

Marble Firm At Batesville Expanding

Gazette 8-22-37

Batesville, Aug. 21. — Instead of hitching their business chariot to a star, R. E. Overman, mayor of Little Rock, and H. F. Wolford, a pioneer marble man of the White river country, hitched it to the St. Clair marble ledge, about 15 years ago, and it has been taking them places ever since. The marble quarry they have developed is located on the White River division of the Missouri Pacific, five miles south of Guion, in Izard county. When the writer visited this quarry, during the early days of its development it didn't look very promising. Today it is an immense opening in the side of the mountain, 65 feet high and about 100 yards wide, from which they are getting seven distinct colors and patterns of marble, each coming from its own blanket vein. These colors and patterns run through the grays and pinks, some nearly solid, others variegated, with clouded effects.

The quarry is equipped with modern equipment, and handling the huge blocks of stone is much like handling wood, except the process is of course, much slower. A big channeling machine cuts the stone from the bottom of the quarry, and three wire saws cut these huge blocks into sizes suitable for gang sawing. The wire saws also cut out quarry blocks, where the stone is located where they can be used efficiently. The wire saw method is the most economical way of cutting stone. An endless three-eighth steel wire, running from a high speed pulley passes over the block to be cut, weighted at both ends of the block by heavy pulleys which allows the wire to go over the block, and down each end, which exerts a pressure on the top. Water and sand are fed into the little gash made by the fast moving strand, and the cutting is done by friction. An immense crane at the quarry handles the big blocks of marble with ease.

The finishing plant, one of the best equipped in this section, is located at Batesville. It consists of one gang saw that can saw 60 one-inch slabs from a big block at one time, a rubbing board, polishing machines, air tools, cutoff saws, etc.

The introduction of a new commercial stone or marble is a slow process, but the St. Clair Marble Company now have it pretty well established all over the United States. At present, most of the production is going into new post-offices, colleges, schools, etc., in all parts of the country. In Little Rock, it has been used in the McGehee hotel, North Little Rock postoffice, Democrat Printing and Lithographing Company's building, and in the Medical Arts building at Hot Springs.

Arkansas Marble to Be Used In Long Island Courthouse.

Special to the Gazette. 9-26-37
Batesville, Sept. 25.—Mayor R. E. Overman of Little Rock, owner of the St. Clair Marble Co. of Batesville, was here today to place an order for six carloads of white marble to be shipped to Jamaica, Long Island. It will be used in the construction of a courthouse. The marble is valued at about \$10,000.

Accompanying him were his son, Richard E. Overman Jr., and M. L. Crist, engineer in charge of construction of the Little Rock water project at Alum Fork. With two Batesville sportsmen, Buford Parse and Milo Hart, they went dove hunting this afternoon and each bagged 15 birds, the limit.

Black Marble Laboratory Established

Special to the Gazette. 10-24-37

Batesville, Oct. 23.—The Batesville Black Marble Company has established an experimental laboratory on the Roy Jeffery property here, and is carrying on experiments with black marble dust.

The laboratory is in charge of Frank Spencer, formerly of Little Rock. Using black marble dust as a base, they are making a paint that dries with a stone surface, that can be applied to wood. It seems to be highly adaptable for painting shingle roofs, making them both water and fireproof. They are also making razor hones, whet stones and

abrasive wheels. Tile in solid and variegated colors is another product they have developed. They have recently added a rod mill to their equipment at their terrazzo plant, which converts all of the fines into dust, which they expect to develop into one of their most profitable by products. Black marble carries about 20 per cent silica, which makes it highly adaptable to the new uses to which it is being applied.

Marble From Batesville Used In Philadelphia Building.

Special to the Gazette. 8-22-37
Batesville, Aug. 21.—In an interview, Roy Jeffery, of the Arkansas Black Marble Company here said that the concern had just made a large shipment of commercial blocks, to a firm in Philadelphia, to be used in the construction of buildings in that city. During the last few years, nearly every modern building that has been constructed, in nearly every city in the United States, contains Arkansas black marble, either in the terrazzo floors or in the trims. It took a number of years to convince architects and contractors that the Arkansas marble would stand up, but they now concede that it is equal too, if not better than the best grade of Belgian black.

