

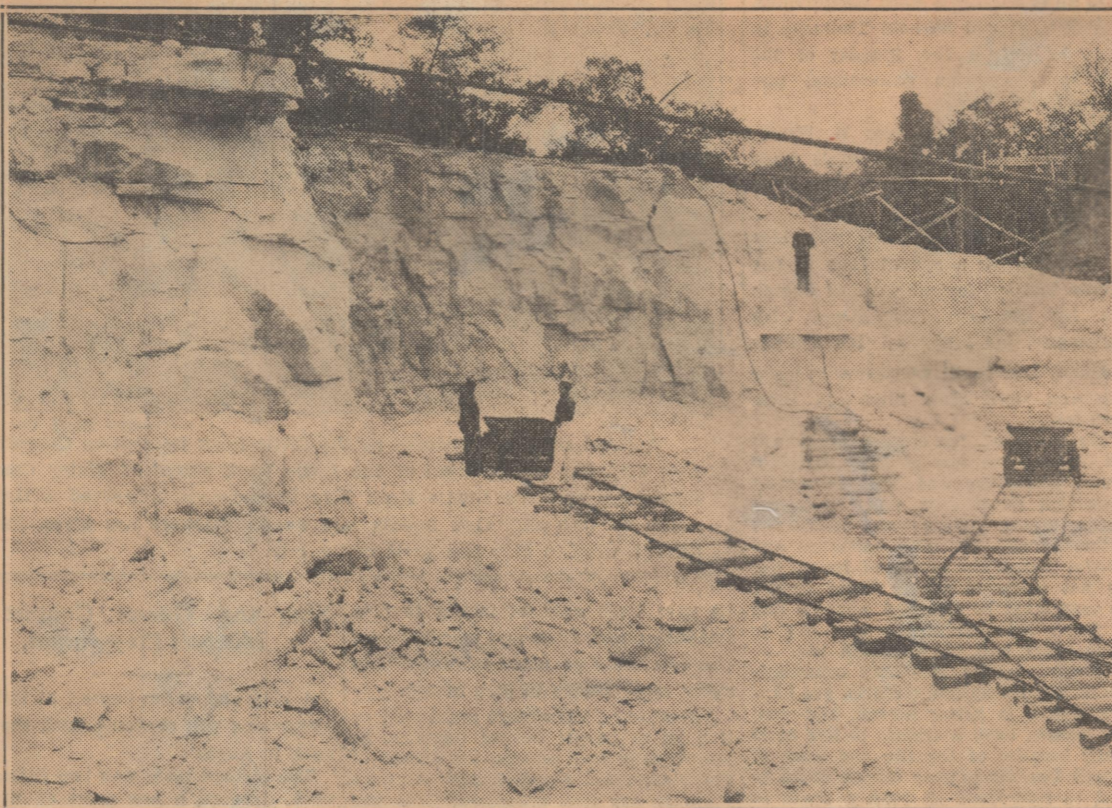
Hearing Set on Order Suspending Silica Sand Rates.

Gazette 1-22-38
Hearing was set by the state Corporation Commission yesterday for 10 a. m. January 28 on its recent order suspending proposed intrastate freight rate increases of 30 cents per ton of 2,000 pounds on silica sand in boxcar lots. The suspension was in line with an Interstate Commerce Commission order directing suspension of proposed increases in interstate traffic.

The commission granted an application of Gregory-Robinson-Speas Inc., vinegar manufacturers of Little Rock and Rogers, to broaden the issue at a hearing scheduled for 10 a. m. February 1 to consider reduction of rates on vinegar shipped anywhere in the state. The Southeast Arkansas Freight Lines of Pine Bluff recently asked permission to haul vinegar from Little Rock to points in south Arkansas at reduced rates.

