

# LOCALLY MADE BRICK

# LOCALLY MADE

(Continued from page one)

## Product Of Extinct Industry Widely Used In Construction Of Buildings Here; Clays Found In This Area Well Suited To Purpose, Consider Lack Of Fuel Handicap

Helena "Record", Feb. 27, 1938. Phillips Co.

Discussion of the mineral survey of Crowley Ridge by the WPA, today brought out the fact that the clay in the vicinity of Helena is of excellent material for making brick.

Who remembers the three brick-yards that were once located in Helena, not to mention the one which was once located at Elaine?

Old settlers say that some 50 or 60 years ago that not only was a brick-yard operated here by Samuel I. Clark, but that many of the buildings now standing in Helena, particularly on Ohio street north of the Lewis Mill Supply Company, were built of brick manufactured here

in the old Clark kilns.

The Jefferson school building, John Quarles says, is one of the buildings erected from brick burned there.

The Clark yard was located, Mr. Quarles says, out on Perry street, where George Merrifield now lives. Mr. Clark molded his brick by hand.

Another early brick-yard operator was a negro named Mobley, who had a yard in Catholic Hollow. For some reason, however, Mobley's yard only burned about two kilns of brick. His venture evidently proved unsuccessful.

From the Mobley kilns came the brick for construction of the building on Missouri street now

occupied by the Red Cross Drug store. Reports say the brick for the entire building were furnished for \$53.

Following the failure of this yard, Straubs put in a yard in South Helena. The yard was operated by Nick Straub and brick for the construction of St. John's Episcopal church were furnished by the firm.

Both the Mobley and Straub firms used machinery for making their brick. All three firms used cordwood for fuel and it is said that today the chief drawback in manufacturing brick here would be the absence of

natural gas for fuel.

Mr. Quarles says that about the time the town of Elaine was built E. M. Allen carried a sample of buck-shot soil to Ft. Smith and had tests made. These tests showed that fine red-colored brick could be made from the buck-shot soil and he built a kiln and burned brick there for the erection of some of the store buildings there.

It is believed that not only does the soil surrounding Helena have possibilities for brick-making but for the manufacture of pottery as well. Mr. Quarles says that he once had some of the soil tested at the Niloak kilns in Benton county and that excellent specimens were turned out.

## MINERAL SURVEY WILL BE MADE IN PHILLIPS COUNTY

will be included in the reports.

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

## SPONSORS FOR WPA PROJECT ARE NEEDED

"West Helena" 3-4-38 TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES FOR MINERAL SURVEY PROJECT SOUGHT Phillips Co.

Men who will be employed on a Mineral Survey Project in this county are scheduled to report for work tomorrow morning, but there is some danger that the project might not be started, E. B. Badinelli, Supervisor of the work, said today.

This project which will employ about 14 men is for the purpose of making a mineral survey of that part of Crowley Ridge which lies in this county. Approximately \$700 a month will be spent on the project.

However, Mr. Badinelli said this morning that as yet no way has been worked out to secure transportation for the men. "The sponsor's part of this project consists in furnishing office equipment and office space and transportation. The project should run for about four months and it will take \$125 for that period to pay the cost of transportation," Mr. Badinelli stated.

Last night Mr. Badinelli went before the City Council to ask that the City assist in furnishing transportation. The county has also been asked to contribute, and the aid of the Chamber of Commerce and the Retail Merchants Association has been enlisted. "If we do not get a promise of transportation expense at once, we may lose the project," Mr. Badinelli said. This project calls for the expenditure of over \$2,000 in wages alone and that amount would all be spent in this county, most of it in Helena," he pointed out.

The survey is to find out what minerals, that is clays, sands, building materials and the like, can be found in this county. "We may find deposits which will lead to several industries locating at Helena," Mr. Badinelli asserted.

E. B. Badinelli, Supervisor of a WPA Mineral Survey project, went before the council to ask that the city assist in the project by helping to furnish transportation. The sponsor's part of this project consists in furnishing office space and transportation.

## Mineral Surveys

### Undertaken Here

Helena Record, Feb. 27, 1938.

Phillips Co.

