

# Newspapers and Magazines 1900s

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## DIAMOND DRILL TO ROAR ON “LOST CREEK” CLAIMS

The area of the legendary Indian Joe Slumach’s Lost Creek mine—a magnet that reportedly lured 21 gold-seekers to death in the rugged Pitt Lake area—will soon be echoing with the roar of a diamond drill.

For prospector John Cotowick, 807 East Sixty-fourth, said today he is translating his 10-year-old dream of riches in this fabled area into action.

The reason: “Good assay results of copper, gold, silver and molybdenum resulting from earlier exploratory trips.”

He declined to give specific results.

Mr. Cotowick, 33-year-old businessman-pro prospector said: “We will attempt to set up a camp this week and prepare for diamond drilling. We plan to build a landing strip so we can move equipment in by aircraft.”

The “we” includes partners George Corrin, 1875 West Eighteenth, and Steve Jarotski, 128 East Forty-eighth.

“We’ll go up Wednesday,” added Mr. Cotowick, “and we’ll try to make the landing strip for the aircraft and a camp for the diamond drilling crew by the Corbold Creek area about 14 miles north of the head of Pitt Lake.”

Mr. Cotowick said he returned over the weekend from another claim-making trip to the district. In all, 32 claims are staked.

Did Mr. Cotowick, himself, believe the fable of the Indian Joe Slumach and the Lost Creek mine?

“Well,” replied the head of the Western Lime Products, “I know a man who has been up there 15 years—and he believes it.”

He added: “I believe a certain amount of it myself. If there is any truth in the story, then we are in the main area.”

Cotowick and his partners hatched the expedition into the area this spring following a party. “I had the idea in mind about 1947, but hadn’t really followed it up. We started talking about it at the party and the first thing we knew, up we went.”

Results of the first assays, plus another recent batch, were encouraging.

Mr. Cotowick declared: “We’ve decided to do our own financing. We’ve had several offers but didn’t care for the deals.

Mr. Cotowick said the six-man camp will be set up as soon as possible. A bulldozer will be taken in to clear the landing

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strip for the plane near the Corbold Creek area. He expects diamond drilling to take about a month and a half after the equipment is flown in.

Legend of Slumach's Lost Creek mine has drawn prospectors to the rugged area ever since Indian Joe died on the gallows in New Westminster in 1891 for murder. He is said to have whispered the secret of his gold source to a friend before he died.