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FILINGS ON O AND C LANDS

The following regulations governing filings on Oregon and California Railroad revested lands and Coos Bay Wagon Road grant lands were issued by the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior on August 6, 1948, and sent to the Ore.-Bin by Congressman Harris Ellsworth. The printed instructions were taken from the Federal Register. A press release from Congressman Ellsworth's office in explanation of the regulations was sent at the same time and is also printed below.

Mineral Locations in Revested Oregon and California Railroad and Reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant Lands

185.37a General provisions. The act of April 8, 1948, (62 Stat. 162) reopens the revested Oregon and California Railroad and Reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant Lands (hereinafter referred to in this section as the O. and C. lands) in Oregon, except powersites, to exploration, location, entry and disposition under the United States Mining Laws. The act also validates mineral claims, if otherwise valid, located on the O. and C. lands during the period from August 28, 1937, to April 8, 1948.

The procedure in the locating of mining claims, performance of annual labor and the prosecution of mineral patent proceedings in connection with O. and C. lands is the same as provided by the United States Mining Laws and the general regulations in Part 185, and is also subject to the additional conditions and requirements hereinafter set forth.

185.37b Requirements for filing notices of locations of claims; descriptions. Where prior to April 8, 1948, a mining claim has been located upon O. and C. lands, the owner thereof must file for record, not later than October 5, 1948, in the District Land Office of the land district in which the claim is situated, a copy of the notice of location of the claim. With respect to all mining claims located on O. and C. lands on or after April 8, 1948, the owner thereof must file for record, within 60 days of the date of such mining location, in the appropriate District Land Office, a copy of the notice of location of the claim.

If the location affects surveyed lands and the copy of location notice does not describe those legal subdivisions, section, township, and range partly or wholly covered by the mining claim, the copy must be accompanied by a statement of the owner of the claim describing the legal subdivisions affected.

If the location affects unsurveyed lands and the copy of location notice does not show the land described therein connected by course and distance to the nearest corner of the public land surveys and does not give the probable legal subdivisions affected if the lands were surveyed, the copy must be accompanied by a statement of the owner of the claim giving that information or satisfactory reasons for not doing so.

The name and address of each owner of the claim should be furnished with the other data required by this section.

185.37c Requirement for filing statements of assessment work. The owner of any unpatented mining claim located upon O. and C. lands must also file for record in the District Land Office in which the claim is situated, within 60 days after the expiration of any annual assessment year, a statement under oath, as to the assessment work done or improvements made during the previous assessment year, or, as to compliance in lieu thereof, with any applicable relief act.

185.37d Restriction on use of timber; application for such use. The owner of any unpatented mining claim located upon O. and C. lands on or after August 28, 1937, shall not acquire title, possessory or otherwise, to the timber, now or hereafter growing upon such claim. Such timber may be managed and disposed of under existing law or as may be provided by subsequent law. The owner of such unpatented mining claim, until such time as the timber is otherwise disposed of by the United States, if he wishes to cut and use so much of the timber upon his claim as may be necessary in the development and operation of his mine, shall file a written application with the District Forester for permission to do so. The application shall set forth the estimated quantity and kind of timber desired and the use to which it will be put. The applicant shall not cut any of the timber prior to the approval of the application therefor.

185.37e Applications for final certificates and patents. Applications for patents and final certificates in connection with mining claims located upon O. and C. lands on or after August 28, 1937, must be noted "Mining claims on O. and C. lands, under the act of April 8, 1948." All patents issued on such claims located on or after August 28, 1937, shall contain an appropriate reference to the act of April 8, 1948, and shall indicate that the patent is issued subject to the conditions and limitations of the act.

Cross Reference: Other regulations governing the revested and reconveyed lands: See Part 115.

(R. S. 453,2478, Pub. Law 477, 80th Cong., 62 Stat. 162; 43 U. S. C. 2, 1201)

Marion Clawson, Director.

Approved: July 27, 1948.

C. Girard Davidson,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

(F. R. Doc. 48-7142; Filed, Aug. 6, 1948; 8:46 a.m.)

