

# Newspapers and Magazines 1900s

NEW "GLORY HOLE" CLAIM: VETERAN PROSPECTOR LAUGHED AT LEGENDARY CURSE IN HIS 30-YEAR SEARCH FOR MINE.

BY MIKE HUNTER

High above Bute Inlet, gold prospector Jack Mould points to a fabled tent-shaped rock and boasts: "I'm starting a new legend." Mould thinks he has unlocked the 100-year-old secret of Slumach's Lost Creek Gold Mine.

The bonanza is said to be guarded by a curse uttered by an Indian named Slumach who found the mine, then was hanged for murder.

But Mould is sure the claim-covered slopes of Southgate Peak, 200 kilometres northwest of Vancouver, will give up a treasure from two gold-rich veins.

"I want the glory - and the gold," says the man who has spent 30 years and almost \$200,000 to find the "Lost Creek," which legend says spilled out nuggets "big as walnuts."

Mould, 54, who lives at Errington on Vancouver Island, stepped up the search three years ago, helped by his brother Bill of Nanaimo and nephew Kelly Mould of Richmond.

"I don't know why, but I want the glory as much as the gold," Mould said during a helicopter expedition to the site.

"For all these years people have been looking in the wrong place and it took me, Jack Mould, to figure out where it was." I'm proud of the fact my dad was right.

"And I'm glad I listened to him—now we'll be rich."

Mould said he was not worried about Slumach's curse, despite the fact his nephew Kelly careered 18 metres down a rock scree near the top of 2,042-metre Southgate Peak, and dislocated a shoulder.

Said Kelly Mould: "When it happened I thought about the curse but I've put it behind me. I just think about getting to the gold." The search reached fever point in April when Mould's party spotted a tent-shaped rock atop the peak during a helicopter exploration.

The rock was described in a death-bed letter by a San Franciscan who supposedly found the mine—and marked it—in the early 1900s.

"Boy, were we excited!" exclaimed Mould. "After 30 years I knew we'd found old Slumach's mine. "Everybody else was looking at Pitt Lake but my dad was right. The gold's up here at Bute.

## New "Glory Hole" claim

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“And old Slumach used the Indian trade route to get here.”

Since the early 1890s thousands with a fever for gold have picked over the Pitt Lake area, but Mould was certain the “glory hole” was to be found farther north, at the head of Bute Inlet where his father, Charlie, once ran a trap line.

“The Spaniards mined gold at Bute and my dad also heard about an old Indian who sometimes passed through Pemberton - always with a woman.

“Old Slumach was supposed to have taken women into the bush and killed them but I figure he traded them for nuggets.”

On a gold hunt with his father in the 1950s, Mould said he met old women from the Halmaca tribe who spoke English.

Mould’s company, Slumach Jackson Mines Ltd., has staked nearly 200 claims on the peak and elsewhere in the Bute Mountain region.

Friday, Vancouver geologist Peter Tegart picked up samples for analysis.

## LOST CREEK CURSE NOW 100 YEARS OLD

Sidebar to: “New ‘Glory Hole’ claim”

BY MIKE HUNTER

The legend of Slumach’s Lost Creek Gold Mine still lingers—like the mist over Pitt Lake, 35 kilometres from New Westminster.

That’s where Slumach, part Katzie and part Nanaimo Indian, found a gold-filled “glory hole.” Slumach was hanged—at age 80—at the Royal City jail at 8 a.m. on January 16, 1891, for the murder of half-breed Louis Bee.

As he died, he left a curse on anyone who went searching for his gold. The curse claimed its first victim early in the new century. San Franciscan miner John Jackson reportedly found the gold in 1901. But his health was wrecked by the trek through the terrible terrain of the coastal range. He died two year later—but not before writing to a friend that he’d buried a cache of gold under a large tent-shaped rock facing the creek, which “appeared to have no outlet.”

Enter Volcanic Brown, a tough prospector from the Kootenays, who had acquired a copy of Jackson’s letter. Brown, in his 80s, reached the Pitt Lake area and beyond until 1931, when he failed to show at the onset of snow.

Brown was never found, but 11 ounces of pure gold were discovered in a small glass jar at his last camp. Had he found

## Lost Creek curse now 100 years old

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the motherlode?

When Mould searched under the tent-shaped rock where Jackson said he left a bag of gold, he came up empty-handed.

## PROSPECTOR UNEARTHES OLD SKELETAL REMAINS

Byline: Mike Hunter to "New "Glory Hole" claim"

Slumach's legacy to gold seekers, hungry for his hidden treasure, was a curse uttered on the gallows. And many gold hunters who decided to press their own luck lost their lives.

At least 30 people are said to have died seeking the "glory hole" old Slumach dipped into for nuggets to pay for nights spent carousing in New Westminster in the 1880s.

Slumach's Lost Creek Gold Mine was thought to have been in the Pitt Lake area, only 35 kilometres from downtown New Westminster.

The mine has never been found, though thousands - hot with gold fever - have combed the crags of the coastal range.

And there are no signs either of the women Slumach reportedly lured into the bush and disposed of to protect his secret - after they had helped him scoop more riches from the treacherous terrain.

Then came a jarring discovery that ran counter to the myths, woven over the past 100 years: this summer Jack Mould and his party uncovered skeletal remains.

Not in the Pitt Lake area but farther to the northwest, at the head of Bute Inlet, where Mould believes he's found the real "glory hole." Did Slumach's curse claim them? Or did the wily Indian slay them himself?

Mould may have more evidence soon.

Jim Everett, a dowser, who's sure he has located two gold seams coursing through Southgate Peak, pinpointed the bones with a pendulum made from an old fishing lure.

He uncovered limb bones of two adults, male and female, and says there may be more.

The skeletal finds are testimony, says Mould, to his Bute Inlet claim being the site of the Lost Creek Gold Mine of legend. "I'm sure these are the remains of people who went in with Slumach or followed him - and died somehow," says Mould. The bones were handed over to a Vancouver firm of archaeologists. Arnoud Stryd, president of Arcas Consulting, confirmed the bones were between 30 and 100 years old and said carbon dating would pinpoint when they died.

The B.C. coroner's office has been informed of the find.

## **Prospector unearths old skeletal remains**

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