Eugene B. Badinelli County Supervisor; Will Give Complete Information On Hill Area

Eugene B. Badinelli has been appointed county supervisor for a statewide survey of mineral, water and building materials, scheduled to get under way March 1. Headquarters will be established here in the near future, Mr. Badinelli said.

He was one of 33 supervisors selected from among 300 applicants, and recently attended a conference in Little Rock, where

procedure under the survey was outlined. It is a WPA project, for which the state of Arkansas has allocated \$50,000 as sponsor's share.

Study of mineral resources in Phillips county will be confined to the Crowley Ridge area north of Helena. Specimens of water from all parts of the county will be taken, however, and will be

sent to Little Rock where tests will be made to determine potability and mineral content.

Area and extent of water strata will be studied, along with depth, and rate of flow.

Procedure under the mineral survey will be thorough. The entire area covered will be subdivided into ten-acre tracts, and complete records of every tract will be made.

The survey will show, Mr. Badinelli points out, whether or not clays, sands and gravel of more than ordinary value exist in the hill country.

In the upper parts of Crowley's Ridge, where underlying strata are nearer the surface, deposits of sand glass and pottery clays have been found.

Marls, from which fertilizer can be made, have been discovered in Crow Creek, east of Forrest City. Small deposits of lignite coal have been found near Wynne, while working from a quartzite outcrop in Green county have been used for building purposes.

Anyone having information as to deposits of any extent, whether of clay, gravel, or sand, is asked to communicate with Mr. Badinelli.

With the survey completed, Mr. Badinelli says, detailed information will be available in Little Rock for manufacturers, telling them the location, quality and extent of mineral deposits, distance from railroads and highways, quality and amount of water available in a given district.

Specimens of clays found here will be sent to the Niloak pottery plant at Bentonville, where tests will be made to determine whether or not it is usable in the making of pottery of any kind.

## 15 LOCAL MEN TO GET WORK ON WPA PROJECT

Helena Record, Feb. 27, 1938. Eugene Badinelli Will Establish Headquarters At Court House Today Phillips Co.

Eugene Badinelli, area supervisor for a new WPA project which will make a mineral survey of Crowley's Ridge, said today that he will begin work on the project tomorrow when 15 men who will be employed on the project report for duty.

Mr. Badinelli today was getting his work organized and making an effort to find office space for headquarters at the court house.

He said that all of the men to be employed will be from Phillips county.

## Mineral Survey Will Be Made In Phillips County

Helena Record, Feb. 27, 1938.

Phillips Co.

E. B. Badinelli To Have Charge of WPA Project in Crowley Ridge Section Here

A mineral survey of that part of Crowley Ridge which lies in this county will be started here within a few days under the State Geological Department although the survey will be made as a WPA Project.

Eugene B. Badinelli, local engineer, will be supervisor of the Project. Mr. Badinelli was notified of his appointment as supervisor last week and was instructed to start making plans to get the survey under way at once. Although the project starts Tuesday, March 1, Mr. Badinelli said it would be several weeks before the actual work begins.

Offices must be secured and arrangements must be made for transportation for the workers. The local sponsors, for their part, must furnish office space and transportation, Mr. Badinelli said.

The survey will be made along the entire section of the Ridge and adjacent land. Already a similar survey ~~is~~ <sup>was</sup> under way in the northern section of Crowley Ridge.

~~Phillips County~~ <sup>Crowley Ridge is</sup> ~~the only~~ <sup>section</sup> 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. Badinelli stated.

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 and purity of the water. Samples will be taken in each 10-acre area, the county to be blackout out in areas, and these samples will be sent to Little

Rock to be analyzed to determine if they have passed thru 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. Badinelli 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 asserted.

The survey will also be to determine whether there is any gravels and construction materials 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. Of course this is a very poor grade of coal but it can be used in larger furnaces," said Mr. Badinelli.

The project is scheduled to run until July 1 and perhaps longer. A similar project will be started within the next few days in Lee County.

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

# Transportation

Helena "Record" Mar. 4, 1938

Phillips Co.

