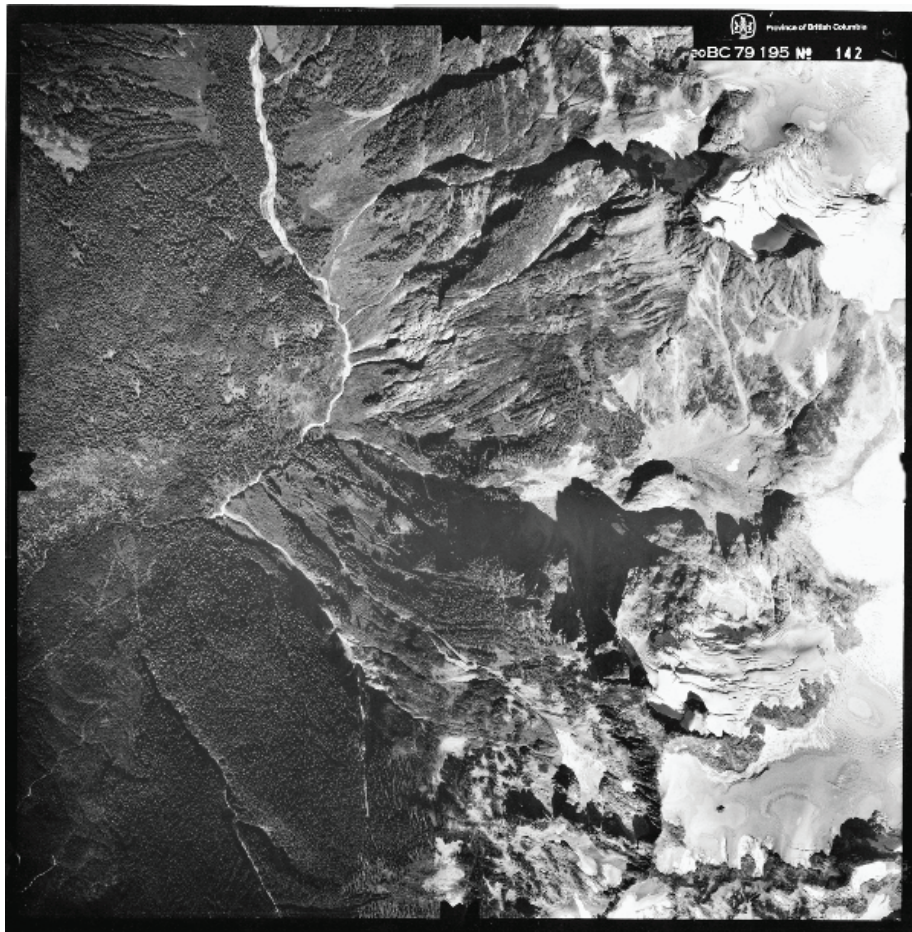


# G. Stuart Brown's Quest for the Lost Gold Canyon

*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 gold.*

MARK HUME, VICTORIA TIMES, 22 NOVEMBER 1978.



Dedicated to Rob Nicholson, who asked me to publish all the Stu Brown's letters together.

# In Search of a Legend



NICHOLSON then tells the story of Stu Brown (no relation to Volcanic), who wrote to the provincial government in 1974 claiming to have discovered rich gold deposits inside a provincial park (surmised to have been Garibaldi), with an estimated value ranging from \$1 billion to \$20 billion. Brown believed this was the legendary lost Pitt Lake mine, and had identified the site by reviewing aerial photos of the terrain in the Pitt Lake area. Brown felt that he discovered Jackson's find, but not Slumach's, nor that of Volcanic Brown. Nicholson says this about Stu Brown's find:

*The location itself is exactly like Jackson described it, except the canyon is shorter than a mile and one half. Seeing it from the same ridge that Jackson once stood on was an exhilarating experience. Brown describes a pool ... about- twenty feet across and "ankle deep in gold" ... full of small nuggets.*

Curiously, the text doesn't report Stu Brown proffering any samples as proof, but Rob Nicholson confirmed in our 2007 conversation that Brown had indeed brought out a five-pound nugget from the site. Trips back in to further prove the claim were thwarted by weather and illness challenges. Then Brown came up with a plan:

*Stu offered to hike into the site with me so that I could both see for myself and independently document his discovery...Stu's plan was for both of us take two empty packsacks into the site. We would fill one of the packsacks with nuggets, walk it out a short distance and leave it at a predetermined location. We would then walk back in and fill the second packsack, bringing it out to where the first one had been left. The object was to leap-frog the two packsacks out to the location of our vehicle.*

Brown and Nicholson arrived very late in the day in the Fire Mountain area, and were about to embark on a two-day hike into the Terrarosa Glacier when they awoke to a heavy rain that had not been forecast. The downpour was so intense that the trip had to be cancelled. Nicholson writes: "Due to Stu's age and his progressively worsening Parkinson's disease, a planned trip the following year had to be cancelled." The reader will appreciate Nicholson's disappointment when he says, "I have not had the opportunity to return to the area."

Brown attempted to negotiate with both the government and a private mining corporation to bring out samples of gold from the site, with the stated honourable intention of using the find to reduce government debt. However, given the protected status of parks and the associated regulations against removing minerals from them, neither responded to his encouragement. In the end, ill health and the march of time precluded further trips.

From: *Slumach's Gold: In Search of a Legend*, Antonson, Rick; Mary Trainer; Brian Antonson. Heritage House Publishing, Surrey BC, 2007. pp: 116-117

*Photo of G. Stuart Brown courtesy of Rob Nicholson.*

# BC Government

*I wonder how you would feel if you had waded in gold nuggets up to your ankles or had dust in quantities that you would dip a three-gallon bucket full at one dip??*

G. Stuart Brown to the Right Honorable Wm. Bennett, Premier of British Columbia, 4 September 1978

*“I must acknowledge that I and my staff are somewhat skeptical about your discovery.”*

James T. Fyles, Deputy Minister, Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources, to G. S Brown, 16 January 1979



PRODUCTION AND MARKETING BRANCH, PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION, 767 SIR 20 August 1974  
JOHN CARLING BLDG. OTTAWA, K1A 0C5

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 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.

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CONSERVATION PARKS BRANCH V8W 2Y9 29 August 1971  
Victoria, B.C. August 29, 1971

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, for R. Lowrey, Chief of Management

September 24 , 1974 2713 THORBERRY CRES. OTTAWA, K1V 6N3

September 24 , 1974 .

Honorable Leo T. Nimsick, Minister of Mines & Petroleum Resources Parliament Buildings, Victoria BC

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 prospector's 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 location 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 I 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

30 September 1974. MINISTER OF MINES & PETROLEUM RESOURCES, PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, VICTORIA, V6V 4S2

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, Minister.

2713 NORBERRY CRESCENT, OTTAWA, ONT., K1V 6N3

October 24, 1974

October 24, 1974

Honorable Leo T. Nimsick, Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources, Parliament Buildings, Victoria B.C.

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 development might progress. I have offered to keep this confidential until I deliver 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 made. 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

MINISTER OF MINES & PETROLEUM RESOURCES, PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, VICTORIA, V6V 4S2

November 5th, 1974

November 5th, 1974.

Mr. G. Stuart Brown, 2113 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

15 November 1974

2713 NORBERRY CRESCENT, OTTAWA, ONT., K1V 6N3

November 15, 1974

Honorable Leo T. Nimsick, Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources, Parliament Buildings, Victoria B.C.

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 letters 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 were 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 written permission from the Minister to set insect traps for detection purposes. If this applies to insects you can understand why I am requesting 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 the 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 an eccentric request that it cannot be permitted? Sincerely. [GSB]

2 December 1974

MINISTER OF MINES & PETROLEUM RESOURCES, PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, VICTORIA, V6V 4S2

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.

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CONSERVATION – PARKS BRANCH, Victoria  
B.C.

6 December 1974

December 6, 1974

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.

2713 NORBERRY CRESENT, OTTAWA, ONT. K1V 6N3

25 September 1975

September 25, 1975

Honorable Leo T. Nimsick, Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources, Parliament Buildings, Victoria B.C.

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 the 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 more 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 is in a very secluded spot. You will hear further from me at a later date.

Sincerely, G. Stuart Brown

30 September 1975. MINISTER OF MINES & PETROLEUM RESOURCES, PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, VICTORIA, V6V 4S2

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, Leo T. Nimsick, Minister

cc: J. E. McMynn

17 August 1978 2713 NORBERRY CRESCENT, OTTAWA, ONT., K1V 6N3

August 17, 1978

Mr. James Fyles, Deputy Minister, Dept. of Mines & Petroleum Resources, 405 Douglas Building, Victoria, B.C.

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 Avenue, Maple Ridge, B.C. 1975.

There was also an article in the August 1973 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 the 99% of the people in the Lower Fraser Valley 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 there from. I doubt if anyone is naïve 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.

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 will be unable to cope and will 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 everyone's interest. I am therefore urging you 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. However, it could open up for the enjoyment of others: a new and exciting outdoor experience in scenery. A road would cost perhaps half 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.

