

## County Line Bill Is Opposed in Saline

Engineers on Little Rock's water supply project today had expressed an opinion that proposed transfer of 74 sections in Saline county, on part of which the water reservoir is being constructed, would have no effect on completion of the dam or on the labor situation.

Their comment followed a dispatch from Benton that County Judge C. O. Smithers had called a meeting at the Saline county courthouse at 2 p. m. tomorrow to discuss a bill to establish a county line between Perry and Saline counties, which he said would remove the reservoir site to Perry county. The bill has passed the House.

Benton—Opposition to House Bill No. 311, introduced by Rep. Van Dalsem of Perry county February 5 and passed by the House the evening, has developed here this week as County Judge Charlie Smithers called a mass meeting of Saline county citizens to meet at the courthouse next Saturday afternoon to discuss measures to defeat the bill when it comes up for passage before the Senate, probably next week.

The bill is entitled "An act to define and establish the boundary lines of Perry county and for other purposes." The bill in part, if passed by the Senate, will take from Saline county Walnut Bottom and part of Holland township in the northwestern part of the county. The land involved is about 74 sections, or about 47,000 acres.

Judge Smithers said Thursday afternoon that he had not been consulted at any time about the transaction and that the first time he had heard of the matter was when the bill was passed. He also said that a meeting of the committee in charge of the bill, which was originally scheduled for Friday night, had been postponed until Monday in order that citizens of the county could combat the measure.

The Little Rock WPA dam project is located in Walnut Bottom township.

## County Line Bill Affects City's Dam

Benton, Feb. 18.—County Judge C. O. Smithers has called a meeting of justices and residents of the county at the courthouse in Benton at 2 p. m. Saturday to discuss a bill passed in the House last week that would have the effect of annexing Walnut Bottom township, now in Saline county, to Perry county. The bill is before the Senate, and will be given a committee hearing Monday night.

The bill is said to take from Saline county two geographical townships, 18 and 19, which comprise Walnut Bottom and two sections of Holland township, a total of about 74 sections.

The Little Rock reservoir, a WPA project, is located in Walnut Bottom and there is said to be a possibility that annexing to Perry county would complicate the labor situation and cause many local laborers to lose their jobs as 25 per cent of the labor comes from Saline county. Residents of what is known as the west end are affected by the proposed legislation which would deprive the Paron School District of taxes.

## Engineer Says Change Would Have Little Effect.

Richard H. Overman Jr., progress engineer of the water supply project and son of Mayor Overman, said he had no information on the bill but that annexation of the reservoir site by Perry county would not affect the labor situation.

"We are having a hard time getting laborers anyway," he said. "Some of them are from Saline county, some from Perry and some from Pulaski. We never have stuck to any set percentage from any county" he said.

## Boundary Line Controversy Is Clouded Issue

Democrat 2-21-37  
Reason for Perry-Saline County Line Change Not Apparent.

Changing the boundary line between Perry and Saline county to put a part of the Little Rock water supply reservoir, which is under construction, in Perry county is causing considerable discussion in the two counties but it appears that the real cause for the change has not been disclosed.

The land is in the Ouachita National forest and is not valuable to either county for the taxes the land produces because it produces none. Saline countians fear that they may lose some of their rights to jobs on the dam project if the boundary line is changed since the federal work relief regulations require the labor to come from the county where the project is situated.

Another reason for Perry county wanting the forest lands owned by the government may be found in the fact that counties receive a share of the proceeds from the sale of timber for the national forests.

The bill to change the boundary was offered and passed in the House of Representatives by the Perry county member, Paul Van Dalsem. The bill listed the boundaries for the whole county and legislators from adjoining counties who made inquiries at the time the bill was under consideration were answered with the statement that the bill did not change the line between Perry and those particular counties. No question was raised about the Perry-Saline line.

The measure will be considered by a Senate committee Monday night and a mass meeting is scheduled for this afternoon in Benton to discuss the bill and the effect it will have upon Saline county. Townships 18 and 19 and a part of Holland township in Saline county would become a part of Perry county if the bill becomes a law.

## PERRY COUNTY RALLIES BEHIND BOUNDARY BILL

2-22-37 Gazette  
Claims Based Upon U. S. Survey.

Perryville, Feb. 21.—The Perry County Chamber of Commerce, in a special meeting here yesterday, voted to "back Representative Paul Van Dalsem to the limit" in his fight for passage of House Bill No. 311 which would annex 75 sections, or about 47,000 acres of land, in Saline county to Perry county.

A committee was named to represent Perry county at a hearing on the bill before the County Lines and Boundaries Committee in Little Rock tomorrow night. It includes Fay Wallace, H. A. Tucker, County Judge Oscar Brazil, Dr. H. E. Van Dalsem, Dewey Crowder, tax assessor; Milburn Adams, Robert Graves and John McBath, county clerk.

Spokesmen at the meeting complimented Van Dalsem for his efforts on the bill and explained that "Perry county is not trying to steal land from anyone, but is trying to get what rightfully belongs to it."

