

News of Other Days

Gazette 8-9-37
Fifty Years Ago.

(Arkansas Gazette, September 9, 1887.)
The main building of the Exposition will be completed about the 20th of this month, the structure being now ready for the roof. It is a capacious edifice, and will afford ample accommodation for a large exhibit. The addition of Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets will, it is believed, make the enclosure large enough for all purposes. The gully on Seventeenth street is being planked over and other work is being prosecuted, looking toward an early completion of the grounds. Messrs. Wiegell & O'Keefe have prepared a block of Fourche mountain granite for exhibition. One side of it has been polished by hand, showing what a beautiful polish this stone will take. The other sides are pointed, fine cut, rock face and pitch face. This shows that the stone is not only good for monuments, but for paving and any kind of building.

Gazette 11-14-37 IGNEOUS ROCK REPORTED.

George C. Branner, state geologist, said yesterday that A. L. Kitzelmann, who is drilling for oil in section 2-1S-13W near Mablevale has struck decomposed igneous rock at a depth of 1,400 feet.

"This is interesting," Mr. Branner said, "since it is the first knowledge that we have had that igneous rock was to be encountered at such a depth in this area. It indicates that there is a bed of the rock running from outcrop areas south of Little Rock to outcrop areas near Bauxite."

News of Other Days

Gazette 12-20-37
One Hundred Years Ago.

(Arkansas Gazette, December 19, 1837.)
The new and elegant steamer Ozark, Capt. Hosea, "showed off" before our city yesterday for the first time, taking a party of ladies and gentlemen from ten miles above.

Fifty Years Ago.

(Arkansas Gazette, December 20, 1887.)
Mr. Arthur Winslow, assistant geologist, who is coming down the Arkansas river in a boat for the purpose of determining the existence and the amount of coal along that stream, is expected to arrive today. He has been making extensive researches in Franklin, Logan, Sebastian and Yell counties and no doubt will have some interesting news to communicate.

Large Illinois Lake Vanishes Overnight, Fish Stranded.

Gazette 12-18-37

Elizabethtown, Ill., Dec. 17 (AP).—The earth has again swallowed the "Big Sink," a 600-acre lake situated between Elizabethtown and Cave-In-Rock.

The huge body of water disappeared overnight—so fast residents of the vicinity said they could see it sinking. It left only the fish, which were scooped up and carried away in automobiles.

The lake disappears every few years and refills from drainage. The action has been unexplained officially, but it was believed it sucks into an underground channel and flows into the Ohio river, about a mile and a half away. Another unexplained mystery is how the lake restocks itself with fish which reach a large size in three or four years.

The lake last sunk in the autumn of 1933 and remained dry until the floods last January.

Gazette 7-15-39
George C. Branner, state geologist, received notice from Charles P. Berkey, secretary of the Council of the Geological Society of America, of his re-appointment to membership on the Committee on Public Education in Geology for 1938. He is one of five members of the committee.

2-5-38 Fifty Years Ago.

(Arkansas Gazette, February 5, 1888.)
Dr. John C. Branner, state geologist, has just completed the geological survey of the section between Arkadelphia and Hot Springs. As soon as he can get into the field again he will complete it to the Arkansas River.

Four Centennial Markers For Clark County Delivered.

Special to the Gazette. 2-6-38
Arkadelphia, Feb. 5.—Four large iron tablets to mark historic sites in Clark county have been received by I. D. Jones from the Arkansas Centennial Commission and will be placed soon. Mr. Jones is chairman of the Clark County Centennial Committee.

One marker contains the inscription: "Fossil remains. Millions of years ago, in an age which the geologists call the cretaceous or the age of reptiles, the Gulf of Mexico covered this land. This sea was the home of gigantic swimming reptiles called the mosasurs, the largest

sea turtles, and many kinds of sharks and fishes. Their bones and teeth can be found here in the chalk, marl and sand which was once the bed of the ancient sea. Gigantic dinosaurs then roamed the land."

