

Established in 2009

B.C. Prospector Magazine ~ Online Edition ~



Front Cover:

Feeding a portable sluice box on Rock Creek,
Boundary Country. August 2009.

The B.C. Prospector Magazine – Online Edition – accepts and appreciates independent articles and stories on a wide variety of topics for publication. Submissions can be made via email to bcprospector.ca or in writing to B.C. Prospector, P.O. Box 317, Enderby, B.C., V0E 1V0.

All submissions must include the writers name, email and overland mailing address.

Although the B.C. Prospector Magazine strives for the highest degree of historical accuracy, it is virtually impossible for us to verify the facts in all individual articles. The onus, therefore, is on the individual author to ensure the accuracy of their articles and stories except where it is of a personal or humorous nature.

No.1

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October 2009

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Gold

The Noblest of the Noble Metals

Gold is the “noblest” of the noble metals; gold, platinum, palladium, and rhodium. The term noble metal is used because of these metals inertness, or reluctance to enter into chemical reactions. The atomic symbol for gold is Au, its atomic number is 79 and its atomic weight is 196.967. Gold melts at a temperature of 1063° C or 1945.4 degrees F. Gold has a specific gravity of 19.3, which means that it is 19.3 times heavier than water. Water weighs 8.35 lbs per gallon and 2.2 lbs per liter. As gold is 19.3 times heavier than water, a liter of gold would weigh 42.46 lbs and a gallon of gold would weigh 161.16 lbs. Gold's hardness is between 2.5 and 3 on the Mohs Scale of Mineral Hardness. Friedrich Mohs (1773-1839) was a mineralogist who devised this ascending scale, from the softest (talc - 01) to the hardest (diamond – 10).

Gold is traditionally weighed using the Troy measuring system. The term is believed to be named after a weight used at the annual fair held at Troyes, France during the Middle Ages. One grain of gold weighs 0.0648 grams. There is 24 grains in 1 pennyweight (DWT). One pennyweight (DWT) weighs 1.5552 grams and there are 20 DWT to the ounce. There are 31.1035 grams to one troy ounce as compared to the standard ounce, the unit of weight in the U.S. Customary System, which is 28.35 grams. There are 12 troy ounces to one troy pound as compared to 16 ounces in the standard weight. One troy pound contains 5760 grains or 373.24 grams of gold.

Egyptians kings of the fourth to sixth dynasties (c. 2700 - 2270 B.C.) were the first to issue small quantities of gold coins. The first large-scale, private issuance of pure gold coins was under King Croesus (560-546 B.C.), the ruler of ancient Lydia, modern-day western Turkey. Stamped with his royal emblem of the facing heads of a lion and a bull, these first known coins eventually became the standard of exchange for worldwide trade and commerce.

The United Kingdom which included Canada, adopted a gold standard after the Napoleonic wars in the early part of the 19th century. United States adopted the gold standard *de facto* in 1879 and formally adopted the gold standard by legislation in 1900. By 1914, the gold standard had been accepted by a the majority of the countries around the world. From 1880 to 1914, the "mint parity" between the U.S. dollar and sterling was approximately \$4.87, based on a U.S. official gold price of \$20.67 per ounce and a U.K. official gold price of £ 4.24 per ounce. In 1971 President Richard Nixon ended US dollar convertibility to gold and the central role of gold in world currency systems ended.

The proportion of gold in jewelry is measured on the carat (or karat) scale. The word carat comes from the carob seed, which was originally used to balance scales in Oriental bazaars. Pure gold is 1.000 Fine or 24 karat whereas Commercial Gold is .999 Fine. 18 Karat contains 75% gold, 14 Karat is 58% gold and 10 Karat 42% gold.

The most commonly used alloys for jewelry in Canada and the United States is 10 and 14 carat. In most of Europe it is 14 and 18 carat with 9 carat being more popular in the UK. Portugal has a unique designation of 19.2 carats. In the Middle East, India and South East Asia, jewelry is traditionally 22 carat. In China, Hong Kong and some other parts of Asia it is 24 carat.

The world's largest single mass of gold was found at Hill End, New South Wales, Australia, in October of 1872 by Mr. Bernhard Otto Holtermann and is known as the "The Beyers and Holtermann Specimen". Although referred to as a nugget this gold is technically classified as a matrix. It weighed 286 kilograms and measured roughly 150cm by 66cm.

The largest gold nugget ever found was the "Welcome Stranger", found at Moliagul, Victoria, Australia in 1869 by John Deason and Richard Oates. The nugget weighed over 2,520 troy ounces.

The largest nugget ever found and recorded in British Columbia was taken from Spruce Creek in the Atlin District in 1899. The nugget was valued, at that time, at over \$1,600.00. The recorded weight of the nugget was 85 oz. 5 grams.

The following historical gold prices were taken from Timothy Green's Historical Gold Price Table and are listed in U.S. Dollars. The prices from 1995 to 2008 are the yearly accumulated averages from Kitco.com.

Year	Price	Year	Price	Year	Price	Year	Price
1849	18.93	1889	18.93	1929	20.63	1969	41.28
1850	18.93	1890	18.94	1930	20.65	1970	36.02
1851	18.93	1891	18.96	1931	17.06	1971	40.62
1852	18.93	1892	18.96	1932	20.69	1972	58.42
1853	18.93	1893	18.96	1933	26.33	1973	97.39
1854	18.93	1894	18.94	1934	34.69	1974	154.00
1855	18.93	1895	18.93	1935	34.84	1975	160.86
1856	18.93	1896	18.98	1936	34.87	1976	124.74
1857	18.93	1897	18.98	1937	34.79	1977	147.84
1858	18.93	1898	18.98	1938	34.85	1978	193.40
1859	18.93	1899	18.94	1939	34.42	1979	306.00
1860	18.93	1900	18.96	1940	33.85	1980	615.00
1861	18.93	1901	18.98	1941	33.85	1981	460.00
1862	18.93	1902	18.97	1942	33.85	1982	376.00
1863	18.93	1903	18.95	1943	33.85	1983	424.00
1864	18.93	1904	18.96	1944	33.85	1984	361.00
1865	18.93	1905	18.92	1945	34.71	1985	317.00
1866	18.93	1906	18.90	1946	34.71	1986	368.00
1867	18.93	1907	18.94	1947	34.71	1987	447.00
1868	18.93	1908	18.95	1948	34.71	1988	437.00
1869	18.93	1909	18.96	1949	31.69	1989	381.00
1870	18.93	1910	18.92	1950	34.72	1990	383.51
1871	18.93	1911	18.92	1951	34.72	1991	362.11
1872	18.94	1912	18.93	1952	34.60	1992	343.82
1873	18.94	1913	18.92	1953	34.84	1993	359.77
1874	18.94	1914	18.99	1954	35.04	1994	384.00
1875	18.94	1915	18.99	1955	35.03	1995	383.79
1876	18.94	1916	18.99	1956	34.99	1996	387.81
1877	18.94	1917	18.99	1957	34.95	1997	331.02
1878	18.94	1918	18.99	1958	35.10	1998	294.24
1879	18.94	1919	19.95	1959	35.10	1999	278.98
1880	18.94	1920	20.68	1960	35.27	2000	279.11
1881	18.94	1921	20.58	1961	35.25	2001	271.04
1882	18.94	1922	20.66	1962	35.23	2002	309.73
1883	18.94	1923	21.32	1963	35.09	2003	363.38
1884	18.94	1924	20.69	1964	35.10	2004	409.72
1885	18.94	1925	20.64	1965	35.12	2005	444.74
1886	18.94	1926	20.63	1966	35.13	2006	603.46
1887	18.94	1927	20.64	1967	34.95	2007	695.39
1888	18.94	1928	20.66	1968	39.31	2008	871.96

The table on the following page lists the largest nuggets found and recorded in B.C., from 1858 to 1970. The weight of the nuggets is listed in ounces and does not include gram weight.

This list should not be considered complete as it only lists nuggets that are on record as having been found. It is fairly common knowledge that during the initial stages of B.C.'s mining history many large nuggets were never recorded and simply taken out of the country. The first B.C. Ministry of Mines Report was published in 1874, 16 years after gold was first discovered on the Fraser River at Hills Bar near Yale, B.C.

Weight	Creek	District	Year	Locator
85 oz.	Spruce	Atlin	1899	West
73 oz.	Birch	Atlin	1913	Unknown
73 oz.	McDame	Cassiar	1877	Freeman
52 oz.	Alice Shea	Cassiar	1937	Shea
50 oz.	Boulder	Similkameen	1887	Unknown
50 oz.	Dease	Cassiar	1875	Unknown
48 oz.	Pine	Atlin	1925	Unknown
47 oz.	Ruby	Atlin	1931	Unknown
46 oz.	Squaw	Atlin	1937	Unknown
45 oz.	Defot	Cassiar	1878	Unknown
44 oz.	Spruce	Atlin	1936	Lykergaard
40 oz.	Dease	Cassiar	1874	Unknown
36 oz.	Spruce	Atlin	1902	Unknown
36 oz.	Wild Horse	East Kootenay	1864	Reynolds
32 oz.	Bridge River	Yale	Unidentified	Unknown
31 oz.	Pine	Atlin	1899	Unknown
30 oz.	Lightning	Caribou	1864	Unknown
30 oz.	Spruce	Atlin	Unidentified	Unknown
28 oz.	McKee	Atlin	1901	Unknown
25 oz.	Wright	Atlin	1899	Unknown
24 oz.	Bear	Similkameen	1886	Unknown
24 oz.	Germansen	Omineca	1934	Unknown



Quote of the Month

"The desire for gold is the most universal and deeply routed commercial instinct of the human race"

Gerald M. Loeb



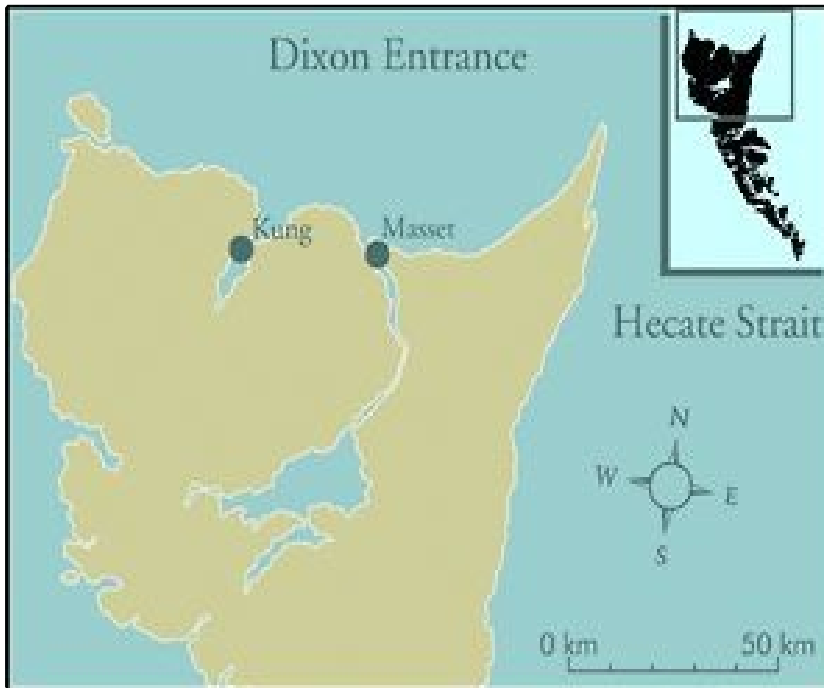
Gold Storms of Graham Island

It seems like only yesterday that I was sitting with my great grandfather listening to his stories about the 'good old days'. Great grandpa Lockwood had no shortage of tales to tell and I am sure he embellished on most of them a little just to watch me wiggle in bewildered excitement.

