

New Mine Filing Regulations Explained

Josephine county, with its extensive mining lands, is interested in the recent reopening to mining entry of O. and C. lands.

Procedure under the new law for filing is explained in the following statement by Eugene K. Peterson, district forester, Medford. It is as follows:

The exploration and development of mineral deposits on more than 2½ million acres of O. and C. lands in Western Oregon is now permissible under the provision of Public Law 477 signed on April 8, 1948, by President Truman, Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug announced last Thursday.

Since 1937 the O. and C. lands have been closed to new mineral entries because of a ruling by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior that the general U. S. mining laws were in conflict with the act of August 28, 1937, which provided that forest reserves on O. and C. lands be managed under

a sustained yield program. However, a recent check of the county clerk's records revealed that, despite the ruling approximately 1150 new claims in Josephine county and 2070 in Jackson county were recorded during the 10½ year period.

The new act of April 8 provides that any person having a mineral claim filed since August 28, 1937, or obtaining a miner patent "shall not acquire title, possessory or otherwise to the timber, now or hereafter growing thereon, which timber may be managed and disposed of as is or may be provided by law, except that such person shall have the right to use so much of the timber thereon as may be necessary in the development and operation of his mine until such time as such timber is disposed of by the United States.

In addition, the new statute requires that all claims filed since 1937 on O. and C. lands be prop-

erly recorded in the U. S. district land office at either Roseburg or Lakeview. Persons filing new claims between 1937 and April 8, 1948, are allowed until August 5 of this year to validate their discovery by recording it at the land office. Notice of claims located on or after April 8, 1948 must be filed in the district land office within 60 days after the location is made. Also, the \$100 yearly assessment work on each claim must be filed in the district land office each year not later than September 30, beginning with the current fiscal year.

Otherwise, the general U. S. mining laws apply. However, miners are reminded that power sites are still reserved from entry. Claims must be correctly surveyed and described if they are considered legal. Also, to be valid a claim must have valuable ore in sufficient concentration to justify a prudent person to expend his time and money in the development of the claim with the expectation of a reasonable profit therefrom.

Persons desiring homesites should make arrangements with the Bureau of Land Management office in Medford for a special use lease. Mineral claims entitle the claimant to deposits of minerals on the claim area but do not permit him exclusive use of the surface.

The recordation in some federal agency of mining claims on the public domain long has been regarded as a major need in the satisfactory administration of an adequate national conservation program, but prior to the enactment of the new statute, Public Law 477, no authority existed for such a system. As a consequence, thousands of claims to mineral deposits on the public lands are recorded only in county recording offices and the Federal government normally has no knowledge of exploration or development of the mineral deposits on its lands until actual production results in an application for a patent to the land under mining laws dating back to 1866.

Josephine Gen. Hospital To Hold Open House

Realizing many people were unable to visit the Josephine General hospital during open house last

Monday, because of delayed publicity, the hospital staff are holding open house again on Friday, May 14 from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. A most cordial invitation is extended to the public to get better acquainted with the hospital and its problems at this time.

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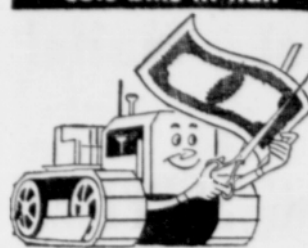
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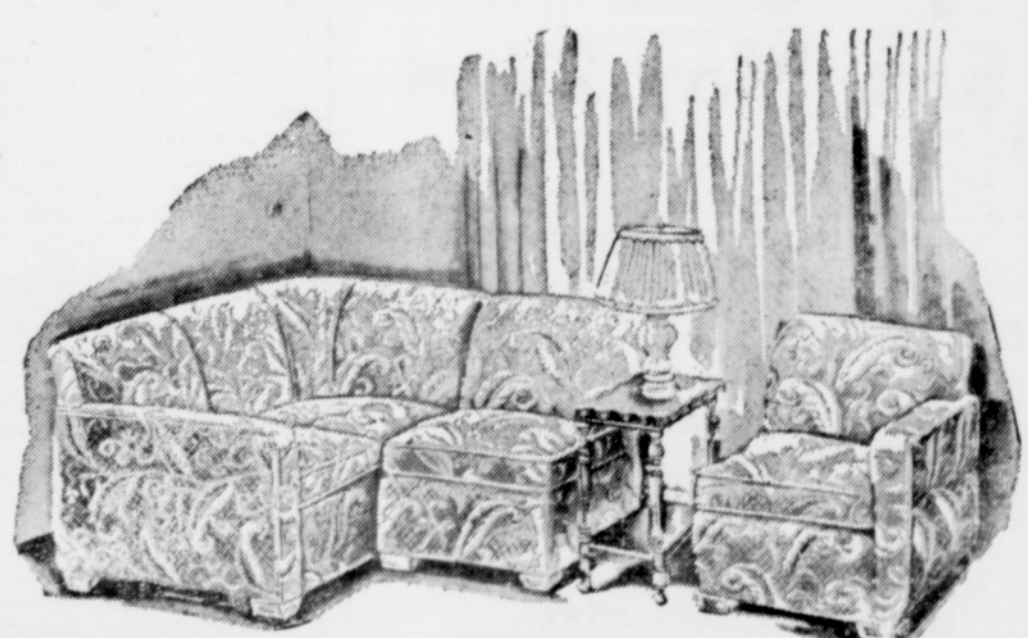
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