

Newspapers and Magazines 1900s

Colonist 24 September 1947

B.C. MAN TRACES CLUES TO LOST SOURCE OF GOLD

For more than 50 years, the fable of the lost mine of Slummock has fired the imagination of gold seekers, and today, a chubby sign painter said he believed he knew its location.

Each summer for 25 years, Cyril Walters has tramped into the rugged Coast Range, each trip tracing down slim clues left by a man who carried the secret to his grave.

A middle-aged half-breed named Slummock mounted the steps of a gallows at New Westminster at the turn of the century.

He died without revealing the location of the spot where for years he had gathered nuggets the size of walnuts.

In 1903, John Jackson, veteran Alaskan prospector, visited New Westminster and went in search of Slummock's lost mine. He returned laden with nuggets, but died without returning to the mine.

On his deathbed he wrote a letter to a Dr. Hall and a copy of that letter fell into Mr. Walter's hands in 1922.

"The letter says the gold is in a place less than 20 miles from the head of the Pitt River, where a stream flows down a canyon and disappears from sight," Walter said.

"The canyon is guarded by three peaks which stand as sentinels. I found the peaks and the canyon," he said, and followed it to another canyon, which fits the description. But I couldn't get down because of the ice and snow."

Walters plans to go out again next spring to make what he hopes will be the successful attempt to locate the mine.

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