HOW SILICA SAND FROM A NORTH ARKANSAS QUARRY FINDS ITS WAY TO THE WORLD'S GLASS FACTORIES

7-24-38



By FRANCES SHIRAS.
Everton, July 23.—The story of the development of the Everton Silica Sand Company Inc., one of north Arkansas's largest and most interesting industries, is one of advancement despite adverse circumstances of years of economic depression. Its growth illustrates what can be done with a valuable raw material and a moderate amount of capital.
The presence of a St. Peter deposit of silica sand in the vicinity of Everton has been known for many years, but development of the deposit and manufacture of the finished sand has been long delayed because considerable investment was necessary to make such development.

Test Shows Sands "Exceptional."
Numerous technical and detailed tests proved that the sand from the deposit was of excellent quality in chemical analysis and grain size tests. A man experienced in judging silica deposits made the following statement in reference to the purity of the four samples of Everton sand:
"We have received the Sharp-Schurtz reports on the analysis made of the four samples of Everton, Ark., sand and I desire to say that without a doubt this is the purest silica glass sand I have ever heard of. In addition to the exceptional purity of the article, it likewise is of exceptional uniform size."

The deposit is in a hard, solid stratum formation. The silicate carries an average of approximately 18 feet thick and continues a distance of approximately three miles through a mountain. The deposit outcrops around the edge of the mountain and at the point of present operation it has been worked by stripping the top of the bluff to a point where it is safe and practical to proceed with drift mining, there being a solid formation of limestone directly above the silica sand deposit as well as is there present solid limestone underlying throughout the silicate to a depth of approximately 68 feet, where another stratum formation of silicate some nine feet thick is present. This nine-foot seam could be consistently mined or removed by tunneling into the mountain.

Development of Company.
In March, 1935, the Everton Silica Sand Company, Inc., was formed and construction of a plant attempted with a moderate sum of money. In April, 1936, the ownership of the company changed hands. The silica deposit was by far the most valuable asset the corporation possessed and even though considerable machinery and equipment had been installed, it was not workable because the machinery and equipment was in poor condition and improperly installed. Much of it was second-hand or discarded equipment from abandoned mines and it was necessary practically to rebuild the plant to meet requirements of new, practical methods. H. C. Ormond, now 33, had acquired the controlling interest of the corporation and managed in detail the entire reconstruction of the plant.

It was necessary for Mr. Ormond also to work out the entire structure of a marketing program, as before that time practically no sand had been marketed. This has been successfully accomplished and the company has customers in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Old Mexico, to which hundreds of carloads of clean, white silica sand have been shipped in paper-lined

Class 9 boxcars over the Missouri and Arkansas railway from Everton.

Uses of Sand.
The sand is used in the manufacture of practically all kinds of glassware, as well as by foundries throughout the country which use it in the construction of forms in their casting works. It is also used in large quantities in the manufacture of silicates of soda. The users of the product must be convinced that the sand is desirable for their use, then furnace tests are made. After it has been thoroughly tested and approved as to the different characteristics of the sand, a regular customer and user of the product is finally attained.
While the plant has been efficiently constructed and satisfactory sales of the product, Mr. Ormond is continuously improving operating conditions and

surveying with a view of expanding the company's market.

Because of the unique location of the plant on the side of the great silicate bluff directly above Clear creek, from which comes water and power, and nearness of the railway over which the product is shipped, the manufacture and loading of the product is highly efficient.

Mining and Processing Operations.
The top stratum is drilled with jack hammers and shot with dynamite, bringing the material down in as fine a mass as possible. The mass is then shoveled into bottom-drum mining cars and transported to the quarry bin which holds approximately 500 tons. The material is dragged from the quarry bin with a large double drum hoist and is fed into the jaws of a crusher from which it travels to a large trommel (rotary screen) with .027 inch openings. Material too large for the openings in the screen rides over and goes directly to a large set of crusher rolls where it is given a second crushing. It is then placed in a large elevator and carried to the top of the crushing washing plant. It is then discharged into another trommel screen and any material too large for the openings in this screen rides over directly into another and separate set of crusher rolls.

