

Interviews with Amanda Charnley



Amanda Charnley (Aunt Mandy) and Donald E. Waite, 1972. (Photo courtesy Donald E. Waite)

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From Don Waite's book *Kwant'san (The Golden Ears)*, 1972.

“Here is what my father told me about Slumach, the killing of Louie Bee, and the gold that Slumach found in the Pitt Country.

My father, Peter Pierre, a catechist from the Roman Catholic Order of Mary Immaculate and Medicine Man of the Katzie Indian Reserve, was Slumach's nephew.

Father said that Charlie Slumach at the time of the

shooting of Bee was closer to eighty than to sixty and that he was a crippled and harmless old widower who lived at the bottom end of Pitt Lake in a shack which was on the abandoned Silver Creek Indian Reserve. He had a brother named Smum-qua and a married daughter Mary living at Cowichan on Vancouver Island.

My father spent the last week of Slumach's life with him in prison teaching him religion and preparing him for the hereafter.

It was during that week that Slumach told him what had happened at Alouette Slough. He said that he had been heading up the Lower Pitt River in his canoe to his cabin when he spotted a deer. He shot at the animal from his canoe and then pulled in to beach to see if he had hit the animal. Seeing blood he ventured into the bush to look for the wounded animal. After a lengthy and futile search he was returning to his canoe when he saw two Indians in a canoe out on the water. One was Louis Boulier, a half French half Kanaka, often called Bee for short, and the other was Charlie Seymour, an Indian from Harrison Mills. Slumach told Peter that Boulier held a grudge against him and stepping ashore came at him wielding an axe and shouting, 'I'm going to chop your damn head off.' Slumach said he raised his shotgun out of sheer fright and fired point blank at Boulier killing him instantly. Seymour, the only witness, disappeared into the bush.

Slumach placed Boulier's body into the victim's own canoe and set it in midstream to drift down to the fishing party. Slumach did not accompany the body because he feared Boulier's friends might mob him. He then got into his own canoe and paddled upstream to his cabin. The following day a boat came out to Slumach's home. The occupants or posse merely fired shots into the house which resulted in Slumach escaping out the back

door and hiding under a fallen tree. The group aboard the boat disgusted Peter by the irresponsible manner in which they carried out their duties. To ensure that Slumach would not return to his home for shelter they burned it to the ground.

It was to Peter that Slumach eventually surrendered. Peter persuaded his uncle to give himself up to the Indian agent. My father went into the bush after his uncle without a gun despite warnings from the posse. Peter told them that he was going to see his uncle and not some wild animal. He found Slumach half-starved hidden under a fallen tree.

According to my father there was only the hangman, Father Morgan, and himself that actually witnessed the hanging of his uncle although a great many were present outside the gallows. When the hangman was placing the hood over Slumach's head the old Indian asked him in Chinook not to waste nay time. At that moment my father closed his eyes and began to pray with Father Morgan. When he opened his eyes all he could see was the dangling rope.

Slumach was buried in an unknown grave in the prison cemetery in Sapperton despite attempts by his daughter to get possession of his body to give him a proper burial.

Photo courtesy Donald E. Waite



*Peter Pierre and his family in 1907. Back row: Margaret (Margie) Pierre and Xavier Pierre
Front row: Peter Pierre, Matilda Pierre. Catherine (Mrs. Peter Pierre) née Charles and Amanda Mary Pierre.*

It was during my father's stay in prison that Slumach told him about finding gold in the Pitt Country. Slumach told my father that only on one occasion did he ever take gold out of the Pitt. He said he had met Port Douglas Indians from the head of Harrison Lake coming off Glacier Lake and down Patterson Creek into the Upper Pitt Valley. They told him that they had taken horses part way but had driven them back towards Port Douglas and had crossed Glacier Lake on foot. They gave him a handful of bullets moulded from gold which they had found in Third Canyon.

Slumach spent the night in the canyon and slept on a bench-shaped rock on the west side of the river. The rock was covered with a rust-coloured moss. When he awoke around 5 a.m. he could scarcely see the sun coming over three mountain peaks for the east wall of the canyon. During this time he was still shrouded in darkness. As it became lighter Slumach could see in his own surroundings.

