Aerial Maps Advocated

As Aid to Assessing

"The move for reliable sound and efficient method of mapping the terrain and the Arkansas Assessor's Association recently devoted its meetings to the problem of assessing." The text goes on to discuss the importance of aerial mapping for assessing purposes.

Funds for 20-Year Mapping

To Be Sought

"State Association Urges Congress to Support Projects.

Funds for a 20-Year Mapping program, which was outlined in detail at the American Institute of Architects' annual meetings, will be sought by the state association." The text discusses the benefits of such a program and the need for funds to support it.

Restrictions On Railroads Depleted

"A number of railroads have been depleted, either by government action or by other means." The text details the impact of these restrictions on the railroads.

S. L. Womson

Speaker

"S. L. Womson, by a special report," the text states, "was appointed by the governor to the position of railroad commissioner." The report discusses the responsibilities of this position.

Availability of Aerial Maps for Assessing Purposes

The text discusses the availability of aerial maps for assessing purposes and the benefits they offer.

Convening Of Engineers To Open Today

"The convening of engineers to open today," the text states, "was a significant event." The text details the purpose and significance of the convening.

Engineers Will Meet

"Engineers will meet," the text states, "for the purpose of discussing important issues." The text details the agenda and purpose of the meeting.

For Mapping" by Arkansas delegates and visitors from seven regional states will be held at 9 a.m. A golf tournament will be played on a handicap basis at the Little Rock Country Club.

Convention Of Engineers To Open Today

The convening of engineers to open today was significant, as it was a time for the exchange of ideas and the advancement of the field.

Business of the convening will be done at 10 a.m., and the meeting will adjourn at 1 p.m. Meetings will be held in the hotel ballroom at 12 noon.

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Map Program To Be Studied

"The map program to be studied," the text states, "will be a significant part of the convening." The text details the purpose and objectives of the map program.

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Convening Of Engineers To Open Today

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Original Land Records To Be Copied

"Copies of original land records," the text states, "will be made for the use of state and local governments." The text discusses the significance of these records and their role in preserving historical information.
The United States Gets Its Picture Taken

Condensed from Current History
JAN 38

M. R. Markley

The United States is having its picture taken — full length and of generous size. Our whole 3,500,000 square miles from ocean to ocean are being photographed — the most gigantic mapping feat ever attempted by anyone, anywhere. Every day the sun shines, some 50 airplanes shuttle monotonously 3,000 feet above the country that is sitting for its portrait, while photographers, whisking oxygen in the thin air, work their marvelous cameras. Each plane takes hundreds of pictures a day — yet it will be years before the task is finished.

But when that day comes there will exist not only the world's most colossal map but a veritable portrait of the country — every field and every house, every stream and every town and every line of the earth's surface. A $15,000,000 portrait. That's a lot of money but it's much less than mapping would cost, done by any other way, and for many purposes it is much better.

The aerial atlas idea was conceived by the Soil Conservation Service which had been finding out how useful accurate air photographs could be. A soil erosion area may appear so suddenly, or a stream may change its course so rapidly, that completely up-to-date information must be always at hand. Plateaus and canyons inaccessible to the surveyor can be mapped quickly and cheaply from the air. The Navajo, Gila, and Rio Grande soil conservation projects, for instance, were in danger of abandonment until it was found that the necessary data could be obtained by the flying cameramen.

Major engineering projects such as the Boulder Dam and the TVA have found air photography indispensable. The Mississippi, Missouri and other rivers are air-photographed every year to show where new bars have formed, where erosion occurs, etc., in the interest of flood control.

Work on the big map began in the western dust bowl. It is already completed for several states, and has many uses in addition to those of soil conservation. The Forest Service and the AAA have found it useful. And it is not likely to be out of date, because the aerial atlas is a living document.

The central, useful portions of the corrected exposures are cut out — in the case of the tobacco soils in a tobacco map, or along natural lines of the terrain; roads, highways, rail lines, the edges of forest lands. They are fitted together, indexed and glued to a board. This master picture is now photographed, greatly enlarged, to show the forest on the map exactly ten acres of the earth's surface.

