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U.S. MAN DIES HUNTING GOLD | LOST MINE'S 23RD VICTIM

A vacation spent in the Pitt River badlands, hunting a legendary gold mine, ended in death for an American naval draughtsman Wednesday.

Body of Lewis E. Hagbo, 43, of Bremerton, Wash. Was brought out to civilization Friday afternoon by Sgt. Jackson Payne of the Coquitlam RCMP detachment.

Hagbo is the twenty-third man to die seeking for the Lost Creek mine. Some died by accident, by misfortune, by exposure and by murder.

Word of Hagbo's death was brought out by his brother-in-law, Frank Mattson, Bainbridge, Wash., who hiked six miles to a dwelling at the north end of Pitt Lake.

The rugged jungle of rock-fall and mountain north of Pitt River is supposed to hide the Lost Creek gold mine. It is said that the mine, in a hidden valley, was found by the Indian Slumach, who was hanged at New Westminster in 1891.

He was convicted of the murder of an Indian woman, one of many he took with him back into his mine each time he returned.

In the past 70 years, hundreds of prospectors and hopeful adventurers have hunted the gold, but none have found it.

It is believed Hagbo suffered a heart attack. A package of nitro-glycerine pills, used by sufferers of heart disease was found in his pocket.

The body was packed out six miles over rock-fall and down a dry creek bed to a forest-access road, and then by boat down Pitt Lake.

An autopsy will be held.

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