A new market for black marble dust that has developed during the last few weeks furnishes an outlet for an item of waste. The large blocks are utilized for cutting and finishing into specified sizes for interior trims. The smaller blocks are crushed and screened for terrazzo, and the dust is sold for a base for the best house paints. Its value for this purpose is enhanced by the fact that it carries around 20 per cent silica.

The company does not finish any of its marble but ships it in commercial blocks, or has it cut and finished at other marble plants here. They are making arrangements now to increase their capital and install marble saws and finishing equipment, to cut and finish all orders to specifications.

NEW USES DEVELOPED FOR ARKANSAS BLACK MARBLE BY-PRODUCTS

Special to the Gazette. 10-30-38

Mountain Home, Oct. 29.—What is believed to be the finest deposit of black marble in the United States is now being quarried by the Batesville Black Marble Company, Batesville. It is 18 feet thick, lying in a blanket formation, with nine distinct veins varying from eight to 38 inches thick. The veins are separated from one another by thin layers of black shale from 1 to 4 inches thick.

The Batesville concern is said to be the only one in the United States now manufacturing terrazzo from domestic black marble, although a few concerns in the east are making it from Belgian black marble chips.

In addition to the production of terrazzo, the company produces black marble flour as a by-product which is being used extensively as an ingredient in the manufacture of several grades of paints. A small experimental laboratory is now being operated by the company to develop new uses for black marble flour.

New Products in Development Stage.
Several products are being developed, including a fireproof paint for application to wood, a plaster that dries to the hardness of concrete, floor tiles in plain and variegated colors, razor hones and abrasive wheels.

To meet the increased demand for these products, the Batesville company has increased the daily capacity from 40 to 60 tons. The principal additions to the plant include the installation of a Raymond hammer mill for secondary crushing, and a rod mill with a daily capacity of 25 tons, which reduces to a flour dust all of the fines running smaller than 12 mesh. Black marble dust, which carries a silica content of 20 per cent, is a new product for this concern.

Domestic black marble terrazzo is made in four standard sizes: No. 0, 3-16 inch; No. 1, 1-4 inch; No. 2, 3-8 inch, and No. 3, 7-16 inch.

While the manufacture of black marble terrazzo from domestic stone presents no difficult technical or mechanical problems, it has to be handled in a careful manner to insure a clean, uniform product. Most of the product manufactured to date by the Batesville company has been from small boulders and undersized and broken pieces coming from the quarry.

Terrazzo Production Method.
The first step the stone passes through is the cleaning operation. All of the heavier dirt and clay is scraped off, and then it is thoroughly washed

Batesville Marble In Good Demand.

Batesville, June 17.—Roy Jeffery, one of the owners of the Batesville Black Marble Company, said yesterday black marble had been in good demand for several weeks. The company is filling orders at this time for commercial blocks and dimension material cut to specification.

Its black marble terrazzo mill also is in operation. Terrazzo is manufactured from black marble by crushing and screening the small particles into specified sizes. It is used in concrete for laying floors. After the whole is laid enmass and allowed to "set," it is polished to a smooth, even surface and makes a beautiful and lasting floor. It is popular for hotel lobbies and office buildings. Batesville black marble is said to be the only black marble quarried in the United States, and equal in texture, polishing qualities and strength to Belgium black marble, which was utilized in the United States until the Batesville quarries were put on a producing basis.

Uncover Deposit Of Marble in Izard.

Guion, June 17.—The St. Clair Marble Company, which operates a quarry five miles south of this Izard County town, on the White River Railroad, recently uncovered approximately 10,000 cubic feet of fine marble, which is being sawed into blocks for shipment to the finishing plant at Batesville.

Four varieties of marble, St. Clair pink, golden vein, dark platinum and fleur golden vein, are quarried.

In its quarry operations, the company operates the only "wire saw" used in this section of the state. This saw in a large measure takes the place of a channeling machine and is much cheaper to operate. This method for cutting has been used by the company for many years.

with a hose.

When the stone is dry, it is passed through a 14-inch jaw crusher which reduces the material to egg size and smaller. From the jaw crusher the product flows by belt conveyor to the hammermill, where it is further reduced

in size. From this mill it is carried by belt conveyor to a 16-foot trommel screen, with four four-foot sections of different mesh, each section conforming with one of the four standard terrazzo sizes manufactured. All of the oversize is passed back through the hammer mill and screens and the fines, under 12 mesh, are blown into the rod mill and reduced to dust. The four standard sizes of terrazzo go through chutes by gravity to their respective bins.