August 25, 1973

GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, MINISTRY OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES, VICTORIA B.C.

August 25, 1973

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 of your information.

I sincerely appreciate your integrity in apprising me of your discovery before taking further action. I trust that the results will be beneficial to you and not harmful to others.

Yours sincerely, James T. Fyles, Deputy Minister

4 September 1978

2713 NORBERRY CRESCENT, OTTAWA, ONT., KIV 6N3.

September 4, 1978

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 no absolutely no action in this 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 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 en masse 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 would 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 would 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

14 September 1978

2713 NORBERRY CRESCENT, OTTAWA, ONT., K1V 6N3

Memo to the Victoria Daily Times, The Colonist, The Vancouver Province, The Vancouver Sun, and the Fraser Valley Record.

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 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 to 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

5 November 1978

2713 NORBERRY CRESCENT, OTTAWA, ONT., K1V 6N3.

November 5, 1978

Right Honorable Wm. Bennett, Premier of British Columbia, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, British Columbia

Honorable 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, may be 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 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 should 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 one 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 this matter and will proceed as I see fit in the future.

G. Stuart Brown

Undated.

RECIPIENT UNKNOWN. -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 its 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 bedrock. 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 would be constructed to the site but that removal of the 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 of 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 a 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. [signed] G. Stuart Brown



GARIBALDI GLORY HOLE—ALL THE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ADD TO THE  
LEGEND OF GOLD CAYON

By Mark Hume

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 [sic]. 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 man 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 snow. There was no sign of Volcanic, the old prospector who said he'd been tipped 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."

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 gullies, 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. 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.

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,"

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.

Fyles wanted 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 some immediate action should be taken to protect the park and the interests of the people of the province," said Brown in a letter.

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." 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 commitments for \$10,000.

Fyles is highly sceptical of Brown's claim, 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 the 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. "I needed something I could get my teeth into, even one nugget." Officially Lowrey has simply rejected Brown's [claim] 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 is possible." Legends thrive on the unexplained, he adds, "and probably 10 or 15 years after Mr. Brown dies the stories will start about the lost mine he found."

It won't take that long, however, for there is 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 gold.

16 January 1979

GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, MINISTRY OF MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES, VICTORIA B.C.

January 16, 1979

G. Stuart Brown, 2713 Norberry Crescent, Ottawa, Ont., 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 reference to the nature and the value of the deposit, the geological

characteristics of the terrain in the general area, and the bizarre history of his 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.

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 exploration and park preservation.

Yours very truly, James T. Fyles, Sr. Assistant Deputy Minister

cc: Mr. R. Lowrey, Parks Branch

27 January 1979

2713 NORBERRY CRESCENT, OTTAWA, ONT., K1V 6N3.

January 27, 1979

Mr. James Fyles, Deputy Minister, Dept. of Mines & Petroleum Resources, 405 Douglas Building, Victoria, B.C.

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 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 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 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 don't 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. cc: Mr. Ray Lowrey

September 5 1980

2713 NORBERRY CRESCENT, OTTAWA, ONT., K1V 6N3.

September 5 1980

Mr. James Fyles, Deputy Minister, Dept. of Mines & Petroleum Resources, 405 Douglas Building, Victoria, B.C.

Dear Mr. Fyles

You will probably recall my visit in August, 1978, to your office regarding Slumach'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 16, 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 1930 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 half 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 120 lb. of almost pure gold in one five-day pack trip with the packs I am sure each of the four could bring out 60 lb. 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 regulation your province may have. I must have a written contract giving me 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, [GSB]

17 September 1980

GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, MINISTRY OF MINES AND PETROLEUM  
RESOURCES, VICTORIA B.C.

17 September 1980

G. Stuart Brown, 2713 Norberry Crescent, Ottawa, Ont., K1V 6N3.

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your letter of September 5 regarding Slumach's lost mine. I assume that the deposit to which you refer is the one 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. Fyfes, Sr. Assistant Deputy Minister.

The letter dated 27 July 1997 to which Deputy Minister Flitton refers in his response of 27 July 1987  
31 August 1987 (see following pages) has not been found.





Province of  
British Columbia

OFFICE OF THE  
DEPUTY MINISTER

Ministry of  
Energy, Mines and  
Petroleum Resources

Parliament Buildings  
Victoria  
British Columbia  
V8V 1X4

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August 31, 1987

Mr. G. Stuart Brown  
1420 Flemish Street  
Kelowna, British Columbia  
V1Y 3S1

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your letter of July 27, 1987, providing me with a description of your sightings of possible mining activity in Garibaldi Park.

I have requested that Mr. B. M. Dudas, Inspector of Mines and Resident Engineer in Vancouver, be made aware of these events and am, by copy of your letter and this reply, bringing the matter to the attention of Mr. M. V. Collins of the Ministry of Environment and Parks. Any future observations by you of similar activities may be reported to Mr. Dudas whose address is:

Room 103, 2747 E. Hastings Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V5K 1Z8  
Telephone: 660-9363

and to

Mr. George Trachuk  
Regional Director of South Coast Region  
Ministry of Environment and Parks  
1610 Indian River Drive  
North Vancouver, British Columbia  
V7G 1L3  
Telephone: 929-1291

who are responsible for the administration of Garibaldi Park. Such action by you could assist in an immediate investigation of the matter.

Proposals regarding the opening of potential mineral deposits in the Park to explorations may be directed to Mr. Ed Macgregor, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources Division.

I appreciate you taking the time to report these events to me and I wish you success in your endeavours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. D. Flitton', written in a cursive style.

R. D. Flitton  
Deputy Minister

JC/gg

cc: Mr. M.V. Collins  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
Ministry of Environment and Parks  
Victoria, British Columbia

# Teck Corporation

*“I believe I am the only person alive who has been at the site.”*

G. Stuart Brown to Teck Corporation, 25 September 1987

SEP 28 1987  
P.O. Box 765, Stn. A,  
Kelowna, B.C., V1Y 7P4,  
September 25, 1987.

Teck Corporation,  
1199 W. Hastings St.,  
Vancouver, V6E 2K5

Dear Sir or Madam,

I do not know if you are familiar with the legend of Slumach's gold canyon so I am enclosing herewith a copy of one of the write-ups detailing much of the background information concerning it.

I worked in many parts of British Columbia between 1943 and 1960 in Forest Insect Research and became quite intrigued with this story but my work always prevented me from making an active search for the lost canyon. However, in 1974, the opportunity arose and I was able to locate it. By this time removal of geological samples from, or staking mineral claims in, any Provincial park became prohibited by law.

Much of the mineral I found to be lying loose on the surface, and due to the nature and value of the site I immediately approached the government to attempt to have someone in authority accept responsibility and control. The enclosed copies of correspondence show the response I met with. I was warned pointedly regarding the law and told to keep my hands off.

After the resignation of Mr. Bennett and the appointment of a new Deputy Minister I was met with a totally different attitude. Mr. Flitton, the new Deputy Minister, has indicated that an application for development of the site might be favorably received. Only two people alive today know the location of the site - myself and a trusted friend. I have not told Mr. Flitton. I believe I am the only person alive who has been on the site.

By July 27 I had records of over twenty helicopter trips into the park this year searching for the site. This is in addition to numerous ground searchers.

For a number of years I was a shareholder in your company and came to respect its administration and its reputation. As I do not feel capable of organizing an enterprise of the scope necessary to deal with this situation I wondered if your company might be interested. I would not expect your company to incur any expense until such time as you had examined the site. You could then make a decision. The enclosed material speaks for itself.

Respectfully,  
J. Slumach



# TECK CORPORATION

October 5, 1987

Mr. G. Stuart Brown  
P. O. Box 765, Station A  
Kelowna, B. C.  
V1Y 7P4

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your letter of September 25 concerning Slumach's lost gold mine.

Let me suggest this: Teck will give you \$10,000 and a 2% Net Smelter Returns interest for information you provide to us on Slumach, provided we successfully stake or otherwise acquire mineral title to the site within 5 years from today's date, provided you give us an exclusive run at the situation for one year.

This arrangement will give us a one year lead on the competition to establish a prior-interest, and if we're tardy, allows you time to interest another party in your special knowledge.

Let me hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

TECK CORPORATION



John L. May

JLM:mjb

Encl.



# Donald E. Waite

*“I could travel there in pitch darkness without a map...”*

G. Stuart Brown to Donald E. Waite, 29 April 1987



Vic Loffler at base camp in a small valley west of Terra Rosa Lake, 1987. Photo courtesy Donald E. Waite.

IN AUGUST, 1981, G. Stuart Brown, a retired civil servant, stopped in at my office with some incredible statements about the lost mine. Brown, a former Vancouverite then living in Ottawa, told me that he had discovered the mine, located within a park, during the summer of 1974. He had attempted to negotiate a deal with the provincial government, but was turned down, and as a result, he gave the story to a Victoria newspaper in the fall of 1978. The release did not result in any great gold rush to his goldfields.