RELEASE FROM CONGRESSMAN ELLSWORTH'S OFFICE

Washington, D. C., Aug. 7.--Confusion and uncertainty regarding the proper filing of mining claims on O & C revested lands were removed today with the issuance by the Department of Interior of regulations governing mineral locations on those lands. Closed to mineral entry since 1937, more than 2,500,000 acres of western Oregon lands were again opened to entry by Congress this year. Senator Cordon and Congressman Ellsworth were authors of companion bills in Congress which became law April 8.

"The new Act and regulations," Congressman Ellsworth points out, "contain a provision new to U.S. mining laws. Any owner of a claim on O & C or Coos Bay Wagon Road lands is required to file a copy of notice of claim with the District Land Office of the district in which the claim is located. This is in addition to the filing with the County Recorder required by state law."

Claims located on these lands prior to April 8, 1948, must be filed for record not later than October 5, 1948. Claims located on or after April 8, 1948, must be filed for record within 60 days of such location.

If the location is on surveyed lands, the regulations state, the notice of claim must contain either a full legal description of the location or a copy of a statement by the owner describing the legal subdivisions affected. If on unsurveyed lands, the notice filed should show the land described connected by course and distance to the nearest corner of public land surveys or the probable legal subdivision if the lands were surveyed. Where the above information is not filed with claims on unsurveyed lands, the owner must file a statement giving satisfactory reasons for not doing so. The applicant may not cut any timber prior to approval of an application made to the District Forester of the O & C Administration.

Owners of unpatented claims must file for record within 60 days after the expiration of an assessment year a statement under oath as to the assessment work done or improvements made or in compliance with any relief act that applies. Ellsworth also pointed out that while Congress extended the moratorium on assessment work, all claim owners must file sworn statements claiming exemption under Public Law 665 of the 80th Congress not later than August 30, 1948.

Since the Department of Interior is presently consolidating land offices in Oregon under one office in Portland, applications can be sent to the Portland office, though those sent to the old land office addresses will be forwarded.

Congressman Ellsworth indicated that there may be some confusion where claim owners cannot determine whether their claims are located on the reopened lands because of certain "controverted lands" and exchange lands. No filing with the District Land Office is necessary if the claim is not on reopened lands. If the claim owner is in doubt and is unable to verify the location because of the land office consolidation, his only protection may be to file with the Portland office in addition to filing with the County Recorder.

The new law and regulations validate any mineral claims, if otherwise valid, located on the reopened lands from August 28, 1937, to April 8, 1948.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Ore.-Bin does not share Congressman Ellsworth's seeming optimism regarding removal of "confusion and uncertainty" in the issuance of the above regulations. How a claim owner is to be sure that his claim is or is not on the revested or grant lands is still uncertain. It seems to us that the provision which requires filing with the District United States Land Office is unnecessary, is contrary to the spirit of the United States Mining Laws, and is another obstacle thrown in the way of the legitimate prospector as distinguished from the land speculator.

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GRANT COUNTY MINING AREA DESCRIBED

"Geology and Mineralization of the Morning Mine and Adjacent Region, Grant County, Oregon" is the title of Bulletin 39 just issued by the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. The author is Dr. Rhesa M. Allen, Jr., now professor of geology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. The bulletin is the result of field work done in the Greenhorn Mountains of northeastern Grant County during 1946 and represents a part of Allen's doctorate at Cornell University.

The bulletin may be obtained at the Department offices at Portland, Baker, and Grants Pass. It has 48 pages of descriptive text, photographs, and maps. Special attention is given to the economic geology of mining properties of the region. Price 50 cents postpaid.

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A STORY ABOUT MINING RECORDS -- AND YOU

by

N. S. Wagner*

A man called at one of our field offices a few weeks ago eagerly hoping to obtain maps and other technical data of a certain mine. This man is the owner of that mine, and the mine is a potentially important one. It was a producer of some consequence years ago. It rates as worthy of re-examination.

Engineering reports and maps of the underground workings of this mine had been made and kept up to date by the original operators. Even smelter receipts covering ore shipped by subsequent leasors had also been saved. The present owner possessed all of this data. That is, he did possess it up until a year ago at which time he loaned it to a trusted associate who in turn loaned it to a "reliable" group of prospective purchasers.

Today the owner has in his possession only recollections of the data he used to have. For the "reliable" purchasers did ". . . fold their tents, like the Arabs, and as silently steal away."

