

# Newspapers and Magazines 1900s

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HANGED MAN KEPT GOLD SECRET: PAINTER SOON WILL  
TRY AGAIN

Cyril Walter's eyes blaze as he talks of pursuing fabulous wealth buried in a lost gold mine.

For 25 years, the chubby, balding sign painter has trudged into the mountains every summer. Bit by bit he has cracked clues only one man knew for sure—and that man sealed them in the grave after he died on the gallows 50 years ago.

Fresh evidence will send Walters out again next summer, slipping and skidding over crusty snow in search of wealth.

One crispy grey dawn at the turn of the century, a middle-aged half-breed named Slummock mounted on the steps of a crudely-made wooden gallows at New Westminster. Calmly he watched as the hangman performed his last-minute preparations. Then he plunged from sight.

They say he committed murder to keep the secret of the mine. He carried to eternity the location of the spot where he had picked up nuggets the size of walnuts.

In 1903, John Jackson, a veteran Alaskan prospector, visited New Westminster and later searched for Slummock's lost mine.

He brought back gold, but the ordeal of his trip was too much. He died without returning to the mine.

On deathbed he wrote a letter to a man called Dr. Hall. A copy of that letter came into Cyril Walter's hands in 1922.

"The letter says the gold is in a place less than 20 miles from the head of the Pitt where a stream flows down a canyon and disappears from sight," Walters claims. "The canyon is guarded by three peaks which stand as sentinels.

"I found the tree peaks and the canyon after heading to a spot about 17 miles northeast of Squamish, and the same distance from Pitt lakes [sic].

"I came to a canyon which fits the description but couldn't get down because of ice and snow."

**Hanged man kept gold  
secret**