Upon his return to the nation's capital, Brown mailed me copies of the exchange of correspondence between himself and the government. Brown, {embittered by the lack of co-operation of the government} decided not to reveal the location of the mine. Anticipating a revised edition, this time titled 'The Fraser Valley Story', I wrote Brown, now living in retirement in Kelowna, B.C. in 1986 seeking permission to publish excerpts from his correspondence with the politicians. Upon receipt of my letter, Brown drove to Maple Ridge for a face-to-face discussion about the possibility of his taking me to the location of 'Slumach's Gold Canyon'.

At the end of August, Brown, Victor Loffler of Mission, and I left Pitt Meadows in a van enroute to Pemberton and Mount Currie. From there, we drove along a logging road towards Fire Lake. We left this main artery but managed to drive another mile before coming upon a washed-out section of abandoned logging road. We donned our packs and set out for Fire Lake. After eight hours of walking, we reached Fire Lake. Brown, 69 years of age and a victim of Parkinson's Disease, had set the pace. I was the one with the problem. Because my old hiking boots were totally worn out and leaked badly, I had purchased a new pair of boots some weeks prior to our trip. I thought I had broken them in but I was wrong. By the time we reached Fire Lake my feet were so badly blistered I could hardly stand let alone walk. Assessing the situation, we decided to retrace our steps to the end of the logging road and pitch camp.

The next morning Brown advised us that we still had several strenuous miles of climbing before reaching our destination. Consequently, we decided to abandon the attempt to visit 'Slumach's Gold Canyon' by van and by foot.

Upon our return to Pitt Meadows, I suggested we go in by helicopter. I got in touch with Steven Wright, President of Wright Aviation Ltd. (now Vancouver Helicopters) and he agreed to meet us in a pub in New Westminster. Over a beer, Brown stated that he wanted half of anything that was brought out and that Vic and I could have the remaining 25 percent each. I explained the purpose of the visit and Steve offered to 'roll the dice' and give us a flight into Terra Rosa Lake. I told Steve that if Vic and I came back with any gold we'd cut him in for a third of the 50 percent. I didn't know it at the time but learned later that Steve knew much more about the mine than I thought.

The next day we arranged to have a helicopter take us to the canyon the following morning. Although the weather had been clear blue sky for 40 days, the morning of our flight in was overcast with a low cloud ceiling in the mountains and as a result the pilot was reluctant to land his ship. Despite a half hour search up and down several revines in the helicopter, Brown did not pinpoint any familiar landmarks and was disgusted that his credibility was in question.

That evening I interviewed Brown about his background. Born in 1916 in Basswood, Manitoba, Brown was awarded the Governor General's award for proficiency upon graduating with senior matriculation from the Minnedosa Collegiate Institute in 1937. A year and a half later, Brown went to work at the Brandon Mental Hospital, where his

future wife was training as a student nurse. He graduated from the hospital in 1941 with a certificate in psychiatric nursing.

Brown joined the Royal Canadian Air Force that same year and began his ground training and theory at Saskatchewan prior to his initial flight training and navigational studies at the Air Observer's School in Regina. Transferred to England, Brown flew 17 bombing missions over Germany before a plane he was navigating was shot down within 40 miles of its target of Nuremberg. Brown bailed out at 19,000 feet. He was held a prisoner of war for the next 21 months by the Germans. Shortly after his return to Canada, he was posted to Jericho Beach in Vancouver.

In the fall of 1945, Brown enrolled at the University of British Columbia under the rehabilitation program. He graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1947, a Bachelor of Science in Forestry in 1948, and a Master of Science in Forest Entomology in 1951 with his thesis being the sawfly. Brown taught entomology courses at the university while taking his master's degree. Upon leaving university, Brown was employed by the provincial government to do insect research. In 1956 Brown was promoted to the Officer in Charge of plant quarantine for plants being imported into Canada (from 1957 - 1960). In 1961, he was transferred to Ottawa as the Assistant Chief of Plant Quarantine for the Dominion; but a year later he applied for and became Co-ordinator of Surveys for Introduced Plant Pests and Disease. He held his position until his retirement in 1977. It was while at his last post that his work involved the use of six-in-to-the-mile stereoscopic air photos.

Brown first became interested in the Slumach Lost Gold Mine in 1949 while working in the municipalities of Port Coquitlam and Mission for his thesis on the sawfly. One of his associates proposed they take a two week holiday and go prospecting. He abandoned any idea of the mine upon his transfer to Ottawa.

It was not until 1974 that he again took up the search, after spending the winter of 1973-74 pinpointing the most likely location (bearing in mind Jackson's letter and 'Doc' Brown's last camp) on topographical maps and stereoscopic air photos. His first attempt in June was a failure because of deep snow. He returned in mid-August and located both 'Doc' Brown's last camp - and the gold canyon. He brought out ten pounds of nuggets.

Following Brown's departure for home, Vic and I talked things over and, since the weather was once again blue sky sunny, we decided to go in again by helicopter for two days of exploration. On September 5, we drove into New Westminster to Steve operations base located in a hanger which was at one time the property of the British Columbia Penitentiary. While I was preoccupied with loading supplies and camera gear, Victor entered into conversations with a couple of chaps that were about to depart in another helicopter. I didn't know it at the time but the other machine contained the crew and cameraman for the final shots for Mike Colliers' movie. As we flew out of New Westminster to the north-east, I noticed the other helicopter that appeared to be on an almost identical course as our own. They were heading up to the Misty Icefields hoping to get the final footage for the completion of the movie 'Curse of the Lost Creek Mine' which included Dick Hamilton. He had visited me earlier in the year and had told me that he had crossed the Stave Glacier to the Misty icefields with a Peter McIlvaney and had found a three foot high cairn inside of which was a bell at the 7,300 foot level. The pair thought the cairn may have been placed over top of a grave.

The pilot landed Vic and I in a small valley west of Terra Rosa Lake where we set up



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."

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our base camp. Between 10:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. we climbed and then descended three boulder-strewn ravines. It took us ten hours to examine on foot what we had easily covered a few days earlier by helicopter in 20 minutes. In many places the boulders were the size of a house. Weather conditions were probably the best they had been in years, for there was hardly any snow. The climbing was dangerous as snow melt had left many of the boulders covered with pea-sized pebbles which acted like ball-bearings under our boots. One ravine had three sink holes or run-off traps which contained nothing but earth and rock. We did see some promising quartz outcroppings - and some of the terrain showed signs of recent seismic (earthquake) activity. The only wildlife that we encountered were rock picas and a black bear.

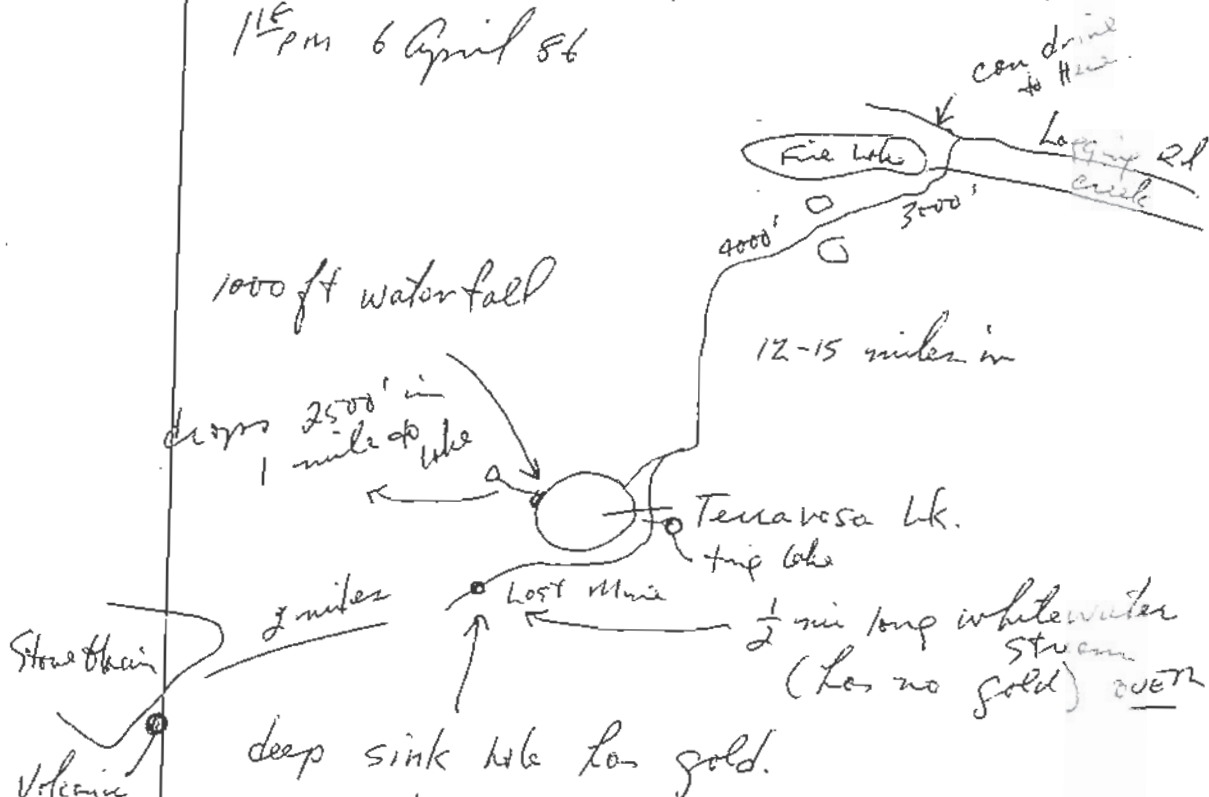
From one ravine we looked out to the southeast and saw three mountain peaks (southeast of Terra Rosa Lake). We were also able to see the snout of Terra Rosa Glacier.