At the bins the terrazzo is sacked in 100-pound burlap bags and is ready for shipment.

Terrazzo floors are used principally in corridors, courts, rotundas and lobbies in public buildings. The terrazzo is imbedded in Portland cement mortar, after which it is honed down level and polished. It is laid by men skilled in the practice. Not every tile-setter has the ability to lay it.

Architects' specifications for terrazzo floors usually accompany specifications for interior marble and tile, and the marble and tile contractor usually bids for the entire job.

Most producers of finished marble carry a stock of terrazzo chips in stock in various colors. A large tonnage of terrazzo chips is made abroad, waste from foreign marble, and is shipped into the United States as crushed stone chips. Other chips are manufactured in this country from waste and cull stock of imported marble. Black marble terrazzo is used in the construction of high grade floors because of its wearing quality and its excellent contrast with lighter colored marble wainscoting and trims.

Foreign Competition Serious.

At the present time producers of Arkansas black marble terrazzo have to contend with serious foreign competition. Belgium black marble producers ship black marble blocks and terrazzo into the United States as ship ballast, which carries a rate as low as 25 cents a ton. Domestic black marble, outside of Arkansas, does not offer serious competition, for the reason that the terrazzo made from this marble does not polish a jet black, which detracts from its appearance as a contrast with lighter marble.

Arkansas producers of black marble terrazzo have held the price f. o. b. their plant at about \$11 a ton. The difference in price between the Belgium

black and the Arkansas product is a measure of the distance, in terms of freight rates, to which Arkansas producers can ship their product at a profit. The large potential market for the latter, in the United States, lies between the Appalachians and the Rocky mountains. A lot of their product is going into this territory now, and some shipments have been made to New York and other seaboard states. The Belgian black marble concerns, however, are keen competitors, and it is to be expected that they will not surrender their former practical monopoly of the business to Arkansas producers without strong resistance.

There has been plenty of grief in the development of the black marble industry in north Arkansas, and only the strong hearted have held on. George Terry of Batesville, who organized the Batesville Black Marble Company, might be termed the pioneer, at least of latter day developments. He opened up the only commercial quarries that have lasted, and developed the terrazzo business.

While the occurrence of black marble in north Arkansas has been heralded as a new discovery, it was well known to the early settlers of the region as far back as 1859. The principal reason for the lack of development in the early days was bad roads, from the vicinity of Oil Trough, near Batesville, in Independence county. In 1879 a wagon load of black marble was quarried on a ridge three miles southwest of Oil Trough and shipped by water to Louisville, Ky. for finishing. This was the first recorded shipment of this marble from the district. About 1890, three wagon loads of black marble were quarried two miles northeast of Leslie in Searcy county. This was hauled over the mountains to Plumerville and shipped by rail to Kansas City, Mo., for cutting and finishing. These activities constitute the early day operations of the field.

The deposits lay inland from the railroads and it was practically impossible to move heavy blocks by wagon to shipping points. Road improvement began in 1925, and as a result of this improvement and a heavier demand for dark colored stone, interest was revived in the development of the black marble deposits, particularly in the vicinity of Batesville, in Independence county.

Early Difficulties Overcome.
Later day prospectors for black marble quarries found plenty of hard nuts to crack in their search. Some thought they had found fine, commercial deposits, but when the stone was cut and polished it showed fine, white silica hair lines. Others found the marble in boulder formation, with the boulders too small for commercial blocks. Many prospectors abandoned their efforts due to lack of adequate financing or because they did not find deposits that could be worked profitably.

Mr. Terry is one of those who persisted in the work. He studied overlying formations as well as the marble deposits, and finally determined those conditions under which commercial black marble occurred.

To be certain that the Arkansas black marble would compete with the Belgian product, comparative tests were made of the two. These tests indicated that the physical character of both stones, as well as their appearance were approximately the same.

Big Deposit of Red Marble Found in Izard County.

Special to the Gazette. 7-4-39

Melbourne, July 3.—A marble deposit estimated to contain not less than 60,000 tons has been discovered in the southern part of Izard county, about a mile east of the White River division of the Missouri Pacific railroad, 20 miles south of Melbourne, E. A. Smith, in charge of the mineral survey, said today. The marble, which takes a deep red color when polished, weighs 178 pounds to the cubic foot, Mr. Smith said. He believes it probably is the only deposit of its kind in the state. It resembles St. Clair marble, but has a deeper red and seems more durable, Mr. Smith said.