Dr. Stanley Gutowski, president of the Perry County Chamber of Commerce, said that in 1934 the federal government made a survey of county boundaries in Arkansas and the findings showed that the area in question rightfully belonged to Perry county.

He said the bill was proposed to save the county the expense of a long and drawn out law suit. Gutowski expressed surprise at the attitude of Saline county residents.

## SALINE AROUSED BY THREATENED TERRITORY LOSS

Protest Delegation Appointed.

Special to the Gazette.

Benton, Feb. 20.—Saline county residents, holding a mass meeting at the courthouse here today, prepared to make a vigorous fight against the plan to take 75 sections or about 47,000 acres from this county and annex it to Perry county.

The bill, introduced by Representative Van Dalsem of Perry county passed the House, 69 to 0, February 10. It will be given a hearing before the Senate Committee on County Lines and Boundaries in Little Rock Monday night.

County Judge Charles O. Smithers appointed a committee to go to Little Rock to represent the county at a hearing. The judge will head the committee and other members will be B. E. McCall, W. A. Jackson, J. J. Crow, L. B. White, H. W. Anderson, J. B. Holland and Sam D. Carson.

The territory affected includes the site of the Alum Fork dam that will impound water for Little Rock's new supply.

County Examiner W. A. Jackson estimated that the assessed valuation for 1935 of the land in the disputed district is about \$17,000 although the estimate does not include considerable land that is tax delinquent.

The city of Little Rock owns an estimated 1,000 acres and the federal forest reserve contains 45,000 acres.

## Speakers Speculative as To Possible Motives.

Speakers expressed astonishment at the boldness of the coup by which it is proposed to take this large tract away from this county.

There was much speculation as to what really is behind the move but none of the speakers professed to have accurate information.

"I do not understand the motive behind this bill and we should not criticize anyone until we determine the purpose of the proposal," said Judge Smithers in his opening remarks.

Mr. Crow, a former county judge and a native of Holland township, which would be affected by the proposed annexation, saw a possible motive in the proposed reservoir. He said that when the project is completed the land around the reservoir would be a beauty spot, a playground that would attract thousands of tourists.

He also called attention to possible revenues from the sale of timber on the government-owned portions of the territory.

"We don't know the motive and we don't know who we're fighting," he said, "but we should raise a protest at once."

Others suspected a possible plot eventually to bring the territory into Pulaski county through some sort of a deal to be made with Perry county officials later.

Judge Smithers told of his boyhood days in Holland township. He said that the first dollar that he ever earned came from teaching school in that section. He said that this district has been

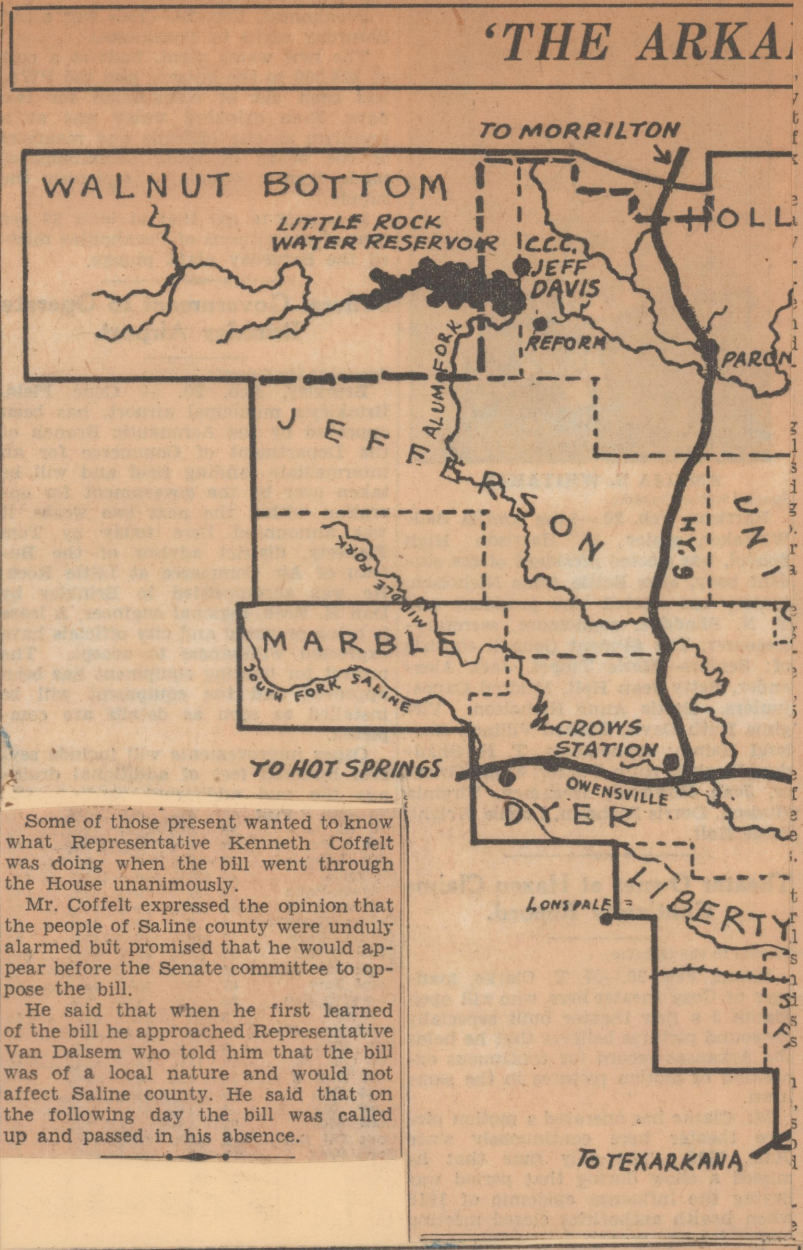
a part of Saline ever since the county was organized and the people living there want to remain in Saline county.

