

MINES ON TEXADA - 1900 - NAME THE CLAIM!

An old map shows the 150 mining claims registered on Texada in 1900. Rather than simply listing their names I undertook the challenge to incorporate as many **colourful names** as I could into this “very contrived” story:

Bitten by the **Gold Bug** I hopped the old **Iron Horse** and crossed Canada to **Malaspina** Strait. Legends of Spanish treasure buried years ago by a Salish **Tyhee**, a **Great Copper Chief**, were enough for me to seek my **Nest Egg** on this rich island.

I am **Cameron Goodall** (nicknamed the **Yellow Kid**) accompanied by my **Two Friends**. Dressed like a character in a **Charles Dickens** novel was **Crackerjack** (**Jack North** AKA **Lucky Jack**) - a **Lion** of a man - no **Tinker Bell** he!

My other partner was (**Little Billy**) **Prescott**, once a **Volunteer Cadet** in the French navy, his father a **Commodore** serving **Francis, LeRoi**.

I was a **Dandy**, fresh from **Cornell**, studying to be a **Priest**.

For good luck my **Loyal Retriever, Holly**, tagged along. Would she be the **Keystone** to launch us into our **Golden Era**?

Thus began our **Saga**.

A **Butterfly** fluttering among the **Bluebells** and **Fairy** slippers made me think of home and my lovely **Nancy Bell**. I knew Billy would be pining for his sweetheart, **Hazel Ruth**. Jack had several women on his mind - all working in **Victoria** at the **Iron Duke** saloon in the **Grand Devon** hotel. **Margery, Olivia, Gladys** and **Many More** - especially the lusty **Maud Adams** with her **Golden Slipper** he promised to fill with treasure.

Our first night under the **Northern Lights** revealed a strange **Red Cloud**. An **Eagle** and a **Raven** circled overhead. Were these omens the **Last Link** to our dreams?

The next morning Holly's nose led us to the **Summit** of a steep hill - a tough climb, a real **Nutcracker**! Bounding ahead the dog spotted a mysterious **Boulder Nest** and stood like a **Sentinel** barking on its peak. Did Holly have **ExRay** powers? Or maybe the **Midas** touch?

Removing the stones we uncovered a **Surprise** - the **Hidden Treasure**, the **Climax** of our quest! Enough gold to make us all **Mountain Chiefs** and our girlfriends **Forest Queens**. We were richer than **Aladdin**!

I pictured myself in **Europe** - strolling the streets of **Paris** sporting my **Silver Tip** cane! We all returned home with the **Security** of a fabulous life ahead.

Thank you Holly!

Peter Lock

Texada Island Heritage Society