Marble Deposit of Excellent Quality

Melbourne.—A valuable marble deposit, estimated to contain not less than 60,000 tons, has been discovered in the southern part of the county, about a mile east of the White river railroad, according to E. A. Smith, in charge of a mineral survey.

The marble, which takes a deep red color when polished, weighs 178 pounds to the cubic foot, Mr. Smith said, and is probably the only deposit of its kind in the state. It resembles St. Clair marble to some extent, but has a deeper red and seems more durable, Mr. Smith said.

Ark. Black Marble Shipped To Washington

Arkansas black marble is being used in several new buildings in Washington, D. C. for decorative purposes. The Arkansas Black Marble

Company, located in Batesville, has shipped several cars of slabs this summer to be used in a juvenile court building, city police hall and government library.

The marble was quarried near Locust Grove in a quarry opened a few years ago. It is at this quarry that the company located their crushing plant early this summer.

Terrazzo, the by product of the quarry, is prepared for shipping at the plant, and brought to the railroad by trucks. Early this summer the company shipped its one hundredth car of terrazzo to Central Commercial Company, Chicago distributors.

Izard Marble of Five Colors For Postoffice at Hope.

Gazette 11-5-39

Special to the Gazette.
Guion, Nov. 4.—A large crew of men is at work at the St. Clair Marble Company's quarry, five miles south of here on the White River railroad. Mr. Wolford, superintendent of the company, said his company is working on a contract for the new courthouse at Hope. It will furnish marble of five colors for interior work on this job.

TERRAZZO PLANT IN OPERATION AT SITE OF QUARRY

Gazette 11-19-39

Product Only One Of Kind in U. S.

Special to the Gazette.

Batesville, Nov. 18.—The Arkansas Black Marble Corporation, which operates several quarries on a 160-acre tract eight miles south of here, has its terrazzo plant in operation and is shipping both terrazzo and commercial blocks direct from the scene of operation. The terrazzo plant formerly was operated at Batesville but because of the extra expense in moving material from the quarry to the plant, it was moved to the quarry.

Belgian Black Marble Only Rival in Field.

The Arkansas Black Marble Corporation is the only concern in the United States now manufacturing black marble terrazzo from native black marble. Some terrazzo made from black marble is being manufactured in the East from Belgian black marble chips.

Terrazzo is manufactured by crushing the marble into small pieces and screening it to standard sizes. The Arkansas Black Marble Corporation makes four sizes: No. 0, 3-16; No. 1, 1-4; No. 2, 3-8, and No. 3, 7-16. It is used for floors and goes principally in floors in hotel lobbies, courts, rotundas and other public buildings. Terrazzo floors are made by imbedding the terrazzo in Portland cement mortar, after which the whole is honed down level, which makes an attractive and lasting floor.

The Arkansas Black Marble Corporation makes its terrazzo from the smaller blocks and boulders from the quarries which are not large enough for commercial blocks.

In the manufacture of terrazzo, the stone first is passed through a jaw crusher which reduces the material to about egg size. From this machine the material goes into a hammer mill which breaks it up into smaller pieces. From the hammer mill it passes through rotary screens, which screen it to standard sizes. All the dust then is blown out of it, and it is sacked in 100-pound sacks and shipped.

Arkansas Marble Now Goes Into Nearly Every State.

Arkansas is the only state today that produces black marble in commercial blocks. The industry was developed by George Terry of Batesville. He started prospecting for commercial black marble deposits about 20 years ago, and has developed several good quarries. Several years ago, Roy Jeffery of Batesville joined him and they organized the Arkansas Black Marble Corporation. They ship their product now into practically every state. They have no domestic competition. Before they started operations, most of the black marble used in the United States came from Belgium. While they have adequate quarrying and terrazzo equipment, they are hampered in their production of finished stone by lack of a finishing plant.

Arkansas black marble is as good or better than that imported from Belgium. A big marble company recently asked for samples of this marble. The company sent samples of quarry run. In a few days officials received a letter stating that the prospective buyers did not want picked samples. They were

informed that the samples were average samples. In a few days a large truck arrived, the stone was checked for grade, and new customers hauled out a load. They have been coming back ever since.