Grandpa Lockwood had traveled the world extensively and had spent the better part of his youth prospecting in almost every corner of British Columbia, the Yukon and, Alaska during the late 1800's and early 1900's.

When he started telling me about the gold storms on the island off the coast of B.C., and the sailing ship he was on running aground there my imagination took over. Wild visions of pirate ships in full sail chasing their frantic prey through choppy seas immediately came to mind. With cannons roaring the ol' sea-dogs of the pirate ship closed the gap on the doomed galleon. Maneuvering broadside for the kill, a broadside cannon shot hits the galleon's treasure chest filling the sky with Spanish doubloons.

It wasn't until many years later, and several after my great grandfather had died, that I learned from my grandmother that the story I had been told was indeed true. My great grandpa was on a sailing ship that had run aground on Graham Island and that there are actually 'Gold Storms' on the island's east coast. No more visions of pirate ships and Spanish doubloons raining from the sky there are honest-to-goodness actual gold storms in physical reality.



Graham Island, roughly 2,500 square miles in area, is the largest of the Queen Charlotte Island group. Gold was first discovered on Graham Island shortly after the gold-rush to Moresby Island, south of Graham Island, in 1852.

According to various B.C. Ministry of mines reports, fine placer gold occurs in black-sand beach deposits on the east coast of Graham Island. The black sand and gold are concentrated in lenses during "gold storms" when the combination of wind, tide, waves, and current is just right. Other less favorable storms disperse the concentration so that a continuous mining operation is not possible. It is possible although difficult even for an experienced man to separate the gold from the black sand. The weather makes working conditions along the beach exceedingly

difficult. With the ability to work continuously, apply studies of the gold deposits and, modern gold extraction procedures, it is possible for individuals to make a profit mining the sand.

Concentrate-lenses from 1 to over 6 inches thick are distributed in sections up to 400 feet long and 40 to 50 feet wide, extending from the base of the bluffs through the high-water drift-log fringe to the beach. The richest lenses are about 5 feet wide and 10 to 15 feet wide. In some of the black-sand patches, particularly those collected behind drift-logs, fine colors of gold are visible to the naked eye.

During the 1930's there was a renewed effort to extract the gold from the black-sand. During the 1932 season, Norman H. Terry carried out a three-month series of tests on the beach sands in the neighborhood of Cape Fife. This consisted of test-pitting in an extensive stretch of sands above high-tide mark and the treatment of this material in a Lorentsen centrifugal force amalgamator. In these tests 102 cubic yards of sand yielded \$2.84 per cubic yard.

Frank Gagner, an experienced Yukon miner, operated intermittently during the same year, about 4 miles south of Martel creek and is said to have made expenses by hand-sluicing. Two inexperienced men working on

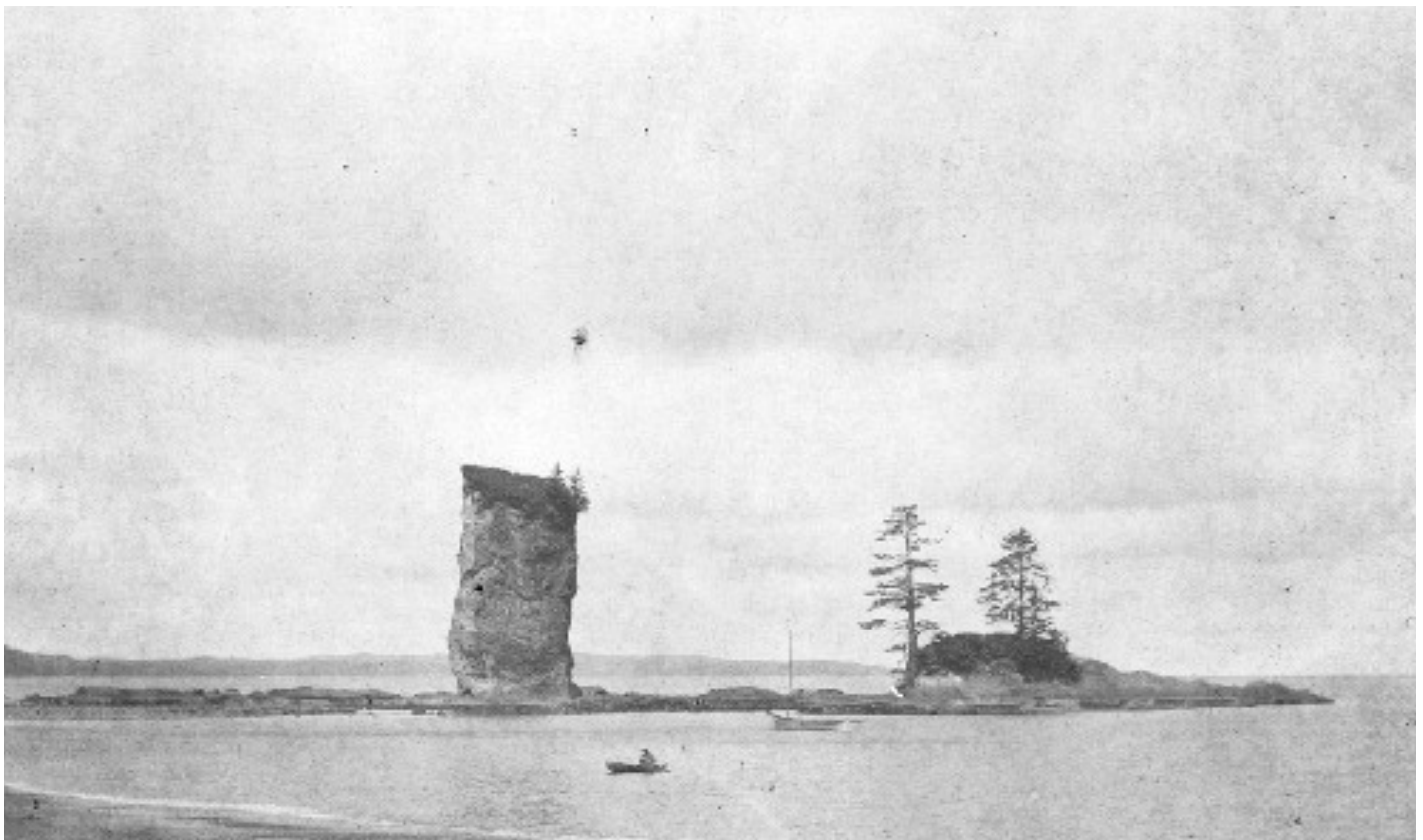
Blue Jacket creek were also reported as making fair wages by shoveling into sluices.

The richest area documented in 1933 was a stretch about 3 miles in length known locally as “Bull Swamp”. This site is about 5 miles south of Cape Fife, starting roughly 1 mile south of Martel creek and extending to Lake creek approximately 4 miles south of Martel creek. In this area several small small ravines representing the eroded beds of small creeks were discovered. These creeks, dependent upon the rainfall for their water-supply and cutting down to the basal clay on the beach offered an additional means for re-concentration or natural sluicing of the already formed lenses. With small amounts of water trickling in veinings across the beach, fine gold was readily visible.



Mining Camp on Graham Island 1909

My childhood imagination of pirate ships and Spanish doubloons have long since faded into the mist of the morning sea but the memories of my great grandfather and the fascinating stories of his prospecting adventures will always remain as clear and real as the 'Gold Storms' on Graham Island.



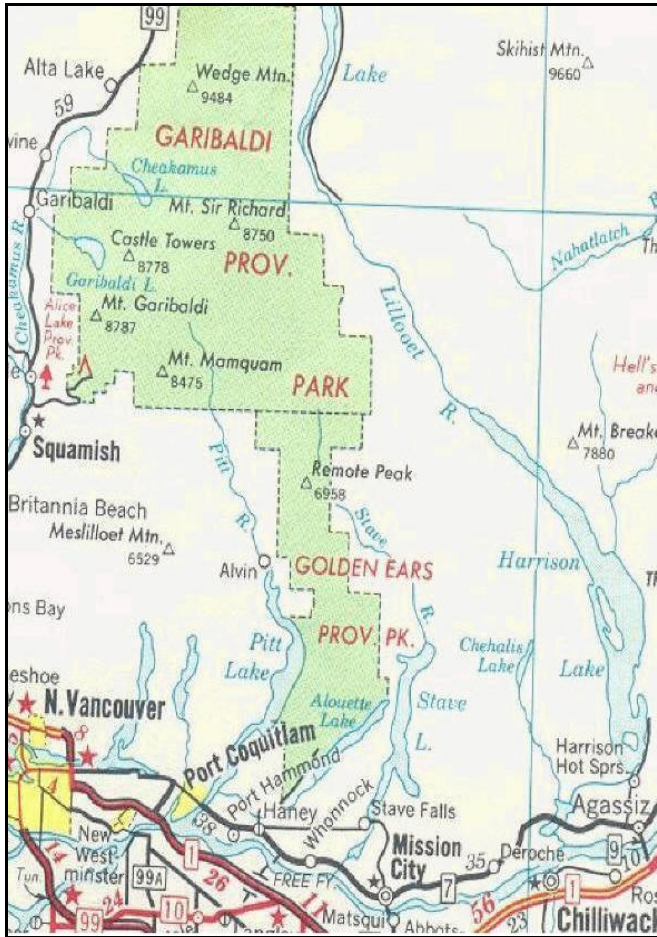
North Coast of Grahman Island - 1901

Ghosts & Gold Series

The Lost Gold of Pitt Lake: Selected chapters reformatted from: LOST CREEK MINE - Historical Analysis of the Legendary Gold Deposit of Pitt Lake; R.W. Nicholson – 2002. Legend has it that somewhere in the southwestern region of British Columbia, beyond the head of Pitt Lake, lies a creek so rich in placer gold that it literally defies imagination.

Part 1: Introduction & Slumach

Introduction: Since the beginning of time, mankind has assembled an extensive collection of myths and legends that continue to puzzle the curious and inquisitive. Each and every one of these mythical and legendary records will continue to be re-counted, re-examined and relentlessly probed until they are solved or resolved.



While there are definite commonalities between myths and legends, there are also distinguishing differences. Legends are based on some aspect of factual events that have escaped their initial boundaries and grown increasingly distorted with time. Mythology on the other hand, is based on primeval beliefs and traditional ideologies that have attempted to rationalize and interpret the unexplained by incorporating, demi-gods, supernatural creatures and super heroes.

Almost every corner of British Columbia has experienced some of this province's rich and colorful mining history. With that history comes the inevitable legends. Legends of murder, mayhem, hidden fortunes and mysterious lost gold mines. For the most part, legends of hidden fortunes and lost gold mines have had a tendency to incorporate murder, deception, betrayal, and some aspect of the supernatural into their story.

One of the most famous of British Columbia's elusive fortunes that contains a captivating blend of mythological intrigue is the fabled Lost Pitt Lake Mine. This legendary mother lode is also known by other names such as, The Lost Creek Mine, Slumach's Lost Gold Mine and Jackson's Lost Creek Mine.

According to legend, hidden somewhere in the southwestern region of British Columbia, beyond the head of Pitt Lake, lies a creek so rich in placer gold that it

literally defies imagination. Nestled somewhere in those steep and treacherous mountains with their deceptive unforgiving glaciers is the elusive mother lode of mother lodes.

Since its conception in the late 1880's, countless prospectors and fortune hunters have searched in vain for this elusive creek of gold. In their quest for fame and fortune at least 25 of these unfortunate souls have died or simply vanished into the wilderness never to be seen or heard from again.