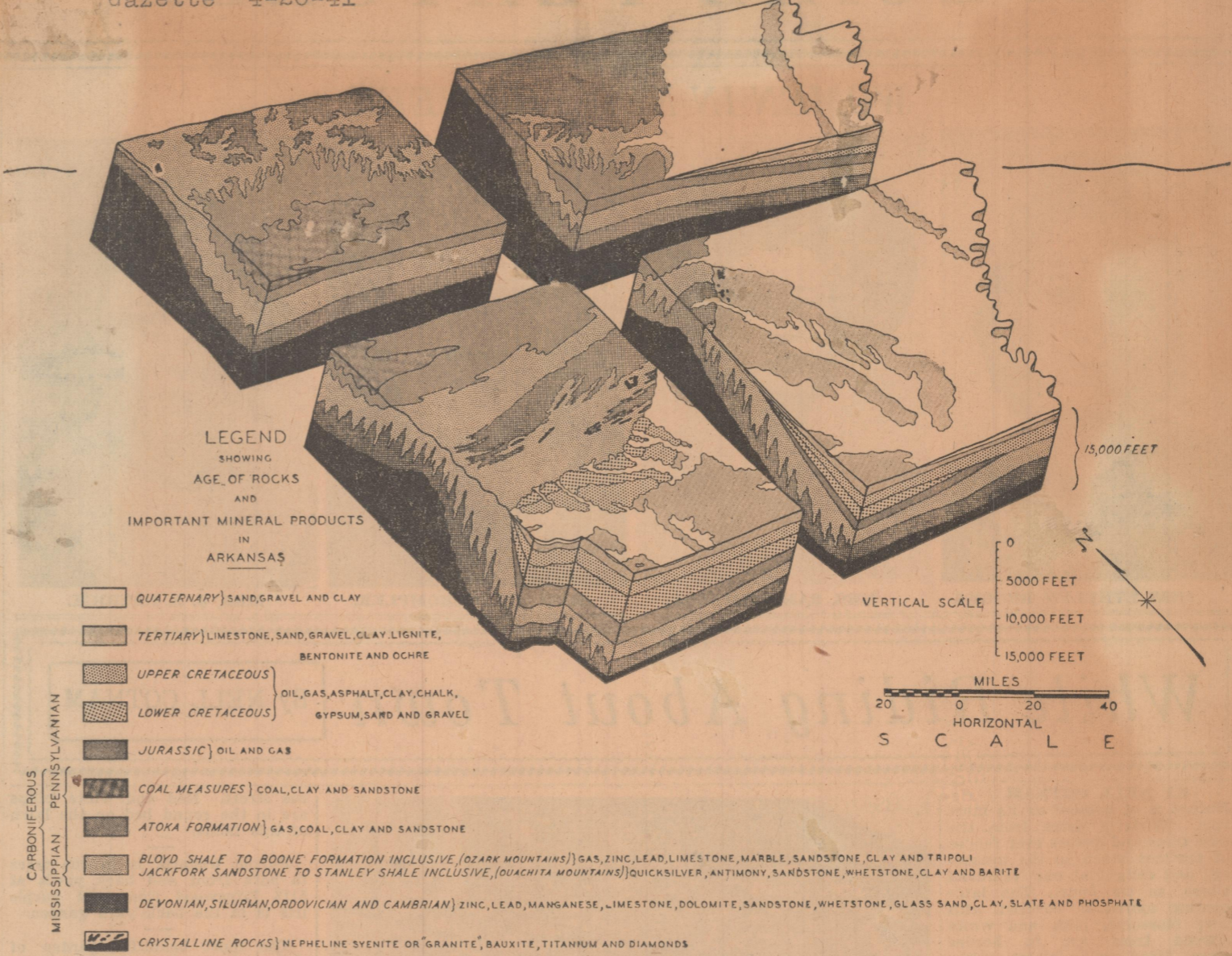
Another marker will be placed at the courthouse with the following inscription: "The county seat of Clark county was moved to this site in 1842, when the name of the place was changed from Blakeley's Hill to Arkadelphia. The county was named in honor of William Clark, governor of Missouri when Arkansas territory was organized."

Salt Industry Commemorated.
The "First Manufacturing Plant in Arkansas" is the title on the marker that will be placed in a small park on the bank of Saline creek, a mile east of Arkadelphia.

On the old Barkman farm, beside Highway 67 on the Caddo river, three miles north of Arkadelphia, will be placed the other marker. The marker is captioned "The Barkman Home." On it is lettered: "Choctaw, Cherokee and Caddo Indian trace; DeSoto trail in 1541, also old military road used by troops in march to Mexico and immigrants to Texas and early travelers; site of first home, postoffice, 'Fourche a Caddo,' and courthouse; stage coach inn; steamboat landing; race track, built in Clark county in 1806 by Jacob Barkman."

PRINCIPAL FACTS OF ARKANSAS GEOLOGY

Gazette 4-20-41



(Prepared by the Office of George C. Branner, State Geologist.)

The above block diagram of Arkansas, prepared by the office of George C. Branner, state geologist, is an interpretation of the facts about Arkansas geology which have been gathered up to the present time. It is, of course, impossible to know definitely what is 10,000 or 15,000 feet underground, but from a study of deep well records and the structure of the surface rocks, it is possible to gain some idea of conditions.

All but about 14 square miles of the land surface of the state consists of sedimentary beds, that is, rocks originally laid down as sediments on the bottoms of salt or fresh water bodies and consist of

sandstones, limestones, chinks and shales or claystones. The rocks in the highlands of the northern and western portions of the state are mostly hard and firmly cemented, while those in the lowland or Gulf Coastal Plain of the south and east are mostly soft and loosely packed. Crystallized rocks, which were once molten, are exposed at the surface in a few small areas, chiefly in Pulaski, Saline, Garland and Pike counties.

Relation of Formations.
The relation of the rock formations in the highland to those in the lowlands can be seen in the block diagram, the lowland formations overlapping the highland formations to the east and south. It is to be noted that the rocks laid

down during the Mississippian, Ordovician, Silurian and Devonian time and which are exposed in the Ozarks, incline to the south and are buried deeply beneath the Arkansas river valley. Due to the great compressive forces from the south, these beds were intensely folded and exposed at the surface by erosion in the Ouachita mountains.

The lowland or Gulf Coastal Plain area bounds the highland on the east and south. The beds of Quaternary age form a thin surface mantle over most of the area, and these are underlain by formations of Tertiary, Upper and Lower Cretaceous and Jurassic age.

Value of Minerals.
The minerals of greatest present

value in the Ozark region are marble, limestone, zinc and lead, manganese, glass sand and tripoli; the Arkansas valley has produced principally coal and gas; and the Ouachita mountains chiefly quicksilver, antimony, slate and whetstone. The Gulf Coastal Plain has produced oil and gas, chalk, clay, sand and gravel. The crystalline rocks in the Gulf Coastal Plain and Ouachita mountains are the source of bauxite, nepheline syenite, titanium and diamonds.

From 1888 to 1939 the value of minerals produced in the lowland area was \$608,731,529, or 73 per cent of the state total, while of the highland area was \$228,758,844, or 27 per cent.