

In Search of Slumach: Alfred Gaspard

IN SEARCH OF SLUMACH

IN 1951, IN NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., AN ELDERLY NATIVE MAN WAS HUNDED FOR HIS PART IN THE SLUMACH MINE TRAGEDY. THE TRAGEDY OF PITTS LAKE, NEW BRITAIN, WAS ON HIS MIND AS HE THOUGHT OF THE MINE AND THE MEN WHO WERE THERE. THE LEGENDS OF THE MINE ARE STILL TOLD.

Showing posts sorted by relevance for query **Alfred**. Sort by date. Show all posts.

THURSDAY, 3 JANUARY 2017

Alfred (Fred) George Gaspard




Alfred George Gaspard, was a 50-year-old widower who disappeared in the upper Pitt River area in 1950. During his life Fred Gaspard had been logging, prospecting, and farming and in 1949 he struck a big bonanza. The next summer Gaspard went into the upper Pitt River area never to be seen again. Apparently he was found to a point north of Avon and a second plane dropped off enough food for him to survive until the snow started falling. On 28 February 1951, a banner in all newspapers in the eastern US, an affiliated to Associated Press, published an article about Gaspard's disappearance but the matter did not seem to catch the attention of BC newspapers until, on June 29, 1951 the Vancouver Sun reported that the RCMP had ended an unsuccessful two-week ground and air search for the last "gold hunter".

In October of that year both the Province and the Vancouver Sun reported that RCMP Constable John Dowsett of the Fort Colquhoun detachment and Stan Deppen of Pitt Meadows set out on foot on a five-day quest. As progress further with the area across the upper Pitt River at that time it is a hazy summer and the search in the rain is tough terrain was hazardous. As expected nothing was found but the account of their long expedition made for good copy, in particular for the Province. That may have been the main purpose of this senseless expedition. [Click here to read the article in the Province.](#)

POSTED BY FR AT 10:18 2 COMMENTS

THURSDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2013

Screwballs and Reputables



Two types of people will make the headlines: "screwballs" and "reputables". That is how, in 1951, Canada's Age of what is now Okanagan. The newspaper's classified section during that time suggests to the "screwballs" that they should be in Alfred (Fred) Gaspard's. Not now after all. [CLICK HERE.](#)

POSTED BY FR AT 10:18 NO COMMENTS

FRIDAY, 18 MAY 2012

Victims of "The Curse"

Over the years regional authors have written about the number of people who died or disappeared looking for the mythical gold of Pitt Lake. The newspaper's classified section during that time suggests to the "screwballs" that they should be in Alfred (Fred) Gaspard's. Not now after all. [CLICK HERE.](#)

POSTED BY FR AT 10:18 NO COMMENTS

HOME

Subscribe to: [Posts \(Atom\)](#)

AWARD WINNING WEB SITE

THE SLUMACH SITE RECEIVED THE WEB SITE AWARD FOR 2008 FROM THE BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL FEDERATION AND DAVID MATTHEWSON

MEMORABLE QUOTATIONS

A GOLD MINE IS A HOLE IN THE GROUND WITH A LIAR ON TOP.
GOLD MAKES A POOL OF US ALL THE TIME.
NATURE DOES NOT NEED A SHEET TO GUARD A MINE.
GOLD IS WHERE YOU FIND IT.

 **Date:** 1950

 **Place:** Pitt River, British Columbia, Canada

 **Description:** Blog write up