This is an old, old story as anyone who has followed mine examination work knows. "I had maps, but . . ." "My father kept all his smelter receipts, but . . ." Sometimes it is that the cabin burned down and the records with it. Sometimes it is just carelessness on the part of the owner who didn't fully realize the importance of saving this data. Regrettably too often, however, it is bad faith on the part of parties to whom the data had been entrusted. Whatever the reasons, the fact remains that such losses are common. And the story of such losses doesn't end with the owner's loss. The loss is also a loss to the State and to the mining industry as a whole.

Consider the mine owned by the man who called at the field office. This mine is now just another of the many properties knowledge about which is chiefly legendary. The truly significant technical data of a geologic and economic nature are gone. Only superficial reports of relatively inconsequential importance can now be made with the data at hand. In short, the facts remaining include details on the ownership, names of the claims and locations, topographic and climatic statistics for the district, descriptions of access roads, on - yes, on lists of such odds and ends of semiobsolete equipment as may remain and on other trivial data right down the line to and including a factual description of the caved portals. But, for what is beyond those caved portals all that may now be offered is HEARSAY. So and so many crosscuts or sublevels or winzes generally understood to exist . . . ; such and such values claimed for the vein in this, that, or another place . . . ; vein widths reported to be . . . ; according to . . . .

Had this man filed with this Department copies of his data, we, in turn, could have given him back copies of the now missing reports and maps. His mine would then rate as a potentially real one - not as a legendary one.

Yes, it is an old, old story - this story of records that have been lost.

Requests for technical data on specific properties are frequently received by the Department both from the property owners themselves who hope that we may furnish them with records covering some early phase of their properties' history, and from examining engineers who hope to augment the data made available to them by the owners.

We do maintain files of such data and oftentimes we are able to supply the inquirer not only with the data he sought to obtain, but also with copies of other maps and reports he had no idea existed. But far more often the inquirer goes away empty-handed as did the man mentioned above.

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* Field geologist, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

That this department should function as a repository of valuable records pertaining to the past operations of individual mines, is beyond question. The ability so to function in this capacity, however, is to a large extent directly proportional to the cooperation afforded by members of the mining industry, owners and operators alike. If records are not first given to us, we cannot provide copies later.

Many mine owners and operators do make it a point to place on file with us full and complete copies of records of their operations. To mention one instance, we have copied the significant figures from the original smelter receipts for all shipments, nearly 70, ever made by one operator. The value to the operator of this data in our possession can be illustrated by the fact that he has made use of it on several occasions, as some of his original receipts had been mislaid.

The chief value of records, whether they be technical data on metallurgical tests of the ore, or reports on the geology of the mine, or maps of workings, or production statistics, is that they may play an important part in possible future development of the property they represent. With such records examining engineers or geologists can better appraise a property. Without such data they are likely to accord but little consideration to an old property.

Another value of records, particularly geologic reports and maps of workings, is that they serve as a guide for the planning of intelligent prospect development projects. Knowledge concerning the location of old stopes, faults, veins, crosscuts, and winzes may have an important bearing on the location of new workings or on the spotting of diamond drill holes. Without knowledge concerning these things much money may be spent in the needless reopening of old workings and in the blind driving of new workings. With such data the more responsible and experienced mining companies may be interested in undertaking to reopen an old property. Only the more venturesome promotion capital would consider a property without complete and reliable records, and even then, if the company were under competent management, it would be attracted only to properties which have reasonably good, substantiated records.

The ability to replace a lost map by making a photostat of a print from our files amounts to the saving of many dollars. A map of underground workings can be replaced only after the caved workings have been pumped out, reopened, and retimbered. Maps of claim boundaries and surface workings are not quite so difficult to replace, but even here the cost of doing so may amount to several hundreds of dollars.

The file of significant records on individual mining properties now possessed by this department is far from being complete. This is due largely to the fact that there was no department of geology and mining in existence in Oregon during the periods when the most active metal mine operations were going on. With no department to gather records when they were available, records became scattered and lost. The existent file gathered by this department has been built up by donations from private mining people who recognize the value of saving copies of important records. While many of the contained records thus assembled are of great value, the coverage of these records in terms of existing properties is haphazard and incomplete.

Although many mining people recognize the value of this department as a repository for important records, and regularly make a practice of filing copies of records with us, there are, of course, some who for reasons of their own do not so cooperate. However, it is believed that the public in general doesn't realize the Department's position with respect to the salvaging of technical records of past mining operations and to the preserving of current records.

