

SLUMACH'S
LOST MINE
OF
PITT LAKE

COMPILED BY

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SLUMACH'S LOST MINE OF PITT LAKE

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August 9, 1925	VANCOUVER DAILY PROVINCE	THE LOST MINE OF PITT LAKE	004
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June 30, 1939	VANCOUVER DAILY PROVINCE, Mag Section Pg 3	OFT SOUGHT PITT LAKE GOLD STILL AWAITS DISCOVERY	007
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"Lost Creek Mine" - Pitt Lake.

Victoria Daily Colonist, Sept. 14, 1890, p.5 "AN UNSUCCESSFUL HUNT"

Vancouver Daily Province, Aug. 9, 1925. Magazine Section, p.2.
"THE LOST MINE OF PITT LAKE" by E. L. Parkiss.

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by Jack Mahony.

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"THE HUNTER OF LOST CREEK MINE" by W. W. Brice.

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TRAIL OF HOODOO GOLD" by Clyde Gilmore.

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DURKE"

Vancouver Sun, Sept. 23, 1947. "LOST MINE HUNTED 25 YEARS;
PAINTER SOON WILL TRY AGAIN"

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LEGEND MINE"

Victoria Daily Colonist, September 24, 1947. "B. C. MAN TRACES
CLUES TO LOST SOURCE OF GOLD"

Oakland Herald, Aug. 14, 1951, p.5. "WHITE-HAIRED PROSPECTOR
ESCAPES LOST MINE CURSE"

"Province" or "Sun", Vancouver, Oct. 26, 1951. "HAS 'LOST CREEK
MINE' CLAIMED 21st VICTIM?"

Vancouver Province, December 21, 1951. "NO WHITE MAN WILL FIND IT.
LEGEND OF FABULOUS LOST CREEK MINE BASED FOR FIRST
TIME BY INDIAN CHIEF" by Bruce Larsen.

Vancouver Province, December 22, 1951. "LOST CREEK GOLD MEANT
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Oakland Picture Magazine, Dec. 22, 1951. "B. C.'s FABULOUS MINE
OF MISSING MEN"

Vancouver Sun, Dec. 20, 1951. "EYES GO GLASSY AT LEGEND OF GOLD"

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by R. A. McKelvie.

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LOST CREEK GOLD MINE" by Stewart McNeill.

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TOLD, CLAIM POSTED. FAILED MINE NEEDS NO INDIAN
GHOSTS; NATURE'S BARRIERS BLOCK SEARCH OF GOLD"
by Bill Ryan.

Vancouver Province, May 26, 1952. "NINE CLAIMS NOW STAKED
'OLDMAN'S GOLD' STILL ALLURING"

Vancouver Province, April 22, 1952. "THIS IS LOST CREEK MINE!"
Bill Ryan and Fay Munro.

Vancouver Province, April 23, 1952. "OLD CHIEF'S SECRET TOLD"
Bill Ryan.

Vancouver Province, Nov. 18, 1952. "'LOST CREEK' GOLD MINE
DISPROVED"

Vancouver News-Herald, Nov. 18, 1952. "COMPANY FINDS NO GOLD
IN LOST CREEK MINE AREA"

Vancouver Sun, Nov. 18, 1952. "LOST CREEK GOLD LEGEND PUNCTURED"

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'FABULOUSLY RICH' LOST CREEK MINE, PITT LAKE"

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LAKE OR THE LOST GOLD MINE" by L. G. Temple.

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GOLD OF GARIBALDI" by Cecil Clark.

Liberty July 1956 issue

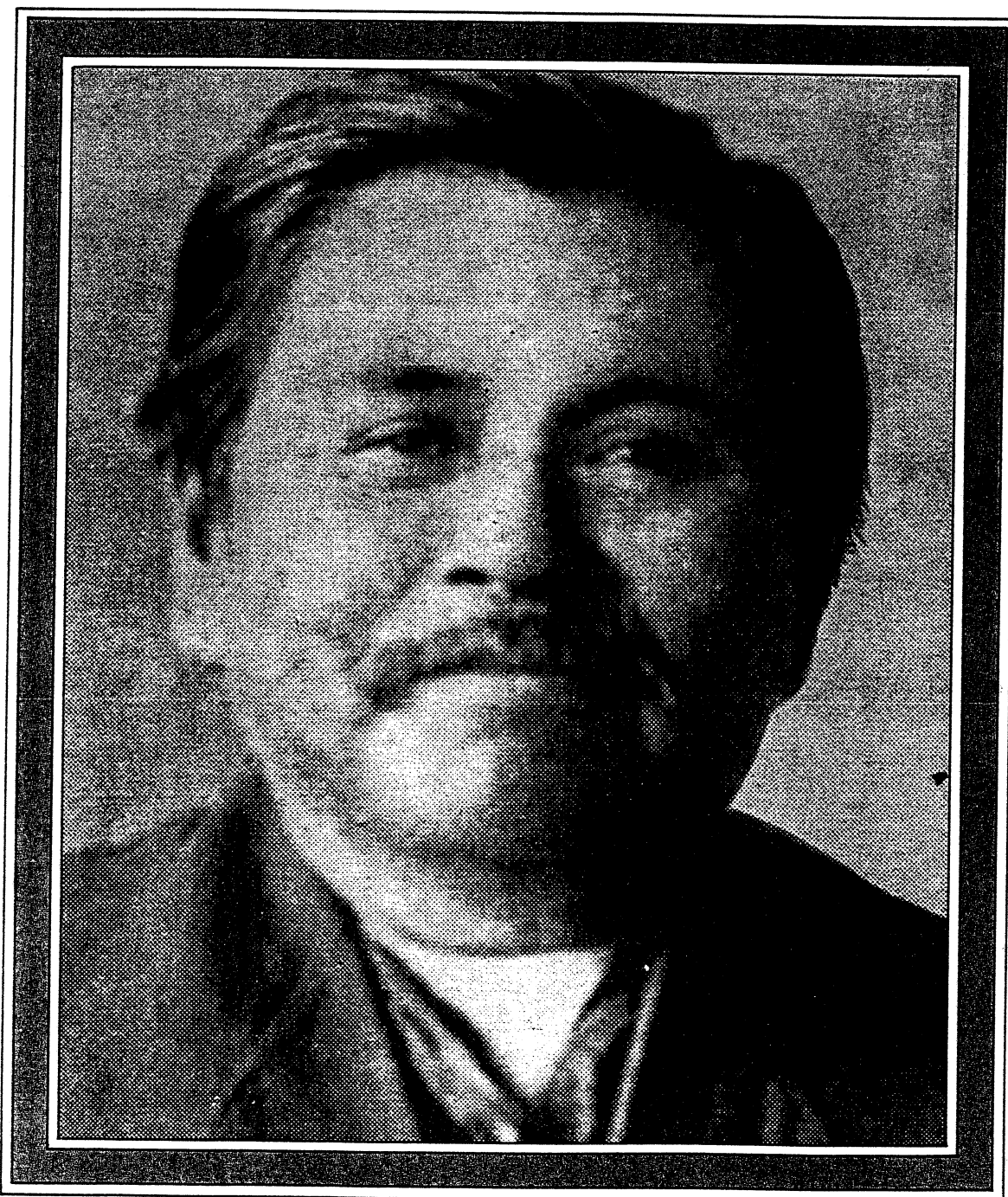
BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL MUSEUM

KATZIE ETHNOGRAPHIC NOTES

WAYNE SUTTLES

THE FAITH OF A COAST SALISH INDIAN

DIAMOND JENNESS



5. KINSHIP TIES

Something of the wide range of relationships that a Coast Salish community might have may be seen in Simon Pierre's own family ties. I have diagrammed his genealogy in the accompanying table, omitting most collaterals and their descendants but adding to the names of persons their tribal identity and the origin of their native names. In most cases when giving genealogies, a subject in which he is an expert, Simon volunteered this information. Most Coast Salish marriages were patrilocal, so that most persons grew up with and were identified as members of their fathers' and fathers' fathers' groups. But descent was bilateral, and so names were transmitted both through sons and through daughters. A man gave his inherited names to his sons' sons as a matter of course, but he also gave them to his daughters as part of their dowries to be used by their sons to show their mothers' origin.

Thus Simon's father's father's father *nəxne'xələq*, a Pitt Lake man bearing a name identified with Pitt Lake since creation, married a Kwantlen woman who brought with her three Kwantlen names which she gave to their three sons. One of these sons, Simon's grandfather, married a Samish woman, probably renewing an older alliance, since his own mother, through Kwantlen, bore a Samish name. Through this marriage Simon traces his relationship with several Samish on the Swinomish Reservation, including Tommy Bobb, who is famous as the most active possessor of *sk'wədi'lič* in the Coast Salish area to-day. But this Samish grandmother had two brothers with names identified as Skykomish, and her mother was said to be the daughter of *wi'nipa*. Simon believes that *wi'nipa* was *swa'dabš*, which he identifies as Colville. Actually *swa'dabš* is the Puget Sound term for all the Interior Salish, but *wi'nipa* was more likely the Snohomish *wi'nipa*, whose Indian name was a corruption of the nickname given by the whites, "Bonaparte." Through his mother, Simon traces his relationship with people at the Saanich communities at Patricia Bay and Brentwood Bay and with people at Tsawwassen. Through the marriages of Simon's father's siblings, links have been established with the Scowlitz of Harrison River, with the Lillooet, and with the descendants of white settlers.

Simon's comments on his father's siblings are also worth reporting for what they reveal of the struggle between native and white systems of behaviour and belief. His father's oldest brother, Simon said, died young as a result of being whipped with spruce-boughs by uncles who were training him to become a shaman. His second sister committed suicide. It was at Pitt Lake, where her grandmother was training her in good manners so that she would make a good marriage. The girl was working with mountain-goat wool and turned to eat some dried sturgeon. Because girls were supposed to eat sparingly, when her grandmother saw this, she struck her across the back with a stick. The girl then ran from the village to a pool that was known to be the home of a *s'xə'ləqəm*, and before her sister and her father's slaves could stop her, she drank some of the water and as a result she died. Later one of the slaves, a girl named *xəmu'c'əyə*, said, "My sister has died so I shall die, too," and also drank from the pool. But before she died she hid herself in a hollow tree, so it was several months before her body was found.

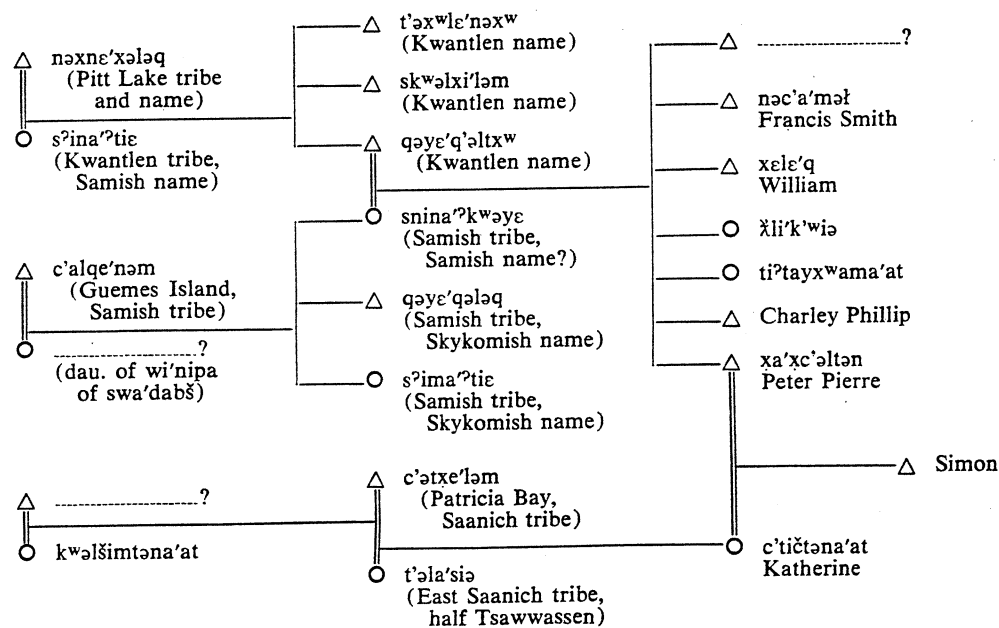
Simon's father's oldest sister, he said, married a Hudson's Bay Company employee, Basil Brassou(?), who settled as a farmer at Langley Prairie. Later two of their daughters married whites, Victor Twist and George Moody. Simon's father spent part of his boyhood on his brother-in-law's farm.

After the conversion of the Katzie to Roman Catholicism, the priests took the three surviving older brothers away. The oldest was sent to Lillooet country to help preach to the Indians and came to be known as "Father" Francis Smith. He has descendants there now. The second, Billy, became chief of police on the reserve at New Westminster. His family all died of tuberculosis. The third, Charley Phillip, was sent to serve as policeman at Harrison Mills. He left no descendants because, Simon says, he was forced by the priests to marry an old woman. Both Billy and Charley were killed by bad Indian doctors because they had put people in jail.

Simon believes that the Katzie were converted to Christianity much later than most of their neighbours, perhaps as late as the 1880's, and that for this reason his father had such a thorough knowledge of his people's traditions. However, conversion in this context may mean merely final capitulation to the whites' way of life—single-family houses with floors, children in school, etc. But contact with missionaries may have begun as early as 1841, when the first priests preached at Fort Langley, allowing plenty of time for the assimilation of Christian religious concepts. One such concept may have been the idea of the deity so prominent in Old Pierre's and in Simon's thinking.

My work with Simon does not permit me to answer the question raised by Jenness whether the clear integration of beliefs and practices was part of the native culture or the work of one native philosopher. My feeling is that the integration is latent, but that the expression probably was the work of one man. I have raised the further question whether the integration of the traditions with the facts of residence and land use is old or recent. If the Katzie actually did move down from Pitt Lake to the Fraser in recent times, then the identification of the Katzie village-site with the spot where Swaneset's wives brought eulachon and sockeye must represent a recent reworking of Katzie traditions. Such a reworking probably could have occurred in a generation or two without conscious deception. In a non-literate society, as in some literate societies, the function of tradition is to explain the present. If the present facts do not agree with the tradition, then the tradition must be wrong. Perhaps Old Pierre himself, or an equally competent traditionalist of the generation before him, not only created a coherent body of tradition that fitted abstract concepts, but one that fitted the facts of residence and territorial claims as well.

TABLE II.—GENEALOGY OF SIMON PIERRE



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5— Irene PIERRE -26
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(1)

Sept 11- 1890 - A coroner's inquest held Sept 10th in the committee room of the city hall - autopsy performed by Dr. Walker - exam revealed bone of the upper left arm to have been shattered by the passage of the ball which had entered the side of the deceased, fracturing the ~~IX~~ fifth rib, penetrating the right side of the heart and tearing the lungs. Bullet found embedded in the rt. lung. Death instantaneous. Charles Seymour, an Indian, was the principal witness examined by the jury they returned verdict of wilful murder. Mr. Morsley and two special officers left Sept 11 th for the scene of the murder. Sept 13 Cst. Anderson had a brush with Slumach who attempted to shot him. Seen running across an open space. Oct 25 - surrendered to Indian agent Mr. P. McTiernan - starved and in rags - taken to the provincial jail. Nov 3 - appeared before Capt. Pittendrigh for preliminary hearing - several witnesses examined - committed for trial with the forthcoming assizes. Nov 11 - Slumach in poor state of health - general feeling that he'd die before the spring term. Nov. 14-1890 Asked for further adjournment until the next

(2)

assizes due to two important witnesses being absent. Nov 16th court heard minute particulars of the tragedy and the jury returned verdict of guilty. to did Jan 16th.

Date of murder - Sept 18th - number of indians fishing for triut in Alouette Slough slumach came out and got into argument with Bee - Slumach told McTiernan that it was the only crime that he ever committed.

Oct 9th-1958 - Chief Coquitlam Williams took film crew headed by Lee Hansen into Pitt Lake -filmed ond on TV.

Cecil Wlark - BC police officer Bill Moresby headed the posse Slumach executioner , a tall, tangy individual, hooded to avoid recognition was said to be the man that hanged Louis Reil.

In 1903 John Jackson, a veteran Alaskan prospector came out of the hills with a fistful of gold and a shut mouth, Story went that deposited \$10,000 worth in San Francisco bank Slumach's son took Jackson to the mine. Year or two later just before his death alleged to have given or sold a map to a man named Shotwell. He said nothing but a nurse that was looking after

(3)

Jackson let the story leak out. Although vague the map story pops up from time to time and two copies are known to be held in Van to-day.

Plays o the same

Aug 9, 1925

VANCOUVER

DAILY PROVINCE

(4)

By H. L. FURKISS.

THE lost mine of Pitt Lake will yet be found, is the firm belief of scores of prospectors who have followed the lure of placer gold from Alaska to Mexico. Not a few of them have put in a season searching the rugged mountains which stretch in almost unbroken ranks for miles on miles north and east from the head of Pitt Lake. Untold wealth in placer gold lies in the rich gravels of some stream flowing in the valleys of those rugged mountains. "Under a tent-shaped rock in a valley overlooked by three mountain peaks standing close together," in the mountains somewhere back of Pitt Lake, there lies buried half the treasure of placer gold washed from the gravel of the "lost mine" in one season by the discoverer, who left what he could not carry out with him, and who never returned for it.

For twenty-four years dozens of prospectors have sought these placer deposits. Parties have made long trips, season after season, in vain search for the mine which has been lost ever since the original locator came out in the fall of 1901—and never went back again.

Shotwell was the name of this prospector, who came down from Alaska and spent the season of 1901 in the mountains back of Pitt Lake. He came out in the fall, went to San Francisco, and the records at the United States mint there show that Shotwell turned in and was paid for more than \$3000 of placer gold of extremely fine quality, and which, in character and appearance, differed very markedly from that of any other known placer ground. Every mining man and prospector knows that the placer gold from every creek in the North can be identified and distinguished from the product of every other creek.

Shotwell was not a young man. Long years in the rough north country and the exposure and hardships of a prospector's life had left their marks on him. Not long after he had deposited the gold in the mint he went to hospital suffering from an acute form of rheumatism. His physician told him bluntly that he would never go back to his mountain prospecting life, and more than that, if he had any important business affairs he should settle them at once, for in equally cold, blunt professional way, the doctor warned his patient that he might not have very long to live—that his chances were unfavorable.

Shotwell had a partner up in Alaska, and when he left the North and came to British Columbia he had promised to take him in on any find he made—the prospector's usual unwritten fifty-fifty basis working both ways in good or bad luck. The partner received a letter from Shotwell, and it was the last communication he ever sent, for before it was read the doctor's verdict proved correct, and the old prospector had gone to the last unknown field. The letter he sent told of having found fabulously rich placer ground in the mountains back of Pitt Lake—"so rich," said the letter, "that the Yukon is not in the same category."

Shotwell's last letter told of the deposit in the San Francisco mint of the gold he had carried out as the result of his season's operations. But

Shotwell's last letter told of the deposit in the San Francisco mint of the gold he had carried out as the result of his season's operations. But it told more. That was but half of the gold he had washed from the wonderful treasure house he had discovered. Unable to carry it all, Shotwell said, he had buried as much as he brought out. His shovel, pick and pan and such camping outfit as he did not require for his trip out to civilization had been buried along with the sack of gold, "under a tent-shaped rock, in a valley overlooked by three mountain peaks standing close together."

Full directions were contained in the letter telling how to make the journey in from the head of Pitt Lake to the point where the "golden cache" was buried. Then further directions told how to find the ground which Shotwell had worked during the summer. His crude diggings, his equally crude and primitive sluice boxes, and the dump of washed gravel would tell the seeker when he had arrived at the new goldfield.

That was all. Ever since, party after party has gone in over those

forbidding mountains which seem to form an impassable barrier—and do—to all but the hardest type of prospector, seasoned in the strenuous life of the pack trail. To such, the mountains show no barrier which can not be passed. But pass as they might, search as they would, the lost mine of Shotwell has not so far been re-located, unless one old prospector, now past the age when he can dare the rigors of the wilds, also found the rich ground first discovered in 1901.

This old prospector still lives in Vancouver. His last trip was made about ten years ago. He went in alone—no one ever really knew where he went, except that he made the trip to the head of Pitt Lake and then disappeared. But every season for several years he came out late in the fall with from \$5000 to \$7000 in gold dust and nuggets. The last time he made his lonely trip out from this secret location he met with a mishap which gave him a broken leg, several cracked ribs and a dislocated shoulder, from a fall in the mountains. None but a hardy prospector could have fashioned the rough crutches on which he made his slow and painful egress from the moun-

The lost mine of Pitt Lake

tains to where he could reach civilization by easier means of travel. The accident and its results forced the sturdy old mountaineer to abandon his yearly visits. He still lives in quiet comfort in the coast city, and possibly not even his banker knows the original source, nor the amount of his savings from his years of working in solitude on the lost mine of Pitt Lake. Like many another prospector, he clings to his secret. No one has ever yet secured from him the slightest inkling of the road to take, the means of identifying the spot where wealth awaits the finder.

Of the many others who have from time to time essayed the quest of this lost mine, Andy Hanson, sturdy, young, energetic and venturesome, has been the most tenacious of the apparently hopeless hunt.

It is nearly ten years now since Andy Hanson last made the trip into the Rabbit Ears mountains. He is a logger as well as a miner. And anyone knows that logging is fully as hazardous and speculative a calling as prospecting or placer mining. In the years that have passed since he made his last season's trip into the Pitt Lake country, Andy has "gone broke" a couple of times through mis-

fortune in the logging game. he lost four booms in one season; that is not the story he likes to tell. The lost mine holds his imagination, and this autumn again he takes up the long abandoned quest for the treasure trove of the Rabbit Ears mountains.

Four seasons in all did Andy and his partners spend in task of searching for the gravels from which they would satisfy fortunes when found. seasons ended and they came without success, but not discouraged. They know it was only a question of time—and luck, that lodestar of the prospector. "We found many a shaped rock," says Hanson, never the one under which he cashed his poke of nuggets at shovel and pan. This time, when we go in, we will stay till we find have a hunch that this time we are going to be lucky, and I always have hunches." So does every true prospector with the glow of the lon in the back of his eyes.

Time and again on the trail, out, and while roving the mountains and valleys of that great territory of boundless mountain peaks, he has met with others, all on the quest for the lost mine. Several times he has met parties who came in because they had received a letter purporting to be a copy of Shotwell's last letter to his old Alaskan partner. So these parties came from the far north, some from the south, and even from all quarters, lured by the prospect of finding this lost Klondike. An airplane from Seattle flew over and made a landing on a little near which we camped," said Hanson. "They were going to find three mountain peaks and the would be ended in fewer hours than he had spent months. But the back south with no better chance than we had."

Pitt Lake, though it is very above sea level, is clearly a mountain lake, and the mountains north of it, high and rugged, they are, show glacial action. They form a semi-circular wall, surrounding the northern border of the lake, and there is no stream of any proportions flowing out from the passes. Indeed, so abrupt is the rough facade on the south, and that it is no surprise to the explorer when once the peaks are scaled, find that the true watershed of the range stretches north and south. Streams which flow into the Pitt River drain this watershed, which is broken up into a series of comparatively small valleys. The Pitt drains into Pitt River just south of Pitt Lake. Pitt River, which carries the waters flowing from Pitt Lake to the Fraser River, is only about thirty miles in length and is so near level that the effects of the tides are felt up its entire length and back of the lake itself. The barrier of the rugged mountains of Pitt has proven no stumbling block to prospecting parties, but the vastness of the area to be prospected has to the present kept a locked secret the location of the lost mine. Perhaps Andy Hanson is right a year is his lucky year. If he is, then the Pacific Coast will have for a sensation which will rival the "Forty-nine," the "Cariboo" and the "Klondike."

THE GRAND FORKS GAZETTE

GRAND FORKS, BRITISH COLUMBIA, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1931

ES WANT CHANGE FREIGHT RATES TO B.C.

is a resolution recently
the Victoria Women's Insti-
which will be submitted for
at the regular meeting of
alley Institute at its next
November 12th.

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OF UNITED
GANIZED FRIDAY

"Volcanic" Brown Lost in Mountains

Prospecting in Pitt Lake Country and
Not Seen Since Middle of
August

"Volcanic" R. A. Brown, who has made
his home 12 miles north of Grand
Forks for 40 years, and famous alike as
a prospector and herb-doctor, is again
reported lost in the hills near the coast
Search Parties Out

Following dispatch from New West-
minster appeared in Tuesday's Daily
Province: R. A. "Volcanic" Brown, 86,
prospector, is believed lost in the moun-
tains north of Pitt lake, and a party
left Vancouver this morning to search
for him. The party, headed by Game
Warden G. C. Stevenson and Provin-
cial Constable E. Murphy of Vancouver,
is going from here by boat.

The aged prospector was last seen
in the Pitt country on August 17, when
a prospector named Swanson, who was
on the way out sold him beans and rice
to add to his food supply. It is believed
that Brown's food would last him only
until about the middle of September
unless he shot game. Brown intimated
to Swanson that he would try to cross
the big glacier before snow set in. The
search party is equipped with snow-
shoes as they expect to find deep drifts.
Brown, it is believed, may be marooned
in a shack about twenty miles from the
head of Pitt lake.

Lost Six Years Ago

Brown was lost in the Pitt Lake
country about six years ago, and a
search party of police found him slowly
progressing over a glacier. One of
his toes had been frost bitten and
had amputated it. He was wa-
then of the great risk he was ta

GREGORY-JACKSON CELEBRATED

The home of Mrs. J.
Midway was the scene
ding on Wednesday,
when her eldest daugh-
Trail, became the bride
Gregory also of Trail.

The ceremony was p
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OFT SOUGHT PITT LAKE GOLD STILL AWAITS DISCOVERY.

by

JACK MAHONY.



In the crisp grey dawn of a morning at the turn of the century, the first act of a strange fiction-like drama was being enacted before the eyes of a small group of officials, witnesses and curiosity seekers in the yard of the old provincial jail at New Westminster, now one of the buildings of the T.J.Trapp Technical School.

As they watched in tense, expectant silence, a middle-aged half-breed Indian calmly mounted the steps of the crude wooden gallows, stood stoically erect as the hangman efficiently performed his last minute preparations, then plunged from sight - carrying to eternity a secret that all present were convinced that he alone possessed and which they would have given much to know.

What was the half-breed's secret?

It was the location of a little creek flowing through a narrow canyon in the maze of mountains that rise from the headwaters of Pitt Lake. Find that creek and wealth beyond your wildest dreams is yours for the taking, for its banks are lined with yellow virgin gold that can be "gathered in handfuls as large as walnuts."

Romantic fiction?

Perhaps, but since that morning forty years ago, more than 2000 men from all over the Pacific Northwest have combed the Pitt Lake mountains in search of the half-breed's "El Dorado". Even now the lure of the gold still calls to the occasional prospector.

Royal City Man Knows All That's Known.

Today, all known facts of this modern adventure story are in the hands of Hugh Murray of New Westminster. One of British Columbia's real pioneers, Mr Murray came to the province in 1859, as a lad of six, with the famous Royal Engineers aboard the "Thames City". One of the six remaining members of that historic voyage, he has led a story-book life as a stage driver, prospector, guide and steamboat man.

Mr Murray has made several attempts to locate the Pitt Lake gold and one of his treasured possessions is a copy of a letter and map left by the only man believed to have located the treasure after the death of the half-breed.

Here is the story as Mr Murray tells it:

"A half-breed Red River Indian named Slummock had been prospecting in the Pitt Lake mountains for a number of years and in the late 'nineties began to show every indication of having struck it rich, coming to New Westminster frequently with a well-filled "poke"

of nuggets. He spent his money freely, but was careful not to divulge its source despite the urgings of his cronies. (8)

Slummock was a tough character, and it was believed but never proven, that he had drowned three of his Indian "Wives" near Siwash Rock at the mouth of Pitt Lake to prevent them divulging the location which they had been unfortunate enough to learn, of his find.

Finally, however, he was charged with the murder of another half-breed prospector, whom he had drowned in the same place for apparently the same reason. Following a long chase, he was arrested by Constable Moresby of the provincial police. Returned to New Westminster, he stood trial, was found guilty and sentenced to hang.

Seattle Financiers Interested Many Years Ago.

"During his imprisonment, he turned a deaf ear to all enquiries about the location of his camp. On the night before his execution, the late Dr. Hall, a well-known local physician, visited him in his death cell and sought to get him to talk, but his lips were sealed and he went to his death the next morning with the stoic calm of his Indian forebears and with the burning question of the community unanswered.

Immediate attempts were made to find his camp, by all failed.

In 1903, John Jackson, veteran Alaskan prospector, came to New Westminster, and hearing of the Slummock legend, set out with two guides for the headwaters of Pitt Lake.

About three months later he returned, completely broken in health. He had very little to say about his trip, but carried with him a large and very heavy pack-sack, which he guarded closely and which was thought to contain gold. He stayed only a day or so, then left for San Francisco. That was the last we saw of him.

In 1912, I was approached by the representatives of three prominent Seattle financial men. They showed me a letter and map which Jackson had written to a Seattle man, named Shotwell.

Apparently Jackson had never recovered from the ordeal of his search for slummock's gold. Knowing, on the advice of his doctor, that death was near, he was passing on the information in the form of a letter and map to his friend Shotwell in the hope that he would be able to locate the gold.

I have in my possession a complete copy of Jackson's letter. In part it read:

"After reaching the headwaters of Pitt Lake, I discharged my two native guides and set out into the mountains ... I had been out about two months and finding myself short of grub decided to turn back.

"I climbed to the top of a sharp ridge, and looked down into a little valley or canyon. With some difficulty, I reached the little creek lying in the valley.

(9)

"Now comes the interesting part ... I had only a small prospector's map pan. But I found colour immediately on the surface. Such colours they were. I knew I had struck it rich ... In going up the little creek, I had come to a place where the bedrock is bare.

"Here I gathered gold by the handful. Some pieces as large as walnuts. I sized up the little creek. There was millions in it.

"I found out later that the creek flows into a ----- and is lost.

"Now the doctor has told me that my heart is badly affected and that I am liable to drop at any time.

"Don't give it up, Mr Shotwell, you will be rewarded beyond your wildest dreams. Don't give it up."

Letter and Map Eventually Reached Others.

Shotwell, an old man, and unable to go after the gold himself, sold a share in the letter and map to another Seattle man for \$700. This man set out for Pitt Lake but returned without success when the map became partially destroyed. Later another Seattle man named Hall tried, but he met with a serious accident and had to abandon the attempt.

A search of the accounts of San Francisco banks revealed that Jackson had deposited \$8700 in gold in the Bank of British North America on his return from British Columbia in 1903.

Convinced that they were on the trail of something good, the Seattle trio put up \$2400 to equip a four-man expedition to comb the Pitt Lake hills in search of the "creek that flows into a ---- and is lost! They come to me to hire my services as a guide.

We spent about two months in the mountains, but failed to find Jackson's Creek. However, we did find additional evidence to strengthen our belief in the gold. I also talked to an old Indian woman at the Indian camp at the head of Pitt Lake. She remembered Jackson staying with them in 1903, when he was taken sick upon arrival at their camp. She told me that he staggered into camp bearing a pack that was 'hiyu till' (very heavy) and that he would not let it out of his sight even during the worst of his illness.

Many Have Searched for Gold Without Success.

"Since that time I have made several attempts to find Jackson's Creek, but failed. Hundreds of others, from Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, have searched for the treasure, all without success.

About five or six years ago a colorful old prospector named "Volcani Brown" left New Westminster in search of the Pitt Lake gold. I talked to him before he left. He was confident that the gold was there, and while he knew it might never be found, he considered it worth a try.

10

"He returned without success when his feet were so badly frozen that he had to amputate several of his toes. Undaunted, he returned to 'The Pitt' the following spring. This time he never came back. He probably met with an accident and died in the mountains. "

To a suggestion that the Pitt Lake gold may exist only in the minds of those who have searched for it, and not in the waters of Jackson's Creek, Mr Murray returns a tolerant smile.

"To anyone who has travelled through that maze of uncharted mountains, hills and canyons that cover the area, the truth of his statement becomes apparent. You might search for months and miss the one spot you are seeking. On the other hand you might find it the first day out.

" "Why did Jackson's letter and map not lead us to his creek" he repeats.

"The map, as you know, was partially destroyed and the letter was written some time after his discovery. Jackson was a sick man when he found the gold and was very ill in the Indian camp for some time after. I believe that he probably got the directions slightly twisted as a result of his illness. Essentially they are correct, but one slight misceue could easily lead one astray."

The search for the half-breed's gold still goes on.

From The Vancouver Daily Province Friday June 30, 1939, Magazine Section. Page 3.

THE BLUEBEARD OF LOST CREEK MINE

by

W.W.Bride.

Occasionally wierd and awe-inspiring legends and old tales drift in from B.C.'s hinterland, the land of everlasting glaciers, rugged peaks, "lost valleys" and hoodooed wealth. Perhaps the strangest of all is that of Lost Creek Mine and its wierd story of murder, hanging, starvation and sudden death dealt out to those hardy enough to dare the warnings and search for the fabulous wealth stored in the ~~Vastness~~ of the Pitt Lake Mountains.

The existence of the bonanza in the district was first revealed some forty years ago when an Indian from that district appeared in New Westminster who was apparently pretty stakey, since the tales of his wild spending spree are still told with relish by old-timers of the city. Slummock was a slim, wiry young Indian, possessing to an unnatural degree the usual Indian taciturnity. Try as they might, neither his fellow tribesmen nor the friendly whites could find the slightest inkling as to the source of his new-found wealth. In spite of the vigilance of his friends he slipped quietly away when his one-man Potlatch was over. Twice again the town was livened up by the visit of Slummock. The third gala occasion seemed to pall a little on the red man. Despite his boasts he seemed worried

Even as he flung his gold to the four winds and had his moment of importance, the police were engaged in a gruesome task on the banks of the river a few miles north. They were searching the battered body of a young Indian squaw that had been fished from the river. On her person they found several good sized nuggets. She was of Slummock's tribe. Questioned about her, the young Indian admitted that she had helped him on his last trip to the mountains but had been washed off the raft they made to descend the Pitt River. Although suspicion was rife as to how many others he had helped to disappear, there was not sufficient proof to convict him.

Some years later, Slummock again appeared in town and boasted of his wealth and his find in the hills. When pressed to the location he still refused to tell. This was to be his last visit. As before even as he indulged in his fling, another body was picked out of the river. Although highly suspicious, the police had not sufficient proof for an arrest. Many wondered how many others had gone the same way as the young squaw, since it was certain that no Indian of Slummock's present standing would enter the woods without a squaw to pack and cook for him.

It was some years later before Slummock again appeared. His opulence was apparent. No less than four squaws formed his entourage as he strutted down the main street. Again he launched forth on his wild orgy. This was to prove his last fling. A third body was turned over to the police, again a comely young squaw. This time a hunting knife protruded from her back. It was Slummock's own knife. Other evidence brought out at the trial proved the guilt of the man beyond all doubt.

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Brazen and boastful, the young Bluebeard told of the killing of eight other squaws. It was an easy matter to persuade them to "pack in" for him by promising them untold wealth. For fear they would tell of his rich strike to others, he disposed of them on the return trip. That his murders would be discovered did not bother him in the least. He counted on the inaccessibility of the wild and rugged country through which he travelled.

Defiant to the end, he laughed at all attempts to worm from him the location of his wealth. The clang of the gallows took the secret to eternity.

. . .

The furore created by the facts brought out at Slummock's trial as to the location of his killings was to bring tangible evidence of the existence of his valley of gold. This was not to be won easily. More than one hardy prospector bitten with the gold-bug started out in the spring to face the wilds and struggled back months later a beaten and broken man. Fierce mountain torrents, treacherous ice crevasses, starvation and sickness plagued the boldest and accounted for many who never returned. The Pitt River Mountains were reluctant to reveal their secret to the grasping hand of the whites.

Almost thirty years after the excitement and the disappointment of the search had disappeared, the Lost Mine came to life again.

In 1930 a party of Seattle financiers and mining men appeared in New Westminster and began interviewing all the old-timers and prospectors they could locate. From each they gleaned the facts and rumors concerning the Lost Mine of the Pitt River country. To those who scoffed they showed a letter and a map, drawn by a prospector named Jackson. This was the one man upon whom Lady Luck had smiled. Soon after Slummock's execution he had set forth into the area north and west of Pitt Lake. There he had stumbled upon Lost Creek. There he had found gold beyond his wildest dreams. Being just about at the end of his tether, he had filled a knapsack with gold and started the long trek back to civilization and food and rest. He was the merest wreck of a man when he reached town. Revealing not a hint of his colossal luck, he had gone on to San Francisco. There the doctors told him that he was a doomed man -- the hoodoo of the Lost Mine. With Death his constant companion he had found his wealth of little satisfaction.

Jackson wrote all this in a letter to his friend in Seattle. He had enclosed a crude map of the area and urged his friend to try to find the mine again. Unable to do so, the friend had sold the map for one thousand dollars. It passed through many hands in the succeeding years and was scanned as eagerly as any Captain Kidd ever drew. Years later the bedraggled letter and the smudged map appeared in the hands of the adventurers in New Westminster. Determined to trace the lode down, the party set out for land beyond the Pitt River. They did not find the mine. But they found evidence that Jackson had been there and that he had found gold. Near the head of Pitt Lake they camped. Into the camp came an Indian and a very ancient squaw. It was she who had seen and helped Jackson on his trip out. He had

stayed with the party two days.

Discouraged, the party returned. The towering peaks hold their secret, guarded by the everlasting snows and the howling blizzards

From The Shoulder Strap, Summer edition No.8, 1942. Page 19.

(18)

B.C. MAN TRACES CLUES TO LOST SOURCES OF GOLD.

VANCOUVER Sept.23. - For more than fifty years the fable of the lost mine of Slummock has fired the imagination of gold seekers, and today a chubby sign painter said he believed he knew its location.

Each summer for twenty-five years, Cyril Walters has tramped into the rugged Coast Range, each trip tracing down slim clues left by a man who carried the secret to his grave.

A middle-aged half-breed named Slummock mounted the steps of a gallows at New Westminster at the turn of the century. He died without revealing the location of a spot where for years he had gathered nuggets the size of walnuts.

In 1903 John Jackson, veteran Alaskan prospector, visited New Westminster and went in search of Slummock's lost mine. He returned, laden with nuggets, but died without returning to the mine.

On his deathbed, he wrote a letter to a Dr. Hall, and a copy of that letter fell into Mr Walters' hands in 1922.

"The letter says the gold is in a place less than 20 miles from the head of Pitt River, where a stream flows down a canyon and disappears from sight" Mr Walters said.

"The canyon is guarded by three peaks which stand as sentinels. I found the peaks and the canyon" he said, "and followed it to another canyon which fits the description. But I couldn't get down because of ice and snow."

Walters plans to go out again next Spring to make what he hopes will be the successful attempt to locate the mine.

From The Victoria Daily Colonist September 24, 1947. Page 2.

19
HANGED MAN KEPT GOLD SECRET

Lost Mine Hunted 25 Years, Painter Soon Will Try Again

Sun Se. 23 '47

Cyril Walters' eyes blaze as he talks of pursuing fabulous wealth buried in a lost gold mine.

For 25 years, the chubby, balding sign painter has trudged into the mountains every summer. Bit by bit he has cracked clues only one man knew for sure—and that man sealed them in the grave after he died on the gallows 50 years ago.

Fresh evidence will send Walters out again next summer, slipping and skidding over crusty snow in search of wealth.

One crisp grey dawn at the turn of the century, a middle-aged half-breed named Slummock mounted the steps of a crudely-made wooden gallows at

New Westminsters. Calmly he watched as the hangman performed his last-minute preparations. Then he plunged from sight.

They say he committed murder to keep the secret of the mine. He carried to eternity the location of the spot where he had picked up nuggets the size of walnuts.

In 1903, John Jackson, a veteran Alaskan prospector, visited New Westminster and later searched for Slummock's lost mine.

He brought back gold, but the ordeal of his trip was too much. He died without returning to the mine.

On his deathbed he wrote a letter to a man named Dr. Hall. A copy of that letter came into Cyril Walters' hands in 1922.

"The letter says the gold is in a place less than 20 miles from the head of the Pitt where a stream flows down a canyon and disappears from sight," Walters claims. "The canyon is guarded by three peaks which stand as sentinels."

"I found the three peaks and the canyon after heading to a spot about 17 miles northeast of Squamish, and the same distance from Pitt lakes."

"I came to a canyon which fits the description but couldn't get down because of ice and snow."



THAT'S A GOLDEN GLINT you see in the eyes of this quartette of Vancouver sign painters. All are treasure hunters inspired by Cyril Walters, left, who possesses a map supposed to hold the secret of a lost mine

Sept 23, 1947

City Archivist
MAJOR J. S. MATTHEWS, V.D.



CITY ARCHIVES
VANCOUVER, CANADA
INST., 1933

CITY HALL

29th July 1951

Memo for Mr Ardies:
"The Sun"

The story of the "Lost Creek Mine" is pure rubbish; it was invented about 25 years ago, and has been improved upon until now certain weak mind accept it as true.

There are several such stories. Several appeared first in the "False Creek Record"

White-Haired Prospector Escapes Lost Mine Curse

An injured prospector managed to escape from the Pitt Lake mountain country last week, breaking the legendary curse of the "Lost Creek Mine" which has claimed the lives of 21 men who ventured into the rugged terrain to locate the lost gold mine.

White-haired Duncan McPhaden, 68, of New Westminster, is reported in "fairly good" condition after being rushed to the Pitt Lake Ferry wharf, at Pitt River Bridge, and transferred to Royal Columbian Hospital by New Westminster Exclusive Ambulance.

He is suffering from back and chest injuries. McPhaden said he was injured Tuesday of that week when he tumbled off a 20-foot ledge near his cabin which crumbled under him. He struck his back on a huge rock as he fell.

For two days he remained in the isolated cabin in a semi-conscious state. Early Friday he decided to make his bid for aid.

Forest restrictions prohibit entry into the territory at this time and his closest neighbours were at Williams Lodge, a summer camp at the head of Pitt Lake, six miles away.

Painfully McPhaden dragged himself from the cabin and crawled on hands and knees over more than 200 yards of rock-strewn terrain to a rowboat moored at the lake shore.

Finally he reached his gas boat moored in deep water.

At Williams Lodge he was quickly placed in a speedboat by proprietor Carl Williams and rushed to the Pitt Lake wharf, where Captain Benneck reports he seemed in "pretty serious shape."

The elderly man, who has spent ten-odd years in the Pitt Lake area in search of the "Lost Creek Mine," escaped the curse of the mine which has haunted prospectors for more than half a century.