The firm has two quarries on the property, one having been developed recently. It also has opened up some surface diggings, from which it is taking small boulders for use in the manufacture of terrazzo.

Large Tract of Marble Land Acquired.

Special to the Gazette. 2-18-40

Batesville, Feb. 17.—H. E. Wolford, superintendent of the St. Clair Marble Company here, reported that his concern is completing an order for 4,000 square feet of finished marble for the Hempstead county courthouse at Hope. The company's quarry is located about two miles south Guion, on the Missouri Pacific railroad, in Izard county. The cutting and finishing plant is located at Batesville. Mr. Wolford has just bought a big tract of marble land across the White river from Williamson Switch, in Stone county.

Batesville Marble Finds Good Market

Gazette 8-11-40

Special to the Gazette.

Batesville, Aug. 10.—During the last few weeks the Arkansas Black Marble Company of Batesville has had orders for approximately 10,000 cubic feet of crude blocks. All of this is going into the new buildings in Washington, D. C.

The blocks are shipped to a marble concern at Carthage, Mo., where it is cut and dressed to specifications, then forwarded to its destination.

The Arkansas Black Marble Company also has its terrazzo plant in active operation. Three cars have been shipped during the last month and the firm has orders for more. Because Arkansas Black is equal to or better than Belgium black, it now is being specified by architects in nearly all the better buildings in the United States.



Black marble quarry near Batesville. Holes are drilled in rock outlining block to be removed. Wedges driven into the drill holes force block out of position. (Photographs by courtesy of Esso Oilways.)

of the new bridge across White river at Batesville in 1928 that made the the business on large proportions.

The Batesville Black Marble Company's deposit covers nearly 200 acres. Two quarries are operated. Primary tests indicated the deposit consists of nine separate strata, each from eight to 38 inches thick. These strata are separated by strata of black shale from an inch to four inches thick. E. E. Bonewitz, in a report compiled for the Arkansas Geological Survey, says of the Batesville black marble: "Physical tests of the marble indicate that it has strength and durability far in excess of commercial requirements, both as a trim and terrazzo."

Mining of the black marble is similar to strip mining of coal and other minerals. The layer of earth covering the stone is removed and holes drilled to form the outline of the slab to be removed. By driving wedges into these holes the slab is freed from the vein. Slabs six to 12 feet long and from two to three feet wide are usually removed. They are about a foot thick.

To reduce these slabs to the desired size—usually about seven-eighths of an inch thick—two kinds of saws are



Adjusting the chisel on a Bedford planer on which black marble blocks are cut to desired size..

Black Marble From Arkansas

Increased Demand and Better Transportation Facilities Are Resulting in Wider Use of Valuable and Beautiful Marble From Independence County.

By Walter Scott.

8-18-40 Gazette

Many indications have been given during recent months of increased recognition for one of Arkansas's most interesting natural resources—black marble.

The result of this increased use has been a boom in the black marble quarrying industry in the vicinity of Batesville. To speed up production, one company, the Arkansas Black Marble Corporation, has moved its operations from Batesville to its quarries eight miles south of the city. The change permitted the company to increase its daily capacity to 80 tons, double the former capacity.

Black marble is utilized in two forms for commercial purposes. The large pieces are cut into slabs and used for interior trim. Small pieces are crushed and screened to uniform sizes for use as a top layer on concrete floors to make them decorative.

Because of its dead black color and its susceptibility to polishing, the marble has passed rigorous government tests and is used for interior trimming in many public buildings. It also is in demand for table tops, fireplaces, soda fountain bars, pedestals, statuary and ornamental novelties.

Before Arkansas black marble became popular, the quarries near Namur, Italy, furnished most of the true stone, although a fair grade has been produced in Vermont, New York, Virginia and Texas. But authorities declare that the Arkansas black marble is the only true variety yet found in this country, and because of its freedom from impurities, is of highest quality.

It is hard to understand that in chemical composition black marble is very much like sandstone. But sandstone has calcium or magnesium carbonates that are non-crystalline, while in black marble heat and tremendous pressure has caused them to crystallize.

The black color comes from bitum-

inous particles. Since black marble is very porous, it does not wear well in the open and therefore is utilized largely for interior decorations, where the water and wind can not erode and crack it.

