



Golden Dreams

Slumach and the Pitt Lake Gold Mine

Saturday, July 16th, 2011

1:00pm-2:00pm



Indian Diggings: Gold

Much gold bearing quartz rock

Details of maps from the 1860s.

Mainland Guardian November 1869

Discovery of diggings at Pitt River.

An Indian brought in a good prospect of gold which he states he found in a little stream on the North side of Pitt Lake.

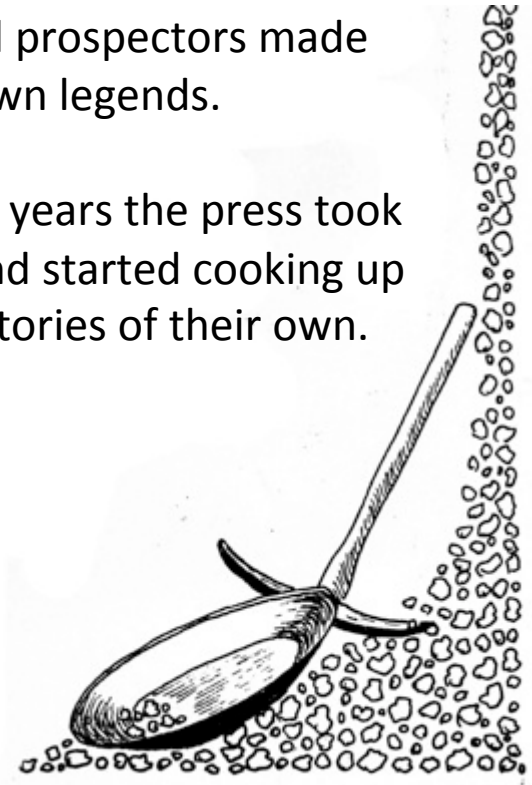




Prospectors carefully protect their secrets. What gets published is mostly what they want to be known (invented or true).

The old prospectors made their own legends.

In later years the press took over and started cooking up some stories of their own.



1915

WILBUR ARMSTRONG, a Washington prospector, 72 years of age, made his tenth and last trip into the mountains of the Pitt range, heading a search party attempting to locate a hidden treasure.

- First discoverer SLUMACH
- Second discoverer WALTER JACKSON, who left a letter with directions



Tenth Trip In Search of Mine.

Hugh Murray interviewed by Jack Mahony in 1939



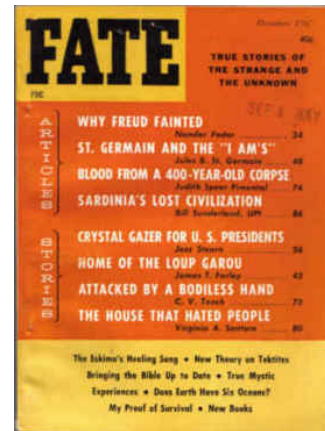
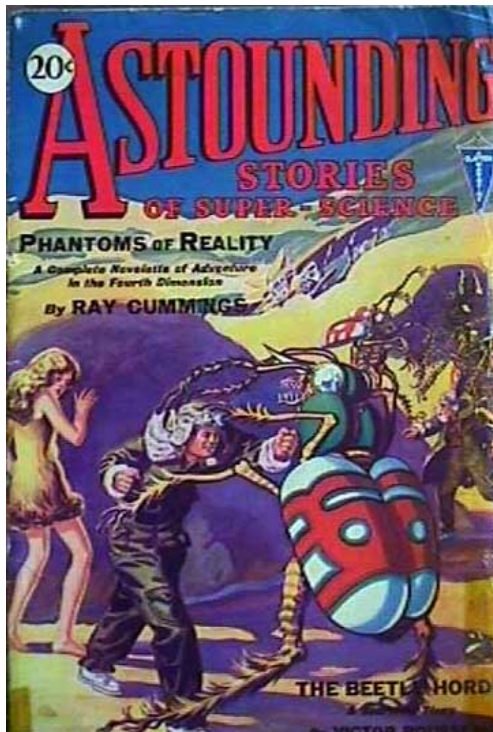
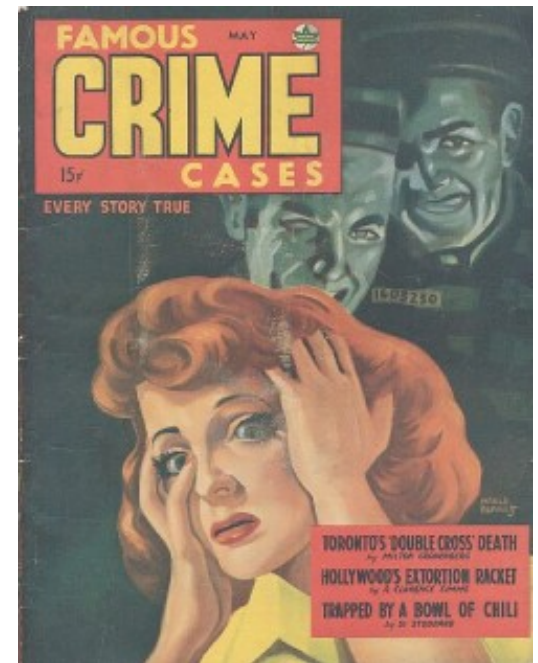
Hugh Murray was one of the children arriving with the Royal Engineers of 1895.

