

G.S. 'STU' BROWN - TRANSCRIPT OF CONVERSATION

The following is a transcript of one of two taped conversations between Stu Brown and myself. This particular conversation took place at Stu Brown's home in June of 1989, following a brief helicopter reconnaissance trip to an area of interest to both Stu Brown and the group I was associated with at the time. As part of a publication agreement made between Stu and myself, I have censored the name of the creek and the elevations that was referred to during this conversation.

START OF RECORDING

Rob: ...flew in there the other day, yesterday, no sorry, the day before.

Stu: The day before.

Rob: Yes, just to have a look around and check on the snow conditions. There has been, in the area you pointed out, there has been no activity at all.

Stu: Well, I would suspect that the area right now, the actual material is uncovered.

Rob: Is uncovered?

Stu: Yes, although I don't know, in relation to the upper part of the glacier. I don't know whether, comparatively speaking you see, I haven't been in there.

Rob: Well, let's see. When you go in, you go up "Censored" Creek, you go up and over to this lake here.

Stu: Yes.

Rob: And then straight in....

Stu: Well, when you get in here, the criteria to go on is, this gushing creek coming out through the rock...a water fall. Fly over it, and it's a...sort of in a...in an area... the two sides are higher, and you come down what looks like a dam in a sense, a solid rock dam. And just below the lip of that is water coming through the thing.

Rob: That is the area. Directly right in there.

Stu: Let's look. No, wait...no there's more snow if that's it.

Rob: They figured...they got out on the ground at this creek....

Stu: When I was in there, there was no ice or snow or anything.

Rob: They estimate the snow to be between three and five feet deep.

Stu: No, there is a lot more snow in there.

Rob: Here's the rest of the pictures for you to look at, just the basic area. They don't show a heck of a lot, just the basic snow conditions. There are no signs of activity, no foot prints or helicopter pad marks, or at least anything they could not find.

Stu: That's funny. That creek should be coming out of there. He should have seen it! He must have gone in the other way, around the other side of the hill...that's the circle.

Rob: Yes, that's where they were.

Stu: Make sure nobody grabs this map!!

Rob: Don't worry about that.

Stu: He must have come in around...either...some way in this way.

Rob: Yes, well I guess they probably flew straight over it.

Stu: Yes, well I said...maybe I didn't tell him?

Rob: No, you told me.

Stu: I told you to go up "Censored" Creek and around here, and I would suspect you can see it right...without any difficulty...this thing gushing out...right out of the side of the rock. Yes, this picture is from further up.

Rob: Yes, that was taken from the helicopter.

Stu: Yes, but I mean further up the glacier from where it is. Now this looks more like it...in fact that looks very much like the spot. You know, you would almost think he was up on the ridge looking down on the thing. That's the sharp ridge...that looks very much like it.

Rob: The front ridge of it?

Stu: Well, this is looking down on the glacier side.

Rob: Yes it is.

Stu: And I would suspect that might be the creek, but it's under too much snow there.

Rob: Yes it is. You would never find anything there now.

Stu: You could never do anything there. This picture is not much, it's just a lake. It looks very much like it though, although there are so many that are similar... but it being in that area it must be the one.

Rob: Well...this comes down and you have a ridge on both sides, a high ridge on the east side and one not as

steep on the west side....

Stu: Yes, well you have an 'X' in there...there is certainly contours going way in to indicate a sharp creek, and these contours here lead up to a very sharp prominent hill of some kind. Yes, there is two, two...but if...damn...you see, these pictures are all oriented the other way, the reverse of what I came in on. You see, I came in from this way, and he must have come in....

Rob: Is this the direction you came in on? I'm not exactly sure which way they came from, I didn't go.

Stu: Well I can tell they came in from the north a bit, here. Now just a second, they are looking down the glacier more than up it. My pictures are taken up the glacier...I have several more pictures. I was wondering if...no, it doesn't show. This one here...no, it isn't...let's see...no it doesn't. You can see that that is some of that, looking the other way.

Rob: Yes, definitely, opposite directions. It could be that one there if the snow was gone on it. This would be the one here, just looking at it in reverse.

Stu: No. I didn't take any pictures when I got right into the creek. I didn't want anybody, at that time, I didn't want anybody swiping pictures and being able to identify things. No, those are not exactly the spot. This is the closest to it. Now this one here is looking up...okay it would be looking up this way. Even this one here shows more.... That's looking down on the lake though.