The result is a series of pictures, each about two square feet, each showing in fabulous clarity detail about 750 acres — nine square miles — of America.

These final maps are then delivered to the government, about $35 each. The complete map of the country will require about 333,000 of them. And thus the first portrait of a nation ever accomplished will cost something like $12,000,000 — and you may reckon another $5,000,000 for duplicate prints, and other incidental costs. If surveyors and their field crews set out to produce a map of similar detail and accuracy, the expense would run to astronomical figures.

The aerial maps are used again by the inspectors who determine whether the farmer is fulfilling his agreement. People who don't like the AAA, the flying cameramen say, "Sky Snoops," but alloting acreage and administering crop control laws could be quite impossible without the air maps.

Yahoo Restoring County Plats
Gazette 4-2-38

State Land Commissioner Ollie Page yesterday announced the launching of a project in his office to copy the original United States government land plats for each county in Arkansas and field notes made by government surveyors in making their first surveys.

The project will carry on this through a WPA job to be supervised by W. T. Davis and will provide employment for approximately 50 people. Page and the surveyors' field notes will be made only for those counties which agree to assume a part of the cost of equipment to be used in doing the work. He said letters have been sent to all county judges asking each to contribute $5 toward cost of the project. If all counties come in, he predicted the cost to each county would be $1, and that refunds would be made to the counties.

The copies of the field notes will be covered in loose-leaf form. Mr. Page said that availability of the land and field notes at the county seat of each county will save county surveyors many dollars in public funds over the course of several years, by eliminating trips to Little Rock to secure the original records on file in the office.

At the same time, Mr. Page said the copies will save time and tear of the yellowed records which have just been turned to use in making new maps of the county. Some of the field notes on file in the office are copies of the original notes but others are the originals made by the government.

Mr. Page said only those counties which wish to make copies will be given the cost of the service for copies of field and land notes.

Mr. Davis said some counties have already made copies of their field notes in the past, but the notes were handwritten and in most cases have been lost or destroyed. These notes are required when title of land is transferred.

The project is scheduled to start Thursday, and Mr. Davis said the county surveyors who desire to continue the project will be the first to receive their copies of maps and notes.

Lack of Maps
Said To Cause Waste
Gazette 5-28-38

Serious waste of public and private funds is resulting from lack of adequate topographical information about the Southwest Mississippi basin, where the United States Engineer, the state Highway Department and State Geological Survey have projects under way, declared a resolution made to the present, the Congress, and Arkansas' Congressmen who are now in Washington by the Public Works Administration.

The Arkansas allotment is part of a $12,000,000 aerial survey for 35 projects in the eastern states, ordered by the direction of State Geologist George C. Bruesch in Washington by the Public Works Administration.

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Arkansas Maps Before 1819

Early Maps of the Area Now Included in Arkansas Reveal Many Difficulties Encountered in Recording Nature of Undeveloped Territory.

Gazette
By Sarah Walker Cowan.

Arkansas was, of course, not even a name to cartographers until the late Seventeenth century. The first men that are known to have settled in America followed the medieval map-makers, who reasoned that it was "better to people strange countries with imaginative crea-
tures and physical features than to leave them blank." As late as the be-
ginning of the eighteenth century, Belgium's royal
geographic artist, De Fer, like his predecessors, drew California as an island, and even "king's cartog-
grapher in Canada," showed ostriches, camels and giraffes feeding upon the plains just west of the upper Missouri.

In other drawings of the same period, one camel occupied Brazil while several buffalo held forth in Pennsylvania, but there was not even a single bear to indicate the Arkansas

country.

Arkansas first appeared on maps because it bordered on the Mississippi river. For more than a century after DeSoto, cartographers betrayed their

hazy notions as to the embouchure of the great river which on early Spanish

inscriptions was designated "Rio de Espiritu Santo," and knew little about its size, course or tributaries. But in the summer of 1732 down the huge stream came Joliet and Marquetterie, headed for the "Arkansas." They visited the village of Mitchil-
ganee (near the mouth of the St.