His article in the Province said that:

- *SLUMACH was a middle-aged “half-breed Red River Indian”*
- *SLUMACH killed another half-breed by drowning*
- *SLUMACH frequently came to New Westminster with “a well-filled ‘poke’ of nuggets.”*
- *SLUMACH was believed to have drowned three of his Indian “wives” near Shiwash Rock at the mouth of Pitt Lake to prevent them from divulging the location of his gold mine.*

Major Jack Mahony, VC, OC
"A" Coy, Westminster Regiment (Motor) at
the Battle of the Melfa River 1944.

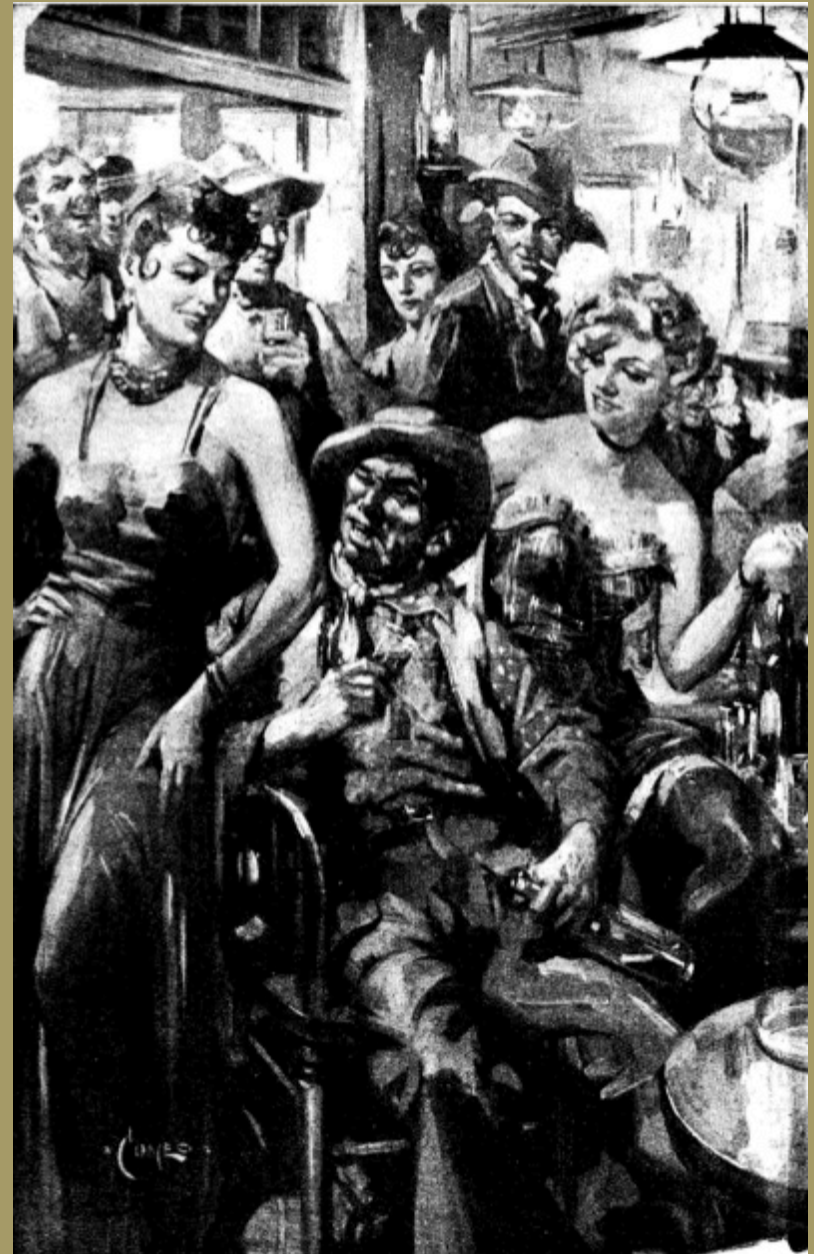




C.V. TENCH

AN INDIAN with a lot of raw gold naturally became the centre of attraction...