Peeling the moss off his rock bed he saw a yellow metal. He dug out some stake nuggets with a pen knife and half-filled his shot bag with them.

He sold the half-filled shot bag, which was about the same size as a ten pound sugar bag, to a store keeper in New Westminster for \$27. The store keeper went back to England a short time after the purchase.

That, claimed Slumach, was the only gold that he ever took out of the Pitt country. Sitting on the cell bench Slumach drew a map for Peter of the location where he found the nuggets. Peter memorized the drawing and then destroyed it. Years later he redrew the map. A daughter traced out three copies, however the original and the copies were destroyed in the 1930s in a house fire.

Interview posted here with kind permission of Mike Collier.

Tape Reel #1 Recorded April 26, 1978 at Don Waite's residence (in Maple Ridge)

Questioning by Mike Collier on Uher 4200 3 _ IPS.

This is what I'm going to tell you right now about the old man (Slumach). I don't know anything about him that my father didn't tell me. All I know is that he was half from Katzie Indian Reserve and half Nanaimo and he wasn't a blood relative to my father. He was like his cousin's husband or something like that, his aunt's husband, that's why they called him Uncle Charlie.

Question: Slumach was half Katzie Indian and Half Nanaimo?

Answer: Yes. And before that happened, I didn't know anything about him. All I know is that he had one daughter.

Question: Named Annie?

Answer: Yes. And she was married at Cowichan (Vancouver Island) and she would be dead and gone now.

Question: Did any of your family remember Slumach's daughter?

Answer: No.

Question: How about Chief Coquitlam Williams, does your family know him?

Answer: Yes. Tommy Williams you mean? His father was Coquitlam Williams.

Question: Did your father Peter Pierre know Coquitlam Williams?

Answer: Oh, yes. Coquitlam Williams said that he knew of Slumach's mine. Oh, if you're talking about Tommy Williams (the son), he wouldn't know anything about it. Tommy was known to tell stories. They told me they read in the papers or read to me in the paper

that the ghost of an Indian who died on the gallows in New Westminster guards lost creek mine's fabulous Eldorado that lured 21 white men to mysterious deaths. it begins: "The legend was told today by 79 year old Chief August Jack Katsilano, the only Indian living that knows the whole story..." Does that name sound familiar?

Answer: He's from North Vancouver and he's half Cowichan. He died long ago.

Question: Is he from Dan George's tribe?

Answer: Yes, but my father was the only proof man. He was there. He stayed with the old man in his (prison) cell for a whole week teaching him his Catechism. You know, my father was a devote Catholic. He was teaching him all the rites of the Church and all that hereafter stuff. Simon Pierre was my oldest brother. My father was born in 1859.

Answer: Peter Pierre taught Catechism to Slumach.

Question: Katzie? Slumach spoke Katzie?

Answer: Yes, Nanaimo (is a) different dialect. (Indians) spoke Katzie from Yale to the mouth of the Fraser. The Squamish Indians spoke (sounded like) Chinese to me.

Question: Can you tell me what you remember from your Dad telling you about being in jail with Slumach?

Answer: I wasn't born then. I was born in 1902 and this happened in the nineties. 1890. All I know (is) what he told us about it. It all started with all the lies they said about him. He was this and that you know, cruel old man and all that, but my parents both said he was a kind old man. He was a cripple. He had a cane when he walked. He wobbled. He broke his hip when he was younger and as he got older he had to have a cane. It said in the stories they told about him that he was 65 but my father said he must have been over 80. If he

wasn't 80 he'd be over 80 because he was such an elderly man.

Question: Did Slumach shoot Louis Bee?