The following day we climbed other ravines and were able, upon reaching one summit, to look down onto Stave Glacier and the headwaters of Stave River (actually a large glacier-fed lake). Vic and I split up to make our descent. I managed to get down my route all right but Vic, after scrambling two-thirds the way down his, hit a box canyon which was impassable. He had to reascend this ravine and try a second one. It also became impassable, so he again retraced his way and finally, came down out the way way as had I. We reached base camp and managed to eat before the arrival of the pickup helicopter.

In March of 1987 I gave a story to Hillary Downing of the Ridge/Meadows Times to promote my new books which ended up being titled: "Prospector says nearing final chapter - There's gold in them hills"



Note from [redacted] 1<sup>st</sup> pm talk with  
 George Stuart Brown, 69 y +  
 in station wagon at 527 W 2<sup>nd</sup> Terr.  
 1<sup>15</sup> pm 6 April 86



Stone Chair  
 Volcanic  
 Brown's  
 Lost  
 Camp

taken in by Jim Hopue 932-5423  
 pilot from Whistler who flies for  
 Okanogan Helicopters.  
 In with Ed + Harvey,  
 brothers from Kamloops.  
 one time saw Sasquatch from 100'  
 another time saw Olympic mtn.

(2)

Should go in late July & only

request:

Claimed he made 13 mi hike  
into Bear Lake last year with  
wife in 8 HR. Horse took in  
gear.

Wants to hike in with me in  
late July.

Saw Sargassum on \_\_\_\_\_ creek.

Going up Slognet Creek to head.

The whitewater stream empties into  
lake large enough to land a  
plane — it is the true source of  
Upper Snake River. About  $1\frac{1}{2}$   
long.

Charris sink hole is visible  
(yellow in color) from the air.

Mine is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  HR from Terra rosa lake.

One time in assistant got blisters  
another trail in boat  
Blizzard on his back on way out.





“At the end of August, [1986] Brown, Victor Loffler of Mission, and I left Pitt Meadows in a van enroute to Pemberton and Mount Currie.” Part of the map taken along on the trip by Vic Loffler.



2713 Norberry Cres.,  
Ottawa K1V 6N5,  
September 29, 1980.

Mr. Don Waite,  
22380 119th Ave.,  
Maple Ridge,  
B. C. V2X 2Z3

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 Clumach 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

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 lieisurely 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*

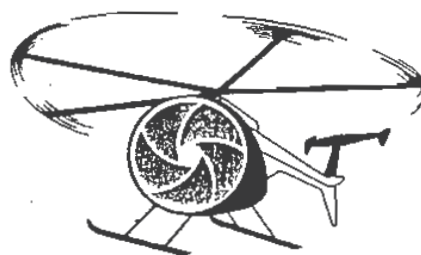
G. Stuart Brown



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 10, 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-

1  
~~604~~ - 860 - 6482  
14 - Aug - 86 -  
(Mon + Tues -  
25 - 26 Aug)

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

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

# R.W. Nicholson

*“Don’t despair at my infrequent letters. I am as keen as ever.”*

G. Stuart Brown to R. W. Nicholson, 24 May 1988



STU BROWN entered the domain of this legend with a status that equals if not exceeds that of Jackson when he wrote his first in a long series of letters to the British Columbia provincial government on August 20, 1974. In his initial letter of that year, Stu Brown claimed to have discovered an extremely rich gold deposit worth, in his estimation, between one and twenty billion dollars within the boundaries of a provincial park.

In subsequent letters to various B.C. provincial government officials Brown identified his discovery as being the legendary "Lost Pitt Lake Mine" and that it was within the boundaries of Garibaldi Provincial Park.

Stu Brown was not some eccentric prospector inflicted with gold fever or some other illusion of grandeur when he contacted the B.C. government in 1974, he was the Supervisor of the Surveys Section - Plant Protection Division - Forestry Services - Environment Canada.

Stu Brown was born in Basswood, Manitoba in 1916. In 1937 he graduated from the Minnedosa Collegiate Institute receiving the Governor General's award for proficiency in senior matriculation.

Shortly after graduating from the Minnedosa Collegiate Institute he went to work at the Brandon Mental Hospital. In 1941 he graduated from the hospital with a certificate in psychiatric nursing.

Following his graduation in 1941 Stu enlisted with the Royal Canadian Air Force and served Canada with honour during World War Two. Trained as a navigator, he flew on 17 bombing missions over Germany before being shot down 40 miles from their target at Nuremberg. He had spent 21 months in a German prisoner of war camp by the time the war ended.

Shortly after returning to Canada he enrolled at the University of British Columbia and continued his academic studies. In 1947 he graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. In 1948 he received his Bachelor of Science in Forestry and in 1951 he received his Masters of Science degree in Forest Entomology.

Stu's account of how he actually discovered the legendary Pitt Lake Lost Mine is quite humorous to say the least. He began by telling me that like everyone else he simply researched all of the available stories of the legend during his spare time. When he finally determined where the most likely location was, he had the appropriate stereoscopic photos enlarged. With a grin, he added that the enlargement was at the expense of the federal government. On these photos, enlarged enough to count trees, he identified what he was looking for. Stu relays that in addition to his position with Environment Canada which involved countless hours of aerial photo interpretation, he also had considerable prior experience looking for minute details and camouflaged sites in aerial photos during World War Two. The combination of experience gained through these two positions developed into the unique ability to identify specifics that would elude most others.

He considers his discovery to be the same as Jackson's however maintains his belief that it is not the same location as that of Slumach or "Doc" Brown. He does however add that what Slumach found should not be too far away while "Doc" Brown's location is somewhere else.

Stu is very strong in his belief that Jackson's letter is fairly straight forward but curiously adds, "His geographical sense was a bit lacking." He claims to have never actually walked to Jackson's tent shaped rock although he says he does know where it is located. He chuckles when the subject is discussed and in logical simplicity, candidly told me that he found Jackson's gold creek so there was never any need for him to take precious time to walk to a rock that he has already seen through enlarged stereoscopic aerial photos.

According to Stu, "the location itself is exactly like Jackson described it except the canyon is a little shorter than a mile and one half. Seeing it from the same ridge that Jackson once stood

on was an exhilarating experience "The creek itself is blocked from exiting the canyon by a natural rock wall or short ridge that, in Stu's words, "looks just like a real man made dam," about 100 feet high. When there is sufficient thawing the water does actually exit a small hole in the rock wall for a very short period of time during late summer. Stu's description of the water exiting the hole is that, "it looks just like the falls at Waterton Lake National Park only smaller. The water just gushes out of the hole in the face of this natural rock dam."

He describes a pool at the base of the natural dam as being about twenty feet across and "ankle deep in gold." The creek itself is only a few inches deep and roughly 10 feet across, "a little smaller than Mission Creek in Kelowna." The entire creek is littered with large gold nuggets and the pool at the base of the small ridge is ankle deep in small nuggets.

Stu's description of the hole in the rock wall with water gushing reminded me of the way Corbold Creek comes boiling through the subterranean channel at the fish hatchery at Alvin. Subterranean water channels and caverns are not uncommon in or around Garibaldi or Golden Ears Parks.

In late July 1989 arrangements were made for Stu and our search party to fly in to the site under Stu's guidance and direction. On the day we were to fly out, a storm front unexpectedly moved in and the trip had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. Stu later decided against flying in, saying that helicopter activity would draw too much attention to the area. Due to the lateness of the season and the personal schedules of everyone involved there were no further attempts to go into the area that year.

Stu offered to hike into the site with me so that I could both see it for myself and independently document his discovery. Arrangements were made to hike in during the last week in August. It was to take four days, two days in and two days out. According to Stu, "the longest distance actually takes less time". The most direct route is over very difficult and steep terrain which takes longer to cross than it does by going the longer distance via the more indirect and easier route.

Stu's plan was for both of us to take two empty pack-sacks into the site. We would fill one of the pack-sacks with nuggets walk it out a short distance and leave it at a predetermined location. We would then walk back in and fill the second pack sack bringing it out to where the first one had been left. The object was to leap-frog the two pack sacks out to the location of our vehicle. He believed we could each carry 80 to 100 lbs. of gold in each pack.

