

(72)

New Westminster B.C.  
Aug 15<sup>th</sup> 1970.  
11:35 am

Mr Donald Waite  
27 Henderson Ave,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir: Your letter of July 27<sup>th</sup> rec'd  
about a week ago in spite of the P.C. strikes  
every few days!!

Was not aware that Slumack  
had a nephew and a daughter, <sup>Charles</sup> both  
both still alive, and where do they live?

I quite understand the 'run around'  
you refer to. It's rather a difficult situation for  
the officials. However, the information you  
require - i.e. transcripts of the Slumack trial -  
should be available, and I understand it  
is: from the Archives in Victoria. I hope to  
visit Victoria within two weeks and will  
look into the matter, as I would like a copy  
myself.

Pitt Lake area, as you know, is heavily  
covered with moss.

The old fish hatchery was abandoned

by the Govt in their 'economy' stunt and was taken over by the B.C. Forestry 'Logging' - a big outfit.

A new hatchery was subsequently erected several miles <sup>farther</sup> up the river. The Govt found they (it) had made a serious mistake.

The wife of the hatchery overseer; this was years ago; told me she had gone to live there as a bride and spent three of the happiest years of her life there even tho. when the children appeared, she had to be always on the alert for fear of the black bears; they were never shot at.

Mountain goat were always a delight & revelation to watch at their climbing antics.

During the 1907(?) land boom several locals took up homesteads between the head of the lake & the hatchery, mostly near the lake. Checking on an abandoned 'stead' or two observed bear tracks on the nearly obscured homestead road, <sup>also</sup> mud moving in creek, crossed & after I crossed got down on hands & knees on sharp upgrade of road so as to get as close as I could to bruin - to skate hands - <sup>belly that is</sup> - no foolin'! - I crawled along on my stomach and near the top of grade lifted my body & head and about 10' away

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!!! There was a bear squatting on his haunches swinging his head from side to side trying to get my scent - he had evidently heard me approaching before I noticed his tracks. (you of course know that a black bear's eyesight is very poor - his scent very keen - I'd been sleeping under the trees for some days - for with a couple of very loud "woops!!" he headed for the tall timber & no doubt is still going.

Grizzlies used to come down to the head of the lake in the old days: ie - before logging operations. One of my school friends - subsequently a home steader at head of Pitt Lake - now a resident at a "rest home", old at 85 years! He told me a thriller or two - grizzly bear stories. Personally, I had a grizzly claw at my ankle!!

You probably know as much or more about Shurnack & his gold - seeing you know his people than I do. I never looked for it. A friend of mine did that I remember. one day we met in New Westminster he said "Mac" have you \$20,000 dollars. I said "Charlie I have only \$250 to my name," he said "Too bad I can make you a \$1,000,000" thousands was subsequently spent on this property & recently abandoned!!

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Incidentally:  
In the meantime as you disclosed  
your acquaintanceship with the  
Slumach people query them as to  
-the stories of Slumach taking a  
woman with him on his gold getting  
trips. Sounds to me like a lot of Bull  
-the I quite understand it could be  
true. Do his people really know?  
I know why he did so - if he did?  
its not what these 'PUNKS' we have  
around now would think.

Must close before I "warm up".

Maybe you will write again.

Its a difficult matter to write  
about - so controversial.

Sincerely  
D.E. McPhaden

436-1<sup>st</sup> St

New Westminster B.C.



New Westminster B.C.  
June 28, 1971 12 M.

Mr Donald Waite  
27 Henderson Ave.  
Ottawa Ont

Re Slumack

Dear Sir: Pursuant to your letter of July 27<sup>th</sup> 1970 and our subsequent phone conversation which possibly through my lack of co-operation ended abruptly, however I attended at Moody square temporary police quarters from the City Hall, enquiring as to your whereabouts. Was advised that at the Court House I could check for you - Court Registry<sup>2</sup> - R.C.M.P.<sup>3</sup> Land office<sup>4</sup> and Sheriff's office - no result.

→ at this date I am prepared to furnish you with a true copy of the details of the Slumack trial.

X. Providing however: you give me advise as to Slumack - as to his characteristics<sup>(3)</sup>: physical size i.e. weight, height, physical condition, was he lame or NO etc. disposition?<sup>(5)</sup>

I have no intention at the present time of writing a story of what I know which to my way of thinking is little enough tho if I do write it will be the truth - and not a lot of "bologna" such as is published in the newspapers.

I am long aware that he was married but did not know of any family. - See pg 2

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4 Questions:

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1. Family
2. Slumack's age
3. Weight
4. Any physical disability i.e. Game leg?
5. Height
6. Disposition
7. What tribe did he belong to.
8. Was he medicine man for the Hanaimo tribe
9. Age

2. Was Louis Bee a Kanaka? - The Kanakas used to come over from the Hawaiian Islands to Haney to visit Kanaka Creek.

4. Why did Slumack shoot Louis Bee?

Three of my friends - long since dead - knew Slumack. One in particular was quite friendly with him. Only one asked him where he got the gold from - no result.

Personally, I have no recollection of Slumack. ~~He~~ must of camped in the East end below the Crescent. Many Indians also camped in the West end i.e. Cameron st west of 10<sup>th</sup> st; and <sup>also</sup> close to the river bank beyond the CPR roundhouse. 1. my Indians as far north as Prince Rupert, the Hidas & Simsams (? spelling?) came to the West during the salmon season. The men fished, the woman worked in the canneries. EVER.

I hope to mail you the Canada West magazine Vol 2 No 4 which contains story:

'Lost Mine of Pitt Lake'

re the same. may say there was such a party as

1. Jackson prospector - a friend of mine was his <sup>companion</sup>.
2. Volcanic Brown well known prospector. His friend, one of many; told me his last trip into Pitt mts was not for gold; tho of course he would pick it up if he saw it; it was for <sup>platinum</sup>. <sup>He never returned.</sup>

Regret to say that there will be a delay before I mail said magazine. I am endeavouring to obtain another copy, expect to subscribe to same. In meantime must make most of it. I shall mail same shortly.

It is interesting to know you intend to write about the Golden Ears Area. Expect you are aware Mt Edge therein, was named after one of the two Edge brothers (real old times of Hancley); master land surveyor - Vernon Edge - died about a year ago, a son of one of the brothers.

The whole area of Hancley Municipality would make a splendid subject for a <sup>new</sup> write up. May say <sup>tho</sup> you probably - the officer in charge of the Hancley Correctional School and his son, attempted - about - two years ago - to scale Mt Edge - in the spring - & and never returned - probably covered by an avalanche.

x.

Incidentally, I have a close friend living in Chicago who lived for quite a few years in Haney and is very familiar with its environs. A much travelled person.

She knows the local history (Haney) and past & present - and is a very understanding person.

She visits Montreal occasionally and may find time to visit you all in Ottawa if acceptable to you. This is just my idea; she is not a writer but I know would be quite interested in your project. She has yet to hear from me.

Yours Sincerely  
A.E. McPhalen

436 First St  
New Westminster B.C.