

## Big Granite Quarry To Be Opened Here

10-15-39 Gazette

The Chamber of Commerce announced yesterday the launching of a new industrial activity for Little Rock with the organization of the Little Rock Granite Company, an Arkansas corporation with R. S. Wilson Sr. as president.

The corporation will open a large granite quarry southeast of Little Rock close to College Station to quarry granite blocks to be supplied the United States government.

The work will require the employment of between 75 and 80 men throughout this winter as the federal government has specified the initial contract be completed by March 15, 1940.

The granite blocks, to average about eight tons each, will be shipped to Lake Charles, La., where they will be used by the government in the construction of two huge stone jetties reaching out approximately 15 miles into the Gulf of Mexico, creating a deep waterway channel and making Lake Charles a modern, deep sea port.

### Hard Stone Required.

Extremely hard stone is required for the work due to the action of salt water on such construction. Previously stone had been shipped from Maine and Vermont. The proper type of stone now has been found at two points in the South, Little Rock and Marble Falls, Tex.

Approximately 3,000 carloads or 1,000,000 tons of the granite will be taken from the quarry to fulfill the contract. The Missouri Pacific railroad is constructing a heavy type spur to the property.

Other officers of the corporation are G. C. McCulloch of Birmingham, Ala., vice president; R. S. Wilson Jr., secretary, and C. B. Ireland of Birmingham, treasurer.

### Granite for Courthouse Being Quarried Near Jasper.

1-11-40

Special to the Gazette. Harrison, Jan. 10.—Granite used in the construction of the Newton county courthouse at Jasper is being quarried from the bed of Buffalo river, a short distance from Jasper. A. B. Arbaugh, lawyer of Jasper, said here. Builders say the granite is among the finest ever cut in north Arkansas.

# Little Rock Men Move Mountain of Granite to Gulf

Democrat 3-31-40



Down on the Gulf coast shippers needed a channel 30 feet deep which would give ocean-going freighters safe access to port. To keep this channel at the required depth after it was dredged, they needed a wall of granite on each side to serve as a levee against silt.

Because of this need, that big heretofore worthless hulk of granite mountain south of Little Rock became a valuable piece of property.

The Little Rock Granite Company was awarded the government contract to supply the necessary stone for the Gulf coast jetties which extend five miles out from shore. These pictures tell the story of how the granite is being supplied.

One-hundred thousand tons, or 2,000 carloads, of granite must be delivered by May. To complete this herculean task, 100 men work during the day at the quarry and 30 others continue the work until midnight with the aid of powerful floodlights. By using heavy machinery designed for the job, granite boulders weighing as much as 10 tons each are hewn out of the mountain and loaded on flatcars. The shipping schedule calls for loading as many as 30 such cars daily.

At the top left is a picture of a part of the night crew busily at work under floodlights. The shovel is powered by diesel. There also are electric shovels, but none powered by steam. The Little Rock Granite Company's quarry, the largest of two, is south of the airport, near College Station.

On the left is a picture of the quarry out on Arch street pike. This, the photographer says, used to be a favorite spot for thousands of kodakers because the layer-like formation of granite made a good background.

### BOTTOM PICTURE

FROM DRILLING, a general view of the College Station quarry, shows a well rig in the extreme right corner which drills holes into the granite for placement of explosives.

"I didn't stay around to see the dynamiting," reports the photographer, "and I didn't care to get a shot of same."