Material from this set of rolls is sent back to the first screen—thus completing a circuit in the crushing-washing process which compels the little grains of sand finally to find their way through the openings of the screen jackets.

An abundance of clear water is added to the material when it enters the crusher and large streams of water are played upon the inside of both rotary screens. The rotary screens give the sand a thorough washing. (Rotary screens have a higher operating cost than do flat screens, but give a higher degree of washing efficiency.) From the two screens the sand goes through a launder (flume) to a large dehydrating tank where the current is slowed down, permitting strained, dirty water to overflow.

The clean white sand is discharged from the bottom of the cleansing tank. Another stream of approximately 500 gallons of clear water per minute washes it down a launder to the drying plant 800 feet below on the railroad.

The sand receives thorough rinsing in this journey and when it reaches the draining bin it settles in the bottom, the water running out of a number of holes up and down the sides of the bin. The holes are plugged as the sand attains depth to prevent it from escaping. There are two draining bins, each

10 by 12 by 80 feet. Each holds approximately six 55-ton cars of sand. The sand is then dried in a large rotary drier with a direct crude oil flame. From

the drier the sand is elevated to the top of the drying plant and goes through screens to storage bins from which it is spouted by gravity into paper-lined box cars for shipment.

Gives Credit to L. A. Watkins.
Development of the plant has been a hard "up-hill" job, but Mr. Ormond has had much encouragement. He said: "L. A. Watkins, executive vice president of the Missouri and Arkansas railway, is responsible for the existence of this new industry on his line. He has cooperated and worked patiently to the end that there actually is in existence and operation a silica sand plant on his railroad, and accomplishment of which has paid four-fold for the work and time necessary for its development. The idea behind his endeavor has been progress for Arkansas, work for many men, business for the railroad and for the communities it served."

Mr. Ormond's philosophy explains one reason why the Everton Silica Sand Company has grown so during the past two years under his management. He says, "An optimist is a person who conceives a practical proposition and has the everlasting 'never-quit' ability to work to the end that it is successfully accomplished. And I believe that if one so desires anything in reason can be accomplished if one works hard enough at the job."

Industry Wrecked By Damage Suit
Gazette
1-29-39

Special to the Gazette.
Harrison, Jan. 28.—Confirmation of the sale of the Everton Silica Sand Company, Inc., owned by H. C. Ormond, W. S. Walker and O. W. Watkins, with Mr. Ormond as general manager, to Mrs. Mertie Dunkin of Batesville, widow of D. D. Dunkin, founder and former owner, was made in Chancery Court here by Judge J. M. Shinn. The properties were sold at public auction to Mrs. Dunkin for \$17,000. She and her associates own and operate the Silica Products Company at Guion.

Despite adverse conditions, the company has developed into one of north Arkansas' largest and most interesting industries since the company was formed in March, 1935. But misfortune beset the company during the past year. Two personal injury suits, involving a total of approximately \$85,000, were filed in Circuit Court last spring, and judgment of \$3,500 was awarded against the company in a suit in July, 1938, while the other resulted in a non-suit by the plaintiff.

These suits crippled the business and financial standing of the company, which always was limited, so that the Missouri and Arkansas Railroad Company, holders of a mortgage against the company, brought suit in foreclosure, and the properties were sold under orders of the court.

Opened in 1930.
Early in 1930, D. D. Dunkin, late husband of Mrs. Mertie Dunkin, his father and associates, opened the silica sand works at Everton, a deposit located a half mile below the present operations and still owned by the Dunkin family. Machinery was installed and the foundation laid for the expansion of the silica sand business. Mr. Dunkin died in 1933, and operations were suspended. Now the industry reverts to the Dunkin family.

Many technical and detailed tests proved that the sand from the deposit at Everton was of excellent quality in chemical analysis and grain size tests. J. E. Potts, on whose land the richest deposits were found, undertook operations of the silica sand in 1934. Mr. Dunkin tried to add these deposits to his holdings in that community.

