

# MINERAL SURVEY TO START SOON IN LEE COUNTY

Lee Co. *March 3, 1938*

Chamber of Commerce  
Provides Office Space  
And Transportation

Office space in the Alpha Building has been provided by the Chamber of Commerce for the crew of the mineral survey to be made in Lee County by the Works Progress Administration, with Ira W. Merritt, as supervisor. Transportation is being furnished by the Chamber of Commerce through the loan of a car by I. N. Vail.

The project will furnish a payroll of \$712 monthly for several months, it is estimated.

The survey will be made along the entire section of the Crowley's Ridge and adjacent land. Already a similar survey has been made in the northern section of Crowley's Ridge.

The survey is state-wide and will be conducted in 31 counties by a crew of 450 workers. The work will be extended to include 55 counties later, Floyd Sharp, state WPA administrator, stated Friday.

"Phillips and Lee Counties are about the only states in what is known as the Gulf Coastal basin that will be surveyed. Not even the oil counties in Southwest Arkansas are being surveyed," Mr. Merritt stated.

### Locate Minerals

The survey will be to find out what minerals can be found in the ridge. "We will especially look for clays, glass sands, pure water supplies, and the like," he stated.

The wells and springs in the ridge area will be checked to determine the flow, volume of water available, and the quality of the water. Samples will be taken in each 10-acre area, the county to be blocked out in areas, and these samples will be sent to Little Rock to be analyzed to determine if they have passed through any minerals deep in the ground.

Efforts will be made to find deposits of clay that will be suitable for making pottery, tile, bricks, stone and earthen ware and other clay products.

"The clay samples will be sent to the Niloak Pottery Plant near Benton to be tested. If any clays are found we will soon know what they are best suited for," Mr. Merritt stated.

He said that deposits of clay have been found in the northern end of the ridge that are excellent for making bricks and other clay products. "There is no reason why there shouldn't be similar deposits in this end of the ridge," he said.

### May Find Coal

The survey will also be able to determine whether there is any gravel and construction material to be found in the ridge. "Perhaps we may find a stratum of lignite coal which could be mined cheaply and sold right here at a very low cost. This is a very poor grade of coal, but can be used in large furnaces," the supervisor stated.

The project is scheduled to run until July 1, and perhaps longer.

The purpose of this survey is not only to find out what minerals there are in the ridge but to compile this information so that it will be available in Little Rock for anyone who desires it.

Manufacturers often inquire at the State Geological Department for information concerning the various mineral deposits to be found in the state. The available water supply, highways leading to the deposits and

other useful information will be included in the reports.

Before actual work can be started Mr. Merritt will conduct a short school to instruct the workmen in their duties. They will have to take borings, draw maps or sketches, and know how to locate their position.

# ACTUAL SURVEY BEGINS SOON

Lee Co. *March 10, 1938*

Workers Selected For  
Geological Search

Ira W. Merritt, supervisor for the geological survey in Lee County announced this week that the following had been selected to aid in the mineral search: Herbert Whitehouse, Virgil Baw, James K. Smith, James Rowton, Louis Kerr, Longley Kirby, Tollie Copeland, and Dewey Anderson.

After a week or two of intensive training the crew will begin the survey in which it is hoped to ascertain what minerals are in Crowley's Ridge, and in what quantity.

The survey is being conducted in about half the counties of the state.

Office space in the Alpha Building is being rented by the Lee County Chamber of Commerce for the survey work. A truck was loaned to the Chamber of Commerce by I. N. Vail to furnish the surveyors with transportation.

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