Rob: On this lake here.

Stu: Yes.

Rob: What does the canyon look like, from the inside, when there is no snow there?

Stu: Oh, it's pretty steep. Quite steep on both sides. Below where the water comes out it's down about, oh, it could be upwards of 100 feet, where the water comes out and drops. You have to climb up to this sort of dam and get over it to get into the sort bottom of the lake. But the ridge on the west side of that goes up quite steeply, and it is bare rock, it never covers over, it's always clear.

Rob: An almost vertical cliff, straight up and down.

Stu: No. Too much wind, snow won't collect on it.

Rob: And it's straight in from the end of this lake.

Stu: That's this part, this ridge right up here. Now this is the sharp ridge mentioned in the 'Jackson' letter. He had to get from there, down into this canyon, and it was

extremely steep. Now, unfortunately these contours are not accurate enough to be indicators of where the dam could be.

Rob: I think they said there was sort of a dam, or a small ridge across the front of this....

Stu: There is a ridge across the front of the creek that the thing comes through.

Rob: How high up the wall face does it come out?

Stu: It could be this creek here, above this part here. Oh, it's 50 to 100 feet up the wall face, 50 feet anyway, and the waterfall falls straight down, vertical drop, after it comes out of the hole. It just comes bulging out of the hole and down, like the Great Falls.

Rob: We must have been in the wrong spot then.

Stu: I don't know why he wouldn't see that, unless it's covered over with snow and doesn't show, and not thawing quickly. But, I suspect it should be there. But, the thing is as I say, the real way of getting in there would be...go up around this way. I'm sure, from right anywhere in here, you could see that...it's wide open, the falls as it comes out of the dam.

Rob: In the canyon itself is it a small creek?

Stu: It's a narrow...it's a creek. It would be as big as, well it's not as big as Mission Creek I don't figure.

Rob: It's a fair sized creek then?

Stu: Yes, it's maybe half the size of Mission Creek.

Rob: About 10 feet across?

Stu: Uh...well yes, maybe wider, certainly wider in the spring. It was late summer when I was in there, later than this. And this is why I haven't been to pushy about getting things done, so far, because I figure there is no use going in there till the end of July.

Rob: What does the creek enter? Does it enter and underground cavern?

Stu: When it comes out of the wall?

Rob: No, inside the canyon itself. Does it come down and just disappear?

Stu: It comes into a kind of a...a little pocket and then from this little pocket it flows through this hole in the rock and comes out below. And above this pocket of course is the...the...the main creek part...the...what do you call it? I forgot what...gold...the term they used for Slumach's gold.

Rob: Nuggets?

Stu: Canyon or something.

Rob: Oh, gold canyon?

Stu: Yes...I guess Slumach's gold canyon. Now comparing this picture a wee bit....

Rob: Can I get a picture of you doing that Stu?

Stu: Ummm...I hesitate getting pictures of me.

Rob: I won't do anything except develop them until I get your permission.

Stu: Well...you see -- somehow or other I think this is the spot in there...it's uh...just a minute, I'm having a hell of a time and it's been so long now, I may have forgotten some of the stuff. No, I would suspect that this might be the picture. Right in there, with the faint blue showing through. But I have...when I was in there I was well oriented because I spent half a day or so just looking around, doing nothing else. I think that must be about where the water...that could be the...yes...you see this little tiny spot there?

Rob: There is a little knob right there.

Stu: No, I'm looking at the depression. It looks like water. I would suspect there is a little pond in there... the sand trap thing...and it comes out there some place. But this down here I recognize quite definitely as where we had the camp. Right on this open, and there was no wood, nothing, we had to pull wood across from the side of the hill to make a campfire. It was open and quite flat, reasonably nice for a campsite.

Rob: Can I get a picture of you with your finger on the spot?

Stu: Who's going to get the picture?

Rob: Just me.

Stu: Yes, but who's going to break into your house and steal it?

Rob: Nobody, I don't think. Very few people know we are doing this....

Stu: There is a lot more know than you might think.

Rob: Oh I realize there are hundreds of people looking for it; there is no doubt about that.

Stu: Yes, but there is a lot more who know that you are too!

Rob: Oh? Is that right?