In March, 1935, the Everton Silica Sand Company, Inc., was formed by L. A. Watkins, executive vice president of the Missouri and Arkansas railroad, and his associates. The company was reorganized and refinanced to increase shipping business for the railroad. Construction of a plant was started.

Frank Kell, grain operator of Wichita Falls, Tex., and owner of the railroad, in behalf of the railroad business loaned \$4,500 to the corporation. Later he assigned the note to the railroad.

The silica deposit was the most valuable asset the corporation possessed. Machinery and equipment was in poor condition and unworkable. It was necessary practically to rebuild the plant.

In April, 1936, H. C. Ormond bought controlling interest in the corporation and became its general manager. About \$18,000 was expended in installing new equipment. A mortgage was given on the property.

Operations May Be Resumed.
There is a possibility that the plant may be continued as a branch of the company at Batesville, but the former owners said today operation on a much larger scale was assured.

The company had customers in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas and Old Mexico, to which hundreds of carloads of clean, white silica sand have been shipped in paper-lined class 9 box cars over the Missouri and Arkansas railway from Everton, creating keen competition to the plant at Guion, owned by the Dunkins.

Uses of Sand.
The silica sand is used in the manufacture of practically all kinds of glassware. Foundries use it in construction of forms in casting works, and it also is used in large quantities in the manufacture of silicates of soda. The company showed satisfactory sales the past two years. The mining provided work for many men, business for the railroad and for the communities it served.
The plant is located on the side of a huge silicate bluff along Clear creek and the waters of the creek are utilized for power used in manufacturing the product.

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Silica Rock Hailed as New Type Of Material for Roads.

5-28-39
Oxford, Miss., May 27 (AP)—A new type road material, described as "superior" to any of a similar kind now on the market, was hailed here today as opening a new mineral industry in the state.

J. A. Pollard of Lafayette county is credited with first noticing the quality of the sand on a road which had been used in his county for a century. He interested two capitalists and they, in conjunction with state geologists, investigated its properties. Pollard said: "Tests have proved this new type paving material to be harder than steel, able to stand all weather conditions without contraction or expansion, and capable of forming a surface comparable to sandpaper, which provides safety for automobiles at high speeds. It is superior to anything on today's market."

Dr. W. C. Morse, state geologist, said immense deposits of the silica rock were located in this vicinity. He described it as a "distinct new type" and unique in that it was siliceous [composed of a hard, crystalline sand] rather than calcareous [composed of a fine powder of irregular form].

He said its advantages were its light weight, ease of working and cheapness.

After the rock is crushed it may be used for the base and top course of a road or for a top course of a previously laid gravel road. When it is laid heavy rollers are passed over it and it sets it to form a pavement-like surface. Good results are obtained by treating it with some form of bitumen.

Shipments of Tripoli To Be Started Soon.

12-10-39
Special to the Gazette.
Mountain Home, Dec. 2.—Sam Grigg, a farmer living east of here, will start quarrying tripoli on his farm soon, for shipment to paint and heavy chemical concerns. He located a big deposit on his farm several weeks ago, and immediately sent samples to several concerns. He has had offers from three of them to take a part of his output. Tripoli, a very fine silica, is used for abrasives, in the manufacture of paint and for other purposes.

State Investigating Tripoli Deposit Near Beaver.

4-28-40
Special to the Gazette.

Eureka Springs, April 20.—A special investigation of the magnesium and limestone deposits in the vicinity of Beaver, north of Eureka Springs, is being conducted by Howard Miller of Little Rock, of the state mineral survey. A deposit of tripoli in the tunnel near Eureka Springs has been uncovered, L. A. Watkins, president of the M. & A. Railway, said. He asked the state mineral survey for a special investigation to determine the extent and quality of the deposit. The investigation will be carried on for more than 30 days, and after completing the work in Carroll county, investigation of mineral ores along the railroad in Boone and down as far as Leslie in Searcy county will be conducted, Mr. Watkins said.

