

Recent Act May Provide Benefits Mine Claimants

Portland—The bureau of land management's Portland Land office has announced that the recent Johnson-Church act may provide new benefits for a large number of mining claimants.

Stanley D. Lester, manager of the Portland Land office, said that under the new law, resident holders of unpatented mining claims may be permitted to purchase an interest in as much as five acres of the land they occupy, if the claim is invalidated or relinquished under the mining laws.

Lester indicated that the interest to be conveyed may be as much as full title or may in some cases be less, such as a lease or term permit.

Based on Fair Value

"In any event," he said, "the purchase price will be based on the fair market value of the interest conveyed." He added that in the western states there are probably as many as 20,000 cases on public lands where the occupants hold valuable improvements on invalid mining claims.

Lester said that in order to qualify, the claimant must be owner on Oct. 23, 1962, of valuable improvements on the claim, which must also be a principal place of residence for him. He and his predecessors must have possessed it for seven years prior to July 23, 1962.

Casual or intermittent use, such as for a hunting cabin or for week end occupancy do not count. Nor does the act apply to renters or squatters, or to people whose claims were obviously not made in good faith.

Regulations for carrying out the act are being prepared by the department of the interior. Additional information may be obtained from the land office, bureau of land management, 710 NE Holladay st., Portland 12.

Use of Foreign Ships Gets Backing

Washington—Sen. Maurice B. Neuberger (D-Ore.) and Rep. Julia Butler Hansen (D-Wash.) Tuesday supported an application by the Georgia-Pacific Co. to ship Pacific Northwest lumber to Puerto Rico aboard foreign vessels.

The Democratic legislators filed statements with the Federal Maritime Administration urging approval of the request to help the hard-pressed West Coast lumber industry meet Canadian competition.

A hearing was opened on whether to suspend laws which limit trade between U.S. ports to American-flag vessels.

Both Mrs. Neuberger and Mrs. Hansen said that opening the trade to low-cost foreign vessels would help Pacific Northwest lumber mills recover part of the market lost entirely to British Columbia producers.

Only 10.8 per cent of Nebraska registrants fail to pass the Selective Service mental test, compared with a national average of 24.7 per cent.

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Car Designers Appreciate Finer Arts, Director Says

By ROBERT IRVIN UPI Automotive Editor Detroit—You'll notice, the man said, "That there's not one picture or model of a car in my office."

That was unusual because the comment came from Elwood Engel, vice president and director of styling at Chrysler Corp.

"People probably expect to see cars when they come in here," Engel acknowledged, "But I am trying to show that we appreciate the finer arts."

Engel, a tall, lean man of 45 with thinning hair, collects oriental art. An old red-inked statue from Thailand is prominently displayed behind his desk.

As he showed a visitor a 2,400-year-old Etruscan cup, Engel noted that automotive stylists are "very creative people" and while designing a car is a mechanical chore stylists "are interested in other forms of art."

Art Show For example, each year the company puts on a private art show with the stipulation that everything displayed will be non-automotive. The men who design the new cars display sculptures and paintings they have done in their spare time.

"Because they are creative people," Engel said, "I give them freedom and don't harp on them every day. When they stay in a certain studio for a couple of years they get the feel of what the Dodge or Plymouth should look like next year, what should come next."

Engel said the stylists could design a refrigerator or a toaster as well as a car. He should know, because he worked on just such items. A native of Newark, N.J., Engel went to school in Malverne, N.Y., graduated from



DISPLAYS CUP—Elwood P. Engel, vice president and director of styling at the Chrysler Corporation, displays 2,400-year-old Etruscan cup. The 45-year-old auto executive collects Oriental art. (UPI)

the Pratt Institute of Industrial Design in Brooklyn in 1938 and gradually drifted into automotive styling which he described as "the largest industrial design job in the world."

Map Maker Engel worked as a General Motors car designer until

1941 when he started a four-year stint of top-secret map-making for the Army corps of engineers. After the war, he joined George Walker in an industrial design business in Detroit and worked on products for the home as well as cars.

He followed Walker to Ford Motor Co. and last year took over as chief of Chrysler's styling studios. Because the industry works two to three years ahead on its new models, Engel made only limited changes on the 1963's which were just introduced.

It's generally regarded that Engel changed some of the grilles, side trim and tail-sections on the new models. He regards the new cars as "more competitive"—meaning they have less of the Italian flavor that characterized the Chrysler products in the past.

For 1964, Engel said, "We are making some darn good changes. I'm very delighted with them." These cars are already designed and tooling orders presumably have been let. So today Engel is concerning himself for the 1965 models.

And, he adds, "It's a difficult job to anticipate what people will like in two or three years. We invent a new look and when the cars come out we hope people will like them."

But Engel notes that there are things over which a stylist has no control. "The economy of the country can change people's minds about a big car. A lot of other things can happen from the time we start on a car until it gets in the showroom. It's a big gamble all the way through," he says.

The secret, according to Engel, "is designing cars so they are clean-cut and simple, so the majority of people will like them. Simplicity is one of the most important things; just get a basic theme, refine it and let it go, anything more and you're in trouble."

Old Theater Can Boast Many Claims to Fame

By ERWIN GIMMELBERGER Grein, Austria—The oldest "Stadttheater" (city theater) in the German-speaking world is located in this small town on the Danube in Upper Austria. But its antiquity is only part of the little show-place's claim to fame.

The theater, opened in 1791, is on the second and top floor of the town's ancient courthouse, whose foundations were laid in 1468. In its 171 years of existence, the theater has changed only in customs, not in appearance.

Heated Bricks Seldom used for performances now, the theater in its heyday seated about 200 persons, of whom the more prosperous bought lifetime seats. This gave rise to the term "sperritz" (locked seat) as the patron could bar it with a chain and padlock if he wasn't planning to attend the next show.

The audience brought its own heating equipment—bricks which were heated in a kitchen below the theater and placed on the floor in front of the patron so he could keep his feet warm.

The town jail, adjacent to the theater, is located in such a way that an inmate can watch a performance from his cell. The jail is rarely inhabited now but in the old days the more numerous inmates created a problem. To keep them from disturbing performances by heckling—a common occurrence the theater management would order up a meal for them to break the monotony of jail fare.

One of the most unique arrangements in the small theater was the placement of the powder room. This was located to the side of the auditorium and screened off only partially by a curtain, so the good citizens of Grein could watch the performance under any circumstances.

Famous Visitor

Legend has it that the Stadttheater's most famous visitor was the Emperor Napoleon, who is said here to have watched a performance in 1809.

A new courthouse is scheduled for completion next year, when the building housing the theater will become a city art museum. But the town fathers say the curtain still will rise for an occasional play.

Tax Commission To Move Coos Bay Office

Salem—The Oregon State Tax Commission's Coos Bay branch office will move to new quarters Dec. 3.

The new quarters will be in room 411, Hall building, which has elevator service and a city parking lot.

Cost of Living Declines Slightly

Washington—The cost of living declined one tenth of 1 per cent during October, the first decrease since December, 1961, the Department of Labor reported Wednesday.

Another slight decline is anticipated in the November index, according to Arnold E. Chase, director of the price division of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The decline, however, is not expected to set a trend. The October drop probably would not have occurred at all, Chase said, if the index had not risen six tenths of 1 per cent in September. That hike was attributed to the national farmers organization's withholding of livestock from the market. The strike was over by October and lower meat prices brought the index down.

The index for October stood at 106 per cent of the 1957-59 average. Despite the slight decline, it was 1.3 per cent higher than a year earlier, mostly because of steady increases in food and services.



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