The last victim was Fred Gaspard, 60, of Langley, who set out on July 20, 1950, for the upper Pitt River area. He was never seen again.

The Lost Creek Mine, fact or legend, originated in 1890 when

The Lost Creek Mine, fact or legend, originated in 1890 when a half-breed named Slummok made trips into New Westminster from the area and always brought gold nuggets with him. Despite drinking bouts and loose revelry his guarded tongue uttered no more than "Lost Creek."

No one ever was able to follow Slummok to the mine and when he died on the gallows for murdering an Indian woman he had taken to the site, his secret went with him.

Only one white man, an American, ever stumbled back with gold since Slummok was hanged in 1891. He related a fearsome tale of hardships and a creek that lost itself in a mountain tunnel. Then he sold his packload of gold for \$10,000 and died.

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Has "Lost Creek Mine" Claimed 21st Victim?

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., (CP)—Legend has it that 20 men have died hunting for a fabulous "Lost Creek Mine" in the mountain wilderness 45 miles north of here.

Was Alfred Gaspard the 21st?

RCMP Constable John Dowsett and guide Stan Zepeski have set out to find out.

This much was known: Gaspard, 60-year-old prospector, packed his gear 16 months ago and headed for the upper reaches of the Pitt river. He has not been seen or heard from since.

Gaspard himself had a premonition that he would become a part of the fateful legend. He left a note saying: "by the time you read this I will have passed to the great beyond."

That note, left with friends, was opened in February.

Dowsett and a guide made an aerial survey of the area but the snow had wiped out any clues Gaspard might have left.

The deep snow finally left the mountains in June but heavy foliage covered the trail.

The leaves have fallen now and on this wet, overcast October day, Dowsett and Zepeski started out by boat. When they reach the head of Pitt lake they will strike into the mountains on foot. They expect to be gone two weeks.

The legend of Lost Creek Mine goes back more than 60 years. The gist of it is that an Indian named Siunach appeared in New Westminster with a hefty poke of gold. He made several trips back into the bush, returning each time with a sackful of yellow dust.

He was hanged, the legend says, in 1892 after confessing he had murdered eight women. His secret died with him. On each trip to the mine, he had taken an Indian woman. None returned.

Since then, according to the

legend, 20 men have died in the search for the lode. One old prospector stumbled out of the mountain country with a poke of \$10,000 but died insane. He babbled a story that the creek of riches lost itself in a gold-lined tunnel.

There is perhaps more than legend to the story. Certainly men have disappeared without trace in that forbidding area.

Friends said Gaspard was fascinated with the tale. He had himself flown to the Pitt Lake headwaters a year ago last July and weeks later a second plane dropped him 400 pounds of food. Other prospectors saw him two or three days later, trudging north, bent under his pack. After that — nothing.

Two Parties Seek Lost Gold

No Claims Filed For Legend Mine

British Columbian So. 25' 48"

By LOYD BULMUR

The story of a lost gold mine in the Pitt river area near here is being told again as two separate parties are reported hot on the trail.

The first new attempt was made recently by helicopter, when a New Westminster man chartered the aircraft. Although officials of the airline would not reveal the destination, hunters and fishermen in the Pitt area reported seeing the weird craft in their vicinity the day it was reported chartered.

The other attempt is being made by a Vancouver, B.C., sign painter, who reportedly is in possession of a map of the area, but he says he will not be going out until next spring.

The story of the mine is one of violent bloodshed, and the stoical attitude of an Indian who died on the gallows refusing to tell where the legend mine was located.

It all started around the turn of the 20th century, when a lonely prospector found gold nuggets the size of walnuts near Pitt Lake. The prospector returned to New Westminster but failed to register his claim. He was found a short time later, murdered. An Indian, Jim Slummock, reportedly a guide for the old prospector, was tried for the murder and sentenced to be hanged.

The location of the mine went with him to the grave.

The story of the mine elicited much speculation around New Westminster, and in 1903, a veteran Alaskan prospector John Jackson searched for the lost mine. He brought back gold, but the ordeal of the trip was too much, and he died without returning to the mine.

On his deathbed, he wrote to a man called Doctor Hall. A copy of that letter came into the sign painter's hands in 1922. The sign painter says the mine is described as being less than 20 miles from the head of the Pitt river where the river flows down a canyon and disappears from sight. The canyon is guarded by three mountains standing over the hidden treasure.

The Vancouver man reports he found the three peaks this summer, but was unable to enter the canyon and river-bed because of ice and snow.

The helicopter party declines to reveal the extent of their operations, but it is reported they brought back several samples of ore that looked "promising." No claims have been filed in the area as yet.

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'Eyes Go Glassy At Legend of Gold'

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Lost Creek Mine Believer Has Holes in Shoes, Hope in Heart

The legend of the Lost Creek mine, the fabled mountain of gold in the wilderness above Port Coquitlam, still sends men's eyes glassy.

Especially one hopeful prospector who approaches helicopter owner Carl Agar every spring with a plan to fly in for the hidden treasure which legend says was discovered by an Indian who died with his secret when he was hanged for murder.

Since then, 21 men have died seeking the Indian's fabulous mine.

Every spring one man seeks Agar's aid, and the use of one of his five Okanagan Air Services helicopters, to fly to the gold.

"He looks up at the ceiling and his eyes go glassy," Agar says. "He doesn't want to fly all the gold out at once. He propositioned me to fly him in every three years or so and take out just so much gold.

"He says if he took all the gold out at once he'd lose it in income tax. His toes are sticking out of his shoes."

Among the 10 or 12 similar requests Agar has received, one has been a woman. And one of the mine's 21st victim, 60-year-old Albert Gaspard, one of the reputable prospectors among the screwballs who have searched for the mine.

Half the people who want to fly in don't even think about taking food. Agar, 1950 winner of a trophy for the Canadian contributing the most to aviation, says:

"I don't know how they expect to live, or how they plan to get out. They just expect to pick up the gold, then, swish, they're out!"

Does Agar himself believe in the legend?

"If we thought there was anything there, we'd be out after it ourselves," he declared.

Legend of Fabulous Lost Creek Mine Bared for First Time by Indian Chief

Dec 21, 1951

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By BRUCE LARSEN

Indian legend insists that the ghost of an Indian, who died on the gallows in New Westminster, guards Lost Creek mine, fabulous Eldorado that lured 21 white men to mysterious deaths.

The legend was told today by 79-year-old Chief (August Jack) Khahtsahlano, the only Indian still living who knows the whole story.

Lost Creek mine is "death to white men," he says, and, if ever found again, will be located by a person with Indian blood.

Was In His Eighties

The ghost that haunts the mine is Old Slumach, the Indian who found the treasure deep in the Pitt Lake mountains, about 45 miles north of Vancouver. He was in his eighties when he was hanged on Jan. 16, 1891, for murdering a halfbreed.

White men present when the trapdoor was sprung on Old Slumach claim the grizzled Indian died with his secret; the Indian legend says he whispered it to his son.

White men who have plodded into the treacherous Pitt Lake mountains bent on finding the golden creek had no knowledge of guiding landmarks — the Indians say Old Slumach's mine is "near a large tent-shaped rock with three peaks in the distance."

Without revealing the route suggested by the legend, Khahtsahlano said: "Every white man who has sought the mine started out from Pitt Lake in the wrong direction!"

Why is the wrinkled Squamish chief breaking an Indian silence of 60 years?

Khahtsahlano hopes the telling may curb the disappearances of white prospectors seeking the "hideous rockbound creek whose bed is lined with gold." (Last October an RCMP search failed to find trace of the twenty-first lost prospector: Alfred Gaspard, 60, a Langley widower, who disappeared July, 1950).

The Indian story, as told by the old chief, was an exciting mixture of superstition, legend and fact.

Bullets of Gold

It started well before 1891.

Old Slumach and his family lived on the Silver Creek Reserve, tucked into the "V" formed near the bottom of Pitt Lake where Silver Creek swirls into the wide Pitt River.

Simon Pierre, the band's medicine man, who died at Silver Creek in 1949, remembered hiding in mountain-slope woods to watch Old Slumach plunk prac-

INDIAN SECRETS on the treasures of B.C.'s Lost Creek mine were told today by Chief August Jack Khahtsahlano. He broke a 60-year-old Indian silence to speak of a ghost, a curse on white men, murders and gold nuggets that matched walnuts in size.

tice rifle shots into a stump. He had seen the old hunter fashion the bullets out of gold.

After Old Slumach was hanged, Simon Pierre went back into the woods and dug \$200 worth of gold from the target stump.

Old Slumach used to kill deer for a butcher in Coquitlam. The butcher found golden slugs in the meat.

Killed Eight Squaws

Nobody asked the Indian where he got his gold, but all knew he took trips into the mountains and came back with fresh supplies. They thought the mine was probably near good hunting grounds and that Old Slumach had stumbled on it that way.

Old Slumach was known as a killer of men. The Indian legend makes no attempt to whitewash his character. It says he killed at least eight squaws after forcing them into the mountains to pack out his gold. (Early newspapers also said Slumach killed 10 men before the arrival of the white man on the B.C. scene). The murders, according to the Indians, could never be tagged on Old Slumach, and he was actually hanged for murdering a "kanaka," a part-Hawaiian, who was the descendent of Hawaiian seamen who came into Port of New Westminster and stayed to live with Indians.

(New Westminster court records show Old Slumach actually died for the murder of a halfbreed, Louis Bee, in a fight on Lillooet slough, near Pitt River, on Sept. 8, 1890.)

Old Slumach zealously guarded his mine. When he thought prospectors were seeking his gold he devised means of frightening them off.

Otway Wilkie, a provincial police constable who died recently, was one of the officers sent out to arrest Old Slumach

after Louis Bee's death. Skirmishes followed and the round-up took several weeks. Women on the reserve were panicky during the hunt—they believed the old killer would return and take one of them away for more gold-packing, and death.

The Indian tale says the trial judge went to the Indian and told him that instead of hanging he would likely get life sentence if he told white men where his gold was hidden.

Old Slumach's reply highlights the legend:

"HAILO. NAIKA MENLOOSE, MINE MEMLOOSE!"

Mine Dies Also

(No. When I die, mine dies!)

Old Slumach's son visited his father in the death cell and the Indian story says Old Slumach said: "I tell you where mine is, but you must not go there unless times are bad because gold is death."

How does Chief Khahtsahlano know Old Slumach's ghost stalks Old Slumach's mine? The legend says it does—and Khahtsahlano had an encounter with the ghost:

"I hunted the mine many times. One time when I was alone I was sure I was nearing the gold. I found three peaks. I tried to move forward to spot the tent rock but I couldn't. A heavy black cloud came down around me and when I tried to get around it I found it was moving me away and away. I decided to leave. I'll never go back!"

(In the second of two articles in Saturday's Daily Province, the Indian legend will tell of the death of Old Slumach's son because of the mine secret and the ugly fate of the three other men—a halfbreed and two U.S. prospectors—who actually took gold out of Lost Creek Mine.)

OLD SLUMACH'S CURSE DOGS PROSPECTORS

Lost Creek Gold Meant Violent Death

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By BRUCE LARSEN

(Second of two articles)

Old Slumach, the killer Indian who found fabulous Lost Creek mine deep in the Pitt Lake mountains, was the first of five men who actually took gold from the hidden mine—and died for it.

Slumach was hanged for murder. Legend says he was defending his secret.

The other four—Slumach's whisky-loving son, a careless halfbreed and two U.S. prospectors—also were doomed by the mine. They took out gold. Later, one was murdered, two vanished mysteriously and the last died from the tortures of wilderness travel.

Broke Promise

The Indian legend, now being told for the first time by Chief August Jack Khahtsahlano, claims none of these tragedies would have occurred if Slumach's son had kept the promise his father whispered to him shortly before he dropped through the trap-door on the gallows at New Westminster.

Old Slumach told his son to go to the mine only if times were bad. Young Slumach made a bee-line from the gallows to the mine.

Young Slumach lugged gold away from the rockbound creek but soon found it would buy everything but the fire-water he craved. He found a halfbreed working for a New Westminster dentist, who agreed to buy the whisky in return for "lotsa gold."

Young Slumach and the unidentified halfbreed headed

up the Pitt River by canoe. Three days later the halfbreed, laden with gold, returned to New Westminster alone. Young Slumach had vanished.

No More Work

Annoyed by the halfbreed's absence, the dentist fired him upon his return. The halfbreed's reply was: "That's all right. I don't have to work any more."

Astounded, the dentist asked for an explanation.

"I've got all the gold I want. I show you."

The halfbreed showed the amazed dentist his pile of nuggets. All were the size of walnuts. The dentist warned him that he would be killed for his gold. The halfbreed turned the poke over to the dentist for safekeeping, giving him a share and insisting: "Lots more."

Indians say the halfbreed journeyed into the rugged Pitt Mountain each August and returned with more gold. Then the curse of Old Slumach caught him. He was seen no more.

Told Prospector

The dentist one day did dental work for a prospector that he had attended school with in the United States. The prospector had been seeking minerals without luck. The dentist laughingly told his old chum that he (the dentist) did his prospecting right in his office and showed the halfbreed's gold. He willingly answered all questions put to him by his friend.

It was August, and the pros-

pector jumped into his canoe and paddled up the Pitt. He found the halfbreed's canoe under brush and watched the man leave with gold. The next year he followed the halfbreed but lost him in the rugged country.

Then the following year — 1903 — he recruited a U.S. friend (identified as John Jackson in Indian legends) and the two followed the halfbreed to the fabulous creek. Legend says one of the two Americans became excited, drew his revolver and killed the breed.

The Americans turned quickly to the gold. They buried a pan of nuggets under the tent rock along with an axe, mining hammer and the halfbreed's body. They placed a cross mark on one end of the huge rock and left.

The Indians claim the two men each toted \$20,000 in gold on the outward march. One disappeared. Only Jackson got down to New Westminster and he traveled quickly on to his California home. He returned to the mine several times for gold and on his last trip broke his leg in the hazardous country and was nursed back to health by Indians. He returned to California and died soon after.

(Old newspapers credit an Alaskan prospector named John Jackson with taking out \$10,000 worth of gold in 1903 and later dying in California.)

The Indians claim Jackson made two crude maps of the area where he said fantastic piles of gold nuggets still remained. He gave one to the nurse that was with him in his last days, the other went to an old friend named Shotwell in Seattle.

Indians claim neither the nurse nor Shotwell made attempts to find the gold, but both sold copies of the maps at \$500 each. This prompted about 40 U.S. prospecting parties to pour into B.C.'s Pitt Lake mountains seeking, but never finding, the gold of Old Slumach.

Countless tales of misery and hardship are told by the scores upon scores of prospectors who have tried to find the gold since 1903. Many have stumbled out of the area as beaten and broken men, and at least 21 men never came back out of the mountains.

A colorful old prospector called "Volcanic Brown" was

convinced he would find the mine—like the majority of gold hunters he was positive he had a hunch that would click.

Made Four Trips

Brown made four trips into the area between 1932 and 1938. On the third trip out, he was crippled with badly frozen feet. He didn't come out after his fourth trip.

Cyril Walters, 3694 West Sixteenth, who possesses a copy of one of Jackson's letters, is a Vancouver sign painter who has spent more than 27 summers seeking Lost Creek mine. He's going out again next summer.

Despite warnings from men like City Archivist Major J. S. Matthews and Tom Elliott, mining adviser to the B.C. Yukon Chamber of Mines, that no such mine exists (and vehement counter arguments from people like Maisie Armytage-Moore, publisher of the Native Voice, and Chief Khahtsahlano that it will be found), the lost mine of Old Slumach will probably fire the imagination of gold hungry folk for years to come.

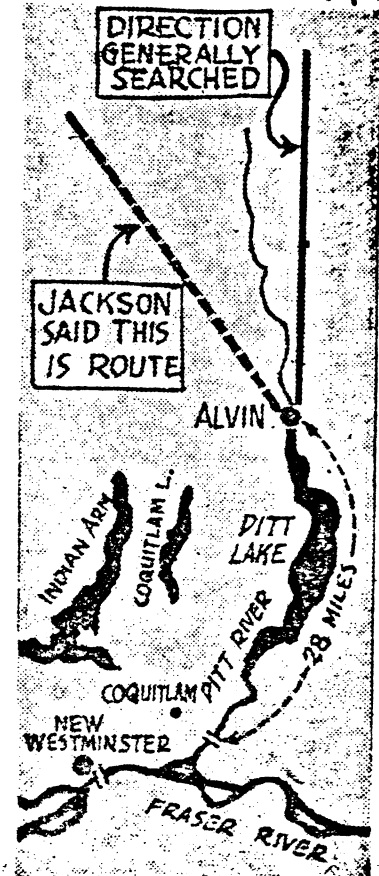
Indians Hopeful

Any day now, B.C. Indians expect to hear that a prospector—one with Indian blood—had beaten the ghost of Old Slumach and pounded a stake into the bed of Lost Creek.

Simon Pierre, the late medicine man at Silver Creek Reserve who passed the full legend on to Khahtsahlano, used to tell about the time he,

and other Indians, guided a white prospector into the mountains and came face to face with the ghost:

"We sat around the fire one night and the ghost of Slumach appeared. It told us not to take the white man further. We left the prospector alone and returned. White man went no further so he lived."



BC's Fabulo

THE LURE: Gold nuggets by the handful

THE LOCATION: 45 miles from Vancouver

THE TOLL: 20-30 men, missing or dead

By Robert McKeown
WEEKEND Staff Writer

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FOR MORE than 50 years in British Columbia, prospectors have been losing their lives in attempts to find a mine that does not exist — the mythical Lost Creek mine, which supposedly lies among the crags of the Pitt Lake country just 45 miles north of Vancouver.

How many men have lost their lives in the fruitless quest it is impossible to say, though estimates generally place the number between 20 and 30.

The maze of rocky valleys, granite slopes and snowy peaks that make up the district has never revealed what has become of any of those who have disappeared. And year by year the toll of death and injury continues to mount.

Last summer a 68-year-old New Westminster man, Duncan McPhadden, narrowly escaped becoming the latest victim. While prospecting McPhadden tumbled off a 20-foot cliff, suffering painful injuries to his back and chest.

He crawled for hours to reach his cabin. There he lay, unconscious, for two days, then dragged himself on hands and knees to the lake, where his motorboat was moored. After six miles of painful travel he reached a summer camp, from which he was rushed to hospital.

Less fortunate was Alfred Gaspard, who set out for the mine in the summer of 1950. He never returned.

Frank Woodside, secretary-manager of the BC and Yukon Chamber of Mines, says he believes that some of the deaths are never reported.

"Because they believe they are on the verge of discovering the mine, many make the trip in the greatest secrecy," Woodside said. "These people simply vanish."

"I've had men through my office who've said they knew the mine's location and made me swear never to tell a soul. I've done all I could to talk them out of going. But they have gone anyway and have never been heard from again."

Almost unbelievable in these times is the fact that the gold-seekers have pinned their lives on a tale that reads like schoolboy fiction. A "bad Indian," deathbed letters, secret maps, murders—it has them all.



Some deaths are not reported, says Frank Woodside, manager of BC and Yukon Chamber of Mines.

See 22/951

THE CASE of Gaspard is a typical one. He was a widower living in Langley, a small Fraser Valley community. He became fascinated by the tale of hidden gold, bought a car, and travelled widely to track down information that might provide a clue to the mine's location.

Like many before him, Gaspard is believed to have uncovered something that gave him confidence, despite the fact that he had never been in the Pitt country before. In July, 1950, he chartered an airplane which set him down about 15 miles north of the head of Pitt Lake. A second plane dropped him about 400 pounds of food—enough to last until the onset of winter. When he had not reappeared by November the RCMP took up the search.

The Mounties have made a series of patrols of the area during the past year. Constable John Dowsett and Stan Zepeski, a guide, carried out the latest one—in October, 1951. They found no sign either of the prospector or the camps or fires he might have made.

But they told of a frightening country that was an invitation to sudden death. At one point they clung to a narrow ledge of rock 400 feet above a mountain torrent. Large boulders constantly plunged down the canyon side into the river. Fogs and heavy rains made visibility poor and the footing treacherous. There was always the danger of becoming lost or of pitching headlong into the canyon.

Ironically, as Dowsett and Zepeski were looking for the missing man, their course passed that of 24-year-old Will Rogers of Vancouver. For the fourth time Rogers was on his way into the Pitt Mountains to seek the mythical gold that had lured Gaspard to his death.

Gaspard may have had a premonition that he would never return. His affairs were in order and he left a note concerning them which he directed to be opened if he did not come back.

The list of the mine's victims to which Gaspard's name has been added, includes mostly amateur gold-hunters who were lured by visions of sudden riches. But a few seasoned prospectors and backwoodsmen have given their lives in the attempt to find the source of the Indian's gold.

One such was Volcanic Brown, a colorful gold-hunter and natural healer of Grand Forks, BC. In the summer of 1937 Brown decided to try his hand at finding the Lost Creek mine.

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Though he didn't discover the gold he did what many others have not done — he survived his first trip into the mountains behind Pitt Lake. In the process, however, he suffered from badly frozen feet. Several of his toes had to be amputated.

rescued 1928
Brown apparently was firm in his belief that the information he had concerning the mine was valid and would eventually lead him to it. He returned to renew the quest in 1938. What went wrong this time has never been learned. He vanished. 1930

The lost mine legend begins with a half-breed named Slumach, who was hanged for murder in New Westminster on Jan. 16, 1891. Slumach was reported to have struck it rich in the Pitt Lake range of mountains some time during the 1880s.

ON a number of occasions Slumach turned up in New Westminster loaded with nuggets, some of which were as big as hens' eggs. In the best tradition of a Robert W. Service miner, he had an appetite for firewater and the company of carefree ladies.

He would enjoy both to the full—or at least until the nuggets and dust in his pack were exhausted. Thereupon he would head up the Fraser toward the Pitt and his mine. A few months later he would be back in New Westminster with another pay load for a repeat performance.

The story goes that when Slumach was in his cups, other miners would try to get him to tell where the mine was. But Slumach never told. And when other miners tried to follow him, he quickly lost them in the mountains.

Then the police found the body of a young squaw who had been drowned in Pitt Lake. She had been Slumach's companion on a trip to the mine.

Slumach's explanation, according to the story, was that she had fallen off a raft while they were crossing the lake together. But it is said that before he mounted the gallows after being sentenced to death for murder, he confessed to having killed seven other women companions. Since all had visited the mine with him, it was necessary to silence them forever if his secret were to be kept.

This is the Slumach legend as told by those who live in the hope of one day finding the mine. One detail at least can not be refuted. The New Westminster British Columbian and the Victoria Colonist for Jan. 16, 1891, record the hanging of Slumach at New Westminster.

The supposed link between Slumach and the modern seekers of the lost mine is John Jackson, a California miner, who appeared in New Westminster

ILLUSTRATED BY ED. McNALLY

shortly after the half-breed's death. Where Jackson got his information concerning the mine is obscure. He is said to have talked to Indians, studied maps and headed into the mountains.

JACKSON came back from the Pitt country a broken man who had found gold but lost his health. He returned to California to sell his pack load of gold for \$10,000—and to die. But when he lay at death's door he wrote a letter to a friend in Seattle and enclosed a map showing where the mine was to be found.

This letter turns up from time to time in the hands of gold-seekers. The prevailing story concerning the map is that part of it was lost during an early discovery attempt by a man who bought it for \$1,000 from Jackson's friend.

One of the Jackson letters is owned by a Vancouver sign painter, who obtained it in 1922. He believes this to be a copy of a letter Jackson wrote on his deathbed to a Dr. Hall.

The letter states that the mine is less than 20 miles from the head of Pitt Lake. Three peaks stand as sentinels over a canyon through which a creek flows. At a spot where the creek disappears from sight, the gold is to be found.

The Vancouver man has gone into the mountains a number of times in search of the mine. On one occasion—at a point about 17 miles northeast of Squamish and the same distance from the head of Pitt Lake—he found a canyon dominated by three peaks which fitted the description in Jackson's letter. But ice and snow prevented him from reaching the floor of the canyon to try to find the creek.

Another letter of which there is record is said to have been written by Jackson to a man named Shotwell in Seattle.

"I climbed to the top of a sharp ridge to get my bearings and found myself looking down into a little valley or canyon I had not seen previously," the letter reads. "With some difficulty I reached the little creek lying in the valley."

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"Now comes the interesting part. I had only a small prospector's pan but I found colors immediately. I knew I had struck it rich.

"In going up the creek I came to a place where the bedrock was bare. Here I gathered gold by the handful, some pieces as large as walnuts.

"I sized up the creek and I learned that beyond all doubt I had found Slumach's Lost Creek mine.

"I traced the course of the creek to where it flows into a subterranean tunnel and is lost. Then I packed out all the gold I could carry. When I sold it in Frisco it brought me close to \$10,000.

"Now the doctor has told me I am liable to drop dead at any time.

"Don't give up, Shotwell. You will be rewarded beyond your wildest dreams. Don't give up."

THE existence of a number of Jackson's letters and at least as many maps, has caused those familiar with the BC mining scene to be skeptical about the origin of these documents. But more than one man who should know better has parted with dollars in the belief that he was getting genuine articles in return.

About 15 years ago a Vancouver businessman approached Frank Woodside, the BC and Yukon Chamber of Mines manager, to find out what he knew of the Lost Creek mine. He revealed that he and two other well-known Vancouver men were about to finance a Swedish prospector who claimed to have already located the mine.

The four held their meetings in the back of a Hastings street store. These conferences were conducted in an atmosphere of great secrecy. The men spoke in whispers and took every precaution to prevent their purpose from being known. They were sure they were on the eve of great riches.

Woodside strongly advised that the men protect their investment by insisting that the Swede take along a reliable prospector whose integrity was unquestioned. He recommended Roy Watson, who had done work for some of the largest mining concerns in the province.

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At first the Swede refused outright to take Watson along. The secret of the mine's location, he said, could not be revealed to anyone. But when the businessmen threatened to withdraw their backing, he finally consented to have Watson accompany him.

Watson and the Swede made a base camp at the head of Pitt Lake and cached their supplies there. At this point, the Swede began to act in a manner that aroused Watson's suspicion. He set out on single-day treks from the base into the hills, despite the fact that he previously had said the mine was a few days' journey from the head of the lake. He would give no reason for his behavior. He further disturbed Watson by muttering to himself strangely.

Soon it became apparent that the Swede was trying to lose Watson. He would set out at a furious pace, attempting to disappear wherever the terrain appeared suitable. Working on the established mining principle, "never get out of sight of your partner," Watson stuck right along with him.

At the end of the third day Watson let the man know that he was tired of the run-around he was getting. Thereupon the Swede declared the mine was nearby and could be reached next morning.

When Watson awoke next day the Swede had disappeared. So had all but a small quantity of the food. Watson now was sure that the Swede's heavy pack was laden with extra provisions to see him through after he had lost Watson in the mountains.

He almost succeeded. When Watson entered Woodside's office in Vancouver weeks later, he was gaunt and haggard and his clothes were in tatters.

Rain and fog had closed in on him, obscuring the sky and the landmarks on which he depended to get back to Pitt Lake. If he had had enough food he could have waited out the weather. As it was, he had to make his way out of the mountains before starvation overtook him.

Watson never recovered from the ordeal in the Pitt mountains. He died a few years later after a long spell of illness. The Vancouver businessmen never

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heard again of the Swede — or of the \$1,500 they had invested with him in the Lost Creek mine.

Woodside's knowledge of mining in BC convinced him that the Lost Creek story is one that has developed from rumor and the tricks of confidence men like the one who victimized the Vancouver men. The fact that no trace of gold has been discovered in the Pitt region reassures him in his belief that the Lost Creek mine is merely a myth.

His own theory is that if Slumach ever did have gold, he found it on the bodies or in the cabins of miners he had murdered in the Lillooet gold fields farther up the Fraser. That any miner, particularly a half-breed, should waste his efforts in the difficult mountain country of the Pitt with the proven Lillooet beckoning, appears unlikely, to say the least.

There are serious inaccuracies to cast further doubt on the Slumach story. It has been confidently repeated that Slumach was hanged for the murder of an Indian woman. This ties in nicely with the story of the mine — but not with the facts of the Slumach case.

The court records in the BC archives at Victoria show that Slumach's victim was an Indian named Louis Bee. The Indian had insulted Slumach by calling him a sorcerer, witch and devil — the most serious insults in the Chinook language — and Slumach had shot him without warning.

FURTHERMORE, Slumach was not a young man as the stories about him suggest. The Victoria Colonist at the time of the trial reported, "The doomed man's age is over 80 and his hair and beard are snow-white." (However, he was spry enough to evade for two months the police party that was searching for him.)

Where the story of Slumach's mine got its start will probably never be known. It was already prevalent when Woodside, as a young prospector, came to New Westminster in 1896. It almost surely may be grouped with the many other tales of hidden gold and pirate treasure that have fascinated men throughout the centuries.

34

No Gold In 'Lost Mine'

Province Jan. 12 '32

By B. A. McKELVIE

STORIES of the fabulous wealth of the "lost mine" in the mountains back of Pitt Lake, from which Slumach, the Indian murderer, was reputed to obtain riches, are "picturesque, but untrue," says Capt. H. W. R. Moore, prominent Victoria barrister, war veteran, former journalist, miner and business executive.

Mr. Moore speaks with authority on the subject, for he is the last of a party of six men—all with experience in mining in the rugged terrain of Alaska—who thoroughly prospected the area in 1904 and actually found the spot from which Slumach, and later a lone prospector, were reported to have found gold.

"In the fall of 1904," Mr. Moore relates, "I was bookkeeper and local manager for the Riverside Timber Company, of Seattle, of which W. A. Macdonald was the principal owner. I had but recently returned from mining in Alaska, and was naturally keen to investigate any newly reported finds of gold.

"Mr. Macdonald in some way came into possession of a map depicting the spot from which the Indian killer—who had murdered Louis Bee, a halfbreed, as he fished on Lillooet Slough, Pitt River, in September, 1890—was supposed to have obtained an abundance of huge nuggets. The story was that the prospector, dying in California gave the map to his nurse, and from her it passed into possession of Macdonald."

Fired by the tale, Mr. Moore and Macdonald formed a party, four other gold miners from Alaska joining them. They secured a launch at New Westminster and started up the Pitt River. It was a most difficult trip, the upper river being jammed with logs and debris. "You can imagine what it was like," said the lawyer, "when I tell you that we had to portage 40 times in two days."

Following the course laid down on the map, Mr. Moore says, the party turned off to follow a creek that came into the Pitt from the left. "We named it Canyon Creek," he recalled, "as the greater length of it appeared to be between precipitous hills. But as this was shown on the map, we knew we were headed in the right direction. According to instructions we were to follow this stream to a point where we could take our bearings from three mountain peaks.

"We did so. We found the place. There

was no doubt that the prospector had been to the spot and that his map was correctly drawn. But, evidently the story of the gold was a figment of his imagination—probably induced by the illness that carried him off. In his delirium, I fancy, he pictured the spot as being rich.

"We spent a month in there, prospecting every inch of the locality and every stream and trickle—without getting a single color of gold. We did, however, locate a great ledge of bull quartz. This was barren of gold, but one portion of it did show molybdenite in sufficient quantities to justify us in staking it.

"We staked six claims, and named the location the Big Six Group. These were recorded in New Westminster later."

Capt. Moore says that he can well understand how men can disappear in the rugged country and never re-appear.

"The country is much disturbed and seems to be standing on end," he remarked. "Steep hillsides, covered with sallow bushes, are extremely slippery. One false step may easily result in injury with fatal consequences. I had personal experience of the dangers of the country. I slipped and slid and just managed to catch a projecting rock with my hand.

There is another factor that adds a further hazard to the country, Capt. Moore said. "It is that there is no edible game to be easily secured."

His reason for telling of his experiences at this time, the Victoria barrister asserts, is that of late years such highly colored and fictional stories of "Slumach's Gold" have been published, that they are liable to lure inexperienced adventurers into one of the most dangerous and difficult parts of B.C., where almost every step taken is at risk of injury—and possibly death.

Official records show that Slumach, the Indian who was supposed to obtain wealth from the "mine," was hanged at New Westminster, January 16, 1891. Legend says it was for the killing of his squaw to prevent her divulging the source of his wealth. *Killed Louis Bee*

Such a tale is pure fiction. He was executed for the unwarranted murder of Louis Bee, on the lower Pitt. He fled to the mountains and was tracked to his secluded cabin by William Moresby, governor of the jail, with a posse.

His cabin was burned and he was forced to surrender or starve—a gruesome corroboration of Captain Moore's statement of the paucity of game.

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35

INDIAN GHOST STANDS GUARD OVER LOST CREEK GOLD MINE

Discoverer Told Secret Before He Died on Gallows But Hex of Old Man Has Spelled Doom for 22 Searchers for 'Hideous Creek Lined With Gold'

A chain of tragedy surrounding the mystery of the Lost Creek gold mine, 45 miles northeast of Vancouver, might never have happened if old Slumach's son had kept his father's last request.

Old Slumach, an Indian who discovered the mine in the 1880's died on the gallows at New Westminster in January, 1891, for murder. Before he died he told his son, Young Slumach, where the mine was located.

"But," he said, "only go there when times are bad."

Scarcely had the executioner cut the old man down from the scaffold, when his whisky-loving son headed for the mountains of Pitt Lake. According to Indian legend, Young Slumach lugged thousands of dollars worth of precious metal out and exchanged it for fire water.

He teamed up with a half-breed, but the friendship didn't last long. The hex of his father spelled doom for the rich young Indian.

He vanished, as have 21 others who sought out the mine since that time.

An unidentified American prospector followed the half-breed back to the mine site and watched the gold being picked up from what the Indians describe as "the hideous creek that is lined with gold."

The American recruited a fellow countryman named John Jackson and again the half-breed was followed. The two white men could not contain their excitement and they pulled a revolver and shot the half-breed.

The murderers each toted out a reputed \$20,000 from the mine. But only Jackson reached New Westminster. The country swallowed up the other prospector.

Jackson is said to have made two maps one of which was given to a nurse who was with him in his last days. The other was given to a man known as Shotwell of Seattle, Wash.

The Indians claim that neither Shotwell nor the nurse ventured into the area but sold their maps for \$500 apiece.

This prompted other searchers to seek the Indian bonanza but no white man ever saw the mine again.

Simon Pierre, one of the last of the old medicine men, who died a few years ago, told Chief August Jack Khatsahlahno that he had other Indians guide a white prospector into the mountains and came face to face with Old Slumach's ghost.

"We sat around the fire one night and the ghost of Old Slumach appeared," Pierre was quoted as saying. "It told us not to take the white man further. We left the prospector alone and returned...white man went no further. So he lived."

OLD CHIEF'S SECRET TOLD, CLAIM POSTED.

FABLED MINE NEEDS NO GUARDIAN GHOSTS: NATURE'S BARRIERS
BLOCK SEEKERS OF GOLD

by

BILL RYAN.

23 April 52 (2X)

PROVINCE NEWS TEAM DISCOVERS HOW 21 MAY HAVE PERISHED.

The ghosts that guard Slumach's Lost Creek Mine, that have warded off a horde of searchers moiling for its gold, are not spirits ... they are the forces of nature, in savage combination.

Giant snags and windfalls, night temperatures that dip lower than 12 below freezing in April, yawning canyons that loom at your feet unexpectedly, treacherous snow crevices which could swallow a man while the backs of his companions were turned, snow and rockslides, all lined the trail that carried a Province news team to what may be the fabulous lost mine.

Last Wednesday when Province photographer Ray Munro, guide Tommy Williams and this reporter turned our backs on Pitt Lake and began climbing, the lake looked like a miniature Lake Louise in the bright sunshine. Our spirits rode high.

WEST SHORE

Four days later when we came out of the woods, Williams had two wrenched knees and assorted bruises, Munro's stomach was acting up and his shoulder was stiff, this reporter had a stiff right ankle and innugerable cuts and slivers. All of us were wet through, had torn clothes and legs like rubber.

Our Associated Air Taxi aircraft had dropped us on the west shore of Pitt Lake, about ten miles from the south end of the lake, near the point where the lake takes a sharp swing north-westward. You start climbing the moment you step ashore.

An overgrown trail, steep and pitted with rocks, carried us to about the 1500-foot level. On our backs we carried each about 30 pounds: canned beans, dehydrated soup, ready-mix pancake batter, spaghetti; a 303 army rifle and automatic shot gun, axe, knives, compass, prospector's permits, staking tags etc.

A leaping boiling stream blocked our path and we were not able to follow the route that our guide know best. We cut through a wild tangle of windfalls, covering half a mile in 2½ hours.

Wednesday evening, deep in giant red and yellow cedar and fir which would bring a handsome price on the lumber market, we pitched our first camp. Our camp was just within the snow line. We laid out cedar bough beds and turned in at 8 p.m.

Uncertain about bears, and having only two sleeping bags, we each stood four hours guard duty during the night. It passed without incident.

Thursday we threaded our way through a winter wonderland. But the melting corn snow gave way incessantly underfoot and progress was slow. We wound through the trees over a slight grade that lies between a mountain rim on either side with the roar of the wild stream we had been unable to cross constantly in our ears from the left. Munro took compass readings throughout, and Williams was constantly checking landmarks he knew, mountain peaks and blazed trees. We took turns in breaking a trail.

For a time even Williams was lost - then, suddenly, we came to a gentle down slope, and a level area beside the foaming creek.

Williams excitedly peered through the trees and upward, pointed and said: "There it is."

Munro and I dropped our packs and followed his finger. One thousand feet above us, near the top of a soaring peak whose top and flanks were completely covered by snow, we saw a sheer bluff, and faintly visible, below it, a ledge.

TO THE RIGHT

"I knew I could find it," beamed Williams. "I told you I could find it."

"Somewhere over here," he added, pointing to the right, "Slumach is supposed to have buried a seal skin full of gold beneath a big blazed tree. He had taken too much gold on one of his trips and couldn't carry it out. Slumach's son told my father about it."

But the mine was the main objective and we turned to the creek. We felled a tree across it and clambered to the other shore. We made camp quickly, and took only one pack of supplies and started on the last 1000 feet.

The slope was a 60-degree angle, all snow. The usual route, said the son of Chief Coquitlam William, lies to the right, up an easier slope to the crest of the mountain, along the top and then in a circle downward to the bluff and the edge.

MADE FOOTHOLDS.

We were able to kick and punch footholds in the snow, however, so we headed straight up. We changed course constantly to avoid fissures in the snow. There were many slips and slides; we literally crawled up 1000 feet on our hands and knees.

Throughout the climb Munro and I repeatedly stopped to catch our wind. Tommy, 59 years, spry by virtue of the centuries that his people have spent in taming the wilderness, plodded on methodically, ceaselessly.

It was bitter cold. We were wet, legs like rubber. Williams casually mentioned that he thought a toe and a finger were frozen. Two of his fingers were swollen to almost twice their size.

The roar of water sounded above us, and we reached a spot, below a bluff, where stream had broken through the snow and cascaded over the bluff. We edged out on a snow bridge, but couldn't reach the stream for fear of falling through the snow and into the rocky canyon below. We chewed on snow.

Williams looked about him frantically, trudged a few paces to the right onto the small ledge, and turned to us with an enigmatic smile.

"This is it - this is Slumach's mine," he said simply. (39)

"I knew the snow would be too deep. But below us is the creek. It runs out of a hole in that rock."

It was, we guessed, about 4000 feet up. Below us, across from us, all about us lay silence and the beauty of winter in the mountains.

UP THE BLUFF

And beneath our feet - if our information was authentic - there might be lode gold.

While Munro and Williams explored below, I worked my way up the bluff and reached a point near the crest of the peak. With a hatchet I blazed a tree, attached our metal staking tag and wrote on the white wood the other necessary information. The stake number is A86075. The claim blankets an area 2300 feet up the side of the mountain, 920 feet to the right of the stream and 400 feet to the left of the stream.

On a whim we called it "Rymu Coquitlam."

The formal papers have gone to the Gold Commissioner's office at New Westminster.

From the walls of the canyon we clawed out moss and a few chips of rock and - wet through and with evening winds whipping about us - we headed down. On the way down we staked our second post and corner posts.

Williams, carrying a gold pan filled with moss, slipped. He slid 100 yards down the steep slope but was stopped by a tree. The pan tobogganed another 100 yards down the slope, spewing moss.

We reached camp wet, breathless and worn.

Repeated attempts to start a fire failed. Finally, a few drops of gasoline we had did the trick. The fire was laid on two heavy logs we chopped so as not to sink into the snow. We stripped what wet clothes we could spare, hung them about the fire and dived for the sleeping bags. Supper was cold beans.

That night there was an incident. I awoke to find Williams and Munro thrashing about in their sleeping bag. Williams had awakened to find a small animal - he thought a marten or fisher - trying to crawl under the sleeping bag. In the pitch darkness, awakened abruptly, our nerves jangled. The animal fled.

Even in the bags our knees and feet were cold, although we were fully clothed.

Williams had another bad fall, overbalanced by his pack, on the way out and wrenched his knee. For a moment we thought he had broken his leg.

It was like stepping from winter into summer as we passed out of the snow line on Friday.

From our moss sample we panned a fine black sand.

Our plane was to rendezvous with us at the lake at 3 p.m. Saturday. It failed to appear.

Food was low and we considered building a raft to pole the ten miles down the lake, in the event that a mistake had been made about the rendezvous day. We learned later high winds in Vancouver has prevented our plane from taking off.

While we waited on Sunday a yellow Moth seaplane passed up the other side of the lake. We fired a red flare to attract him but he passed on.

Sunday sharp at 3 p.m. a twin-engined Cessna skimmed over the mountains and dropped to the lake.

That is the story, factually as it happened, and factually as it was told to us.

Is it the fabulous Lost Creek Mine of Slumach, who killed to protect his secret? And whether it is the mine or not, is there gold beneath the snows?

Gold has been taken out of the area, but no one can honestly answer these questions at this time. But when the snows melt this summer, you may be sure, two Province newsmen and the 59-year-old son of an Indian chief will go back to that bleak, remote bluff and ledge.

Excerpt from The Vancouver Province April 23, 1952 page 21.

41

Company Finds No Gold In Lost Creek Mine Area

VICTORIA — (CP) — A legend that lured 27 men to death was punctured Monday. It was the legend of Lost Creek gold mine, a fabulous deposit supposed to have been discovered by an Indian named Slumach in the Pitt Lake country, 45 miles northeast of Vancouver.

Slumach, the legend says, was hanged for murder 50 years ago after he arrived at New Westminster with some gold nuggets of immense value.

Hundreds of men went into the Pitt Lake area through some of the most dangerous country on the B.C. coast to locate the source. Twenty-seven never returned.

