

Mineral Survey Started In Franklin County

The Spectator
3-13-38 Franklin Co.
A mineral survey sponsored by the Arkansas Geological Survey has been started in Franklin county. This county is at present one of 31 counties in the state being investigated by this organization. The project is made possible by the WPA and the Arkansas Geological Survey in addition to the State Highway Dept., the State Health Dept., the Niloak Potteries of Benton, Ark.

There are three primary objects of the project: to provide employment; to make an inventory of the "natural resources" of the State; to train the personnel to observe, identify, measure, map and describe accurately the natural resources as they are found; to aid the personnel in keeping an active, worthwhile interest in their work; and inform them of its value in the planning of the state's development and future progress; and to recognize and evaluate the natural resources in the individual community and suggest uses and methods for their development.

The portion of Franklin county that is to be investigated at the present time includes the coal measure beds. A survey will be made of all the coal outcrops, stone for building and road work, gravel, sand, and clay for fire brick and common brick, and other minerals that occur in the area. In addition to this, all water wells will be investigated to determine the level of the water horizon, what formation are most reliable as water producers and a chemical and bacteriological examination of the water.

R. C. Beckstrom, State Supervisor of this project, completed a survey of this type in Oklahoma about a year ago. Much good was accomplished by this survey; new mineral deposits were found and mapped, corrections were made of mapping done in former years and the survey, as a whole, was highly successful.

"Democrat" Entry Mineral Survey Begins

In Franklin County 3-10-38 Franklin Co.

A state-wide mineral survey sponsored by the Arkansas Geological Survey has started with Franklin county as one of 31 counties in the state being investigated. The project is made possible by the WPA and the geological survey, in addition to the state highway department, state health department and the Niloak potteries of Benton, according to Tom D. Rogers, county supervisor, who is here with a crew of ten junior engineer aides and two laborers.

The portion of Franklin county to be investigated at the present time includes the coal measure beds, coal outcrops, stone for building and road work, gravel, sand, clay for fire brick and common brick, and other minerals in this area. In addition to this all water wells will be investigated to determine the level of the water horizon, formations most reliable as water producers and a chemical and bacteriological examination of the water.

There are three primary objects to this project: To provide employment; to make an inventory of the natural resources of the state, and to recognize and evaluate the natural resources in the individual community and suggest ways and methods of their development.

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Survey Finds New Coal Outcroppings

Special to the Gazette. 6-25-39

Ozark, June 24.—Eliminating "proved" coal mining areas from its investigation at the outset, the statewide Geological Survey-sponsored WPA Mineral Survey has located outcrops of coal in almost every section of the 377 square miles covered in Franklin county. Tom D. Rogers, whose headquarters is here, is county supervisor for the survey.

Shallow test holes were put down in fields not "proved." Most of the outcrops investigated are veins of a thickness of two feet or less, but, some are much more important.

The survey may prove the presence of coal in sufficient quantities to cause mining interests to make further investigation.

A deposit of coal located near Mulberry creek had an outcropping 22 inches thick with an overburden of less than 25 feet in most places. Another deposit, with a 14-inch outcrop, is estimated to cover 30 acres. Particularly good coal outcroppings were found in a bluff in the vicinity of Cecil. Samples indicated the deposit is of good grade.

Importance was attached to the fact that practically all deposits located are within a short distance, some of them within one-fourth mile, of good gravel roads. The northern boundary of the "coal measure beds" as shown in the state geological map of 1929 lacks several miles of extending far enough north in Franklin county, according to survey reports.

"Proved" coal mining areas near Charleston, Alix, Denning, Branch and Philpott Valley were eliminated from consideration because they already had been gone over by coal mining companies.

No metallic minerals have been found in the part of the county being studied

by the survey, but, several large deposits of sandstone, a deposit of limestone and a large quantity of black shale suitable for road building have been located. Gravel deposits located have been reported to County Judge W. M. Jones Jr. and the county supervisor of WPA road projects.

A bed of limestone was located on Fane's creek, near Cass, and an effort is being made to have a lime crusher placed in operation in the vicinity to furnish this fertilizing agent to farmers, a few of whom have used it with good results. Fayetteville is the source of supply of limestone now used in this area.

Sandstone has been found in deposits of from 20 to 75 feet thickness, several of them with a maximum overburden of eight feet. This material has been used in many Charleston buildings and in local bridge construction but the amount available for use has hardly been scratched, one of the deposits alone covering more than 20 acres.

The survey in this county has been conducted by 15 field workers selected from local WPA rolls. Samples of rocks and minerals have been sent to the Little Rock laboratory for analysis, as have samples of ground water from various sources.

Of 924 wells examined, the average depth was 47 feet, dug wells ranging from 12 to 30 feet in depth and drilled wells from 40 to 180 feet. Of 43 springs examined, 21 contained iron minerals, four sulphur, one alum. The remaining ones were comparatively free of minerals in solution.

The Ozark Rotary Club and the Charleston Chamber of Commerce made contributions toward expenses of truck operation and a water testing station. Ozark merchants also contributed for the water station. County officials made personal contributions to aid the survey project.

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