The existence of a high grade of black marble in northern Arkansas has been known nearly 100 years, but its production for commercial use started only about a decade ago. David Dale Owen, pioneer Arkansas geologist, reported as early as 1859 the presence of the stone, which he found in Independence county, near Oil Trough. Twenty years later one wagonload of the stone was quarried on a ridge west of Oil Trough, hauled by ox team to White river, and shipped by boat to Louisville, Ky., to be finished. A year after that, in 1890, three wagonloads quarried near Leslie, in Searcy county, were shipped to Kansas City.

But lack of good roads for hauling the heavy stone impeded development of the black marble mining industry until about 10 years ago. Even then, many were the disappointments encountered by pioneers in the business. In many instances deposits that appeared to be excellent, proved to contain marble with fine, white silica lines running through it when polished. In other cases the stone was found in boulder formation, too small for commercial blocks. Because the quarrying and processing of black marble requires heavy investment, many of the early prospectors were forced to abandon their efforts.

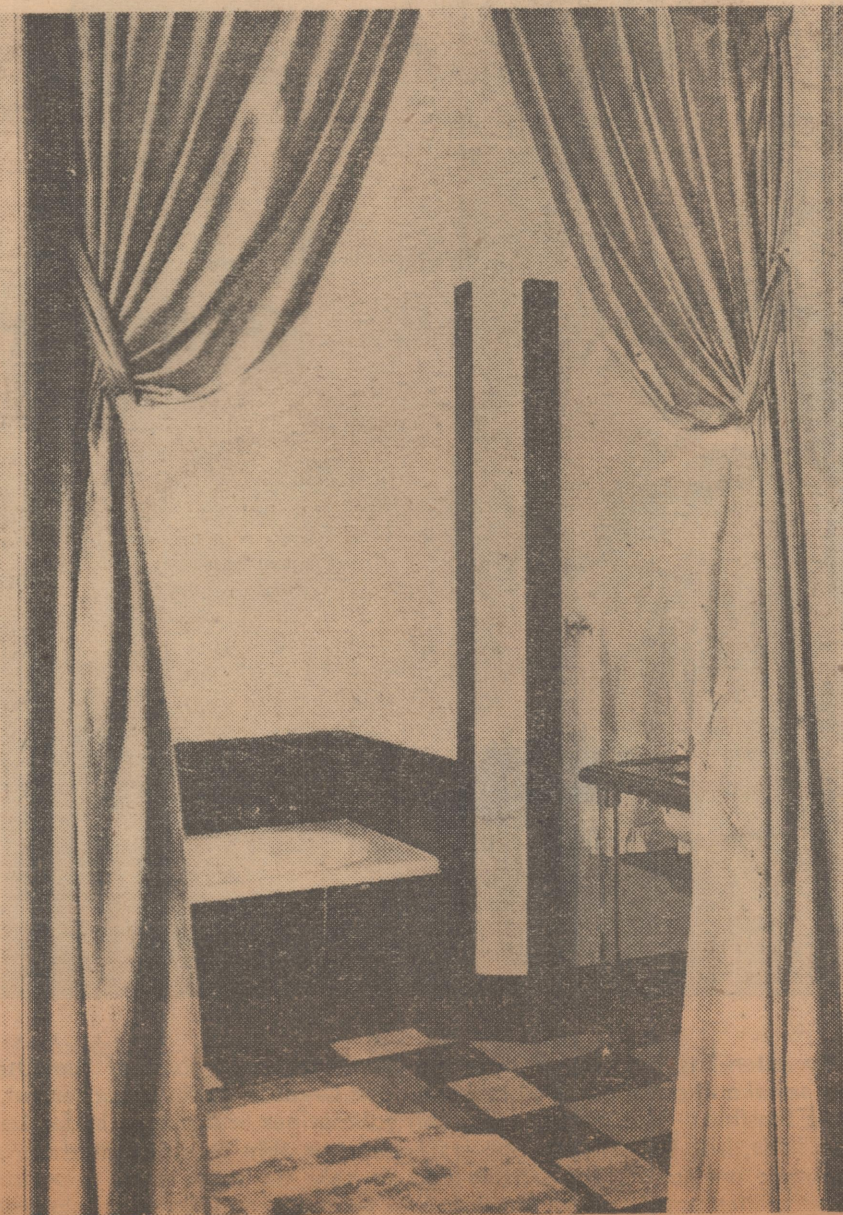
George Terry, one of the owners of the Arkansas Black Marble Corporation, is one of the pioneers who persisted until successful. But his efforts were based on thorough study and analysis of all possible deposits. He had numerous tests made of all samples before definitely launching into the development of his claims.