Francis) and the Quapaw village (called to the future Arkansas Post). While Marquetterie was "at the Arkansas," he wrote to an acquaintance in the North, "I hereby a doubt the Mississippi empties into the Florida or Mexican gulf some three or four days' jour-

ney (from here)." Thus one conclusion stood out clear through the metaphorical

haze that lay over the mighty Missis-
gissippi en Riviere des Peres.

The first important French drawing of the Mississippi (and the mother map of later ones of this river) was made by Guillaume de Lisle from data obtained by Ivereau. The original, measuring 31 by 22 inches, is displayed in the Marine Library at Paris. This

"Map of the Vicinity of the Mississippi River in the Year 1701," is believed to be the first one to locate Arkansas Village, which it denotes as "Village de Nance ou de Aram." Both under French regime and dur-

ing the "dominion of the Don," the

"Parish of Arkansas" was little known to cartographers. Lieutenant Harpe, who entered Arkansas first in 1718 — when he chanced on the envious of the general terms of Richmond, Lit-
tach River county — and his friend Du-

mont de Montigny, French authorities acquired an extended knowledge of the Arkansas river country. Montigny's "Carte de la Province de la Louisi-

ane," printed about 1746, is however, more valuable for its historical legends than for its geographical content.

British maps of the Eighteenth cen-
tury afforded no new data about Ar-

kansas. Two old maps dated 1763 at-

ter, for example, printed in South Carolina, are the best known. The British in the 1830s and 1840s heard limited about what is now Arkansas as her possession. Her early proprie-
taries knew little of the geography. Illinois

borders the land between the 29-degree and the 36-degree, 31-minute parallels, and the earliest known points on the Atlantic

are the river from "Hacketton" on this map is a "Settlement of Dela-

ware Indians." West of "Buffalo Fork" is seen "Fulke's Spring," and about one mile farther north is shown "Wil-

liam's Settlement, 2d Belv." — sup-

posedly the one transferred in 1806. Some 46 miles west of the "Post of

Arkansas" there are "French Hunt-

ing Camp," represented by a double

tow of triangles to denote tents. "Old

Caddo Vill." is designated by a sun-

like emblem to show wigwams radiat-

ing from a circular center. The "Point

Orleant Territory" (from Louisiana Territory, which corre-

sponds to the future Louisiana and Louisi-

ana state line, is also noted.

Other observations on Pike's sketch are "Peoria, Illinois," "Perigoes Earth" (in the south central part); "Here commences the congelation of salt on the surface of the earth" (in the present Saltine county). "Mountain Seen 4 days journey" (in the Ouischita hill region, presumably either Mag-

azine or Buck mountain). "Cliff 100 Ft. Perpen." (a triffe south of which is now Pike Bluff). Finally, a notation in the extreme southeast corner of Ar-

kansas informs the curious or the cau-

tious, "The Alligators go no farther North." Pike employs the spelling "Arkansas."

It was October 28, 1806, when Lieu-

tenant Pike started down the Arkansas river. Near the mouth of Pawnee Fork, while he himself proceeded with his investigation of the sources of the Red river, he sent a party of six men to reconnoiter the Arkansas river to the mouth. The expedition was led by Lieut. James Biddle Wilkinson. His companions were Sergeant Joseph Bollinger, Privates John Boley, Samuel Bradley, Solomon Huddleston and John Wilson. These men descended the river in skin canoes. On entering Arkansas they noted particularly a stream "au milieu" (between Fort Smith and Van Buren). This was the historic Lee's creek, which today lends its waters to the lake in Devil's Den state park.

On the first day of January, 1807, Wilkinson and his party reached Ar-

kansas Post. A month later he made a report to his chief, General Wilkinson — who was likewise his father — in part as follows: "The survey from the Arkansas to the Mississippi is uncertain. It is not ascertained as it was when I descended that part of the river to be prefixed to my blanket." Signed: "Your faithful and obedient servant, James B. Wilkinson. 1/2 Lieut. 2d U. S. Bag. of Infantry."

