

DRIVE CAREFULLY—SAVE A LIFE

MRS. BUTTRY WISHES TO ANNOUNCE  
THE 5 O'CLOCK CLUB  
WILL BE CLOSED FOR VACATION UNTIL  
FRIDAY, JULY 15

330

### R. J. Hughes Leases About 1,700 Acres In Moore For Prospecting, But Doesn't Know Yet What He'll Find

#### Veteran Mining Engineer Plans To Get Further Leases

If there's gold, uranium or whatever in them thar Sandhills, you can bet R. J. Hughes will have it under lease.

For the past few months the local hotelman has gone quietly about the business of putting some 1,700 acres of Moore County land under lease for mining purposes. He said this week he is aiming for about 10,000 acres in all.

Considerable comment was stirred when he recently filed several of the lease agreements at Carthage, giving him the right to prospect for, mine and develop substances such as Gold, Silver, Lead, Zinc, Copper, Minerals for Atomic Energy, Rare Earths, Coal, Oil, Gas, etc., in their diverse forms, deemed mineable and merchantable, on or from beneath the surface of all lands hereinafter described. Other such agreements are in preparation and he said, there will be more, as "I plan to blanket the area."

The agreements call for only the small cash outlay of \$1 per year per tract, paid seven years in advance, with some of the tracts running 150 acres or more. Any expense incurred in the prospecting or developing of minerals, however, is to be paid by Hughes, and, if any mineral is mined or sold, the owners are to receive a royalty.

The leases, he declared, are only a necessary first step toward any prospecting or mining, and he hasn't the vaguest notion what he might find, if anything.

**Rumors Called Untrue**  
He dubbed "strictly untrue" any wild rumors that he has sighted

#### John D. Sanders Arrested Again On Liquor Charge

John D. Sanders, 28, of Eagle Springs, Route 1, already under bond on a liquor manufacturing charge, was arrested last Thursday for the second time within two months at the site of another still which he allegedly was operating within about a half mile of the one which was raided before.

Before Federal Commissioner John Lang of Carthage, a bond of \$500 was set for the second time, pending trial of Sanders in Federal court at Rockingham.

Another man made his getaway from the still site near Spies last week, officers reported. When Sanders was arrested May 4, officers also captured his cousin, Ray Sanders, and Robert Bruce who remain under bond awaiting trial.

The 200-gallon submarine type still was in operation when officers staged the raid. There were four and a half gallons of whiskey on hand and about 150 gallons of mash in the still.

Taking part in the raid were C. A. McCallum, chief ABC officer; ABC officers Kieth Marks and John Sharpe; and Deputy Sheriffs D. B. Cranford and A. W. Lambert.

#### Jugtown Pottery To Be Shown In Europe, Far East

Jugtown pottery, made in Moore county, has been selected as one of the items to be featured in an "America at Home" exhibit to be shown at international fairs in Europe and the Far East in the late summer and early fall.

The exhibit will consist of a prefabricated house containing furnishings and ornaments typical of the best in American culture, yet within reach of the average family. It will be sponsored by the State Department in co-operation with House Beautiful and three national housing organizations.

Mrs. Jacques Busbee, who with her husband founded Jugtown in upper Moore county more than 30 years ago, and has continued it since his death in 1947, said that pottery to be used in the exhibit will be from a permanent collection which has been in the hands of friends in New York City.

Miss Sarah Little, of the editorial staff of House Beautiful, visited Mrs. Busbee at her home early this month, to secure background for a story about the Jugtown ware. Special publicity about Jugtown and the beautiful, unusual items made there—by hand, using a potter's wheel, baked in a hand-fired kiln, in the old-time way—will be prepared for House Beautiful by one of the nation's top advertising firms.

The exhibit will be shown in Bari, Italy; Barcelona, Paris, Bangkok and other great cities of the world where fairs are to be held this year.

oil, or found anything to get a Geiger counter clicking.

Hughes, a mining engineer who has prospected in many states, and enjoys it, declared, "Earth everywhere contains many treasures. I am tired of people believing that western North Carolina is the only part of this State with anything interesting in the soil. It is just as likely that valuable minerals can be found here in mineable quantity as anywhere — if you only know what to look for."

"When I go fishing, I hope for luck. If I hook a big fish, that's fine. If I get just a little fish, or no fish, at least I will have had the sport."

Asked if he had run into any good clues, he replied, "That all depends. Geology is like detective work. Small clues can mean a lot, if you find further clues to substantiate them. If you don't find the others, the first ones don't mean a thing."

**Has Own Laboratory**  
His Moore County prospecting has been on quite a small scale so far, pending the securing of the lease agreements which will give him a wide area in which to work. He has a miniature laboratory of his own to run preliminary tests. For further information, he uses the standard government agencies.

The country people looked on him with suspicion at first and he had some difficulty in getting the early leases. Now, though, they are viewing him with growing favor, listening more receptively to his odd proposition. But he discourages any wild dreams of sudden—or even eventual—riches.

But, he persuades them, what have they to lose? "The lease doesn't affect any use of the land for home, farming, pasture or any such thing. While the farmer works, Hughes may be over in the corner of the lot pattering around in the dirt, that's all. Of course, if he finds anything, an oil derrick may spring up, or a mine shaft be thrust down. The agreement says so. But it doesn't guarantee it."

**Some Owners Listed**  
Lands which he already has under lease are mostly in Carthage, Mineral Springs and Bensalem townships. Some of the owners are Tracy J. Seawell, Mrs. Zora Lee Jackson, Tom Jackson, Lewis Harris and Mrs. W. W. Harris. A good deal of time has been taken

up with title searches, which Hughes does himself. He also writes his own lease agreements.

A native of southern Indiana, he lived pretty much all over the country before tales of old gold mines brought him to North Carolina. He became the owner of a building at Siler City, which he swapped five years ago for one in Southern Pines. This building, formerly the Patterson Funeral Home, he converted to a small hotel, which he and his wife have operated since June 1950.

### NOTICE

To Members of

### Hernando's Hideaway Supper Club:

Will be open Monday, July 4; also having special entertainment Tuesday the 5th and Wednesday the 6th.

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