But Slumach, even when intoxicated, stubbornly refused to divulge the source of his new-found wealth.



"EVERY KNOWN TRICK WAS TRIED—DOPED DRINKS, THE FLATTERING ATTENTIONS OF DANCE-HALL GIRLS."
(SEE PAGE 156.)



This picture is said to be that of the Notorious
Slumach and one of his maidens, on the way to his
lost mine.

Treasure Trails of British Columbia, 1970, Laurence Lazeo

PICTURE FIRST USED TO SHOW ENEAS GEORGE AND 14 YEARS LATER SLUMACH

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from Factual Detective Cases Pulp #7, March 1942



ENEAS GEORGE—Hanged

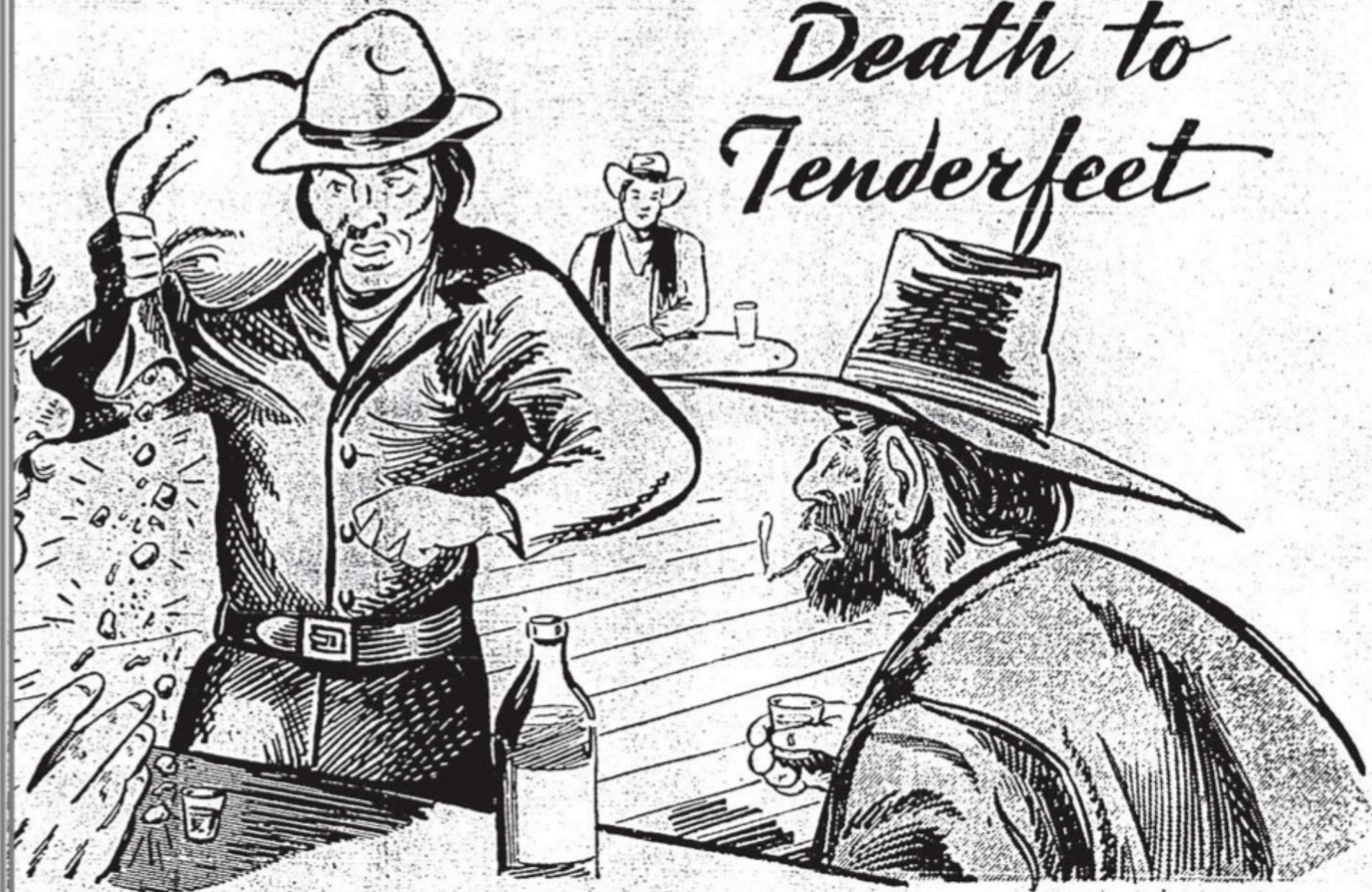
Slummock. Who Died With His Secret



Slummock, the Indian, who found the "Hoodoo" gold and was hanged for murdering the squaws who helped him.

Slumach, the Indian, who found the "Hoodoo" gold and was hanged for murdering the squaws who helped him. (Liberty, July 1956)

Death to Tenderfeet



Slumach swaggered into New Westminster with huge nuggets of raw gold.

Drawing by Vernon Miller



JACKSON

The man who wasn't there !

“Walter Jackson, the second discoverer, panned out thousands of dollars’ worth of gold when he located it in 1901.” (Armstrong)

