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LEGENDARY GOLD MINE FOUND 30 MINUTES FROM CITY LIMITS | 70 YEAR SEARCH TOOK 23 LIVES

A newspaper man with a flair for historical research says he believes he has found the legendary Lost Creek gold mine which men have sought for 70 years.

Elemer McLellan, city editor of The British Columbian, wrote about the fabulous lode Saturday in his paper, then made a weekend visit to the spot, staking a claim.

Legend says 23 men have died searching for it and its \$100,000,000 potential.

McLellan found no gold on earlier visits but during the weekend he staked claim to 750,000 square feet of land covering a tunnel and underground cavern which he believes to be the fabled mine.

His next move will be to have a mining expert examine his find and have rock samples from the area assayed.

Studied Legend

McLellan said his study shows Slumach had murdered an Indian named Louis Bee. The murder was committed within two miles of the site of Sheridan Hill and McLellan said Bee's nearness to the site led him to his violent death.

McLellan found an underground cavern. A tunnel led away from the 30-foot-deep cavern and loose rock and two cedar poles were on the bottom.

The lanky newspaper man said him Lund told him he discovered the cavern in a narrow gorge about two years ago. He visited the site the next spring, but could not enter alone.

"Then...he (Lund) had a dream in which he again entered the gorge. This time the gorge was a castle with carved rock steps. In front of the steps was a sandbar—and there were pieces of decayed rope lying on it."

From a study of the legend, in the files of the Victoria Colonist and the Columbian, the men came up with this story of the Slumach legend:

Strange killings

McLellan said the cave could not be worked alone.

"...The old Indian had had help in extracting the gold. No one man could go down and up on his own. He would have to lower someone else down and pull him up with the gold. And the wily old Indian had chosen women for this task, as they were nice and light and more easily murdered. For once having seen such a rich cache no one could be expected to keep the secret, no one except the owner."

Legendary gold mine found 30 minutes from city limits

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McLellan said Lund gave humanitarian reasons for his disclosure of the Sheridan Hill site. He wanted no more persons killed searching for the mine.