## Most Pressing Need In Execution Of WPA Project For Mineral Survey Of Phillips County

The new project providing for a survey of the mineral possibilities of Crowley Ridge has run up against a problem of transportation, which if not worked out may result in Phillips county losing the project, Eugene Badinelli, supervisor, said today.

Mr. Badinelli said there is no provision for WPA funds to furnish transportation of men to and from the hills where the work will be carried on and that he is making an effort to raise the money through the city, county, chamber of commerce

and other sources.

Transportation, Mr. Badinelli said, will require an expenditure of about one dollar per day and the project is expected to last not longer than four months, requiring a total of about \$125.

He said that the project is valuable to Helena in the way of a \$700 monthly payroll, all of the money being paid to workers in the immediate vicinity of Helena.

He said the personnel has been selected and is ready to begin work.

# Getting Results

Phillips Co. 5-20-38 "Record"

## State Mineral and Geographical Survey Project Sponsored By WPA Draws Picture Of Resources

The state Mineral and Geographical Survey project being conducted by the WPA is already beginning to show worthwhile results, said R. C. Beckstrom, director, who visited Helena and the local project today.

Mr. Beckstrom said that one of the important results noted so far is the impression it is making on people of the state that it is important to use the resources "in their own backyard" rather than to import the same things from other states. In this connection he pointed to

the using of gravel from gravel banks in the Marianna-Helena Land Development project on roads in the park, as an illustration.

"When I first began going over the state in my work," Mr. Beckstrom said, "it was appalling to me to note that people in some sections were buying building materials shipped from half across the continent when they had available right at their door the finest materials obtainable."

"Natural resources," he said, "are like money. If we hoard money in the bank it does no one any good. If we let our natural resources lie under or above the ground, they are of no benefit to anyone."

He said that statistics are now being prepared which when completed will show what the survey has accomplished so far. He added that "we're just now getting the project started good."

Mr. Beckstrom was shown over the project in this area by Eugene Badinelli, project supervisor.

## WORKERS FOR NEW PROJECT ATTEND SCHOOL

Helena "Record" March 7, 1938

### Given Instructions As To Procedure In Carrying Out Mineral Survey Phillips Co.

A school of instruction was held this morning at the circuit court room by Gene Badinelli, supervisor of the WPA project which will conduct a mineral survey in Crowley's Ridge, for workers who will be employed on the project.

Mr. Badinelli said organization of his workers has been completed and the project will get under way just as soon as arrangement can be made for transportation to and from the work for the workers.

Eugene Badinelli, supervisor of the new WPA project providing for a mineral survey of Crowley Ridge, appeared before the council to ask that an appropriation be given the project to help defray the expense of transportation connected with the project and for which there is no provision. The matter was referred to the finance committee.

## POTTERY CLAY FOUND BY WPA

Helena

## WORKERS HERE

"Record" Phillips Co. 3-9-38

### Deposit Not Large Enough For Development At Big Spring Site, However

Workers on the mineral survey of Crowley Ridge being conducted by the WPA on their first days of search found small deposits of excellent clay, believed suitable for making pottery, just north of Helena near Big Springs, Eugene Badinelli, supervisor, said today.

Mr. Badinelli brought samples of the clay to his office in the court house. It is of a beautiful red, splotted with dottings of other colors.

Mr. Badinelli said that the exact quantities of the clay deposit has not been determined, but that it is believed it is not large at this spot.

## MINERAL SURVEY WORK UNCOVERS NEW GRAVEL VEIN

Phillips Co. 5-15-38

### Material Will Be Sufficient For All Road Building In Hill Park Area

"Record"

The WPA Mineral Survey project, under the supervision of Eugene Badinelli, has served to uncover a gravel vein in the Helena - Marianna Land Development project of sufficient quantity to supply all of the gravel needed for work in the park area, Mr. Badinelli said yesterday.

The gravel deposit extends from about three-fourths of a mile this side of Distillery Branch north to the Lee county line and is of sufficient depth to provide plenty of gravel of good quality, Mr. Badinelli said.

The deposit was recently inspected by state highway department engineers and found to be of the right quality to be used on roads. Permission has been given by the government to use the gravel from the park area on that part of the Fourth Street highway leading out of West Helena to the edge of the park.