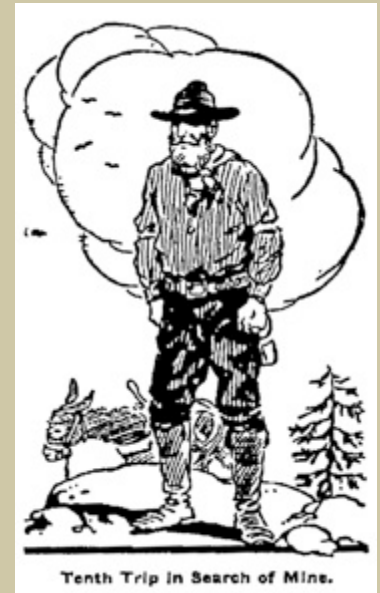


Remember Hugh Murray?

He owned a copy of the “Jackson letter,” perhaps even a complete one, but he shared only a part of it.

Remember Wilbur Armstrong?

In 1915 he was the first to mention the “Jackson Letter” and a part of it was quoted in the article.



The incomplete "Jackson letter"

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 climbed 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 and granite, but there I found a kind of schist and slate formation. Now comes the interesting part. I had only a small prospecting pan but I found colors at once right on 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 cant 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 Examr.,' 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, dont fail to look this great property up and dont give up until you find it.

Now good bye and may success attend you.

Yours truly,

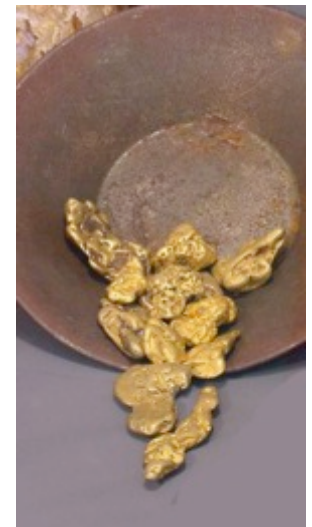
W. Jackson

...a little canyon or valley about one mile and a half or two miles long...it appeared to have no outlet for the little creek that flowed at the bottom.