Stu and I drove to the north end of Harrison Lake via the Vancouver-Pemberton highway. We arrived very late in the day and parked on the main Pemberton-Harrison Lake road at the junction of the Fire Mountain logging road. We were to begin our two day hike into the location on Terrarosa Glacier from this point.

Because of our late arrival we decided to sleep in the vehicle and start out fresh in the morning. Unfortunately we woke to a heavy rain that had not been predicted in the weather forecast. The downpour was so heavy that the trip had to be cancelled.

The limited window of opportunity when the creek is accessible was lost and another expedition for that year was not planned. Due to Stu's age and his progressively worsening Parkinson's disease a planned trip the following year had to be cancelled. Stu and I never did plan another trip together and to date I have not had the opportunity to return to the area again.

During our numerous discussions, Stu did tell me that he was more than financially secure with the pensions he received and did not need or want the gold for himself. He was primarily interested in the government using the resources to reduce or possibly eliminate the national deficit and reduce taxes for all Canadians.

I do know for a fact that Stu had become thoroughly offended by the responses from all levels

of the provincial government. He was extremely concerned that the government or some entity from within would secretly take the gold out if they knew where it actually was. He was also gravely concerned that with time some other independent party would find and remove the gold without anyone's knowledge.

In a letter to me dated September 25, 1987, Stu wrote. "As for this summer, the situation has entered too critical a stage to have any info released... Above all, please keep mum about everything now. One word could quickly upset the whole setup. I have had recent disturbing news which I dare not even put on paper. You will understand better when I am able to talk to you."

On October 7, 1987, I received a surprise follow-up letter in which he wrote, "The expectation all summer that the government would act by going in kept things in a state of suspense and now Mr. Flitton has backed out and suggested that I apply for a permit to develop the area. As I do not feel competent to organize such an undertaking I have written to a very reputable mining company for advice...I enclose a copy of Mr. Flitton's letter which you must keep in confidence...I would ask you not to phone or come to visit as it could be the final straw...I hope to hear from you shortly".<sup>1</sup>

On two occasions in 1989, Stu allowed me to tape record our conversations. On one recording he states. "If the government doesn't want to mine the vein I can understand that but they can still fly in with helicopters and take out hundreds of millions of dollars worth of free gold from the creek bottom. I can understand not wanting to develop the park, putting roads in and everything but...the gold...just pick it up...it would not have any noticeable impact on the environment...fly the stuff out..." The second recording has been transcribed and is offered for consideration in a following chapter.

Frustrated with government inaction, Stu had contacted the Teck Corporation in 1987 hoping they had the resources and influence required to legally mine the site. In a letter to Stu, dated October 5, 1987, the Teck Corporation offered him, "\$10,000 and 2% of the Net Smelter Returns provided they successfully stake or otherwise acquire mineral title to the site and provided Stu give them an exclusive run at the situation for one full year."

Unfortunately, like all of his previous attempts, Stu's 1987 negotiations with the government and the Tech Corporation failed to reach an acceptable level of agreement. It was mid 1988 when Stu told me some of the details of these negotiations which he had been alluding to in the letters he had written to me in September and October of the previous year.

There are people who were either involved with Stu Brown or otherwise familiar with his disclosure who have expressed skepticism in his claim. Some dismiss his claim as either being over exaggerated or totally fictitious altogether. The primary argument from these quarters is that Jackson stated the creek disappeared while Stu identifies it as flowing through a hole in a ridge. Others point out the significant distance between what is believed to be the "Jackson" rock and the area that Stu identifies. A few have suggested that Stu was party to an expedition in which someone else made the discovery.

Stu Brown has made academic accomplishments which only the most dedicated strive for. His entire background is far beyond reproach. He was a senior government official when he began his letter writing campaign. It is very clear that both his professional achievements and personal credibility would have been completely destroyed, had the government responded positively in 1974 and he in turn was unable to identify the site.

For example, in 1975, Stu met with Leo T. Nimsick, former Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources. Mr. Nimsick apparently agreed to allow Stu to bring out representative samples, directly to him, at which point they would discuss a contract. It is doubtful that anyone

<sup>1</sup> This letter did not survive to be included in this publication.

would meet with any official if they were not totally confident in their opinions and beliefs.

In 1988, I telephoned Mr. Nimsick at his home in Cranbrook B.C., to ask him if he could elaborate on his 1975 negotiations with Stu Brown. Mr. Nimsick told me that he vaguely remembered his meeting with Stu Brown. When I asked him about giving Stu permission to remove samples of gold from within the boundaries of Garibaldi Park he seemed somewhat hesitant in answering the question. He only said he vaguely remembered something about gold from the Lost Pitt Lake Mine however could not remember the details of the subject.

I asked Mr. Nimsick if he would document what he could remember and send it to me at his convenience. He assured me that he would. I did not hear from Mr. Nimsick for several months so I wrote to him, again asking for documentation.

For further independent consideration, I have included selected examples of Stu Brown's letters to the government and the responses he received to those letters in the next chapter. These selected letters are public documents and can be independently obtained by contacting the appropriate government agencies. The last time Stu Brown and I talked in person was sometime in late 1990 or early 1991. There was a sense of defeat in his voice when he told me that the gold was affecting his personal life and he was just going to forget the whole thing. He sadly admitted that he was tired of trying to convince the provincial government to take action.

Although we wrote back and forth for awhile, Stu's letters slowly became more infrequent and finally they stopped arriving. I spoke with Stu's wife briefly in late 2000 and she told me that Stu was in failing health and did not want anything more to do with Pitt Lake.

In concluding this chapter it is significant to note that G.S. "Stu" Brown is the only person to claim to have found the legendary Lost Pitt Lake Mine and live a relatively healthy life long after the fact

G.S. "Stu" Brown

Chapter 6

## LOST CREEK MINE

R.W. Nicholson

THE FOLLOWING is a transcript of one of two taped conversations between Stu Brown and myself. This particular conversation took place at Stu Brown's home in June of 1989, following a brief helicopter reconnaissance trip to an area of interest to both Stu Brown and the group I was associated with at the time. As part of a publication agreement made between Stu and myself, I have censored the name of the creek and the elevations that was referred to during this conversation.

START OF RECORDING

Rob: ...flew in there the other day, yesterday, no sorry, the day before.

Stu: The day before.

Rob: Yes, just to have a look around and check on the snow conditions. There has been, in the area you pointed out, there has been no activity at all.

Stu: Well, I would suspect that the area right now, the actual material is uncovered.

Rob: Is uncovered?

Stu: Yes, although I don't know, in relation to the upper part of the glacier. I don't know whether, comparatively speaking you see, I haven't been in there.

Rob: Well, let's see. When you go in, you go up "Censored" Creek, you go up and over to this lake here.

Stu: Yes.

Rob: And then straight in....

Stu: Well, when you get in here, the criteria to go on is, this gushing creek coming out through the rock...a water fall. Fly over it, and it's a...sort of in a...in an area...the two sides are higher, and you come down what looks like a dam in a sense, a solid rock dam. And just below the lip of that is water coming through the thing.

Rob: That is the area. Directly right in there.

Stu: Let's look. No, wait...no there's more snow if that's it.

Rob: They figured...they got out on the ground at this creek....

Stu: When I was in there, there was no ice or snow or anything.

Rob: They estimate the snow to be between three and five feet deep.

Stu: No, there is a lot more snow in there.

Rob: Here's the rest of the pictures for you to look at, just the basic area. They don't show a heck of a lot, just the basic snow conditions. There are no signs of activity, no foot prints or helicopter pad marks, or at least anything they could not find.

Stu: That's funny. That creek should be coming out of there. He should have seen it! He must have gone in the other way, around the other side of the hill...that's the circle.

Rob: Yes, that's where they were.

Stu: Make sure nobody grabs this map!!

Rob: Don't worry about that.

Stu: He must have come in around...either...some way in this way.

Rob: Yes, well I guess they probably flew straight over it.

Stu: Yes, well I said...maybe I didn't tell him?



LOST CREEK  
MINE

R.W. Nicholson

Rob: No, you told me.

Stu: I told you to go up "Censored" Creek and around here, and I would suspect you can see it right...without any difficulty...this thing gushing out...right out of the side of the rock. Yes, this picture is from further up.

Rob: Yes, that was taken from the helicopter.

Stu: Yes, but I mean further up the glacier from where it is. Now this looks more like it...in fact that looks very much like the spot. You know, you would almost think he was up on the ridge looking down on the thing. That's the sharp ridge...that looks very much like it.

Rob: The front ridge of it?

Stu: Well, this is looking down on the glacier side.

Rob: Yes it is.

Stu: And I would suspect that might be the creek, but it's under too much snow there.

Rob: Yes it is. You would never find anything there now.

Stu: You could never do anything there. This picture is not much, it's just a lake. It looks very much like it though, although there are so many that are similar...but it being in that area it must be the one.

Rob: Well...this comes down and you have a ridge on both sides, a high ridge on the east side and one not as steep on the west side....

