in an effort to obtain co-operation of the WPB in developing the mines.