Newspapers and Magazines 1900s

LOCAL COMPANY TO SURVEY SLUMACH LOST CREEK PROPERTY

STOCK ISSUE TO FINANCE GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF CLAIMS

The Lost Creek Mine, reported to have been found by an Indian named Slumach, is perhaps the most fabulous of all mining prospects in British Columbia, and the twentieth century. Prior to 1890, Slumach appeared in New Westminster on many occasions with nuggets of gold, some reportedly the size of walnuts. He constantly refused to reveal the source of the gold, but on one or two occasions made guarded reference to a Lost Creek in the Pitt Lake Mountains.

Wasted Gold

It has been reported that he spent his gold wastefully and even made bullets of gold—using them for target practice and hunting—boasting that there was lots more where those came from.

Slumach's ultimate fate was the gallows. Indians of the Coquitlam tribe, with whom he lived, claim that he murdered many times, his victims having been mainly squaws used by him to pack out the gold and then slain in order to help guard his secret, but it was for the murder of a half-breed, killed in a fight on Lillooet Slough, near Pitt River, on September 8th, 1890, that he was hanged on January 16th 1891.

Others in on it

According to the one newspaper account, four other men besides Slumach "actually took gold from the hidden mine." They are said to be Slumach's son, a half-breed, and two American prospectors. One of the Americans, John Jackson by name, reputedly took \$10,000 out in gold only to die shortly afterwards from the rigors of the trip. Another story states that the two Americans took over \$20,000 worth of gold from the mine, but this is only a fraction of what Slumach himself is estimated to have sold.

These stories are legendary in British Columbia and may be true or a gross exaggeration of the facts. However, the source of the information on which the Company has acted in acquiring its Mineral Claims is one Tommy Williams, son of Chief Coquitlam William, and the only living person who knew Slumach. In his death cell, Slumach sent for Chief Coquitlam William to tell him the location of the Mine, but this invitation was refused by the Chief as he did not want to become involved and so Slumach then told his son where the Mine was located. He informed his son that he must take

Local company to survey Slumach Lost Creek property

Advertisement in the Province and the Vancouver Sun 6 September 1952

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Chief Coquitlam William with him to the Mine, which the son did, according to the story of the Chief as told to the Company's informant, said Tommy Williams.

Ultimate fate

Soon afterward Slumach was hanged, his son died, and also Slumach's brother, Smaam-quach, who had hunted several times with Slumach in the Pitt Lake area. This left Chief Coquitlam William as the only man alive who knew where the Mine was located.

Later the Chief took Tommy Williams and his brother Edward (now deceased) to the Mine. Tommy, according to his story, has gone towards the Mine several times, but to it only once again as people followed him whenever he went in, and he did not want them to find it.

"This is the Mine"

On his last visit to the Mine, he was accompanied by two newspaper men who had spent two years of research and investigation including several flights over the Pitt Lake area. During their research they gained the confidence of Williams who led them to the site of the Mine and in April, 1952 they staked the area so pointed out to them as the Lost Creek Mine. On arrival at the location, William[s] stated, "I am an old man now (59), but I know I could find it—I know I can trust you. I have been testing you while we travelled. You are good, tough men. It has been a good trip. I knew I could find the Mine again, and I did. THIS IS THE MINE.

Deep snow prevented a proper investigation at that time but moss and rock samples taken some distance down the mountain when the snow had melted showed "traces" of gold.

This Company owns what it believes to be the claims upon which are located the Lost Creek Mine found by Slumach.

The purpose of this issue is to have a geological survey made on the territory and to have a qualified Mining Engineer make a thorough investigation of the area, and prove or disprove once and for all the legendary stories. This is purely a speculative issue. The risk is great, but it could be that the reward may be greater.

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