Recently a company was formed after a party, led by a man who claimed to be a descendant of Slumach, found what they thought was the right location.

J. Stewart Smith, provincial

superintendent of securities, announced Monday the company, Slumach Lost Creek Mine Ltd., has been suspended.

The company said thorough search of the area had uncovered no commercial ore.

Lost Creek Gold Legend Punctured

The legend of the "fabulous" Lost Creek gold mine deep in the mountains behind Pitt Lake where some 27 men have been lured to their deaths has finally been exploded.

Legend says the mine was discovered by a free-spending Indian named Slumach 50 years ago some 45 miles northeast of Vancouver. It has been a lure for get-rich-quick prospectors ever since. Slumach is supposed to have hanged for murder taking with him the secret of the mine's location.

But this never discouraged adventurers who wandered into the bleak, forbidding mountains or pure chance or convinced that they had somehow got hold of the secret.

FIRM SUSPENDED

Recently a company was formed to probe for the supposedly rich ore. When it reported to Victoria recently that no commercial ore had been uncovered, J. Stewart Smith, provincial superintendent of securities, announced that the group Slumach Lost Creek Mine Ltd. has been suspended.

The latest adventure was prompted by the story of a 59-year-old Indian who said his father had told him the mine's location. He guided a party to the scene and claims were staked.

Slumach Lost Creek Mine Ltd., a non-personal liability company, offered stock for sale.

'SPECULATIVE'

In one of its advertisements it said, "This is purely a speculative issue. The risk is great but it could be that the reward may be greater."

The first offering was 400,000 shares at 12½ cents a share. It was not reported how many shares were sold.

Alfred A. Evans, Caulfeild merchant, was listed as president and Arthur W. Bailey, North Vancouver general contractor, as secretary-treasurer. Other directors were Raymond A. Munro, North Vancouver journalist; Robert W. Porter, Vancouver manufacturer's agent, and Lauris O. Wright, Vancouver in-

VANCOUVER
SUN

Nov 18/52.

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'Lost Creek' Gold Mine Disproved

Province, Nov. 18, 1952

VICTORIA — The legend of the fabulously rich gold mine in the dangerous country behind Pitt Lake, where Slumach, an Indian, was supposed to obtain great wealth, has been exploded, J. Stewart Smith, superintendent of securities, has announced.

This, he says has come about through the examination of the area by the Slumach Lost Creek Mine Ltd., a company organized to test, once and for all, the truth of the stories that have been in circulation for more than half a century.

The company's solicitor, R. J. Munro has reported that a thorough examination has been concluded of the area, and that no commercial ore has been found.

The result is that the company has been suspended—and the fantastic story that has lured a number of men to their death has been, finally killed.

The legend was started in obscurity but persisted that Slumach had a supply of gold that he gathered from a creek. It is a most difficult and dangerous country, especially for inexperienced men.

42A

No Gold Encountered In "Fabulously Rich" Lost Creek Mine, Pitt Lake

Western minig news Jan. 15 '53
VICTORIA—The legend of the fabulously rich gold mine in the dangerous country behind Pitt Lake, where Slumach, an Indian, was supposed to obtain great wealth, has been exploded, J. Stewart Smith, superintendent of securities, has announced.

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The company's solicitor, R. J. Munro has reported that a thorough examination has been concluded of the area, and that no commercial ore has been found.

The result is that the company has been suspended—and the fantastic story that has lured a number of men to their death has been finally killed.

The legend was started in obscurity but persisted that Slumach had a supply of gold that he gathered from a creek. It is a most difficult and dangerous country, especially for inexperienced men, and some who attempted to find the source of the mythical gold never returned.

It was the legend of Lost Creek gold mine, a fabulous desposit supposed to have been discovered by an Indian named Slumach in the Pitt Lake country 45 miles northeast of Vancouver.

Slumach, the legend says, was hanged for murder 50 years ago after he arrived at New Westminster with some gold nuggets of immense value.

Hundreds of men went into the Pitt Lake area through some of the most dangerous country on the B.C. coast to locate the source. Twenty-seven never returned.

Recently a company was formed after a party, led by a man who claimed to be a descendant of Slumach, found what they thought was the right location.

43

Good Arguments

Annual search begins

The incurable Slumach gold mine disease

44

Lilloet Slough & Alouette Slough

By BRUCE RAMSEY

The first signs of spring appear earlier in a newspaper office than elsewhere.

The signs are curious, but they appear as regular as clockwork. And so, good news this morning: the signs of spring have showed up, despite the torrential rain and the cold. It happened this way. Two young men and a girl came into the office to enquire about Slumach's mine, the fabulous "lost mine" at the head of Pitt Lake.

They were enthusiastic, they had a green look of anticipation in their eyes, and they were ignorant of what they were getting into.

Until summer, more Slumach seekers will come into this office. They will be flushed tones, make copious promises, then vanish. Maybe they will disappear into the mountains and never be seen again. Most probably not.

Most people, and maybe more, live their lives looking for the day when a man by the name of Slumach is alleged to have owned before he dropped to his death on the banks of the New Westminster on Jan.

Some police officers who escorted Slumach to the gallows was a relative of Raymond Chandler, who plays Perry Mason in the popular Gardner TV series.)

A popular legend about this mine, is that Slumach (nobody's first name) used to bring gold to New Westminster to sell, though many tried to follow him into the wilderness above Pitt Lake, he was successful in discovering his

and he travelled secret Indian trails to get to the mine, and that he had Indian female slaves toiling for him under pain of death.

Then on Sept. 8, 1890, there was a

murder on the banks of Lilloet Slough, now known as Alouette Slough, just north of the Pitt River bridge.

The victim was a half-breed Kanaka, or Hawaiian by the name of Louis Bee, and Slumach was charged with his killing.

After the killing, Slumach, "an incarnate devil" as the newspapers of the day described him, retreated into the hills at the head of Pitt Lake where he hid out for almost six weeks.

"... the desperate fugitive quietly surrendered," the papers reported. "He had eaten nothing for several days, and was in a terrible state of emaciation and thoroughly exhausted."

"His ammunition was all gone and his clothing in rags, and he presented a very wild and weather-worn aspect."

The trial was dull. But afterwards an aura of glamour was associated with it. Rumor became fact and astounding statements were made.

Legend states the trial judge offered Slumach a lighter sentence if he told him the location of the mine. This is a libel on the record of Mr. Justice Tyrwhitt Drake, one of the most distinguished members of the B.C. bar, who presided at the trial.

There is no mention in the newspaper accounts of the trial of Slumach ever having gold in his possession.

The next question is, if Slumach knew secret Indian trails north of the Pitt, why didn't he use them to make his escape? It would be safe to assume that Indian trails went somewhere, and didn't just die out in the bush like a dead-end road. Thus, judging by the news story of his capture, he plainly didn't know any.

There is also the question of an alleged map drawn by a man who is said to have accompanied Slumach's son to the mine. A copy of this map, the so-called Jackson map, was pur-

chased in 1904 by a Captain W. H. R. Moore, of Victoria.

Writing in The Province in 1952 he said: "We spent a month there, prospecting every inch of the locality, and every stream and trickle—without getting a single color of gold."

"This was barren of gold, but one portion of it did show molybdenite in sufficient quantities to justify us staking it."

Copies of this map are still being offered for sale.

If there is nothing to the Slumach story, then the logical question to ask, is: Why is his name remembered at all?

Perhaps this can be answered, although it is only a supposition.

There are two similar stories of events which took place shortly before Slumach's death on the gallows. One concerns Mesachie Sam, who, it is said, murdered several men for their gold, and is reputed to have cached the loot somewhere on Sumas Prairie.

In the Pemberton-Bridge River country, an Indian by the name of Hunter Jack is said to have had great piles of free gold, probably taken from an outcropping where the Bralorne-Pioneer mine is now located.

Hunter Jack is said to have given potlatches at which he gave presents of gold.

One theory is that Slumach, Hunter Jack and Mesachie Sam were friends, and Slumach's golden horde was a pile of gold obtained at a Hunter Jack potlatch.

No matter how much evidence can be produced to debunk the Slumach story, no matter how earnestly one tries to describe the ruggedness of the country north of the Pitt, it is wasted effort.

Those who have contracted "gold fever," complicated with the Slumach disease, are incurable.

March 10, 1953

45
Colonist Mar. 29 '53

Bluebeard of Pitt Lake Or the Lost Gold Mine

By I. G. TEMPLE

ENTHUSIASTIC tourists have been known, after a visit to British Columbia, to say that the province has "everything." Of course, local residents have known that for years! Quite a few, both among the natives, immigrants and tourists, however, have never heard of a B.C. prototype of the legendary "bluebeard," who was hanged at New Westminster over 50 years ago. He might have been termed a bluebeard with improvements; he started by executing wives, came to his well-deserved end for murdering a man, and indirectly was probably responsible for a number of men since. In fact, another victim was probably added to his score this winter! We hasten to add that he wasn't native to the province, but came from east of the Rockies originally.

GOLD HUNTERS

Known by the euphonious name of "Slum," he prospected the mountains north of Pitt Lake year after year during the nineties, like many other gold hunters. Unlike the majority,

after a few years he started coming out in the fall with gold dust and nuggets in quantities sufficient to spend the following winter having a high time in Westminster and Vancouver. Each spring, broke, he would again set out for the mountains with his Indian wife; they would go to the head of Pitt Lake by canoe, and then take to the tall timber. Of course, he was frequently followed by envious fellow prospectors, but always managed to elude them not far from the lake. Back he'd come, when the leaves began to fall, with a poke of nice new gold, to another winter's celebration.

EXCESS CARGO

However, he wasn't as fortunate with his wives; in fact, they never succeeded in sharing the celebration; every year they got themselves drowned somewhere near Siwash Rock, near the south end of Pitt Lake. At this point no more heavy packing was required, and Slum could get the gold back to civilization easily by himself! Finally he over-reached himself by applying the same technique to a trailing halfbreed prospector that he had successfully

used for his wives for several years; he drowned him near the same old Siwash Rock. This time it was a case of the pitcher going too often to the well, and after a chase he was caught by Constable Moresby of the Provincial Police. In due course he was convicted and hanged, about 1900; but he never told where he used to get the gold.

SEARCH FAILED

Logically, that should have ended the deaths he had been causing; but human nature being what it is, men have been dying ever since, trying to find what has come to be known as the lost Pitt Lake Mine. The first of a respectable list of victims was an old Yukon sourdough named John Jackson, who came down from the north in 1903, heard about Slum's continuous supply of nuggets, and set off up Pitt Lake that spring. Months later he crawled into an Indian camp at the head of the lake. With him he had a heavy bag, which he wouldn't let out of his sight while the natives nursed him until he was well enough to get out to the railroad. He went to San Francisco, where he deposited \$8,700 in the branch of the Bank of British North America.

SOLD HIS MAP

He wrote a friend named Shotwell, in Alaska, enclosing a map, and then died from the effects of his trip to the bonanza. Shotwell sold his share in the map to a Seattle man, who made several unsuccessful trips. In Jackson's letter to Shotwell he said the gold was in handfuls, but unfortunately some of the letter was illegible, and the map had been drawn from memory, after he got back, and was hard to understand. At any rate, no one has found the gold yet, although some 20 people have presumably been killed trying. They go into the tangled web of mountain valleys north of the lake, and they just don't come back. It's a rugged country, and there is a lot of it. In the mid thirties another sourdough with the picturesque name of Volcanic Brown spent a summer there, and came out with feet frozen. He tried again the following season, and didn't come back. His frozen corpse may lie in the depths of a glacier, or his bleached bones may be disintegrating at the bottom of some cliff; there are many ways to die in the rocky defiles and precipitous peaks of the coast range.

LATEST VICTIM

Recently another seeker for the Pitt Lake gold hasn't come out. A police search was considered; but it would be looking for a needle in the proverbial haystack to find a man in those mountain masses. No doubt the bones of this latest prospector will be uncovered, but it is doubtful if they are ever seen by anyone other than a roaming bear or wolf. No doubt some day a new gold rush may start into the country north of Pitt Lake; but according to the record piled up so far, there are many easier, and less dangerous, ways to get rich. After all, if you lose out on your ticket on the Irish sweepstakes, you only lost three and a half bucks; and you don't have to climb a lot of perpendicular pieces of real estate to do it!

The Lost Gold Of Garibaldi

47

PEOPLE LOVE a mystery, especially one with a pot of gold at the finish.

Which is perhaps why, for more than half a century, veteran and amateur prospectors have been clawing their way up craggy heights and peering into rocky chasms above Pitt Lake, midway between the head of Howe Sound and the north end of Harrison Lake.

They've been searching for a murderer's mine.

It's a rough area, one of the roughest in B.C., and some have lost their lives, others escaped with broken bones, and some never seen again.

But if there is such a mine, then the only living man who can safely say that he came within a mile of it, is quiet-spoken ex-Game Inspector George C. Stevenson, who retired from the Game Commission here in Victoria just a few months ago and lives at 1403 Ryan Street.

FLASHBACK

But first a flashback on the original tale.

Back in September, 1890, Slumach, an aged Pitt River Indian, whose wild-eyed, half demented manner gave him almost medicine man status, took exception to the jesting comment of 24-year-old French-Canadian half-breed, Louis Bee.

"Who are you going to kill today?" sneered trapper Louis as he eyed gun-carrying Slumach that afternoon on Lillooet slough.

"You!" growled Slumach, and promptly shot Louis dead. Bee's Indian companions scattered to the bush and Slumach (after dumping Bee's body in the Pitt river) took to the hills.

Although a police posse a week later came near enough to the murderer to exchange long-range shots, Slumach vanished.

But despite his bush knowledge (he was one of the few Indians in those parts who could still produce fire by rubbing sticks), his age (81) was against him—that and the approaching winter. So in a month or two, ragged and emaciated, food and ammunition gone, the white-haired wild man gave himself up and was quickly tried and convicted.

With Slumach's death, old timers found themselves comparing notes. It seems Slumach had occasionally shown gold samples — and from a pretty rich deposit.

Then Slumach's son (so the story goes) disobeyed his father's final wish when he offered to show a white man where the gold came from. Be that as it may, 1903 saw John Jackson, a veteran Alaskan prospector, coming out of the hills with a heavy poke and a shut mouth. Slumach's son was never seen again. And the curious took time out to notice that Jackson deposited about \$10,000 in the San Francisco branch of the Bank of British North America.

SOLD THE MAP

A year or two later, just before his death in Seattle, Jackson sold or gave a map of the claim to a man called Shotwell. The original, or copies of it, pop up from time to time; and off and on for 50 years they have spurred the seekers over the boulder-strewn slopes and icefields of the upper Pitt.

VANCOUVER SUN
DEC 31, 1954

Some definitely discouraged all attempts to follow them; and such a one was "Volcanic" Brown, grizzled old discoverer of the Volcanic mine in the southeast Kootenay country.

One night, many years ago, so the

story goes, Brown turned up at the Kootenay hunting lodge of four Nelson business men. He was tired, but after a couple of stiff rums and a hot meal, garrulously told how he'd once met up with the ailing grand-

daughter of Slumach. Volcanic, being a bit of a herbalist, cured her. And in return she gave him a clue as to the location of her grandfather's mine.

This was the most the taciturn old man told anyone. Later, down at the coast, he visited the headwaters of the Pitt season after season. He always brought out gold but he never recorded a claim!

Once he got his toes frozen, amputated some of them himself, and made his way out to Seven Mile Creek, where a rescue party picked him up. There was no clue as to where he'd been. Each year when he came out, about the middle of September, he checked in at the government hatchery at the head of Pitt Lake.

In September, 1930, he didn't appear and in a month or so a search party went in. In it were Game Warden (now inspector) George Stevenson, provincial constable Eugene ("Spud") Murphy, and Roy and Bill McMaster, experienced trappers who knew old Volcanic.

A TOUGH TRIP

Recalling the trip, Stevenson, a wiry, bush-wise veteran of 25 years with the Game Department, says it was the toughest he ever undertook. In the 27-day search Stevenson—never packing much excess weight—lost 13 pounds.

It was early November when they went in, an almost impossible task.

save for skilled men. Early on the way Murphy fell victim of injury and Bill McMaster helped him return. Stevenson and Roy McMaster went ahead.

From the head of Pitt lake the party went up to the headwaters of Seven Mile Creek, then across the divide to Homestead glacier. Across the mile-and-a-half glacier they struck what trappers call Porcupine valley, and, making their way up to timberline, started across the seven-mile Stave Glacier. Where the Stave river is born they found Volcanic Brown's last camp.

There was deep snow on the ground and plenty in the air. At one spot they were snowbound for five days, and on Homestead glacier it took all of one day to make 1,200 feet.

Under the deep snow Brown's camp was found by accident. Whisky jacks squabbling in a snow-laden tree attracted Stevenson's attention. Yanking the branches loose of snow he saw a blackened piece of frozen bear meat wired to a branch.

Probing around they discovered a collapsed pup tent, some cooking utensils, a single-barreled shotgun and a notebook with here and there herb remedies written in it. Another small object attracted attention; a screw-top glass jar full of coarse gold. Gold that had been hammered out of a solid vein, for it still bore traces of quartz.

THE SOLE LINK

Brown was never found. Of the pair that found the camp, Roy McMaster is now dead. Which leaves George Stevenson sole link with Volcanic Brown's possible solution of the lost mine.

Insp. Stevenson, a family man, hasn't felt like pursuing the will-o'-the-wisp mine, being much too busy with his governmental career—but he's had some substantial offers of backing if he ever wants to take up where Volcanic Brown left off.

December 31, 1954

INJURED MAN CRAWLS TO SAFETY

Tough Prospector Breaks Curse of Lost Creek Mine

By TOM ARDIES

Legendary curse of the "Lost Creek Mine" was broken last week when an injured prospector crawled out of the Pitt Lake backwoods after three torture-filled days in a lonely cabin.

The prospector, Duncan McPhaden, 68, of 436 First Street, New Westminster, is in "fairly good" condition at Royal Columbian Hospital today.

He has back and chest injuries.

McPhaden said he was injured last Tuesday when he tumbled off a 20-foot cliff while searching for the fabulous "Lost Creek Mine" at the mouth of Pitt Lake.

In the past half century, the

legend-steeped mine has lured 21 men into the Pitt River mountain country never to return again.

McPhaden's torturous three-day ordeal began early Tuesday morning when a ledge near his cabin crumpled under him.

He struck his back on a huge rock as he fell.

"It took me hours to crawl back to the cabin," the white-haired prospector recounted. "I couldn't walk."

Semi-Conscious for 2 Days

McPhaden said he remained in the isolated cabin in a semi-conscious state for two days.

Early Friday he decided to make his bid for aid.

"I knew I would never make it if I didn't start then," said the hard-bitten prospector, a former deputy registrar at the Supreme and County courts in New Westminster.

The nearest neighbors were at Williams' Lodge, a summer camp at the head of Pitt Lake, six miles away.

McPhaden dragged his pain-wracked body from the cabin and crawled on his hands and knees more than 200 yards, over rock-strewn terrain, to a rowboat moored at the lake shore.

"I rowed, in a fashion," he said.

The elderly prospector finally reached his gas boat, moored 200

yards out in deep water and began the six-mile trip to Williams' Lodge.

At the summer camp, he was quickly bundled into a speedboat by the proprietor, Carl Williams, and rushed to the Pitt Lake Ferry Service office, Port Coquitlam.

There he was transferred to New Westminster Exclusive Ambulance and taken to hospital.

And so McPhaden, a bachelor who has spent the summers of last 10-odd years in the Pitt Lake area, escaped the curse of a mine which has haunted prospectors and public alike for more than half a century.

The lost mine's last victim was Fred Gaspard, 60, of Langley, who set out July 20, 1950, for the upper reaches of Pitt River. He was never seen again.

Half-Breed Struck Gold

According to a mixture of fact and legend, the "Lost Creek Mine" first came to light when a half-breed named Slummock made repeated trips to the boom town of New Westminster in 1890.

He always brought along glittering chunks of virgin gold. Despite his fantastic drinking bouts and frightening revelry, he would only mutter: "Lost Creek."

No one ever was able to follow Slummock to the mine. He always lost them in the maze of mountains.

Slummock died on the gallows with his secret locked inside for murdering an Indian woman he took to the site.

Of the many that have searched since Slummock was hanged by the King's men in 1891, only one white man, an American, ever stumbled back with gold.

He told a fearsome tale of hardships and a creek which lost itself in a mountain tunnel. Then he sold his packload of gold for \$10,000 and died.

Old prospectors say the wind wailing across the upper reaches of Pitt River in the winter sounds like the phantom spirit of Slummock, the bad half-breed, laughing.

But the wind will cry this winter because the curse has been broken.

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1951

THE FABULOUS TALE of SLUMACH'S GOLD

by
ALAN JAY

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"WHEN I DIE, MY MINE DIES WITH me — and all those who try to find it will die also". These were the last words uttered by Salish Indian John Slumach before he was executed for murder in New Westminster, B.C., in 1891.

Slumach was supposed to have discovered a gold mine in the Pitt River area, but the secret of its location went with him to the grave — and 25 people have died trying to discover the Indian's secret.

A few weeks ago the legend of the Slumach curse was suddenly revived when Vancouver Film Producer Hugh Greig announced plans to make a television film based on the Slumach story. He will start shooting early this June in New Westminster and on location as near as possible to where the Slumach mine is thought to be. Although the Slumach curse doesn't worry him, he is taking no chances.

"I shan't actually be looking for the mine; just for a suitable location for filming in the general area, so perhaps Slumach will take it easy on me," he says.

Canada
Now to
April
1966

THE SLUMACH story starts in New Westminster in 1889. British Columbia's Royal City was a small town and the Fraser River gold rush was at its height.

One day Slumach, a Salish Indian, burst into a saloon and ordered a round of drinks for everybody present. And he paid for them with a handful of gold nuggets.

He was carrying a haversack packed with nuggets "the size of walnuts" and scattered them liberally in all directions as he painted the town red for the next two days. When the time came for his departure, the town was ringed with people lying in wait for him. "A mouse couldn't have got through the cordon," says a report in the local newspaper, "but John Slumach did. And he just vanished."

A few weeks later the Indian reappeared in New Westminster, again with a haversack full of nuggets. He again threw a party in the saloon that went on for three days.

Then he slipped out of town and vanished. This went on for 16 months — with the parties getting bigger and wilder all the time.

But each time Slumach left town to return to his mine, he took a girl with him. None was ever seen again. When the score totaled three white girls and five Indian girls, the police stepped into the picture. Slumach told them he employed the girls to cook for him and mend his clothes but paid them off when he returned to town.

When the body of one of the girls was found on the river bottom, with one of Slumach's nets wrapped around her, Slumach told the police that the girl had fallen overboard from his canoe but that he hadn't bothered to report it. He was arrested, but released three days later because of lack of evidence.

Slumach again vanished into the wilderness of the Pitt River area and stayed there for six weeks. When he returned with his customary load of nuggets, the carousing started again.

During the party, Slumach met an attractive, half-Irish, half-Chinese girl called Molly Tynan. She had arrived in New Westminster while Slumach was at his mine and announced her intention of claiming the Indian as her own personal property despite warnings that eight

other girls had vanished trying to do just that.

Six weeks after Molly and Slumach left New Westminster for the mine, her body was found in the Fraser River. She had been stabbed to death. When he returned to town Slumach was arrested and questioned about her death. He told police he had paid her off and had last seen her heading in the direction of Vancouver. A week later, police released him for lack of evidence. Once again the Indian evaded his trackers and vanished. But his career was coming to an end.

Slumach was hunting around Lillooet Slough, near the Pitt River, when he came across a half-breed by the name of Louis Bee. For some reason that remains unexplained to this day, Slumach shot Bee through the chest at point-blank range, killing the half-breed instantly. He was arrested and tried for Bee's murder in New Westminster in January 1891.

THROUGHOUT the trial, Slumach refused to reveal the location of his mine, despite inducements offered him privately by police and citizens of the town. He was found guilty and sentenced to hang. On January 16, 1891 he was taken into the yard of the provincial jail to be executed.

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Slumach stood on the gallows with the rope around his neck. Asked if he had any last statement to make, he surveyed the watching crowd, a look of hatred etched on his face. "When I die, my mine dies with me — and all those who try to find it will die also," he snarled in the Chinook language. Three minutes and 58 seconds later he was dead, taking the secret of the location of the mine with him to the grave.

The secret died with him. The curse lived on.

The following year, a man from San Francisco arrived in New Westminster, announced his intention of finding the lost Slumach mine, and went into the mountains of the Pitt River area. He returned five months later, a pain-wracked skeleton, and told a story of incredible hardships. He died of his injuries a few months later.



IN THE YEARS since, 25 people have died trying to locate the dead Indian's mine. Some of the bodies were never recovered. The last victim of the Slumach curse was Lewis E. Hagbo of Bremerton, Washington. He left New Westminster in the summer of 1961 for the Pitt River area vowing he would not return until he had found Slumach's gold. He didn't return — and he didn't find the mine. His son-in-law followed his trail and found Hagbo's body at the foot of the mountain. He had dropped dead of a heart attack.

After that, nobody showed any inclination to brave Slumach's curse. But Greig's plans to film the Slumach story have revived interest in the mine and already several speculative expeditions are planned.

But obtaining guides is a problem. Although it is said that some of the older Indians living in the area have a good idea of where the mine is.

Sick 71-year-old survives glacier crawl, 10-mile trek

By FRED CURTIN

A 71-year-old prospector who crossed a glacier and 10 miles of wilderness in a daze after blacking out in his remote cabin has survived a 12-day fight for life.

Bernard Rover is in fairly good condition in Vancouver General Hospital following a rescue which was almost as unbelievable as his desperate trek for help near Pitt Lake, 40 miles northeast of Vancouver.

Rover was found last Saturday by Mike Chizh of Surrey and Bob Milburn of Vancouver, two railroadmen who had set out for a week's vacation to prospect in one of B.C.'s most rugged areas.

"All the odds were against him ever getting out," Chizh said. "I feel fate or Providence had a big hand in the rescue."

Chizh said he and his partner decided to spend a week prospecting seven or eight miles up

Vickers Creek which flows into the northeast end of Pitt Lake.

"When we landed in a clearing near the creek last Saturday we saw a small fire burning and asked our helicopter pilot to fly over it to see if anyone was there.

"He said it looked like a lightning strike and we went down to put it out after he flew off.

"It was an abandoned camp fire. Then we saw another one about a quarter-mile further down the creek and went down to put that one out.

"There we found the old man lying under a tarp with his legs blown up like balloons.

"He was pretty much out of his mind but after we got some food and tea into him he told us he had been prospecting at Thomas Lake for the past month.

"He said he had suffered a stroke five days ago in his camp and set out for help. He couldn't remember anything else.

"He had put on boots with spikes to get over the glacier and we had to cut them off him because of the condition of his legs.

"He had planned to come down Gurney Creek off the glacier and get help at the logging camp but missed his way and came down Vickers Creek.

"He was down to a few hard-tack biscuits and a can of sandwich spread. He said he wouldn't have lasted another day without help.

"We packed more grub and sleeping bags into his camp and spent Sunday resting so he could regain some of his strength. He didn't even have a sleeping bag for his trek over the glacier.

"We spent Monday and Tuesday packing him up the rock slide to our camp where a helicopter could land.

"Our plane wasn't due until

(Continued on next page)
See DAZED

Dazed prospector rescued

Sunday and it was becoming apparent he wouldn't last that long.

"It had been raining for several days and everything was soaking wet. He was now swollen right up to the hips and said water was coming out of his legs.

"He seemed to be going back into shock and I thought he was going to die.

"It was raining even harder Wednesday and Bob and I decided we had to go for help.

"We left him in a dry bag with some food and a fire and set out at 7 a.m. for the B.C.

From Page 1

Forest Products camp at the head of the lake. It was tough going. This country is strewn with 40-foot boulders and clogged with jungle growth.

"It took us all day to get to the camp and we were not able to do anything that night.

"But the Canadian Forces sent their helicopter over from Comox Thursday morning and we were able to take them to the camp.

"The old man was soaked

when we got there and couldn't get out of the bag. But they told us at the hospital that he was going to make it.

"We didn't get any prospecting in for ourselves but finding him was much better than finding gold.

"He told us that he has lived his life in the mountains and has prospected all the way from Africa to the Yukon.

"His camp was at least 10 miles from where we found him and it is anybody's guess how far he had walked.

"He told us he didn't want to die."

An address given by S/Sgt. R. HARDING, R.C.M.P., to the Rotary Club at Haney, B.C., January 29th, 1969, based on an article published in the July, 1968 issue of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Quarterly.

"OLD SLUMACH"

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If called upon to name one of the most interesting characters I have ever met, the person of 92 year old Harry List, an old friend of many years standing, comes to mind. We first made each other's acquaintance in Chilliwack, B.C., where the writer served on the Chilliwack City Detachment and Harry who is a veteran of World War I still lives. I grew to know him as an ardent cribbage player, an enthusiastic gardener and certainly one of the most prolific story tellers imaginable, on subjects ranging from his exploits in World War I to his varied and colorful experiences in the northern part of British Columbia and elsewhere in this Province.

It was on a recent trip to my old "stamping grounds" in Chilliwack that I visited Harry at the home of his daughter when my curiosity became aroused by a rather unusual looking article suspended near the massive stone fireplace in the living room. I asked my old friend what it represented. "That" Harry told me "was the tomahawk of 'Old Slumach'" and the bright light in his eyes tipped me off that thereby hung another tale. What follows concerns rather ironically perhaps, another unforgettable character, but for entirely different reasons and a bizarre account of the fabulous Lost Creek gold mine.

Estimates range between 20 and 30 for the number of prospectors, some seasoned and others not much more than amateur gold hunters, who have been losing their lives for over a period of sixty years in a vain attempt to locate this gold mine which allegedly nestles deep among the treacherous Pitt Lake mountains about 45 miles north of Vancouver, B.C. Indian legend

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Estimates range between 20 and 30 for the number of prospectors, some seasoned and others not much more than amateur gold hunters, who have been losing their lives for over a period of sixty years in a vain attempt to locate this gold mine which allegedly nestles deep among the treacherous Pitt Lake mountains about 45 miles north of Vancouver, B.C. Indian legend has it that the ghost of an Indian or half breed named Slumach who struck it rich by finding the mine and died on the gallows at New Westminster for murder on January 16th, 1891, lured these unfortunate gold seekers to disaster and death. His curse, so the story goes, persists to this day.

Many are the legends, chiefly of Indian origin, surrounding Slumach and repeated most by those incurable enthusiasts who live in hopes of some day finding the lost Eldorado. However, irregardless of the authenticity of these stor~~ies~~ies, there stand out two irrefutable facts - one is that the persistence of these tales have driven many a prospector and miner to a lonely and violent death in the wild Pitt Lake mountains and secondly, that the New Westminster "Daily Columbian" as well as the "Victoria Colonist" for January 16th, 1891 both record the hanging of Slumach at New Westminster, B.C. Mr. Justice Tyrwhitt Drake presided at the trial. (50)

The murder of the half-breed Louis Bee, the prolonged search and ultimate surrender of Slumach as well as the ensuing trial were dealt with at some length by the "Daily Columbian" and an excerpt from the Tuesday evening Sept. 9th, 1890 edition may prove of interest:

"SHOT DEAD"

"Louis Bee, a halfbreed, is deliberately shot and killed by an insane Indian named Slumach at Lillooet Slough. A terrible unpremeditated murder was committed yesterday afternoon at a point on Lillooet Slough, not far from the Pitt River, and some two and a half miles above Pitt River Bridge. An Indian named Slumach, aged about sixty years, was hunting in this neighbourhood, and coming out of the bush, with his double-barrelled shotgun in his hand, found several other Indians troutfishing on the banks of the Slough.

A half-breed named Louis Bee sauntered up to Slumach and asked him in a casual way what he was shooting around here. Without a moment's warning, or any preliminary sign of anger, Slumach instantly levelled his gun at Bee and fired. Just before the discharge of the piece, Bee held up his hands and begged Slumach not to shoot. The distance between the two men was so short that the whole charge entered the victim's body, just under the right arm pit.

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One of the Indians who witnessed the awful deed immediately fled, not only to give the alarm, but from motives of personal safety. He describes

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the countenance of the murderer after the act was committed as resembling that of an incarnate demon. Slumach is insane, and what he had done seemed to have kindled all the wild disorderly fancies of madness in the maniac's brain and lit up his eyes with a ferocious gleam that boded no good to anyone whom he should encounter when his gun was reloaded. Slumach slowly retreated to the impenetrable and pathless jungle surrounding that part of the Lillooet Slough and plunging into its gloomy recesses was lost to sight and is still at large."

Subsequent editions of the "Daily Columbian" cover the Coroner's Inquest, organization of the posse and search for Slumach including his final arrest - (Oct. 25th, 1890) "Yesterday he (Slumach) sent his nephew for the Indian Agent who went up to Pitt Lake accompanied by two Indian policemen, and to them the desperate fugitive quietly surrendered. He had eaten nothing for several days, and was in a terrible state of emaciation and thoroughly exhausted. His ammunition was all gone and his clothing in rags he presented a very wild and weatherworn aspect"

Perusal of these particular records do not, however, include any reference to Slumach's finding of an immense deposit of gold in the Pitt Lake country, or substantiate the account of Slumach returning year after year from the wild mountain country he knew so well with bags of virgin gold the size of walnuts. However the opinion of his fellow Indians concerning Slumach and his unpredictable actions is clear - (Sept. 19th, 1890) - "The Indians say that Slumach has always acted strangely and at irregular intervals would withdraw himself along into the forests and remain there for weeks, reappearing at the end of those periods of aberration looking haggard, and more like a savage beast than a human being. In spite of his lunacy, however, the maniac never displayed any signs of hostility, nor gave indications that his freedom was dangerous to human life he is described

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(60)

The body of one young squaw who accompanied the old Indian was found floating in the Pitt Lake but the wily Slumach claimed she had accidentally fallen off the raft on which they were crossing the lake. The bodies of the others were never accounted for.

Another story concerns Slumach's use of gold bullets which he would often use in hunting game or disposing of his human victims. One Indian swore that he managed to extract pieces of the precious metal from a stump in the forest into which old Slumach had been seen to fire practice shots. Slumach was extremely unpopular with other Indians or half-breeds who feared his violent temper and envied his uncanny ability to entice away their women. Nevertheless in spite of his uncanny aptitude in eluding all his pursuers who tried to follow him into the mountains wilderness where old Slumach always succeeded in losing them in the maze of canyons and cliffs, he finally met his Nemesis at the hands of the law which was brought about by his killing another Indian named Louis Lee on the lower Pitt River.

Another Indian tale goes that after Slumach was arrested, several unscrupulous officials tried to pressure him into revealing his secret in the hope of having his hanging commuted to a life sentence. There is nothing to support such a charge although the enigmatic old Indian's reply in the Chinook language to queries regarding his mine's location was terse and to the point - "NIKA MEMLOOSE ---- MINE MEMLOOSE" (When I die - mine dies). Some witnesses to Slumach's hanging said he kept mute to the end regarding his source of wealth. Indians however say he whispered his secret to his son who visited him in his death cell and gave him adequate information to guide him to the rich creek of gold.

Expeditions into the Pitt country to rediscover the mine have been quite numerous but usually met with devastating results. One of the earliest involved a California miner named John Jackson who appeared in New Westminster,

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Expeditions into the Pitt country to rediscover the mine have been quite numerous but usually met with devastating results. One of the earliest involved a California miner named John Jackson who appeared in New Westminster, B.C. not long after Slumach's death. He had apparently picked up information by talking to Indians and after familiarizing himself with maps of the area, hiked into the mountains. The story is that Jackson did in fact find gold - about \$10,000 worth of it - but he returned a broken man from his privations and returned to California to die. On his deathbed he wrote a letter to a friend and attached a map of the Pitt Lake area, giving the location of the

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gold mine he had found. The letter and map allegedly written by Jackson turns up periodically in the hands of new searchers for the hidden lode and inspires new attempts to pinpoint the mine's location. Partnerships have been formed and financial backing given other enterprising efforts to relocate the site of Slumach's Lost Creek gold mine with similarly disappointing results.

The legend regarding the ghost of old Slumach haunting the mountains as well as the actual existence of the mine itself has been ridiculed by B.C. mining authorities, but in spite of this the rumours and expeditions persist.

Not too many years ago some adventurous Vancouver newspapermen did in fact succeed in finding their way into the wild Pitt country guided by an Indian named Tommy Williams and staked what was believed to be the fabulous Lost Creek mine of Slumach. It appeared that Chief Coquitlam William, aged 109 and still alive at that time had known Slumach and in fact the Chief had been taken by Slumach's son to the site of the lost lode after the father's death. Chief Coquitlam in turn had taken his son Tommy Williams to the scene. The newsmen and their guide were dropped on the west shore of Pitt Lake by an Associated Taxi aircraft and found the going grim and exhausting right from the time they first placed foot ashore.

However after enduring considerable hardship and have pointed out to them what the guide affirmed was the location, their claim was staked on a large yellow cedar which, according to Williams, was directly above the creek whose black silt, the deposit of many centuries, concealed gold nuggets in abundance. Unfortunately about 20 - 30 feet of hard packed snow in freezing temperatures precluded further exploration taking place. The participants did plan a return trip when the snows melted in summer but whether the search was resumed and with what results is not known.

Through the years has come the scanty information that the golden creek is to be located only about 20 miles from the head of Pitt Lake and that

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Through the years has come the scanty information that the golden creek is to be located only about 20 miles from the head of Pitt Lake and that three peaks tower as sentinels over a canyon through which a creek flows and at a position where the creek suddenly disappears into the ground, the gold is to be found.

The Lost Creek mine is death to the white men, so says the Indian legend, but those who have followed the dangerous route into the mountains

64

and survived say that the fabled mine needs no guardian ghost of Slumach or any other to ward off would-be fortune hunters. The savage forces of nature - treacherous snow covered canyons, freezing temperatures, leaping boiling streams, precipitous mountain sides and seasonal heavy rains make a terrifying country where a misplaced step can be an invitation to sudden death. As to Slumach's possession of gold - if this was true at all say the experts and critics, it would be gold that the killer Indian found on the bodies of miners he likely murdered in their cabins on the Lillooet gold fields further up the Fraser River. Once again they point out that legend has it that the Indian Slumach died on the gallows for the murder of an Indian named Louis Bee who got the worst of it in an argument which occurred on the lower Pitt River.

Fact or fiction, synonymous with the arrival of spring the awakening of gold fever and rebirth of interest in the lost mine has been a phenomenon for many years, no matter how strongly have been the sceptics' efforts to dispute the Slumach legend and the curse he left over the white man who might dare to tear away the veil which shrouds his secret.

On the other hand could an old tomahawk, if it could only speak, have a story all of it's own and be able to refute the scoffers of the legend? It is actually a combination peace pipe and weapon combined and of the type which was traded by the Hudson's Bay Company during the 1880's with the Indians. What could it tell of Slumach's lust for gold, perhaps of it's own role in the murder of the unfortunate Indian woman is of course pure speculation. However that it was once owned by Slumach there is little doubt for present as an official witness at the hanging of Slumach on January 16th, 1891 for the murder of Louis Bee was the attending physician Dr. R.I. Bentley of New Westminster, B.C. He came into direct possession of the tomahawk which Slumach relinquished to his captors following his

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66

Pitt Lake country? Some vehemently assert the mine's existence and Harry List is one of them.

These of course are haunting questions which may never be answered but one thing is certain - they will continue to be asked for many years to come. Meanwhile the story of the curse of Old Slumach the murdering Indian and his Lost Creek gold mine must rank with other tales of hidden treasure and pirate gold which arouses and challenges the adventurous spirit of both the young and the young in heart.

Chilliwack & District Museum

120 Victoria Ave. W. Chilliwack

(67)

March 13, 1970

Dear Mr. Wente

Your letter & enclosures arrived yesterday so I have not had time to read your article - It is most ~~kind~~ kind you to have sent it to us, and good luck - win a prize -

I appreciate very much your returning so promptly to loan - as I have now finished my paper. enclosed. Some pamphlets which may be help to you - these you need not bother to return.

Basic Museum booklet will you kindly return after you have had a good chance to read it.

B.C. Museum Ass. may be a help if you joined - especially if you could attend to seminars - \$5.00 Provincial Mus. Ass. - Victoria.

Was nice to be you both -

Sincerely

S. Henning

35 Sixth Street, New Westminster, B.C., P.O. Box 730 / LAkeview 1-2622

1.
Columbian

THE NEW WESTMINSTER COLUMBIAN

THE BURNABY COLUMBIAN

THE SURREY COLUMBIAN

THE COQUITLAM COLUMBIAN

68

23 April, 1970

D. E. Waite
#4 - 11692 Pine Street
Haney, B.C.

Dear Mr. Waite

Re your letter of April 18:

I am sorry, but our files on the Pitt Lake lost gold mine and Old Slumach are not complete as yet.

The material in those files is not available for release to the public. If you would like to come in to our offices any week day from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m., I would be pleased to let you look through what information we have and make notes.

May I also suggest that you get in touch with the Reference Department of the New Westminster Branch of the Public Library. Mr. Alan Woodland is the head of that department.

Yours faithfully

Judith M Root

Judith M Root (Miss)
Librarian
THE COLUMBIAN

Mr. Alan Jay

JMR/kb

THE PRESS LIBRARY

2250 Granville Street
Vancouver 9, British Columbia

69

May 20, 1970.

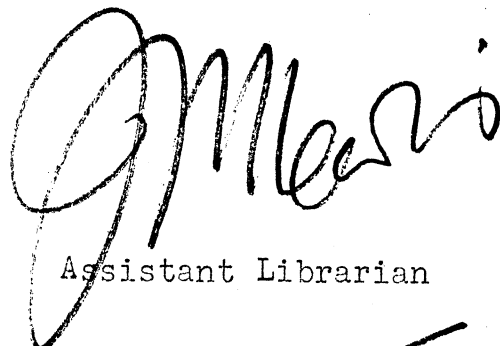
Mr. D.E. Waite,
#4, 11692 Pine Street,
Maple Ridge, B.C.

Dear Mr. Waite,

I enclose some Xerox copies of clippings from our files on
Lost Creek Mine. The service charge is 25 cents per Xerox
page.

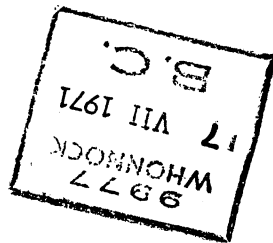
The rest of the material seems to be missing from our files.
In that case, we would have to take photostat copies of our
microfilm, for which the charge is 50 cents per page. The
reproduction is rather poor. May I suggest that you go to
the Vancouver Public Library to read through the articles to
see if they are what you want? I believe they have a print-out
service there. Our Library is not open to the public.
I hope this will be of some help ^{??} to you.