Of the thousands of nameless prospectors who have searched for this legendary fortune, only five, in addition to the legends founder, have been historically identified or otherwise accredited as successfully locating a source of gold.

It is the stories surrounding Slumach, Jackson, Shotwell and Harrington, R.A. 'Doc' - 'Volcanic' Brown and G.S. 'Stu' Brown that forms the basis of this book.

The ghost of the legends founder, Slumach, is said to zealously guard the site slaying anyone who tries to

retrieve the gold. Some will swear that they have seen this ghostly apparition and claim to have been spared its wrathful vengeance only because they immediately retreated back to civilization. Many believe that some of the deaths and disappearances that have occurred over the years are the direct handiwork of this ghostly assassin.

Modern science may have validated the existence of the paranormal and supernatural entities however a hostile environment and nature itself can be just as lethal and unforgiving as any ghost seeking revenge.

The mountains and glaciers beyond the head of Pitt Lake are treacherous and will not pamper the inexperienced, unprepared or unlucky. The rugged mountain terrain is steep, littered with gullies, canyons, ravines and treacherous unstable talus slopes. Above the tree line the barren rock becomes smoother, slipperier and even more dangerous. Numerous glaciers and snow packs in the area provide an illusion of safety with their thin and peaceful looking cover over deadly ice crevices.

World class sized grizzly bear are on record as having been taken out of the search area. Exceptionally large wolves, head and shoulders above the stumps of freshly fallen trees, have been seen by loggers working beyond the head of Pitt Lake. A helicopter pilot has reported examining the remains of an uneaten yet disemboweled and dismembered mountain goat on an ice pack. Several credible researchers have also reported sighting the fabled Sasquatch. I personally have seen a wolverine that was at least the size of a large German Shepherd dog.

The weather, particularly in and around the immediate vicinity of the glaciers and ice packs, is unpredictable and can change suddenly and drastically within a few minutes. Anyone caught unprepared on a steep barren rock slopes or in the lower ravines and gullies during heavy rain storms can easily become trapped and face life threatening situations.

The existence of a vengeful ghost is best left to individual opinion and belief. The existence of Sasquatch however is a more openly debatable subject. Native history, numerous reported sightings and current available evidence does lead on to ponder the validity of the fabled creature. Regardless of individual belief, I am confident that the recorded deaths and disappearances linked to this legend can be directly attributed to any one of the multitude of natural peril commonly encountered in the area.

For several months in 1987, I worked for British Columbia Forest Products at their logging operations at the head of Pitt Lake. During my brief stay at the BCFP logging camp at Alvin, a short distance past the head of Pitt Lake, I was fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to familiarize myself with all areas located within the logging boundaries. I was also privy to some of the lesser known stories that circulated amongst the loggers.

In addition to viewing the more accessible sites located within the logging boundaries, I have also traveled to many of the more remote locations and examined several interesting sites. To date, I have been involved with 7 helicopter and 4 hiking expeditions to various locations within the boundaries of Garibaldi and Golden Ears Provincial Parks.

Experiencing the extremities of the terrain, the harshness of the environment and encounters with less than passive carnivorous animals has definitely given me a much clearer understanding of the legend and the vulnerability of humankind.

Several people have asked me why I have never returned to the area where I believe the legendary gold is located. The answer to that question is personal and I will not identify any specific reason. I will only say that I did experience an event that I have no intention of repeating in my lifetime. After reading this book, a perceptive reader may be able to speculate with some degree of accuracy the reasoning behind my resolve.

Without gold nuggets in hand, it is both impossible and irresponsible to absolutely confirm the existence of the Lost Pitt Lake Mine. However, by all accounts I firmly believe there is a remarkably rich mother lode worth billions of dollars at today's prices patiently waiting to be re-discovered.

I am confident that the information presented here will offer even the most skeptical, food for thought.

Slumach - (Unknown - January 16, 1891): History has shown us that it was an unusual series of events in the life of a native man named Slumach, during the late 1800's, that established the foundation on which the legendary 'Lost Gold Mine of Pitt Lake' has been built.

For over a century, the accumulation of rumor and speculation illustrating Slumach's activities has become so entwined with the thin threads of fact that his life will forever be enshrined in a colorful cloak of mystery.

The legend begins by religiously dictating that during the 1880's, a Coquitlam native named Slumach would

frequently disappear into the wilderness area somewhere beyond the head of Pitt Lake for weeks and often months at a time. Upon his return from locations unknown he would recklessly squander small fortunes of gold in the brothels and saloons of New Westminster British Columbia.

Slumach's saga concludes by declaring that he steadfastly refused to identify his source of gold to anyone, native and non-native alike. To ensure the location of his gold would remain a secret, he is rumored to have put a curse on it just prior to being hung for murder.

The contents of Slumach's curse varies in the different written accounts, however the basic component is: *"No man who finds the gold will live long enough to bring it out"*, alternately, *"When I die the mine dies"*. To further ensure the safety of the gold, many stories claim that Slumach's ghost stands guard over the gold and his vengeance is inflicted upon anyone who ventures into his domain.

However intriguing the multitude of stories may be, the only portion of Slumach's life that can be verified with absolute certainty is that he first achieved public notoriety when he shot and killed a half-breed named Louis Bee, on the banks of the Alouette River on September 09, 1890.

Convicted of murdering Bee, Slumach was hung at the provincial prison in New Westminster, B.C., on January 16, 1891.

The B.C. Provincial Archives and several other government agencies were contacted in an effort to obtain copies of the trial transcripts and other relevant documentation. All responses were negative. To date, official records of the trial and authenticated documentation relating to Slumach's execution have not been located.

Although official documentation has not been located, I was extremely fortunate in being able to examine the contents of a file that was a highly prized possession of an eccentric antiquities collector and Pitt Lake researcher. The documentation in the file is professed to be a partial portion of an authentic hand written copy of Slumach's trial transcript and related documentation. According to the researcher, this copy had ended up in private hands, not long after Slumach's trial itself. The researcher claimed to have purchased the file from a descendant of the original owner, during the early 1950's.

This was the second time during the course of my research that I have had the privilege of reviewing alleged copies of Slumach's trial transcripts. This particular copy however, had all of the earmarks of being legitimate. The papers were definitely old and in an advanced state of discoloration. There was no doubt that the writing on the papers had been done with ink and quill. The most significant factor that reduces the chances of the documents being a hoax is that there is no reference to gold in any of the documents.

Several accounts of the 1890 shooting at Alouette River suggest that for reasons unknown, there was an ongoing feud between Slumach and Louis Bee. A feud that ultimately and unfortunately ended tragically for both parties.

Without authentic trial documentation it is impossible to identify the reason for the confrontation. However, should the hand written copy of Slumach's trial documentation be genuine, it clearly identifies several significant points.

Slumach did not speak English and required the services of a court appointed interpreter. The fact that Slumach required a translator dispels a large portion of the stories told and written about him. The exclusion of some stories is based on the fact that the events they claim to document and portray could only have transpired if Slumach spoke the English language.

The trial documentation contains testimony from Slumach's daughter. She was identified only as Mary, a native woman from Cowichan. Mary also required the services of the court interpreter. In her affidavit, dated November 05, 1890, Mary appealed for a postponement of the trial until the next sitting of the court. She stated that the testimony of Mary Moody and Florence Reid was crucial to Slumach's defense.

There is no documentation to suggest that Slumach's defense counsel appealed for a postponement in support of Mary's request, nor is there any documentation that identifies the courts acknowledgment of Mary's request. Her appeal seems to have simply been ignored by all parties. There is no additional material related to Mary.

During Slumach's own testimony he describes being continually harassed and threatened by Louis Bee. Slumach even went so far as to say he had lived in constant fear of Bee. He was non-specific in his statement. The reason behind Bee's threats towards Slumach were not identified and in all probability will never be known.

It was also identified that Slumach shot Bee once in the chest with a single shot percussion rifle before he fled

to the sanctuary of the wilderness. The identification of a single shot percussion rifle is enlightening as most stories state that Slumach shot Bee with a shotgun. Several weeks after the shooting Slumach was apprehended without incident on the eastern shore of Pitt Lake opposite Little Goose Island.

Lastly, there is no mention that the incident was in any way related to Slumach's knowledge of any source of gold. There is however an unusual and unidentified curiosity in that it was necessary for women, other than his daughter Mary, to testify on his behalf.

On the latter point, it is curious to note that Slumach's defense attorney did request an adjournment until two native women could be located. The women were only identified by their first names, Lucy and Kitty. It was argued that the testimony of these women was crucial to Slumach's defense. The adjournment was not granted.

Why an adjournment was requested in this particular case and not supported in Mary's case is unknown. It is an unlikely scenario that Mary Moody and Florence Reid were identified as Lucy and Kitty or vice versa. Whatever at least two women may have testified to in Slumach's defense will never be known.

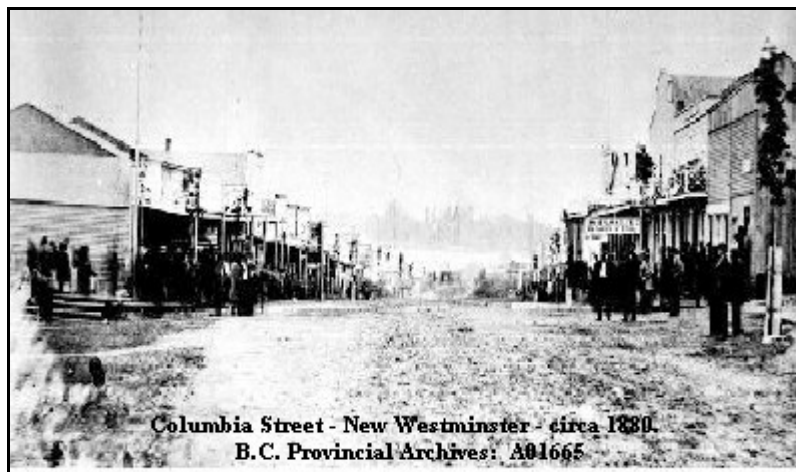
Throughout his trial Slumach steadfastly maintained his innocence. He claimed that he had shot Bee in self-defense. Slumach clearly stated that Bee and the other native fishermen had been drinking. He said that he was standing quietly on the shore watching the natives check their Sturgeon nets when Bee suddenly began cursing him, jumped out of his canoe and attacked him with his fish club.

The male native witnesses who were present at the time of the shooting and who testified at the trial all claimed that no one had been drinking and that the shooting was unprovoked.

In his affidavit, dated November 03, 1890, a native identified only as Seymour, stated in part; *' we paddled a little further and saw a canoe, we hailed it and found it contained the Chief of the Katzie tribe, his wife was with him. Louis Bee had no club in his hand --- I can not say if the Coquitlam Chief had whiskey in his canoe or not --- I had no whiskey that day ---I was with Louis Bee all day, he had not had any whiskey either. There was none to be got'.*

The trial transcripts do not contain any affidavits or witness statements from any of the native women who were obviously present at the time of the shooting. It is definitely more than curious to note that the potential testimony of four women in Slumach's defense appears to have been intentionally ignored or prohibited by the court. When all was said and done the only witness to testify in Slumach's defense was Slumach himself.

The trial transcripts give the distinct impression that Slumach, although being tried for murder, was presented



as a traditional native who had not been greatly influenced by European tradition and culture. In retrospect, it can be competently argued that Slumach was denied due process of the law. He appears to have been found guilty on the grounds of racial and prejudicial opinion rather than factual evidence. Slumach received the same type of cursory justice as did other Native Americans, Chinese immigrants and Afro-Americans of the time period.

