

213 Horberry Cres.,
Ottawa, Ontario,
August 17, 1978.

Mr. James Fyles,
Deputy Minister,
Dept of Mines & Petroleum Resources,
406 Douglas Building,
Victoria, B. C.

KB

Dear Mr. Fyles,

You will recall my visit to your office on Tuesday, August 8, when I reported the discovery of Slumach's gold canyon, supposedly within the boundaries of Garibaldi Park. I reviewed my participation in this discovery and will go over it again here.

I first heard of the canyon in 1950 when it was discussed wherever I travelled on the Island and lower mainland. I knew of numerous parties which went in to search for it. My work and family kept me too busy to give much thought to hiking in the area until 1974. It was in that year that I located the canyon. Correspondence between myself and the Honorable Mr. Nimsick, then Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources, should be on file in Victoria. I was finally able to obtain verbal permission to bring out samples directly to him so that the situation could be assessed.

There have been many articles written in the last five years reviewing the details of Slumach's trips in and his final trip to the gallows on January 16, 1891. These articles mention a California man named John Jackson who packed out all he was able to carry in 1903 but shortly thereafter died, having banked about \$10,000 in gold. Also an article was written about Volcanic Brown which records the finding of the lost canyon in 1930. I would refer you to the following two articles:-

The Golden Mountains, p. 68, Volcanic Brown's Last Trip, by Charles A. Miller, Lithographed by the Fraser Valley Record, Mission, B. C., 1973.

Tales of the Golden Ears, p.43, by Don Waite, 22380 - 119th Ave., Maple Ridge, B.C., 1975.

There was also an article in the August, 1973, edition of Saga, a New York monthly magazine.

After leaving your office I visited my brother in the Maple Ridge District and discussed the whole situation with him. He agrees with me that 99% of the people in the Lower Fraser Valley

between New Westminster and Hope are quite familiar and conversant with the history of the lost canyon. I also know of 400 to 500 people who go looking for it each year so it will undoubtedly be found in the very near future by someone besides myself. 194

I have estimated the value of the surface gold at two billion dollars so I think that some immediate action should be taken to protect the park and the interests of the people of the province. You will recall that you stated that these interests were protected by laws prohibiting prospecting in provincial parks or the removal of biological or geological samples therefrom. I doubt if anyone is naive enough to believe for a moment that one grain of gold dust or even one ounce of the solid quartz could be protected for long after the location of the canyon became known publicly. There are too many routes and too long a border to the park to police.

I had four long days to think about the matter while driving home to Ottawa and have come to some definite conclusions. It is four years since I discovered this lost gold and I know that others will find it soon if action is not taken by your department. It is very unlikely that anyone discovering it will follow the procedures I have in coming to you. In fact, I could remove 100 lbs. (1500 ounces) per trip worth about \$500,000 without disclosing anything and sell on the black market. I now feel after thinking it over that immediate action must be taken. When I was in your office you said there was nothing could be done and that you could take no action other than to confirm my statements. I now am suggesting that if action is not taken within the next three weeks, that is, by September 8, I shall inform the public through the press and television that the gold canyon has been found. I am sure that this will send up to 100,000 seekers into the park. You can well imagine the fires and devastation which could result. Moreover, a large percentage of these would be unable to cope and get into grave difficulties through accident and weather. Already over thirty persons have lost their lives looking for this canyon.

What I propose is that some written agreement be drawn up whereby I may recover over \$10,000 which I have spent in solving this mystery. It is true that two of the six trips were made because of the fascination I had for solving the mystery but the last four were attempts to bring out samples to the Minister. I think I am entitled to recovery of at least that amount.

Part of my purpose in keeping the matter secret has been my concern over what would happen to the environment and the protection of this beautiful wilderness area. However, the government has decided to procrastinate and may allow what I mentioned above to happen so I must force the issue in every-one's interest. I am therefore urging you to take action immediately

to gain orderly control from me and to bring the gold to market for the benefit of the people without allowing personal greed to benefit or private interests to ruin the park.