"This is one for Believe It or Not," said Justice J. W. Cahill of Collegeville. "They are proposing that these people shall go to bed in Saline county at night and wake up in the morning to find that they're in Perry county."

## Senator Kimzey Praised For His Watchfulness.

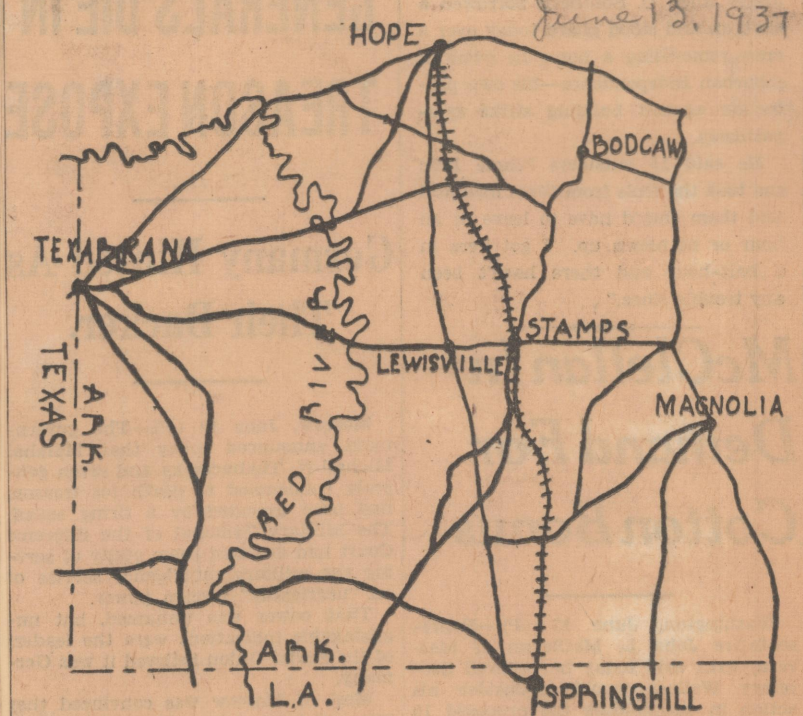
There was warm praise for Senator Joe Kimzey who, although a resident of Hot Spring county, quickly detected the possibilities in the bill and notified Judge Smithers. Saline county is included in Senator Kimzey's district.

No one here knew that the annexation had been proposed, much less passed by the House, until Senator Kimzey informed Judge Smithers. Judge Smithers' announcement in the Benton Courier, calling the mass meeting, was the first intimation that most residents had of the proposal.



## ALMOST IN ARKANSAS

Gazette 6-13-37



Map shows the location of Springhill, just over the state boundary line in Louisiana. Solid lines indicate highways. The railroad indicated is the Louisiana and Arkansas.



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE MAY

Special to the Gazette.  
Arkadelphia, Feb. 20.—Mr. and Mrs. George May will hold open house at their home in the Mount Zion community on the Arkadelphia-Okolona road, tomorrow afternoon in celebration of their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Mr. May runs one of the largest and finest farms in Clark county.

Before their marriage, Feb. 21, 1887 Mrs. May was Miss Rosetta Bridges, of the New Hope community. Mr. May is a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Seaborn B. May of Hollywood. The Mays have four children, Mrs. J. B. Jennings, Sulphur, Oklahoma; Mrs. E. B. Webb, Palestine, Texas; and Mrs. B. H. Daniel, Greenwood, Mississippi.

## Suspect in Death of Woman At Hot Springs Released.

Special to the Gazette.

Hot Springs, Feb. 20.—Sheriff Marion Anderson today ordered the release of Cliff Dennis, 26, held in connection with the death of Mrs. Marie Christensen, 30-year-old divorcee of Kenosha, Wis., whose body was found early yesterday on Highway 30 about a half-mile west of Hot Springs. Dennis had admitted having been with the woman earlier that night but said he left her before midnight. Officers have been unable to locate Dennis' companion, Clarence Jones, who, Dennis said, was with the woman in the courthouse bar on Ouachita avenue.

Edward Kreiling of near Mount Ida, who employed Mrs. Christensen as housekeeper about five months ago, was not held.

Jean Woodall, 55, who resides at the Vines rooming house at Third street and Ouachita avenue, said Mrs. Christensen and Dennis came to his place about 1 a. m. Thursday night. He said Mrs.