More than a century has passed since Slumach's trial, however sufficient reasonable doubt has been established to suggest that

Slumach may have been innocent of the charge of murder.

Given current available evidence, it is definitely not inappropriate to suggest that the natives who testified against Slumach provided false information in order to avoid the serious repercussions of they themselves being charged with purchasing and consuming alcohol. During the late 1800's native prohibition was strictly and aggressively enforced by the provincial government.

There are numerous examples of the enforcement of native prohibitions that can be found in the provincial archives. In 1889 Captain Walter Reynell was charged with selling liquor to the natives near Cardero Channel. The Attorney General's correspondence to Mr. L. Fouquet in 1881 refers to the of selling liquor to natives and in 1892 there is reference to half-breed and native status regarding intoxicants.

It is rather curious to say the least, that there does not appear to be any documentation associating Slumach with stories of gold prior to his death in January 1891. This obvious lack of documentation pre-dating the 1890 incident at Alouette River raises numerous questions which may or may not have valid answers.

If Slumach had gone to New Westminster and thrown gold dust into the wind as some stories suggest, would this not have drawn serious media attention and warranted a significant story if not a headline in at least one of the provincial newspapers prior to his death? And, would his flagrant drunkenness not attracted the attention of provincial authorities in response to native prohibition?

If Slumach had ventured into the wilderness with different women only to return alone with quantities of gold, as other stories suggest, would this also not have gained serious media attention, police attention and otherwise have been documented somewhere prior to his death?

The Attorney Generals Correspondence of the time period can again be referred to in the generalized context of native women. Two references offered for consideration on this subject is the buying of a native girl in 1894 and the disappearance of native women in 1896.

To date, no documentation has been located that would support the stories associating Slumach with missing women. There is no mention in any historical documentation, that I have reviewed, that identifies any women disappearing prior to Slumach's demise. It is not out of the question to suggest that the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of the native women in 1896 was incorporated into the stories surrounding Slumach, after his demise.

Many of the stories surrounding Slumach's escapades are questionable at best. However, there are aspects of a few accounts that do require further consideration. Portions of the latter suggest that they may have originally been based on partially accurate information.

Of the research material that I used to further study these aspects of the Slumach stories the one I found to be extremely beneficial was - *The Upper Stolo Indians of the Fraser River of B.C., Anthropology in British Columbia - Memoir No.1* Wilson Duff - 1952.

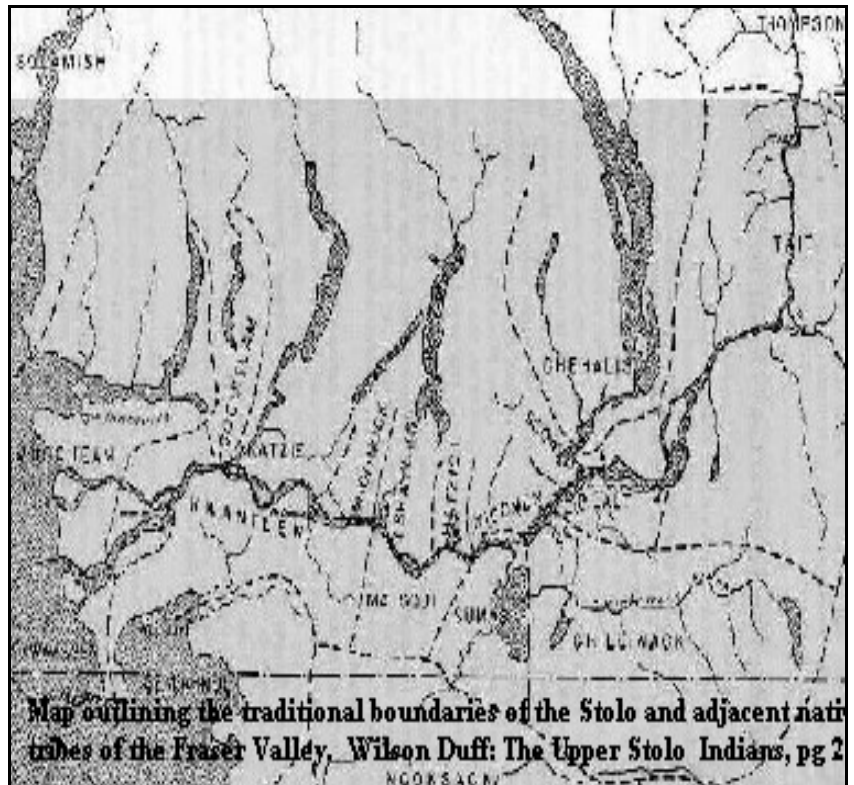
In his writing, Duff clearly identifies three historical points of interest that may at a later date prove to be of significant value to anyone interested in further unraveling the mystery surrounding Slumach's life and his legendary ventures.

Firstly, with the exception of the Chehalis natives, who inhabited the area along the Harrison River from just below the mouth of Chehalis River to Harrison Lake, all other Stolo groups were never on good terms with the Lillooets, particularly the Port Douglas natives. Duff writes (pg. 22), *"Unlike other Stolo groups, they (Chehalis) were on good terms with the Lillooets at Douglas - they got most of their women there"*.

Secondly, Duff states (pg. 96), *"the last clash between Yale and Douglas people occurred in New Westminster in 1892"*.

Last but not least, Duff refers (pg. 24) to a tribe called the 'Squalls', who, according to the Fort Langley Journal of 1828 (pg. 85), *'inhabit the upper Country about Pits River'*. According to Duff, the journal gives no further information on the Squalls and he was unable to equate the name with any known group.

During the course of my research, in addition to using Duff's material for reference, I was very fortunate in being assisted by a native elder from Chilliwack. The elder offered historical information, personal opinions

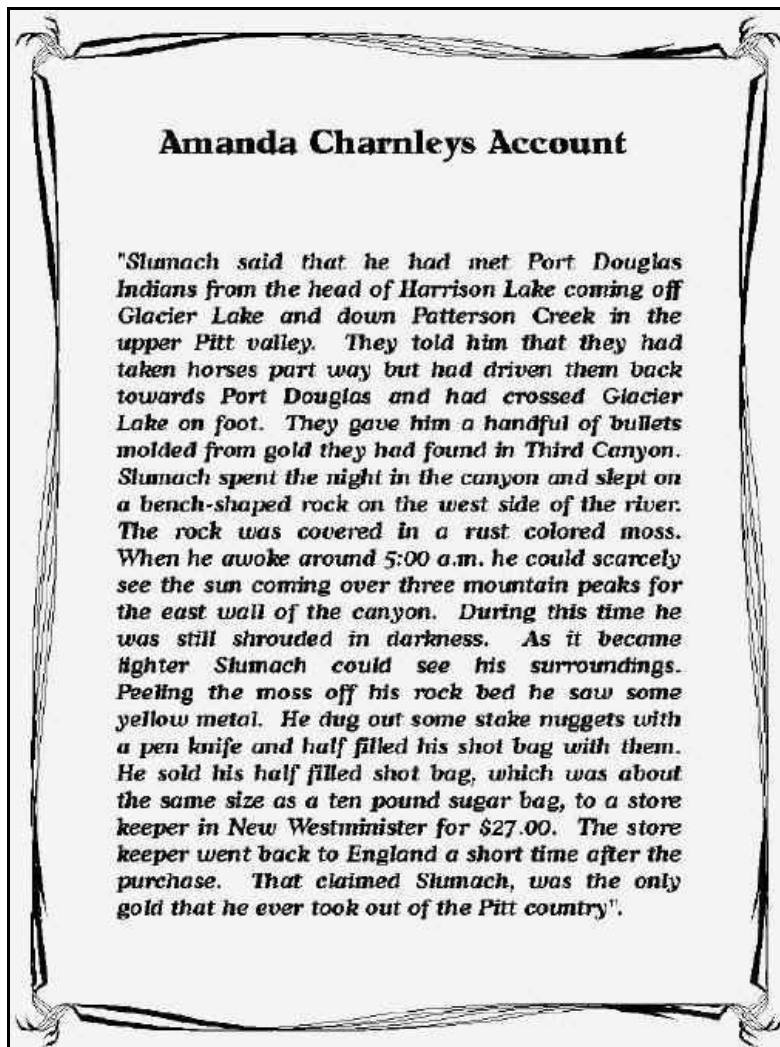


and suggestions that have proven to be very beneficial. As extremely helpful as the native elder was, he has asked to remain anonymous and I will respect his request.

To begin with, the fight between the Yale and Douglas people in New Westminster in 1892 is an extremely interesting event when compared to the information provided to me by the native elder.

Although the elder could not remember the details of the 1892 confrontation in New Westminster, he stated that he did remember the incident being discussed by his elders when he was an adolescent, circa 1915 -1920. He was adamant that the 1892 confrontation was over the death of a native in New Westminster. However, he could not absolutely confirm it was over the hanging of Slumach.

Whether the 1892 confrontation was actually over the killing of Louis Bee, the execution of Slumach, the events leading up to his capture or the fact that Slumach identified the Douglas Natives in the gold transaction remains undetermined. None of these possibilities should be overlooked. If the confrontation was regarding



Slumach, the ultimate question would then obviously be why?

To date, there has been no solid evidence to confirm any of the stories surrounding Slumach. Even Slumach's age varies from him being in his prime to being very old in the various stories. However, newspaper articles in the New Westminster *Daily Columbian* from September 1890 identify him as being in his mid 60's.

The following story is a direct quote contained in the published material of well known and respected author, historian and aerial photographer Donald E. Waite. It is reprinted here with Mr. Waite's permission. Mr. Waite obtained this story from Amanda Charnley, the daughter of Peter Pierre. While awaiting his execution, Slumach is said to have confided in his nephew Peter Pierre and provided him with his knowledge of gold in the Pitt River area.

Of all the stories available, this particular account has characteristics that identify it as being the most accurate and reliable to date.

This account strongly indicates that there likely were rumors associating Slumach with gold, prior to his demise. The account also strongly suggests that Slumach was questioned about his knowledge of gold by the authorities, while he awaited execution. Telling his nephew, Peter Pierre what he knew, may have been an attempt

by Slumach to have Peter Pierre convince the authorities that he did not have any more information about gold and whatever rumors may have been circulating were not true.

Given the historical treatment of natives during this time period, Slumach was undoubtedly mistreated while incarcerated and probably beaten while being questioned about his knowledge of gold. The type of treatment Slumach was likely subjected to was not uncommon during the time period and does offer a reasonable explanation as to the reason and content of his alleged curse.

Again, reference to the Attorney Generals Correspondence 1872 - 1937 is used to support the assumption that Slumach was mistreatment while incarcerated. In these correspondence records, it was identified that prisoners were being starved in 1874, natives were ill-treated in 1877, a priest was charged for whipping natives in 1892, and native women were accused of being witches and killed in 1895.

Having been questioned about his knowledge of gold, while in prison, does indicate that there actually was some type of contained rumor prior to his execution. This rumor was more than likely started by the store keeper after Slumach sold him the gold. The information would have initially been limited to a small trustworthy group that the storekeeper confided in.

In keeping with the concepts of legends, this early knowledge undoubtedly escaped its initial bounds through some enthusiastic slip of the tongue. Gathering momentum with the events surrounding the shooting of Bee and Slumach's trial, the story simply escalated in popularity, producing several entertaining and increasingly speculative accounts.

The native elder who assisted me with the Slumach portion of my research, pointed out that the story given by Slumach to Peter Pierre was relayed to Amanda Charnley, who in turn relayed it to Don Waite. Being translated to English by either Peter Pierre or Amanda Charnley, some of the accuracy had been confused through unintentional translation errors, while other aspects may have been lost or forgotten with time.