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I am against putting a road into the area because it would deface the park and spoil it for those who enjoy this type of wilderness hiking. However, it could open up for the enjoyment of others a new and exciting outdoor experience in scenery. A road would cost perhaps half of the value of the gold and air transportation would be cheaper and pay for itself as extraction progressed. I also have identified one animal in there which is almost extinct in the world and according to Wildlife Service does not occur within 800 miles of this location.

I do not look forward to another trip as strenuous as the many I have been through, not even a plane trip. It should be remembered that travel in the park is extremely hazardous and on two occasions I have just barely made it out by wading torrents to my waist which were dry twenty-four hours earlier on the way in. A third time I did not even get started. Should I be required to make another trip I shall expect to have my expenses paid.

Should you contact me within the next three weeks I am willing to cooperate providing you have a plan for immediate action. Otherwise I shall take the action suggested on the previous page.

I shall be waiting impatiently to hear from you.

G. Stuart Brown

c.c. Honorable J. R. Chabot
Mr. Ray Lowrey



Province of
British Columbia

Ministry of
Mines and
Petroleum Resources

Parliament Buildings
Victoria
British Columbia
V8V 1X4

OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY MINISTER

198

August 25, 1978

Mr. G. Stuart Brown
2713 Norberry Crescent
Ottawa, Ontario
K1V 6N3

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your letter of August 18th setting out the alternatives open to you respecting your knowledge of the location of the Lost Gold Mine in Garibaldi Park. I am in no position to make a monetary deal with you and therefore must let you make whatever decision seems best to you regarding the publication of your information.

I sincerely appreciate your integrity in apprising me of your discovery before taking further action. I trust that the results of your decision will be beneficial to you and not harmful to others.

Yours sincerely,

James T. Fyles
DEPUTY MINISTER

JTF/vr

2713 Norberry Cres.,
Ottawa, Ontario,
September 4, 1978.

Right Honorable Wm. Bennett,
Premier of British Columbia,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, British Columbia.

197

Honorable Sir,

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter I wrote to Mr. James Pyles, Deputy Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources. This letter is self explanatory and his answer indicated that he intended absolutely no action in the matter.

I am writing to you, not with the hope of obtaining other than my past expenses, but with the hope that you will comprehend the significance of immediate action. I firmly believe that this is perhaps the greatest concentration of pure gold ever found in the world and it could add significantly to the wealth of the people of the province of British Columbia. As I stated in the letter it would be much better for the government to take over control and cleanly remove the gold to market than to permit the public to move in enmasse and destroy the environment both there and on the way in.

I wonder how you would feel if you had waded in gold nuggets up to your ankles or had dust in quantities that you could dip a three-gallon bucket full at one dip?? I have spent a rather hectic four years sitting on this. To remove the gold need not damage more than 100 acres of an area which obviously has not been visited by anyone except me in the last 48 years and, properly handled, the scar could be completely obliterated in a few years.

As you can see by the enclosed letter I have not yet released the news to the press and hope I may have some indication from you that action can be taken on the part of your government to move forward in this matter.

Sincerely,

G. Stuart Brown

G. Stuart Brown

27 Norberry Cres.,
Ottawa, Ontario,
September 14, 1978.

Memo to The Victoria Daily Times, The Colonist, The Vancouver Province, The Vancouver Sun, and The Fraser Valley Record.

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Enclosed is a completely self-explanatory letter which I wrote recently to the Deputy Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources. I am now informing the public through the press and other news media regarding the situation. To date it appears that no substantial amount, if any of the gold has been removed.

What I would appreciate knowing is just what the people of British Columbia feel should be done in the matter. The Department of Recreation and Conservation, Parks Branch, has firmly refused to permit the marketing or removal of any of the gold, even under their control. I have delayed making the news public until the weather would prevent any large scale migration into the park this year and I still have hopes that some sensible action may be taken before next spring.