An agricultural lime plant is expected to be in operation within 45 days on the railway between Olvey and St. Joe, Mr. Watkins said. The plant will be operated as a part of the program for soil treatment to grow better pastures and hay crops.

With the mining activities resumed, many sawmills operating in the Newton county forests and the Carroll County Co-operative, an REA project, under way, there are plenty of jobs for laborers in the Cave Creek neighborhood, it was reported here. Many will be furnished employment in setting electric line poles, clearing right-of-way and stringing wire in the REA project.

Sand and Limestone for Dam Available Nearby.

2-9-41
Special to the Gazette.

Mountain Home, Feb. 8.—Industry in the upper White river valley probably will be increased greatly by the construction of the Northfork dam. Besides an enormous amount of sand and gravel that will be taken from the sand and gravel bars on White river between Buffalo and Herron in Baxter county, the material contracts call for 125,000 tons of silica sand, and 40,000 tons of limestone dust.

The Silica Products Company, which operates plants at Guion, Izard county, and at Everton, Boone county, can furnish this sand, and the Batesville White Lime Co. can furnish the limestone dust. The sand and limestone will be used in some of the concrete mix.

The Batesville White Lime Company spent three years investigating the limestone deposits of this section before it found the big deposit of superior limestone at Limedale, where it located its plant. The late D. D. Dunkin, who for many years was the head of the Silica Products Company, spent several years investigating silica sand deposits.

Silica Plant Employees On Strike

4-27-41
Special to the Gazette.

Batesville, April 26.—Approximately 35 employees of the Silica Products Co. went on strike at Guion, 26 miles north of here yesterday, after the management of the glass sand plant refused demand for a "closed shop." Wages, hours or working conditions were not involved.

The strike was said to have been instigated by an American Federation of Labor organizer from Dallas, Tex.

The company spokesman said the company did not believe in barring an employe from working because he had not paid his union dues.

"We do not bar a man from working who is a member of the union, so it hardly seems fair to bar him for not being a member," he said.

The plant has closed. It is not engaged in defense production except indirectly.

The management indicated today that no effort will be made to reopen the plant and no future conferences are planned.

BOONE COUNTY SAND IS SUPPLYING MILLS IN EIGHT STATES

7-14-40
Special to the Gazette.

Harrison, July 13.—Silica sand from a North Arkansas quarry finds its way into the nation's glass factories and the industry located at Everton, 14 miles east of Harrison on the Missouri and Arkansas railway, is one of the section's largest and most interesting industries and furnishes employment for about 40 persons.

Hundreds of carloads of clean, white silica, so fine it resembles sugar, are shipped in paper-lined box cars to customers in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Old Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Arkansas. At one time recently 13 box cars were waiting on the tracks to be filled for shipment in one day. An average of from 40 to 60 carloads is shipped monthly to the markets with 14 to 18 carloads shipped each week.

Moulding clay, found on the banks of Clear creek, a stream flowing below the silicate bluff, is utilized and shipped to foundries throughout the country for use in the construction of forms in casting works. There is an unlimited supply of moulding clay. It is dug in the field in its natural formation and shoveled into cars.

Has Many Uses.
The sand, used in the manufacture of practically all kinds of glassware, also is used in large quantities in the manufacture of silicates of soda.

The St. Peter deposit is in a hard, solid stratum formation. The silicate averages 18 feet in thickness and continues approximately three miles through a mountain overlooking the Everton business section. Water from Clear creek is utilized for power operations, while the Missouri and Arkansas railroad runs nearby. Tracks

Guion Silica Plant Strike Settled

5-30-41
Special to the Gazette.

Batesville, May 29.—Mrs. Mertie Duncan, owner and manager of the Silica Products Co., announced today the strike which has tied up the Guion (Izard county) plant of the company since April 21 had been settled and that the crew of 35 will return to work Monday.