Yours sincerely,


Assistant Librarian

Useless
AS
HELL
B.

70



71

D.G. McPhaden
436 First St.
New Westminster
B.C. Canada

Post Office, B.C.
01594



27

VIA AIR MAIL

Mr Donald Waite
27 Henderson Ave.
Ottawa Ontario
Canada

26862 Ferguson Ave
Whonnock B.C.

15 Jan 91
Gulf Crisis Day

198B St.

Daryl Friesen
4955 198 St
Langley B.C.
Canada V3A 6L4
533-1838.

(72)

New Westminster B.C.
Aug 15th 1970.
11:35 Am

Mr Donald Waite
27 Henderson Ave,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of July 27th rec'd
about a week ago in spite of the PL strikes
every few days!!

Was not aware that Slumack
had a nephew and he a daughter; are
both still alive, and where do they live?

I quite understand the 'run around'
you refer to. It's rather a difficult situation for
the officials. However, the information you
require - ie: Transcript of the 'Slumack trial' -
should be available; and I understand it
is: from the Archives in Victoria. I hope to
visit Victoria within two weeks and will
look into the matter as I would like a copy
myself.

Pitt Lake area, as you know, is heavily
covered with moss.

The old fish hatchery was abandoned

by the Govt in their 'economy' stunt and was taken over by the B.C. Forestry 'Logging' - a big outfit.

A new hatchery was subsequently created several miles ^{farther} up the river. The Govt found they (it) had made a serious mistake.

The wife of the hatchery overseer; this was years ago; told me she had gone to live there as a bride and spent three of the happiest years of her life there even tho. when the children appeared, she had to be always on the alert for fear of the black bears; they were never shot at.

Mountain goat were always a delight & revelation to watch at their climbing antics.

During the 1907(?) land boom several locals took up homesteads between the head of the lake & the hatchery, mostly near the lake. Checking on an abandoned 'stead' or two observed bear tracks on the nearly obscured homestead road, ^{also} found moving in creek, crossed & after I crossed got down on hands & knees on sharp upgrade of road so as to get as close as I could to bruin - to shake hands - ^{no foolin'!} I crawled along on my stomach ^{belly, that is} and near the top of grade lifted my body & head and about 10' away

(74)

III There was brim squawking on his haunches swinging his head from side to side trying to get my scent - he had evidently heard me approaching before I noticed his tracks. (you of course know that a black bear's eyesight is very poor - his scent very keen - I'd been sleeping under the trees for some days - for with a couple of very loud "woops!!" he headed for the tall timber & no doubt is still going.

Grizzlies used to come down to the head of the lake in the old days; i.e. before logging operations. One of my school friends - subsequently a home steader at head of Pitt Lake - now a resident at a "rest home", old at 85 years. He told me a thriller or two - grizzly bear stories. Personally, I had a grizzly claw at my ankle!!

You probably know as much or more about Shumacher's gold - seeing you know his people than I do. I never looked for it. A friend of mine did that

I remember one day we met in New Westminster he said "Mac" have you \$20,000 dollars. I said "Charlie I have only \$250 to my name," he said

"Too bad I can make you a \$1,000,000" thousands was subsequently spent on this property & recently abandoned!!

75

Incidentally:

In the meantime as you disclosed your acquaintanceship with the Slumach people query them as to the stories of Slumach taking a woman with him on his gold getting trips. Sounds to me like a lot of Bull tho I quite understand it could be true. Do his people really know I know why he did so - if he did? its not what these 'PUNKS' we have around now would think.

Must close before I "warm up".

Maybe you will write again.

Its a difficult matter to write about - so controversial.

Sincerely

D. E. McPhaden

436 - 1st St

New Westminster B.C.

76

DE McPHADEN
436-1st St
New Westminster B.C.
Canada



521-2250

Mr D.E. Waite
27 Henderson Ave
Ottawa, Ont.

522-3450

Sept 2, 1970
Fredericton, N.B.

Mr. Don,

(77)

Attached are the (B.C. Minister of Mines Annual
Reports) descriptions of mining properties in the
vicinity of Little Lake.

I would like to discreetly find out
from my prospector friend what he thinks
Reids present activities are before having you
start an investigation of him. If there appears
to be even the slightest chance that he might be
involved in illegal pursuits I will let you know.

John, Michael and I are enjoying our holiday,
however, it has been ^{plagued by} rather unsettled ^{and rainy} weather. We
hope you had a good visit to the E.
All the best,
D. M.

"(2.) During the present severe depression and in spite of the necessity for reducing costs to a minimum, Mr. Browning has so managed the work that the community at Britannia Beach has been supported so effectually that there has been no reduction in the number of families in the community.

"(3.) Mr. Browning has always been an active and consistent supporter of our Institute, of its British Columbia Division, of community life at *Britannia*, and of all things tending to promote the welfare of our industry and of our country."

INDIAN RIVER SECTION.

This is an old prospected section at the head of Indian river, which empties into the head of the North arm of Burrard inlet. At one time there was a fine trail from the mouth of the river through to Squamish, but I judge that the Indian River end of it is badly out of repair after many years of disuse. From the summit, at 2,200 feet elevation, to Squamish the trail has been kept passable by S. A. Habrich, of Squamish, who has a group of claims at the head of Indian river.

Belle. This is a group of five Crown-granted claims—*Ethel, Rose, Irish Molly, Lucky Jack, and Jenny*—owned by S. A. Habrich, of Squamish. The following notes are taken from W. M. Brewer's report in the 1917 Annual Report:—

There is a cabin on the claims at 2,150 feet elevation on the Indian River slope. The minerals, pyrite and chalcopryite, are found in sheared zones in one of the belts included in the Coast Range granodiorite similar to the Britannia belt. About 150 feet above the cabin there is an outcrop of fair chalcopryite ore about 10 feet wide. A tunnel has been started 60 feet lower than this and driven 100 feet toward intersecting its downward extension, but is not yet far enough to reach its objective. There are several such surface ore-exposures, on an east-west course, in a distance of about 850 feet. One of these shows a width of 25 feet for a length of 50 feet well mineralized with chalcopryite. Other outcrops are mentioned occurring in different places and altogether give the impression that the property has copper possibilities.

Bulliondale. This group, owned by Robt. Mungall, of Vancouver, is situated on the west side of the head of Indian river, adjoining the *Belle* group, and is reached by trail from Squamish. The following is taken from W. M. Brewer's report

in the 1917 Annual Report:—

The formation is probably the continuation of the shear-zone from the *Belle*, or a parallel one. There is an extensive outcrop on the *Lady of the Lake* claim, of disseminated pyrite with some chalcopryite, at about 600 feet above the main trail. At the head of a gulch which is a small tributary of Mungall creek, at 800 feet above the trail, a tunnel has been driven 100 feet on a S. 75° W. (mag.) bearing, which crosscuts three bodies of low-grade copper ore. Only the apex of the first body is exposed near the portal of the tunnel. The second body comes in at about 60 feet from the portal and shows a width of about 10 feet, on which a short drift was driven south. A sample across the face of the drift gave only low values in gold, silver, and copper. A third body was cut near the face and the tunnel still in it showing low-grade ore.

NEW WESTMINSTER MINING DIVISION.

This Division is comprised of the drainage area of the Fraser river to near Hope, on the north side including the Pitt, Stave, and Harrison lakes areas and on the south to the International boundary.

References.—*Barkoola*, 1930; *Blue Lead*, 1930; Cox claims, 1928; *Dandy (Mayflower)*, 1930; *Faith* (Silver Chief Mining Company, Limited), 1923, 1930; Harrison Gold Mining and Development Company, Limited, Bulletin No. 1, 1932; *Money Spinner*, 1930; *Mountain Goat*, Bulletin No. 1, 1932; Pitt Mining Company, Limited, 1930; Slease Creek Mining and Development Company, Limited, 1929; *Wissola and Zenith*, 1929.

Lucky Four. This group consists of eleven Crown-granted claims and fractions, situated on the summit of the Cheam range, from 5,000 to 6,000 feet elevation, which lies north of the Chilliwack river. The claims are reached by trail from Cheam View, a station on the Canadian National Railway, via Wahleach (Jones) lake and up Wahleach creek. They were staked about 1915 and the following year purchased by A. H. Sperry and E. F. White, of Seattle, Wash. In 1917 some diamond-drilling was done, proving the continuation of the ore-zone underneath the glacier toward the summit. Later prospecting on the

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south slope of the range discovered copper-croppings and a camp was built about 1,200 feet down from the summit.

From old reports I gather that the important mineral is chalcopyrite contained in a zone of metamorphosed argillites lying in the granodiorite country-rock. The chalcopyrite is carried in a network of quartz veins in altered argillite. The mineral-belt evidently extends through the mountain, as open-cuts and stripping on the south slope have exposed some very promising showings of chalcopyrite. One such showing is described by W. M. Brewer in the 1918 Annual Report as an open-cut 20 feet wide, with a depth of 10 feet in the face in good-grade chalcopyrite. A sample across the full width gave assay returns of a trace of gold, 2 oz. silver per ton, and 7.6 per cent. copper. The surface showings are said to compare favourably with the Anyox and Britannia showings.

It was proposed to make the property accessible from the Chilliwack River trail by a branch trail up Ford creek to Granite creek and up Granite creek to the camp, but nothing has been done on the property since about 1918.

This is an old group, mentioned in the 1918 Annual Report, situated about 6 miles north-westerly from the head of Stave lake. The mineralization consists of molybdenite described by Brewer as occurring scattered through a belt or zone of sheared granite and varying in width from 15 to 75 feet. The general run of the ore would be low grade so far as indicated, but not enough work had been done to show whether or not lenses of higher grade might be expected or a possibility of a sufficient tonnage of milling-grade ore to justify a concentrator. This may possibly be the same belt on which the Cox claims are located, up from the head of Pitt lake, on which there are showings of molybdenite. These showings are mentioned for the reason that before the depression there were inquiries from British steel-manufacturers for molybdenum or molybdenum prospects, and no doubt the metal will again be in demand when normal conditions return.

I have had several inquiries about this old property; therefore the following description: The group consisted originally of four Crown-granted claims—**Empress.** *Empress Nos. 1 to 4*—situated east of Agassiz, opposite Seabird island, and about half a mile by road from Cunningham's ranch to the old camp. In 1915-16 five car-loads of ore were shipped totalling 200 tons, which netted about \$40 per ton at that time. This was obtained mainly from an open-cut a short distance up the hill above the old blacksmith-shop. The ore mined from the higher showings was let down to the foot of the hill on a cableway and hauled on double-enders to the main road.

The minerals are chalcopyrite and iron sulphides occurring in metamorphosed limestone along a granodiorite-limestone contact. The altered limestone, garnetite and epidote, varies from 10 to 30 feet in width and contains masses of sulphides mainly chalcopyrite. The remainder of the zone is very sparsely mineralized; that is, nothing that would indicate possibilities of milling-ore. The sulphide-masses have apparently occurred on or near the surface, as none of the further underground work shows any signs of ore. Judging by the width mined out in places, the original ore-exposures must have been exceptionally attractive, but they proved both shallow and short.

The contact strikes north-south directly into the hill and the upper workings are therefore straight up the hill from the lower cut and tunnel. The old trail is obliterated and the workings very obscure. The lower works consist of a large open-cut and a 60-foot tunnel. The tunnel had to swing to the right near the face to cut the contact, which is here shown to be about 12 feet wide but carrying no mineral.

At the upper workings, at 1,000 feet elevation and about 500 feet higher than the lower cut, three tunnels were driven within a vertical distance of 75 feet. The highest one was driven 125 feet on what proved to be a small belt of garnetite paralleling the main contact a few feet to the right. At 30 feet in from the portal later work opened up the main contact-belt to a width of 30 feet. A tunnel 10 feet lower was driven under this ore-body and the ore stoped out. About 50 feet lower another tunnel was driven a short distance along the contact, showing no ore.

The recurrence of ore-bodies could be expected along the contact, but it would probably cost more to find them than they would be worth, unless some electrical-prospecting method could be used.

The company has purchased five Chemox mine-rescue machines, five Burrell all-service masks, and two Wolf safety-lamps. Suitable mine-rescue stations are being prepared, and teams are to be trained in the use of the apparatus.

PITT LAKE (49° 122° S.W.).*

Standard. The Standard group comprises four recorded mineral claims held by E. A. Richardson and associates, of Pitt Meadows. It is situated on the west shore of Pitt Lake, about 15 miles above Pitt River bridge.

The workings are 400 to 600 feet above the lake on a steep, rocky hillside, and consist of a short crosscut and drift, a shallow shaft, and several open-cuts. These expose several narrow, parallel, quartz-filled and mineralized fractures cutting quartz diorite. One of these veins is traceable almost continuously for 250 feet, with a strike of north 25 degrees east; the dip is vertical to 70 degrees north-westward. The width is 2 to 12 inches. A parallel vein about 30 feet east of the first is traceable for a length of 80 feet, with a width of 2 to 4 inches.

The most abundant metallic mineral present in the veins is pyrite, although in places considerable galena and chalcopryite occur as well.

Typical samples of mineralized vein-matter assayed from 0.17 to 1.80 oz. of gold per ton and 1 to 8 oz. of silver per ton across widths of 2 to 12 inches. Samples of vein-quartz in which no sulphides were apparent contained negligible values.

During the summer of 1947 some work was done in extending both the shaft and adit.

SKAGIT RIVER (49° 121° S.E.).

Invermay Annex.—Ore shipped to Trail smelter: 4 tons. Net contents: Silver, 156 oz.; lead, 281 lb.; zinc, 592 lb.

TEXADA ISLAND (49° 124° N.W.).†

Gold-Copper.

Little Billie
(Vananda Mining
Co., Ltd.).

Company office, 711 Yorkshire Building, Vancouver. H. T. James, president; C. E. Gordon Brown, manager. The company is developing the Little Billie mine near Vananda on Texada Island. During 1947 the shaft was sunk 170 feet to the 600 level. Development on the various levels was as follows: 280 level, 126 feet of drifting; 480 level, 141 feet of drifting and 238 feet of raising; 600 level, 297 feet of drifting and 42 feet of raising. The drifting was to open up the ore-bodies and for the purpose of establishing advantageous diamond-drill stations. Diamond-drilling totalled 3,187 feet underground and 1,272 feet from the surface on the adjacent Cornell ground.

The ore occurs as irregular replacement bodies along a diorite-limestone contact. Development has now progressed to the stage where construction of a mill is under consideration.

The new power-house, containing a 375-horsepower Fairbanks-Morse diesel engine and 312-kva. 2,200-volt C.G.E. generator and a 180-horsepower Petters diesel engine driving a 700-c.f.m. Sullivan compressor, 500-c.f.m. Belles Morcom compressor, and a 100-horsepower International stand-by unit, was put into service during the year.

An average of thirty men were employed throughout the year.

[Reference: *Minister of Mines, B.C., Ann. Rept., 1944, pp. 162-174.*]

* By J. M. Cummings.

† By F. J. Hemsworth.

(81)

A few prospectors had been exploring the mountains in the vicinity of the headwaters of the Homathko river, but had left that section shortly before my visit and were then prospecting in the Taseko section, in the Clinton Mining Division.

In the Klinaklini River section Samuel Caldwell, of the Klinaklini telegraph-station, a veteran prospector and discoverer of the hematite-iron ore on Chromium creek, was away during my visit and the result of his trip I have not yet learned.

JUMP CREEK SECTION.

Jump creek is one of the tributaries of the Nanaimo river, which is often referred to as the South fork of the Nanaimo river. The stream drains a rugged mountainous section between the Nanaimo river and Cowichan lake.

The Jump Creek section is of considerable extent and from a metal-mining point of view should be quite an attractive field for prospectors, as samples of the ore found in that section all show good gold and silver values. The section was described in the Annual Report for 1922 and there have not been any very notable changes since.

Development-work has been carried on during 1923 on the *Silver Leaf* and prospecting has been done to a considerable extent in the mountains at the headwaters of the tributaries of Jump creek. During 1923 I was unable to visit the section.

PLACER-MINING.

For the past several years prospecting has been done for placer around Cape Sutil and the Nahwitti river, at the north-west end of Vancouver island, but up to the present time no results of a commercial character have been produced.

For several years past the settlers around Fisherman cove, Cape Scott, and the Nahwitti river have been securing some placer gold, which is found associated with black sand on the beaches along the shore-line.

During 1921 ten placer leases were granted for areas in Townships 23, 24, 25, and 19, near Cape Sutil, and others applied for were for areas in the vicinity of Fisherman cove.

There were sixteen placer-mining leases issued altogether, but to-day there are only eight of these leases in good standing, and there has been no product from any of them that could be considered of a commercial character.

NEW WESTMINSTER MINING DIVISION.

During 1923 mining in the New Westminster Mining Division has been confined to the reopening of the copper-sulphide deposit on Pitt lake formerly known as the *Golden Ears*, but renamed the *Viking* group a few years ago. Considerable prospecting has also been done in the vicinity of the head of Chilliwack lake, as well as on Nasakwatch (locally called Middle) creek, Pierce mountain, in what may be termed the Chilliwack River section.

The *Lucky Four* was fully described in the Annual Report for 1918, also for 1919, and as only the annual assessment-work has been done since it is unnecessary here to repeat these reports.

This group was examined by myself in 1923. The property, originally known as the *Golden Ears* group, is now owned by the Viking Mining Company, Limited, and was prospected to a considerable extent about 1908, but work was suspended until 1915, when the Viking Mining Company, now non-existent, erected an aerial tramway from the mine to a bunker on Pitt lake.

A small shipment made to the Tacoma smelter in June, 1914, of 2 tons showed: Gold, trace; silver, 5.46 oz. to the ton; copper, 11.39 per cent.

Another small shipment of 10 tons in July, 1914, showed: Gold, trace; silver, 4.76 oz. to the ton; copper, 10.27 per cent.

Another small shipment made in 1914 of 9 tons showed: Gold, trace; silver, 4.38 oz. to the ton; copper, 9.62 per cent.

During 1916, I am informed a shipment of 162 tons was made to the Tacoma smelter, which assayed: Gold, 0.02 oz.; silver, 2.5 oz. to the ton; copper, 4.1 per cent.

The more recent history of this property is the organization in 1921 of the Pitt Mining Company, Limited, by William Henry Woolley et al., all of Vancouver, with a capital of \$250,000.

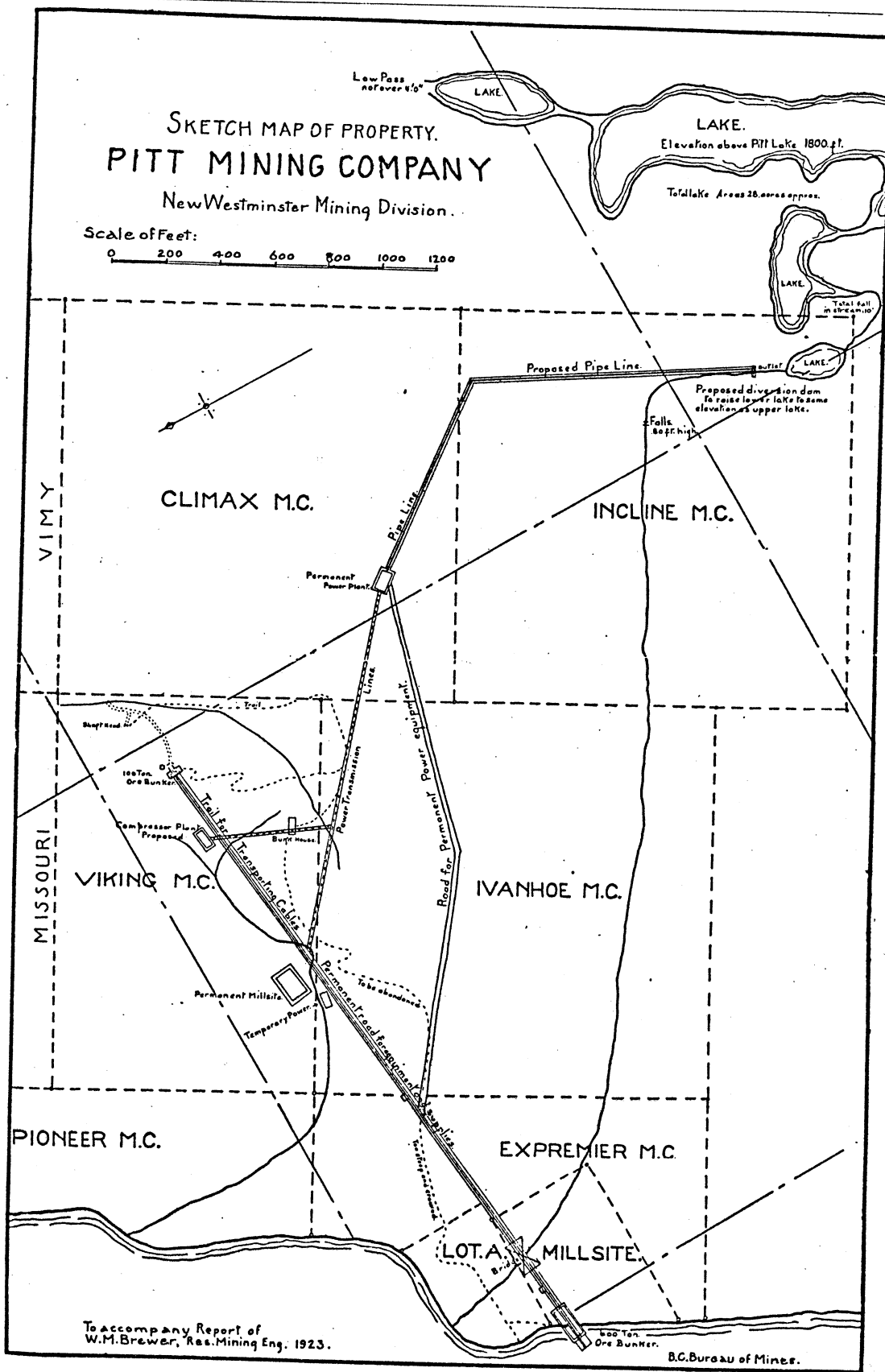
(82)

SKETCH MAP OF PROPERTY. PITT MINING COMPANY

New Westminster Mining Division.

Scale of Feet:

0 200 400 600 800 1000 1200



83

The registered office of the company (W. H. Woolley, president) is 25 Hastings Street East, Vancouver.

Geology.—The *Viking* group of mineral claims is situated in the Coast Range granodiorite batholith in a shear-zone where there has been apparently shearing and fissuring.

Ore-deposits.—The strike of the fissuring is nearly east (mag.), with the dip about 80° towards the south. There are apparently at least two mineral-bearing veins on the *Viking*. These veins are filled principally with quartz, calc-spar, some kaolin, and brecciated wall-rock, which vein-filling forms the gangue of the ore-body that is mineralized with pyrrhotite, pyrite, chalcopryrite, a little covellite, and occasionally some sphalerite.

These veins are enclosed within granodiorite walls on the surface, but in the underground workings an igneous dyke occurs about 380 feet from the portal of the main (or No. 1) adit, which apparently forms the foot-wall of the main (or No. 1) vein. Easterly from the portal of the No. 1 adit, at a point about 300 feet from the portal, a fault-zone is encountered.

Development-work.—The development-work on the *Viking* consists of the main (or No. 1) drift-adit, about 550 feet long, with short crosscuts from it; an upraise from the floor of the main adit to the surface, 180 feet high, with two short drifts—the lower one 90 feet above the floor of the adit and the other 45 feet higher. Small stopes have been opened on the 45-foot level, on the 90-foot level, and at two points in the main adit.

In addition, development consists of ore-bunkers, one on Pitt lake with a capacity of 400 tons being increased to 600 tons, and one near the portal of the main adit with a capacity of 100 tons; also an aerial-tram right-of-way cleared to connect the bunker on the shore with mine-workings.

Ore Tonnage.—It can be estimated that there is already blocked out on the *Viking* group approximately 16,000 tons of ore, but this estimate is only a rough one and subject to revision when actual mining operations are carried out. The quantity would be greatly increased if the ore is found to be continuous beyond the present face of the main adit, where the height above the adit increases practically a foot for every foot advanced underground, owing to the precipitous contour of the mountain in which the drift is being driven. In the estimated tonnage given no allowance has been made for the maintenance of the continuity of the ore below the level of the main adit.

Conclusions.—After as careful an examination as time permitted of the *Viking* group, I formed the opinion that, judging from the ore exposed in the underground workings in conjunction with the promising possibilities, the property possesses very many attractive features and is well worth further development.

This company owns the *Dolly Varden* group of eight claims situated near the mouth of Dolly Varden creek, emptying into Chilliwack lake. The group is reached from Chilliwack by wagon-road to Hipkoe's ranch, about 15 miles from Chilliwack. From that point to the outlet of Chilliwack lake is a distance of 30 miles over a fairly good horse-trail. From the outlet of Chilliwack lake to the head of the lake is about 7 miles, and from there to the mine-workings is about half a mile. The group is very close to the International Boundary.

In the vicinity of the *Dolly Varden* group the country-rock is granodiorite, and where the mining-work has been done there occurs a shear-zone apparently about 20 feet in width in the granodiorite in which are found gash-veins filled principally with quartz and with the lines of strike trending towards north-east.

The mineralization is noticeable at a point between the *Dolly Varden No. 1* and *Dolly Varden No. 2* in a shear-zone in which appears to be an upper and lower vein, with about 18 feet of country-rock between, considerably fissured. A third vein extends between the upper and lower veins and apparently forms a connecting-link between them. Two veins, each about 6 inches wide, have been followed by open-cut work for a distance of 55 feet in length.

Samples.—Eight samples were taken during my examination on October 5th last. Sample No. 1 represents the quartz vein in an open-cut drift on the *Dolly Varden No. 1*, which assayed: Gold, 0.04 oz.; silver, 44 oz. to the ton; copper, 1.8 per cent. Sample No. 2, taken in the floor of the same open-cut, assayed: Gold, trace; silver, 8 oz. to the ton; copper, *nil*. Sample No. 3, taken across 8 inches of quartz vein, same open-cut as Nos. 1 and 2 were taken, assayed: Gold, 0.12 oz.; silver, 1 oz. to the ton; copper, *nil*. Sample No. 4, taken across 8 inches of same vein, assayed: Gold, trace; silver, 1.2 oz. to the ton; copper, *nil*. Sample No. 5, across 8 inches of

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Development-work.—The development-work consists of four adits and a series of open-cuts, as follows: Open-cut about 80 feet long by about 12 feet wide, at an elevation about 1,200 feet above sea-level; No. 1 adit, 54 feet long, at an elevation of about 1,175 feet; No. 2 adit, 152 feet long, at an elevation of about 1,150 feet; No. 3 adit, 220 feet long, at an elevation of about 975 feet; No. 4 adit, 40 feet long, at an elevation of about 100 feet and overlooking the beach.

The adits are all planned with the intention of cutting the ore-body exposed in the open-cut at the various levels, but the No. 2 adit is the only one in which the attempt has succeeded; all of the others are driven in country-rock. The No. 4 adit is a most ambitious project, as it will be necessary to drive more than 3,000 feet to reach a point where it could possibly intersect the ore-body exposed in the open-cut and No. 2 adit, at an elevation of about 1,000 feet above the level of the No. 4 adit.

There are six mineral claims in the *Jolley* group, which are known as the *Jolley Group*. *Perfection*, *Don*, *Jolley*, *Copper Prince*, *Hilltop*, and *Hillside*, situated on a tributary of Baramba creek and adjoining the *Baramba* group on the north. The property is owned by Harry and C. Jolley and was being worked at the time the writer examined it (September 23rd, 1917) by Geo. A. McLeod and R. E. Marvin, of Vancouver, under a bond and lease. The property is at an elevation of about 1,900 feet and is reached by following a good switchback trail up the mountain-side from the *Third Chance* claim of the *Baramba* group.

Geology.—There appears to have been very much disturbance of the rock formation on the *Jolley* group, and several wide igneous dykes with porphyritic structure have intruded into a zone of metamorphosed sedimentaries, very much sheared, fractured, and fissured, which have a banded or gneissoid structure. Erosion has caused the formation of deep gorges or gulches in the mountain-side and has left peaks with very precipitous slopes. The occurrences of copper ore are found in close proximity to the igneous dykes, and the mineralized zone appears to be of considerable width, but sufficient work had not been done to permit of reaching any definite conclusions as to the extent of the ore-bodies. Apparently there are two distinct ore-bodies, one occurring on the *Don* claim, the other on the *Perfection* claim, but further work may demonstrate that there is a connection between them. The ore-bodies may be considered as belonging to the shear-zone type.

Mineralization.—The work so far done shows that the mineralization is a combination of magnetite, iron pyrite, chalcopyrite, and a little bornite in a gangue made up of a graphitic metamorphosed rock, with some epidote, calcite, and apparently some feldspar. The average grade of the ore-bodies is low, and suggests that concentration will be necessary in order to obtain a commercial product.

Development-work.—The development-work consists of a short adit driven at an elevation of about 1,900 feet above sea-level at the head of a gulch on the *Don* mineral claim, also another short adit driven at an elevation of about 1,700 feet on the *Perfection* mineral claim.

Samples from both of these workings were taken by the writer. The sample from the *Don* adit is a grab from the dump; this assayed: Gold, trace; silver, 0.5 oz.; copper, 2 per cent.; iron, 22 per cent. The sample from the *Perfection* adit is an average across 3 feet in the face of the adit, and assayed: Gold, trace; silver, trace; copper, 2.6 per cent.

NEW WESTMINSTER MINING DIVISION.

Owing to the demands on the writer's time in other sections of the Western Mineral Survey District, he was unable to devote as much attention to the New Westminster Mining Division during the season of 1917 as he would have liked to have done. The examinations of mineral claims made in the Division were confined to two examinations of the *Empress* group of mineral claims and an examination of the clay-deposits on Blue mountain, near Whonnock Station, on the Canadian Pacific Railway. Late in the season an attempt was made to examine a deposit of molybdenite near Cheam View Station, on the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway, but snow-storms prevented this.

Another discovery of molybdenite was reported by T. B. Hicks, of St. Elmo, on the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway. This is located about seven miles east of Agassiz Station, on the Canadian Pacific Railway, and about one mile and a half from the railway, and would have been examined by the writer at the same time as he proposed to examine the discovery reported near Cheam View Station, but owing to the severe storms at the time he had to abandon both examinations until the coming spring.

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Horse Shoe, Anzac, Pay Roll, Monarch, and Steel Trust Groups.—These groups of mineral claims, containing in all twenty-four claims, are owned by Paul Briant and associates, of Vancouver. The groups are situated near the head of Pitt lake, about ten miles from the lake, and were prospected to a considerable extent during 1917 by the owners. The locations were not brought to the attention of the writer until in November, 1917, when it was too late in the season to attempt to make an examination, so it was postponed until 1918 by arrangement with Mr. Briant, who informed the writer that the minerals found on the property consisted of copper, molybdenite, magnetite, and hematite ores.

Lucky Four and Lucky Jack Groups.—These two groups contain in all seventeen mineral claims, situated at an elevation of about 4,000 feet above sea-level, near Jones lake, to the east of Cheam View Station, on the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway, and about ten miles from the railway. As the writer found that these groups are recorded in the Yale Mining Division in the Central Mineral Survey District, although it is a question as to whether the locations are in that Division or in the New Westminster Mining Division, he did not visit the property, but is reliably informed that considerable prospecting-work was done with diamond-drills during the past season, with very satisfactory results.

This group of mineral claims is situated about four miles northerly from Empress Group. Agassiz Station, on the Canadian Pacific Railway, which is seventy miles east from Vancouver. There are five claims in the group, four of which are Crown-granted; the fifth one was staked during 1916. The Crown-granted claims, known as *Empress Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4*, are amongst the oldest locations in the Mining Division and were partially developed in 1897 and 1898, since which time until last year but very little work had been done. The claim not Crown-granted is called *Empress No. 5*. The property is owned by Barclay and Alex. Bonthron, of Vancouver.

Geology.—Agassiz is virtually at the head of the Fraser delta, its elevation being only 54 feet above sea-level. The elevation of the highest outcroppings of ore on the *Empress* group of mineral claims is about 800 feet above sea-level. The prevailing rocks are the granites of the Coast Range batholith, but on the *Empress* group there occurs a belt of limestone which contacts with the granite, and the ore-bodies are developed at that contact. The limestone is very erratic in the extent of the tongues or wedges in which it occurs, as well as along its strike and dip, and, as the ore does not appear to occur except at the immediate contact, the extent of the deposits is also very erratic.

Mineralization.—The minerals occurring in the contact deposits are chiefly chalcopryite, with some bornite, associated with magnetite, iron pyrite, and with variable quantities of molybdenite, in a gangue of garnetite, limestone, and feldspar, the latter being usually decomposed and altered to kaolin.

Under the superintendence of C. M. McDonald the following work has been done since September, 1916: Construction of a jig-back aerial tramway 1,100 feet long connecting the No. 1 adit with the wagon-road; about one mile of wagon-road and trail from the main wagon-road; extension of the No. 2 adit, at an elevation of about 200 feet above the valley; sinking winze 8 feet deep and making drive 18 feet long in the No. 1 adit, at an elevation of 550 feet above the valley; making open-cuts on an outcrop about 50 feet above the No. 3 adit and mining ore from the cuts; building an ore-shoot 3 feet wide, 22 feet long, to connect the open-cuts with the portal of the No. 3 adit; driving the No. 2 adit 60 feet long and connecting it with the east drive in the No. 1 adit by an upraise 30 feet in height.

In the construction of the road and trail it was the intention to build a good wagon-road the whole distance between the main road to Agassiz and the mine-workings, but about an eighth of a mile from the latter point a rocky side-hill that skirted a swamp intervened and work on the road was stopped, but a trail was built across the swamp. This is constructed with corduroy where necessary, but is not sufficiently substantial for hauling heavy loads of ore over, except when sleighing is good.

Two adits or tunnels were driven several years ago, one called No. 3 or Bonthron adit, at an elevation of about 200 feet above the valley, the other called No. 1 adit, at an elevation of about 350 feet above the No.-3. There is no evidence, so far as the writer could see, to suggest any connection between the ore-outcrops on these two levels. Bunches of chalcopryite are cut

crosscut from the surface and a drift on the mineralized silica-belt when intersected. The length of the crosscut tunnel would depend on the depth desired below the croppings. This work could be done cheaply in this formation.

NEW WESTMINSTER MINING DIVISION.

This Division comprises the drainage area of the Fraser river from Point Grey to near Hope, therefore including the areas of Pitt, Stave, and Harrison lakes; and to the International boundary on the south side of the Fraser.

While there has been considerable prospecting throughout this Division, the number of claims recorded has fallen away below the abnormal record of 1929, but about equal to 1928. The number of assessments, however, for 1930 exceeds even that of 1929, as is the case in several of the Divisions of this district.

PITT LAKE SECTION.

Pitt Mining Co., Ltd.

This company was incorporated in June, 1929, with a capitalization of \$250,000, divided into 250,000 shares of \$1 each. The head office of the company is at 535 Georgia Street West, Vancouver. The holdings consist of eight Crown-granted and nine claims held by assessment, situated on the east side of Pitt lake near the south end and ideally located for mining and milling operations and for shipping.

The minerals occurring are pyrite, pyrrhotite, and chalcopyrite in a gangue of quartz and calcite in two shear-zones, called the "North" and "South" veins, in the granodiorite country-rock. The South vein has had very little work done on it. The North vein has been opened up by a 550-foot drift-tunnel and a raise of 180 feet through to the surface, from which two short levels have been opened. There appears to be ample available ore above the main level to supply a 75-ton concentrator for some considerable time. Thorough sampling gives average values of: Gold, \$1.20 a ton; silver, \$2.40 a ton; and copper 3.9 per cent.

For the past two years construction-work and plant-installation has been carried on until at the present time the property is one of the best-equipped small properties in the Province. An hydro-electric plant has been installed, using water from high lakes, which have been dammed for water-conservation, furnishing a head of 650 feet through a 14-inch pipe to a 36-inch Pelton wheel, developing 300 horse-power. A 600-cubic-foot compressor at the mine is driven by a 100-horse-power, 220-volt, Westinghouse motor. A full equipment of cars, rails, machines, drill-sharpeners, blacksmith's outfit, etc., has also been provided. The concentrator building has been erected and connected by surface tramway with the mine. The concentrating machinery of the *Iron Mask* mill has been purchased and is now in the concentrator ready for setting up. The flotation concentrates will be conveyed to the filter plant and storage-bins on the beach through a 2-inch pipe, and loaded for shipping by a travelling-belt. The foundations for the beach unit are now being built.

Operations have been somewhat retarded this year by the general financial conditions, but the affairs of the company, both operating and financial, have been well handled by the management under the direction of W. H. Woolley. It is hoped that a pending deal will supply the necessary funds to put the property on a producing basis in the near future.

Katanga.

This group of sixteen claims, owned by J. W. Johnson, 424 Ninth Street East, North Vancouver, is situated on the east side of Pitt lake, near the mouth of Scott creek. The property includes the old *Maple Leaf* group of four claims owned by Wagner Bros., who drove a tunnel about 70 feet on a vein in the granodiorite country-rock. There is a little chalcopyrite showing near the mouth of the tunnel, but nothing of an encouraging size. For the past two years Mr. Johnson has done an appreciable amount of surface prospecting and development-work with encouraging results.

The minerals are pyrite and chalcopyrite, which occur in dykes or veins of a fine-grained feldspathic rock up to 20 feet wide. An open-cut across 20 feet on one of these at 900 feet elevation shows 18 inches of good chalcopyrite, with the remainder milling-grade ore. A cross-cut tunnel has been driven 52 feet toward gaining a depth of 50 feet on this cropping, but its objective has not been reached yet. There is a comfortable cabin on the lake-shore and the three men interested in the property are doing good work.

The following assays show the values contained in the ore:—

Claim.	Width sampled.	Gold.	Silver.	Copper.	Lead.	Zinc.
	Feet.	Oz.	Oz.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Caledonia.....	3	Trace	0.6	....	....	....
Caledonia.....	9	Trace	19.0	3.2	....	....
Cascade, grab sample.....	....	0.04	0.2	0.5	....	....
Cascade.....	30	Trace	16.0	3.2	....	10.0
Cascade, from No. 3A cut.....	10	Trace	12.0	2.5	1.0	5.0
Cascade, from No. 1 cut.....	6	Trace	12.2	2.0	0.8	10.0
Cascade, from No. 1B cut.....	2.6	Trace	6.5	0.5	Trace	3.0

This group contains the *Silver Leaf* and *Mountain Ash*, owned by the Silver Leaf Syndicate, of Duncan. It is located near the headwaters of Jump creek, a tributary of the Nanaimo river, and is reached by a good pack-horse trail from the mouth of Cottonwood creek, a tributary of Cowichan lake. The group was fully described in the Annual Report for 1922, and although considerable development-work has been done since that time, the conditions have not been materially changed since then.

The transportation facilities have not been improved very much since 1922, and this section, in which there are several other mineral claims in good standing, is still badly handicapped. Rails have been laid on the Canadian National Railway along the northerly shore of Cowichan lake, which will be eventually the logical way for shipping the ore.

Other Prospects.—On the Vancouver Island section there are short stretches along the coastline where the coal-measures have been eroded off and the Vancouver volcanics are exposed, and quite a little prospecting-work has been done in the vicinity of Rock, Elk, and Humpback bays on the shore of Johnstone strait. None of these prospects have been developed to a sufficient extent to warrant the expression of any definite opinion as to their future possibilities.

This group, containing the *Lucky Jim*, *Lucky John*, and *Marjorie* claims, is situated on Adams river, which empties into Johnstone strait about 15 miles north-westerly from Sayward settlement near the mouth of Salmon river. It was fully described in the Annual Report for 1918, when it was owned by Alex. and Walter McKay, of Vancouver. The group has not been examined since that time because until recently no work other than annual assessment-work had been done.

Further prospecting and some development work was done during 1926, when the property was submitted to the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada. After an examination by the company's engineers an option was taken and a contract has been let for further prospecting by diamond-drilling and development-work to be done during 1927. This action by the Consolidated Company is well worthy of notice, because it marks a new departure by that company in acquiring interests in practically undeveloped prospects.

NEW WESTMINSTER MINING DIVISION.

This Division is situated north of and adjoining the International boundary. On December 31st, 1926, there were approximately 240 un-Crown-granted mineral claims in good standing and a large number of Crown-granted mineral claims in good standing in this Division. There were no mines from which shipments of ore were made during the past year. The development-work was chiefly confined to sufficient to enable owners to record the annual assessment-work.

The sections of the Division which appear to have been the most popular among the prospectors were the mountains in the vicinity of Pitt lake and river; Chilliwack lake and river; and in the Cheam range in the neighbourhood of the *Lucky Four* group, near the head of Wahleach (Jones) lake and creek; also to the south of the Chilliwack river on Pierce mountain; Canyon creek and Slesse creek near the International boundary.

Several days were occupied about the middle of October in making an examination of this group, which contains the *Copper Queen*, *Maple Leaf*, *Empress*, and *Wayside*, owned by Carl and Frank J. Wagner, of Lyndon, Washington, who were working on the ground at the time the examination was made. This property is situated on the easterly side of Pitt lake, near the head, and is reached from the town of New Westminster via Coquitlam, with a launch from that point up the Pitt river and lake to the mouth of Scott creek.

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The country-rock in this section is chiefly made up of greenstone and granodiorite. On the *Maple Leaf* group there is a fairly well-defined contact between these rocks, with a wide sheared zone in the greenstone, in which between the shearing-planes there occur narrow seams or veins of lenticular structure filled with pyrrhotite, pyrite, and a little chalcopyrite.

Development consists of an adit 67 feet long driven in the face of a precipitous mountain along the strike of the shear-zone in an easterly direction. The face of the mountain is so steep here that backs of about 400 feet vertical height will be gained in a short distance horizontally. In addition to the drift-adit there are several open-cuts and some stripping on the mountain-side above the adit.

In the following table of assays the first three samples were taken by the writer and the last three were taken by Mr. Elenbass, an interested party, who was on the ground at the same time.

Location.	Gold.	Silver.	Copper.	Zinc.
	Oz.	Oz.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
1. From a small dump from ore taken out near the face of the adit.....	2.0	Trace
2. From the right-hand side of the adit, about 12 feet from the face, a grab sample from a shot placed during the examination.....	0.8	Trace
3. From the face of the adit on the north side.....	0.2	Trace
4. From the right side in the adit 12 feet from the face.....	2.0	Trace
5. From the left side of the adit at the face.....	Trace	1.5	4.2	Trace
6. From an open-cut in the surface 50 feet above the adit.....	1.0	Trace

The examination was made during the time that Provincial Police were searching for Doc. Brown, who had been lost while prospecting amongst the glaciers northerly from the head of Pitt Lake.