It would not seem, at first thought,

that a bridge could have any important bearing on the development of an industry. But it was the completion of the new bridge across White river

at Batesville in 1928 that made the proven deposits accessible and started industry. But it was the completion

(Continued on Page 6.)



Arkansas black marble trim in bathroom of large New York hotel.

used, one a circular saw and the other a saw using flat blades that move back and forth across the stone while water containing an abrasive runs over the blades. Finishing of the block is done with a revolving table on which rests the black marble beneath an iron block, with a liquid abrasive separating it from the table.

The marble is polished with soapstone and water first, and then shined with a buffer wheel.

The black marble terrazzo chips are produced in four sizes, 3-16 of an inch, 1-4 of an inch, 3-8 of an inch and 7-16 of an inch. While no difficult technical problems are present in the terrazzo manufacturing process, care must be taken that the chips be kept clear from impurities which would mar its beauty.

In the Batesville area the terrazzo chips are made from the small black marble boulders occurring in clay in the upper strata of the deposit. After

their removal from the ground they are scraped and then thoroughly washed to remove all traces of clay.

They next pass through a crusher with 14-inch jaws that reduces each rock to the size of an egg. Then they pass through a hammer mill, which crushes the rocks to tiny particles. Then the chips pass over screens with mesh of four sizes, which separates the chips into their standard lot. Any chips too large to pass through the screens return to the crusher and are reduced again. From the screens the chips flow into bins, where they are stored until shipped for use.

The terrazzo chips are shipped in sacks containing 100 pounds each. They are poured on the top of concrete floors and after the concrete has set, are honed level with the floor. The laying of terrazzo is a job that requires experience in skill to obtain uniform distribution of the chips and a highly polished finish.



Workman operating polisher to obtain bright finish on Arkansas black marble.

Terrazzo chips are produced similarly from other marbles, many of them in foreign countries. Black marble terrazzo is popular because of the contrast it affords with lighter colored stones.

Tom Shiras of Mountain Home, newspaper publisher who has spent many years in north Arkansas and has studied the minerals of that part of the state and their development, has found that the low freight rates on imported black marble terrazzo chips from Belgium provides the keenest competition to the Arkansas manufacturers.

"Belgium black marble blocks and

terrazzo chips are brought to the United States in the holds of ships as ballast, with freight rates as low as 25 cents a ton," he says. "So the difference between the price of Belgium marble and Arkansas black marble is the difference in freight rate to get it to its destination. The large potential market for Arkansas producers is the territory between the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains, although some inroads have been made in the Belgian trade in the East."

But as transportation facilities increase, and the value of the Arkansas black marble becomes wider known, there is a great future possibility for its development, he says.