Mrs. Duncan said the company agreed to continue recognition of the old union contract with the workers, which has been in operation for a year, and which was scheduled to expire August 17.

Closed Shop Not Granted.
The company did not grant a closed shop agreement, the principal demand of the union when the strike was called. Wage schedules and condition of work will be continued under the old contract.

Government conciliators had tried to settle the deadlock, as the plant serves several glass manufacturers who have important defense contracts.

Six Cars Of Silica Sand Shipped Daily

6-1-41
Special to the Gazette.

Everton, May 31.—Six carloads of clean, white sugar-like silica sand have been shipped daily from the Silica Sand Company plant here, which doubled its production, following the closing of the sand plant at Guion, due to a strike, since settled.

Increase of the production to approximately 200 carloads a month was made possible by the installation of a second drain bin and the increase in personnel. The new drain draws the sand first from one bin to another and then into the drier.

The sand, used in the manufacture of practically all kinds of glassware and in large quantities in the manufacture of silicates of soda, is shipped in paper-lined boxes from the Everton quarry via the

have been laid directly to a loading point.

Owned By Woman Operator.
An extraordinary feature of the sand company is that it is one of two plants in this area, owned and operated by a woman, Mrs. Mertie Dunkin of Batesville. The other plant is located at Guion.

Jack hammers are used first before shooting the silicate with dynamite. Bottom-drum mining cars convey the material to the quarry bin, which holds approximately 500 tons. A large double drum hoist drags the material from the bin and feeds it into the jaws of a crusher from where it travels to a large trommel (rotary screen) with .027 inch openings. A second crushing is given the material too large for the openings in the screen, the rocks riding over the screen

directly to the large crusher rolls. An elevator carries the mass to the top of the crushing washing plant, where it is deposited in another trommel screen, and the material too large to go through the screen is carried over another set of crusher rolls. Material from this set of rolls is sent back to the first screen, and thus completes a circuit in the crushing-washing process which compels the little grains of sand finally to find their way through the opening of the screen jackets.

When the material enters the crushers, large streamers of water are directed on the side of both rotary screens, giving the sand a thorough washing. From the two screens the sand goes through a launder or flume to a large dehydrating tank where the current is slowed down, permitting strained, dirty water to overflow.

Missouri and Arkansas railroad. Other uses to which the St. Peter sand is adaptable are building and paving sand, molding sand, engine (friction) sand, grinding and polishing sand, and filter sand. It also is used in the manufacture of scouring soap. It goes to customers in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and Old Mexico.

The sand is produced by crushing and processing of silicate taken from a hard, solid stratum averaging 18 feet in thickness. The St. Peter deposit contains three miles through a mountain overlooking the Everton business district. Water is obtained from Clear creek, which flows beneath the bluff.

The plant is owned by Mrs. Mertie Dunkin, who also is principal owner of the Guion plant. The Guion plant was closed when workers refused to accept terms offered by the management.

Workers at the Guion plant will go back to work Monday. Heavy consumption of glass will keep both plants busy.

Guion Silica Plant Shipping 40 Cars Weekly.

6-24-41
Special to the Gazette.

Melbourne, June 23.—Production of sand at the Silica Products Co. plant at Guion is running about 40 cars a week, with the plant operating 18 hours on two shifts daily. The plant recently reopened after being closed several weeks by a strike. The firm's plant at Everton has been closed and a part of the force there moved to Guion.

Everton Silica Sand Plant Now Electrified.

7-1-41
Special to the Gazette.

Harrison, June 30.—Electrification of the Everton Silica Sand Company plant has been completed, together with an amplification of the lines and equipment of the Arkansas Power and Light Company to carry the necessary current to the plant for full operations and an increased load required by other Everton industries.

The Everton plant recently was forced to work extra shifts because there was a strike among workers at its sister plant at Guion, both plants being owned by Mrs. Mertie Dunkin of Batesville. It was decided that efficiency of the plant could be promoted by replacing its steam and Diesel engine power with electricity.