Pitt Mining Co., Ltd. This company is the recorded owner of the *Viking* group, originally known as the *Golden Ears* group, which was examined and reported on in the Annual Report for 1923. The work that has been done since that examination has not materially changed the conditions and operations were suspended almost entirely during 1926. During the early spring of 1927 it is reported that a new company has been formed, capitalized with \$250,000, to take over and operate the property, and it is proposed by the new company to start on the construction of a concentrating-mill with a capacity of 50 tons a day in the near future.

Silver Chief. This group, which was formerly known as the *Dolly Varden* group, containing eight claims, is situated near the mouth of Dolly Varden creek, which empties into Chilliwack lake at the south end. It is owned by the Silver Chief Mining Company and was examined and described fully in the Annual Report for 1923. Since that report was made the company has been engaged for a considerable proportion of the time in assisting to build a wagon-road to connect the north end of Chilliwack lake with Sardis, near the town of Chilliwack. Assistance was also given by the Mines Department to build this road.

The company took in machinery consisting of a compressor plant, water-wheel, and dynamo in the late fall of 1925, which, excepting the compressor plant, was lost by fire during the spring of 1926. The dynamo and water-wheel (turbine), 60 horse-power, were replaced during the fall of 1926, and development-work on the mine continued by driving a crosscut adit to intersect the vein described in the report for 1923, which it is expected will be accomplished in a distance of about 50 or 60 feet from the entrance.

During the spring of 1926 a sample shipment of 1,680 lb. of ore was made to the smelter, net returns being \$92; the values being almost entirely in silver.

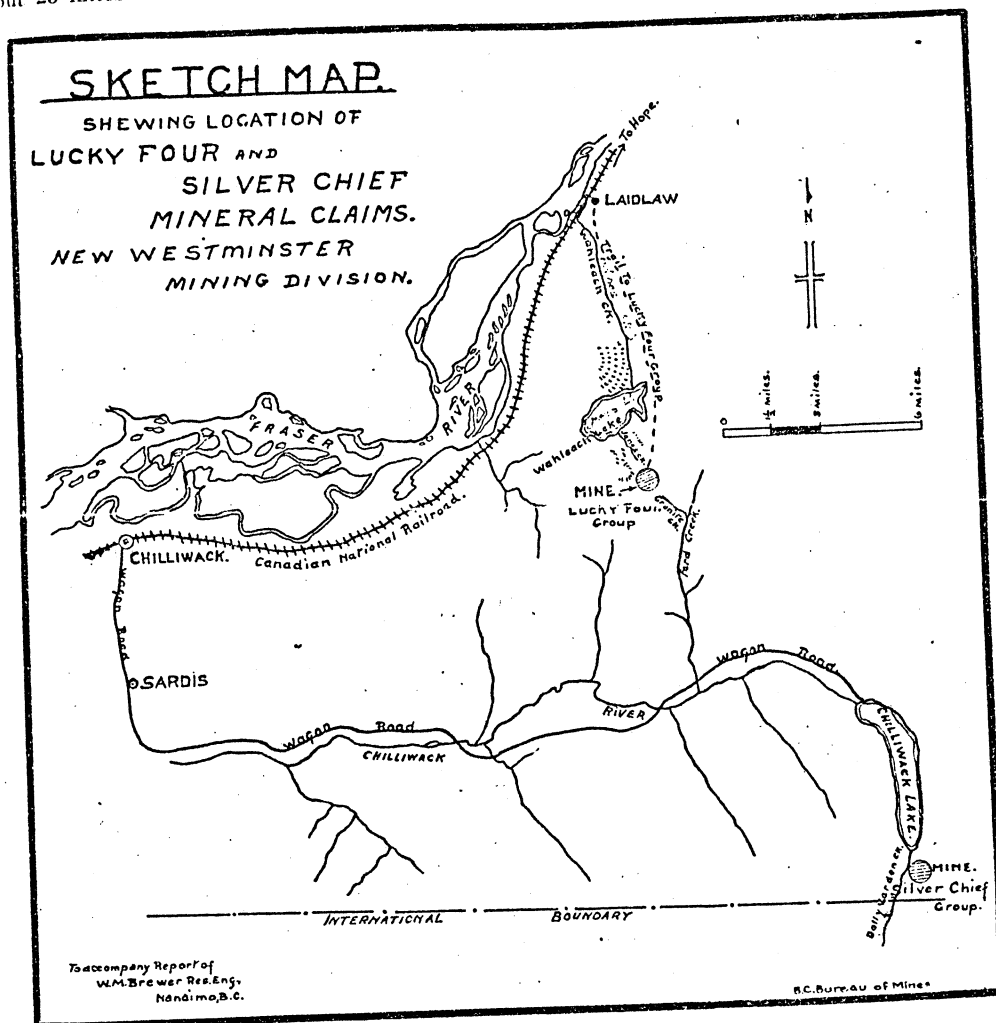
Lucky Four. This group was fully described in the Annual Report for 1919, and although it has been rumoured several times that Sperry & White, of Seattle, the recorded owners, had negotiated a sale to one or other of the big companies, there is no evidence up to date, so far as operations at the mine are concerned, of such negotia-

work having been completed. It is not deemed necessary in this report to repeat the previous description.

LILLOOET VALLEY SECTION.

This section of the New Westminster Division is referred to under a separate heading because of the fact that it was examined by C. E. Cairnes, of the Geological Survey of Canada, during the field season of 1925, and the geology and mineralogy are described in detail in papers written by Dr. Cairnes and published in the *Canadian Mining Journal* for February 18th and 25th.

The Lillooet valley as described by Dr. Cairnes extends from the Canadian Pacific Railway at Agassiz in a north-westerly direction to the extreme headwaters of the upper Lillooet river, about 25 miles north-westerly from the Pacific Great Eastern Railway crossing near the head



of upper Lillooet lake, a distance of approximately 110 miles, but it is only the south-easterly portion from Agassiz to Green Lake, on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, that is included in the Western Mineral Survey District (No. 6).

The interesting feature with regard to this section is that the easterly boundary nearly coincides with the contact between the granodiorite batholith of the Coast range and the older altered sedimentaries of the Interior plateau, while the entire Mining Division is included within the Coast range, and consequently should be one of the most attractive fields for prospectors in this portion of the Province.

Assistance was granted by the Department of Mines toward putting a trail from the beach through this property and to the Britain River Mining Company's showings, not only to help out these, but to make the whole belt more accessible for prospecting.

This company was incorporated in October, 1928, with a capitalization of Pacific Copper \$1,000,000, divided into 4,000,000 shares of 25 cents each. The holdings consist of two old Crown-granted lots of land, No. 353 containing 320 acres and Mines, Ltd. 354 containing 40 acres, granted to Alexander Donaldson in 1877. The remainder of thirty-six full claims and three fractional claims were staked in 1928 around the old Crown grant. The original land was the property of the Howe Mining Company, registered in British Columbia in 1877.

The claims are situated at the head of Salmon arm, at an elevation of about 4,500 feet and about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from tide-water. I have not examined the property yet, but I gathered from old reports that the minerals are chalcopyrite and high-grade copper carrying good silver values in quartz veins up to $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide in Coast Range granodiorite. The only definite work mentioned is a crosscut tunnel 30 feet long, which cut a vein, showing it to be nearly 4 feet wide at that point. No widths of ore sampled are given in any of the old reports and recent stock advertising matter, though giving a number of high assays, are equally obscure regarding the widths of any of the ore. One is left to conclude that there may not be any appreciable width or length of ore and that the samples should probably be called specimens.

The property no doubt is a fair prospect, requiring a trail, equipment, and much development before it can be classed as a possible shipper.

NEW WESTMINSTER MINING DIVISION.

This Division comprises the drainage area of the Fraser river; on the north from Point Grey to near Hope, which includes the areas of Pitt, Stave, and Harrison lakes; and on the south to the International boundary-line.

Renewed interest is obviously being taken in mining in this Division, as 127 claims were staked this year, against 85 last, and 127 assessments done, compared with 84 in 1927. Prospecting seems to have been general throughout the whole Division.

PITT LAKE SECTION.

Pitt Lake Mining Co.

(See 1927 Annual Report.) This company was incorporated in June, 1921, with its head office at 25 Hastings Street West, Vancouver, with a capitalization of \$250,000, divided into 250,000 shares of \$1 par value. The company's property consists of the old *Viking* group of eight Crown-granted mineral claims, situated on the east side of Pitt lake, about 15 miles from Coquitlam. There is launch service three times a week from New Westminster to the head of the lake, calling at the Pitt Mines' Landing as necessary. The claims are staked from the beach up the hill, with a lower tunnel at 630 feet elevation, to which a wagon-road has been built from the beach. The situation is perfect for cheap mining and shipping; a scow or boat can be loaded at the company's landing and unloaded at the Tacoma smelter.

There are two veins occupying shears in the granodiorite country-rock. Only one of these has been explored to any extent, the north vein, on which the lower tunnel has been driven and a raise from a point 270 feet from the portal through to the surface. Two levels have been opened up from the raise, one at 90 feet and the other at 135 feet above the tunnel, each showing a good width of milling-ore. At the lower level the ore-shoot is about 150 feet long and stoping can be started on this level on milling-grade ore. The average values from several hundred samples are: Gold, \$12 to the ton; silver, \$2.40 to the ton; copper, 3.9 per cent.

The work for 1928 has been confined to surface construction. Two hundred thousand feet of lumber was sawed at the camp on contract and utilized for the construction of several buildings—an office; a combined compressor, machine-shop, concentrator, and crusher building; ore-bunkers at the mill and mine, etc. The concentrator is designed to treat 75 tons every twenty-four hours, with plenty of crushing capacity, so that enlargement can easily be made in the future. A Pelton wheel has been purchased which will furnish 280 horse-power under an effective head of 650 feet and the survey has been made for a hydraulic electric plant.

I understand that a recent issue of stock has placed the finances of the company in good condition, and it is stated by the management that the mill machinery will be installed at once and the plant ready for operation early the coming summer.

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A discovery of a new ore-body has been announced, but its importance has not as yet been proven.

Under the management of W. H. Wooley, the affairs of the company are apparently being efficiently handled.

Altogether there are twenty-one claims staked in a block of three claims wide and seven claims long and owned by Marcus Cox, of Vancouver. They are situated 5 miles up Canyon creek, from its confluence with Pitt river at a point 9 miles up the valley at the head of Pitt lake. There is a good wagon-road for $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles up the valley to within half a mile of the Dominion Government hatchery; this half-mile was washed out some years ago and never rebuilt. The main trail extends on up the Pitt valley, on the east side of the river, for 20 miles beyond the hatchery. Assistance was procured from the Department of Mines toward improving the 5 miles of trail up Canyon creek to the cabin on the claims.

The mineral-bearing formation is a wide belt, 4,000 feet or more, of light-coloured, pyritized feldspathic rock, schistose in places, enclosed in the Coast Range granodiorite. The minerals are pyrite and molybdenum, occurring both separately and in combination in small quartz veins, which strike in all directions, and also in small veinlets of pure sulphides. Chalcopyrite is conspicuous by its absence. So far as exposed, there is not enough molybdenum to indicate the probability of commercial quantities. A sample taken of mineralized quartz exposed on the bank of Canyon creek by a short tunnel and some open-cutting gave: Gold, a trace; silver, a trace; molybdenum, 0.35 per cent. On a small tributary creek about a quarter of a mile from the main creek a sample was taken from a number of small pyritized quartz-seams, giving: Gold, \$1 to the ton; silver, 0.4 oz. to the ton; molybdenum, 0.16 per cent. A sample of solid pyrite assayed only a trace in gold and silver.

Further prospecting on this belt might discover more encouraging showings than so far exposed. I am informed that an English company using molybdenum is willing to explore the property.

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was diamond-drilled by the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company two years ago. The reader is therefore referred to the 1928 Annual Report, page 387.

Astra.—This group of eleven claims is situated on the north side of the Brandywine and is owned by Messrs. Falconer and Price, who have done considerable work on it.

Venus.—Eleven claims constitute this group, which adjoin the *Astra* group on the north side. It is owned by Dan McKinnon, who brought in some promising-looking ore this year.

Brandywine and Blue Jack.—These groups are also on the Brandywine river and are owned respectively by W. Barclay, of Maguire, and partners, and A. E. Snow, of Vancouver. These properties adjoin the *Astra* group on the south and were described in the 1927 Annual Report.

Golden King.—This group of eight claims is situated 10 miles up Ashloo creek, a tributary of the Squamish river. I understand that further work was done on this property this year by the owners. (See the 1925 Annual Report.)

NEW WESTMINSTER MINING DIVISION.

This Division comprises the drainage area of the Fraser river on the north side from Point Grey to near Hope, which includes the areas of Pitt, Stave, and Harrison lakes, and on the south side to the International boundary.

There has been a remarkable increase in mining interest in this Division during the past two years and especially during 1929. Two years ago only eighty-five claims were staked and eighty-four assessments done; this year there were 428 claims staked and 148 assessments. Several reverted Crown-granted claims were leased this year. The majority of the staking was done around Pitt lake, where 158 claims were recorded, while in the vicinity of Harrison lake there were fifty-eight claims recorded, and about eighty-five up the Chilliwack river, including Pierce mountain, Sleese creek, and Chilliwack lake.

PITT LAKE SECTION.

Pitt Mining
Co., Ltd.

(See the 1927 and 1928 Annual Reports.) This company was incorporated in June, 1921, with a capitalization of \$250,000, divided into 250,000 shares of \$1 each. The company's office is at 511 Randall Building, 535 George Street, Vancouver. The property, consisting of eight Crown-granted mineral claims, is situated on the east side near the south end of Pitt lake and ideally located for operation and shipping.

The mineralization consists of pyrite, pyrrhotite, and chalcopyrite in a breccia gangue of granite, calcite, and quartz in a shear-zone in the granodiorite country-rock.

There are two such veins, the "north" and "south," the latter having only a little work done on it. The tunnel on the north vein has been driven 550 feet, a raise of 180 feet put through to the surface, and two short levels opened up from the raise. The average of several hundred samples gives \$1.20 in gold to the ton, \$2.40 in silver to the ton, and 3.9 per cent. copper. (Due to a typographical error the gold assay was printed in the Annual Report for 1928 as \$12 a ton.) There appears to be plenty of ore available from the main level and the intermediates to supply a 75-ton mill for a considerable time.

It was expected to have the property in production this year, but difficulties encountered in the construction and installation of the hydro-electric plant has retarded the work. Construction-work has occupied practically the whole season, with the exception that underground work was started late in the year. The hydro-electric plant was completed, a 600-cubic-foot compressor installed at the mine, concentrator building put up, and it only remains to set the concentrator machinery, which I understand has been purchased and partially delivered.

The hydro-electric plant is a very creditable piece of work. A small dam was built at the foot of a lake, a flume constructed for 550 feet, 1,470 feet of 14- to 12-inch extra heavy wood pipe laid to a 36-inch Pelton wheel, giving a head of 650 feet. The Pelton wheel is direct-connected to a 312-k.v.a., G.E. generator running at 600 r.p.m. The unit will develop 300 horsepower. The compressor is belt-driven by a 100-horse-power, 220-volt Westinghouse motor.

A full mine equipment of cars, rails, machines, drill-sharpener, blacksmith outfit, etc., has been provided. From twenty to thirty men have been employed during the summer. The work and finances of this company have been competently handled by the management under W. H. Wooley. There is every reason to expect the property to make a profitable producer.

Katanga.

four claims on the granodiorite and a few feet

This year towards opening dykes or veins at 925 feet elevation. On the foot-wall of small veins, showing. This and drifted on.

At 1,500 feet show as promising later on the open

Altogether the results have

Cox Molybdenum Claims.

range. Not enough many croppings prospecting.

The property hatchery, from

This is an extensive Lillooet river. by the fact that in the Chehalis

The Fire Mine to a large area,

The nickel in considerable

F.E.W.

and associates. in an igneous rock above it.

This year a shaft sunk above but carrying no tunnel in the exposure

Harrison Gold Mining and Development Co., Ltd.

from which 350 tons of considerable ore

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Katanga.

This group of sixteen claims is situated on the east side of Pitt lake near the mouth of Scott creek. They are owned by F. W. Johnson, 424 Ninth Street East, North Vancouver. The property includes the old *Maple Leaf* group of four claims owned by Wagner Bros., who drove a tunnel about 70 feet on a feldspathic vein in the granodiorite country-rock. There is a little chalcopryite showing at the mouth of the tunnel and a few feet in, and also in an open-cut above, but nothing of an encouraging size.

This year F. W. Johnson discovered several promising copper-showings and did some work towards opening them up a little. The minerals, pyrite and chalcopryite, are contained in dykes or veins of a fine-grained, feldspathic rock up to 20 feet in width. One of these showings at 925 feet elevation had an open-cut put across it, showing about 20 feet of milling-grade ore. On the foot-wall there is about 18 inches of fairly clean chalcopryite, the remainder consisting of small veins, bunches, and disseminated chalcopryite; altogether it is a promising surface showing. This could be crosscut from the gulch below for further depth or traced down the hill and drifted on.

At 1,500 feet elevation another similar "vein" was exposed by open-cutting, but did not show as promising a copper content. I am informed that other copper-croppings were found later on the opposite side of Scott creek.

Altogether a very creditable amount of work was done on these prospects this season and the results have been very encouraging.

(See the 1928 Annual Report.) There are twenty-one claims on this belt, Cox Molybdenum Claims. in which are small veinlets of molybdenite and molybdenite-bearing quartz. The formation is a wide belt, 4,000 feet or more, of light-coloured, pyritized feldspathic rock, schistose in places, contained in the granodiorite of the Coast range. Not enough molybdenite has been exposed at any place to call for much work, but the many croppings show it to be widely distributed and makes the belt worth systematic prospecting.

The property is reached from the head of Pitt lake to within half a mile of the Dominion hatchery, from there 5 miles to Canyon creek and 5 miles of trail up the creek.

HARRISON LAKE SECTION.

This is an old mining section that has had some very interesting showings not only contiguous to the lake, but farther north on Fire mountain and along the old Cariboo road up the Lillooet river. That there has been a pronounced revival of interest in this section is evidenced by the fact that over ninety mineral claims have been staked this season north of the Fraser river in the Chehalis and Harrison Lake areas. Several old properties are under investigation as well.

The Fire Mountain trail, reconditioned this year by the Department of Mines, gives access to a large area, attractive for its free-gold quartz possibilities.

The nickel and other mineral showings on the Hope side of the Coast range have resulted in considerable prospecting east from Harrison lake.

F.E.W.

This group of twelve claims is situated along the Canadian Pacific Railway near Harrison Mills. It is a restaking of an old group adjoining the Crown-granted claim *Fairplay*. The owners are Frank E. Woodside, of Vancouver, and associates. Some years ago a long tunnel was driven on some copper-showings occurring in an igneous formation. The mouth of this tunnel has been covered in grading for a road above it.

This year a short tunnel was run from the level of the Canadian Pacific Railway track and a shaft sunk about 20 feet at the end of the tunnel on a small stringer showing a little zinc, but carrying no gold or silver values. It is the intention to clean out and examine the old tunnel in the expectation of finding ore indications worth exploration.

This company was incorporated in April, 1929, with a capitalization of \$500,000, divided into 1,000,000 shares at 50 cents each. Its office is at 590 Harrison Gold Mining and Development Co., Ltd. Richards Street, Vancouver. The property is the *Providence*, on the west side of Harrison lake, about 28 miles up from Harrison Hot Springs. It is an old property, having had considerable work done on it in 1898 and 1899, from which 350 tons of ore was shipped, averaging about \$34 a ton. There are four tunnels and considerable open-cutting. The main tunnel was driven about 575 feet, with crosseuts both

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ways from it, following a pyritized feldspathic vein-filling, but apparently encountering no ore of importance as there are no indications of stoping. A shaft has evidently been sunk to some depth near the mouth of the tunnel and there must have been a considerable plant on the beach here at one time.

Farther around on the beach toward the cabin two other tunnels about 60 feet long were driven on separate parallel veins of ribbon or banded bluish quartz carrying pyrite and, in places, gold values. A shaft, said to be over 100 feet deep, was sunk on the south one of the two veins just mentioned, a short distance back from the beach. A short tunnel just above the cabin and south of the shaft was also driven on this vein. The dumps from the shaft and the two short tunnels on the beach show vein-matter, but no ore of any account.

I followed the old trail for some distance up the hill, but it seemed to branch in all directions and without a guide who knew the property I found nothing up the hill. I understand that the company is undertaking some prospecting farther up the hill along the main vein.

CHILLIWACK SECTION.

For the purposes of this report this section includes that area south of the Fraser river, east of Chilliwack to the summit of the Coast range, just west of Hope, on the Canadian Pacific Railway, and east of Chilliwack lake at the International boundary.

There has been a great deal of staking throughout this section this year. Along the Chilliwack river and tributaries, mainly Slease creek, and in the vicinity of Chilliwack lake, about ninety claims were recorded this year. A number were also staked in the Cheam range and around Jones lake.

The only area examined this year was the Slease Creek basin. This is reached by auto-road from Chilliwack, 12 miles to the "packers' camp" on the Chilliwack river. From here supplies are packed into and bullion brought out from the property of the Boundary-Red Mountain Mines, situated at an elevation of 4,900 feet and south of the International boundary. From the "packers' camp" the trail follows the Chilliwack river through to Chilliwack lake, a distance of over 20 miles; at 7 miles the Slease Creek trail turns off and from there is 8 miles to the Boundary-Red Mountain Mines power-house in the Slease Creek basin. This trail was originally built to take in machinery to the *Lone Jack* mine on the United States side of the boundary.

The Boundary-Red Mountain Mines property is at present being worked under lease by five men, who have been operating it for the past two or three years with a crew of about fifteen men and making good wages. It is free-milling gold ore extending a limited depth, when sulphides are encountered. I understand that a tunnel driven several years ago about 900 feet below the upper workings cut 4 feet of sulphides carrying good values. Transportation, however, has so far prohibited any operation except for free-milling gold. There are now about fifty claims in good standing in the basin on the British Columbia side.

This company was incorporated in June, 1929, with its head office at 1109 Hornby Street, Vancouver. The capitalization is \$100,000, divided into 1,000 Slease Creek Mining and Development Co., Ltd. shares of \$100 each. The property consists of sixteen claims situated about half a mile off the main Slease Creek trail, turning off up the hill a short distance after crossing the bridge at Lentz's cabin. The predominating formation is granodiorite and diorite in which occur small pyritized quartz veins carrying gold values. The cabin is at 2,400 feet elevation and a short distance up Canyon creek an old tunnel was driven 50 feet into the bank with the object of cutting the vein supposedly exposed in the bluffs above. At 2,475 feet elevation a new tunnel has been driven 90 feet on a bearing of N. 22° W. (mag.), from which a crosscut will be driven into the hill to intersect the vein, which presumably strikes north-south, the same as the general formation. The vein in the bluffs was supposed to be exposed in an open-cut, but I could find no indication of it in the bluffs, and when the top was reached it was found that the open-cut was filled with heavy slide-rock from the cliffs. I therefore saw no vein nor ore of any kind.

Another vein was mentioned higher up, but after climbing to 3,600 feet elevation I found that a couple of shots had been put in a yellowish-stained belt of limestone, which showed no mineral anywhere. I was therefore not favourably impressed with the possibilities of this property.

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*Reference 1874-1936
reports prior to
1914 in our
abstract*

Pipestem (Yale) — *1922, 143; *1927, 208; *1928, 227; 1929, 238; *1932, 156; *1936, F 34
Pipestem Inlet, lime 1911, 208
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Pirnie, J. (Atlin) 1936, B 52
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Pitt, Ed. 1899, 842, 844
Pitt Fractional (New Westminster) — 1911, 292
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Pitt Lake (New Westminster) 1898, 1150
Pitt Lake (New Westminster)—1896, 555; 1897, 578; 1899, 810; 1900, 937, 939, 940; 1901, 1121; 1902, 255; 1903, 212; 1904, 267; 1905, 217; 1906, 208; 1907, 158; 1908, 166; 1909, 152; 1910, 162; 1911, 201; 1912, 199; 1913, 309; 1915, 301, 302; 1916, 373; 1917, 286; 1919, 258; 1924, 257; 1925, 293; 1929, 398; 1930, 313; 1933, 258
Pitt Lake Brick and Cement Co., Ltd. 1911, 292
Pitt Lake Mining Co. 1928, 389; 1929, 436
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Pitt Mining Co. (*see also* Viking Mining Co.)—1923, 260; 1924, 257; 1925, 293; 1926, 324; 1927, 366; 1929, 398; 1930, 313
Pitt River quarry—1900, 934, 938; 1926, 327; 1935, G 31
Pittock Fract. (Lardeau) 1909, 276
Pitts, J. C.—1907, 213; 1908, 249; 1919, 113; 1922, 185; 1923, 199; 1928, 276; 1929, 292; 1930, 237
Pittsburg (Osoyoos) 1905, 256
Pittsburg (Trail Creek) 1896, 560; 1901, 1226
Pittsburg and Cariboo Gold Dredging Co. —1895, 657; 1896, 514; 1898, 981; 1899, 617, 630
Pittsburg, Chief Inspector's visit to . 1912, 209
Pittsburg-British Gold Co., Ltd. (*see also* Delta Gold Mining Co., McKee Consolidated Hydraulic Co., Ltd., and Amalgamated McKee Creek Mining Co., Ltd.)—1909, 49; 1910, 21, 51; 1911, 55; 1912, 55
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Pittsmount (Portland Canal)—1920, 60; 1922, 84
Pittston (Nanaimo) 1898, 1146; 1930, 302
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Placer Engineers, Ltd.—1930, 167, 175; 1931, 95; 1932, 113, 114; 1933, 144; 1935, C 38, 44

Placer Fract. (Nelson) 1910, 247
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Placer Gold Mines, Ltd. (later Lake Surprise Mining Co.) (Atlin)—1909, 51; 1910, 53; 1911, 57; 1912, 58; 1913, 70; 1914, 77; 1915, 61; 1916, 45; 1917, 75, 78; 1918, 96, 99; 1919, 87, 89; 1920, 72; 1921, 83; 1922, 88; 1923, 90; 1925, 117, 356; 1926, 109; 1927, 115
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Planet (Nicola) — 1887, 276; 1888, 315, 320; 1896, 563; *1927, 212; 1929, 217, 441; 1930, *182, 445; 1931, 105, *115; *1933, 178; 1935, A 25; *1936, D 15
Planet Mining and Reduction Co. of Nicola, Ltd. — 1925, 362; 1929, 243; 1930, 205, 445; 1931, 115; 1936, D 15, 17
Planet Mines, Ltd.—1925, 182; 1926, 199; 1928, 221
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quartz-filled fractures in the quartz diorite country rock. The sulphide-bearing vein material carries low values in gold and silver. Where not sulphide-bearing, the veins appear to be barren of gold also. The workings consist of a shallow shaft and about 200 feet of adit.

Maple Leaf (Katanga) (6)

References: B.C. Min. Mines, Ann. Rept.: 1926, p. 323; 1929, p. 399; 1930, p. 313.

The property is on the east side of Pitt Lake near the mouth of Vickers (Scott) Creek. The deposit consists of pyrite, pyrrhotite and a little chalcopyrite along a shear zone in a small body of greenstone included in the quartz diorite. In 1925, 67 feet of adit were driven along the shear zone, but the results were not encouraging. In 1928 the property changed ownership and was renamed the Katanga Group. Work was done on a number of fine-grained feldspathic dykes which contain pyrite and scattered pods of chalcopyrite. The last reported work on the property was in 1929.

Cox Claims (7)

References: B.C. Min. Mines, Ann. Rept.: 1928, p. 390.

The property is 5 miles up Corbold (Canyon) Creek from its confluence with upper Pitt River. The deposit is in a wide belt of pyritized, schistose, feldspar porphyry (Harrison Lake Formation) which forms a small pendant. The main minerals are pyrite and molybdenite occurring in small quartz veins. No chalcopyrite appears to be present.

Stave Lake Area

Stave River Group (8)

References: B.C. Min. Mines, Ann. Rept.: 1918, p. 288; 1931, p. 176.

These claims are located near upper Stave River at an elevation of 2,500 feet, about 6 miles from the head of Stave Lake. The foliated quartz diorite of this area contains veins of quartz. Pods of molybdenite are scattered irregularly in the quartz. Selected samples are reported to have yielded 1 to 2 per cent molybdenum.

Lillooet River Area

Fire Mountain Properties (9)

References: B.C. Min. Mines, Ann. Rept.: 1897, p. 578; 1898, p. 1151; 1899, p. 811; 1900, p. 935; 1930, p. 314; 1934, p. F16; C. E. Cairnes, 1927, p. 163.

In 1896 a large number of claims were recorded on the southwest slopes of Fire Mountain, about 15 miles northwest of Harrison Lake. In that year Fire Mountain and Fire Lake Gold Mining companies spent about \$50,000 in connection with these properties. The work included exposing the vein for about 1,000 feet and driving a 175-foot tunnel in it. A 75-foot shaft was also sunk. A trial shipment of 200 pounds of the ore was sent to San Francisco and a value of about \$74 per ton in gold was reported. Late in the season a Huntingdon quartz

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Vancouver North, Coquitlam, and Pitt Lake Map-areas

Copper Duke (3)

References: B.C. Min. Mines, Ann. Rept.: 1909, p. J167; 1959, p. 127.

The property is on the east side of Lynn Creek about seven miles north of Burrard Inlet. The 1909 report indicates that about 400 feet of tunnelling had been completed at that time. Mineralized zones and some quartz veins in diabase attracted the most work. The higher grade ore was reported to average 4 per cent copper, with low values in gold and silver. In 1957 the considerable magnetite in the area was explored by magnetometer survey by Western Canada Steel Ltd., which holds an option on the property. In 1959 six holes, totalling 550 feet, were drilled. Five are reported to have encountered magnetite.

Pitt Lake Area

Golden Ears Group (4)

References: B.C. Min. Mines, Ann. Rept.: 1900, p. 937; 1930, p. 313.

The property is on a small pendant about 2 miles long and about 1½ miles wide. It consists of fine-grained hornfels or amphibolite with minor quartzitic bands. The beds are nearly vertical and trend northerly. The old reports indicate values chiefly in copper (chalcopyrite), with minor gold and silver.

The property was staked first in 1897, and the claims were named the Champion, Cromwell, Rocket, and OK. The first two belonged to Messrs. Seymour and Clinton; the Rocket was owned by the Golden Ears Mining Company; and the OK was held by Dominion Mining Development and Agency Co. In the following year the last-named company bonded all four claims for \$65,000 and renamed them the Golden Ears Group. During 1898 and 1899 about \$35,000 was spent on development work, after which the bond was allowed to lapse. Except for sporadic attention, the property lay dormant until about 1920, when it was renamed the Viking Group. By 1923, 16,000 tons of ore were reported to be blocked out, and during the late twenties considerable surface construction was done, including a hydro-electric plant and a building to house a 50-ton concentrating mill. The depression, however, killed the enterprise before the concentrating machinery could be installed.

The total underground work appears to be on the order of 1,000 feet of tunnel and 200 feet of shaft. Some small shipments were made in the late 1890's and again in the 1920's. Three tons of ore sent to Swansea in 1898 returned \$45 per ton, mostly for copper. Bin samples for that year were reported as giving assays of 3 to 21 per cent copper; and \$3 to \$5 gold and silver.

The ore minerals are reported to be pyrite, pyrrhotite, and chalcopyrite in a gangue of quartz and calcite.

Standard Group (5)

References: B.C. Min. Mines, Ann. Rept.: 1947, p. A179; 1950, p. A167.

The property is on the west shore of Pitt Lake, about 3 miles southwest of Goose Island. The workings are on a steep hillside about 500 feet above the lake. Ore minerals are mainly pyrite with local galena and chalcopyrite, localized along

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Interest has centred on a belt of pyritized breccia 100 to 200 feet in width. The pyrite is disseminated unevenly throughout the belt. A little galena and sphalerite are also present. It is reported to average about \$5.00 per ton in gold (at that time worth \$20.67 U.S. per ounce). No extension of the high values initially found on the property has been discovered.

Pitt Lake Lost Gold Mine

Much has appeared in the popular press, especially in the past 20 years, concerning this legendary gold mine in the Pitt Lake district. The legend in its more embellished forms may be summarized as follows.

An Indian named John Slumach, 40 years old (according to the Winnipeg Free Press, April 21, 1962) or 81 years old (Vancouver Sun, December 31, 1954), had located a source of abundant gold nuggets in the vicinity of Pitt Lake sometime before the turn of the century. He is said to have taken one by one a number of wives to his property, and there murdered them in order to keep secret the location of his find (B.C. Digest, May, 1946). For these crimes the same account states that he was eventually apprehended and hanged at New Westminster on November 10, 1903. Before his death he is supposed to have laid a curse over the area, and a great number of prospectors are said to have died, vainly hunting for the lost mine.

The facts of the Slumach case are more accurately presented in the accounts of the day found in the Daily Columbian, New Westminster. These were collected by W. W. Burton and published in the Native Voice, July, 1959. The Daily Columbian of September 9, 1890, carried an account of the murder of Louis Bee, a half breed. He was shot and killed by an Indian named Slumach at Lillooet Slough, about 2½ miles above Pitt River bridge. For about six weeks Slumach evaded capture by hiding in the rugged bushland around Pitt Lake. On October 25, 1890, Slumach, who was by then near starvation, surrendered to P. McTier-nan, the local Indian Agent. A preliminary hearing was held in district court, New Westminster, before Captain Pittendrigh, J.P. on November 3, 1890, and Slumach was remanded for trial at the oncoming fall assizes. An article appearing on November 11th reported Slumach, considered to be about 60 years old, to be very ill in the provincial jail. The trial was held on November 14 and 15. Slumach was found guilty and sentenced to hang on January 16, 1891. At 7 a.m. on that date he was baptized and at 8 a.m. before about fifty witnesses he was hanged. He died without comment.

No mention of a lost gold mine, murdered wives, or even a first name of John appears in the current accounts. The story was built up long afterwards, possibly by linking Slumach with another story. Captain H. W. R. Moore, a Victoria barrister gave an account (Vancouver Province, January 12, 1952) of a party that he accompanied in the fall of 1904 to Canyon Creek (now Corbold Creek) a tributary of the upper Pitt River. They were following a map obtained by his employer W. A. MacDonald in an unknown manner from a nurse who is said to have obtained it from a dying prospector in California. They found nothing

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Vancouver North, Coquitlam, and Pitt Lake Map-areas

except a minor amount of molybdenite, but may have given rise to the Lost Gold Mine legend which was later connected with executed Slumach.

Since the early 1940's the legend has appeared in the press with ever increasing frequency, and becomes more fanciful with each publication. However, the area about Pitt Lake is not favourable for gold-quartz veins, and even less so for the placer gold of the legend.



PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
VICTORIA, B.C.

October 21, 1970.

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Mr. Don Waite,
Apartment # 403,
27 Henderson Avenue,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Waite:

In response to your enquiry of October 13th under separate cover I have mailed you, with invoice enclosed, xerox copies of all the articles listed under your third request.

We have also ordered prints of the photographs listed under 4 but cannot supply any of Slumach, Peter Pierre, Chief Trader James McMillan or Volcanic Brown. These will be sent as soon as possible.

I am unable to trace the False Creek Record to which you refer. Insofar as the trials are concerned this will have to be done by photostat and will be costly and slow in delivery, but I presume you do want us to proceed.

Regarding the witness Moody the Native Voice, July, 1959 quoting from the British Columbian of November 14, 1890 stated that Moody, an Indian, was to be a witness for the defence. We have no evidence to support the suggestion you have made.

Yours sincerely,

W. E. Ireland
W. E. IRELAND,

Provincial Librarian & Archivist.

WEI/mg



THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
VICTORIA, B.C.

101

December 2nd, 1970.

Mr. Don Waite,
Apt. #403,
27 Henderson Avenue,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Waite:

Your letter of November 27th has come to hand and already our receipt has been forwarded to you covering your remittance.

Frankly I don't know how to proceed about the account of the Slumach trials in the New Westminster British Columbian, 1890-1891 for it would be very expensive to photostat them, xeroxing not being possible from bound files. I wonder if you have tried to use the files in either the National Library, Library of Parliament or Public Archives of Canada for I am almost certain that they have them, if not in original, in microfilm.

Yours sincerely,

W. E. Ireland
W.E. IRELAND,

Provincial Librarian & Archivist.

WEI/lc

102

VICTORIA PRESS LIMITED • P.O. BOX 300, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

March 31, 1971

Mr. Donald Waite,
Apt. #403,
27 Henderson Ave.,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. Waite,

I regret that we have no photographs or negatives in our collection of 'Doc' Brown. However, I understand that some photographs may be available from the Provincial Archives. I recommend that you write to Mr. Willard Ireland, Provincial Archivist, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. for his assistance in obtaining one.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) Muriel W. Mixon
Librarian.

Mickey McLaughlin.

103

rode up lake with Volcanic Brown.
Alvin Patterson saw him ~~coming~~ ^{going up}
~~down~~ of glacier as he was
~~going~~ ^{coming} down. Volcanic alone.
Patterson with Dave Ketson.
(Gorman)

Marcus Cox Claimed gold in
Upper Stone River. Train at head
of Pitt River 1904 until
about 1950. Dilbert Indian

Post Office in Alvin opened in
1915 by Alvin Patterson.
Geo W. Haley - one of first farmers
in Upper Pitt
Malcolm Mc Isaac.
Peter

10 Sep 71

Lake

black rock.

104

in deep gorge.

Box named Herman
Dutchess -

may or may not
get out with
Cessna.
Charlie Fenwick
- owned Triway
his service
killed cult
2 yrs ago. flying
over secret.

Pitt Lake.

lot of copper. up 7 mi
can see same. from 7 mi..

Joe & _____
took copper mine 3 mi up
7 mile.

Walter Oliver would know their
names - up in 61-62 in old
jeep
runs Pitt Lake Express.

Tom Wilson - died in Alvin
 few years ago. Spent 15-20
 years searching for the
 lost Jackson Mine.

Mark BOLAND
 Ic. - To Alvin P.O.
 Pitt Lake B.C.

Between 1900 and 1920
 there were 15-20 settlers &
 their families. Thomas had
 the Upper Pitt River valley
 cleared roughly 500 acres.
 Had cattle & made butter.
 Cattle brought in on scows &
 paddle-wheelers.

Glens Falls Water Power Development
Western Power Co. of Canada Ltd.

① Benoit Slough Dam

② Intake Dam

③ West Wing Wall

④ Sluice Dam

J. S. Eldridge & Co.

Mac Donald Laval Pt

⑤ Mr. Geo. Kidd, President

~~Mr.~~ W. G. Murrin - Vice Pres.

20 Sep 71?

107

Re Samah.

Source Charlie Miller

- in 1912 Stowell
& partner came out
of upper reaches of
Stove Valley into Stove
Falls & took Western
Canada Paper Co.
Logging train to
Huskin to the office
of the A. H. Heaps &
Co Ltd
who were loggers &
millmen. Both
men were

formed - displayed a
pouch of fine gold
& asked if that was
good enough to
get some thing to
eat with. Had to
wait for evening
CPR train to get
into Van. Arrived
at Larher co. about
4⁰⁰ pm & had to
wait for Toronto
Express train
which left Rarhin
around 9⁵⁰ pm for
Van. Then got CPR
Coast Steamer

to Seattle. The f
2 boat (La Guppie.)
Went from Seattle
to Finco.

109

This was in
late part of Nov
1912. Out from
first early snow.

such as do not
pass the Vedder River.

TA-LA-GUHN-A
high bend in the river
Port Henry

Wm UPHOFF

110

- German

died 87.

1918 - 36 yrs. age.

prospector

home steader

logger, trapper

barber.



New Westminster B.C.
June 28, 1971 12 M.

Mr Donald Waite
27 Henderson Ave.
Ottawa, Ont. Re Slumach.

Dear Sir: Pursuant to your letter of July 27th 1970 and our subsequent phone conversation which possibly through my lack of Co-operation ended abruptly. However I attended at Moody Square Temporary police quarters from the City Hall, enquiring as to your whereabouts. Was advised that at the Court House I could check for you - "Court Registry" - R.C.M.P. - Land office - and Sheriff's office - no result.

→ At this date I am prepared to furnish you with a true copy of the details of the Slumach Trial.

X. Providing however: you give me advise as to Slumach - as to his characteristics (3); physical size i.e. weight, height (5); physical condition, was he lame or no etc? disposition? (4)

I have no intention at the present time of writing a story of what I know which to my way of thinking is little enough tho if I do write 'twill be the truth - and not a lot of "bologna" such as is published in the newspapers.

I am long aware that he was married but did not know of any family. - See pg 2

112

2

Questions:

1. Family
2. Slumack's age
3. Weight
4. Any physical disability i.e. Game leg?
5. Height
6. Disposition
7. What tribe did he belong to.
8. Was he medicine man for the Nanaimo tribe
what standing
9. Age

2. Was Louis Bee a Kanaka? - The Kanakas used to come over from the Hawaiian Islands to Stanley to visit Kanaka Creek.

4. Why did Slumack shoot Luis Bee?

Three of my friends - long since dead - knew Slumack. One in particular was quite friendly with him. Only one asked him where he got the gold from - no result.

Personally, I have no recollection of Slumack. ~~He~~ must of camped in the East end below The Crescent. Many Indians also camped in the West end i.e. Cameron St west of 10th St; and also close to the river bank beyond the CPR roundhouse. 1. my Indians as far north as Prince Rupert, the Hidas & Simseams (? spelling?) came to New West during the salmon season. The men fished, the woman worked in the canneries. EVER.

I hope to mail you the Canada West magazine Vol 2 No 4 which contains story:

'Lost Mine of Pitt Lake'

re the same. may say there was such a party as

1. Jackson prospector - a friend of mine was his ^{companion}.
2. Volcanic Brown well known prospector. His friend, one of many, told me his last trip into Pitt Mts was not for gold; tho of course he would pick it up if he saw it; it was for ^{platinum}. ^{He never returned.}

Regret to say that there will be a delay before I mail said magazine. I am endeavouring to obtain another copy, expect to subscribe to same. In meantime must wait more of it. I shall mail same shortly.

It is interesting to know you intend to write about the Golden Ears Area. Expect you are aware Mt Edge therein, was named after one of the two Edge brothers (real old times of Haney); Master Land surveyor - Vernon Edge - died about about a year ago, a son of one of the brothers.