Stu: Yes! And with your information.... The information that I had in the paper on the interview, and the one in

Victoria, you saw that one?

Rob: Yes. I have a copy of that one as a matter of fact.

Stu: I thought there was a later one out.

Rob: I believe there was one in the Vancouver Sun, but I didn't see that one.

Stu: Could be...maybe they didn't do much....

Rob: So, that's how you got there? You went up past this lake...

Stu: The best way is as I say, come in around here and when you get somewhere here you will see the waterfall gushing out of it. You can't miss it!! Oh, the view from where you would first see it...the area is about a mile wide or nearly that. And where the water is coming out is quite open. You can see...it's a half a mile of space to look at, so you can't miss it!

Rob: In front of this lake is a real small ridge....

Stu: Yes. This is the sharp....

Rob: A little ridge, then you get into another valley, it's basically....

Stu: Well, it's the canyon, it's the canyon part...it's real... once you're over this rock wall which is solid it's not broken, it's completely solid rock with a hole in it and the water is coming through. Once you get past that it's quite narrow.

Rob: Do you need ropes to get into it?

Stu: I don't think so. You have to be careful it's quite steep. If you landed on the one side you should be all right although you are on ice there and you don't know what you are going to run into. But, in the late summer of course the glaciers aren't as dangerous. The deceptive snow cover has melted off and you are not a likely to break through as you are earlier.

Rob: There is the lake. Here is where they were looking but it is this one here actually....

Stu: It could have been the wrong one...no it wasn't. It's fairly steep. The creek comes down fairly steep, which I would suspect is...well you can see the contours. It's in there; it's definitely...all these go way in so there's a gully coming down there. But...you can see the contours aren't too far apart so the stream is quite steep.

Rob: Well, they said above all this was solid snow so it must still be under....

Stu: Yes, well it's glacier...no it's between the glacier and the ridge where the creek comes down, most of it.

That's why the water is flowing, it's glacier melt and it's coming down there. Well, maybe I shouldn't say glacier melt it's more like the previous winters snow pack that's feeding the creek. But, it must flow oh, six months of the year, that creek.

Rob: Is that right?

Stu: It's not...even if it's under the snow.

Rob: Does this look like the creek? Maybe we got into the wrong canyon....Stu: No, this is not the...well darn it might be at a different spot.

Rob: They couldn't figure out where this creek started from.

Stu: And they didn't look at it? I would suspect that you might find something in that creek because I think it's connected. I think that could be the creek but not in the same location it's at.

Rob: Behind that...somewhere....

Stu: It would be...well it may be down in there further, below that. You see it goes down through there and that may be where the canyon part is. I'm not sure, they may have been to high up as I say. But, I never traced the creek to the top or anything, I don't know what feeds the... what makes the beginning. I'm quite positive from the contours up here that it can't be beyond anywhere up here because you've got a ridge that's "Censored" feet high. Those pictures are from what?

Rob: These pictures were taken from [censored] feet.

Stu: Yes, [censored] feet roughly. It's about [censored]...I...I...figured about [censored] feet or thereabouts where the...but it could be a little...well the creek comes down a short distance and drops about 500 feet in no time at all. There is a drop right there of 500 feet.

Rob: The tent shaped rock in the canyon is in the canyon itself is it?

Stu: Yes...sort of...almost...pretty well in the creek bottom.

Rob: What kind of mark is on it?

Stu: Marker?

Rob: No, Jackson said he put a mark or something on it.

Stu: Jackson?

Rob: Yes....

Stu: Not that I know of. I didn't see any. He buried some gold under it, scraped away underneath and put a few thousand dollars worth of nuggets in there.

Rob: Did you find it?

Stu: I didn't bother.

Rob: I guess not....

END OF TAPE

During this conversation Stu did identify the fact that he was not alone on at least one of his trips into the area. He does use the term 'we' twice. Once when referring to the campsite at the lake and again when referring to the gathering of firewood. I can not disagree that Stu's own reference to another person or persons does support one aspect of the skeptical argument as identified in chapter 6.

However, Stu told me long before this conversation took place that he was not alone. He openly acknowledges this fact but does maintain that he is the only one who knows where the exact location is.

Regardless of my own personal opinion of Stu Brown or the validity of his claim, the information he shared with me has been offered for independent consideration and evaluation.