

2715 Norberry Cres.,
Ottawa K1V 6N5,
September 29, 1980.

Mr. Don Waite,
22380 119th Ave.,
Maple Ridge,
B. C. V2X 2Z5

*Received
Sept 30*

206

Dear Mr. Waite,

This is by nature an enquiry to determine if you still reside at the above address. If so, I would like to hear from you in the very near future.

The topic I wish to take up with you is the discovery of the lost gold mine discovered by Clumach and later visited by Jackson and Volcanic Brown. I am not about to reveal any details but I discovered this gold canyon in 1974 and have been fighting a very frustrating battle with the B.C. Provincial government in order to have some controlled action taken before some unscrupulous person learns the secret and pilfers the lot. I have visited the offices of the government at Victoria on four occasions and have got nowhere. In addition, there have been numerous letters between myself and various officials there.

However, I will go into the situation in more detail if I hear from you. I wrote hoping to contact you because I know of your involvement in outdoor events and also that you are familiar with the details of the events in the story of the gold canyon.

Sincerely,

*Gold Canyon
Sept 30 1980*

G. Stuart Brown

G. Stuart Brown

2713 Norberry Cres.,
Ottawa, K1V 6N3,
October 26, 1981.

Mr. Don Waite,
22317 Lougheed Highway,
Maple Ridge, B. C.
V2X 2T3.

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Dear Don,

You will probably be wondering by this time whether or not you would hear from me again. However, I am enclosing herewith copies of my correspondence with British Columbia officials regarding Slumach's Lost gold mine. I do not consider that the letters are confidential enough to be restricted but would appreciate being consulted and kept in the know when and how you intend to use them when you do. The picture enclosed is copyrighted and you will have to get written permission if you wish to use it.

After leaving Maple Ridge in late August we spent two weeks in the Okanagan, a few days with friends at Banff with a trip to Jasper, then had a leisurely trip home, visiting friends and relatives along the way.

I have attempted to go in to the canyon several times since I first found it in 1974. Five times I was turned back by torrential rain or blizzards after almost reaching the spot and on the last two occasions each of my travelling companions gave out with foot and boot problems and I had to see that they got out safely. I am not sure what 1982 will bring but it is likely that I will try it alone and if I fail I will then identify the site to the public. I do have a promise from the Parks Branch that they will attempt to have something done but I have heard nothing from them as yet.

Please acknowledge receipt of the enclosed.

Sincerely,

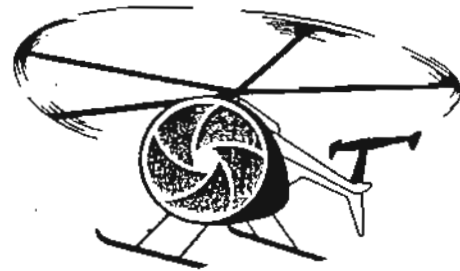
Stu

G. Stuart Brown

DONALD E. WAITE

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COMMERCIAL**

PHOTOGRAPHY CO. LTD.



21 December, 1985

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

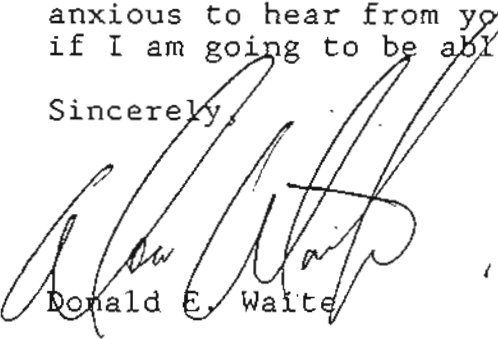
Dear Mr. Brown,

It has been a long time since I last pulled the old 'Slumach file'.

Just recently I received quotes from a printer to do another run of one of my titles. After some conversation I came to the conclusion that I could reprint four titles for about half the cost to produce one if they were all on the press at the same time. With that information I have decided to run four titles in the spring. I would very much like to do a revised edition of The Golden Ears Story illustrated deleting the 16 page signature of color and adding 16 pages of text about the Lost Mine.

Would you have any objection if I mentioned you in the chapter on the Lost Mine story and quoted from a couple of your letters? I am anxious to hear from you as I have a great deal of preparation to do if I am going to be able to pull this project off.

Sincerely,


Donald E. Waite

211

PO Box, 765, Stn A,
Kelowna, B.C.
July 10, 1986.

Dear Don,

This is just a note to keep in touch and let you know I haven't forgotten the suggestion about the date of our proposed trip to Garibaldi Park.

I have paid constant attention to the weather and weather trends and now feel that it would be unwise to attempt going in before the middle of August or later. I hope the weather will change by then. The best weather I have seen in there was in September and this is a similar year.

I will be in touch with you again and will try to contact you when I visit at Honey in early August.

Sincerely

Stuart

18-

~~609~~ - 860 - 6482

14 - Aug - 86 -

Mon + Tues
25 - 26 Aug

221

Box 765, Stn A,
Kelowna, B. C.,
V1Y 7P4,
November 5, 1986.

LM

Mr. Donald Waite,
Suite 35,
22374 Lougheed Highway,
Maple Ridge, B. C.,
V2X 2T5

Dear Don,

I was quite surprised to learn from your letter of October 21 that you and Vic had returned to Garibaldi Park for two days. It is unfortunate that you did not contact me before going as I could have saved you a lot of unnecessary effort.