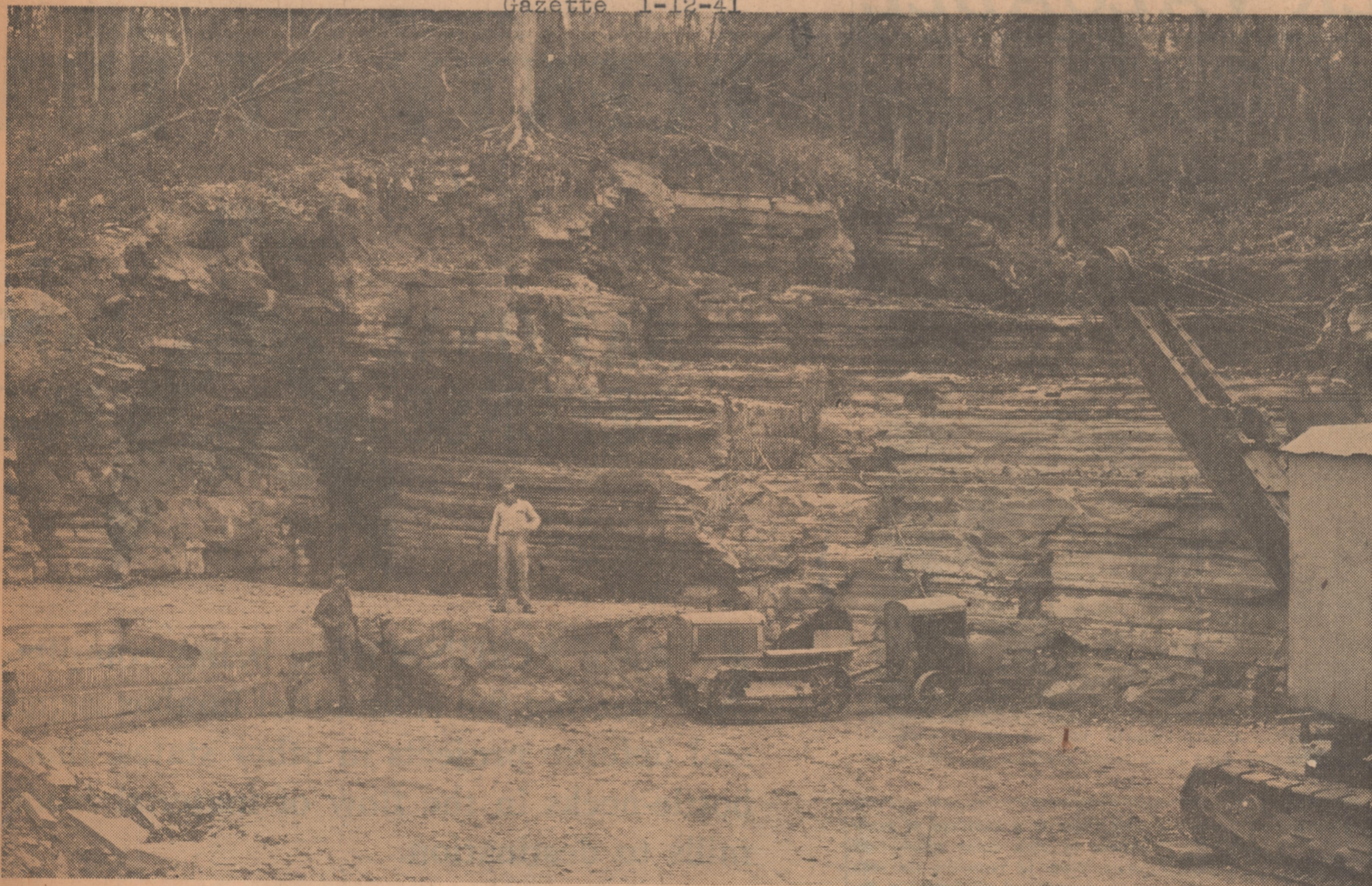
Black Marble Terrazzo Demand Unusually Heavy.

Special to the Gazette. 3-8-42
Batesville, March 7. — The demand for black marble terrazzo, which is manufactured by the Arkansas Black Marble Company here, is unusually heavy, and its terrazzo plant has been put in operation. Terrazzo is a chip made from black marble and is used in hotel lobby floors, public building floors and other floors. It is laid in concrete until the latter sets, then buffed and polished off to floor level.

Because construction of public buildings has almost stopped because of war, the demand for black marble is weak. Most of the terrazzo now being used for floors is going into rebuilt floors. The black marble quarries in Independence county are the only quarries in the United States now producing true black marble. They are located about 10 miles west of Batesville. The terrazzo plant is located at the quarries.

ARKANSAS INDUSTRY

Gazette 1-12-41



Black marble quarry near Batesville. Holes are drilled in rock outlying block to be removed. Wedges driven into the drill holes force the block out of position. —Photograph by Courtesy of Esso Oilways.

Black Marble Firm Doing Big Business

Special to the Gazette. 2-9-41
Batesville, Feb. 8.—Enjoying the best season in its history, the Arkansas Black Marble Company added additional men to its crew and installed an immense new derrick to facilitate production this week. The firm operates several quarries and a terrazzo plant near

here. Bad weather has hindered operations in the quarries, making activity during good weather hum.

The company has no marble finishing plant, and the commercial blocks go to a large concern at Carthage, Mo., for finishing. It does operate a terrazzo plant, however, and this plant is in operation most of the time. Terrazzo is made by crushing the black marble into small pieces, which are laid in concrete floors. These terrazzo floors are becoming increasingly popular for all types of public buildings, and black marble is one of the most popular materials used.

The company expects a record business the coming spring, and is getting ready to take care of it.