Stu: Yes, well you have an 'X' in there...there is certainly contours going way in to indicate a sharp creek, and these contours here lead up to a very sharp prominent hill of some kind. Yes, there is two, two...but if...damn...you see, these pictures are all oriented the other way, the reverse of what I came in on. You see, I came in from this way, and he must have come in....

Rob: Is this the direction you came in on? I'm not exactly sure which way they came from, I didn't go.

Stu: Well I can tell they came in from the north a bit, here. Now just a second, they are looking down the glacier more than up it. My pictures are taken up the glacier...I have several more pictures. I was wondering if...no, it doesn't show. This one here...no, it isn't...let's see...no it doesn't. You can see that that is some of that, looking the other way.

Rob: Yes, definitely, opposite directions. It could be that one there if the snow was gone on it. This would be the one here, just looking at it in reverse.

Stu: No. I didn't take any pictures when I got right into the creek. I didn't want anybody, at that time, I didn't want anybody swiping pictures and being able to identify things. No, those are not exactly the spot. This is the closest to it. Now this one here is looking up...okay it would be looking up this way. Even this one here shows more.... That's looking down on the lake though.

Rob: On this lake here.

Stu: Yes.

Rob: What does the canyon look like, from the inside, when there is no snow there?

Stu: Oh, it's pretty steep. Quite steep on both sides. Below where the water comes out it's down about, oh, it could be upwards of 100 feet, where the water comes out and drops. You have to climb up to this sort of dam and get over it to get into the sort bottom of the lake. But the ridge on the west side of that goes up quite steeply, and it is bare rock, it never cov-



LOST CREEK  
MINE

R.W. Nicholson

ers over, it's always clear.

Rob: An almost vertical cliff, straight up and down.

Stu: No. Too much wind, snow won't collect on it.

Rob: And it's straight in from the end of this lake.

Stu: That's this part, this ridge right up here. Now this is the sharp ridge mentioned in the 'Jackson' letter. He had to get from there, down into this canyon, and it was extremely steep. Now, unfortunately these contours are not accurate enough to be indicators of where the dam could be.

Rob: I think they said there was sort of a dam, or a small ridge across the front of this....

Stu: There is a ridge across the front of the creek that the thing comes through.

Rob: How high up the wall face does it come out?

Stu: It could be this creek here, above this part here. Oh, it's 50 to 100 feet up the wall face, 50 feet anyway, and the waterfall falls straight down, vertical drop, after it comes out of the hole. It just comes bulging out of the hole and down, like the Great Falls.

Rob: We must have been in the wrong spot then.

Stu: I don't know why he wouldn't see that, unless it's covered over with snow and doesn't show, and not thawing quickly. But, I suspect it should be there. But, the thing is as I say, the real way of getting in there would be...go up around this way. I'm sure, from right anywhere in here, you could see that...it's wide open, the falls as it comes out of the dam.

Rob: In the canyon itself is it a small creek?

Stu: It's a narrow...it's a creek. It would be as big as, well it's not as big as Mission Creek I don't figure.

Rob: It's a fair sized creek then?

Stu: Yes, it's maybe half the size of Mission Creek.

Rob: About 10 feet across?

Stu: Uh...well yes, maybe wider, certainly wider in the spring. It was late summer when I was in there, later than this. And this is why I haven't been to pushy about getting things done, so far, because I figure there is no use going in there till the end of July.

Rob: What does the creek enter? Does it enter and underground cavern?

Stu: When it comes out of the wall?

Rob: No, inside the canyon itself. Does it come down and just disappear?

Stu: It comes into a kind of a...a little pocket and then from this little pocket it flows through this hole in the rock and comes out below. And above this pocket of course is the...the...the main creek part...the...what do you call it? I forgot what...gold...the term they used for Slumach's gold.

Rob: Nuggets?

Stu: Canyon or something.

Rob: Oh, gold canyon?

Stu: Yes...I guess Slumach's gold canyon. Now comparing this picture a wee bit....

Rob: Can I get a picture of you doing that Stu?

Stu: Ummm...I hesitate getting pictures of me.

Rob: I won't do anything except develop them until I get your permission.

Stu: Well...you see -- somehow or other I think this is the spot in there...it's uh...just a minute, I'm having a hell of a time and it's been so long now, I may have forgotten some of the stuff. No, I would suspect that this might be the picture. Right in there, with the faint blue showing through. But I have...when I was in there I was well oriented because I spent half a day or so just looking around, doing nothing else. I think that must be about where the water...that could be the...yes...you see this little tiny spot there?

Rob: There is a little knob right there.

Stu: No, I'm looking at the depression. It looks like water. I would suspect there is a little pond in there...the sand trap thing...and it comes out there some place. But this down here I recognize quite definitely as where we had the camp. Right on this open, and there was no wood, nothing, we had to pull wood across from the side of the hill to make a campfire. It was open and quite flat, reasonably nice for a campsite.

Rob: Can I get a picture of you with your finger on the spot?

Stu: Who's going to get the picture?

Rob: Just me.

Stu: Yes, but who's going to break into your house and steal it?

Rob: Nobody, I don't think. Very few people know we are doing this....

Stu: There is a lot more know than you might think.

Rob: Oh I realize there are hundreds of people looking for it; there is no doubt about that.

Stu: Yes, but there is a lot more who know that you are too!

Rob: Oh? Is that right?

Stu: Yes! And with your information.... The information that I had in the paper on the interview, and the one in Victoria, you saw that one?

Rob: Yes. I have a copy of that one as a matter of fact.

Stu: I thought there was a later one out.

Rob: I believe there was one in the Vancouver Sun, but I didn't see that one.

Stu: Could be...maybe they didn't do much....

Rob: So, that's how you got there? You went up past this lake...

Stu: The best way is as I say, come in around here and when you get somewhere here you will see the waterfall gushing out of it. You can't miss it!! Oh, the view from where you would first see it...the area is about a mile wide or nearly that. And where the water is coming out is quite open. You can see...it's a half a mile of space to look at, so you can't miss it!

Rob: In front of this lake is a real small ridge....

Stu: Yes. This is the sharp....

Rob: A little ridge, then you get into another valley, it's basically....

Stu: Well, it's the canyon, it's the canyon part...it's real...once you're over this rock wall which is solid it's not broken, it's completely solid rock with a hole in it and the water is coming through. Once you get past that it's quite narrow.

LOST CREEK  
MINE

R.W. Nicholson

Rob: Do you need ropes to get into it?

Stu: I don't think so. You have to be careful it's quite steep. If you landed on the one side you should be all right although you are on ice there and you don't know what you are going to run into. But, in the late summer of course the glaciers aren't as dangerous. The deceptive snow cover has melted off and you are not a likely to break through as you are earlier.

Rob: There is the lake. Here is where they were looking but it is this one here actually....

Stu: It could have been the wrong one...no it wasn't. It's fairly steep. The creek comes down fairly steep, which I would suspect is...well you can see the contours. It's in there; it's definitely...all these go way in so there's a gully coming down there. But...you can see the contours aren't too far apart so the stream is quite steep.

Rob: Well, they said above all this was solid snow so it must still be under....

Stu: Yes, well it's glacier...no it's between the glacier and the ridge where the creek comes down, most of it. That's why the water is flowing, it's glacier melt and it's coming down there. Well, maybe I shouldn't say glacier melt it's more like the previous winters snow pack that's feeding the creek. But, it must flow oh, six months of the year, that creek.

Rob: Is that right?

Stu: It's not...even if it's under the snow.

Rob: Does this look like the creek? Maybe we got into the wrong canyon....Stu: No, this is not the...well darn it might be at a different spot.

Rob: They couldn't figure out where this creek started from.

Stu: And they didn't look at it? I would suspect that you might find something in that creek because I think it's connected. I think that could be the creek but not in the same location it's at.

Rob: Behind that...somewhere....

Stu: It would be...well it may be down in there further, below that. You see it goes down through there and that may be where the canyon part is. I'm not sure, they may have been to high up as I say. But, I never traced the creek to the top or anything, I don't know what feeds the... what makes the beginning. I'm quite positive from the contours up here that it can't be beyond anywhere up here because you've got a ridge that's "Censored" feet high. Those pictures are from what?

Rob: These pictures were taken from [censored] feet.

Stu: Yes, [censored] feet roughly. It's about [censored]...I...I...figured about [censored] feet or thereabouts where the...but it could be a little...well the creek comes down a short distance and drops about 500 feet in no time at all. There is a drop right there of 500 feet.

Rob: The tent shaped rock is in the canyon is in the canyon itself is it?

Stu: Yes...sort of...almost...pretty well in the creek bottom.

Rob: What kind of mark is on it?

Stu: Marker?

Rob: No, Jackson said he put a mark or something on it.

Stu: Jackson?

Rob: Yes....

Stu: Not that I know of. I didn't see any. He buried some gold under it, scraped away under-

neath and put a few thousand dollars worth of nuggets in there.

Rob: Did you find it?

Stu: I didn't bother.

Rob: I guess not....