Several opinions were offered for consideration as to how the original information from Slumach may have been inadvertently altered through translation errors. Although the elders opinion does have merit, it has added to both the clarification and complexity of the subject.

The elder believed that Slumach's reference to the Port Douglas natives crossing Glacier Lake did not mean they crossed Glacier Lake itself, located north of Port Douglas, or any other lake for that matter. He firmly believed that the reference meant that the Port Douglas natives had literally crossed a glacier or 'frozen water'.

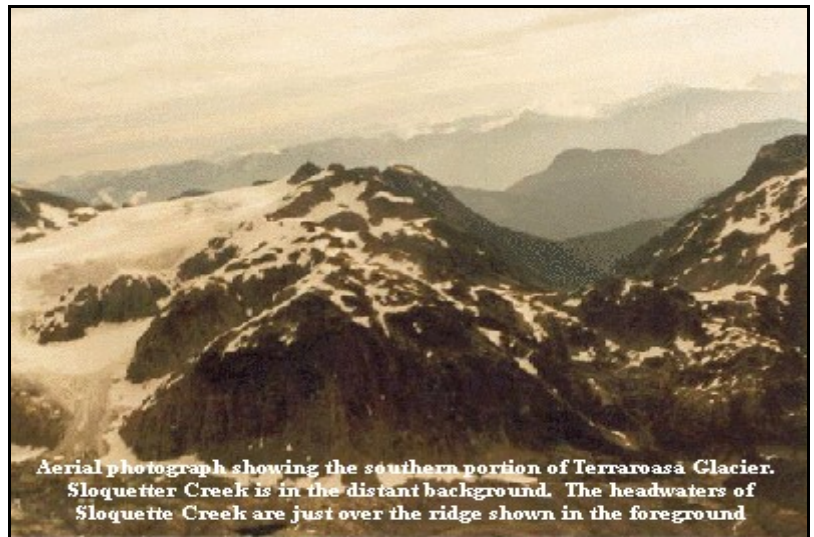
Again he did not believe that Slumach literally meant that he had slept on a bench-shaped rock covered with a rust colored moss. The elder strongly suspected Slumach's description was in fact a reference to a specific mountain or similar geographical location in an area known to natives for a distinctive type of rust colored moss.

It is interesting to note that both the Sloquet and Fire Creek drainages west of Port Douglas are know for distinctive reddish colored moss and according to Duff's writing the word 'Katzie', referring to the Katzie native band, is *"the name of a many-colored moss which covers the ground of the Katzie reserve"*.

I took samples of the red moss from the Sloquet Creek area and sent them to the University of British Columbia's Department of Botany for identification. The moss was identified as *Sphagnum rubellum*. This is a fairly common type of peat moss found in the coastal and northern portions of the province. Its reddish color becomes more pronounced during late autumn. The Botany department also confirmed that there are at least a dozen different varieties of moss that are naturally bright red in color. The identification of other mosses from other areas in the region was not pursued. Under the circumstances, it was highly unlikely additional samples would have had any added value in determining which area Slumach may have been referring to.

Although the red moss from the Sloquet Creek watershed did not prove to be of significant value, the area itself does have two additional distinguishing features that are of further interest when considering the elders interpretation of Slumach's story.

There is a very old and still fairly well defined trail that leads from the mouth of Sloquet Creek over into the Upper Stave River. In the immediate area where the Sloquet Creek trail reaches the Upper Stave River it splits into three distinct trails. The first trail heads south down the Stave River, the other north. The third trail continues west over the divide, south of Remote Peak, and into the Corbold Creek valley. When the Corbold Creek trail reaches the upper Pitt River the trail again splits into two directions. One trail heads south towards



Aerial photograph showing the southern portion of Terrarosa Glacier. Sloquet Creek is in the distant background. The headwaters of Sloquette Creek are just over the ridge shown in the foreground

Pitt Lake while the other continues in the opposite direction towards the headwaters of the upper Pitt River.

These trails are of early native origin and were well traveled by natives, trappers and prospectors until the early 1900's. Although these trails have not been used to any great extent since the early part of the twentieth century they are still well defined and easy to follow.

There are two known hot springs on these trail systems. One is located at the junction of the north and south Sloquet Creek, and the other is on the upper Pitt River a few miles north of Alvin. There are also unconfirmed rumors that one other small hot spring is also located in the upper Pitt River region, somewhere in the immediate vicinity of Iceworm Creek.

There is also a distinct geological formation in very close proximity to the upper Sloquet Creek portion of the trail system. This formation is commonly referred to by helicopter pilots and researchers as the 'saddle'. The 'saddle' is best described, in brief, as being a steep narrow ridge stretching across a valley. It is roughly two-thirds the height of the mountains on either side thus giving it the loose appearance of a 'saddle'.

Being somewhat unique and not far from the trail this distinct formation would definitely have been noted by early natives and may be characteristic of what Slumach was actually referring to when he identified a bench shaped rock.

The elder continued with his analysis and was most curious, if not somewhat troubled, with the fact that Slumach had met Port Douglas natives in an isolated area without incident.

He strongly believed that such a meeting, especially in the area described in Amanda Charnley's account, would have resulted in a bloody confrontation. His conviction on this point was unwavering and is definitely again strongly supported in Duff's writing.

In an attempt to explain how such a meeting could possibly have taken place the native elder suggested two possibilities. Slumach may have originally been from the Chehalis tribe and had simply migrated to the Coquitlam tribe. Or, Slumach had some type of direct link to or inter-relationship with the Port Douglas natives that allowed him to travel through the Douglas territory without harm.

Native history itself confirms that the Chehalis natives were the only Stolo tribe on friendly terms with the Port Douglas Natives, yet Slumach, a Coquitlam native, met with them and walked away unharmed. The elders opinions are well-founded, however there may other possibilities that have yet to be examined.

As a final note of geographical interest pertaining to Amanda Charnley's account is that present day Patterson Creek is located southeast of the south end of Pitt Lake, within the area identified by Duff as traditionally belonging to the Katzie. It is also worthy to note in this context that a Christian minister named Patterson is identified as being in Port Douglas during the late 1800's. I have not pursued Patterson's background to verify what religious denomination he was, if he ministered there, or if was simply passing through to points beyond.

The stories insinuating that Slumach murdered several women that may have accompanied him on his ventures was also discussed with the elder. The opinion provided on this subject was very enlightening and does offer some clarity as to why Slumach so desperately required the testimony of two or possibly four women at his trial.

The elder suggested that Slumach may in fact have taken women with him and returned alone thus creating suspicions that he murdered them. Suspicions that the elder firmly believed, were not accurate because they originated and were circulated by a population unfamiliar with native culture and history.

He stated that historically natives took women as slaves during raids on other tribes. He was specifically referring to traditional Lillooet - Stolo conflicts. He further stated that inter-tribal exchanges of women was an accepted part of native culture and tradition before the increasing European pressures influenced and ultimately converted natives into a Christian belief system.

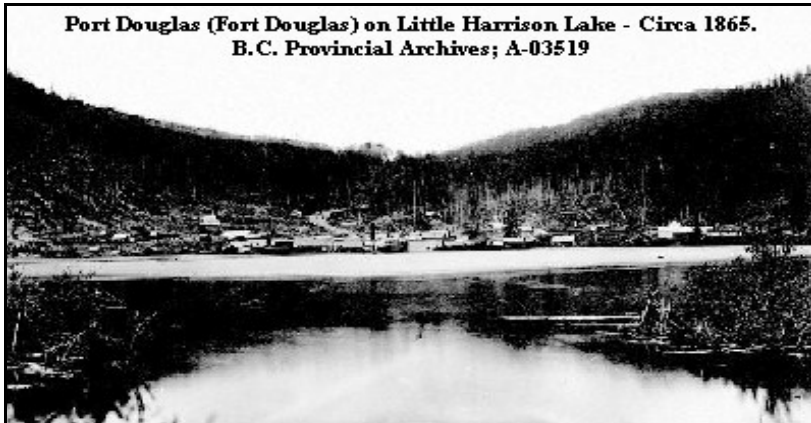
The elders opinion is again supported in Duff's writing. Duff identifies raids by various Coastal tribes on Stolo tribes in which Stolo women and children were taken as slaves and subsequently sold to other tribes.

Slavery and human trading, especially of women, was also directly related to the availability of food supplies and the survival aspect of native life itself. In his writing, Duff provides an excellent example of slavery for survival. He writes that in traditional times the Coquitlam tribe had sold themselves into slavery to the Kwantlen during a great winter famine. The name Coquitlam, according to Duff, *"really means 'smelly fish slime' with which they were covered while working for their masters in the salmon season"*.

Gold first came to the attention of the Hudson Bay Company in 1856 when natives took samples from the Thompson River to Fort Kamloops. By 1858, one of the richest placer deposits in the provinces history was found at Hills Bar, just south of Yale. The British Columbia gold rush had begun. Yale became a metropolis in 1858 and the foundation of Port Douglas itself was laid the following year.

During the time period in which Slumach would have met the Port Douglas natives it is extremely unlikely that either party would have been ignorant of the value of gold. Port Douglas natives would not have simply given Slumach gold, whether it be bullets or the location of a gold deposit. The exchange of gold would have been in trade or exchange for something of value. Slumach was more likely to have been actively engaged in either trading or guiding native women to the Port Douglas natives rather than killing them.

Slumach did not identify the specifics of why the Port Douglas natives had given him the gold. He may have considered the specifics of the transaction to be irrelevant because it was culturally acceptable or the specifics were simply not repeated by either Peter Pierre or Amanda Charnley for reasons unknown.



**Port Douglas (Fort Douglas) on Little Harrison Lake - Circa 1865.
B.C. Provincial Archives; A-03519**

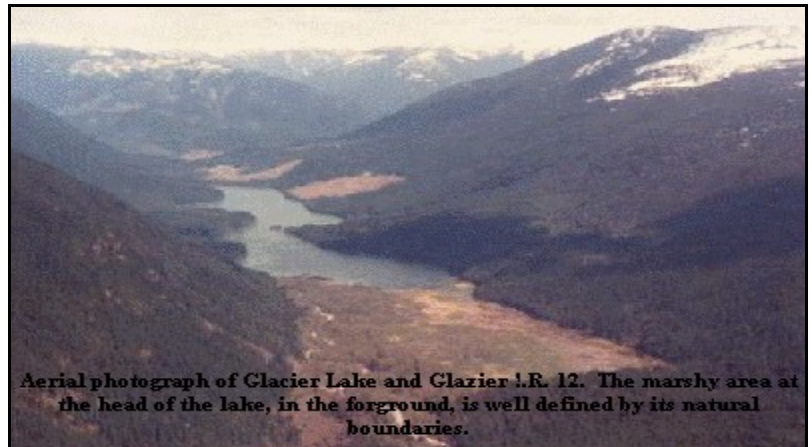
The elder further suggested that Slumach may also have been independently trading or selling the native women to prospectors and trappers which again would not have been considered exceptional or abnormal for the time period. This scenario is not as likely to have occurred simply because Slumach did not speak English. He may however have had some type of agreement with the Port Douglas natives in which they acted as trade brokers to the prospectors on his behalf.

There is sufficient historical evidence to support either of the elder's theories. In fact, the first recorded transaction between natives and Europeans took place at Nootka Sound in 1798 when Captain Cook, the first European to set sail on the coast of British Columbia, traded metal utensils and knives for native women.

Amanda Charnley's account and the confrontation in New Westminster in 1892 is too coincidental to ignore. The involvement of the Port Douglas natives in this legend may be more relevant than has been previously realized or researched.

