

Story of the Week

A B.C. FLASHBACK

The stolen gold was never found

By Susan Hilliard

Specially written for The Province.

THIS is the true story of a robbery, a mysterious witness, a murder and a lost treasure. The scene is the famous Cariboo Gold Mine, at Camp McKinney, British Columbia. The time is August, 1896.

The Cariboo Gold Mine is not, as its name implies, situated in B.C.'s Cariboo country, but is in the historic Boundary District...

"Drive on and keep driving!" McCauley drove on to Rock Creek arriving some time later at the hotel of H. Pittendrich...

Predates boom

This story, however, predates that boom. In 1896 Grand Forks and Greenwood were little more than mining camps. The economy of the Boundary District in 1896 was centered chiefly in the Cariboo Gold Mine...



if the bandit attempted to travel with the heavy, bulky gold, which could not be easily concealed. It would be virtually impossible for him to carry the loot...

Lived at camp

In 1896 the Cariboo Gold Mine was owned partly by James Monaghan and George B. McCauley of Spokane, and managed by J. P. Keene, who lived at camp McKinney...



contained two half empty bottles of whiskey. Police were positive the bandit had hidden the bullion in the area, and that he himself remained, waiting to make his escape later on when the hunt had died down.

Driving uphill

McCauley had driven two and a half miles, and was driving up a little hill near a part of the trail named McCauley's Meadows. "Oh, a splendid place for the business," said McCauley later...

"ONE LONE HIGHWAYMAN GETS THE MONTHLY DIVIDEND OF THE CARIBOO", it headlined continuing, "AT ONE FELL SWOOP THE ENTIRE MONTH'S OUTPUT OF THE CELEBRATED CARIBOO MINE AT CAMP MCKINNEY WAS STOLEN."

Bills and silver

McCauley tossed out a new five dollar bill, a silver dollar and some ten cent pieces. The robber said, "Now drive on, and don't go back to Camp McKinney."



"These shipments have been made regularly for months past," it said, "and the public always knows within a day or two of the exact time at which they could pass through..."

It was not long before a clue appeared. James Monaghan of Spokane received a letter from a man whose name was never revealed. This letter was printed in the Grand Forks "Miner" of November 14, 1896...

Fell to drinking

"I met a man in a saloon in Oroville at about the end of May. We fell to drinking together, and he told me that his name was Matthew Roderick, from Seattle..."

"He had a gun, a Winchester, I think, and was going to stage a holdup. He liked the way I held my liquor—said I'd be one with a cool head and wanted me to come in with him on the job..."

Worked there

Inquiries were made about Roderick at Camp McKinney. It was found that, as the letter said, he had worked there. A few days before the robbery he had complained of being sick and had been laid up in his cabin for several days...

Identified man

Monaghan and his companion went stealthily to Roderick's house and watched it until he appeared. The writer of the letter identified Roderick as the man with whom he had talked in the Oroville saloon, but neither he nor Monaghan revealed themselves to Roderick...

Made no move

Some times passed before Roderick made any move. In late October 1896, however, he left Seattle and began making his way northward, on horseback, unaware that he was being followed...



"Throw down the bullion," the man said.

The headlines of the Grand Forks "Miner" of Saturday, November 14, 1896, tell the story in brief.

Little-used trail

On Monday, November 9, 1896, Roderick left Camp McKinney and went into the surrounding forest, setting out on a little used trail. Keene, alone, stealthily followed. Unfortunately, he was not stealthy enough...

The coroner's inquest into the causes of Roderick's death was held at Camp McKinney on Wednesday, Nov. 11, 1896, two days after the shooting...

brought in a verdict of justifiable homicide, and completely exonerated Keene from all blame.

Sixty-one years have passed since these dramatic events took place. The Cariboo Gold Mine has long since discontinued operation, and Camp McKinney has fallen into ruin...

And the gold? Roderick's bullion still lies wherever he hid it on the lonely trail near Camp McKinney. Many searchers have looked long and hard for the three gold bricks...

Crossword puzzle

By JACK LUZZATTO

(Answer appears next week)

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares and some filled-in letters.