I estimate that from a selected place I could collect enough nuggets in two hours to sell for \$300,000 if sold on the legitimate market. Don't you think that some organized removal of the gold should take place rather than have it eventually pilfered by a few selfish individuals? This should be done by air and only about 100 acres of the park need be affected and the scar would soon heal.

Incidentally, I have destroyed any maps, correspondence, notes, or any other material I had pertaining to this subject and the only information I can give you in future is strictly from my head.

Sincerely,

G. Stuart Brown

G. Stuart Brown



Province of British Columbia
OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

October 12th, 1978

File No: 20-1

Mr. G. Stuart Brown,
2713 Norberry Crescent,
Ottawa, Ontario.
K1V 6N3

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Dear Mr. Brown,

Thank you for your letter of September 4th, 1978, and the information respecting your discovery of gold in Garibaldi Provincial Park. The legend of the lost gold mine in that general area is not unknown to me and I am interested in your extension of the story.

Unfortunately, parks which are created to preserve natural values for recreational enjoyment are not open for mineral development. I recognize that your discovery places you in a difficult position, but I am not in a position to allow mining in Garibaldi Park or to compensate you for past expenses in researching and prospecting in this area.

Yours sincerely,

W. R. Bennett
Premier

6715 Norberry Cres.,
Ottawa, K1V 6W5
November 5, 1978.

The Right Honourable W. R. Bennett,
Premier of British Columbia,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, British Columbia,
V8V 4N3

File No.: 80 - 1

200

Honourable Sir,

When I was in Dr. Fyles' office on August 8 last he asked me if there was evidence that anyone had removed gold from Slumach's gold canyon. I had none then for obvious reasons, but I do now. Information has leaked to certain persons who intend to keep it secret until all available surface gold is removed. I do not know how much has already been removed - perhaps two million, maybe three million dollars worth - as it is impossible to estimate even closely under such circumstances. Plans are being made to continue and perhaps expand the operation next year. Anyone knowing this secret would realize that others are apt to learn it and so realize the urgency of moving quickly.

Another thing that bothers me is that evidence leads me to believe that the gold is being smuggled out of the country and so lost not only to the people of British Columbia but to the Canadian economy entirely.

By the time you receive this you will know that the news of the find has been released to the press. I purposely delayed the release until after there was any possibility of further visits to the canyon this year in the hope that something could be organized sensibly before spring. If nothing is organized I will have to take steps to recover my investment, then perhaps show to all those interested in a body the location of the find. That would be the only fair way to the people of the province who are, in my opinion, entitled to their heritage.

I have not entirely given up on making your government show some intelligence in this matter. That will hinge on your answer to this letter. It seems strange to me the stand that has been taken especially when I have stated that activity in removing the gold could be limited to about three hundred acres, and that it will be removed by selfish interests if you do not act immediately.

It is your choice. I've done what I can to be fair about the matter and will proceed as I see fit in the future.

Copy to Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]

G. Stuart Brown
G. Stuart Brown

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JOHNNY Z
WANTS YOU!
JOIN THE VICTORIA AIR RACE TODAY
CASH PRIZES

SECOND FRC

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, WEDNESDAY, A

Garibaldi Glory Hole

Written
in 1978

By MARK HUME
Times Staff

WITHOUT a doubt he is a man given to exaggeration, a man who makes incredible statements without substantiation — and if his claims were made about anything other than a legendary lost gold mine they would be dismissed out of hand.

But when retired federal civil servant Stuart Brown says he has found Slumach's gold canyon, a treasure that many have allegedly died trying to find, a treasure worth millions, you have to listen because stranger tales have come true in this world and he just might be telling the truth.

He has no proof; not a single nugget, no dust, not even the tiniest ore sample. But he says the gold is there. He's seen it sparkling in the water of a wilderness creek somewhere north of Pitt Lake in Garibaldi Park.