Although Glacier Lake itself is not considered to be what Slumach was literally referring to in his account, Glacier Lake itself was and is of historical significance to the Port Douglas natives. Glacier Lake is located approximately twenty miles north-west of the head of Harrison Lake. The southern end of Glacier Lake is identified on topographical maps as Glacier Creek-IR. 12.

The area where Snowcap Creek enters Glacier Lake is a fairly large marshy plain with an abundance of aquatic plant life. During late summer and early fall the Port Douglas natives traveled to their temporary seasonal camps at Glacier Lake. The women and children would gather winter food supplies while the men continued on towards the Stave Glacier area in organized hunting parties. The primarily plant harvested at Glacier Lake by the native women and children were 'tubers', an edible root of a marsh plant. Further research into native history and culture, particularly that of the Port Douglas natives, will ultimately provide the evidence to unravel a more substantial portion of the mysteries surrounding Slumach's life. However enlightening further research findings are or prove to be, they are best left for another time.



Aerial photograph of Glacier Lake and Glacier I.R. 12. The marshy area at the head of the lake, in the foreground, is well defined by its natural boundaries.

Next Issue: Part 2 - Jackson and the Infamous 'Jackson Letter' & Shotwell and Harrington

The Gold-Bug

It all began just a couple of years ago. A good ol' buddy of mine kept harping about how great it is to just sit in the creek on a wee little fold-up camp-chair, panning for gold on a hot summer day – “and who knows, you might just find some”. I can still picture him going on about it like it was only yesterday.



Then one lazy Sunday morning, after about a year of this, he and I and another buddy were getting bored of just hanging around drinking coffee, and Rob starts up, again, so we decided to head up to Bear Creek for the afternoon, just for the fun of it. Bear Creek's got some history of gold; “who knows, we might even find some”, we all reasoned at one point or another... perhaps repeatedly by the time we finally found the upper level of the creek, what with all the private property signs along the road. I was glad, just to finally be out of the back seat of the truck.

So we headed on down to the creek and began looking for some big rocks to dig under, but it was kind of thick and tangled along the creek so we didn't venture too far. I immediately settled on a medium-sized rock and went right to digging, sifting each shovel-full through a plastic half-inch strainer that fit over my gold-pan, and thinking; “who knows, I might just find some right here”.

Almost immediately, each of us having staked a rock within relatively close proximity of each other – it *is* called Bear Creek after all – the conversation turned to these pesky flies, just a wee bit smaller than a house-fly and 20 times more annoying. At least they didn't bite, but they landed by squadrons all over your face and hands. They were fast and they tickled, and when you went to swat at them, invariably you'd upset your gold-pan or your shovel-full.

Not too many shovelfuls into the day, I found a worm. And then another worm, and I thought; “good thing I brought my fishing rod along!”

Off I went straight-away to the truck to fish it out, and a double-double go-cup to accommodate my captive worms that were trying to wriggle their way through my fingers. Now with baited hook I returned creek-side and produced on my very first cast, what looked like a cutthroat trout of the fry variety. Several more casts produced several more of the fry-variety fish, and though the fishing was excellent, I was fast losing interest. Fortunately, Rob had vacated his wee little folding camp-chair and as I didn't have one, I commandeered his. Rob had gone upstream a few yards, prospecting for a bigger rock, I think. For all our efforts, I found a couple of garnets that were big enough to pick out with my fingers, and I'm pretty clumsy, but none of us found any gold that I'm aware of, and I'm sure we all would have heard if anyone had.

Not much of an adventure, I'll admit, but it *was* kind'a nice to get away from that searing Okanagan summer-time city-climate for the day. After all, bubbling brooks are renowned for their shade and cool breezes, even if they are also a prime breeding ground for a broad range of insect-life.

And I admit that all that digging under rocks, sifting and panning is a wee bit of a strain on the back, but a decent folding camp-chair helps to ease the strain when panning. Many thanks to Rob for not pressing proprietary property rights over that one.

I must warn, however, that when sitting on a wee little folding camp-chair in the creek, you might well be sitting *in* the creek. What I'm trying to say is, although I've never used a bidet so I can't be sure fer-shur, but I imagine the sensation might be somewhat similar.

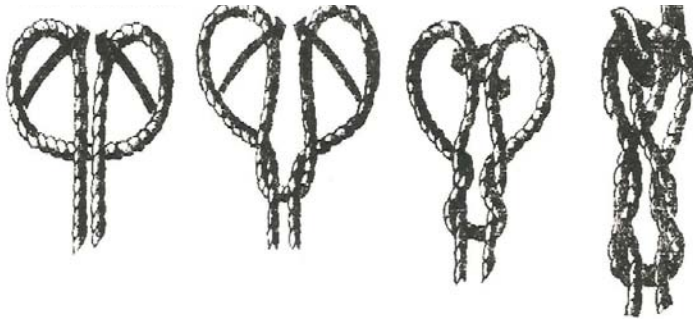
That about sums up my first gold-panning expedition, except to say that the gold-bug is sly. Somewhere along the way, one got up my gum-boot and hitched a ride home with us. So you'll be hearing more from “The Gold-Bug” in, if not this one, future editions of B.C. Prospector.....Until Next Time.....The Gold Bug.

Camping & Outdoor Survival

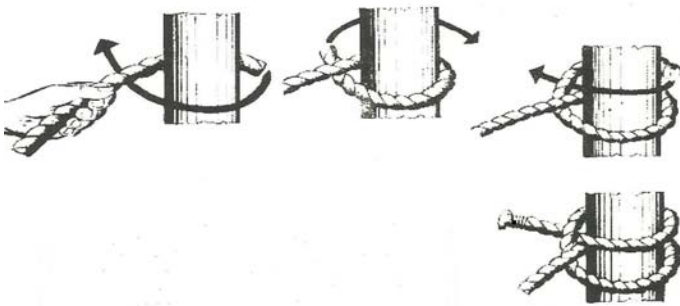
Knots

Whether you are enjoying a leisurely weekend at the local campground or trudging through the remote wilderness, the proper use of ropes is more important than most people realize. A poorly constructed snare, a hoist that slips, or a tarp that blows away during a wind storm are simple examples of problems you can avoid if you familiarize yourself with the various knots.

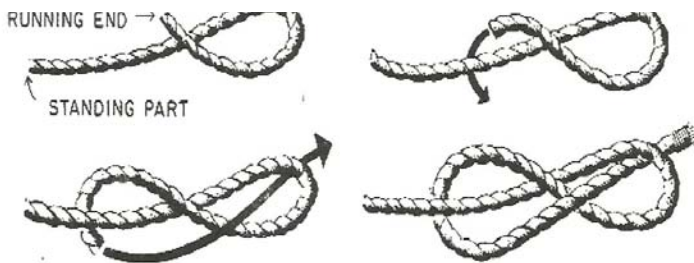
We have listed a few knots that may come in handy especially if you are moving mining equipment and supplies in steep terrain. Some of the illustrations used here came from a declassified U.S. Military Special Forces training manual and are not listed in any specific order.



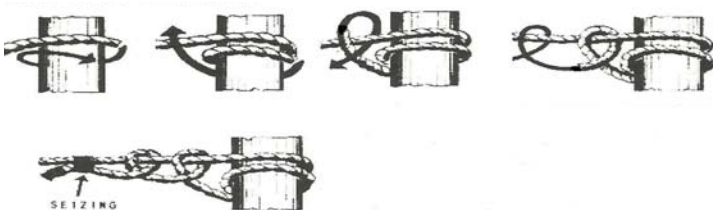
The Cats Paw: The Cat's Paw is a knot used for connecting a rope to an object. It is very similar to the Cow Hitch except there is an additional turn on each side of the bight making it less prone to slipping. Its primary uses are for attaching a sling to a hook, attaching a rope to a hook (or to a post or rail where the load is perpendicular to the post) with more security and, joining eyes in the ends of two lines, where there is access to the end of at least one line.



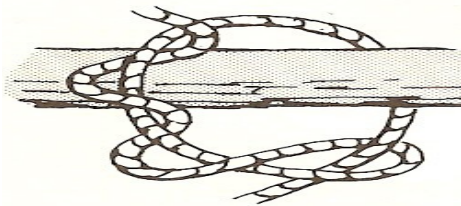
The Clove Hitch: The Clove Hitch is often considered one of the most essential knots. It consists of two opposed half hitches made successively around an object. The clove hitch is normally used for securing objects, such as tying a load on a trailer or truck as a means of reliably securing one end of the rope. It is the starting knot in most lashing knots. It is very fast to tie and easy to adjust the knot for length, making it useful in rock climbing where maintaining the necessary tension is necessary.



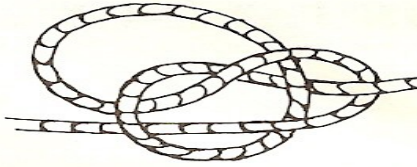
The Figure Eight: The Figure Eight is very important in both sailing and rock climbing as a method of stopping ropes from running out of retaining devices. This knot can be easily untied after even the greatest strain. This type of knot is frequently used in climbing when used with a locking carabiner designed for climbing, to ascend or descend with minimal equipment and effort.



Round Turn-Two Half Hitches: The Round Turn-Two Half Hitch knot can be used to secure a rope in a variety of situations. It can be placed under excessive strain and is still easy to untie. The knot is not often used to tie guy ropes to tent poles and to tie boat docking lines to the pilings or bollards.



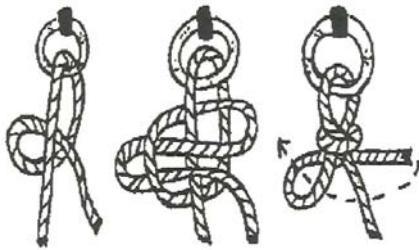
Timber Hitch: The Timber Hitch is often referred to as the handiest knot there is. In addition to its use or starting a diagonal lashing, the Timber Hitch is commonly used for moving cylindrical objects such as logs, spars, timbers and pipe. In the bush it come in very handy for moving logs for bridges and cabins.



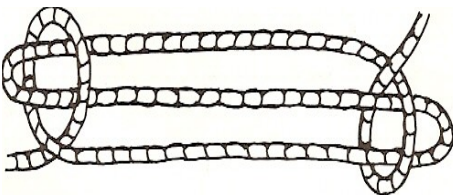
Bow Line: The Bow Line is considered to be one of the oldest and most useful knots because of its wide variety of uses. It will not slip regardless of the load placed on it. It is a common knot for climbers that creates a non-slip loop in the end of a rope. The Federal Aviation Administration [U.S.] recommends the Bowline knot for tying down light aircraft.



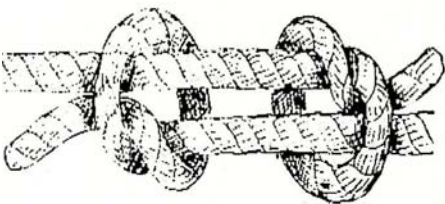
Sheet Bend: The Sheet Bend is also known as the Square Knot. The most common use for this knot is for joining two pieces of rope of unequal size together. This knot is similar to the Reef Knot except with the Reef knot both both ends of the rope go through the loop. The Sheet Bend is a more secure replacement for the Reef Knot.



Quick Release Knot: The Quick Release knot is primarily used for securing horses although it also has a wide variety of other uses. This knot is used extensively in mountaineering for descent applications where the rope can be unsecured at the base of the descent and reused. The Quick Release knot also comes in very handy when towing or pulling an object. The main advantage of this knot is that it can be undone quickly with one hand.



