

Mary Z. Peak, Seattle, Wash., has applied for thirty second feet of water from Louse Creek, Josephine County, for placer mining purposes.

## Hills Admits Mine Swindle

SEATTLE, Sept. 6.—(AP)—Fred R. Hills, 56-year-old business man accused of swindling Seattle residents of \$40,100 in connection with the operations of a southern Oregon gold mine and refinery here, changed his plea to guilty today on three grand larceny counts.

Presiding Judge Hugh C. Todd tentatively postponed sentence for 60 days after Defense Attorney Adolf D. Koch said investors hoped he could salvage some of their investments. He was charged on nine counts.

His bail bond was reduced from \$5,000 to \$2,500 surety. He operated the Gold Hills refinery here, with properties near Grants Pass, Ore.

Told by Judge Todd he faced a penitentiary term under his guilty plea, Hills replied:

"Well, if that is what I have to take, I can take it. I am not a bunco man—just a business man, who has had some misfortunes."