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REG BEAUMONT STILL SEEKS LOST MINE

BY SYD ORWOOD

A weekend prospector who let a mining claim on Sheridan Hill lapse in 1957 "just shuddered" Sunday afternoon when he was told someone else had discovered a lost gold mine worth millions on the site.

Reg Beaumont, 5398 Nelson Avenue, Burnaby, filed a claim in 1956, in partnership with another amateur prospector, Frank Middlemiss, on property staked last Saturday by Columbian City Editor Elmer McLellan.

Beaumont and Middlemiss spent about [word missing] clearing debris away from a mine driven into the side of the hill by an earlier and unidentified miner.

The [word missing] the venture and turned their exploration elsewhere [word missing] effort to find a mine whose location went to a murderer's grave with a Salish Indian named Slumach in 1891.

Sunday afternoon, while hundreds of gold-fevered Columbian readers were following McLellan's path up the rocky hill in search for the remainder of Slumach's gold, Beaumont, 33, was hiking inland from Williams Landing on Pitt Lake, 18 miles to the north.

When he returned to Williams Landing at 2 p.m., his sister passed on the news gleaned from a passing boater: "Have you heard that Slumach's mine has been discovered on Sheridan Hill."

Beaumont said today the "news" was a blow, but he soon learned that the news story was only speculation about the location of the famous mine.

"I was shaken, I could not think straight, I just shuddered," he said.

"I lost my appetite and couldn't eat."

Beaumont who was following an interest in geology and mining for ten years, said, he had missed an opportunity to make \$860,000 eight years ago, because he was not willing to invest \$350 in a venture which turned out successfully.

"I thought sure I'd done it again," he admitted ruefully.

Monday Beaumont felt better.

"On reflection of the facts as far as we know them about Slumach," he said, "I think now his mine is somewhere else."

That "somewhere else" he would not reveal, but said he has more than one location in mind.

**Reg Beaumont still seeks
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“Where I was Sunday, was not one of them.”

“I was just taking a relaxing hike up to some eaves near Williams Landing. I’m sure there is no gold there.”

Beaumont took a mining course several years ago, and admitted that even when he was working the property on Sheridan Hill, he was not completely sure he was on the trail of Slumach’s lost gold.

The gold that Slumach carried into New Westminster during 1889 and 1890 and spent freely to excite the curiosity of the townspeople, was in the form of nuggets.

“Our explorations on Sheridan Hill didn’t turn up any nuggets, but my partner and I were considering sinking a shaft to follow a vein of quartz which showed on the surface.”

Beaumont recalled.

“On the surface, the vein was almost nothing. Thirty feet down, at the bottom of the natural shaft it widens to about an inch.”

“We thought that at about 300 feet down it would be of considerable size, and may contain some gold.”

Although his interest in the Slumach gold has been transferred elsewhere, Beaumont’s curiosity in Sheridan Hill has not cooled.

In another phone call to the Columbian late yesterday he said, “If Elmer McLellan lets his claim on this hill expire, would you please let me know.

“I think I’d like to go and stake that spot again.”