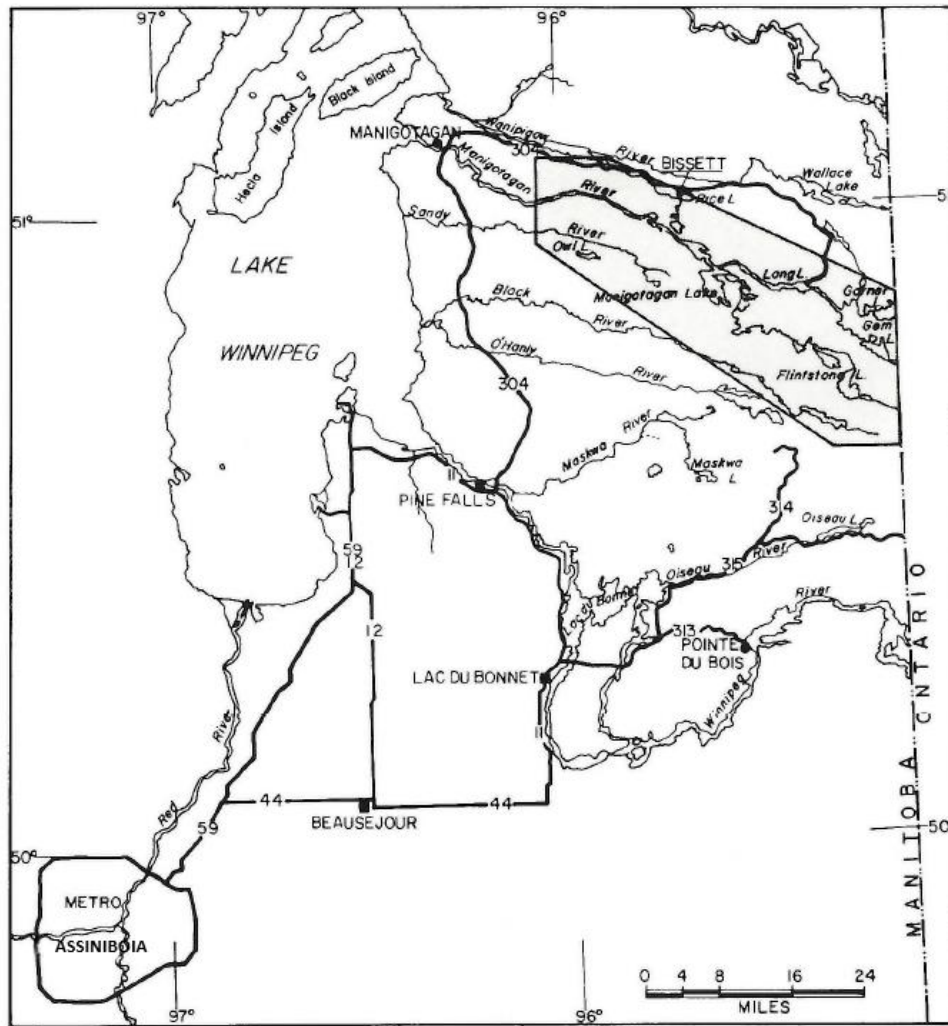


# The Story of Neutralium



**LOCATION MAP**  
OF RICE LAKE, GREENSTONE BELT, SOUTHEASTERN MANITOBA.

## Gold Discovery in the Rice Lake Region

In 1900 Ephrem Albert Pelletier, Oswald Quesnel, and Duncan Twohearts discovered gold in the Rice Lake area. They quickly staked a claim and working with an investment syndicate in Assiniboia started extracting and refining ore. The mine was named the San Antonio mine.



▲ Oswald Quesnel, E.A. Pelletier and Duncan Twohearts

By January 1911 they had extracted over 4,000 ounces of gold worth well over \$30,000. There was a promise of much more gold to come and the trio were well on their way to further riches!

## Return of the Comet

But then Halley's Comet returned and ruined things for them. Overnight all the gold ore was transformed into a different element one appearing more like lead than gold. It seemed impervious to production, chunks could be broken off but there seemed to be some puzzling and arbitrary limit to how small the pieces could be made. Overnight the property went from being a literal gold mine to a lead balloon.

Samples of the ore were taken to the University of Manitoba and sent around the world for study. No one could analyze the ore or process it in any manner and it seemed a useless oddity. That is until Dr. Wilma Borotsik of the University of Kiev discovered in 1919, quite by accident, the one property the ore did possess! Somehow the ore interfered with the abilities possessed by Wonders! When in contact with the ore a Wonder is rendered incapable of using any of their powers. She dubbed the ore Neutralium.

Suddenly the worthless ore had a value. Chunks of ore could be utilized in constructing prison cells for Wonders. The property was again worth something and mining operations recommenced. If only the ore could somehow be processed into a more useful form!

### **Enter Sir Hamish MacDougall**



**B Sir Hamish Alexander Mackenzie MacDougall**

In 1923 brilliant industrialist and inventor Sir Hamish Alexander Mackenzie MacDougall discovered the process used for processing Neutralium. As a wise businessman would he approached Pelletier, Quesnel and Twohearts with an offer to buy out their shares in the San Antonio mine. The trio were surprised by MacDougall's offer and tired perhaps of the work associated with overseeing the mine's operations they sold out to Sir Hamish that year.

Processing and refining started in 1924 at the mine and initially production was quite small.

With the discovery of this processing method the value of Neutralium skyrocketed. MacDougall discovered that it had much of the same properties as gold and was equally as malleable. It could be turned into handcuffs, incorporated in any sort of construction and even turned into munitions! The only stopping point was the extremely small amount that was processed per annum.

Sir Hamish refused to patent or disclose the process he had discovered and despite years of study no one else has managed to duplicate the process. The government of Canada threatened to nationalize the mine and the process. After a series of intense and lengthy meetings with Sir Hamish in 1925 the government agreed to settle for a partnership in the mine and the processing. Sir Hamish pays a lavish tithe to the government and even agreed to pay Pelletier, Quesnel and Twohearts a hefty annuity when they protested being cut out of the riches!

## **Neutralium Refining**

All neutralium refining takes place at the San Antonio mine deep underground to keep it safe from prying eyes. From Bisset the processed ore is sent all around the world to be processed into materials used to keep people safe from Wonders. A good portion is processed right here in Manitoba at Sir Hamish's plant at Peguis.

It's is still rare and uncommon but production is slowly increasing.

## **East Rand Mine, in Boksburg**

Despite years of exploration the only other deposit of neutralium yet discovered is found at the bottom of the East Rand Mine in South Africa at Boksburg, the deepest mine in the world. The South African government's attempts to license Sir Hamish's refinement process have been fruitless and a large portion of the ore is shipped to Manitoba to be processed at the San Antonio mill. This makes a hefty profit for Sir Hamish, the province of Manitoba and the Dominion of Canada.



*San Antonio mill 1931.*