Sheep Shank: The Sheep Shank knot is primarily used to shorten a rope and maintain its strength for pulling. Primarily used to secure loads to trucks and trailers. The knot is also used in mountaineering for decent applications where the rope can be unsecured at the base of the descent and reused.



Fisherman's Knot: The Fisherman's knot has traditionally been used join two pieces of rope together. This knot has a variety of uses and is gaining popularity in mountaineering applications where unexpected rope extensions are required. It is one of the strongest and most reliable joining knots.

Snake Bites

Whether you are out prospecting or just out enjoying the great outdoors there is always a chance that you will come across one of the many varieties of snakes in the province.

The following is a list of the snakes found in British Columbia: *Rubber Boa*, *Sharptail Snake*, *Racer*, *Western Racer*, *Night Snake*, *Desert Night Snake*, *Gopher Snake*, *Pacific Gopher Snake*, *Great Basin Gopher Snake*, *Western Terrestrial Garter Snake*, *Wandering Garter Snake*, *Northwestern Garter Snake*, *Common Garter Snake*, *Valley Garter Snake*, *Red-sided Garter Snake*, *Puget Sound Garter Snake*, *Western Rattlesnake*, and the *Northwestern Pacific Rattlesnake*.

British Columbia's only venomous snakes are the two species of rattlesnake. Rattlesnakes are common only in the Southern Interior Dry Belt region. The highest concentration of Rattlesnakes are found in the Okanagan/Similkameen and Thompson/Nicola Valleys.

Although these snakes prefer dry locations they do travel to water, particularly at night when it is cooler. It is not common for Rattlesnakes to bite unprovoked however during hotter weather they do become more active and aggressive.

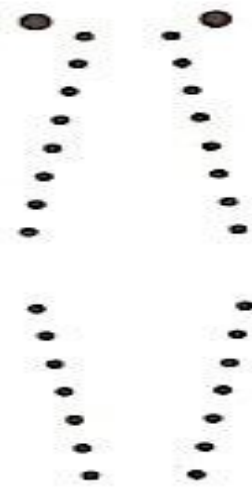
Simple precautions can help you avoid being bitten by any snake. Watch where you walk and never put your hand under any object especially a rock or log without first checking are the two most important precautions. If you do find yourself in a position within striking range, ease your way back away from the snake, remember any sudden movement can trigger a strike so Ease Back is the priority.

If you are out in Rattlesnake country it is always advisable to carry a snake bite kit. Death from a Rattlesnake bite is rare and not likely to occur even if left untreated for up to eight hours however medical attention should be sought as soon as practically possible.

Should you be unfortunate enough to be bitten by a Rattlesnake remember immediate medical attention or first-aid is a must. The key to immediate first-aid is suction. Contrary to popular belief and the never ending urban legends, ingested venom is NOT poisonous. Use your mouth and suck the venom out. Suction must be administered within a maximum of 10 minutes otherwise the venom has entered the blood stream to the point where suction is ineffective. Remain calm or at least as calm as possible and try not to walk especially if you can be carried as is it is equally important to keep the heart rate down and the blood circulation reduced.



Non-Poisonous Snake Bite



Poisonous Snake Bite

Weather To Pan Or Not

As the latest numbers roll in and by all indications we are about to enter a very unusual year with grave implications for next years prospects. For the first time in some 38 or so odd years, we have a radical el nino underway. That might not have been all that bad on it's own, but coupled with a general increase in global warming and altered ocean currents, we have the makings of something nearly unprecedented. Historically speaking, we can see the results of the last of these big el ninos, their consequences are no secret. Even without the added global warming, they have wreaked destruction in various locals for eons. Dependant upon location and intensity, we have seen anything from winter snow hurricanes, to near monsoon like spring conditions. In the past, our creeks and rivers have become swollen well beyond their normal ranges. Sound like a good year coming to just sit it out? Well not so fast...

The latest warming trend alone has our glaciers receding back well beyond the time when man even walked the face of the earth. Every year in late summer you can go to the receding edge of near any glacier and be assured that you are setting eyes on a piece of turf that no other human being has ever seen. Like ones wedding night, it's an exciting time and the basis for our radical el-nino panning plan.

If the effect goes into full swing this winter, we may have unprecedented snow packs at higher elevations with a minimum of accumulation at lower levels. This fall and early spring provide the best scouting opportunities, we are at near record low water levels right now. Spring may bring the monsoon effect, but we are likely to get a repeat of this hot dry summer immediately afterwards in 2010, meaning...a huge and unprecedented run-off lasting till July 15th or so, followed by a near record drop off rate in the run-off afterwards.

What's that mean for you and your pan plan? Well almost any area with a proven track record in the past, has the potential for a rerun of its past top performance. HMMM.....let the research begin..... Weather to pan?

Many clusters of storms are likely to merge, forming large heat transporting blobs known as "Mesoscale Convective Systems" or "MCSes," which are as big as the state of Iowa and can persist for over 12 hours. (These are similar to the merging El Niño storm cells observed by correspondent Mark Hoover in the equatorial Pacific near the Galapagos.)

MCSes typically form when a *tropical connection* of moisture (a moisture plume) occurs, similar to the so-called "pineapple express tail" seen on many recent storms that hit California. Developing storms east of the Rockies feed on airborne water vapour transported from the Pacific via the same conveyor-belt type mechanism. Once established by El Niño, the persistent tropical moisture feed enhances thunderstorm development and overall storm energy, making the storms efficient and copious rain producers. The southern branch of the jet-stream is the principle engine of this moisture transport. And recently, it has occasionally been strengthened by El Niño to over 200 miles per hour.

Lately we've also seen how, through most of our fall and winter, El Niño pushed the northern branch of the jet-stream (also known as the polar jet-stream) well up into Canada, establishing an early warm pattern. The polar jet-stream separates cold air to the north from warm air to the south, acting almost like a fence separating regions with mild temperatures from regions with frigid temperatures. This winter, most of the cold polar air has stayed locked away in Canada, and the mid-west and east have enjoyed remarkably warm temperatures as a result.

The pattern will continue, and so will the heat build-up, in the form of a huge, persistent high-pressure system that prevails through the summer, as it did in 1983. The result: a corralled hot air mass that stretches from the Rockies to the Appalachians, and at times expands east to the Atlantic and west throughout the great Basin and Range region. Since the southwest U.S. is already typically very hot in the summer, we end up with everything but the far west in the grips of a mammoth, persistent high-pressure system of oppressive heat. The heat eventually affects the ability of tropical moisture to create rain; by mid-summer, most of the thunderstorms and MCSes will have fizzled because the atmosphere will be too warm aloft to permit them to form. It's so hot aloft that water vapour simply can't condense.

In a nutshell, then, this El Niño—the strongest and most persistent in recorded history—is likely to produce a wet and stormy spring for most of the country (residents of Tornado Alley, take note). And then, much of the country can expect a long, very hot summer.

And this is where the devious mind of man goes to work and the plan begins to take form..Ask not what nature is about to do to you, but instead ask, what you can do to augment the effect..All that gold just rolling on by heading downstream, maybe if someone placed a few riffle bars or some such device, chained to the leeward side of that big boulder in the bottom of that nice creek, in an opportune spot, early on before the rush begins. Whooa.....shhh.....don't tell everyone.....Imagine sitting at home, nice and warm, dry as a bone, while torrents of water go gushing past your creation, months before you can even see it again while it gathers gobs of the shiny stuff all on it's own 24/7 Imagine just showing up and the gold is just sitting there awaiting your arrival. Well you get the idea..there have been a lot of devices built over the years for this exact purpose, one has to analyze the particular spot and devise accordingly. There is no one set method to accomplish the goal.

Every rock and pool that has produced before will have been reseeded, reloaded in a way possibly not seen for centuries..the opportunities will be endless. It may even become like the early gold rush days all over again once the word gets out. Gold topped \$1,000.00 per ounce on today's trading.

Like every good miner, keeping an eye on the weather is just part of daily life. There is a big black storm cloud approaching but it is one with a big silver lining.....Jack be nimble.....

In 1874 the miners in the Cassiar area were watching the weather too. Below is the official temperature records of Lake Town, Cassiar, for the winter of 1874 - 1875.

REGISTER OF THERMOMETER AT CASSIAR.

November 8th..... 10° above Zero.			December 9th..... 29° below Zero.		
"	9th.....	9 " "	"	10th.....	25 " "
"	10th.....	2 below "	"	11th.....	3 above "
"	11th.....	1 " "	"	12th.....	12 below "
"	12th.....	3 " "	"	13th.....	10 " "
"	13th.....	8 " "	"	14th.....	3 " "
"	14th.....	9 " "	"	15th.....	10 " "
"	15th.....	15 " "	"	16th.....	12 " "
"	16th.....	17 " "	"	17th.....	7 " "
"	17th.....	15 " "	"	18th.....	12 above "
"	18th.....	3 " "	"	19th.....	15 " "
"	19th.....	7 above "	"	20th.....	15 " "
"	20th.....	15 " "	"	21st.....	10 " "
"	21st.....	1 below "	"	22nd.....	5 " "
"	22nd.....	5 " "	"	23rd.....	8 below "
"	23rd.....	10 " "	"	24th.....	23 " "
"	24th.....	10 " "	"	25th.....	20 " "
"	25th.....	19 " "	"	26th.....	6 " "
"	26th.....	22 " "	"	27th.....	8 above "
"	27th.....	25 " "	"	28th.....	8 " "
"	28th.....	20 " "	"	29th.....	5 " "
"	29th.....	12 " "	"	30th.....	10 " "
"	30th.....	0 at "	"	31st.....	31 below "
December	1st.....	3 above "	January	1st to 8th ..	Mercury congealed.
"	2nd.....	3 " "	"	9th.....	22 below Zero.
"	3rd.....	10 " "	"	10th.....	22 " "
"	4th.....	11 " "	"	11th to 15th..	Mercury congealed.
"	5th.....	2 " "	"	16th.....	31 below Zero.
"	6th.....	0 at "	"	17th.....	32 " "
"	7th.....	12 above "	"	18th.....	32 " "
"	8th.....	6 below "			

Prospectors Kitchen

It does not matter where we are, whether we are sitting around a campfire or dining in a fine restaurant we all have to eat something. As long as we are going to eat we may as well enjoy our meal and cook something that will please our pallets.

Here at the Prospectors Kitchen we offer a wide variety of recipes for your culinary pleasures. Prospectors for the most part are also avid fishermen or hunters so we do include recipes for wild game, game birds and fish.

This issue features Sautéed Grouse Breasts, Grouse with Wild Rice, Fried Walleye with Garlic Butter, Pan-Fried Walleye with Lemon Butter and, for those of you with a sweet tooth, Grandma Susanne's Canned Apple Pie Filling.

Sautéed Grouse Breasts

2 grouse breasts
Fresh garlic
Black pepper
7-8 juniper berries
Paprika
Sage
Thyme
Flour
2 cups brandy
Oil or butter for frying

Dredge breasts in seasoned flour. Crush the juniper berries and use with other seasonings. Brown garlic in oil and butter and remove. Brown the breasts and add 1 cup of brandy, preheated. Flame the breasts (light the brandy and allow to burn while stirring constantly), being careful of the flames. Cover the skillet and allow the breasts to simmer until done. Do not overcook.

Just before removing meat, add another 2-3 tbsp. of chopped garlic and another juniper berry or two, and sauté lightly. Then add more brandy (up to 1 cup) and flame as before. Remove breasts to plate. Degrease the pan if necessary, and boil the pot liquor to reduce. Thicken with seasoned flour, correct the seasoning, and serve with boiled rice with which you can add sautéed mushrooms to enhance the flavor.