Answer: He didn't intend to do it. This guy (Bee) was drunk when he came after him. And my father said that this old man Slumach had a very weak voice and this Louis Bee was shouting. He was drunk and when Slumach told him "I shot a deer" this guy shouted back at him "What were you shooting?" Slumach answered "Come and help. I'll tell you when I get out (of the bush). You just wait there." Well this guy (Bee) jumped out of the canoe. (He) had his big axe. "If you don't answer me," and swearing at him "If you don't answer me you old so and so Black Face I'll chop your head off. I'm coming after you." He (Bee) was about eight or nine feet away from him (Slumach) running up toward the old man. This guy (Bee) really means what he says so he (Slumach) took his gun from under his arm like this and the cane from the other side. He put up his gun like this and fired a shot about three feet to his right and Louis (tried to) jump backwards (when he) saw the old man put up his gun. (He) jumped backwards right where the shot went and (was) shot right in his right side and chest. And the man that was with him jumped out of the canoe right away and ran into the bush. He didn't see what happened so the old man stood there. He pulled the canoe in. Louis' canoe. He (Bee) was still breathing. He wasn't quite dead. He (Slumach) stood there thinking what he should do. Should he take him (Bee) back to his people? He thought about what would happen if he told the story (and concluded that) they'd just shoot him down. He put him (Bee) back in his canoe and set him adrift down the river. Slumach then went on up (river in his own canoe to) his home.

Question: At the trial Chief Swanaset testified.?

Answer: Old Slumach didn't see Old Swaneset coming down the river because he was in the bush looking for the deer that he shot. He shot this deer from his canoe going up stream and when he shot the deer he got off his canoe and went in the bush looking for it for about 45 minutes or more and those guys come around.

Question: They say Slumach stayed in the bush for two months.

Answer: So the books say. It couldn't (have) been that long because when my father walked in his house he had a lot of food. He must have been cooking his lunch or breakfast because he had bacon, potatoes and a frying pan. The kettle was boiling when my father walked in.

Question: They found him in his house?

Answer: Yes. The old man ran for the bush when he saw the boat coming. He thought they were coming to shoot at him again like the day before.

Question: They shot at him the day before?

Answer: When they first went they fired shots at his house (from) about two or three hundred yards away. He ran away from his house and after two hours he came back to his house. The next day my father went back with the posse. When my father told them to put the little boat out from the tug boat so he could row to shore they were going to give him a gun. "What do you want me to take a gun for? I'm not going after an animal, I'm going to see my uncle." He didn't take a gun or anything. He walked in(to) his little house. He had a little two room house. He wasn't in there (but) the back door was open. He had snucked out. He (my father) shouted and shouted (and) when the old man heard my father's voice, "We're not going to hurt you, you can come out, nobody's going to hurt you." He (Slumach) returned. He didn't have his gun with him. All his guns

were in the house. My father knew he was safe. He (Slumach) came out willingly.

Question: That's when he was arrested?

Answer: That's what my father told me.

Question: Do you personally believe that Slumach had a gold mine somewhere?

Answer: Well, I believe (so) because he told my father so.

Question: He told your father that he did have a gold mine?

Answer: That he discovered it. He went up there when he wanted and brought over half a bag of it. Years ago they used to have the 10 pound cotton sugar bags, that's how big. That's how much he brought down. You know how much he got for it? (He got) 27 dollars.

Question: How did you know that?

Answer: He didn't want anybody to know. He told the man he sold the money to not to tell anybody because he knew if anybody found out they would be after him to show them where he got the stuff.

Question: When your father was teaching Catechism to Slumach did he draw a map?

Answer: The day before he was hung my father told me that when the Catechism was finished the priest anointed him and baptized him and all that. He (Slumach) pulled out a bench and he drew the map on the bench in that cell.

Question: Did you ever see the map?

Answer: My father memorized it. My father travelled in his young childhood days and knew all the mountain sides and all the summits of the mountains up there like the palm of his hand.

Question: Did your father ever find any of the gold?

Answer: He did try to go many years after the old man was hung but he met with an accident. He went to the Second Canyon and was going to jump across a creek but when he jumped on the boulder in the middle of the creek, he slipped and broke his hip and they had to carry him back. His wife went with them and was there when they carried him back to the canoe and brought him home to New Westminster and the hospital. And that was the last time he went.

Question: What year was that?

Answer: It was somewhere in the nineties—the late nineties.

Question: Do you know somebody named Jones?