On my return to Kelowna from Haney I examined my snaps from my previous complete trip made in 1974 and knew immediately where I had gone wrong. I have one snap of the stream in which the actual gold lies and one of the outlet to the stream "with no apparent outlet" (see Jackson letter). It was this latter snap that brought it back. The snap of the tent-shaped rock did not show enough to help.

It would be absolutely no problem now for me to go directly to this stream as it is a substantial white-water stream, though not on any map that I have seen.

I would have written sooner but have been away again, this time to Reno for a week. Your letter was waiting for me when I arrived home. I am sure it is too late to go in again this year but we will keep it open for next year and I am sure there will be no mistakes then. I am sending a copy of this to Vic to keep him informed.

I would appreciate having the name of the pilot of the helicopter. I have forgotten it. I will also look over my wartime snaps, though you would probably not recognize me from any of them.

Best regards, and keep in touch.

Stu

March 31, 1987

Ridge / Meadows Times

Prospector says nearing final chapter There's gold in them hills

Don Waite has been chasing rainbows for more than 10 years, but the Maple Ridge writer and



Don Waite...chasing rainbows for gold.

photographer thinks he's getting closer and closer to the pot of gold.

The legend of the lost Pitt Lake gold mine has captured the imagination of hundreds since stories first began to appear in the 1890s of an old Indian who periodically came out from the mountains surrounding Pitt Lake with a haversack stuffed with gold.

Old Slumach was hanged in 1891 at the B.C. Penitentiary on charges he murdered a young Indian from the Katzie Reserve. With Slumach went the secrets of his gold.

But this summer, in his third edition of a book on the lost gold mine, Waite hopes to reveal the secret.

A former member of the RCMP, Waite first became intrigued by the lost gold story in 1967 when he was employed to clean out a vault at the B.C. Penitentiary. In a dusty file, Waite found the records of Slumach's trial. Something in that file struck a chord. Later transferred to the detachment in Haney, Waite found himself taking every opportunity to discuss the lost mine with local prospectors and members of the Katzie Reserve.

He later quit the RCMP and in 1972 published his first book—Kwanstan, which includes the story of the lost Pitt Lake gold mine.

Since then, Waite's search has become more intensive.

Last summer, he made five trips into the highest reaches of the North Pitt Lake area with a helicopter. And Waite has covered almost every inch of the land by foot. On one occasion, he and several other hikers climbed 10,000 vertical feet up and down steep ravines in a single day.

According to Waite, nearly 20 people—most of them gold seekers—have died in the near impenetrable forest where the mine is believed to be located.

But Waite is not alone in his search.

At a meeting in January of the Lost Gold Mine of Pitt Lake Club seven die-hard believers turned up.

While many scoff and call the gold mine pure legend, Waite says he has good reason to believe there is gold up there.

Like a true prospector he keeps most of his reasons secret, but Waite said the Port Douglas Indians from the Harrison Lake area were known to use bullets moulded from gold. The stories of Slumach's walnut sized gold nuggets are well documented in news accounts from that period, and in 1930 when searchers found the last camp site of a prospector who died looking for the gold, they found a glass jar filled with 11 ounces of coarse gold.

After nearly ten years of searching, Waite won't say why he suddenly feels close to the jackpot. In the next few months, he plans to return to the lakeshore with a 70-year-old prospector who Waite says once found the gold mine "and then lost it". He offers no further explanation.

But if the stories of gold are pure legend, old Slumach has already given Waite a streak of good fortune. Since writing his first book on the lost mine, he has gone on to write several more including his latest on the Caribou Gold Rush and a book on North American Birds.

"I might just be chasing rainbows," said Waite with a shrug, "but what the hell I like what I'm doing."

7222

Box 765, Stn A.,
Kelowna, B.C.,
V1Y 7P4
April 29, 1987.

223

Mr. Donald E. Waite,
22382 - 119th Ave.,
Maple Ridge, B. C.,
V2X 2Z3

Dear Don,

I am returning the snaps as you requested as they are of little use to me.

Each time I re-read the article of Hillary Downing in The Times of March 31 I become increasingly annoyed. When I first invited you and Vic Loffler to accompany me into Garibaldi Park to go to Slumach's gold canyon it was not with the intention that you should take over, but strictly with the idea that I should have someone to accompany me in an area unsafe to travel alone. From the very beginning Vic assumed charge; so I let him go ahead, knowing that he was unaware of the location of the canyon.

Now the article of March 31st appears in a publication for the general public to read. This article quite clearly implies that you are the key figure and have been in the whole search for the canyon, even though it is clearly documented that I had entered the canyon even before you started searching for it. Many of my friends were absolutely flabbergasted that you would permit such an article to be published. Until such time as this article is completely rescinded and your minor role in the matter made public to my satisfaction you can expect absolutely no cooperation or assistance from me in any way in the future. In the meantime I have made plans to take a party of three to the site with permission to bring out official samples for analysis.

As for losing the canyon or even becoming disoriented in any way, there is nothing further from the truth. I could travel there in pitch darkness without a map without the least hesitation. There are others who are closer to finding the canyon than you are so there is more concern over their activities than there is over yours.

Yours truly,

Stu

G. Stuart Brown