For anyone wishing to dispose of records of early day mining in Oregon (relics and books on mining included), it is suggested that he do so by turning them over to this department. Material pertinent to the Department's files and to the potential welfare of the State's mining industry can then be sorted out. In connection with current

information of a private nature filed with us, the policy is that such information is considered confidential. Copies are released only to the legal owner of the property, or to other persons on his authority.

By way of disposing of it, a trunk full of records was burned recently. These records were assembled by a prominent mining man who figured actively in the development of an important and productive mining district during the latter part of the last century. Although records, dating back as far as these may be of little importance today, still, no estimate may now be made of the amount of data destroyed that might have been of the utmost value. The properties in that district are today in the control of many new owners. We might have been able to provide them with important data on their properties had it been given to us and not burned.

To the owners of mines and examining engineers who will examine properties in Oregon next year, or the next, or the next, --- we can provide you with technical data only if such data had first been made available to us. In other words, this phase of our department's activity, this ability to serve YOU with technical and other records on individual properties is proportional to the extent to which YOU, and all members of the mining public, make use of the opportunity of filing copies of records with us.

To the end that records of past mining operations be salvaged and records of current operations be preserved, this article has been written. It is urged that those possessed of such records, old or current, make use of the Department as a repository for copies of said records. In so doing, a certain measure of insurance is taken against future loss, even though we cannot guarantee against loss by fire.

Your cooperation in this respect is invited and urged.

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FISSIONABLE MATERIAL DISCOVERY CLAIMS

This Association recently asked the Bureau of Land Management for an interpretation as to protection afforded a prospector who located a claim containing fissionable material. A reply to this query from the Director gives the following information:

> "This Department has taken the position that a location under the mining laws based on a discovery of uranium, thorium, or other material peculiarly essential to the production of fissionable material, made on or since September 13, 1945, confers no rights whatever to those materials and it is invalid. However, a location could be made if the land contained other minerals not essential to the production of fissionable materials, but all fissionable material on the land could only be disposed of under the direction of the Atomic Energy Commission."

This implies that to validate the discovery the "mineral of commercial value" would, necessarily, have to be one of the associated minerals.

In the meantime, the Atomic Energy Commission announced July 10th that an additional 115 square miles of public lands in Utah and Colorado have been withdrawn from entry and will be reserved for uranium exploration. This withdrawal covered 18,423 acres in Grand County, Utah, and 95,575 acres in Mesa and San Miguel Counties in Colorado. The Commission stated that no further withdrawals are contemplated at this time until the lands now withdrawn have been thoroughly examined.

(From Management Digest published by Utah Mining Association.)

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SOILS AND PLANTS AS PROSPECTING AIDS

The following is taken from U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 959-A, Geophysical Abstracts 132, January-March 1948:

9871. Maliuga, D. P. Chemical composition of soils and plants as indicators in prospecting for metals (in Russian): Acad. Sci. U.R.S.S. Bull. (Izvestiia), Sér. Géog. et Géophys., vol. 11, no. 3, pp. 135-138, Moscow, 1947.

Chemical analyses of soils, especially the pertinent investigations of V. J. Vernadsky and T. Berthaud, have shown that the presence in the parent rocks of heavy metals, such as iron, manganese, nickel, and cobalt is associated with an unusually high content of these elements in the derived soil. The soil itself and the plants growing on it in such cases show as much as a hundredfold amount of the metals in question, as compared with the normal content. Thus, the ashes of the plant Thlaspi calaminare Lej contain as much as 13 percent of zinc oxide, the ashes of Nicotiana tabacum as much as 60 percent of potassium oxide, and the pulp of Populus tremula can contain as much as 73 percent of calcium oxide. Chemical analyses of the ashes of plants collected over the nickel deposits of the Ural Mountains have shown an enormous concentration of nickel and cobalt. The author concludes that plants and soils with a high content of certain metals indicate proximity of the corresponding ores and thus emphasizes their importance in prospecting. - S.T.V.