Answer: I know a Bill Jones. He was a broker. I mustn't mention names because he has a boy living in Pitt Meadows.

Question: What was his relation to the story?

Answer: He tried to go up there. He tried to get my father to go up there and my father went with him twice and they brought out some samples. They didn't get up to the canyon where they were supposed to go. They just washed in Patterson Creek, They brought home samples but there was no platinum or gold—just a little bit of silver and copper. After that Jones got somebody else. He was side-tracked by my father and brother.

Question: You mean he got somebody else?

Answer: He got a fisherman and prospector who thought he knew where it was but they didn't find it.

Question: Did Jones take his son?

Answer: No, he was just a boy, 4 years old. It was a long time ago. The son would be 60 or 70 now? Well, he must be in his 50's at least. He wouldn't remember anything.

Question: Did you father make any copies of that map Slumach drew for him?

Answer: Yes.

Question: What happened to them?

Answer: They got burnt. He made that first map and I copied that map. I traced it from his map and my bother put it in a box and put it away in his house. Many years after that the house got burned and (they) lost everything on Barnston Island. That's Joe Pierre's father's (Xavier Pierre)house.

Questioned by Don Waite

Question: Did any one else in your family go looking for this gold?

Answer: No, the young generation isn't interested. I haven't got a brother living—only one sister, Mrs. Jamison who is 81. They weren't interested. It's too much work climbing up the mountains and besides some of them never came back. They got lost up there and some got hurt.

Question: Did you ever hear of John Jackson?

Answer: Jackson from California? My parents brought him out of Pitt Lake. I think it was before I was born. My parents were cruising around the lake in a canoe one afternoon and they heard a whistle. My father looked around and they saw this object way out in the lake on the east side of Penitentiary Island. They saw this animal or human being waving at them. He looked like an animal from far away. When they heard him speak they found out he was a person. They went ashore and he asked my father to take him out to New Westminster. He said that he'd pay my father. 'Just give me your address I'll pay you when I get home, I haven't got any money.' They brought him down to the quarry.

Question: What did he look like?

Answer: He was all dressed in skins. I guess deer hides. His feet were wrapped up. All his clothes were torn up.

He lived on wild animals.

Question: Did he have any gold with him?

Answer: He had a pack sack made out of hide and when he was getting off the canoe he told my father he had landed it. The right stuff all right and that he had found the thing (the gold mine?). It was the last time we heard of him.

Question: Did you know Volcanic Brown? What do you remember about him?

Answer: Oh, yes. He used to go up there every summer.

Question: How old was he?

Answer: He was in his 70's. He must have been almost 80 when he went missing. He went up there to the head of the lake for 7 to 10 years, every year.

Question: Did he ever talk to you about the gold?

Answer: He came to my father every time. He came down from the Okanagan every summer. He came to my father to try to get information but my father wouldn't say anything.

Question: Were they friends?

Answer: Oh, yes.

Question: You were just a little girl then?

Answer: No, I was in my teens, my late teens. I think I was married already when he went lost.

Question: Have you heard about his gold teeth?

Answer: No.

TAPE #2

Questioned by Mike Collier

Question: Wonder what happened to the jar of gold found in Volcanic's tent?

Answer: I suppose they took it—the people that found it. My father thought that he went too far away up on

the glacier and fell between (the crevices) and that he'd be up there frozen or something.

Question: They say he cut off his toes on an earlier expedition?

Answer: He came back again, next time he didn't come back. Two years later he came up the lake again. He's still up there (but dead).

Question: Do you remember the time he cut off his toes?

Answer: No, he didn't come to my parents' house. He said last time he came (that) it got pretty cold up there. The best time to go up there is in the fall. That's what Old Slumach said.

Question: Someone found an old cabin on Burke Mountain about 3000 feet up. Could it have been Slumach's?

Answer: No. He didn't make no cabins up there. He just slept in a hollow tree. He didn't build no cabin, he just slept out.

Question: But when your father went to find him he was in a cabin?