END OF TAPE

During this conversation Stu did identify the fact that he was not alone on at least one of his trips into the area. He does use the term 'we' twice. Once when referring to the campsite at the lake and again when referring to the gathering of firewood. I can not disagree that Stu's own reference to another person or persons does support one aspect of the skeptical argument as identified in chapter 6.

However, Stu told me long before this conversation took place that he was not alone. He openly acknowledges this fact but does maintain that he is the only one who knows where the exact location is.

Regardless of my own personal opinion of Stu Brown or the validity of his claim, the information he shared with me has been offered for independent consideration and evaluation.

G.S. "Stu" Brown  
Transcript of  
conversations

Chapter 8

## LOST CREEK MINE

R.W. Nicholson



P.O. Box 765, Str A,  
Kelowna, B.C.,

Wed., Oct. 7, 1987.

Hi,

First, I must apologize for the nasty and unwarranted interference the other day on the part of my wife. She had absolutely no right to phone you nor to interfere in the matter in any way. However, after 14 years of fighting on my part with the provincial government I cannot say it has not affected our married life. As you probably noticed I could not talk freely or naturally on the phone at any time.

Rather than break things up between us I have learned to put up with a lot of things.

You have wondered why I included you and Jay so readily in the deal. I hoped I could shift most of the field work on you and so avoid much of the disruption here at home. The expectation all summer that the government would act by going in kept things in a state of suspense & now ~~the~~ Mr. Flitton has backed out and suggested that I apply for a permit to develop the area. As I do not feel competent to organize such an undertaking I have written to a very reputable mining company for advice.



I enclose a copy of Mr. Flittan's letter which you must keep in confidence.

The last location which I gave to you should also be kept in strict confidence. Any one getting near to it I would like to know about in spite of my remarks to you on the phone. I know of one person who intends to fly in in the spring to Terravosa L. and search that whole area. He asked me to go with him but I told him I did not need to search.

I have a post office box which I have held for five years now. My wife does not have access to it and I hope we can maintain contact in this way. Unfortunately, I would ask you not to phone or come to visit as it could be the final straw. I would appreciate having any information on anyone being seen or heard of in the area concerned. I do not believe the party you mentioned on the phone were there and if it was Jackson's last camp it was elsewhere.

I hope to hear from you shortly.

As ever

Stu

G. Stuart Brown  
Box 765 Stn. A  
Kelowna, BC V1Y 7P4

Box 765, Stn A,  
Kelowna, B.C.,  
V1Y 7P4  
October 21, 1987.

Dear Rob,

Your letter came today and I will answer it now while Marguerite is away playing bridge. Needless to say she has always been critical of my activities regarding Garibaldi Park and it came to a head the day you phoned.

Mr. Flitton, the deputy minister, suggested that if I did not feel capable of handling the development of the property I should consult someone with some experience in such matters. This I did by way of a letter to Teck Corporation. I am sending you a copy of their reply. I promptly rejected their offer as it did not include you and Jay.

Day before yesterday I went to Vancouver for an interview with Teck. I received no further offer but they agreed to go to the Department of Mines to determine if a permit could be granted to develop the property. It seems they have no comprehension of the values involved. I am waiting now to hear from them.

It is important that we should get together in the very near future to bring each other up to date so I will attempt to get down during the next week. I certainly would like to know what the incidents are which are disturbing you, as well as anything further you can tell me.

Sincerely,

*Stu*



Box 765, Stn A,  
Kelowna, B. C.,  
November 18, 1987.

Dear Rob,

I have for answering your letters of November 1 and November 16. First, I have found it impossible to get down to Hope to see you, because I have not had one day free from other commitments. Perhaps now that you are on the disabled list again I will be able to get down and back again in one day. Your statement in your letter of Nov. 1 that your activities during the summer had not remained confidential is of particular interest to me. I was sure I could trust you and Jay, though Fred was a different matter.

I have been unable to arouse very active interest from Tech Corporation. The company representative promised to take the matter of a permit to develop the site up with the deputy minister but I have had no word back from him.

Should the matter not proceed satisfactorily within the next month or two I will have to reorganize my plans once again. This might mean that I might ask you and Jay, or you alone, to hike in with me in the spring to bring out what we could carry in one or two trips. Would you be up to such a trip? Regardless of this I have always intended that both of you should be in on any deal.

My son from Geneva will be here this weekend, Friday to Monday so I will be tied up then. Tomorrow I must attend a meeting here in Kelowna of the Placer Mining Association on proposed changes to the Mining Act. I cannot therefore get away for a day before Friday, Nov. 27. When I do come I will bring all my material with me.

I hope to see you in the near future.

*Stu*

Box 765, Stn A,  
Kelowna, B.C.,  
V1Y 7P4,  
March 30, 1988.

Dear Rob,

I was beginning to wonder if I would hear from you again although there could be little doing during the winter months. Your letter came while I was away at Reno for a week so I am a bit late answering. Also, our hot water tank had sprung a leak while we were away so there was a bad mess to clean up on our return. Marguerite is away playing bridge this afternoon so I will have time to get this away to you.

I do not know when I can get to you alone. I have been down to Vancouver three times since I last was in touch but have had someone with me each time and could not call you on the way through. However, it will be before the end of May if I have to make a rush trip ~~xx~~ just to see you. I think that Jay does not believe that I know where the lost canyon is and that I am stringing people a line. I do not wish to cut him out and would not do so. However, it is my most sincere wish that you and I would hike in so that I could show you the area and take pictures for your article. This would depend entirely on your physical capabilities and if you have recovered from your problem of last summer.

Unfortunately, my contact in Tech Corporation has not seen things my way so I have not pursued things with him and now am no further ahead than I was last summer, though I can go ahead and bring out what I wish without fear of reprisal. I know that the government is now looking into opening the park up to prospecting and development and we know that there are many interested in the general area.

You may have wondered a bit about my apparent lack of cooperation by not flying in with your helicopter friend, but for some reason I could not trust him. So far this has been true of all helicopter pilots I have met (except Jim Logue) and so I have tried to do it the hard way. There is no way we would have of checking on anyone flying in and cleaning the place out while our backs were turned.

A trip in to the site would not be hazardous nor even really difficult. It would be hard slogging but straightforward and mean two to three nights sleeping out. I go dry without any cooking utensils, that is, canned meat, buttered bread, some juice, and canned goods. There is lots of water so none need be carried. The end of June would be about the earliest possible. I expect to be unavailable earlier.

What do you think? Please let me know.

Sincerely,

*Steve*



Box 765, Stn A,  
Kelowna, B.C.,  
May 24, 1988

Dear Rob,

Time has flown and I have been so busy with the garden and outside painting that I have had little time to write, though my mind has been quite active. Now I must get htiis away as I am leaving this weekend on a three-week trip to Alaska. I should be back by the middle of the month and then must go to my granddaughter's graduation. As there can be little activity in the park before July I should be able to go in with you sometime early in July.

I am sorry that I have been unable to meet you in person but I have a touchy situation here. We should have a discussion to thrash things out. No, Jackson's letter is not in code. It is straightforward, although I think his geographic sense was a bit lacking. It is a wonder he did not get lost and perish in there. However, if someone has advanced that theory let him believe it. So much the better. Co-ordinates were not set up in his day

This letter must be short as I have still many things to do. I am very much looking forward to a trip in with you. When I sit here it all seems so easy that I wonder at the failed trips I have attempted. We will keep everything between the two of us for now but, as I said, I would be happy to cut Jay in later.

Don't despair at my infrequent letters, I'm as keen as ever.

Sincerely,



Stu



Box 765, Stn A.,  
Kelowna, B.C.,  
V1Y 7P4,  
July 19, 1988.

Dear Rob,

I have been waiting for the weather to break before I contacted you as there was little use in attempting to hike with the almost constant rain we have had. Now the forecast is for a week of continuing dry weather so perhaps things will dry out and thaw to a favorable state.

I have been busy in the meantime with graduations and our trip to Alaska, which turned out well. The fruit and garden also took a lot of time.

I cannot set a date to go in yet but thought I should contact you to see if you were still alive and in good shape. How are things with you? I think we should plan on sometime about the middle of August or before then as things may get busy with me again before the end of the month. My granddaughter is coming by about the 20th and from then to the end of the month we will have her to look after and get established at the university in Victoria, then we expect to drive to the north rim of the Grand Canyon about September 1, then to Ottawa about October 1, so we have a busy schedule. I will contact you again, either by phone or by letter. I hope you will answer this and let me know if you are available to go and are still willing.

I must go,  
Regards,

*Sta*

Stuart.

# Daryl Friesen

*“I am getting too old now to get involved.”*

.G. Stuart Brown in telephone conversation with Daryl Friesen May 2001

I TOOK a trip to the local library where I came across Donald Waite's book *The Fraser Valley Story*, which contained some exciting information I had never read before. The book mentioned a man named Stuart Brown who came forward with the extraordinary claim that he had found the lost mine of Pitt Lake within the boundaries of Garibaldi Park in the summer of 1973. When Brown made his discovery he knew that he could not stake the location as it was in a Provincial Park. He chose to try and interest the government to help him protect the location and to grant him permission to take samples out to prove his point and to stake the site.