Grouse With Wild Rice

2/3 cup of wild rice
2 cups of chicken broth
¼ cup of butter
8 Grouse breast filets
3 Eggs [beaten]
1 cup of flour
Garlic salt, oregano, and basil to taste
4 oz Mozzarella cheese [sliced]

Combine the wild rice with the 2 cups of chicken broth and ¼ cup butter in a saucepan, cover and cook until tender. (keep warm)

Rinse grouse filets and pat dry. Pound the filets between waxed paper with meat mallet until tender, then combine with the eggs in a bowl. Let stand for 1 hour.

Combine the flour, oregano, garlic salt, basil, and pepper to taste in a bowl and roll the filets in this flour mixture, coating well. Brown on both sides in butter in a skillet. Then add enough broth to cover the bottom of the pan and simmer. filets, covered, for about 10 min.

Place 1/2 slice of cheese on each filet and cook until cheese is melted. Serve with the rice.

Fried Walleye with Garlic Butter

2 lbs walleye fillets
2 eggs, well beaten
3 garlic cloves
pepper
salt
flour
cracker crumbs
cooking oil
¼ lb. Butter

Season fish with salt and pepper and dredge in flour, shaking off excess. Place beaten eggs in a pie plate. Put crumbs in a pie plate or on waxed paper. Dip the fish first in egg, then roll in crumbs. Heat the oil in a heavy skillet and fry until the fish tests done and is golden brown. Remove to a warm platter. Place the butter in the same skillet, add garlic and cook until golden. Pour over the fish.

Pan-Fried Walleye with Lemon Butter Sauce

¼ cup all-purpose flour
Salt and freshly ground pepper
4 Walleye fillets
1 tbsp. vegetable oil
3 tbsp. cold butter, cubed
2 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
1 tbsp. chopped parsley

Place flour, salt and pepper in a shallow bowl. Dredge fish one piece at a time, into flour, shaking off excess. In a medium skillet, heat oil and 1 tbsp. butter over medium-high heat. Add fillets and cook 2-3 minutes on each side or until fish flakes with a fork. Transfer to a plate and keep warm. Add lemon juice to the skillet. Whisk in the butter until thickened. Pour sauce over the fish and sprinkle with parsley.

Grandma Suzanne's Canned Apple Pie Filling

4 and ½ cups of sugar
1 cup of cornstarch
2 teaspoons of cinnamon
¼ teaspoon of nutmeg
1 teaspoon of salt
3 tablespoons of lemon juice
2-3 drops of yellow food coloring
5 and ½ – 6 lbs of peeled and sliced tart apples

In a large saucepan blend in the first four ingredients adding the 1 teaspoon of salt. Stir in 10 cups of water. Cook and stir until the mixture is thick and bubbly. Add lemon juice and food coloring. Pack the apples into hot cleaned jars leaving add the mixture leaving about 1 and ½ inches of head space. Process in a canner for 18 to 20 minutes.

Quote of the Month

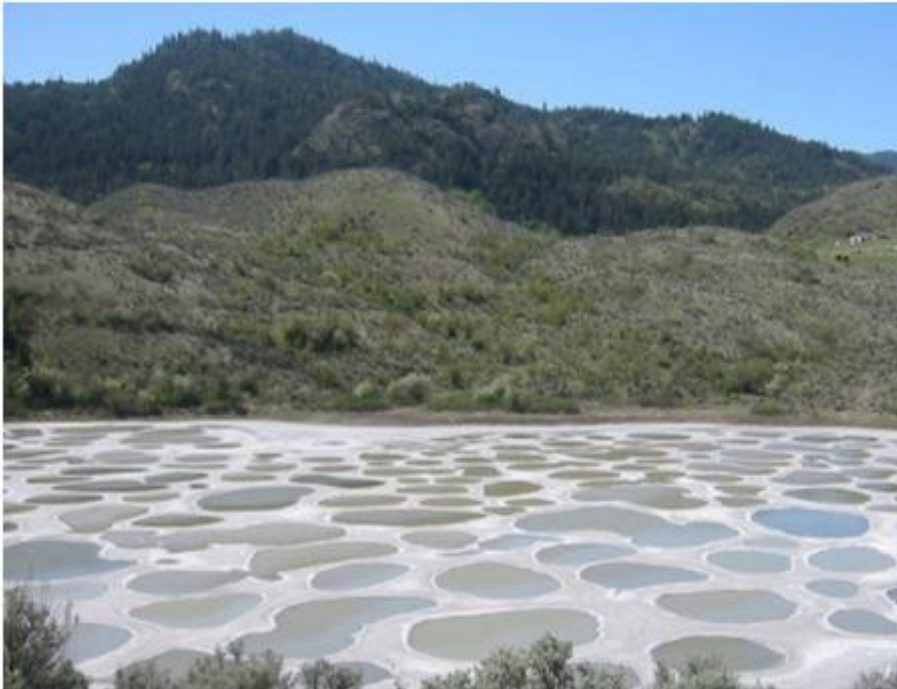
"Tis an ill cook that cannot lick his own fingers".

William Shakespear

Spotted Lake Mineralization and Healing

Spotted Lake or Kilkuk as it is known in the Syilx language of the Okanagan First Nations is located on Highway 3, nine kilometers west of Osoyoos, B.C., on what is referred to as the Richter Pass. The pass was named after Francis Xavier Richter, who worked for the Hudson Bay Company at Keremeous and later became a cattle rancher and orchardist in the area.

Spotted Lake is a rare natural phenomena containing the highest concentration of minerals in the world, including magnesium sulphate, calcium and sodium sulphates, titanium, magnesium, and silver. The lake covers an area of approximately 15 hectares or 38 acres and contains 365 circles of various shapes, sizes and depths.



Kilkuk is sacred to the Okanagan First Nations. They have recognized the healing and therapeutic qualities of this lake and have healed their wounds and ailments there for thousands of years. They believe that each circle has its own medicine and healing power.

One of the local legends states that a truce was declared during a battle to allow both warring tribes to tend to their wounded at the lake. Sitting Bull, the famous Sioux Chief, was also known to have sent runners hundreds of miles to gather the mud and salts of Kilkik to heal the wounds of his people.

Minerals from the lake were mined or harvested during the First World War, by Chinese laborers. The Chinese workers extracted up to a ton of salt per

day off of the surface of the lake. The salt was shipped to eastern Canada and used in munitions factories. It is also rumored that several tons of mud from the lake were shipped to Europe and used to treat soldiers wounded on the Western Front.

Prior to being mined or harvested during the First World War, the lake was said to have been an artistic wonder containing every color imaginable as each circle had its own distinct and unique color.

The healing qualities of Spotted Lake are recognized to this day. There are scores of people who swear that their ailments have subsided or disappeared altogether simply by sitting in the pools. Although there is no scientific evidence or case studies to support any theories, it is speculated that toxins are removed and the bodies trace elements are replenished and restored through absorption of the incredible mineralization and trace elements contained in the lake. Historical facts, beliefs, and the testimony and proof provided by individuals is very difficult to ignore.

Spotted Lake is culturally significant and sacred tribal land, if you would like to visit the site please get permission from the Okanagan First Nations before hand.



Sitting Bull 1877

Sometimes Gold is Green

After trying my hand at prospecting – several times now – I think I have learned a thing or three about what to expect. For starters, I have concluded that there *is* no gold left to be found (despite the cries of friends telling me the contrary). Okay, I *might* be a bit off there...

Some things have occurred to me, regarding ‘smart’ prospecting. For example, you likely wouldn’t go out rock climbing or expecting to run a marathon (yuck!) without taking some precautions first...like actually training, would you? Same applies to prospecting. Your average “couch potato” wouldn’t likely last the full day, stooped over, slinging a heavy metal pan, filled with every conceivable type of rock and pound after pound of ever-increasingly heavy water. So why would simply get up off your couch and get at ‘er? DUH!

You will need some preparation, to say the least. Likely, you will encounter some degree of discomfort after putting in a full day of prospecting/panning/digging/ bending over a creek that never seems to get much above freezing, regardless of the time of year.

First, you’ll want to be in some kind of decent physical condition, rather than maintain a blob status. A bit of strength training goes a long way when you find yourself subjected to the harsh elements. And the better shape you’re in, the better you will fare, when subjecting yourself to such a series of tasks.

Lifting weights may not appeal to the masses, as ‘they’ say, but it helps to insure that your muscles will be much kinder to you by the end of the day – and the following one. Endurance is enhanced when you regularly train.

Add to that some natural substances (no, not that kind!) and you will be much happier about your day, even if you *don’t* strike it rich. *Arnica* has been used to quell the cries of screaming muscles. It is a natural substance (from the *Arnica Montana* plant) and has been used for oh...even before *I* was around, to help the body heal soft tissue stress/damage. Athletes have known that for many years; that’s why they use it so much before and after an Ironman competition, for example.

Don’t go out there unprepared. It makes as much sense as heading into grizzly country without ever learning anything about their traits and what you could expect, should you encounter one. Prepare yourself, prepare your mind and body both. Do some research, get into a good exercise regime and eat well.

Here comes one of the most important – and most pleasurable – of preparations: **Do your daily greens.** Try knocking back a green drink (preferably an organic one) each morning and watch how soon you begin to actually look forward to it. It really does make a difference. I know - I consumed a green drink every morning for a couple of years and, since stopping, have noticed a remarkable difference in my energy levels. (No, they have gone down!) It all makes such perfect sense anyway, even more, when you are planning to tackle a stubborn creek that has no intention of giving up its precious contents without making you work for them.

The better your health, the more pleasure you will likely end up experiencing. After all, how much fun would you have if you were in agony all day? How enjoyable would your day be, should you pull every muscle you never even knew you had? Not much fun at all, I suspect.

Get yourself into better health and improve your physical condition and you will see that the creeks won’t be as likely to have their way with you. You’ll be in better shape to call the shots, as it were.

Take up yoga (Yeah, yeah, I know) But it really *can* help to improve your flexibility and enhance your endurance levels. Plus, it may also help with your sleep. You are sleeping well, aren’t you? It really is important. Getting a good night’s sleep in fact, is almost as important as being in good physical shape. Almost.

Okay, in summing up, get into an exercise program; take up weight training; learn some yoga moves; do some research - that is, if you haven’t already; eat as much organic food as possible and knock back a green drink in the mornings. Eventually, you may even begin to enjoy it!

Taking supplements may make all the difference necessary, when it comes to physical and emotional health. You wouldn’t expect that vintage Ferrari to perform well on regular, cheap (Oh, like there actually is such a creature!) gas, would you? Before long, it’s performance levels would drop, noticeably. And the same applies to your system. There is an old saying among the computer geeks: “Garbage in, garbage out.” Same applies to your body – and your mind. Feed them junk and you can expect junky results.

Anyway, the idea is (usually) to have fun. Do some preparing and the chances of that happening will probably increase exponentially. So, before you pack your gold pans, your gum boots and possibly even a sluice box, make sure you can deal with a day of physical endurance. You just might be asked to prove just how tough you really are. You are tough, aren’t you?

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Claims For Sale

Stanhope Creek – 3 Adjoining claims
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Stanhope Creek flows into Jolly Creek a tributary of Rock Creek. This area has a rich mining history and respectable amounts of gold are still being recovered by panning. The first claim, at the mouth of Stanhope Creek, overlaps the B.C. Forest Service Recreational Site at Little Fish Lake. These claims have excellent potential and offers an extraordinary recreational site as well. Contact Jeff Saldat at 250.469.2468 or email jeffsaldat@hotmail.com for further details.

Miscellaneous



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