

Mineral Survey Project

Started in Madison Co.
Madison Co. 3-17-38

The state-wide mineral survey, sponsored by the Arkansas Geological Department as a WPA project, has been started in Madison county under the personal direction of J. T. Smith as county supervisor, with office in the First National Bank building.

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 interest in their work; and in-keeping an active, worthwhile interest in their work; an 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.

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.

The work of the survey will give employment to 14 people in Madison county.

Laboratory to Test and

Analyze State Minerals

Madison County Record

Information was received October 11 from Washington stating that a project for the construction of a laboratory to test and analyze minerals has been approved by the President. The project is sponsored by the Arkansas Geological Survey. The new building will furnish the Geological Survey with a much needed laboratory to analyze the samples now collected, mapped and classified by the state Mineral Survey. Several thousand samples from sections of the state are now on hand to be tested or analyzed.

The State Mineral Survey is now active in thirty-seven counties covering 37,000 square miles, and employing about 700 people. The object of the survey is to locate, map, estimate, sample, and describe each section of land to determine the surface indications of minerals. In many places, bore holes are made to determine the depth and extent of deposits which do not appear on surface. Sub-surface cross-sections are being made of some of the districts where clay is the chief natural resource.

Maps are made of each township covered showing the cultural development which with the mineral and water maps, gives detailed information for future development and improvement of any area showing promise.

Plans are now in progress which will make it possible within a few days for the various counties to test the hardness and chlorides of water wells and springs. This information will be compiled in bulletin form and maps will be made showing the results of this survey.

Madison county is one of thirty-seven in which the survey is active.

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