The whole area of Haney Municipality would make a splendid subject for a write up. May say ^{tho} you probably ^{know} the officer in charge of the Haney Correctional School and his son, attempted - about - two years ago - to scale Mt Edge - in the spring - & and never returned - probably covered by an avalanche.

X.

Incidentally, I have a close friend living in Chicago who lived for quite a few years in Haney and is very familiar with its environs. A much travelled person.

She knows the local history (Haney) and past & present and is a very understanding person.

She visits Montreal occasionally and may find time to visit you all in Ottawa if acceptable to you. This is just my idea; she is not a writer but I know would be quite interested in your project. She has yet to hear from me.

Yours Sincerely
D.E. McPhalen

436 First St.
New Westminster B.C.

To. Henry Oxenbury.

M. E. McPherson

436 - 1st St.

N. West'n.

521-3450.

115

Living
here

{ - 809 Queens Ave

#201

255-3450

Glad Gladys

Lindemere

116

*James's dream, the
- was in fact a dream, and by no means
- letter from Good Com. in Victoria*

British Columbia
County of Westminster
to wit

The Jurors for our Lady the
Queen upon their oath present that Slumach an Indian .
on the eight day of September in the year of our Lord
one thousand eight hundred and ninety at Pitt River in
the County of Westminster did feloniously wilfully and
of his malice aforethought kill and Murder one Louie
Bee against the peace of Our Lady the Queen her Crown
and dignity.

*Not yet
we not
had had
to had
discovered the
resident at
able to with
Koo-keen
new*

117

New Westminster

Assizes November 1890

Regina
vs
Slumach

Indictment
for Murder

True Bill
Henry V. Edmonds
Foreman

Witnesses

HVE	Seymour
	Charlie
HVE	R. Eden Walker M. D.
	Swanisit
	N. B. Gauvreau C. E.
HVE	Wm. Moresby
	Robert Anderson
	Lucy

Indictment
for Murder

118

True Bill

Henry V. Edmonds

Foreman

Witnesses

HVE

Seymour

Charlie

HVE

R. Eden Walker M. D.

Swanisit

N. B. Gauvreau C. E.

HVE

Wm. Moresby

Robert Anderson

Lucy

Kitty

L. P. Eckstein

Counsel for

the Crown

Information and Complaint for an Iddictable Offence.

Canada,
Province of British Columbia
District or County of Westminster

119

THE INFORMATION and Complaint of W. Moresby
of New Westminster taken tenth day of September, in
the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety,
before the undersigned one of Her Majesty's Justice of
the Peace in and for the District or County of Westminster,
who saith that Slomach an Indian on the 8th day of September
in the year A. D. 1890, at Pitt River, in the County of
Westminster, did feloniously, wilfully, and of his malice
aforethought kill and Murder one Louie Bee.

W. Moresby

SWORN before me, the day and year first above mentioned,
at New Westminster.

Pittendrigh

J. P.

120

In the Court of Assize Oyer and Terminer and General
Goal Delivery

Regina versus Slumagh and Indian charged with the
murder of one Louie Bee.

I the above named Slumagh make oath and say:

1 That one Moody and Indian and Florence Reed are necessary
and material witnesses in my behalf in the trial on the
above charge and I cannot safely proceed to trial without
their attendance as witnesses to depose to the following
facts:

J. C.

2. (a) That the Louie Bee the deceased was ~~xxxxxx~~
habitually quarrelling with me

J. C.

(b) and that he frequently harassed me with ~~xxxxxx~~
improper language and

J. C.

(c) threatened me more than once with violence and I
was in constant fear of him.

3. I have been unable to procure their attendance at the
present sittings of the Court xx

4. I have endeavoured to procure their attendance at the
present sittings of this Court.

5. That I can procure their attendance at the next sittings
of the Court as their usual place of abode is within the
District of New Westminster.

Sworn before me at the City of New Westminster ,
British Columbia this 14th day of November, A. D. 1890,
having first been read over and interpreted to the said

above charge and I cannot safely proceed to trial without
their attendance as witnesses to depose to the following
facts:

121

2. (a) That the Louie Bee the deceased was ~~xxxxxx~~
habitually quarrelling with me

(b) and that he frequently harassed me with ~~xxxxxx~~
improper language and

(c) threatened me more than once with violence and I
was in constant fear of him.

3. I have been unable to procure their attendance at the
present sittings of the Court xx

4. I have endeavoured to procure their attendance at the
present sittings of this Court.

5. That I can procure their attendance at the next sittings
of the Court as their usual place of abode is within the
District of New Westminster.

Sworn before me at the City of New Westminster ,
British Columbia this 14th day of November, A. D. 1890,
having first been read over and interpreted to the said
Slumagh who appeared to understand the same.

John Campbell
A Commr etc for taking affis in
S. C. B. C.

Slumagh X
mark

FALL ASSIZES

New Westminster

Nov 12, 1890

122

Mr Justice Drake presiding.

Commission read

Grand Jury called

Alexander R. H.	s
Townsend W. B.	s
Dockrill, Joseph	s
Chadsey, Chester	s
Edmonds H. V.	s
Cook J. G.	s
Bayley W. H.	s
Gardiner, Peter	s
Eickhoff, Frederick	s
Hendry, John	s
Henderson J. C.	s
Elson, William	s
Major C. G.	s
Fales W. E.	s
Ashwell G. R.	s

X Chillworth
X New Court

Grand Jury Sworn

Petit Jurors called

Indictments and depositions in the following cases handed
to the Judge who addresses the Grand Jury and hands indict-
ments to them.

Cook	J. G.	s
Bayley	W. H.	s
Gardiner,	Peter	s
Eickhoff,	Frederick	s
Hendry,	John	s
Henderson	J. C.	s
Elson,	William	s
Major	C. G.	s
Fales	W. E.	s
Ashwell	G. R.	s

123

Grand Jury Sworn

Petit Jurors called

Indictments and depositions in the following cases handed to the Judge who addresses the Grand Jury and hands indictments to them.

1. Slumach --Murder

Grand Jury retires at 12 Noon

* Mr Atkinson for Slomach applies for permission to have the prisoner examined by medical men

Leave granted but names of medical men to be given to Mr. Moresby.

REG VS SLUMACH

Nov 12

124

Grand Jury bring in true bill in Reg vs Slumach

Friday Nov 14th

Petit Jury called.

Reg vs SlumachMurder.

Eckstein for the Crown, Gaynor with him

Atkinson for the Defence.

Application for adjournment till next Assize

Affidavit of Slumachread

" " Mary "

Prisoner arraigned and through his counsel pleads not guilty

Further affidavit of Slumach read

Affidavit of Wm Moresby & Wm Conner read

Adj'd to 11 A. M. tomorrow

At 11 A. M. Petit Jury called

Mr Edmonds, Foreman makes a presentment which is read.

Reg vs Slumach

Joseph Coupland

John Johnson

W. H. Burns

Thomas Eales

George Munday

Robert Blackstock

E. J. Newton

stand aside

S. W. Lehman

Foreman

Eckstein for the Crown, Gaynor with him

Atkinson for the Defence.

Application for adjournment till next Assize

Affidavit of Slumach read

" " Mary "

Prisoner arraigned and through his counsel pleads not guilty

Further affidavit of Slumach read

Affidavit of Wm Moresby & Wm Conner read

Adj'd to 11 A. M. tomorrow

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Mr Edmonds, Foreman makes a presentment which is read.

Reg vs Slumach

Joseph Coupland

John Johnson

W. H. Burns

Thomas Eales

George Munday

Robert Blackstock

E. J. Newton stand aside

S. W. Lehman Foreman

H. H. McKenzie

John D. Paris stand aside

H. E. Johnson

Lawrence Thornber

George Good

John Blair

125-

126

Depositions of Witnesses.

Canada
Province of British Columbia

District or County of Westminster

THE EXAMINATION OF Dr. Walker M. D.
New Westminster, and Indians Seymour, Charlie & Swanisit of
Keetezie, taken on this third day of November, in
the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety,
at New Westminster, in the District or County aforesaid,
before the undersigned, one of Her Majesty's Justice of
the Peace for the said District, in the presence and hearing
of Slumach who is charged this day before me, for that he,
the said Slumach at Pitt River in said County, on the
8th day of September A. D. 1891, did feloniously, wilfully, and
of his malice aforethought, kill and Murder one Louie Bee.

Mr Horesby prosecutes }
Jason Allard sworn in as }
Interpreter }
Pittendrigh, J. P. }

This Deponent, Seymour an Indian upon his oath saith as
follows: I remember the 8th day of September last past I
went up in a canoe with Louie Bee from the place where we
were living on Pitt river to look at our Sturgeon lines.
Louie was the only one with

DR. WALKER M. D.

New Westminster , and Indians Seymour, Charlie & Swanisit of Keetezie , taken on this third day of November, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety, at New Westminster, in the District or County aforesaid, before the undersigned, one of Her Majesty's Justice of the Peace for the said District, in the presence and hearing of Slumach who is charged thid day before me, for that he, the said Slumach at Pitt River in said County, on the 8th day of September A. D. 1891, did feloniously, wilfully, and of his malice aforethought, kill and Murder one Louie Bee.

127

Mr Moresby prosecutes }

Jason Allard sworn in as }

Interpreter }

Pittendrigh, J. P. }

This Deponent, Seymour an Indian upon his oath saith as follows: I remember the 8th day of September last past I went up in a canoe with Louie Bee from the place where we were living on Pitt river to look at our Sturgeon lines. Louie was the only one with me in the canoe. We went up about two miles when we got to the lines we found there was no bait on the hooks, then we looked around for some dead salmon to bait them with, we went up a little further and saw a canoe come near, we hailed it and found it contained the chief of the Katezie tribe his wife was along with him. We had a conversation for a few minutes he then left us going down stream. We went

up stream immediately after parting. I heard the report of a gun on the opposite shore that is the left hand side going up stream. Louie Bee proposed to go across to where the shot was fired as he thought it might be white men there, when we got to the shore I saw the prisoner Slumach coming out of the long grass and I told Louie Bee he was coming. Then I caught a glimpse of a canoe hauled up partly on the shore when Slumach got near Louie Bee asked him what he was firing at. He gave no answer but kept walking up towards our canoe until he reached the edge of the river, he was preparing his gun i. e. bringing it into position to shoot without any further word he presented his gun at Louie Bee the deceased and fired, Slumach then ran towards his canoe took out his ammunition and reloaded. after the shot was fired I ~~saw~~ saw blood coming out of Louie Bee's arm at the back of his shoulder, he grasped hold of the side of the canoe and after a few seconds fell over board and sank in about two and a half feet of water, The canoe was afloat and about 15 or 16 feet from the shore, the water here is shallow for some distance out. I jumped on shore immediately after Louie Bee was shot as I was afraid of getting shot as well as Louie Bee who had given no provocation whatever and the prisoner was putting powder in his gun again.

The gun was a percussion single barrelled one.

I asked the prisoner as I jumped on shore why he had shot the deceased, he said he wanted to drive us away that he did not want any persons to go up there.

I waited in the grass hidden for a short time to see what Slumach would do he was holding his gun during the time I was hid which

a glimpse of a canoe hauled up partly on the shore when Slumach got near Louie Bee asked him what he was firing at . He gave no answer but kept walking up towards our canoe until he reached the edge of the river, he was preparing his gun i. e. bringing it into position to shoot without any further word he presented his gun at Louie Bee the deceased and fired, Slumach then ran towards his canoe took out his ammunition and reloaded. after the shot was fired I ~~saw~~ blood coming out of Louie Bee's arm at the back of his shoulder, he grasped hold of the side of the canoe and after a few seconds fell over board and sank in about two and a half feet of water, The canoe was afloat and about 15 or 16 feet from the shore, the water here is shallow for some distance out. I jumped on shore immediately after Louie Bee was shot as I was afraid of getting shot as well as Louie Bee who had given no provocation whatever and the prisoner was putting powder in his gun again. (129)

The gun was a percussion single barrelled one.

Mr. Moresby I asked the prisoner as I jumped on shore why he had shot the deceased, he said he wanted to drive us away that he did not want any persons to go up there.

I waited in the grass hidden for a short time to see what Slumach would do he was holding his gun during the time I was hid which was about twenty minutes. I thought I might be shot so I down the shore and then walked over the Railway bridge and up to my house when I got near I hallow'd out to the women that Slumach had killed Louie Bee. The women came out and went with me to my house. I then started ~~whhxhx~~ to come down here and arrived at the city at dark and reported the circumstance to the Indian Agent. I met no one on my way down. I told my own wife and Louie's wife what had happened and there was an old man in the camp

in another compartment but he did not hear.

I remained in the City all night and returned with the Coroner when we arrived we could not find the body as the tide was high, I commenced searching for the body and shortly after found it, and a young man who was with me ~~he~~ fired off his gun to attract attention. The body was in deeper water owing to the rise in the tide. I recognized Louie Bee's axe in Slumach's house when Mr Moresby searched it. We had a bottle in the canoe for killing sturgeon. These things were in the canoe when I jumped out. Louie Bee only said to Slumach "What are you shooting at"? Louie had no club in his hand. I was in the stern and Louie Bee in the bow. Louie being in the bow of the canoe was nearer to Slumach, he was side-ways to him. I cannot say if the Coquitlum Chief had any whiskey or not in his canoe as we were some distance from each other. I had no whiskey on that day. I was with Louie Bee all day and he had not had any whiskey either. There was none to be got. The prisoner Slumach now, before the Court is the man who shot Louie Bee, on recovering his body I brought it down to Westminster as directed by the Coroner.

I did not hear Louie Bee call you any names.

his

Seymour X

mark

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this 3rd day of November,
A. D. 1890, before me,

By
Mr. Moresby

Mr. Moresby

By the
prisoner

Moresby

These things were in the canoe when I jumped out. Louie Bee only said to Slumach "What are you shooting at"? Louie had no club in his hand. I was in the stern and Louie Bee in the bow. Louie being in the bow of the canoe was nearer to Slumach, he was side-ways to him. I cannot say if the Coquitlum Chief had any whiskey or not in his canoe as we were some distance from each other. I had no whiskey on that day. I was with Louie Bee all day and he had not had any whiskey either. There was none to be got. The prisoner Slumach now, before the Court is the man who shot Louie Bee, on recovering his body I brought it down to Westminster as directed by the Coroner.

(131)

the
prisoner

I did not hear Louie Bee call you any names.

his

Seymour X

mark

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this 3rd day of November,
A. D. 1890, before me,

Pittendrigh, J. P.

Statement of the Accused.

132

Canada
Province of British Columbia)
District of County of Westminster

Slumach an Indian Stands charged befor the
undersigned, one of Her Majesty's Justiced of the
Peace in and forthe District or County aforesaid,
this third day of November in the year of
Our Lord One thousand eight hundred and ninety for
that the said Slumach on the 8th day of Sept-
ember last past at Pitt River in the County afresaid
did feloniously, wilfully and of his malice aforethought
kill and murder one Louie Bee
and the said charge being read to the said Slumach,
ad the witnesses for the prosscution, being severally
examined in his presence the said Slumach is now ~~at~~
addresses by me as follows:-

"Having heard the evidence, do you wish to say anything
in answer to the charge? You are not obliged to say a
anything unless you desire to do so; but whatever you say
will be taken down in writing, and may be given in evidence
against you upon your trial. You have nothing to hope from
any promise of favour, and nothing to fear from any threat,
which may been holden out to you to induce you to make
any admission or confession of your guilt, but whatever you
shall now say may be given in evidence against you upon
your trial, notwithstanding such promise or threat."

the said Slumach saith as follows---

that the said Slumach on the 8th day of September last past at Pitt River in the County afresaid did feloniously, wilfully and of his malice aforethought kill and murder one Louie Bee and the said charge being read to the said Slumach, (133) and the witnesses for the prosecution, being severally examined in his presence the said Slumach is now ~~at~~ addresses by me as follows:-

"Having heard the evidence, do you wish to say anything in answer to the charge? You are not obliged to say anything unless you desire to do so; but whatever you say will be taken down in writing, and may be given in evidence against you upon your trial. You have nothing to hope from any promise of favour, and nothing to fear from any threat, which may have been holden out to you to induce you to make any admission or confession of your guilt, but whatever you shall now say may be given in evidence against you upon your trial, notwithstanding such promise or threat."

Whereupon the said Slumach saith as follows---

"I have nothing to say"

TAKEN before me, at New Westminster the day and year first above mentioned.

134

This deponent Charlie upon his oath saith :

I was in the canoe that brought the body of Louie Bee down to New Westminster. It was the same body that was taken by Mr. Moresby from the canoe and placed in an out house on Front Street and on which the postmortem by the doctor was made. This took place on the 10th day of September 1890.

The prisoner has no question to ask.

his

Charlie X

mark

Taken upon oath and acknowledged befor me this 3rd day of November, A. D. 1890, before me.

Pittendrigh.

J. P.

Dr. Walker. M. D. of New Westminster being sworn.

135
I saith I practice in British Columbia. I remember making a post mortem examination on the body of Louie Bee on the 10th day of September last. ~~xxxxxx~~ The body was in an out house on Front Street lying in shirt waistcoat and pants and covered with blankets. The ~~clothes~~ clothes were wet as if the body had recently been in the water. On examining the body I found a wound on the outer side of the left shoulder on following the wound down I found it passed thorough the upper part of the arm bone into the chest through the left lung through the upper part of the heart and through the right lung into the right plural cavity where I found part of the bullet which had caused the wound. Death was caused by the wound in the heart there was no trace of the deceased having taken any alchhol beverage within several hours before death. The body was that of a well nourished man.

R. Eden Walker. M. D.

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this 3rd day of November,

A. D. 1890, before

me,

Pittendright

J. P.

(136)

In the Court of Assize Oyer and Terminer and General
Gaol Delivery.

REGINA versus SLUMAGH an Indian charged with the
murder of one Louie Bee.

I Mary an Indian woman of Cowichan in the Province of
British Columbia, make oath and say:

1. That I am a daughter of the above named Slumagh.
2. That I arrived in this city on the 5th instant, and
have since been endeavoring to procure the attendance at
this court of one Moody an Indian, and one Florence Reid,
to give evidence on the trial of the said Slumagh on the
above charge.
3. That I have not been able to procure the attendance of
the said Moody or the said Florence Reid.
4. That the said Moody and the said Florence Reid are
important and necessary and material witnesses, and can
give important evidence on the trial of the said Slumagh
on the above charge.
5. That the said Moody and the said Florence Reid can be
produced as witnesses if the trial be postponed till the
next sittings of this Court.

Sworn before me at the City of
New Westminster in the Province
of British Columbia this 13th day
of November, A. D. 1890, having

her

Annie X

to give evidence on the trial of the said Slumagh on the above charge.

3. That I have not been able to procure the attendance of the said Moody or the said Florence Reid.

4. That the said Moody and the said Florence Reid are important and necessary and material witnesses, and can give important evidence on the trial of the said Slumagh on the above charge.

5. That the said Moody and the said Florence Reid can be produced as witnesses if the trial be postponed till the next sittings of this Court.

Sworn before me at the City of
New Westminster in the Province
of British Columbia this 13th day
of November, A. D. 1890, having
been first read over and inter-
preted to the said Annie.

her
Annie X
mark

J. Pittendrigh

J. P.

137

REG vs SLUMACH

138

Mr Gaynor opens

Jason Ellard sworn Interpreter.

Seymour 11.20

N. B. Gauvreau Interposed at 11.40 for 2 minutes

12 Noon

Adj'd till 1.P.M.

After lunch at 1.15

Cross Examination of Seymour continued-2.10

R. Edem Walker Esq. 2.10--2.15

Charlie

Cross examination 2.25--2.35

Swanisit 2.35

Cross exam'd 2.40--2.42

Con. Anderson s 2.45

Cross exam 2.45--2.50

Mr. Moresby 2.53

Cross exam 2.55

Lucy S. Not called

Kitty S. not called

CASE FOR THE CROWN

Mr Atkinson addresses Jury for defence

No witnesses.

Mr Eckstein does not address Jury

At 3.20 Judge sums up and at 3.30 the Jury retire and return at 3.45 with verdict of Guilty.

Bossi interprets to prisoner who through him makes a statement Sentence

To be removed to the gaol from whence he came and there be hanged by the neck until he be dead on the 16th day of

Cross exam 2.45--2.50

Mr. Moresby 2.53

Cross exam 2.55

Lucy S. Not called

Kitty S. not called

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— Bossi interprets to prisoner who through him makes a statement
Sentence

To be removed to the gaol from whence he came and there
be hanged by the neck until he be dead on the 16th day of
January 1891.

139

REG VS SLUMACH

Nov 13

140

Grand Jury bring in true bill in Reg vs Slumach

Friday Nov 14th

Petit Jury called.

Reg vs SlumachMurder.

Eckstein for the Crown, Gaynor with him

Atkinson for the Defence.

Application for adjournment till next Assize

Affidavit of Slumachread

" " Mary "

Prisoner arraigned and through his counsel pleads not guilty

Further affidavit of Slumach read

Affidavit of Wm Moresby & Wm Conner read

Adj'd to 11 A. M. tomorrow

At 11 A. M. Petit Jury called

Mr Edmonds, Foreman makes a presentment which is read.

Reg vs Slumach

Joseph Coupland

John Johnson

W. H. Burns

Thomas Eales

George Munday

Robert Blackstock

E. J. Newton

stand aside

S. W. Lehman

Foreman

Affidavit of Wm Moresby & Wm Conner read

Adj'd to 11 A. M. tomorrow

At 11 A. M. Petit Jury called

Mr Edmonds, Foreman makes a presentment which is read.

Reg vs Slumach

Joseph Coupland

John Johnson

W. H. Burns

Thomas Eales

George Munday

Robert Blackstock

E. J. Newton

stand aside

S. W. Lehman

Foreman

H. H. McKenzie

John D. Paris

stand aside

H. E. Johnson

Lawrence Thorneber

George Good

John Blair

14

REG vs SLUMACH

JASON OVID
ALLARD

142

Mr Gaynor opens

Jason Ellard sworn Interpreter.

Seymour 11.20

N. B. Gauvreau Interposed at 11.40 for 2 minutes

12 Noon

Adj'd till 1.P.M.

After lunch at 1.15

Cross Examination of Seymour continued-2.10

R. Eden Walker Esq. 2.10--2.15

Charlie

Cross examination 2.25--2.35

2.35

Cross exam'd 2.40--2.42

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Lucy S. Not called

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CASE FOR THE CROWN

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he hanged by the

Cross exam 2.45--2.50

Mr. Moresby 2.53

Cross exam 2.55

Lucy S. Not called

Kitty S. not called

143

CASE FOR THE CROWN

Mr Atkinson addresses Jury for defence

No witnesses.

Mr Eckstein does not address Jury

At 3.20 Judge sums up and at 3.30 the Jury retire and return at 3.45 with verdict of Guilty.

Bossi interprets to prisoner who through him makes a statement
Sentence

To be removed to the gaol from whence he came and there
be hanged by the neck until he be dead on the 16th day of
January 1891.

In the Court of Assize Oyer & Terminer and
General Gaol Delivery.

Regina

v

Slumach

WILLIAM GRELL
(- 1927)

WILLIAM GRELL
(- 1927)

144

Charged in the information of W. Moresby with having
on the 8th day of September 1890 at Pitt river in the
County of Westminster feloniously willfully and of his
malice aforethought killed and murdered on Loui Bee.

I. A. O'Connor guard at the jail of New West⁺minster make
oath and say:

(1) That on Thursday the 13th day of November 1890 I saw
the Indian Moody on the street in New Westminster and at
the time that I saw the said Indian Moody he was in the
company of constable Anderson.

Sworn before me at the City of)
New Westminster this 14th day)
of November 1890)

Falding

Dist Regr.

A. O'Connor

But take
 were not aware that
 had had these dreams until as
 he had discovered the mine. Land
 now a resident at living at Land
 has been able to interpret some
 and dignity.

Bee against the peace of our Lady the Queen her Crown
 of his malice aforethought kill and Murder one Louie
 the County of Westminster did feloniously willfully and
 one thousand eight hundred and ninety at Pitt River in
 on the eight day of September in the year of our Lord
 Queen upon their oath present that Sluach an Indian
 The Jurors for our Lady the

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to wit
 County of Westminster
 British Columbia

of Danny's dreams. The
 - registered a claim with the B C
 Dept. of Mines. Prev. ones by now recorded
 letter from Exec Comm. in Victoria

Haney Library
11945 225 Street
Maple Ridge, B.C.
July 13, 1973

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Dear Mr Waite,

Thank you for your gift copies of your book Kwant'Stan.

They will be very much appreciated by our readers, as
well as by our Staff.

Yours truly,

Laura Humphry

L F Humphry
Community Librarian

THE LOST CREEK VALLEY of PITT LAKE

as told by

Michael A Boileau

146

15 June, 74

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PROLOGUE

The following is a true and factual rendition of my personal experiences with regard to my search for and subsequent location of The Lost Creek Valley of Pitt Lake which is hidden in the rugged mountains that tower high above the infamous Pitt Lake, in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia.

While there have been many colorful stories to come out of this region over the past one hundred years, mine is of my first hand experiences and it is related to you by myself, and not that of a professional writer.

The reader may find that the following will arouse his or her curiosity to the extent that they may take it upon themselves to instigate their own investigation of these matters. By all means let your imagination soar to the highest and most remote mountains of Pitt Lake, but beware of the unknown.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy the writings that follow.

M.A.Boileau

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Charley Slumach; Savage or Survivor?

I was first made aware of the legend of Slumach's elusive gold mine by my older brother, Bob Boileau, sometime in the Spring of 1974. He brought to my attention a couple of books that were written by two different local authors. The first was a book entitled "THE GOLDEN MOUNTAINS" which was written by one Charles A. Miller of Mission, British Columbia and it tells of the way of life in the Ruskin, Stave Lake and Pitt Lake areas around the early 1900's. The second book is called "THE GOLDEN EARS" and was written and published by Donald E. Waite, a local Photographer and Publisher in Maple Ridge, British Columbia.

One story in particular that was related in "THE GOLDEN EARS" dealt with the legend of a Salish Indian named Charley Slumach. The era setting is around the 1880's.

Strange and frightening indeed are the tales surrounding Slumach's gold and the many that have perished trying to locate it - some by Slumach's own hand while he was alive and others, so the legend goes, have fallen victim to SLUMACH'S CURSE.

Since Charley Slumach went to his death on the gallows in 1891, many treasure hunters have tried to locate the Lost Gold Mine, with intriguing results. Some of them simply vanished, never to be found alive. Search parties have failed to turn up even a trace of these victims although the remains of their camps have been located intact as though the owner had intended an immediate return. Others have been found dead with nary a clue as to what had transpired to result in this fate.

Eerie, lonely and desolate are good words to describe the rugged mountain wilderness high above Pitt Lake where, supposedly Slumach's gold lies waiting, and even to this day fortune seekers are lured to their doom.

Located only a little more than thirty miles from the city of Vancouver, and almost constantly enveloped in mist and clouds, there is something strange and mysterious about the Pitt Lake Mountains and the Lost Creek Valley. But you be the judge.

Slumach's Curse: "When I Die- The Secret of My Mine Dies and Whoever Looks for It Will Also Die."

Legend has it that these were the last words of the infamous Charley Slumach as he stood on the gallows at New Westminster, British Columbia on January 16, 1891. With the crash of the trap door and the snap of his neck, Charley Slumach was dead.

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The Story;

Charley Slumach, a full-blooded Salish Indian, was a man of mystery and violence who first attracted attention in the frontier town of New Westminster in the fall of 1889.

Although an old man in his late sixties with long white hair, Slumach was incredibly strong and agile and could outdrink, outfight and outwomanize most men half his age. Still, it was not his unbelievable capacity for bad liquor and dancehall girls that caused eyes to bulge that autumn day over ninety years ago, it was his way of paying for his drinks and favours.

Followed by an entourage of comely squaws, wenches and barflies, Slumach would stagger from one saloon to another buying drinks for all and paying for them with handfuls of gold nuggets - some as big as walnuts and all of high grade content.

After living it up for several weeks Slumach would set out up the Fraser River in his canoe, usually accompanied by some comely wench, (mostly Indians or half-breeds) and always followed by an assortment of greedy fortune hunters eager to find the source of his gold. Upon reaching the headwaters of the Pitt River, Slumach would readily lose his following in the rugged terrain of that mountain region.

After a short absence, Slumach would again show up in New Westminster with his pockets bulging with gold but no sign of his unfortunate companion. Sooner or later the body would be found in the Fraser or Pitt River, but the Police were never able to put the goods on Slumach.

Although there is some documented evidence regarding Slumach's victims, even names and photographs of the murdered women, it has never been entirely proved that Slumach did kill them. Some even claim that he was innocent of such charges. Since a fire destroyed most of the records of frontier New Westminster in 1898, including those of Charley Slumach, we shall probably never know for sure.

The beginning of the end came for Slumach with the killing of a half-breed named Louis Bee, a Katsie Indian whom, it is claimed, Slumach shot-gunned to death in front of witnesses after Bee had insulted him. It is alleged that Slumach the madman had emerged from the brush on the shore of the Lillooet Slough and spotted Louis Bee with some friends. Slumach proceeded to walk up to Louis and shot him point blank in the chest, killing him instantly.

Slumach fled into the mountain wilderness above Pitt Lake and easily eluded his pursuers, the B.C. Provincial Police led by first, Captain Pittendrigh and then a Mr. Moresby. The Law was no match for Slumach in

page three

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this rugged terrain that he knew so well and the local Indians would not help the Police for they were terrified of Slumach whom they referred to as "A wonderful person."

Finally after almost two months, Slumach unaccountably gave himself up to face trial in New Westminster and subsequently the Hangman.

Since that day many have sought Slumach's gold and have perished in the attempt. One of these was Slumach's own son, who, in 1891 after his father's death had confided in a half-breed and led him to the site. The half-breed returned to New Westminster but young Slumach was never seen again.

The Facts About Charley Slumach:

- 1) Charley Slumach did, in fact, exist and was born around 1820.
- 2) Charley Slumach was convicted for the murder of Louis Bee.
- 3) Charley Slumach did pay the ultimate price for that murder - death by hanging.

Now let's look at the situation from Slumach's point of view as told by Slumach to his nephew, Peter Pierre, whilst Slumach was in jail awaiting his date with the hangman.

Slumach stated that he was hunting a deer along the shore of the Lillooet Slough when he came upon an Indian fishing party. One member of the fishing party was the half-breed, Louis Bee, who appeared to be drunk and upon noticing Slumach, he picked up an axe and in a fit of rage charged at Slumach. As it was, Slumach feared for his life and shot Louis Bee in self defence. The others in the fishing party scrambled into their canoes and fled downstream. Slumach proceeded to put Louis' body into the remaining canoe and pushed it out into the Slough so that it would drift downstream. From here Slumach fled to his cabin near Widgeon Creek.

A manhunt ensued and Slumach's cabin was set alight and burned to the ground. Within five days Slumach was found hiding in an old cedar log out back of the burned out cabin, all wet, starving and very frightened. It was from here that he was apprehended and taken to jail in New Westminster.

It is therefore my opinion that Charley Slumach was not the ruthless madman that legend has made him out to be.

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The Unfortunate Ones

Some of the people that have apparently come quite close to or have actually located the Lost Gold of Pitt Lake are of a most colorful breed. One of these and probably the most famous was a California prospector that went by the name of Jackson.

Jackson had heard of the tales of Charley Slumach and had come to British Columbia in search of the elusive motherlode. He had made a number of ventures into the rugged wilderness high above Pitt Lake but to no avail, however on his last and subsequently final journey, Jackson did discover what he had spent a lifetime searching for.

This last journey that was undertaken by Jackson is documented in a letter which he sent with a map to an old friend named James Shotwell, in Seattle, Washington. The map has since been lost or destroyed but the letter is still intact and safe in the Victoria Archives.

That letter reads as follows:

THE JACKSON LETTER:

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I had been out over two months and found myself running short of grub. I had lived mostly on fresh meat for one cant carry much of a pack in those hills. I found a few very promising ledges and colors in the little creeks but nothing I cared to stay with. I had almost made up my mind to light out the next day. I climed up to the top of a sharp ridge and looked down into the canyon or valley about one mile and a half long, and what struck me as singular, it appeared to have no outlet for the little creek that flowed at the bottom. Afterwards I found that the creek entered a ----- and was lost. After some difficulty I found my way down to the creek. The water was almost white, the formation for the most part had been slate formation. Now comes the interesting part. I had only a small prospecting pan but I found colors at once right at the surface, and such colors they were. I knew then that I had struck it right at last. In going up stream I came to a place where the bedrock was bare, and there, you could hardly believe me, the bedrock was yellow with gold. Some of the nuggets was as big as walnuts and there were many chunks carrying quartz. After sizing it up, I saw there was millions stowed around in the little cracks. On account of the weight I buried part of the gold at the foot of a large tent shaped rock facing the creek. You can't miss it. There is a mark cut out in it. Taking with me what I supposed to be ten thousand dollars (in gold) but afterwards it proved to be a little over eight thousand dollars. After three days hard travelling, it would not have been over two days good going, but the way was rough and I was not feeling well, I arrived at the Lake and while resting there was taken sick and have never since been able to return, and now I fear I never shall. I am alone in the world, no relatives, no one to look after me for anything. Of course I have never spoken of this find during all this time for fear of it being discovered. It has caused me many anxious hours, but the place is so well guarded by surrounding ridges and mountains that it should not be found for many years, unless someone knew of it being there. O, how I wish I could go with you to show you this wonderful place, for I cannot give you any exact directions, and it may take a year or more to find. Dont give up but keep at it and you will be repaid beyond your wildest dreams. I believe any further directions would only tend to confuse it, so I will only suggest further that you go alone or at least only take one or two trusty Indians to pack food and no one need know but that you are going on a hunting trip until you find the place and get everything for yourself. When you find it and I am sure you will, should you care to see me, advertise in the 'Frisco Exam.,' and if I am living I will either come to see you, or let you know where to find me, but once more I say to you, don't fail to look this great property up and don't give up until you find it.

Now good bye and may success attend you.

Yours truly,

W. Jackson

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Shortly after the Jackson letter was made public a Frenchman known only as "Frenchy" set out in search of the lost gold mine of Charley Slumach and never returned. He was found the following Spring dead and buried in an avalanche.

In the years that followed, hundreds have gone looking for the lost gold. Some never came back out and some barely made it out with their lives. No one found the gold.

Then in 1930, an old prospector by the name of Volcanic Brown disappeared after searching for the treasure for more than seven years. A search party found his camp but no sign of Brown. It appeared as though he had left his camp expecting to return shortly for all his equipment, supplies and even his rifle was there. Also found at Brown's camp was a jar of high grade nuggets. Tracking dogs were brought in to aid in the search but to no avail. It was as though he had disappeared off the face of the Earth.

The twenty-first victim of the Lost Creek Valley was Alfred Gaspard a resident of Langley, B.C. who vanished during the Summer of 1958. Prior to his embarking on this expedition, Gaspard had left instructions to open his safe if he had not returned by a certain date. When he failed to come back from the wilderness above Pitt Lake at the allotted time, his safe was opened and a considerable amount of money was found therein with instructions that it be used to finance an extensive air and ground search. This was undertaken but to no avail. Alfred Gaspard was never located.

In 1961 an American named Hagbo almost made it. He was found dead near the shore of Pitt Lake with high grade gold nuggets in his pockets. Apparently a heart attack had claimed him before he could divulge the location of his gold bonanza. He was victim number twenty-three.

Since then four more have lost their lives in the search for the Lost Creek Valley. I can state, with good reason, that in recent years the tale of the Lost Creek Valley becomes even more intriguing and tragic for those that have unwittingly been associated with it. It is easy to laugh at Charley Slumach's Curse when you are sitting in the comfort and safety of your home, but up there in that canyon it is very eerie and makes you wonder. Sometimes, while I was in the canyon I would even get the impression that I was being watched.

One ironic twist came when I went to visit the family of the people that had purchased the home that I had grown up in. It is on Glen Drive in the District of Coquitlam and only a block from Mr. and Mrs. Bergland's house, who would play a key role in assisting me in locating the canyon. During a conversation with the gentleman known to me as Luke, it was re-

vealed to me that he was in possession of a human skull which he had found on the shore of Pitt Lake some years previously. Luke showed no hesitation in allowing me to view the skull and take some photographs of it.

A Hair Raising Journey Into the Unknown

When I was young I was employed as a newspaper delivery boy with the Columbian Newspaper. My route was small in number, only Fifteen stops, but covered a fair distance. Each day it would lead me past a small but immaculately kept white house that was located on, what was then known as Pipeline Road. I had never had cause to stop and chat with the residents but it was commonly known that it was here that Mr. and Mrs. Bergland. An older couple that kept mostly to themselves. Mr. Bergland, the gentleman that lived in that house, was rather feared by us young people. Whenever we encountered him he would either pay no attention to our spirited "Hello Mister", or he would look at us with a scowl that would send shivers down my spine.

This man and his wife, as it would later prove, became not only my cherished friends but were instrumental in my initial location of The Lost Creek Valley of Pitt Lake.

As I have referred to previously, I had been aware of a book that was written by a local Mission resident, Charles A. Miller. It is entitled "The Golden Mountains" and within this book is a rendition of a story that was related to Mr. Miller by Mr. Bergland with regard to a hair-raising journey undertaken by Bergland and his partner at that time, one Louis Nelson. The year was 1928 and Bergland and Nelson were logging on Nelson's homestead at Widgeon Creek (Silver Valley). Bergland at this time was a young Norwegian immigrant with a very keen interest in the outdoors.

At the time there was a semblance of a trail from Gilley's Quarry northwards along the mountainside, which today is a good gravel logging road extending further up the valley. There was a great deal of good timber up in this valley so Bergland and Nelson had formed a partnership to log what they could of Louis' Homestead.

It was at this time that the two had become acquainted with some individuals who had told them of their comings and goings related to the Legend of The Lost Creek Valley of Pitt Lake. So in the Summer of 1928 Bergland and Nelson decided to go on a hunting and prospecting trip anywhere in the general vicinity of where the valley might be. Keep in mind that there was a Lost Mine upthere somewhere, and generally with the wave of a hand, encompassed several hundred square miles.

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The two took with them a small pack each, a blanket, a short length of rope and one .32 calibre rifle. Starting out up Widgeon Creek they continued for some distance until they came to a tributary creek on the east side, up which they climbed, sometimes through the creek-bed itself or through the majestic stands of giant fir and hemlock, together with even larger cedar trees, until they reached a ridge atop the mountain that separated the valley they had just left with the waters of Pitt Lake now far below. Well, from here it was all downhill. A descent which called for great care and concentration. Late afternoon found them at the shore of Pitt Lake and it was there that they made camp for the night.

They were somewhere opposite Goose Island and after breakfast the next morning they proceeded north, along the lakeshore until they came upon Vasey's Logging camp. This was about two miles below DeBeck Creek.

The two men decided to explore this area and commenced the arduous climb into the mountains northwest of Pitt Lake. Here the going was often stopped by abrupt cliffs and almost vertical rock, necessitating a change of direction, so it was in this manner that they found themselves lost and would now have to depend on the sun and what other visual landmarks that they might recognize.

A day or so later they came to the edge of a small canyon, and here, while trying to establish a route down into it, Bergland saw a good sized black bear. Wanting food he shot and wounded it, with the result that it took after him and at that moment a huge grizzly appeared lumbering towards both men. Louis shouted not to shoot the grizzly but the warning was not heeded by Bergland. He shot at the larger bear, wounding it also. Louis disappeared into the safety of the nearest tree as Bergland lost his footing and slid down into the canyon below.

The mortally wounded grizzly came upon the wounded black bear, and considering it his tormentor, commenced to tear, cuff and bite it until the bear no longer showed signs of life. The last the two men could hear of the grizzly was it's bawling, fading off into the distance as it lumbered it's way down into the canyon.

Louis eventually made his way down to his partner who was bruised and battered. By now it was getting dark so the two men decided to stay put for the evening, as they hadn't the slightest idea as to where they were at this point.

Gathering wood for a fire the next morning, and moving to a more sheltered location from the wind that came up the canyon, they scraped away the moss and debris from behind a pyramid shaped rock and found the ashes of a former campfire there. Looking about more closely, they now discovered axe cuts, marks and blazes on various trees in the area, but little else to indicate that they were not the first visitors to the area.

With the aid of a stout stick and a sandle made out of a piece of his partner's pack sack, the two men made their way downstream. They noticed that some prospecting work had been done and also some distance lower down the small stream, in the bottom, it disappeared into a subterranean channel underground.

It was in this manner that they spent the rest of the day choosing alternate routes to try to get out of the canyon. As evening started to fall upon them they were able to catch a glimpse of a lake, further to the west and far below them, so it was in this direction that they decided to head the next day.

Bergland, despite his bad fall, was able to stand up to the rigors of the mountainous terrain better than his older partner, Louis. As time passed and the men hadn't eaten, they were forced to eat bark, roots and grasses to assuage their hunger.

Eventually they made their way down to the small lake and, looking around and locating some small cedar logs laying on the beach they began to fashion a raft with the aid of a short rope, some vines and some strips of cedar bark. Once this task was completed they floated out onto the lake but before they were halfway across the raft started to break up so Bergland had to get into the icy water while Louis stayed afloat on what was left of the makeshift raft. Bergland swam and pushed until they reached the shore of the lake to where a small creek was flowing out of the lake.

They made the safety of the beach with Bergland more dead than alive, who had to be dragged ashore by Louis who quickly got a good fire going. Here they remained overnight and in the morning they gathered up some berries and began to make their way down the small stream. They hadn't the slightest idea of where they were going but at least it was downhill. All the way down they came upon an abundance of blueberries and red huckleberries of which they ate as much as their stomachs could hold. This was not such a good idea as their stomachs could not hold such a mass of highly acidic food and they could not keep it down.

Now, proceeding down further they could see a lake off in the distance, which they would later learn was Coquitlam Lake. Upon arriving at the lakeshore they noticed that there was an island out in the lake and a little off to their right. From here the two men walked south, along the shore until they came upon a gatehouse. At this point they traversed an iron bridge and on to the earth filled dam which there was no problem crossing. It was here that the two ragged, beaten and half starved adventurers came upon a group of B.C. Electric Company employees having a picnic. The picknickers stood in complete silence as the two men approached.

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Although the picnic party had eaten nearly all of the lunch, there was still a sandwich or two in sight and without a word Bergland approached one of the ladies and held out both hands in silence. The lady immediately placed two sandwiches therein. Bergland turned and gave both sandwiches to Louis, with the lady exclaiming, " Oh look, he's giving both the sandwiches to his father ". Fortunately a search of the baskets turned up some remaining portions of food, which were consumed with gusto by both of the partners.

