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LOST GOLD MINE CLOSE TO CITY SAYS NEW WESTMINSTER EDITOR | TUNNEL COULD LEAD TO FABULOUS RICHES

New Westminster (CP) - A newspaper editor says he believes the fabulous and legendary Lost Creek gold mine in only a 30-minute drive from downtown New Westminster.

Elmer McLellan on The British Columbian said Saturday he visited the site of what he believes is the mine. Legend says 23 men have died searching for it and its \$100,000,000 potential.

McLellan found no gold.

But he was to make a return trip this weekend armed with a mining licence and stake tags.

McLellan, who did considerable research into the legend, said he was told of the site by Wally Lund, a carpenter, fisherman, former trapper and prospector, who claimed he had a dream which revealed the location to him.

McLellan's belief is that the mine is on Sheridan Hill near the Alouette River close to here and not in the rugged and almost inaccessible Pitt Lake region, 15 miles to the east.

Men have searched for the mine since an Indian named Slumach turned up here in 1890 loaded with gold. Some of his nuggets were the size of walnuts and when he ordered a drink at a bar, he tossed them up the counter in much the same way the pioneers tossed silver coins.

Slumach was hanged for murder January 16, 1891, and carried his secret to his grave.

McLellan said his study of the facts show Slumach had murdered an Indian named Louis Bee. The murder was committed within two miles of the site of Sheridan Hill and McLellan said Bee's nearness to the site led to his violent death.

McLellan found an underground cavern. A tunnel led away from the 30-foot-deep cavern and loose rock and two cedar poles were on the bottom.

The lanky newspaper man said Lund told him he discovered the cavern in a narrow gorge about two years ago. He visited the site the next spring, but could not enter alone.

McLellan said Slumach had hinted that his mine was in the Pitt Lake area. But he told about a creek coming through a

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hole in a cliff. The cavern at Sheridan Hill apparently at one time had a stream running through it.

Lund gave humanitarian reasons for his disclosure of the Sheridan Hill site. He wanted no more persons killed searching for the mine.