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TWO PARTIES SEEK LOST GOLD; NO CLAIMS FILED FOR
LEGEND MINE

BY LLOYD BULMUR

The story of lost gold mine in the Pitt River area near here is being told again as two separate parties are reported hot on the trail.

The first new attempt was made recently by helicopter, when a New Westminster man chartered the aircraft. Although officials of the airline would not reveal the destination, hunters and fishermen in the Pitt area reported seeing the weird craft in their vicinity the day it was reported chartered.

The other attempt is being made by a Vancouver B.C. sign painter, who reportedly is in possession of a map of the area, but he says he will not be going out until next spring.

The story of the mine is one of violent bloodshed, and the stoical attitude of an Indian who died on the gallows refusing to tell where the legend was located.

It all started around the turn of the 20th century, when a lonely prospector found gold nuggets the size of walnuts near Pitt Lake. The prospector returned to New Westminster but failed to register his claim. He was found a short time later, murdered. An Indian, Jim Slummock, reportedly a guide for the prospector, was tried for the murder and sentenced to be hung. The locality of the mine went with him to the grave.

The story of the mine elicited much speculation around New Westminster and in 1903 a veteran Alaskan prospector, John Jackson, searched for the lost mine. He brought back gold, but the ordeal of the trip was too much, and he died without returning to the mine.

On his deathbed, he wrote to a man called Dr. Hall. A copy of that letter came into the sign painter's hand in 1922. The sign painter says the mine is described as being less than 20 miles from the head of the Pitt River where the river flows down a canyon and disappears from sight. The canyon is guarded by three mountains standing over the hidden treasure.

The Vancouver man reports he found the three peaks this summer, but was unable to enter the canyon and riverbed because of ice and snow.

The helicopter party declines to reveal the extent of their operations but it is reported that they brought back several samples of ore that looked "promising." No claims have been filed in the area as yet.

**Two parties seek Lost
Gold**