

Newspapers and Magazines 1900s

RACE ON FOR MINE: HELICOPTER USED TO SEEK GOLD HIDDEN SINCE 1903

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

The first attempt was made recently by helicopter, when a city 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 is reported to have 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 gold could be found.

It 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 murdered a short time later.

An Indian, Jim Slummock, who had been a guide for the old prospector, was tried for the murder and sentenced to be hanged. The location of the mine went with him to the grave.

The story of the mine caused much speculation, 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 revealing the location of his find.

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. The canyon is guarded by three mountains standing sentinel over the hidden treasure.

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

Race on for mine: helicopter used to seek gold hidden since 1903

Long Beach Press - Telegram
19 October 1947

Prospectors hunt "lost" gold mine sealed in blood

The Lawton (Okla.) Constitution, 23 November 1947