

Miscellanea

Dear Friend

San Francisco Feb. 10 1904

It will come to you as a surprise after all these years to hear from me for no doubt you have long since forgotten me. But you will remember the old man you so kindly grub staked with money and provisions at Guytos. Since then I have prospected with the varied success that usually goes with the life of a prospector.

In 1901 I went to B.C. and it is of this trip I want to tell, and hope you will gain by it untold thousands for your kindness to me. I heard you went broke like most everyone else at Guytos but had lost all trace of you since then except that you had gone to Washington. Well, I made a great discovery in New Westminster but after coming out for supplies and tools was taken down with a severe attack of rheumatism that ever since has left me almost bedfast until a short time ago, when I recovered sufficiently as though to make the trip again.

I made up my mind to hunt you up and take you with me. In hunting over a Seattle directory I found your name and address and concluded to come to Seattle and talk the matter over with you. A few days after arriving here from my little place in the hills, I was suddenly stricken down again and the Doctors say that I will never recover and may drop off any time for my heart is badly affected. So I will tell you of my trip and what I found and direct you to the best I can to find it. It is too great to be lost to the world and I know with you it will be in good hands.

Well, I arrived in Vancouver about the first of July and hired a couple of natives to take me to the headwaters of the _____ then dismissing the natives I struck out in the mountains, and they are rough ones. I prospected up beyond the lake but found nothing of importance. But the formation looked all right. I concluded to prospect back towards _____ Lake. I kept well up on the mountains but was often compelled to make long trips down before crossing could be found on the deep canyons.

I had been out about two months and found myself running short of grub. I lived mostly on fresh meat for one can't carry much of a pack in those hills. Found a few very promising ledges and some color in the little creeks, but nothing I cared to stay with. I had almost made up my mind to light out the next day. I climbed to the top of a sharp ridge and looked down into a little canyon or valley about one mile and a half or two miles long, but what struck me as singular, it appeared to have no outlet for the little creek that flowed at the bottom. Afterwards I found the creek entered a _____ and is lost.

After some difficulty I found my way down to the creek. The water was almost white. The formation for the most had been slate and granite but there I found a kind of schist and slate formation. Now comes the interesting part. I had only a small prospecting pan, but I found colors at once right on the surface and such colors they were. I knew then I had struck it rich at last.

JACKSON'S LETTER 1904

Copied from transcript made by Arthur Wellesley (Dick) Carter around 1940.

Courtesy Richard James (Jim) Carter.

Miscellanea

In going up stream I came to a place where the bedrock was bare and there you can hardly believe me, but the bedrock was yellow with gold. In a few days I gathered thousands and there were thousands more in sight. Some of the nuggets were as big as walnuts and there were many chunks carrying quartz. After sizing up carefully I saw that there were millions stowed away in the little cracks. On account of the weight I buried part of the gold at the foot of a large tent shaped rock facing the creek. You can't miss it. There is a mark cut out in it. Taking with me what I supposed to be about \$10,000 proved to be over \$8,000. After three days of extreme hard traveling it would not be over 2 days of good going but the way was rough and I was not feeling well. I arrived at the lake and while resting there at the Indian Camp was taken sick and have never since been able to return and now I fear I never shall. I am alone in the world. No relations, no one to look to me for anything.

Of course I have never spoken of this find during all this time for fear of it being discovered. It has caused me many anxious hours but the place is so well guarded by surrounding ridges that it should not be found for many years unless someone knew its being there.

Oh, how I wish I could go with you and show you to the wonderful place for I find I can't give any exact directions and it may take you a year or more to find it but don't give it up. Keep at it and you will not fail and you will be repaid beyond your wildest dreams.

I believe any further directions only tend to confuse so I will only suggest further that you go alone or at least take one or two Indians to pack food and no one need to know but you were going on a hunting trip until you find the place and get everything fixed up to suit yourself.

When you find it, and I am sure you will, should you care to see me advertize in the "Frisco Examiner" and if I am living I will either come and see you or let you know where to find me but once more I say to you don't fail to look this great property up and don't give up till you find it. I am very sorry I can't give you more definite instructions. Of course I expected to have gone back long since.

I have drawn a rough sketch that will help you.

Success and happiness.

Yours truly,

W. Jackson

From the head of Pitt Lake and not more than 20 miles in a north westerly direction to the hidden treasure but there is no trail and nothing to guide you except that when you get within a few miles of the place you will see on a lower ridge three sharp peaks, each some 50 or 100 ft high as you face these the hidden treasure is below and to the right of these peaks,

Fred Braches December 2008