

Newspapers and Magazines 1900s

MAN THINKS HE FOUND GOLD MINE

Jack Mould thinks he has unlocked the 100-year-old secret of Slumach's Lost Creek Gold Mine, a West Coast bonanza said to be guarded by the death curse of an Indian on the gallows.

Mould, 54, says he has spent 30 years and almost \$200,000 to find Lost Creek, which according to legend spills out nuggets "big as walnuts."

"I am starting a new legend," he said during a helicopter expedition to the site 125 miles northwest of Vancouver. "I don't know why, but I want the glory as much as the gold.

"For all these years, people have been looking in the wrong place and it took me, Jack Mould, to figure out where it was."

Mould says he is close to the treasure because he has found human bones in the area. He believes the remains are those of people who followed an Indian known as Slumach, the first to find the mine.

Slumach's Lost Creek Gold Mine was originally thought to have been in the Pitt Lake area, area about 20 miles from suburban New Westminster.

But Mould is sure Southgate Peak, at the head of a deep inlet and in the Bute Mountain region, will yield treasure from two gold-rich veins. Samples from the area are currently being analyzed by a Vancouver geologist.

Slumach was known for his carousing in New Westminster during the 1880s. When he slipped out of town one day after another spending spree, everyone assumed he was heading for Pitt Lake.

Everybody but Mould who has staked nearly 200 claims on the peak and elsewhere in [a] well-worn moccasin trail that wound northwest to Bute Inlet.

The mine has never been found, though thousands—hot with gold fever—have combed the crags of the coastal range.

Mould, a resident of Errington on Vancouver Island, stepped up the search three years ago, helped by his brother Bill of Nanaimo and nephew Kelly Mould of Richmond.

Mould is not worried about Slumach's curse, even though his nephew careened 60 feet down a rock scree near the top of 6,739-foot Southgate Peak and dislocated a shoulder.

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