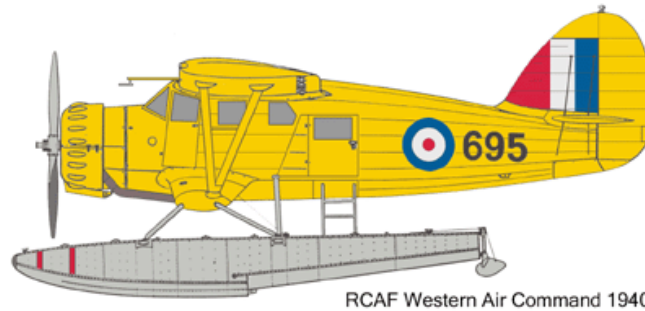


Newspapers and Magazines 1900s

Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows
Gazette, 24 August 1945



Legendary Gold Mine Nearly Claims Life

LEGENDARY GOLD MINE NEARLY CLAIMS LIFE

STRICKEN PROSPECTOR SAVED FROM PITT LAKE COUNTRY BY R.C.A.F. PLANE

Joe Eaves, aged Silver Creek prospector who became ill while in search for a legendary gold mine in the trackless Widgeon Lake area, northwest of Pitt Lake, was rescued by an RCAF plane after a two-day search in which operations were hampered by fog. The plane made a hazardous landing on the lake. Eaves, a veteran of the last war, is now in Shaughnessy military hospital, where hopes are held for his recovery from exhaustion and recurrence of stomach trouble from war injuries.

A week ago Spencer Freeman, Portland shipyard worker, left Port Coquitlam with Eaves to search for a lost mine from which Freeman's uncle, the late John Bruno, San Francisco, is said to have brought out more than \$9000 in gold in 1907. They hacked their way through woods and late Wednesday night Freeman came out alone to report to provincial police his companion's illness and need of assistance.

The RCAF Norseman plane, piloted by Flight-Lieut. R.D. Heaslip and co-pilot WO F.W. Dealy, and carrying Sgt. F.B. Woods Johnson, provincial police, made two attempts to reach Eaves before rescue was achieved. He was flown out to hospital.

In conjunction with the mercy flight, a land party, under Const. J. Brandon, Port Coquitlam, had set out but was signalled to return when the plane reached Eaves. The ruggedness of the terrain made the plane's trip hazardous.

Undaunted by the ill-luck which dogged the first part of his venture, Freeman will continue alone until next Saturday when he is due to go back to his job.

Newspapers and Magazines 1900s

The mine and the estimated worth of the find has stirred the imagination of prospectors for nearly half a century. The Indians in the early days talked of the gold in a secret portion of the country north of Pitt Lake.

Miners and prospectors have continued to search for the gold, with most of them meeting extreme difficulties in searching for the mine. The country is very rugged and without proper guidance or maps the prospectors have generally ended up in vain.

A portion of a map is reported to be in possession of a man who knows where the mine is. Attempts have been made to locate the two portions of the map.

Indians still persist that the mine is in existence, but that it is in a "hidden" valley.

Airplanes and modern mining methods may locate the gold in years to come.