Answer: Oh yes, where his camp is just before you get to Pitt Lake. Silver Creek they call it, about 300 yards east of Silver Creek, there is a rock that sticks out in the river, its about 200 yards out in the river, about 75 yards wide. That's where the old man's house was.

Question: That's where it was when the posse burnt it down?

Answer: Yes. After they got the old man in a boat then they got out and burnt his house.

Question: That wasn't very nice since he hadn't been convicted yet.

Answer: My father said it was self defense.

Question: There were two or three people that testified at the trial and Slumach's daughter Annie was looking for some people to testify. Rose somebody and an extension of the trial was asked for but not given.

Answer: The only witness to that shooting was a man from Harrison Mills who was with Louis Bee. His name was Charlie Seymour.

Question: Slumach's daughter said at the trial, "I, Annie, an Indian woman of Cowichan in the Province of British Columbia make oath and say that I am a daughter of the above named Slumach, 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 Reed to give evidence on the trial of the said Slumach of the above charge, that I have not been able to procure the attendance at this court of the said Moody or said Florence Reed."

Answer: Moody? What was his first name? I never heard of them.

Question: Slumach said at the trial: "I the above named Slumach make oath and say that one Moody, an 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 the following facts."

Answer: My father said that there were so many people related to Old Slumach that just blackened the old man like the devil himself and that he was a crook. My parents said he was a kind old person and very soft spoken. Whenever he came down from up there where he lived—my parents lived in South Westminster near the bank on the east side of the first bridge—he brought venison or trout.

Question: Slumach said at his trial that "Louis Bee the decease was habitually quarrelling with me and that he

frequently harassed me with improper language and also that he threatened me more than once with violence and I was in constant fear of him."

Answer: He was afraid that this drunk guy was going to harm him. So why he put his gun up to scare him off but Louis Bee jumped in front of the shot. He told my father he didn't mean to shoot him (but) just wanted to scare him off.

Question: What about the women Slumach took with him?

Answer: Oh, I read that story in Braille. I was so glad to tell the truth, tell the real story. So many books (like *McLeans Magazine* and the *Courier* that the neighbours would read to me. Nothing until Don's book (told the true story). Gold as big as walnuts and that hed treat everybody in the bars were all lies. He came down with it only once and nobody knew. Nobody knew anything about it till my father got hurt. And then the story went around. Italians, prospectors from Italy came to see him about it. Oh shucks.

Question: Was Slumach known as a good hunter?

Answer: He got to know about this mining. He used to take prospectors all around the lake and rivers and creeks from New Westminster and government surveyors and that's how he became familiar with minerals. That's how he got to know about this (mining) while up the lake. One time in the summer time way up at the head of the lake he saw two men firing shots up in the air to signal to him so he paddled his way to them. They were Indians from Port Douglas. They'd come so far on horse back and at Glacier Lake had sent the horses back and they then walked (the rest of the way) over the mountain shooting deer (for food). It took them three days to come over to that shore. When they got to this wall they saw this thing and this guy got his pen knife

and started digging. They were all the bullets for his rifle. It was so soft—a vein-like shiny thing they come upon and they started molding it into bullets. When Slumach brought the Indians to New Westminster one of them gave him a handful of bullets and told him that it was for his trouble for bringing them out. The men had relatives that worked at the cannery in New Westminster. They had thought they would just come over the mountain and reach New Westminster. They told the old man where they found this thing. Next year the old man went up and he found what he got 27 dollars for.

Question: Do you remember anyone else who got lost looking for the mine?

Answer: I know a young man from Mission, Northcot, he fell over a cliff, I don't know if he died, he was badly injured anyway.

Question: Quite a few injured?

Answer: That's why my father didn't go back.

Question: Indian people injured?

Answer: August Jack, the only one that went up there, took some people, prospectors up there, never found it.

Question: Coquitlam Williams, Tommy Williams father?

I don't think old Tommy Williams' father knew anything. He looked kind of stupid to me. Tommy Williams died a few years ago.

Question: Do you know Dave Bailey?

