



DISPATCHER—Yes sir, that clackety-clack that youngsters hear of the new streamlined station of the Griffith Park Miniature Railroad is the real thing—the sound of a telegrapher's key. The new service enables visitors to send Western Union messages anywhere in the U. S. Actress Virginia Mayo officially opened the new service, assisting 7-year-old Ricky Allen Connel in sending out the first message.

Nation Has 40-Year Supply of Fluorspar for Steel Production

One of the more important raw materials used in steel-making is fluorspar, or calcium fluoride. Fluorspar, found in the deposits in Illinois and Kentucky, from which 85 percent of our supply is taken, is a brittle, crystalline mineral which varies in color from white through green, brown and red to purple, according to the American Iron and Steel Institute.

Open hearth furnaces, consuming an average of six pounds per ton, are the largest fluorspar consumers. When fluorspar is added to the slag which covers molten steel during the melting process, it causes the slag to become more fluid without change in chemical properties.

As a result of the increased fluidity, impurities are more quickly removed from the molten steel because the slag can more intimately associate with them. In addition, the action of fluorspar makes possible a quicker transference of heat to the metal.

Fluorspar is mined underground in much the same fashion as are most metal ores. The three grades of fluorspar most commonly marketed are acid, ceramic and metallurgical grades which contain 98, 95 and 85 percent calcium fluoride, respectively.

The acid grade is used to manufacture hydrofluoric acid which is used chiefly in the aluminum industry for making synthetic cryolite. Synthetic cryolite is the principal solvent for bauxite, the ore of aluminum.

The ceramic grade of fluorspar is used in the manufacture of enamels, facings for structural and ornamental brick and in opalescent, opaque and colored glass.

Although fluorspar is found in many states, our commercial supplies are mainly derived from about a dozen states of which Illinois, Kentucky, Colorado and New Mexico now supply more than 95 percent. Recent surveys indicate that there is a 40-year supply at the 1935-39 rate of consumption in the Illinois-Kentucky areas alone.

For many years the United States has been the world's leading producer of fluorspar. It accounted for 37 percent of the total in prewar years. Germany was second with 37 percent, followed by Russia, 13 percent; France, 9 percent; United Kingdom, 6 percent; Chosen, 2 percent; Italy, 2 percent and Newfoundland 1.6 percent.

Prior to World War II the bulk of the United States' meager imports of acid grade fluorspar came from France, Germany, Newfoundland, Tunisia and the Union of South Africa. Since World War II the shipments have come chiefly from Mexico, Canada, Newfoundland, Spain and the Union of South Africa.

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