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NEW FLAME RETARDANTS

Tragic fires in public places have focused attention on new flame retardants. Wood, paper, and textiles are inherently flammable, and no method has been devised which will prevent their combustion when sufficient heat is applied to them. However, methods have been developed for retarding flame propagation, and they are effective in preventing the rapid spreading of fire. These have been based chiefly on combinations which included chlorinated compounds but recent developments have disclosed the effectiveness of certain nitrogen-phosphorus combinations. The new retardants have some interesting advantages, particularly in textiles for soft draperies or diaphanous evening gowns.

The chlorinated combinations give excellent performance on heavy canvas for military equipment and circus tents. The flame is smothered partly by chemical action, but principally by a physical blanketing action. However, the large amounts of chlorinated combinations which are required destroy completely the soft "hand" of fine fabrics.

In the new flame retardants the components must be combined correctly, then they have little or no effect on the "hand," they do not reduce the tensile strength appreciably, and they are durable to laundering and dry cleaning. They appear to retard flame propagation by chemical suppression of flammability. This discovery will be a boon to the managers of hotels, theaters, and night clubs who are required to find fine fabrics and still comply with fire legislation.

Of course, the maximum possible fire retardance is necessary for fabrics used in public places. Many clothing fires produce fatal results because the rate of flame propagation is so fast that the wearer cannot remove the clothes quickly enough. Textiles are not considered safe for clothing if the flame propagation rate is greater than six inches of flame spreading in six seconds.

The new nitrogen-phosphorus flame retardants represent another step in reducing the tremendous loss and suffering caused each year by fire.

(From For Instance published by American Cyanamid Company, New York.)

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PETROLEUM DEMAND

The Economics Advisory (Interstate Oil Compact Commission) committee estimated total demand for all products for twelve months ending March 31, 1949, will approach 6,400,000 barrels daily, which will be about 6.4 percent over the preceding twelve months period. The report declared that, "All operations must be expanded promptly above the present high levels if the industry is to meet peak demands next winter, when requirements will far exceed operating capacity. Stocks must be increased by large amounts this summer, particularly for kerosene and distillate fuel oils in the area east of the Rocky Mountains, which will depend on realization of exceptionally high yields of these products for this reason.

"Whether supplies can be increased to the level of requirements indicated in this report will depend on several factors: (1) the availability of materials to expand production and transportation facilities; (2) the ability to maintain capacity operations without interruption; and (3) a large margin of imports over exports. The required supply will exceed slightly the availability recently estimated for the next twelve months by a Subcommittee of the American Petroleum Institute. In case the supply required to meet all demands is not attained, the pressure of demand will probably keep stocks at such low levels that spot difficulties will recur to a substantial extent."

The committee report listed the following conclusions for the 12 months period beginning April 1, 1948:

(1) Domestic demand will average about 6,000,000 barrels daily;
(2) An addition to stocks of at least 28,000,000 barrels, or 75,000 barrels daily, will be required in relation to increasing demands for new facilities;
(3) Imports will exceed exports by about 110,000 barrels daily, making the Continental United States a net petroleum importer for the first time in a quarter of a century;
(4) Production required to meet demand will average 5,550,000 barrels daily of crude oil and 410,000 barrels daily of natural gas liquids, with an increase during the period to 5,625,000 barrels and 420,000 barrels daily, respectively, for the first quarter of 1949;
(5) Refinery crude runs to stills will need to increase to 5,630,000 barrels daily or more by the first quarter of 1949. Exceptionally high yields of kerosene and distillate fuel oils will be required during the period.

(From Compact Comments published by Interstate Oil Compact Commission, Tulsa, Oklahoma.)

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DREDGE RESUMES AT SUMPTER

According to the Baker Record Courier, July 1, 1948, the Harris "doodle bug" gold dredge near Sumpter, Oregon, will be operating for the first time since before World War II. The land and equipment were purchased from L. R. Harris of Portland by the Brockton Nevada Mining Syndicate of Brockton, Massachusetts.

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COAST RANGE MAPPING

Geologic mapping in the Coast Range is being done by a U.S. Geological Survey party under the direction of Dr. H. E. Vokes, Professor of Geology at John Hopkins University, and Donald Meyers, former graduate student at Stanford University, with headquarters at Eugene. Dr. E. M. Baldwin, Assistant Professor of Geology at the University of Oregon, is mapping the Spirit Mountain quadrangle in the northern part of the Coast Range for the U.S. Geological Survey. The investigation of the Coast Range is a part of a nation-wide survey by the Oil and Gas Division of the Survey.

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