It was with much difficulty that the two men related their terrible ordeal, and once they were told where they were, one of the picnickers drove them down Pipeline Road to the Loughheed Highway. From this point they walked along the Highway until they came to Coast Meridian Road, followed it north until they came to Gilley's Trail and then on back to the Homestead at Silver Valley.

It was not until some years later that Bergland had learned of the Jackson Letter, with the result that all further attempts that he made to return were thwarted for one reason or another.

This story has been related to me verbatim by Ragnar Bergland and I have no doubts whatsoever as to the accuracy or authenticity of it. From this I can only conclude that Ragnar Bergland and his partner, Louis Nelson had stood in the exact same location as did Jackson when he had found his treasure.

THE COMMON DENOMINATOR

By now it became obvious to me that I had the common denominator. If I was going to continue my research into the Lost Creek Valley of Pitt Lake it was imperative that I pay a visit to Mr. and Mrs. Bergland.

Upon my arrival at their residence on Westwood Street in Coquitlam I was greeted most cordially and it wasn't long before my initial hesitations were smoothed over by the friendly atmosphere created by these two people. Since that first meeting I have become good friends with Marg and Berg and have visited them quite consistently over the past years.

Berg and I talk quite often about the Lost Creek Valley and while listening to his descriptions it becomes very obvious that all the landmarks and locations that he relates about the area correspond with the landmarks and locations that are described in the Jackson Letter.

I requested of Berg at that original meeting in 1974 that he show me on his topographical map where he believed the canyon to be located. He did this for me and I later chartered a small plane, flew over the canyon and took a number of photographs.

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It was June 1975 and the canyon was covered in ice and snow, so it was obvious that in order to venture into this valley it would have to be in an autumn preceeded by a hot, dry summer and that summer to have been preceeded by a mild winter, so as to deminish the amount of ice and snow that I would have to contend with. In the meantime Berg had assured me that I was searching in the right canyon and this kept my spirits rather high.

FIRST ATTEMPT - CAN'T GET OFF THE GROUND

My occupation as a Boilermaker is very dependant on the heavy construction industry which takes me to various locations throughout British Columbia and the Yukon. When a contractor has a job to perform, that contractor will contact our organization for certain qualified men and, if I am called, I must go out to wherever that particular job might be. It was in this manner that I came to know Graham Campbell, another Boilermaker working on the tank we were building. The site was in Chilliwack and we were both commuting from Port Coquitlam so we decided to ride together.

As we got to know each other a little better the subject of the Lost Creek Valley came up and was discussed in depth. As Graham was becoming more and more interested in the subject I decided to invite him on an expitition into the Lost Creek Valley of Pitt Lake. Our plan was to charter a small float plane at Pitt Meadows Airport and fly into Widgeon Lake. From there we would hike to the northern ridge, follow the ridge for some distance until we came to the small canyon, and then search for a route down into it and hopefully locate the famous tent-shaped rock.

September arrived without fanfare and we made arraingements with Alt Air aviation at Pitt Meadows. The pilot was in agreement with our plan. On the monday morning that we were to leave I met Graham at the dock where the plane was moored but the pilot was not around. It was 7:30a.m. and we were eagerly anticipating this trip, but when the pilot finally arrived he brought bad news. Widgeon Lake was fogged in and he could not attempt a landing. It was this same depressing news that we were to receive each day for the next five days. Consequently the trip had to be called off for we both have families to support and we were being called back to work.

Since that failed attempt Graham and I have drifted apart only to come across each other on the odd job, he on night shift and I on day shift.

The more that I thought about it the more it became quite evident that the only reliable way to get into the Lost Creek Valley was by the use of a helicopter. To risk hiking in could prove fatal to the inexperienced mountaineer such as myself.

SECOND ATTEMPT - SUCCESS !

As the months went by I purchased a used welding rig and made a vigorous attempt to put myself to work. It was my hope to fill the void between jobs as a Boilermaker. Well, as a result of this little business venture on my part, I was called to repair a steel spar tree that was owned by Len Kersly of Stave Lake Logging. This was a small logging contractor that was operating in the Mission area, Stave Lake to be more precise.

While working on the tower I was introduced to the small crew that was employed on that sight. One man, Jack Johnson of Mission, began to discuss the Lost Creek Gold Mine of Pitt Lake and as we know by now, this was right up my alley.

We got to know each other a little better, one thing led to another and Jack expressed an interest in taking a trip into the Valley that I had described to him. I was certainly game so we arranged a helicopter with Trans West Helicopters of Pitt Meadows. On the September morning that we were to leave, we were introduced to our Pilot, Jim Collins, a Vietnam Veteran that had flown helicopters in Vietnam for five years. During his time there he had been shot down on three different occasions, each time he had managed to escape without injuries.

Well, by the time that we were ready to lift off the ceiling had dropped too low and we were forced to abandon our attempt for the day. Disappointed but not deterred we made plans to try again the following day, Sunday. This attempt was more fruitful and we were able to take off and successfully fly into the canyon.

Putting the helicopter down was a touchy situation but with Mr. Collins' skill he managed to locate a small meadow just large enough to set down in. It was here, approximately five hundred yards up from the falls, that we were able to off-load our gear for the journey ahead of us. We both stood clear and Collins flew the machine up and out of sight. For a moment we could hear the sound of the machines blades fading off in the distance and then, complete silence. The canyon was awesome, solid rock walls towered above us two and three thousand feet straight up and giant boulders littered the floor of the canyon. Small meadows dotted the valley next to the creek that runs down the centre of it. We were not but five hundred feet up from a small lake that, at the far end, dumped out over a thousand foot drop. What we were after though, was upstream from our present location.

Up we climbed, over boulders, through thick underbrush and over ice-flows. Some distance further up the valley I noticed that I could no longer hear the sound of the small stream that was at this point running deeply under the mass of boulders. It was, in fact, at this point that the stream was flowing far beneath us in a subterranean channel.

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Jack and I had spread out and we were making our way slowly up the valley when I came upon a large ice-flow that had an opening in it where the stream was flowing out. The opening was just big enough for me to crawl into on my hands and knees. I did this while Jack stayed on the outside just in case anything was to happen.

The further I progressed the larger the cave got until I came to an area that was huge. I could stand upright and take in the entire spectacle of this large ice room. Standing in the cold stream and looking around, the light that was entering through the thinner ice on the ceiling illuminated the room with a beautiful blue-green color like I had never seen before, or since for that matter.

There, at my feet, was lying a large chunk of broken, twisted Aluminum constructed with a multitude of rivets. It was obvious to me that what I was looking at was a piece of a large aircraft that must have crashed somewhere further up the Canyon. I picked it up and took it out of the ice-cave to show to Jack.

As I emerged from the cave with this piece of metal, Jack called to me to come over to where he was and see the piece of aluminum that he had found. Where this plane was could have been anybody's guess but I at first thought that it was under an ice-flow upstream from us.

A rest period followed and then we started back down to where the helicopter was to meet us later in the afternoon. All the while we were unable to locate the pyramid shaped rock. It was a mutual agreement between Jack and myself that some of the reasons that we did not locate the elusive rock was: #1) We hadn't been able to search for a long enough period of time.

#2) It could have been hidden out of sight under an ice-flow.

#3) It could have very well been buried under one of the huge rockslides that have occurred over the last sixty years.

A number of the rock slides have moss coverings and some are bare, indicating that they are the most recent occurrences.

We arrived back at the pick up point early so we decided to go down to the small lake to have a look-see. It was here at the lake that Jack and I found a few pieces of rusted out cooking utensils, but not much of anything else. More crystal clear water I have not seen, (Damn cold too).

Our pick up time was to be at 5:30 p.m. but it was now 5:50 p.m. and still no sign of Jim Collins. At 6: p.m. we could hear the faint sound of helicopter blades chopping off in the far distance, then it faded away. A few minutes later we could once again hear it and again it faded away.

Jack decided to roll out some tissue paper in the shape of a large " H " out in the meadow. This completed we again could hear the sound of the helicopter in the distance, except this time it got louder and louder until finally it appeared over the cliffs and landed amidst the flurry of flying tissue paper.

Once aboard the Hughes 500 we buckled up our seat belts, lifted off slowly at first, then turned 180 degrees and flew over the small lake downstream and out over the cliff that the water was cascading down. From our position at this point we could look back and see the door-way to the canyon fast disappearing behind us.

On the flight home I remarked to Jack that I would try again to return to the Valley in order to do a more extensive search in hopes of solving some of the mysteries of the Lost Creek Valley. Jack agreed but we have not kept in touch and have gone our separate ways.

Footnote:

Jim Collins, our helicopter pilot on this venture, would later lose his life at the controls of a helicopter while engaged in fighting a forest fire in Ontario.

A CLOSE CALL

My next trip into the Lost Creek Valley of Pitt Lake came a year later. This time it was with my sister's husband, Stan Titanich.

Sally and Stan Titanich live in Kelowna where Stan is employed as an operator for a logging contractor and it was here that he had heard some stories of the legendary Lost Gold Mine of Pitt Lake. He was aware of my first trip into the Lost Creek Valley and had requested that I take him along the next time that I was going to attempt a venture in. Thus plans were made to conduct a return trip in September, 1979.

Again, arrangements were made with Trans West Helicopters at Pitt Meadows to charter a Hughes 500D, a machine that was a little more maneuverable than the Hughes 500 that we had used on our first trip in. This would enable us to get into the tight spots with a little more stability.

It was a Saturday in late September and the weather was perfect when we left Pitt Meadows in the early morning. The plan was that the pilot was to land us in the canyon and then remain there until we were ready to leave later in the afternoon.

After further consultation with Berg, I was assured that I was searching in the correct area so on this basis I guided the pilot to the Valley Door. We flew past this landmark and much further up the canyon than we did on our previous trip the year before. Once the pilot had located a

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small landing area he put the machine down and shut down the engine. We had to wait for the rotors to stop turning before we disembarked because the helicopter was sitting on an angle to the right and if we had of got out while the machine was running, we would have certainly been mashed up by the whirling blades.

I left immediately on my own and headed straight to the location where the tent-shaped rock was supposed to be. Stan and the pilot went off in a different direction because Stan was looking for a different landmark that he was lead to believe was near the Motherlode. It was only minutes later that I came to the spot in the creek where it flowed from above ground into a subterranean channel. Upstream from this point the bedrock was bare, and it was here that, after removing the thick moss that was covering the giant rocks, I found quartz veins traveling in all different directions. In the quartz there was some colors, but one could not determine what they were as they were so minute.

Mulling over the situation at hand I soon realized that a colossal rockslide had rumbled down and over the spot where the elusive tent shaped rock was to have been. The slide was about four hundred and fifty feet wide at the bottom, [it's widest point.] A slight growth of moss had rooted in the dust build up that had ocured over the years. I believe that the tent shaped rock is under this area.

So, what did we have that was positive in nature? Well we did manage to locate the spot where the bedrock was bare, and we found the place where the small stream runs underground and is lost. It is here, where the bedrock is bare, that the valley takes a north-westerly twist. Up to this point the valley runs in an east-west direction.

I could see Stan and the pilot far up the canyon crossing the stream from one side to the other so I decided to follow them. In our excitement none of us had noticed that the weather was rapidly turning sour.

Once it was pointed out, the pilot became quite concerned and made the decision to make a dash for the helicopter, which was by now a few hundred feet below our location and out of sight. Just as he was leaving he directed Stan and I to a small flat area up above us and told us to remain there until he could fly up and pick us up.

By this time the rain was pelting down on us as we watched the pilot disappear over the ridge just below. Stan and I found a spot up against a large bolder in which we could take some shelter from the wind that was whistling up the canyon. Standing quite still we could see that there was snow mixed in with the rain and that the clouds were now dropping down at a quickening pace.

We stayed put for what seemed like an eternity, but was actually only about fourty minutes when we heard the blades chopping the wind as the helicopter rose up over the crest, only yards from us.

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The pilot managed to put one of the skids on a rock while he hovered the helicopter as best as he could while Stan climbed into the back and I got into the front.

By now the clouds were down over the rotors and we had not yet lifted off. It was also impossible to gain any altitude at this point so the pilot lifted off only inches, turned the machine one hundred and eighty degrees and started to fly down the canyon. At this point we were incased in clouds and he was flying blind. Seconds later we were able to see the canyon floor and the race was on to beat the clouds that were chasing us out of the Valley.

We just barely skimmed across the small lake at the bottom of the valley but at this point our worst fears were realized. The doorway to the valley was socked in. It was for sure that we could not go back, we could not land nor could we gain any altitude so he took a heading straight ahead through the thick clouds.

It was only moments after the machine was engulfed in the clouds when the pilot put the helicopter into a steep drop hoping that he was clear of the rock face that led to the canyon door.

Well it worked and we found ourselves staring at the green water of Pitt Lake far below. It wasn't until we were down to a safe altitude and away from the mountains that I could breathe a sigh of relief. Stan had not been able to locate the landmark that he was hoping to, and I was beginning to have second thoughts.

After this trip I decided to take the pieces of twisted aluminum out of storage and have it looked at by someone from Transport Canada in hopes that it could be identified. Subsequently the Ministry told me that what I had found were pieces of a Mitchel B-25 Bomber. An aircraft that was commonly used by Canada in the Second World War. The thing that I found strange was that there was no further interest towards this aircraft on their part. But now the Ministry of Veterans Affairs is interested in the aircraft. More on that later.

A DEAL GONE SOUR

Enter Edward Fleming, professional prospector and Henry Smeets, business entrepreneur. I must relate this part of my story with respect because both of these men have since passed away in seperate accidents.

The story picks up again in February of 1980. A local newspaper had printed a story about my adventures in the Lost Creek Valley of Pitt Lake and a resident of Maple Ridge, Henry Smeets, had read the story and had contacted me with regard to this matter. It was agreed that Henry would come to my house and we would discuss this further.

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Henry came over and we discussed an offer with respect to the location of the Lost Creek Valley. He had said that he was representing himself, Edward Fleming and one Dermot Fahey, the latter of which I was never to meet. Henry suggested that I draw up a contract that stated that in return for me divulging the exact location of the Lost Creek Valley to him and his people, I would receive forty percent of the proceeds of any transactions, whether it was from actual mining of the property or from the sale of the claims. Henry and his partners were to pay for the staking of and any expenses incurred in the development of the claims.

I did draw up the agreement and on March 2, 1980. Henry Smeets and Edward Fleming came to my house, read the agreement and signed it. The originals of which I still have to this day.

The three of us then proceeded to Ed Fleming's Lake Amphibion Airplane which was at the Pitt Meadows Airport. We took off and flew out over Pitt Lake and then turned and went up and above the Lost Creek Valley. Once I pin-pointed the exact location out to the two men I was addressed by Ed Fleming saying, "I already have this area staked." He told me that what I had just shown him was nothing new to him.

Now I had to face the realization that I had been used. This incident, needless to say, left me quite disheartened with respect to the entire situation. After this episode I put the whole issue of the Lost Creek Valley of Pitt Lake on the back burner so to speak, and went about my business of earning a living.

Five months later a story in the local newspaper stated that the recent victim of a drowning at Pitt Lake was none other than Edward Fleming. As the story goes, Ed Fleming had flown his airplane up to Pitt Lake, landed and tied the plane up at the shore. At some point while he was on shore he noticed that the plane had broken from it's moorage and drifted out on the lake. Ed began to swim out to retrieve the plane but to no avail, he drowned before he could reach it.

Ed's death was odd in one sense because from all accounts from people that knew him, he was in good physical condition and was an avid swimmer.

Given this sudden turn of events I took it upon myself to do a little investigating with respect to these claims that were supposedly staked in the Lost Creek Valley area. I took a trip down to the Mineral Recording Office in Vancouver and had the lady there furnish me with the status of the area in question. Much to my surprise I found that the entire Lost Creek Valley had been staked by Edward Fleming on March 19, 1980, more than two weeks after I had revealed it's location to him and Henry Smeets. I contacted Henry Smeets with regard to this new discovery on my part and all he did was Um + Ah about it, suggesting that I might wish to contact a lawyer about it. This is exactly what I did and the matter was then followed up legally.

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A Mysterious Twist of Fate

Thomas Spraggs is a Lawyer that owns his own practise in Port Coquitlam, B.C. I originally met Tom through my father, Robert Boileau, who is involved in the Real Estate Business in the Coquitlam area.

Tom can also take credit for his achievements in the field of Civil Engineering, his involvement in Federal Politics and the fact that he is a certified pilot and has been for quite some time, as it is true that he served Canada in the Air Force some years ago. At present he is the owner of a twin engine Navajo airplane that he keeps at Pitt Meadows.

I related to him the specifics of the Henry Smeets, Edward Fleming deal he questioned me quite extensively about the overall situation. After some serious discussion we got around to the subject of the crashed airplane that I believed was somewhere up in the canyon. I told him that up until the present time, the downed aircraft had been as elusive to me as the tent-shaped rock had been.

Now I must revert to a story that was told to me by Ragnar Bergland's wife, Margaret, about a friend of her's that was working for Trans Canada Airlines in 1948 when the plane she was on vanished on it's approach to Vancouver Airport. An extensive search failed to turn up any evidence as to where the plane was or what had happened to it. The final conclusions were that the Lockheed Loadstar had gone down in the Strait of Georgia or that it had crashed into one of the many smaller lakes that are on the approach path to Vancouver. Some even speculated that the plane may have gone down in a huge snow drift up in the local mountains and was covered in snow before search and rescue people could spot it.

I was able to verify this story by going to the Vancouver Public Library and searching through the newspaper accounts of the time that Margaret had said that this happened. Sure enough, there it was in black and white. But also while I was searching the newspapers I came across a different story that dealt with a missing Air Force Flying Boxcar that was also lost on it's approach to Vancouver in 1953.

As the story goes, there was a Mitchel B-25 Bomber that had been used after the war to haul military cargo from one point to another in Canada. Well one went down on it's approach to Vancouver and it was carrying some fairly expensive cargo. Eight hundred thousand dollars in cash in order to pay the Armed Forces personnel on the West Coast and a further eight hundred thou and dollars worth of Gold Boulion. The story has it that the aircraft has never been found.

Upon considering the forgoing information, Tom and I decided that we would both take a trip back into the Lost Creek Valley and see if we could locate this elusive aircraft.

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I made arrangements with Trans West once again to fly the two of us back to the Valley that I continually refer to in this book. It was October of 1980 and the weather was beautiful so we had no problems in taking off and flying up into the Pitt Lake area. From here we turned and headed up DeBeck Creek and as we gained altitude the clouds were coming down from the mountain ridges toward us. Realizing that this was not a safe situation, the pilot put the helicopter into a steep left bank and managed to turn the machine around so we could fly back out. Once turned around, to our amazement, the clouds had now come in from behind us and had dropped right down to the trees. We were once again in a precarious situation so the pilot put the machine into another steep left turn bank and began to circle in ever tighter turns. There was no place to go and no place to land. Suddenly I caught a glimpse of a piece of blue sky and I pointed this out to the pilot. With the flip of his wrist he turned the helicopter over on its right side and we leaped up into the only opening in sight.

Astonishingly we were now in the Lost Creek Valley. What a fluke of good luck. We landed in the same general area that Stan and I had landed on my last trip, where we were able to unload our gear and agree to a pick up time. Tom and I removed ourselves to a safer location in order for the pilot to fly his helicopter up and out of the canyon.

Even though Tom was made aware of the terrain that lay ahead of us, he found himself amazed at the grandeur of the canyon. Cliffs tower straight up more than three thousand feet from the canyon floor, the wind whistles up between the staunch sentinels and ice is on the southern slopes of the canyon walls. It is a magnificent sight.

We climbed, crawled and scaled our way up, first over one ridge and then another, between huge boulders and across narrow ledges. This struggle continued for more than four hours when we had almost made up our mind to turn back. Just at the edge of a large ice flow we rested and took some time to gaze at the mountain ridges that were still up ahead of us. This location was well above the tree line and all that lay ahead was boulders and ice.

While contemplating our next move I noticed a sparkle of light that came from the crest of the mountain. I pointed this out to Tom and he took my rifle, looked through the scope and "Voila", we had located the main body of the aircraft. I took the rifle from Tom and viewed the spot myself. Yes, there it was, a large wing section draped over the very top of the mountain ridge.

Turning back was now out of the question. We stepped up our pace, switchbacked our way up the ice flow that lay ahead and climbed over the boulders that separated us from the downed airplane.

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As we traversed the final rock obstacle it all came into view. Right at our feet lay a huge Mitchel B-25 Bomber. The Canadian Air Force insignias on the wings and the fuselage were staring us in the face. It was quite obvious that given the condition of the aircraft, that there could not possibly have been any survivors. The cock-pit section was partially buried under some ice and snow but the remainder of the plane was completely exposed to the elements.

I took a number of photographs of the different sections of the aircraft and then we began a detailed search of the wreckage. Keep in mind that we could not gain access to the main section of the fuselage because it had completely collapsed into itself. However, there was no problem surveying the remainder of the wreckage.

Off to one side, but very close to the main body, was evidence of a small fire. Here we found remnants of parachutes, jackets, boots and suitcases. The rest of the aircraft was as clean and shiney as the day it rolled off the assembly line.

The huge wings were broken off the fuselage and the two large engines were separated from the wings, complete with propellers intact. All of these mechanical parts were not scattered over a wide area but were, in fact, very close together, considering the size of the aircraft and the speed that it must have been traveling when it hit the ridge.

[My opinion is that the plane came down in a normal horizontal glide and that it did not blow apart on impact. Most of the year round the wreckage lies buried under the ice and snow and remains obscured from view. Neither I nor the Armed Forces can locate any records of this aircraft.]

It was getting late so Tom and I started to head back down to the canyon floor and as we started our descent we decided to walk the ridge for a short distance and take in the view. A view like this is a rare sight indeed. At 6,400' we stood and savoured every moment until time would no longer allow us to remain.

We found no gold or cash, but then again we were unable to gain access into the main cargo compartment of the plane so to this day I cannot say what may still be in the wreckage. As for Tom Spraggs, well he had a good time but he does not believe that it would be financially feasible to make an attempt to retrieve whatever may be hidden inside.

It was beginning to get quite interesting, the fact that this valley has claimed so many lives of people that have been associated with it. Henry Smeets, the second man in the Ed Fleming deal was killed in late August, 1984 when the plane that he was piloting crashed just after take-off from a remote lake in the Yukon. His son, Michael, was injured but did survive

Could there be an old Indian Curse on this Lost Creek Valley of Pitt Lake? If you go in search of it, "BEWARE".

Don White interview with (168)
Amanda Chanley

Shumach.

15 Aug, 74

came from Port Douglas on
Lure - drove horses back.
crossed Clavin Lake on
foot. Skipped Shumach.
Told him where got gold
nuggets for bullets.
came down Patterson
Creek off Clavin Lake.

brother Samir went 3
times to Eng.

The Gaill Courier

1965, Apr - May - June.
publ. rec'd Aug.

E. H. Brown, Managing Editor

CNITS. Library & Pub. Dept

1929 Bayview Ave
Toronto 17 Ont.

older
brother of Shumuk
was.

SMA M - QUAH
lived in Katzie.
Shumuk - pertaining
to rain.

Tommy Wilkins -
Chief Cogitlam.

Drunk's head shot &
came to investigate
deer was cornered then
Shumuk told Peter.
saw blood - gave up
search & was returning
to boat.

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~~1856~~
~~29~~
~~1840~~

1859

Shumak buried in
unknown grave in
Saguenay.

Catherine
Peter & ~~wife~~ found Jackson
on the east side of lake
oppos. New island.
Wearing skins,
bearded - brought him
out to New West's.
Said he'd found
~~the~~ ^{the} ~~gold~~ ^{gold}.

Peter died Feb 22 / 43
84 years old

Two years after Shumak
 being Peter, Marie &
 Rose Bailey went up
 after it. Pumped on
 board in creek &
 broke legs had to be
 removed with - not for
 him.

Peter eldest son August
 & Rose Bailey from
 Coquitlam B.C. are
 half-Scott. half-Indian

Peter son August married
 Rose Bailey's daughter.

Tommy Wilsons maybe
 distant distant
 relative of Rose Bailey.

put food on Stumuk
& Stumuk told
hangman in Chinook
to hurry & not
waste time.

- Peter closed eye & ^{prayed}
(when he opened then
prayed with priest)

again body had
happened below & rope
was swinging.

Stewart accounted for 2
drunks. threatened with one. shot
in self defence. Other went on to
hunt. ~~for a while~~ with put
shot man in own canoe. ~~at~~
stop head of camp on east
side of Red River above PR bridge
near Alouette mouth.

- Came out from New West in
boat. fired shots into Stewart's
canoe. He hid. next day Peter
Reine went & got his uncle.
Hidden under log. Took him in.
Did not take gun to effect
capture.

Sold 1071 sugar bag full of shot
1/2 full of gold. sold to new west
store keeper for \$27.⁰⁰ - Store keeper
went back to Eng. Only one
brought out gold. often took prospectors in
- Hang in gallows ~~in~~ in
presence of Peter Reine, priest +
a man. Peter spend week
teaching catechism to Stewart.
Draw map of where he found
gold on all bench. gave it to

Plater. Mrs. Chamberley ^{daughter of Peter Peire} ^{had} ^{made} ^{out}
three mgs of it. Mac Peire's
father Xavier got them. Burnt in
house fire. (174)

3rd canyon. Had supplies dock.
mossy bench. west side, could
scarcely see 3 peak mountains
Woke up saw sun coming over
mt. sleeping in coppery colored
mud. Last colored moss
peeled moss off - dug with
pen knife - took out stake.
muggets.

I die in from lead of Harrison
take made short cut over mt.
for W.W. They gave him handful
of bullets moulded from gold.
They told him where they found
gold for some. He recognized
it as gold. Close to glaciers.

Amenda Chamberley - daughter
of Peter Peire - Boy 5'2 2

Mission City, ID.
Louis Bre French. ^{Mych from Katie} Ind. an.
Gontier (Phonetic)

Returned to - meaning to the lake.

(175)

Mrs. John ~~Jack~~ Fleming Elm Vale, Ont.
lives in Apt. Elmville
Vale.

(daughter of Mrs Chamley's daughter.
mother in law owns Ben Store in
Belram. Ont.

Mrs.

Blackwell.

Sister

Sister of Bill Miner

Stewart - port Katz in port
Nanaimo - widower - had
one daughter - married
Nanaimo Indian - long
dead. He wanted to take
body home but officials buried
him in pagan cemetery.

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1963 March near of Gaille
Carrier -

certain trials - Simon walked over
out - present over glacier lake??

Chief Swanset died, and replaced
by Joe Isaac - died in 1925.

Jimmy Adams - port Kanaka.
real name 'Clum' Kanaka name.

Geo Moody father - Col Moody.

Mother - half Indian / Kanaka of
Katzie.

Geo father of Mrs Bailey.

(Young Moody } of Mrs. Miller.
Dunc Moody }

wife of Mr. Baker was
Mrs. Baker (Baker) - mother

Lost Pitt Lake Gold Mine
Marcus Cox claim

(177)

{ Golden Ears Mining Co.
Horniman Mining Dev. & Agency Co.
B.C. Min Mines Ann Report
1900 pg 937-
1930 pg 313

nothing in
library prior
to 1914.

Cox claim

— B.C. Min Mines Ann Report
1928 pg 390. ✓

Stone River Group

B.C. Min Mines Ann Report
1918 - pg 288 ✓
1931 - pg 176. ✓

Maple Leaf

B.C. Min Mines Ann Report
1926 - pg 323 ✓
1929 - 399 ✓
1930 313

Standard Group

B.C. Min Mines

1947 - pg A179 ✓ pg A167 part.

must be
removed
part.

Production and Marketing Branch

Plant Protection Division,
767 Sir John Carling Bldg.,
OTTAWA, K1A 0C5

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August 20, 1974.

Director of Parks,
Department of Lands, Forests and
Water Resources,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Sir:

As a former resident and active forest survey officer in British Columbia, I came to know many areas of your province very well. During forest survey work, I became interested in minerals and for several years carried a prospector's licence.

My work in Ottawa has continued to involve me in surveys in all provinces. During one such survey I took a couple of days for hiking and have discovered a very startling find. I have kept my information entirely secret because of its location and value and would like it that way until something concrete develops.

The find I estimate at a value of well over one billion dollars, probably as high as twenty. However, it is within the borders of a provincial park. Would it be possible to obtain a special permit to enter the park and remove surface samples for analysis and evaluation?

If this is to be pursued further this year, there is some urgency, as weather conditions and terrain make winter travel very difficult and dangerous. Would you please forward as soon as possible some indication of what your department might feel regarding the issuing of such a special permit. Samples could then be obtained and the matter taken from there. I realize there are many things involved but cannot see that the removal of a few surface samples for analysis could affect the value of the park. Further considerations could be weighed after the analysis and evaluation of the find.

I doubt if anyone has ever had to sit on anything like this before!

Yours truly,

G. Stuart Brown
Supervisor, Surveys Section
Plant Protection Division

P.S. Please reply to my home address: 2713 Norberry Crescent, Ottawa, Ont.
K1V 6N3



WHEN REPLYING
PLEASE QUOTE FILE No. 3-2-7

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
PARKS BRANCH
V8W 2Y9

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Victoria, B.C.

August 29, 1974

Mr. G. Stuart Brown
2713 Norberry Crescent,
Ottawa, Ontario K1V 6N3

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 1974 regarding your application for a Park Use Permit to prospect and remove samples from a Provincial Park.

Enclosed please find a Policy Statement approved by the Minister on March 1, 1973 which states the following:

"Effective January 1, 1973, prospecting for minerals and the registration of new mineral claims shall not be authorized or permitted within any Provincial Park"

Accordingly, we cannot approve your request.

Yours very truly,

R. H. Ahrens,
Director

D. Lowrey

For R. Lowrey,
Chief of Management

Encl.

See
1979
mineral law

Also this
file
1979

Term of certificate

3. Where a free miner certificate is issued it is valid from the beginning of the day on which the application was received until the end of the day it is expressed to expire.

1977-54-3.

Register may be searched

4. On payment of the prescribed fee, a person may have searched the register of free miner certificates and obtain a written report respecting the presence or absence of a particular name or certificate on the register.

1977-54-4.

Failure to renew certificate

5. Failure to renew a free miner certificate does not affect title to mining property.

1977-54-5.

Land on which free miner may enter

6. (1) Subject to this section, a free miner may enter
- (a) Crown land and land in which minerals are reserved to the Crown and prospect and explore for, locate, mine and produce minerals; and
 - (b) land in which gold or silver is reserved to the Crown and prospect and explore for, locate, mine and produce gold or silver.
- (2) The right of entry under subsection (1) does not extend to
- (a) land occupied by a building;
 - (b) the curtilage of a dwelling house;
 - (c) orchard land;
 - (d) land under cultivation; or
 - (e) land lawfully occupied for mining purposes other than placer mining.

1977-54-6.

No exploration in parks without consent

* 7. Notwithstanding an Act, agreement, free miner certificate, mineral claim, mining lease or licence, no person shall locate, prospect or explore for, mine or produce minerals in a park created under an Act unless authorized by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on the recommendation of the person, corporation or government that is responsible for the park.

1977-54-7.

Prohibitory orders

8. The Lieutenant Governor in Council may, by order, prohibit a free miner from locating or recording a mineral claim on land specified in the order in respect of all minerals or a particular mineral specified in the order, either absolutely or subject to conditions specified in the order.

1977-54-8.

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Policy on
Prospecting and Mining In Provincial Parks (March 1, 1973)
(Superseding Ministerial Policy Statement dated 11/8/65)

1. Effective January 1, 1973, prospecting for minerals and the registration of new mineral claims shall not be authorized or permitted within any Provincial park.
2. Effective from the date of this statement, no permit to mine or conduct operations in connection with mining or providing access to, or accommodations at, a mine, shall be issued until the applicant has complied with the provisions of the Park Act (Sec. 25) and demonstrated conclusively that issuance of the permit is not detrimental to the recreational values of the park involved.
3. Effective from the date of this statement the Director, Parks Branch, is required to apply the provisions of the Park Act (Sec. 26) and Provincial Parks Regulations, 1970, (Sec. 3) to insure that, before any mining operation is authorized in any park, an appropriate restoration fund is deposited by the applicant and that, at termination of every operation appropriate restoration is provided by the operator.
4. No permit authorizing surface works in connection with mining development in any park shall be issued before it has been determined that it is impractical, at the time, to acquire, by purchase or other means, on behalf of the Crown, the mineral rights and other interests involved.

Approved: _____

Minister of Recreation and Conservation

Date: _____

March 1, 1973

2713 Norberry Cres.
Ottawa, K1V 6N3,
September 24, 1974.

Honorable Leo T. Nimsick,
Minister of Mines & Petroleum Resources,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B. C.

152

Honorable Sir,

As a former resident and active forest survey officer in British Columbia I came to know many areas of your province very well. During forest survey work I became interested in minerals and for several years carried a prospectors licence.

My work in Ottawa has continued to involve me in survey work in all provinces but it was not until this summer that I was able to take time to investigate properly certain locations in which I had previously been interested. To be brief, I have come up with some extremely startling results which have shaken me thoroughly.

There is one problem. The particular spot of extreme interest is within the confines of one of your provincial parks and prospecting, removal of samples, and mine development is therefore against the law.

I do not wish in any way to flout the laws of the province so am writing to you. My request is that I be able to bring out loose surface samples to you and then have the situation discussed with your cabinet. For emphasis I would estimate that there is over twenty billion dollars involved, much of it loose on the surface. Appearances indicate much more, even to hundreds of billions and this could make the Klondike and Cariboo appear like peanuts.

Please above all else keep this confidential for several reasons. If news breaks hordes of people will be in there and you will lose control. Moreover, I could have removed \$100,000 easily in one trip (50 lbs. = 800 oz. pure) with little risk of being caught. If I could, so could others and few would honor the law as outlined (see underlined above). Please communicate with me only through my home address. My office mail is pre-opened by staff before reaching my desk and I would prefer the whole situation remain confidential between us until I can produce samples to prove my find. Things can in this way then proceed in a legal manner.

Regardless of the above the news will make headlines when it breaks, and it will! When the news media gets it things will go wild. I am only human and the fame of such an event is too much to pass up!

Can you get me a permit to bring out loose samples? If so, will you?

Sincerely

G. Stuart Brown



VICTORIA
V8V 4S2

183

September 30th, 1974.

Mr. G. Stuart Brown,
2713 Norberry Crescent,
OTTAWA, Ont.
K1V 6N3

Dear Mr. Brown:

I have for acknowledgement receipt of your letter dated September 24th regarding certain mineral findings in the province of British Columbia.

I do not know how sure you are about your findings and the value you place on them. Therefore, it would be impossible for me to give you a permit unless I had much more information regarding both yourself and the area from which you wish to obtain samples. You will understand that the staking of claims in provincial parks has now been curtailed.

I would appreciate knowing how many years ago it was that you worked as a Forest Service Officer in British Columbia. Prior to the present Government coming into power, claim staking was allowed in parks, but as I stated above, this is no longer possible.

Yours sincerely,

Leo T. Nimsick

Leo T. Nimsick,
MINISTER.

No D.P.

Nandino

2715 Norberry Cres.,
Ottawa, K1V 6N3,
October 24, 1974.

Honorable Leo T. Nimsick,
Minister of Mines & Petroleum Resources,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B. C.

154

Honorable Sir,

I have reread my letter of September 24 and your answer of September 30 regarding staking of mineral claims and removal of samples from provincial parks in British Columbia.

My purpose in writing to you at that time was to obtain permission to remove loose surface samples and bring them to you as proof of the find and as a basis from which further developments might progress. I have offered to keep this confidential until I delivered these samples to you and thereafter as long as necessary to set up suitable controls to prevent pilfering and what might be chaos resulting in the loss of lives. It is apparent to me that I have been unable to impress on you the significance of the find. If the information I have given you with the general idea of the location were released to the public I doubt if your laws would in any way be respected.

I have, therefore, no intention of releasing to anyone any further information on the subject and will proceed as circumstances dictate at the time each decision is necessary. I fully realize that in your position you cannot afford to make mistakes and it is for this reason that I have agreed to keep this confidential until your government can agree on a course of action. If you wish to issue me permission to collect and bring representative samples to you I am willing to do this still. If this permission is not forthcoming matters will develop anyway, but in a less controlled manner. I think I have been most considerate so far in keeping things under control but this can only be a matter of time.

Yours very truly,

G. Stuart Brown



VICTORIA

V8V 4S2

185

November 5th, 1974.

Mr. G. Stuart Brown,
2713 Norberry Crescent,
OTTAWA, Ontario.
K1V 6N3

Dear Mr. Brown:

I am writing in addition to the letter sent to you by my office secretary, Mrs. Halisheff, on October 29th in reply to your letter of October 24th.

All I can say is that the law states quite definitely that the staking of claims in parks is not allowed, and whether or not your find is valuable, you would not be able to stake a claim.

The reason I asked you for the location of the area was not to let the information out to the public, but to have some idea of the location. But since you cannot release this information, I do not think I could be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Leo T. Nimsick,
MINISTER.

713 Norberry Cres.,
Ottawa K1V 6N3,
November 15, 1974.

Honorable Leo T. Nimsick,
Minister of Mines & Petroleum Resources,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B. C.

146

Honorable Sir,

This will have reference to previous correspondence between us regarding removal of samples from Provincial parks in British Columbia.

It is quite apparent to me that you have not read my previous letter correctly for at no time did I request permission to stake a mineral claim within any park or even within the Province of British Columbia. What I did request was permission to remove and bring to your department sufficient samples, which are loose on the surface, for analysis to prove the existence and value of the find. From that point in time we could discuss what might follow in the development of the find and what your government might do in the way of controlling access and abuse of the area.

I am beginning to feel that perhaps I am being too honest with you. However, I have considerable experience in other provinces in the removal of biological specimens and, in certain instances I have been asked to obtain written permission from the Minister to set insect traps for detection purposes. If this applies to insects you can understand why I am requesting permission for authority to remove geological samples. If I were stopped by a park official or even a police officer I could be in considerable difficulty if I did not have proof of permission to remove samples.

My reason for not informing you now of location or accessibility is that I can see no advantage in spreading this knowledge around. It is not written down even in my files nor do I retain a map identifying the location or even the park involved. If I were to write this even in a letter to you it could then become available by theft, duplication of the letter, or numerous other methods. I would not ask you to accept my word on the value involved without some proof in the form of a sample. Nor would I trust anyone with the information to go and collect a sample for you. You have therefore no choice but to trust me to bring suitable samples to you as a basis for governmental control of the whole situation. Is this such an eccentric request that it cannot be permitted?

Sincerely,



VICTORIA

V8V 4S2

187

December 2nd, 1974.

Mr. G. Stuart Brown,
2713 Norberry Crescent,
OTTAWA, Ontario.
K1V 6N3

Dear Mr. Brown:

I am writing in reply to your letter dated November 15th regarding your request to pick up certain samples of rock in the parks areas of British Columbia.

Since park matters come within the jurisdiction of the Parks Branch of the Department of Recreation and Conservation, I am taking the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to Mr. R. Ahrens, Director of the Parks Branch, for his consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Leo T. Nimsick,
MINISTER.

cc: R. Ahrens.



3-2-7
WHEN REPLYING 3-4-13
PLEASE QUOTE FILE NO.

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
PARKS BRANCH

V8W 2Y9

Victoria, B. C.

December 6, 1974

188

Mr. G. Stuart Brown
2713 Norberry Crescent
Ottawa, Ontario
K1V 6N3

Dear Sir:

Your letter to the Honourable Leo Nimsick has been passed to this office for reply as the subject matter is within the scope of the Parks Branch.

Our files indicate that you were in correspondence with this Branch earlier this year and our reply to you dated August 29, 1974, denied your request for a special permit.

We must again deny your request for the reasons previously given, and regret that we can be of no further assistance to you in this matter.

Yours very truly,

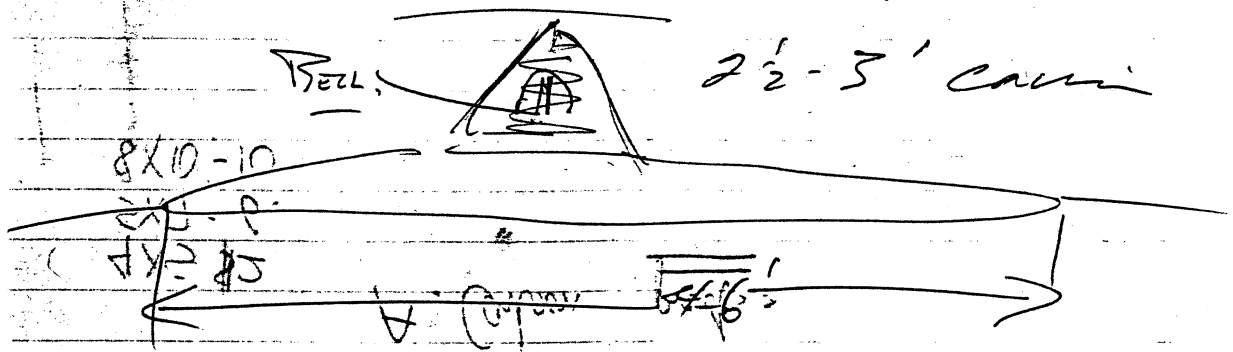

R. H. Ahrens,
Director.

1/5/75

189

Re: Pitt Lake

Fellows that crossed Stone
Glacier to M.S. by +
found cairn with bell
at 7500' level.



1. Dick Hamilton.

~~CASTLEGAR.~~

COMPARTMENT 10 - SITE 3.

S.S. #2 CASTLEGAR - 399-4740.

2. Peter McILVANEY POSSIBLE
2460 - Atkins St. GRAVE.
Port Coquitlam.

942 - 8530.
942 - 98608.
171

2713 Norberry Cres.,
Ottawa, K1V 6N3,
September 25, 1975.

Honorable Leo T. Nimsick,
Minister of Mines & Petroleum Resources,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B. C.

190

Honorable Sir,

After I visited your office at the beginning of September I travelled with my wife and family to Vancouver to spend a few days visiting friends there. On Saturday, September 6, I made another attempt to go to the site in the park for the purpose of obtaining samples but could not complete my mission due to weather and treacherous mud slides barring the route. It was necessary to turn back and, as I had to drive to work in Ottawa for Monday, September 15, I gave up thoughts of a further attempt during 1975. Weather and terrain are unpredictable and likely to become very treacherous after the middle of September in the area. My next attempt will have to wait until the beginning of August, 1976.