Brown wrote letter after letter to the government and, after several years, getting nowhere with the government, he contacted Teck Corporation, a mining company. They offered him \$16,000 for revealing the location of his find but he declined their offer, as he did not consider that enough. Stuart kept a secret many people would kill for and was not sure what to do next. He tried to find individuals who could assist him by confirming the presence of the bonanza. and one of those he chose for that purpose had been Don Waite.

At that time Waite ran a photography business in Maple Ridge and was listed in the phone book. When I called him, he immediately invited me over. First thing he did after I came in was handing me a topographic map with a line drawn on it pointing to an area on the west side of Terrarosa glacier.

"This is a map that I used when I hiked the area where Brown believed the mine was," he said "but it doesn't mean much, so don't get too excited."

He wondered why Brown would have gone through the trouble of writing letter after letter to government officials year after year, trying to convince them to mine in a park.

"He says in his letters that the gold is just there for the picking. Most people would have just taken it all. Wouldn't you if you were standing up to your ankles in gold nuggets?"

"Probably," I answered, "how did you meet Brown?"

"He called me up out of the blue and said that he had read my book and wanted to show me the location and that maybe I would publish the truth in my next book. I think all Brown was looking for was fame."

"Do you have any more of the letters that Brown wrote to the government?" I asked.

"Sure."

"Is there any way I could get copies?"

"It will cost ya," he said. "Just kidding. Follow me."

He took out a large book — his entire file on the lost mine — and started to copy all of the Stuart Brown's letters and other information. I will forever be grateful to him for sharing all that with me.

Stuart Brown had agreed to guide Don and his partner Vic Loffler to the location of the mine to prove his story and clear his name. They left Maple Ridge in Stuart Brown's beaten up old van travelling past Vancouver, up the Squamish Highway to Pemberton. From there they took the road that runs to the head of Harrison Lake. Near the head of Harrison they drove up the Fire Lake logging road as far as they could before setting out on foot. But when they reached Fire

Lake, Don's boots had given out, he had blisters on his feet, and they had to turn back.

Plans were made for a second attempt, but this time it would be done by helicopter. So a few days later they headed for the location by air. But something made Stuart Brown change his mind. No longer did he want to share his secret with Don and he refused to point out the location from the air. When they got back on the ground Stuart and Don went their separate ways. Don, determined, looked for the mine once more, this time with his partner Vic Loffler but without Stuart Brown.

When I met him, Don told me that he had come to the conclusion that Stuart Brown's bonanza was an illusion and that Brown had refused to point out its location simply because he couldn't—he had never seen it in his life.

After talking with Stuart Brown by telephone myself I became more convinced that he was a man of his word.

Stuart Brown  
SPINDLE QUEST  
Daryl Friesen

*Transcript of my telephone conversation with Stuart Brown in the in the winter 2000/2001.*

— When was the last time you went up there?

— Oh, it would be about 1980.

— Did you ever find gold?

— Yeah

— How much gold did you find?

— Considerable.

— Would you ever go back again?

— Not at my age.

— Would you ever talk to anyone about where you went?

— Well I am a little leery about it all.

— Why is that?

— Well I would be endangering people's lives and no one in his right mind would ever go in there.

— Why is that?

— Because of the terrain.

— Is it anywhere near Stave Glacier?

— Well, that's a matter of distance.

— Is it east of Stave Glacier?

— Yes, generally.

— Is it near Terrarosa Glacier?

— Yes.

— Is it the northern Terrarosa Glacier or the southern Terrarosa Glacier?

— I wouldn't help you a bit by saying anything on that.

Stuart Brown  
SPINDLE QUEST  
Daryl Friesen

- Why is that?
- You have to know the country.
- I guess you would not be able to show the area on a map would you?
- I would want some pretty detailed assurances about it. I am getting too old now to get involved.
- You are the only person on record who claims to know where it is and is still alive.
- That's right, no there is one other person who knows.
- What's the name?
- That I would not be able to give out.
- Still alive?
- Yup.
- Was he your partner?
- Well he was sort of. He went in with me once but not all the way.
- Do you think others know where it is besides you?
- I am quite certain, no.
- No?
- Right
- Can you get to it by going through Fire Lake?
- Well, you can get to it going anyway. It's you might say circuitous route. I don't think there is much use in me discussing this.
- Why is that?
- What good would it do. I am only endangering your life since it's not going to lead to anything. If someone accidentally found it so be it. That would be up to them.
- Can you get to it through the Upper Pitt River?
- Well you can get to it a dozen ways, You can get to it by going how they first went in.
- How did they first go in?
- Well they went in many ways
- Is it closer to the Upper Pitt or the Upper Stave?
- Offhand I would say Stave.
- Thank you Mr. Brown.



Vancouver BC May 2001

By way of an  
introduction

Stuart Brown, PO Box 765 Station A, Kelowna BC V1Y 7P4

## SPINDLE QUEST

Daryl Friesen

Dear Mr Stuart Brown

I would just like to thank you for talking to me on the phone a while back about your involvement in the search for the lost mine of Pitt lake and I guess I should explain a little about why I called you in the first place.

You see, Mr. Brown, I have been searching for Slumach's gold for most of my life. I first heard about the gold when I was twelve years old. At the moment I am trying to write a book about my own adventures searching for the mine. I know all about how dangerous and rugged the terrain is which hides this gold. I have been there and seen it myself.

When we talked on the phone you said that you wanted some reassurances if you where to give the location away and I guess that is the main reason I am writing you this letter today. What sort of reassurances are you looking for?

I have read all your letters to the government concerning protecting Garbaldi park and I agree it is a very beautiful area and must be protected if the mine is truly where you say it is. There are people out there who would strip this area clean if they where to find it. I am not one of those people. I understand the value in the place's beauty and wonder. If you were to share with me your knowledge of the gold mines location I can promise you that I will tell know no one about what you reveal to me. I will only take what I need and will share whatever percentage you want with you for revealing this information to me.

You don't have to journey to the location with me. You have my word that I will keep you informed of what I find and when I journey in as well. As far as me risking my life going in there, do not worry about me. If you do agree to talk to me would it be at all possible for me to meet you as well?

I am 27 years old and have travelled all over Central America and British Columbia and have plenty of experience in mountain climbing and bush travel. I have been in some hell holes that make the Pitt Lake mountains look like paradise and can handle all of the danger that will be faced on such a trip. So please do not worry about endangering my life.

If you don't want to reveal anything to me, would you at least be able to put me on course as to where the canyon is?

I have tried to locate the canyon with the help of the information in the Jackson letter and also made efforts to find out where Volcanic Brown's last camp was located on the eastern lip of Stave Glacier.

I have enclosed two topographic maps of the entire area in question with this letter. You are the last person alive who claims to know the location of this legendary gold mine I would be forever in your debt if you where to share any information with me

Thanks again for your time.

Daryl Friesen

PS You told me on the phone it would be OK to call you again. I will call you in two days after you get this package to hear your answer. Also would it be ok if I talked to Edward Harvey about his involvement with you in the search for the lost mine?

## **G. Stuart BROWN**

**Date Deceased:** September 8, 2002

**Age:** 86

### **Service Information**

**Service Number:** J96445

**Units:** 428 Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force

**Period of Service:** World War 2

### **Legion Branch Information**

**Member Title:**

**Legion Branch:** Kelowna Branch

**Location:** British Columbia

*Victoria Times-  
Colonist*  
3 October 2006.

BROWN, Marguerite Ellen (Hyde)

Marguerite passed away at the Kelowna General Hospital Sunday morning, 5 March 2006, after a short illness.

She leaves her children: Stuart (Margaret) in Montreal, Christopher in Ottawa and Karen in Gloucester, ON, her grandchildren: Kevin (Jacki) in Toronto, Timothy in Iqaluit, Moira (Douglas Manthorne) and Fiona in Vernon, as well as her great-grandchildren: Marc, Chloe, Olivia, Keturah and Zachary. Also left to mourn are her nephew Edwin (Colleen) Tackaberry, several other nieces and nephews and many dear friends.

Born in Brandon, Manitoba on 21 November 1919 to Job Hyde and Ellen Soan, both immigrants from England, Marguerite lost her mother just before her second birthday, and her father when she was eleven. She lived with her sister and her brother-in-law, Ivy and Harold Tackaberry, and graduated from Brandon Collegiate and the nursing school at the Brandon Mental Hospital. In June 1941 she married George Stuart Brown of Minnedosa, MB, who was a POW in Germany for 21 months during World War II.

In 1945 the couple and their son moved to Vancouver, and they lived and worked in Vancouver, Victoria, Cowichan, Windermere and other centres until moving to Ottawa in 1961. They retired to Kelowna in 1982. Marguerite was an avid curler and a keen bridge player. At various times she was a Captain of the Girl Guides, a leader in the Parent-Teacher Association and an expert participant in Scottish and Country Dancing. At Marguerite's request, there will be no funeral. Donations in her memory may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or the charity of your choice. 215881