That's where it should be according to the legend of the old Indian, Slumach, who was hanged for murder in 1890. And that's where it should be according to the hundreds who have searched for it in vain over the years.

They say a Californian named John Jackson found it in 1903, but nobody knows for sure. He died shortly after depositing \$10,000 worth of gold in the bank.

One man, Volcanic Brown, claimed he found it. He came out with gold to prove it but went back into the rugged terrain in the summer of 1939 and never returned. Those who went to rescue him found his tent buried under October snows.

There was no sign of Volcanic, the old prospector who said he'd been fired off by Slumach's granddaughter,

but in his tent they found a glass jar containing 11 ounces of coarse gold.

It was gold, according to newspaper reports, "that appeared to have been hammered out of a solid vein, for it still bore traces of quartz." *Gold with Quartz - new out.*

And so it has gone. Gold and death fanning the coals of the legend every time the fire was about out.

The great thing is that unanswered questions don't knock down a legend, they build it up.

Things have been quiet up north of Pitt Lake in recent years, but there have been prospectors there every summer, poking about in little creeks and streams, stumbling down gulleys, scanning the rocks, always hoping for that dull glint of color.

Brown, a former Vancouverite who now lives in Ottawa, was one such prospector in the summer of 1974.

In a canyon, where the run-off waters from a melting snowfield ran together, he looked down and found it. A glory hole brimming with nuggets. *From Above*

But now the story gets really curious, for Brown, talking in a telephone interview from his home, says he looked at the gold, made note of its location and then walked away!

He says he found the precious metal within the boundaries of a provincial park (there are two in the area, Garibaldi and Golden Ears) and he knew full well it was against the law to remove samples. *1973 law passed*

So Brown left the gold and for the last four years he's been trying to persuade the government to let him mine it.

"If they want conclusive evidence they can have it," says Brown. "But they'll have to give me a very precise, clear letter. I would like some assurance that I would be protected and reimbursed for my expenses."

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How V. Brown knew

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FRONT PAGE

MEIRO TOYOTA
ESSO CAR CLINIC
TESTED USED CARS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1978, PAGE 19

Hole

All the Unanswered Questions Add to Legend of Gold Canyon

1978 - Trip to Victoria

now out.

In a trip to Victoria last summer Brown failed in attempts to get the type of bargain he was looking for and returned to Ottawa empty-handed.

Did he deserve any better? James Fyles, deputy minister of mines and petroleum resources, says he listened to Brown's incredible story but then turned away the fortune hunter and would-be gold miner.

Fyles said he offered to send a geologist into the area with Brown to confirm the richness of the deposits, but this was rejected. Why - No Agreement?

Fyles wanted to see an ore sample. Brown had none.

And then Brown asked for money, or at least for a promise of reimbursement. The government should pay him \$10,000, he said, to cover his expenses in locating the treasure. Then he'd tell where the canyon was and the province could take appropriate action.

"I have estimated the value of the surface gold at two billion dollars so I think that some immediate action should be taken to protect the park and the interests of the people of the province," said Brown in a letter. 2 B1

Fyles added that others have been searching for the lost mine and sooner or later someone will stumble across it, as he had.

"It is very unlikely that anyone discovering it will follow the procedures I have in coming to you."

"In fact, I could remove 100 pounds per trip worth about \$200,000 without disclosing anything and sell on the black market." 100 lbs per trip *

And he warned Fyles that once word of his find was out, there would be a stampede into the area, a modern-day gold rush.

But Fyles said he could not help; he was in no position to sign any agreement with Brown and certainly could not make any commitment for \$10,000.

Fyles is highly skeptical of Brown's claims, largely because he cannot imagine why a man who says he knows where he can pick up \$300,000 worth of gold would be haggling with the government in an effort to get \$10,000.

