

Newspapers and Magazines 1900s

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HUNTED FOR 70 YEARS | CLAIM STAKED TO LEGENDARY GOLD MINE

A newspaper man with a flair for historical research says he believes he has found the legendary Lost Creek gold mine which men have sought for 70 years.

Elmer McLellan, city editor of The British Columbian wrote about the fabulous lode Saturday in his paper, then made a weekend trip to the spot, staking a claim.

Legend says 23 men have died searching for it and its \$100,000,000 potential.

McLellan found no gold on earlier visits but during the weekend he staked claim to 750,000 square feet of the land covering a tunnel and underground cavern which he believes to be the fabled mine.

His next move will be to have a mining expert examine the find and have rock samples from the area assayed.

Studies legend

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, a 30-minute drive from downtown New Westminster.

Men have searched for the mine since an Indian named Slumach turned up here in 1890 loaded with gold.

Hanged for murder

Slumach was hanged for murder Jan. 16, 1891 and his secret died with him.

McLellan said his study shows 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 him 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.

From a study of the legend in newspaper files the men came up with this story of the Slumach legend:

McLellan said the cavern could not be worked alone.

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“...The old Indian had had help in extracting the gold. No one man could go down and up on his own. He would have to lower someone else down and pull him up with the gold. And the wily old Indian had chosen women for this task as they were nice and light and more easily murdered. For once having seen such a rich cache no one could be expected to keep the secret, no one except the owner.”