John Bradford's "Map of the United States of America comprehending the course of the Missouri," shown for Arkansas only the White, Black and Ar-

kansas river. This is one of the most accurate maps of the early eighteenth century. Published in 1786, it illustrates the author's "Travels in the Interior of America in the Years 1769, 1769 and 1811."

On June 4, 1812, when the lower por-
tions of the interior was an "uninhabited

watershed," began the state of Louisiana, the name of the upper portion of Louisiana, "Territory of Missouri," was changed to "Territory of Mis-

souri."

Matthew Carey, a cartographer and publisher of fine repute, drew his "Map of Missouri Territory" in 1814. For Arkansas Carey shows the two dis-

tricts "New Madrid" and "Arkansas" that were the initial administrative units comprising Arkansas under the Territory of Missouri, but overlooks the tiny settlements that were begin-

ning to dot her streams.

A map that Joseph Meigs, chief of the General Land Office of the United States, qualified as "probably the most accurate to date of any representation of it," was drawn by the cele-

brated and personable Col. Isaac Rob-

erdsen under the auspices of General Rector, surveyor for the territories of Missouri and Illinois. I refer to a map of the combined North America between the latitudes 35 de-

grees and 52 degrees north." This shows little in Arkansas except the larger streams, including the Mississippi. It was issued January 21, 1818 — too soon to contain details of information that Rector later acquired as government surveyor in Arkansas, with offices at Daviessville, Arkansas Post, Bates-

tville and Little Rock.

H. S. Tanner's "Map of the Arkan-

sa River" illustrated Nuttall's well-

known journey of travels with Charles

while Henry Schoolcraft's "Chart of the Country Bordering on the Mis-

sissippi and Missouri" was the product of personal observations in the north-

ern part of Arkansas during the win-

ter of 1838-39. This chart shows: two districts in our present confines, Law-

rence and Arkansas; two towns, the Hot and Hot Springs, "The leading Road to Hot Springs."

Just north of the juncture of the Arkansas and White rivers, School-
craft indicates "Army Land 2,000,000 acres" — bounty lands reserved for ar-
osoldiers to ex-soldiers. Entirely within what is now Oklahoma he shows a large expanse marked "Dawellier's Grant." Bradbury's map mentioned above gives a similar location to this land, which was part of huge grants made in 1793 by Governor Careadolet to Don Joseph Vialle (commandant, Arkansas Post, 1786-1790). As research by Zilah Cross Peck has shown, 11,200 acres of these tracts were in the present Washington county.

In the year 1817 the War Depart-

ment sent the gifted Stephen Harriman Long on a trip that for years rang — who was likewise his father — in part as follows: "The survey from the Arkansas to the Mississippi is uncertain. It is not ascertained as it was when I descended that part of the river to be prefixed to my blanket." Signed: "Your faithful and obedient servant, James B. Wilkinson. 1/2 Lieut. 2d U. S. Bag. of Infantry."

John Bradford's "Map of the United States of America comprehending the course of the Missouri," shown for Arkansas only the White, Black and Ar-

kansas and Other Territories of the United

States," represents Arkansas on the eve of its becoming a separate terri-

ory, and gives such details as Long's and Bell's route, pioneer settlements on Red river, and Indian boundary lines. This large map, 17 by 22 inches, printed in colors, and published by Carey and Lea, Philadelphia, is termed by cartographic au-

torities and collectors "the first American-made map of Arkansas."

Topographical Unit Arrives At Prescott. Maneuver Center.

Special to the Gazette. Prescott, Aug. 7.—Session 3, Thir-

teenth Engineers, a topographical unit, has arrived here to map the area preparatory to Second Army maneuvers. It is quartered in the City park in front of the Junior High School building.

There are now 2,330 soldiers sta-

tions in Prescott, with the 103rd Observation Squadron, 88th Medical Regiment and 10th Medical Battalion. The topogra-

phie Company expected to arrive by Sunday. The press session — through which all news of army movements will be announced — is scheduled to arrive early next week and be quartered on West Elm and Second streets.