"It is not gold country. And yet there are all kinds of surprises in the geological world and it just may be that he's right."

When Brown left Fyles' office he went to see Ray Lowrey, in the provincial parks operations division.

Brown had taught at the University of B.C. before joining the federal government and Lowrey had been a student of his.

Lowrey says Brown is an intelligent and well-educated man — but dismisses his story as lacking credibility.

Lowrey asked for proof of the discovery but got none. No proof.

"I needed something I could get my teeth into, even one nugget." No nuggets, where sold?

Officially Lowrey has simply rejected Brown's tale of a fantastic gold deposit in Garibaldi Park, and his department is planning no action on the matter.

Lowrey doesn't believe there's a lost gold mine in Garibaldi Park, "but anything's possible."

Legends thrive on the unexplained, he adds, "and probably 10 or 15 years after Mr. Brown dies the stories will start up about the lost mine he found."

It won't take that long, however, for there's already a story about a lost mine and Stuart Brown, the elderly man who says he walked away from a billion-dollar fortune, is now part of the Slumach legend — gold or no.

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January 16, 1979

Mr. G. Stuart Brown
2713 Norberry Crescent
Ottawa, Ontario
K1V 6N3

Dear Mr. Brown:

see Nov 5/78 letter
to Bill Bennett

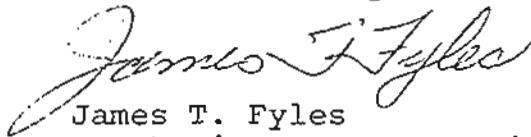
Your letter of November 5, 1978 to the Premier regarding Slumach's gold canyon has recently been passed to me for response.

I must acknowledge that I and my staff are somewhat skeptical about your discovery. Your references to the nature and the value of the deposit, the geological characteristics of the terrain in the general area, and the bizarre history of this lost gold mine do not encourage geologists to take your reported discovery seriously. Indeed, your letters do not provide us with new evidence that the deposit exists and is of the tremendous value you indicate.

If you can suggest a method beneficial to yourself by which we in the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and in the Parks Branch can be assured of the existence of the deposit and that it has the value you suggest, I would be pleased to hear about it. Possibly, after determining these things, we can consider ways of resolving the problems of exploitation and park preservation.

* N.B.

Yours very truly,



James T. Fyles
Sr. Assistant Deputy Minister

JTF/vr

cc: Mr. R. Lowrey
Parks Branch

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problems of the
1975-1979
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2715 Norberry Cres.,
Ottawa K1V 6N3
January 27, 1979.

Mr James Fyles,
Senior Deputy Minister,
Department of Mines and Petroleum Resources,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B. C.

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Dear Mr. Fyles,

Your letter of January 16 was received last week and I have been giving it considerable thought. Before answering it, however, I would like to refer briefly to an article in the November 22 Victoria Daily Times. Even though my considerable experience with members of the press over the last 20 years of my professional career left me with a very poor opinion of their desire or ability to express in print the truth of statements made during an interview, certain statements and implications in the article attributed to you were a reflection on my integrity. I certainly hope that they were not a true picture of what you gained from statements I made in your office last August. Knowing the usual article resulting from such an interview I can readily exonerate both you and Mr. Lowrey from blame for these implications. In fact, Mr. Lowrey's statements were not uncomplimentary.

I would like to make it clear, as I thought I had in your office, that I expect no advance of any money for expenses incurred until I have adequately proved to your satisfaction that this lost gold canyon does in truth exist. My request was that I have written assurance from some qualified authority in your department or the provincial government that I would receive, presumably from proceeds of the first returns, the cost of all my expenses. This was the minimum requirement, and still is, under which I will reveal the location of the site.

There are certain other requirements which I have also made which will of necessity be put on paper before this matter can proceed. As I have previously stated I am what many term an environmentalist and I will require that no attempt be made to put a road in to the site and that extraction be confined strictly to the 300 to 400 acres involved. Transport will therefore have to be by air and no heavy equipment will be involved.

