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COAL MINE BAY

If anyone knows why the small bay, often filled with log booms, on the west side of the northern tip of Valdes Island is called Coal Mine Bay, I'd love to know. The name appears on topographical maps of BC, but all that the Provincial Toponymist can tell me is that "it's a local name". It was not the site of Wake's find; that was on the east side of the island. Somebody once told me that there used to be a couple of "holes" there that have now been filled in, but I can see no trace of them.

The mining history of Valdes Island (which, so far as I know, amounts to precisely no history at all) is confused because the island used to share its name with what are now Quadra, Sonora, and Maurelle Islands. There were mines on Quadra Island, but not coal mines, and although its name was changed in 1903 (confirmed in 1911), the BC Ministry of Mines continued to refer to Quadra Island as Southern Valdes Island up until 1919. ◇

Gabriola's caveman—by *Barrie Humphrey*

Archival documents continue to become available on-line daily and a computer search of them for Gabriola-related items occasionally comes up with a surprise. A recent find was the newspaper column opposite. It appeared in the *San Francisco Call* on February 11, 1906.

James McLay is well known to the Island's historians, but what this particular article is all about, we do not yet know. A "nimrod" by the way was a mystical hunter—some readers will know that because "Nimrod" was the title of one of Sir Edward Elgar's "Enigma Variations" composed in 1899. ◇

**FIND WILD MAN
HIDING IN CAVE**

Residents of Gabriola Island
Make Rather Strange Discovery
While Out Hunting

STARTLES THE NIMRODS

Party Is Being Organized
to Attempt the Capture of
the Unfortunate Creature

Special Dispatch to The Call.

SEATTLE, Feb. 10.—James McLay of Gabriola Island, the rediscoverer of Mallispina Gallery, has made another remarkable discovery on the island. Several days ago, in company with a trapper, McLay was hunting in the northeast end of the island. Hearing noises and mumblings, as if proceeding from some strange animal, they started to investigate.

A few feet up the side of a precipice they perceived a cave, from which the noises seemed to emanate. Creeping carefully to the entrance, they were surprised to discover the Vancouver Island wild man in the cave. He was rocking himself to and fro and mumbling in a strange language, in which the trapper recognized broken phrases of French. An expedition is being organized to capture him.