- ACROSS: 1 Exultant joy. 8 Knockdown-drag out fight. 13 Improved. 19 Trouble in the tropics. 20 Frilly pleating. 21 Gave a wide berth. 23 Porcelain coals. 24 The opposition. 25 Little house wren. 26 Cynical man. 27 Fashion stylist. 29 Saucy. 30 In great shape. 31 Small valley. 33 Had scope. 34 Salvager. 35 Vital city department. 36 The best down. 38 Single. 39 Alois: Lot. 40 Gombles. 41 Tapers a timber. 43 Strong poison. 45 Most painful. 46 Author of "Little Women". 48 Name the baby. 50 Type of rental contract. 53 Hunter. 54 Sixable. 57 Gets one's bearings. 58 Those placed in the van. 59 Read before meals. 60 Ahead of another. 61 Wasting time. 63 Give up. 64 Renowned battle river in France. 65 Story. 66 Yelled blue murder. 68 Numbness, with pins. 70 Cries of delight. 71 Most gifted. 72 Wanders aimlessly. 73 Tax-rate man. 74 Foray. 75 Elephant seat. 78 Sounded, like an air-raid whistle. 80 Smoothed wood. 84 Close by. 85 Alley setups. 86 Yule carols. 88 Rent. 89 Tragic king. 90 Melody. 91 Honored visitors. 93 Dispatch: Abbr. 94 Kilm. Var. 95 Dong's partner. 96 Hinged catches. 98 Farmer catches, in India. 99 Rarefied. 101 Where to see the judge. 102 Deadly poisons. 104 Oozing. 105 Various seaweeds. 106 Strength or power. 107 Elementary book. 108 Rhebok antelope. 109 Passed, as time. 12 Mary Ford's partner. 13 Boyau boat. 14 All. 15 Wrongful act. 16 Dickens boy. 17 Structure. 18 Goes out of business. 22 Loathe. 28 Inborn. 29 Gave minute details: Rare. 32 Native of a Himalayan country. 34 Craved water. 35 Granular snow. 37 Soften. 39 Heightened. 40 Man of action. 42 Shoo, call. 44 Sound effect. 45 Symbiond and Erwin. 47 Small bone. 49 More calm. 50 Maelm student of theology. 51 Boothsiba's first husband. 52 Whirls or revolves. 53 Originators. 54 Uncle Miltie. 55 Internal. 56 Divine et random. 58 Cutting blubber from a whale. 59 Infuriated. 62 Tot's problem. 62 Intrinsie nature. 64 Servile. 66 Waist ornaments. 67 Plain. 69 Uses up. 71 Historic ruler. 72 Fashionable. 73 6th Jewish month. 74 Draffles. 75 Rings of light. 76 Type of dance: 100 Finial, 2 words. 77 Condition of the atmosphere. 79 Nonpartisan. 81 Guardian spirits. 82 Russian flag. 83 Dethroned. 85 Think about. 87 Russian plain. 90 Beleguement. 91 Measuring device. 92 Backless seat. 93 Small drink. 96 Thespian part. 97 Wife of Rama. 100 Finial. 101 Beret. 103 Fall month: the atmosphere.

Answer to last week's puzzle

Grid for answer to last week's puzzle with letters like PIGS, OUDS, SWEET, PAIDS.

Just Imported: World's Smallest Adding Machine

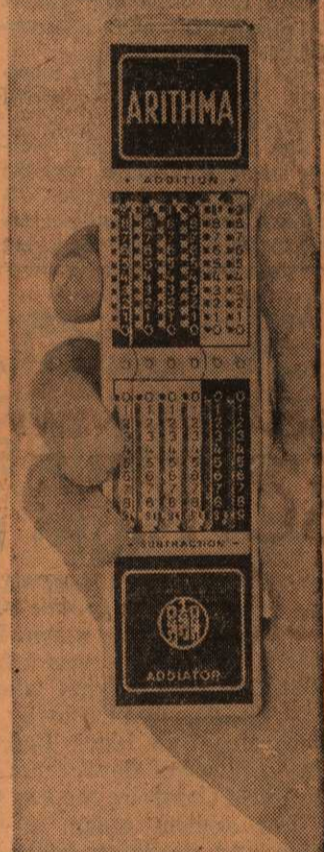
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