

Newspapers and Magazines 1900s

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PROSPECTING IS FOR THE BIRDS!

BY ELMER MCLELLAN, COLUMBIA CITY EDITOR

There must be an easier way to make \$100,000,000.

I'm referring of course to Slumach's Lost Creek Gold Mine.

There were times Saturday I wished Slumach had never seen the light of day.

With reporter Sydney Orpwood, and his son Lorin, I left after the paper was out, reading the mineral act as Syd drove.

Up to then I had had only a nodding acquaintance with the matter of staking a claim, and it was a shock to find no ordinary stake would do.

The act calls for a four-inch surface on four sides for at least one foot from the top of the stake, and it must stand four feet above the ground.

The act suggest a tree may be cut and shaped to these requirements, or a four-foot stone cairn may be erected in the absence of a suitable tree.

It being late afternoon we felt daylight remaining would not allow such primitive methods, so we stopped along the way and bought six 4x4 cedar fence posts, five feet long. (We carried three sets of claim tags).

Deciding against carrying our posts along the Pitt River dyke, we gained permission from the farmer adjacent to Sheridan Hill, and drove as far as his back field.

But the distance remaining, much of it over soggy ground, was too great for two office workers to carry six poles. (Young Lorin packed tools and camera equipment.)

Two posts were therefore left behind. Even then, the remaining four proved an unmanageable load when we reached the underbrush and the beginning of our climb.

Two more were dropped at this point.

A slight drizzle, which had begun half way across the field, was now coming down in earnest. As we plunged into the underbrush we began fighting with our posts, sometimes throwing them ahead of us and sometimes dragging them.

In the same manner we fought our way up over rocks at the base of Slumach's mine, over or under deadfalls as they presented themselves.

Under the Mining Act one set of tags will secure a piece of land of which the sides are not more than 1500 feet in length.

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The usual method is to set up an initial post, so identified by one metal plate, and a number two post, on which the remaining plate is nailed, 1500 feet away.

You then may indicate the number of feet to the right and left of the between the posts to make up the full extent of your claim. This location line must be shown by blazing trees or erecting stone cairns.

We were bruised, scratched and thoroughly wet when the job was done.

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