Answer: He was from Coquitlam. He was half Scotch and half Indian. He married an Indian woman and they had two girls. My oldest brother, he was older than Simon, married Dave Bailey's oldest daughter. My brother died when he was 26 years old and he left two children, the girl died when she was 18 which left only a son Rich-

ard who took his grandfather's name of Bailey and not Pierre. He lives on the Katzie Reserve.

Question: Would he know anything about the mine?

Answer: He never listened to my father. He was never around. He boozes a lot. Dave Bailey didn't know much about it. My father asked him to come that time he broke his hip. They were related by the marriage.

Question: Have you heard of Shotwell?

Answer: No.

Question: Heard of Hugh Murray?

Answer: No.

Question: Who was Louis Bee?

Answer: His mother was Katzie and his father was Hawaiian, deserter from the boats.

Question: Did he drink a lot?

Answer: He boozed a lot.

Question: Did your father witness the hanging?

Answer: There was Moresby, Judge, father Morgan, the doctor and my father that was all that witnessed the hanging and his daughter was downstairs. And all the story books say they hung him on a tree and a multitude of people watching but it wasn't so.

Question: What was the real story?

Answer: The led him up the steps, poor old guy. When they led him up the steps he went up willingly. When he got up there they put the hood on, tied him up with the rope, the noose was hanging from above and the hangman was shaking like a leaf. My father was praying. Slumach told him to hurry and not to waste time.

Question: Slumach and curse on gold?

Answer: No. He never mentioned anything to anyone except my father. You know where Sturgeon Slough is? This point on the west side of Sturgeon Slough across

the Pitt River, the corner before you turn north to the quarry, that's where it happened, just a little west of the corner. Where the group of Indians were camping at the mouth of the Alouette River, that's where they would camp and fish.

Question: Who was the Indian with Louis Bee?

Answer: Charlie Seymour. He jumped off the canoe and ran for the bush on the north side of the river, same side where Louis Bee was shot. He claims that he shouted for some people that was out in the river fishing, come and pick him up on the north side of the river.

TAPE #3 (ROLL 3)

Question: Chinook language?

Answer: Made up language. French, Latin and Indian and all that mixed. Just made up. I remember old father Chirouse, he was pretty good at that. My father worked with the French missionaries (at Mission). He understood French but couldn't speak it. He could understand Latin but couldn't speak it. In the church he used to interpret the priests.

Question: Diamond Jeness?

Answer: Oh, yes. He came to my father and wrote "Faith of the Coast Salish Indian." Down from Yale (University). I was born in South Westminister but my parents moved to Katzie, a mile below Hammond.

Question: Indian conflicts?

Answer: Rivalry. The west coast of Vancouver Island Indians used to attack the Indians towards springtime. (They'd attack) the land Indians for food and take away young kids for slaves. This all ended when Hudson Bay came to Langley, mowed them down with machine guns. Last time they ever came to attack.

TAPE #4 (ROLL 4) "ON FILM"

SYNC SOUND SEQUENCES

Slate 1 - Slumach canoed on Pitt Lake and picked up these three (Port Douglas Indians) men and he took them down to New Westminster. These men disembarked from the canoe, and one of them handed Slumach a handful of bullets. Slumach looked at it and he told them it was gold. "Yes, I know," was the reply. "There's lots of it." He then went on to tell Slumach where he could find it. "You go up there and get all you want, up on the Pitt." And that's how the world got to know about Slumach's gold.

Slate 4 - My father Peter Pierre spent a week with Slumach before he was to be executed, teaching him his Catechisms to know the rights for the Catholic church and the day before he was to be executed, my father told him he was ready for the next world, and he drew the bench toward my father and him and he wanted a pen and my father asked the guard for a pen and he gave it to him and he drew the map on the bench for my father, just where the gold was located and gave the pen back and told my father whenever you need money just go up there and get it, its just plain as daylight. My father memorized it, he knew all about the lake, Pitt Lake mountains, in his younger days he used to roam around, and he memorized this map and they destroyed it. That's that.

Slate 5 - My parents, Mr. And Mrs. Peter Pierre were canoeing just around the lake by Golden Ears beach and they heard...