Had not a rather important family crisis developed here I would have stayed and completed what I set out to do last August. However it was imperative that I return immediately to Ottawa and I was busy here until it was too late to act before the winter weather set in.

Perhaps I sound unduly irritated by the turn of events but there are many things you do not know about me and about the documented history of the lower mainland. This is the first time in my life that my word has been questioned. Others believe my statements to the degree that I have been offered \$100,000 to pinpoint on a map the location in question.

I will give the whole matter considerable thought during the next few months and will inform you if there are further developments. A trip into this country is not to be taken lightly because of the many glaciers involved and uncertain weather which can produce raging torrents in a matter of minutes. In the meantime you might reread the contents of this file and in all fairness consider if I have been unreasonable in any way.

Yours very truly,

G. Stuart Brown

G. Stuart Brown

c.c. Mr. Ray Lowrey

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2. 3 Norberry Cres.,
Ottawa, Ontario, K1V 6N3,
September 5, 1980.

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206

Mr. James Fyles,
Deputy Minister,
Department of Mines and Petroleum Resources,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B. C.

Dear Mr. Fyles,

You will probably recall my visit in August, 1978, to your office regarding Slurach's lost gold mine and some subsequent correspondence regarding my finding of it. At that time I mentioned that it appeared quite certain that at least one other person knew the location as I had seen him in the area.

First, in your letter of January 13, 1979, you stated that you and your staff were skeptical of my discovery. For proof I can only refer you to documented police records of late 1950 which describe the search for the last known prospector who found the lode. Searchers did not find him but they found his camp and in his tent they found nuggets of raw, free gold with crushed and broken quartz in it showing that he had found a lode richer than any rarely found.

Since I was in your office in 1978 I have been in to the area twice. I was in in August, 1979, and have just recently returned this year. I know now that there are four other men besides myself who have been into the area for I saw them within a half of a mile of the site. I am sure they were from the United States for they were driving a car that had Oregon licence plates. If I can bring out 150 lbs. of almost pure gold in one five-day pack trip with two packs I'm sure each of the four could bring out 60 lbs. with one. At 15 oz. to the lb. and \$600 per oz. that equals over half a million dollars.

I can only repeat what I said in my letter of January 27, 1979, that I do not expect any advance for expenses I have incurred, nor any grubstake to bring samples out. However, I must insist on written assurance that I will not be prosecuted under any regulations your province may have, I must have a written contract giving me and certain others a stipulated percentage of all gold brought out. I would also require that the environment be protected and that I get credit for the discovery for newspaper purposes.

For your further information I took time since 1978 to re-estimate the amount of gold present and I am sure my original was only one third of what is there.

Much of the early excitement of the find I have learned to live with since I first found the canyon in 1973 but the appeal of the area is strong and I enjoy hiking there. I am enclosing a picture taken in the general area so you may see the type of terrain. This picture was taken in early September so you can see the glacier-type situation and the rough travel involved in hiking in.

Yours truly,



Province of
British Columbia
OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY MINISTER

Ministry of
Energy, Mines and
Petroleum Resources

Victoria
British Columbia
V8X4

September 17, 1980

207

Mr. G. Stuart Brown
2713 Norberry Crescent
Ottawa, Ontario
K1V 6N3

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your letter of September 5 regarding Slumach's lost gold mine. I assume that the deposit to which you refer is the one that we discussed some time ago that is within the boundaries of Garibaldi Provincial Park. In reply to your questions in the fourth paragraph of your letter, I can only refer you to Section 7 of the Mineral Act and to present Park policy which prohibits exploration and prospecting and the issuance of permits for mining purposes within Provincial Parks.

I am sorry that I cannot be more positive about your discovery.

Yours very truly,

James T. Fyles
Sr. Assistant Deputy Minister

JTF:dkp

Attachment