When the strike at the Guion plant was settled and there was a brief let-up in the activities at the Everton plant, installing of electric motors was started. The plant will resume full capacity operation with electric power.

Silica Plant To Use Electricity.

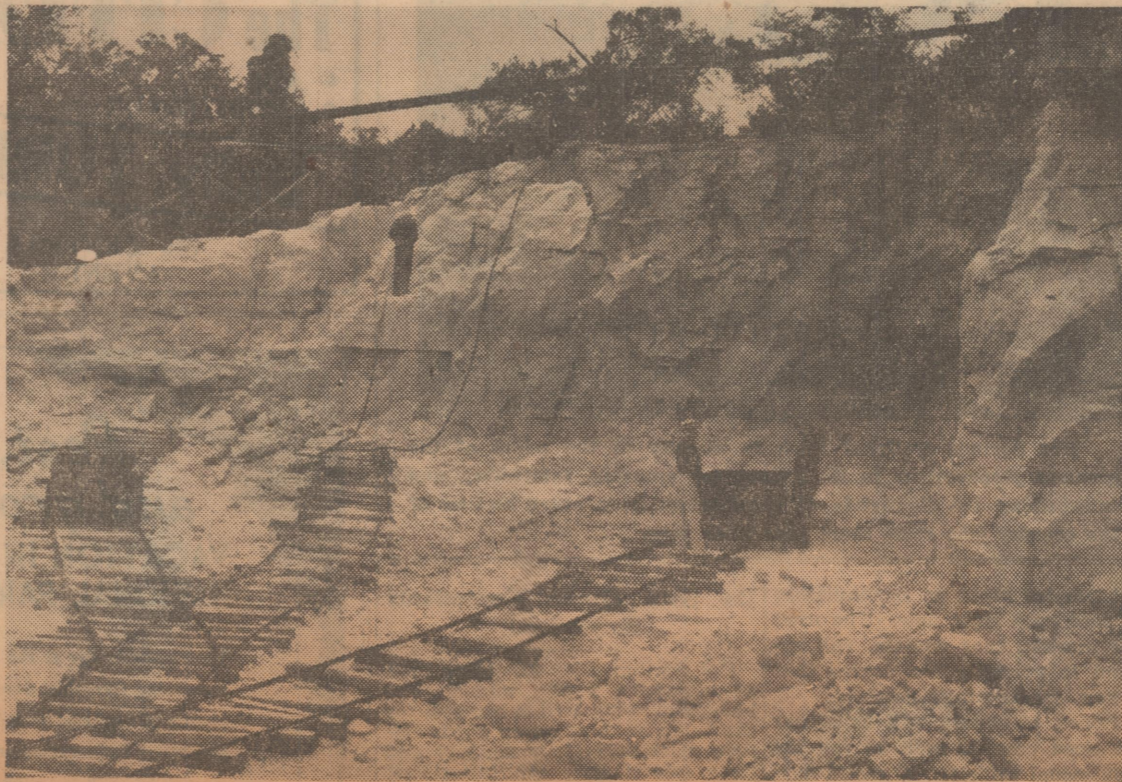
5-31-42
Special to the Gazette.

Batesville, May 29.—The Arkansas Power and Light Company has begun clearing right-of-way between Guion on White river, and the Mountain View high power line, to build a 13-kilowatt electrical transmission line to the Silica Products Company's plant at Guion.

Albert West, manager of the A. P. and L. office here, said the line would be more than six miles long, and would cross White river at Guion. He estimated it would require two weeks to complete.

Because of war priorities, Guion will not be able to utilize electric service because connecting material is not available.

BIRTHPLACE OF GLASS



Workmen are shown above quarrying silica sandstone from the large quarry at Everton, Boone county, which, after reduction to sand through crushing and cleaning, is shipped to glass factories in eight states.