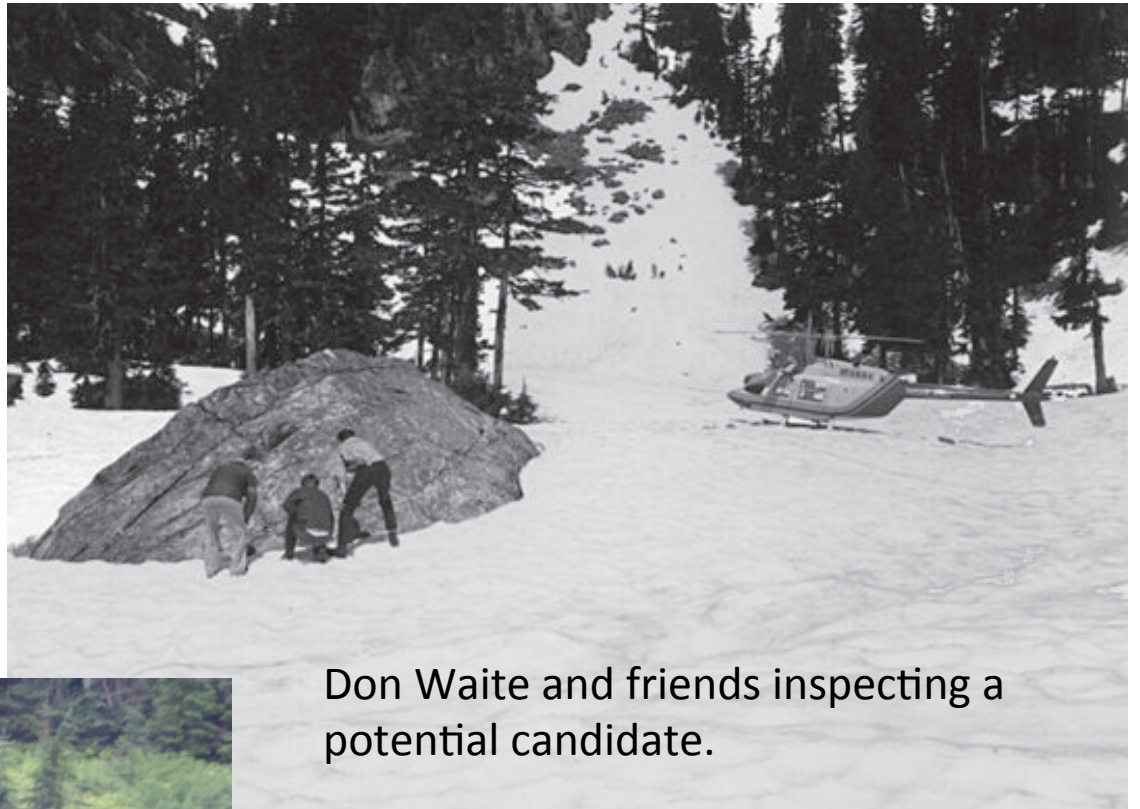


N.L. (Bill) Barlee

... the bedrock was yellow with gold. Some of the nuggets were as big as walnuts...



This letter has been reprinted verbatim from the original, complete with mistakes in punctuation and grammar. The copy was enclosed in one of the letters from Brown which was dated May 28, 1924. It is the only dated and authenticated copy in existence.



Don Waite and friends inspecting a potential candidate.



Discovered in 2011

“On account of the weight I buried part of the gold at the foot of a large tent shaped rock facing the creek.

YOU CANT MISS IT.

There is a mark cut out in it.”

2008 -- Discovery of the complete text of the "Jackson letter."

San Francisco
Feb 10 1904

①

Dear Friend

It will come to you as a surprise after all these years to hear from me for no doubt you have long since forgotten me. But you will remember the old man you so kindly quite staked with money & provisions at Guaymas. Since then I have prospected with varied success that usually goes with the life of a prospector.

In 1901 I went to B.C. and it is about of this trip I want to tell, and hope you will gain by it untold thousands for your kindness to me. I heard you went back like most everyone else at Guaymas but had lost all trace of you since then except that you had gone to Washington. Well, I made a great discovery in New Westminster but after coming out for supplies and tools was taken down with a severe attack of rheumatism that ever since has left me almost bedfast, until a short time ago, when I recovered sufficiently as though to make the trip again. I made up my mind to hunt you up and take you with me. In

You were going on a hunting trip, until you find the place & get everything fixed up to suit yourself. When you find it and I am sure you will should you care to see me, advertise in the Fraser Examiner and if I am living I will either come to see you or let you know when to find me. I have a number of letters but I

fail to write. I don't give up until you find it. I am very sorry I cannot give you more definite instructions. Of course I expected to be gone back long since but I don't give up until you do. I

From the very head of Bell Lake in north west 20 miles up to the hidden treasure but there is no

Transcript by Dick Carter around 1940.



Jackson's
directions to
the hidden
treasure



"From the very head of Pitt Lake and not more than 20 miles in a north-westerly direction to the hidden treasure but there is no trail and nothing to guide you except that when you get within a few miles of the place you will see on a lower ridge three sharp peaks, each some 50 or 100 ft. high as you face these the hidden treasure is below and to the right of these peaks."



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