

## CHARLES PROSCH BOOMS NACHES PASS.

(Puget Sound Herald, Steilacoom, Washington Territory, July 16, 1858.)

The Frazer River Gold Rush caused a considerable amount of excitement with thousands of people coming and leaving the area. Steilacoom people hoped to profit by either making Steilacoom a good jumping off site by promoting the use of Naches Pass or looking for gold on the west side of the Mountains.

Lieutenant August V. Kautz was assigned to Fort Steilacoom several times during his career in the Pacific Northwest and passed through the post at other times when he was assigned to accompany the U. S. Canada Boundary Survey and when he was assigned to Fort Chehalis.

He kept a journal which has been published. In it Kautz condemned Charles Prosch, editor of the Steilacoom newspaper, for "booming" Steilacoom as the gateway to Naches Pass and as the route to cross the Cascade Mountains and the Wentachee River as the site for gold.

A typical headline in Prosch's Puget Sound Herald read: "New Gold Discovery, Gold found on all the streams near Naches Pass: Miners earn from \$40 to \$60 per day."