Slate 6 - My parents, Mr. And Mrs. Peter Pierre were canoeing on Pitt Lake and pretty well close to the Golden Ears and they heard somebody shouting and my father looked around and saw this object on the beach and my mother was afraid to go near because it looked like

an animal. And my father heard him speak, no he said he's a human being. What's wrong. Mr. Jackson was all dressed in skin, his feet were wrapped up in skin, he had a pack sack made out of deerskin and he asked them to take him to the quarry in Pitt River, and he brought him there, and when they were coming down in the canoe, he told my father "I landed the stuff", he meant gold, "there's lots of it there, I'm going to come back and open it up. I got some in this pack sack, samples to take home," and he told my father where he came from, California. Gave my father his name and address, says I have no money now but I'll send you some money for your trouble in bringing me out. That's the story. All I know about Jackson.

Slate 7 - How it was told to me by my father Peter Pierre, about Slumach. He was coming from New Westminster for food supply, going up the Pitt River in a canoe, when he got to a certain place they called, just as they turned north on Pitt River. He saw a deer so (he shot the deer) and he thought he killed it but apparently when he got off the canoe, he pulled his canoe up and he traced the blood up in the bush, he went about 50 yards in the bush couldn't find the track no more so he turned back. When he came out of the bush, these two men in a canoe on the river were shouting "What did you kill, what did you kill?" The old man answered he shot a deer and couldn't find it. He had a very weak voice and this Louis Bee couldn't hear him, and he got in a huff and "what's a matter with you, you old so and so" called him names, and old Slumach told him, "you wait till I get down there and I'll tell you all about it", and apparently he didn't hear again. This Louis Bee, and he paddled ashore where Slumach's canoe was and jumped out of the canoe with a one bit axe swinging it around, "don't answer me, I'm coming up there to cut your head off." Well, old Slumach knew then that

he was drunk, the way he staggered around, I've got to do something do defend myself, he had his gun under his arm on his left and he used to go around and a cane on his right, and he just put his gun up, he was going to shoot 3 or 4 feet away from this mad man coming at him, and when he pulled the trigger and shot Louis Bee jumped backwards right on the shot, shot on the right side, and when Harrison Mills (Charlie Seymour), jumped out of the canoe and ran for the bush, so old Slumach stood there wondering what he was going to do. He sat down and wept a bit, sorry for what happened. He put his gun in his canoe and put Louis Bee in his own canoe and pushed him out in the river. He thought if he took him to where the Indians were camping in the mouth of the Allouette, he knew they would shoot him on sight, they wouldn't believe him, so he went on his way back to his old shack way up at Pitt River, just at the mouth of Pitt Lake. He told my father, Peter Pierre, he wept all the way home and that's the story.

Slate 8 - Slumach went up the lake to look for the gold, took him weeks to get up to that place where he found it. Got up there alright, he didn't know if it was the right place. The men that gave him the handful of gold told him it was on a back side just right, can dig it with a pen knife. He went up, up, up, up, these canyons, certain canyons, he was tired so he laid on his canvas blanket, slept, woke up in the morning, the sun was coming up in the east. He got up and there was a funny fog up to his waist, and he sat there waiting there for the fog to subside and he thought, I wonder if this could be the place because he had never seen a fog like this before, and when the sun came up, he looked at the moss, and there was a beautiful deep yellow colour like gold and he got his knife and dug some out. He got his, what you call his canvas pillet bags, and he put it in the bag three

quarters full, that's what he brought down. He covered that thing up again with the moss, got the markings from the mountainside, to mark the place where this thing was so he'll just go right up next time and he did. He came down New Westminster the next morning and the store wasn't open.

Slate 10 - Slumach didn't tell anybody about the gold he found up there but my father Peter Pierre, the day before he was executed.

Slate 11 - Slumach was my father's uncle by marriage, he was married to my father's distant aunt. My father Peter Pierre witnessed Slumach's execution, right there with father Morgan, Moresby, there was only four witnessed it, and when the hangman was too slow, Slumach told him not to waste any time, hurry. My father shut his eyes when the hangman pulled the lever and when he opened his eyes he saw the rope dangling.