Regarding the contract to protect my interests in a claim, this is of secondary consideration. However, there are two of us who are involved primarily, and three others to a lesser degree. We would be interested in obtaining reimbursement for all our expenses plus either an initial payment or share of early production which would provide for us to live comfortably for the rest of our lives. If in the form of an initial payment I would expect it to be in the form of a sale of all rights to, presumably, the provincial government, thus placing ownership in the hands of the people of the province.

I am making plans for a determined effort in 1976 but the terrain is tough and the site in a very secluded spot. You will hear further from me at a later date.

Sincerely,

G. Stuart Brown.

191

Note:

During my visit to Mr. Nimsick's office as mentioned in my letter of September 25, 1975, we discussed the value of the find and it's inaccessibility, what sort of an operation would be involved, and the potential effect on the environment of the area.

The value of the find cannot be estimated accurately until a proper geological assessment of the site is made. However, I have stated that there is an abundance of surface gold in the form of nuggets and dust lying loose on the rock in the streambed and a mother-lode present in the adjacent bed-rock. What I consider a conservative estimate would place this at over two billion dollars.

Because of my refusal to identify the site on a map or in any way reveal the location of the site the route in and the difficulty of reaching it were not discussed in any detail.

The effect on the environment would undoubtedly be rather severe. I suggested that no road should be constructed to the site but that removal of material should be carried out by means of a helicopter. The area involved might easily be confined to less than 600 acres including a landing site and buildings required in the operation. I know ~~at~~ at least two animals not recorded to be in the area, are present and I would hate to be the one to interfere with their natural habitat.

At the end of the discussion Mr. Nimsick agreed that I should bring out representative samples directly to him and he proposed that I should draw up a form of contract which could be the basis of an agreement for further discussion.

I agreed to cover all of my expenses up to the time that enough gold was removed to cover them, but reserved the right to require that I be reimbursed for these from the first proceeds.

Further mention of what I discussed is outlined in my letter of August 17, 1978, to Mr. James Fyles, Deputy Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources, a copy of which I sent to the Victoria Daily Times.

G. Stuart Brown



VICTORIA

V8V 4S2

192

September 30th, 1975.

Mr. G. Stuart Brown,
2713 Norberry Crescent,
OTTAWA, Ontario.
K1V 6N3

Dear Mr. Brown:

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 25th in regard to your attempt to collect mineral samples from provincial parks.

I enjoyed the conversation we had in my office recently, and I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to my Deputy Minister, Mr. J. E. McMynn, for his information.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Leo T. Nimsick'.

Leo T. Nimsick,
MINISTER.

cc: J. E. McMynn

213 Norberry Cres.,
Ottawa, Ontario,
August 17, 1978.

Mr. James Fyles,
Deputy Minister,
Dept of Mines & Petroleum Resources,
406 Douglas Building,
Victoria, B. C.

193

Dear Mr. Fyles,

You will recall my visit to your office on Tuesday, August 8, when I reported the discovery of Slumach's gold canyon, supposedly within the boundaries of Garibaldi Park. I reviewed my participation in this discovery and will go over it again here.

I first heard of the canyon in 1950 when it was discussed wherever I travelled on the Island and lower mainland. I knew of numerous parties which went in to search for it. My work and family kept me too busy to give much thought to hiking in the area until 1974. It was in that year that I located the canyon. Correspondence between myself and the Honorable Mr. Nimsick, then Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources, should be on file in Victoria. I was finally able to obtain verbal permission to bring out samples directly to him so that the situation could be assessed.

There have been many articles written in the last five years reviewing the details of Slumach's trips in and his final trip to the gallows on January 16, 1891. These articles mention a California man named John Jackson who packed out all he was able to carry in 1903 but shortly thereafter died, having banked about \$10,000 in gold. Also an article was written about Volcanic Brown which records the finding of the lost canyon in 1930. I would refer you to the following two articles:-

The Golden Mountains, p. 68, Volcanic Brown's Last Trip, by Charles A. Miller, Lithographed by the Fraser Valley Record, Mission, B. C., 1973.

Tales of the Golden Ears, p.43, by Don Waite, 22380 - 119th Ave., Maple Ridge, B.C., 1975.

There was also an article in the August, 1973, edition of Saga, a New York monthly magazine.

After leaving your office I visited my brother in the Maple Ridge District and discussed the whole situation with him. He agrees with me that 99% of the people in the Lower Fraser Valley

#2
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between New Westminster and Hope are quite familiar and conversant with the history of the lost canyon. I also know of 400 to 500 people who go looking for it each year so it will undoubtedly be found in the very near future by someone besides myself.

I have estimated the value of the surface gold at two billion dollars so I think that some immediate action should be taken to protect the park and the interests of the people of the province. You will recall that you stated that these interests were protected by laws prohibiting prospecting in provincial parks or the removal of biological or geological samples therefrom. I doubt if anyone is naive enough to believe for a moment that one grain of gold dust or even one ounce of the solid quartz could be protected for long after the location of the canyon became known publicly. There are too many routes and too long a border to the park to police.

1978
I had four long days to think about the matter while driving home to Ottawa and have come to some definite conclusions. It is four years since I discovered this lost gold and I know that others will find it soon if action is not taken by your department. It is very unlikely that anyone discovering it will follow the procedures I have in coming to you. In fact, I could remove 100 lbs. (1500 ounces) per trip worth about \$300,000 without disclosing anything and sell on the black market. I now feel after thinking it over that immediate action must be taken. When I was in your office you said there was nothing could be done and that you could take no action other than to confirm my statements. I now am suggesting that if action is not taken within the next three weeks, that is, by September 8, I shall inform the public through the press and television that the gold canyon has been found. I am sure that this will send up to 100,000 seekers into the park. You can well imagine the fires and devastation which could result. Moreover, a large percentage of these would be unable to cope and get into grave difficulties through accident and weather. Already over thirty persons have lost their lives looking for this canyon.

What I propose is that some written agreement be drawn up whereby I may recover over \$10,000 which I have spent in solving this mystery. It is true that two of the six trips were made because of the fascination I had for solving the mystery but the last four were attempts to bring out samples to the Minister. I think I am entitled to recovery of at least that amount.

Part of my purpose in keeping the matter secret has been my concern over what would happen to the environment and the protection of this beautiful wilderness area. However, the government has decided to procrastinate and may allow what I mentioned above to happen so I must force the issue in every-one's interest. I am therefore urging you to take action immediately

#3 195
to gain orderly control from me and to bring the gold to market for the benefit of the people without allowing personal greed to benefit or private interests to ruin the park.

I am against putting a road into the area because it would deface the park and spoil it for those who enjoy this type of wilderness hiking. However, it could open up for the enjoyment of others a new and exciting outdoor experience in scenery. A road would cost perhaps half of the value of the gold and air transportation would be cheaper and pay for itself as extraction progressed. I also have identified one animal in there which is almost extinct in the world and according to Wildlife Service does not occur within 800 miles of this location.

I do not look forward to another trip as strenuous as the many I have been through, not even a plane trip. It should be remembered that travel in the park is extremely hazardous and on two occasions I have just barely made it out by wading torrents to my waist which were dry twenty-four hours earlier on the way in. A third time I did not even get started. Should I be required to make another trip I shall expect to have my expenses paid.

Should you contact me within the next three weeks I am willing to cooperate providing you have a plan for immediate action. Otherwise I shall take the action suggested on the previous page.

I shall be waiting impatiently to hear from you.

G. Stuart Brown

c.c. Honorable J. R. Chabot
Mr. Ray Lowrey



196

August 25, 1978

Mr. G. Stuart Brown
2713 Norberry Crescent
Ottawa, Ontario
K1V 6N3

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your letter of August 18th setting out the alternatives open to you respecting your knowledge of the location of the Lost Gold Mine in Garibaldi Park. I am in no position to make a monetary deal with you and therefore must let you make whatever decision seems best to you regarding the publication of your information.

I sincerely appreciate your integrity in apprising me of your discovery before taking further action. I trust that the results of your decision will be beneficial to you and not harmful to others.

Yours sincerely,

James T. Fyles
DEPUTY MINISTER

JTF/vr

2713 Norberry Cres.,
Ottawa, Ontario,
September 4, 1978.

197

Right Honorable Wm. Bennett,
Premier of British Columbia,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, British Columbia.

Honorable Sir,

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter I wrote to Mr. James Fyles, Deputy Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources. This letter is self explanatory and his answer indicated that he intended absolutely no action in the matter.

I am writing to you, not with the hope of obtaining other than my past expenses, but with the hope that you will comprehend the significance of immediate action. I firmly believe that this is perhaps the greatest concentration of pure gold ever found in the world and it could add significantly to the wealth of the people of the province of British Columbia. As I stated in the letter it would be much better for the government to take over control and cleanly remove the gold to market than to permit the public to move in enmasse and destroy the environment both there and on the way in.

I wonder how you would feel if you had waded in gold nuggets up to your ankles or had dust in quantities that you could dip a three-gallon bucket full at one dip?? I have spent a rather hectic four years sitting on this. To remove the gold need not damage more than 100 acres of an area which obviously has not been visited by anyone except me in the last 48 years and, properly handled, the scar could be completely obliterated in a few years.

As you can see by the enclosed letter I have not yet released the news to the press and hope I may have some indication from you that action can be taken on the part of your government to move forward in this matter.

Sincerely,

G. Stuart Brown

G. Stuart Brown

27 Norberry Cres.,
Ottawa, Ontario,
September 14, 1978.

Memo to The Victoria Daily Times, The Colonist, The Vancouver Province, The Vancouver Sun, and The Fraser Valley Record.

198

Enclosed is a completely self-explanatory letter which I wrote recently to the Deputy Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources. I am now informing the public through the press and other news media regarding the situation. To date it appears that no substantial amount, if any of the gold has been removed.

What I would appreciate knowing is just what the people of British Columbia feel should be done in the matter. The Department of Recreation and Conservation, Parks Branch, has firmly refused to permit the marketing or removal of any of the gold, even under their control. I have delayed making the news public until the weather would prevent any large scale migration into the park this year and I still have hopes that some sensible action may be taken before next spring.

I estimate that from a selected place I could collect enough nuggets in two hours to sell for \$300,000 if sold on the legitimate market. Don't you think that some organized removal of the gold should take place rather than have it eventually pilfered by a few selfish individuals? This should be done by air and only about 100 acres of the park need be affected and the scar would soon heal.

Incidentally, I have destroyed any maps, correspondence, notes, or any other material I had pertaining to this subject and the only information I can give you in future is strictly from my head.

Sincerely,

G. Stuart Brown

G. Stuart Brown



Province of British Columbia
OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

October 12th, 1978

File No: 20-1

Mr. G. Stuart Brown,
2713 Norberry Crescent,
Ottawa, Ontario.
K1V 6N3

199

Dear Mr. Brown,

Thank you for your letter of September 4th, 1978, and the information respecting your discovery of gold in Garibaldi Provincial Park. The legend of the lost gold mine in that general area is not unknown to me and I am interested in your extension of the story.

Unfortunately, parks which are created to preserve natural values for recreational enjoyment are not open for mineral development. I recognize that your discovery places you in a difficult position, but I am not in a position to allow mining in Garibaldi Park or to compensate you for past expenses in researching and prospecting in this area.

Yours sincerely,

W. R. Bennett
Premier

3715 Norberry Cres.,
Ottawa, K1V 6Y3
November 5, 1978.

200

The Right Honourable W. R. Bennett,
Premier of British Columbia,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, British Columbia,
V8V 4R3

File No.: 20 - 1

Honourable Sir,

When I was in Mr. Fyles' office on August 8 last he asked me if there was evidence that anyone had removed gold from Slumach's gold canyon. I had none then for obvious reasons, but I do now. Information has leaked to certain persons who intend to keep it secret until all available surface gold is removed. I do not know how much has already been removed - perhaps two million, maybe three million dollars worth - as it is impossible to estimate even closely under such circumstances. Plans are being made to continue and perhaps expand the operation next year. Anyone knowing this secret would realize that others are apt to learn it and so realize the urgency of moving quickly.

Another thing that bothers me is that evidence leads me to believe that the gold is being smuggled out of the country and so lost not only to the people of British Columbia but to the Canadian economy entirely.

By the time you receive this you will know that the news of the find has been released to the press. I purposely delayed the release until after there was any possibility of further visits to the canyon this year in the hope that something could be organized sensibly before spring. If nothing is organized I will have to take steps to recover my investment, then perhaps show to all those interested in a body the location of the find. That would be the only fair way to the people of the province who are, in my opinion, entitled to their heritage.

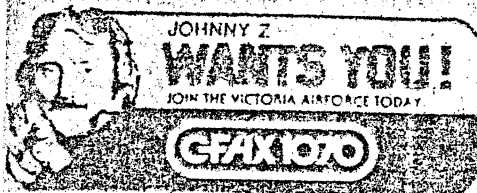
I have not entirely given up on making your government show some intelligence in this matter. That will hinge on your answer to this letter. It seems strange to me the stand that has been taken especially when I have stated that activity in removing the gold could be limited to about three hundred acres, and that it will be removed by selfish interests if you do not act immediately.

It is your choice. I've done what I can to be fair about the matter and will proceed as I see fit in the future.

Copy to Mr. Fyles
Mr. Fyles

G. Stuart Brown

G. Stuart Brown



SECOND FRC

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, WEDNESDAY, N

Garibaldi Glory Hole

By MARK HUME
Times Staff

WITHOUT a doubt he is a man given to exaggeration, a man who makes incredible statements without substantiation — and if his claims were made about anything other than a legendary lost gold mine they would be dismissed out of hand.

But when retired federal civil servant Stuart Brown says he has found Slumach's gold canyon, a treasure that many have allegedly died trying to find, a treasure worth millions, you have to listen because stranger tales have come true in this world and he just might be telling the truth.

He has no proof: not a single nugget, no dust, not even the tiniest ore sample. But he says the gold is there. He's seen it sparkling in the water of a wilderness creek somewhere north of Pitt Lake in Garibaldi Park.

That's where it should be according to the legend of the old Indian, Slumach, who was hanged for murder in 1890. And that's where it should be according to the hundreds who have searched for it in vain over the years.

They say a Californian named John Jackson found it in 1903, but nobody knows for sure. He died shortly after depositing \$10,000 worth of gold in the bank.

One man, Volcanic Brown, claimed he found it. He came out with gold to prove it but went back into the rugged terrain in the summer of 1930 and never returned. Those who went to rescue him found his tent buried under October snows.

There was no sign of Volcanic, the old prospector who said he'd been fired off by Slumach's granddaughter,

but in his tent they found a glass jar containing 11 ounces of coarse gold.

It was gold, according to newspaper reports, "that appeared to have been hammered out of a solid vein, for it still bore traces of quartz." Gold with quartz — how out.

And so it has gone. Gold and death fanning the coals of the legend every time the fire was about out.

The great thing is that unanswered questions don't knock down a legend, they build it up.

Things have been quiet up north of Pitt Lake in recent years, but there have been prospectors there every summer, poking about in little creeks and streams, stumbling down gulleys, scanning the rocks, always hoping for that dull glint of color.

Brown, a former Vancouverite who now lives in Ottawa, was one such prospector in the summer of 1974.

In a canyon, where the run-off waters from a melting snowfield ran together, he looked down and found it. A glory hole brimming with nuggets. From Above.

But now the story gets really curious, for Brown, talking in a telephone interview from his home, says he looked at the gold, made note of its location and then walked away!

He says he found the precious metal within the boundaries of a provincial park (there are two in the area, Garibaldi and Golden Ears) and he knew full well it was against the law to remove samples. 1973 law passed.

So Brown left the gold and for the last four years he's been trying to persuade the government to let him mine it.

"If they want conclusive evidence they can have it," says Brown. "But they'll have to give me a very precise, clear letter. I would like some assurance that I would be protected and reimbursed for my expenses."

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black mark

And he
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day gold at

How V. Brown knew.

202

FRONT PAGE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1978, PAGE 19

MEIRO TOYOTA
ESSO CAR CLINIC
TESTED USED CARS

Hole

All the Unanswered Questions Add to Legend of Gold Canyon

1978- Trip to Victoria

In a trip to Victoria last summer Brown failed in attempts to get the type of bargain he was looking for and returned to Ottawa empty-handed.

Did he deserve any better?

James Fyles, deputy minister of mines and petroleum resources, says he listened to Brown's incredible story but then turned away the fortune hunter and would-be gold miner.

Fyles said he offered to send a geologist into the area with Brown to confirm the richness of the deposits, but this was rejected. Why - No Agreement?

Fyles wanted to see an ore sample. Brown had none.

And then Brown asked for money, or at least for a promise of reimbursement. The government should pay him \$10,000, he said, to cover his expenses in locating the treasure. Then he'd tell where the canyon was and the province could take appropriate action.

"I have estimated the value of the surface gold at two billion dollars so I think that some immediate action should be taken to protect the park and the interests of the people of the province," said Brown in a letter. 261

He added that others have been searching for the lost mine and sooner or later someone will stumble across it, as he had.

"It is very unlikely that anyone discovering it will follow the procedures I have in coming to you."

"In fact, I could remove 100 pounds per trip worth about \$300,000 without disclosing anything and sell on the black market." 100 lbs per trip

And he warned Fyles that once word of his find was out, there would be a stampede into the area, a modern-day gold rush.

But Fyles said he could not help; he was in no position to sign any agreement with Brown and certainly could not make any commitment for \$10,000.

Fyles is highly skeptical of Brown's claims, largely because he cannot imagine why a man who says he knows where he can pick up \$300,000 worth of gold would be haggling with the government in an effort to get \$10,000.

"It is not gold country. And yet there are all kinds of surprises in the geological world and it just may be that he's right."

When Brown left Fyles' office he went to see Ray Lowrey, in the provincial parks operations division.

Brown had taught at the University of B.C. before joining the federal government and Lowrey had been a student of his.

Lowrey says Brown is an intelligent and well-educated man — but dismisses his story as lacking credibility.

Lowrey asked for proof of the discovery but got none. No proof

"I needed something I could get my teeth into, even one nugget." No no eggs - where sold?

Officially Lowrey has simply rejected Brown's tale of a fantastic gold deposit in Garibaldi Park, and his department is planning no action on the matter.

Lowrey doesn't believe there's a lost gold mine in Garibaldi Park, "but anything's possible."

Legends thrive on the unexplained, he adds, "and probably 10 or 15 years after Mr. Brown dies the stories will start up about the lost mine he found."

It won't take that long, however, for there's already a story about a lost mine and Stuart Brown, the elderly man who says he walked away from a billion-dollar fortune, is now part of the Slumach legend — gold or no.

January 16, 1979

Mr. G. Stuart Brown
2713 Norberry Crescent
Ottawa, Ontario
K1V 6N3

Dear Mr. Brown:

Your letter of November 5, 1978 to the Premier regarding Slumach's gold canyon has recently been passed to me for response.

I must acknowledge that I and my staff are somewhat skeptical about your discovery. Your references to the nature and the value of the deposit, the geological characteristics of the terrain in the general area, and the bizarre history of this lost gold mine do not encourage geologists to take your reported discovery seriously. Indeed, your letters do not provide us with new evidence that the deposit exists and is of the tremendous value you indicate. *No New Evidence*

If you can suggest a method beneficial to yourself by which we in the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and in the Parks Branch can be assured of the existence of the deposit and that it has the value you suggest, I would be pleased to hear about it. Possibly, after determining these things, we can consider ways of resolving the problems of exploitation and park preservation. ** N.B.*

Yours very truly,

James T. Fyles
James T. Fyles
Sr. Assistant Deputy Minister

JTF/vr

cc: Mr. R. Lowrey
Parks Branch

↑
would overcome
problems of the Gov.
1973-9-1979 law states
exceptions can be made.

2713 Norberry Cres.,
Ottawa K1V 6N3
January 27, 1979.

Mr James Fyles,
Senior Deputy Minister,
Department of Mines and Petroleum Resources,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B. C.

204

Dear Mr. Fyles,

Your letter of January 16 was received last week and I have been giving it considerable thought. Before answering it, however, I would like to refer briefly to an article in the November 22 Victoria Daily Times. Even though my considerable experience with members of the press over the last 20 years of my professional career left me with a very poor opinion of their desire or ability to express in print the truth of statements made during an interview, certain statements and implications in the article attributed to you were a reflection on my integrity. I certainly hope that they were not a true picture of what you gained from statements I made in your office last August. Knowing the usual article resulting from such an interview I can readily exonerate both you and Mr. Lowrey from blame for these implications. In fact, Mr. Lowrey's statements were not uncomplimentary.

I would like to make it clear, as I thought I had in your office, that I expect no advance of any money for expenses incurred until I have adequately proved to your satisfaction that this lost gold canyon does in truth exist. My request was that I have written assurance from some qualified authority in your department or the provincial government that I would receive, presumably from proceeds of the first returns, the cost of all my expenses. This was the minimum requirement, and still is, under which I will reveal the location of the site.

There are certain other requirements which I have also made which will of necessity be put on paper before this matter can proceed. As I have previously stated I am what many term an environmentalist and I will require that no attempt be made to put a road in to the site and that extraction be confined strictly to the 300 to 400 acres involved. Transport will therefore have to be by air and no heavy equipment will be involved.

Had not a rather important family crisis developed here I would have stayed and completed what I set out to do last August. However it was imperative that I return immediately to Ottawa and I was busy here until it was too late to act before the winter weather set in.

Perhaps I sound unduly irritated by the turn of events but there are many things you do not know about me and about the documented history of the lower mainland. This is the first time in my life that my word has been questioned. Others believe my statements to the degree that I have been offered \$100,000 to pinpoint on a map the location in question.

I will give the whole matter considerable thought during the next few months and will inform you if there are further developments. A trip into this country is not to be taken lightly because of the many glaciers involved and uncertain weather which can produce raging torrents in a matter of minutes. In the meantime you might reread the contents of this file and in all fairness consider if I have been unreasonable in any way.

Yours very truly,

G. Stuart Brown

G. Stuart Brown

c.c. Mr. Ray Lowrey

205

2. 13 Norberry Cres.,
Ottawa, Ontario, K1V 6N3,
September 5, 1980.

2015-09-05 14:59:17

Mr. James Fyles,
Deputy Minister,
Department of Mines and Petroleum Resources,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B. C.

206

Dear Mr. Fyles,

You will probably recall my visit in August, 1978, to your office regarding Blumach's lost gold mine and some subsequent correspondence regarding my finding of it. At that time I mentioned that it appeared quite certain that at least one other person knew the location as I had seen him in the area.

First, in your letter of January 13, 1979, you stated that you and your staff were skeptical of my discovery. For proof I can only refer you to documented police records of late 1950 which describe the search for the last known prospector who found the lode. Searchers did not find him but they found his camp and in his tent they found nuggets of raw, free gold with crushed and broken quartz in it showing that he had found a lode richer than any rarely found.

Since I was in your office in 1978 I have been in to the area twice. I was in in August, 1979, and have just recently returned this year. I know now that there are four other men besides myself who have been into the area for I saw them within a half of a mile of the site. I am sure they were from the United States for they were driving a car that had Oregon licence plates. If I can bring out 180 lbs. of almost pure gold in one five-day pack trip with two packs I'm sure each of the four could bring out 60 lbs. with one. At 15 oz. to the lb. and \$600 per oz. that equals over half a million dollars.

I can only repeat what I said in my letter of January 27, 1979, that I do not expect any advance for expenses I have incurred, nor any grubstake to bring samples out. However, I must insist on written assurance that I will not be prosecuted under any regulations your province may have, I must have a written contract giving me and certain others a stipulated percentage of all gold brought out. I would also require that the environment be protected and that I get credit for the discovery for newspaper purposes.

For your further information I took time since 1978 to re-estimate the amount of gold present and I am sure my original was only one third of what is there.

Much of the early excitement of the find I have learned to live with since I first found the canyon in 1973 but the appeal of the area is strong and I enjoy hiking there. I am enclosing a picture taken in the general area so you may see the type of terrain. This picture was taken in early September so you can see the glacier-type situation and the rough travel involved in hiking in.

Yours truly,



Province of
British Columbia

OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY MINISTER

Ministry of
Energy, Mines and
Petroleum Resources

Victoria
British Columbia
V1X4

September 17, 1980

207

Mr. G. Stuart Brown
2713 Norberry Crescent
Ottawa, Ontario
K1V 6N3

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your letter of September 5 regarding Slumach's lost gold mine. I assume that the deposit to which you refer is the one that we discussed some time ago that is within the boundaries of Garibaldi Provincial Park. In reply to your questions in the fourth paragraph of your letter, I can only refer you to Section 7 of the Mineral Act and to present Park policy which prohibits exploration and prospecting and the issuance of permits for mining purposes within Provincial Parks.

I am sorry that I cannot be more positive about your discovery.

Yours very truly,

James T. Fyles
Sr. Assistant Deputy Minister

JTF:dkp

Attachment

2713 Norberry Cres.,
Ottawa K1V 6N3,
September 29, 1980.

Mr. Don Waite,
22380 119th Ave.,
Maple Ridge,
B. C. V2X 2Z3

*Received
Sept 30*

206

Dear Mr. Waite,

This is by nature an enquiry to determine if you still reside at the above address. If so, I would like to hear from you in the very near future.

The topic I wish to take up with you is the discovery of the lost gold mine discovered by Slumach and later visited by Jackson and Volcanic Brown. I am not about to reveal any details but I discovered this gold canyon in 1974 and have been fighting a very frustrating battle with the B.C. Provincial government in order to have some controlled action taken before some unscrupulous person learns the secret and pilfers the lot. I have visited the offices of the government at Victoria on four occasions and have got nowhere. In addition, there have been numerous letters between myself and various officials there.

However, I will go into the situation in more detail if I hear from you. I wrote hoping to contact you because I know of your involvement in outdoor events and also that you are familiar with the details of the events in the story of the gold canyon.

Sincerely,

G. Stuart Brown

G. Stuart Brown

*Goldman
Rush
524*

4384

2713 Norberry Cres.,
Ottawa, K1V 6N3,
October 26, 1981.

Mr. Don Waite,
22317 Lougheed Highway,
Maple Ridge, B. C.
V2X 2T3.

209

Dear Don,

You will probably be wondering by this time whether or not you would hear from me again. However, I am enclosing herewith copies of my correspondence with British Columbia officials regarding Slumach's Lost gold mine. I do not consider that the letters are confidential enough to be restricted but would appreciate being consulted and kept in the know when and how you intend to use them when you do. The picture enclosed is copyrighted and you will have to get written permission if you wish to use it.

After leaving Maple Ridge in late August we spent two weeks in the Okanagan, a few days with friends at Banff with a trip to Jasper, then had a leisurely trip home, visiting friends and relatives along the way.

I have attempted to go in to the canyon several times since I first found it in 1974. Five times I was turned back by torrential rain or blizzards after almost reaching the spot and on the last two occasions each of my travelling companions gave out with foot and boot problems and I had to see that they got out safely. I am not sure what 1982 will bring but it is likely that I will try it alone and if I fail I will then identify the site to the public. I do have a promise from the Parks Branch that they will attempt to have something done but I have heard nothing from them as yet.

Please acknowledge receipt of the enclosed.

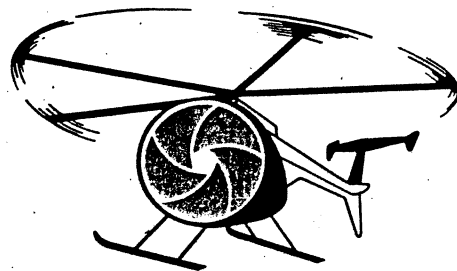
Sincerely,

Stu

G. Stuart Brown

DONALD E. WAITE

**AERIAL &
COMMERCIAL**
PHOTOGRAPHY CO. LTD.



21 December, 1985

210

Mr. G. Stuart Brown,
2713 Norberry Cres.,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1V 6N3

Dear Mr. Brown,

It has been a long time since I last pulled the old 'Slumach file'.

Just recently I received quotes from a printer to do another run of one of my titles. After some conversation I came to the conclusion that I could reprint four titles for about half the cost to produce one if they were all on the press at the same time. With that information I have decided to run four titles in the spring. I would very much like to do a revised edition of The Golden Ears Story illustrated deleting the 16 page signature of color and adding 16 pages of text about the Lost Mine.

Would you have any objection if I mentioned you in the chapter on the Lost Mine story and quoted from a couple of your letters? I am anxious to hear from you as I have a great deal of preparation to do if I am going to be able to pull this project off.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Waite

211

PO Box 765, Stn A,
Kelowna, B.C.
July 18, 1986.

Dear Don,

This is just a note to keep in touch and let you know I haven't forgotten the suggestion about the date of our proposed trip to Garibaldi Park.

I have paid constant attention to the weather and weather trends and now feel that it would be unwise to attempt going in before the middle of August or later. I hope the weather will change by then. The best weather I have seen in there was in September and this is a similar year.

I will be in touch with you again and will try to contact you when I visit at Honey in early August.

Sincerely,

Stuart

18-

~~604~~ - 860 - 6482

14-Aug-86 -

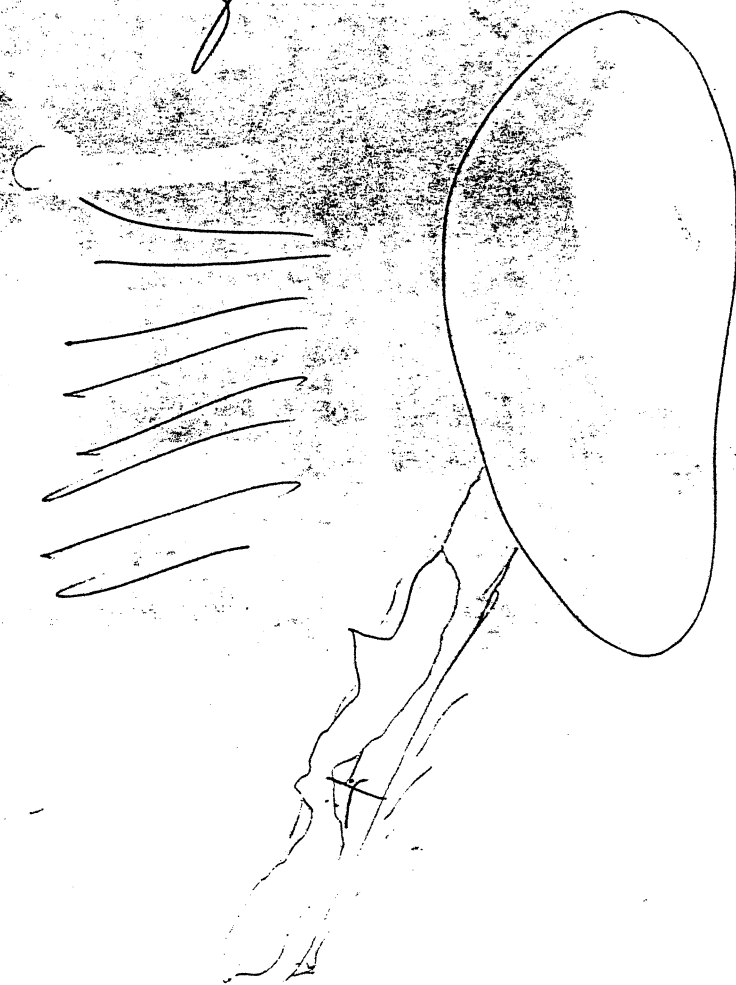
Mon + Tues
25-26 Aug

1 Aug 87

212

Threatened by prov. harassment to
charge him with buying and
selling.

Edward Horner - 80 yr. old
in Victoria
- found it with Brown.



213

Upon his return to Ottawa wrote
NDP out in spring of 1975.
In fall of 1974.

Tried to go in every year through
34 - fellows cupped up.
until in the end he got to too old
& cupped up.

On his trip
— blisters - realized he was no
longer capable of such strenuous
activity - 70 years of age.

Blisters on sole & toes & heels &
20-40° incline for 17 miles
One time caught in ^{new} Mizzou with a
30 MPH in mid-August.

Another time rains created 4' deep
creeks which were non-existent
10 hr. earlier.

found their mounds willing but
their body's ~~weak~~ too soft.
feet always gave out

214

1974

Took holidays in June & attempted to go in.
Snow for too deep - spring run off not
even started - in about 2 mo.
too early. Had determined that site
had to be 1 of 2 locations. ~~Reached~~
Returned in ~~mid~~ ^{mid August} & reached both
locations. ~~Found~~ ~~the~~ the good canyon
Identified.

& brought out 10# of nuggets.
Told assistant the canyon's location
but poor weather set in & the two
were forced to leave. Only had
7 days of supplies - 2 days in.
Broke holidays into 2 vacations.
1973-4

Spent winter of 1973-4 studying
maps & ~~aerial~~ stereoscopic aerial
photos to pinpoint most likely
location of the - ~~the~~ hear up in
mined Johnson's area & Brown's
lost camp.

1977. During his tenure in that position

1/2 cherry fruit fly, ~~may fly~~ crane fly.

Involves maps - 6" to the mile ^{vertically taken}

Involves enlargement of aerial photographs of 6" to the mile

stereo scope air photos.

When he first became interested in Shumacher's host Joel Mein Brown was working on his thesis on the sawfly at ~~the~~ from Port Coquitlam to Mission. (in 1949 ~~1950~~)

One of his associates proposed they take 2 weeks holiday & go in July & Aug.

Abandoned any idea of opening up to Ottawa. Not until 1973

he became serious in taking up the hunt. & that was when he was working on the maps.

(216)

taught entomology courses to
undergraduates while taking his
masters degree:

- Forest insect investigation from
Victoria - Can. Gov't.

worked during summer 48-49 + took
leave of absence to go back to school.
worked for Alaska Co. Inc.

Employed on insect research ~~and~~ in B.C.
until 1956, + then transferred to
plant quarantine

inspecting plant import into Canada,

~~Jan 1956~~ In Jan ~~1956~~ 1960

transferred to Ottawa

as Officer in Plant Quarantine Victoria
1957 - to 1960.

+ went as
Assistant Chief of Plant Quarantine in Ottawa
but in 1962 ~~took the~~ applied for +
became Coordinator of surveys
for Introduced Plant Pests + Diseases.
held this post until his retirement in

217

Regina - to - Montreal RCAF - to
~~Halifax~~ N.S. to ~~Bourne~~ Bournemouth, England
for embarkation by ship to \nearrow
RCAF

Pilot Officer - - - - - 1945
1916
29 YR
of age

Shortly after his return to Canada
was posted to camp for discharge of
German Beach.
1 day of the Vicksburg Japan Day
VJ Day.

In the fall of 1945 enrolled at UBC
under the rehabilitation plan. Graduated
with a ^{B. Comm.} commerce degree in 1947

B. Sc. ~~in 1948~~
B. Sc. F (Bachelor of Science in Forestry)
In 1951 Master of Science in ~~Entomology~~
Forest Entomology.

these on saw fly.

(218)

3 survivors 8-1 sent home as
an invalid to Montreal, Que.

- Awarded to General award
for Proficiency for Manitoba ~~High~~ for
High School Graduation.
at Minnedosa ~~High~~ Collegiate Institute.

Graduated in 1937 with a
senior matriculation + 12 years later
went to work at the Brandon Mental
Hospital where his future wife was
training as a student nurse.
Graduated from there in 1941 with
a certificate in ~~the~~ psychiatric
nursing.

Moved in June 1941 while working at
hospital.

Did ground training + theory at
Saskatoon + ~~flight training~~
initial flying training +
navigation at Regina

~~in the~~ Air OBSERVERS School
at Regina.

Plane shot down ^{by} ~~with~~ Dornier 217-
twin engine fighter - newest German
plane at the time. -
1.45 AM Aug 28, 1943 - taken P.O.W.
first to internment camp at
(near Hamburg), before being transferred
to Stalag ^{in Western Germany} ~~IV-B~~ - P.O.W. for 21 months
released ~~with~~ ^{by} the Russians.
~~Captain~~ Pilot which shot down
I was with Crack Squadron in
defense of Berlin. He spoke fluent
Eng. + had attended Oxford for 2
years prior to the war.
shot down when within 40 miles of
the target of Nuremberg. Throwing out
from Middleton - St. George, north of
England. (aerial photography) (M. Gues)
- 8 waves of 105 - 840 aircraft
Canadian, Australian, N.Z. + Eng. + Polish
~~sent an airt~~ Rod - 2-2,000# bombs +
your plane? 5,000# of 11-4
" 15000 incendiaries

Re: George Stuart Brown.

Dec 14, 1916

Basswood, Manitoba.

Edward James Brown

Home May Rose.

Father's paternal grandfather - Eng.

mother - Canadian.

Father ~~originally~~ a ~~to~~ taught school before joining up, ~~then~~ ~~was~~ for 20 yrs. worked on road. - labourer.

tailor -

Joined air force in 1941 - European theatre - shot down in Germany on a raid to Nuremberg - flew 17 bombing missions over Germany - navigator - flying Wellingtons & then Halifaxes shot down in Halifax. Bailed out at 15,000 ft. - wounded ~~with~~

221

Box 765, Stn A,
Kelowna, B. C.,
V1Y 7P4,
November 5, 1986.

LM

Mr. Donald Waite,
Suite 35,
22374 Lougheed Highway,
Maple Ridge, B. C.,
V2X 2T5

Dear Don,

I was quite surprised to learn from your letter of October 21 that you and Vic had returned to Garibaldi Park for two days. It is unfortunate that you did not contact me before going as I could have saved you a lot of unnecessary effort.

On my return to Kelowna from Haney I examined my snaps from my previous complete trip made in 1974 and knew immediately where I had gone wrong. I have one snap of the stream in which the actual gold lies and one of the outlet to the stream "with no apparent outlet" (see Jackson letter). It was this latter snap that brought it back. The snap of the tent-shaped rock did not show enough to help.

It would be absolutely no problem now for me to go directly to this stream as it is a substantial white-water stream, though not on any map that I have seen.

I would have written sooner but have been away again, this time to Reno for a week. Your letter was waiting for me when I arrived home. I am sure it is too late to go in again this year but we will keep it open for next year and I am sure there will be no mistakes then. I am sending a copy of this to Vic to keep him informed.

I would appreciate having the name of the pilot of the helicopter. I have forgotten it. I will also look over my wartime snaps, though you would probably not recognize me from any of them.

Best regards, and keep in touch.

Stu

March 31, 1987

Ridge/Meadows Times

Prospector says nearing final chapter

There's gold in them hills

Don Waite has been chasing rainbows for more than 10 years, but the Maple Ridge writer and



Don Waite...chasing rainbows for gold.

photographer thinks he's getting closer and closer to the pot of gold.

The legend of the lost Pitt Lake gold mine has captured the imagination of hundreds since stories first began to appear in the 1890s of an old Indian who periodically came out from the mountains surrounding Pitt Lake with a haversack stuffed with gold.

Old Slumach was hanged in 1891 at the B.C. Penitentiary on charges he murdered a young Indian from the Katzie Reserve. With Slumach went the secrets of his gold.

But this summer, in his third edition of a book on the lost gold mine, Waite hopes to reveal the secret.

A former member of the RCMP, Waite first became intrigued by the lost gold story in 1967 when he was employed to clean out a vault at the B.C. Penitentiary. In a dusty file, Waite found the records of Slumach's trial. Something in that file struck a chord. Later transferred to the detachment in Haney, Waite found himself taking every opportunity to discuss the lost mine with local prospectors and members of the Katzie Reserve.

He later quit the RCMP and in 1972 published his first book—Kwanstan, which includes the story of the lost Pitt Lake gold mine.

Since then, Waite's search has become more intensive.

Last summer, he made five trips into the highest reaches of the North Pitt Lake area with a helicopter. And Waite has covered almost every inch of the land by foot. On one occasion, he and several other hikers climbed 10,000 vertical feet up and down steep ravines in a single day.

According to Waite, nearly 20 people—most of them gold seekers—have died in the near impenetrable forest where the mine is believed to be located.

But Waite is not alone in his search.

At a meeting in January of the Lost Gold Mine of Pitt Lake Club seven die-hard believers turned up.

While many scoff and call the gold mine pure legend, Waite says he has good reason to believe there is gold up there.

Like a true prospector he keeps most of his reasons secret, but Waite said the Port Douglas Indians from the Harrison Lake area were known to use bullets moulded from gold. The stories of Slumach's walnut sized gold nuggets are well documented in news accounts from that period, and in 1930 when searchers found the last camp site of a prospector who died looking for the gold, they found a glass jar filled with 11 ounces of coarse gold.

After nearly ten years of searching, Waite won't say why he suddenly feels close to the jackpot. In the next few months, he plans to return to the lakeshore with a 70-year-old prospector who Waite says once found the gold mine "and then lost it". He offers no further explanation.

But if the stories of gold are pure legend, old Slumach has already given Waite a streak of good fortune. Since writing his first book on the lost mine, he has gone on to write several more including his latest on the Caribou Gold Rush and a book on North American Birds.

"I might just be chasing rainbows," said Waite with a shrug, "but what the hell. I like what I'm doing."

2322

Box 765, Stn A.,
Kelowna, B.C.,
V1Y 7P4
April 29, 1987.

223

Mr. Donald E. Waite,
22382 - 119th Ave.,
Maple Ridge, B. C.,
V2X 2Z3

Dear Don,

I am returning the snaps as you requested as they are of little use to me.

Each time I re-read the article of Hillary Downing in The Times of March 31 I become increasingly annoyed. When I first invited you and Vic Loffler to accompany me into Garibaldi Park to go to Slumach's gold canyon it was not with the intention that you should take over, but strictly with the idea that I should have someone to accompany me in an area unsafe to travel alone. From the very beginning Vic assumed charge; so I let him go ahead, knowing that he was unaware of the location of the canyon.

Now the article of March 31st appears in a publication for the general public to read. This article quite clearly implies that you are the key figure and have been in the whole search for the canyon, even though it is clearly documented that I had entered the canyon even before you started searching for it. Many of my friends were absolutely flabbergasted that you would permit such an article to be published. Until such time as this article is completely rescinded and your minor role in the matter made public to my satisfaction you can expect absolutely no cooperation or assistance from me in any way in the future. In the meantime I have made plans to take a party of three to the site with permission to bring out official samples for analysis.

As for losing the canyon or even becoming disoriented in any way, there is nothing further from the truth. I could travel there in pitch darkness without a map without the least hesitation. There are others who are closer to finding the canyon than you are so there is more concern over their activities than there is over yours.

Yours truly,

Stu

G. Stuart Brown

Russ Tremblay 13/01/96 462-0889
Al Finnbogason (folks) 942-5772

Bradford Hartmann
463-3402 —
Lyon cel → 551-9048

Robert Van Oker
~~18930~~ 18930 Ford Rd
V3Y 1X1 836-0942

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V6H 2G6
Canada