

*Herald Oct 1966*

# Dunfield May Buy Part Of Oak Island

Part of Oak Island, the legendary treasure spot in Nova Scotia, may soon be purchased by Robert Dunfield, a Los Angeles geologist.

Negotiations for buying a portion of the island are now in progress and United Press International was also informed the negotiations may be completed as early as this weekend.

Dunfield began his interests for the treasure on Oak Island

— believed to exceed \$30 million and buried there by pirates in the 18th century — in August of 1965. He began his search after four men died on the island in their attempt to uncover the secret of the hidden fortune.

When he leased the area from the island's part owner, M. R. Chappel of Sydney, Dunfield built a causeway across the narrow channel, connecting the tiny island to the southern coast of mainland Nova Scotia.

The causeway permitted the movement of heavy equipment to the digging site, which enabled the Californian more efficient operations.

During his digging, Dunfield once reported he was only a matter of feet from the treasure chamber, but a continuous flooding of sludge and water forced the geologist and his nine-man crew to call off the search till more favorable weather conditions permitted less setbacks.

Since he left the island early this year, his lease on the area of island expired. Now, along with several associates, Dunfield is hoping to buy the land.

The Californian told UPI: "We are currently negotiating to buy it and . . . it is not the easiest of negotiations where everything must be equitable. To be sure, it is not rational for one partner to shoulder the burden for another, and this is what we have run into." He added several friends in the oil business have stated they were willing to buy the treasure island area and are sharing in the negotiations.

In spite of the many setbacks in his search for the treasure, including a cash outlay far in excess of \$100,000, Dunfield said, "I strongly believe we will succeed in our endeavors. I believe that I have gained more from the project than people have earned in time; working with associates and meeting the able new friends in . . . This sort of reward is bought."

Public Archives of Nova Scotia  
HALIFAX, N. S.

2508 - R. V. Harris Papers  
MGI Vol. 384

*(He never bought it.)*

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# LOST GROUND IN SEARCH FOR BOOTY

OAK ISLAND, N.S. — There has been another setback on Oak Island, where Robert Dunfield, the Los Angeles geologist is searching for a legendary treasure believed buried there by pirates in the early 18th century.

Mr. Dunfield told United Press International yesterday his nine-man crew said they would work during the Christmas holiday to reach the treasure chamber. "We were within 18 feet of our objective," Dunfield said, "then the men decided they would not continue working during the Christmas period, and our job was held up for two days."

Because of the delay in the digging, sand and earth slid back into the money pit, setting the depth back to its present 112 feet. The pit is 50 feet in diameter, and is again being "cleaned out."

Mr. Dunfield said he is bringing another machine to Oak Island. The new equipment, a 22-ton mobile crane, with a three-quarter yard bite and a 35-foot boom will be used on a nearby beach to shut off what water there is seeping into the present money pit.

"We will also test another hole near the beach, and check out the tunnelling and shaft built there by the people who deposited the treasure on the island," Mr. Dunfield added, "I want to investigate everything they did when they deposited the treasure."

Prior to the closedown at Christmas, Mr. Dunfield's 24-hour crews were bringing up drill-casings believed placed there by a treasure-hunter in the late 1800s, and porcelain dishware. Dunfield said he has not established as to how the dishes got there or who may have used them.

The operation is expected to have more success for the next while as the crews have promised to work over the new year and get to the bottom of the money pit and move on to the treasure chamber.

More than \$30 million is believed buried in the treasure chamber on Oak Island that has defied treasure hunters for nearly 300 years, and has claimed the lives of five men who shared in the adventure of seeking the legendary fortune.

Mr. Dunfield's wife, his two children and his father are with him, and they experienced their first white Christmas while staying at their motel near their treasure island.

# Holiday Hinders Hunter

OAK ISLAND — Crane operators with a Yuletide spirit and sliding earth in a deep pit have left treasure-hunter Robert R. Dunfield with an impatient itch to get on with the task of solving the 200-year mystery of this tiny island off Nova Scotia's south shore.

Mr. Dunfield, a Los Angeles Geologist (who estimates he has poured \$85,000 into his attempt to recover pirate wealth, said Thursday night his crew of 13 men are re-digging the hole."

"It's going too slow for me," he said.

Operators of an 80-ton digging crane clawing into the island's clay soil refused to work Christmas Day or Boxing Day, "although I told them the hole would fill in.

"It's pretty hard to get people to work Christmas Day around here," Mr. Dunfield said rain and partial thawing added to the list of troubles plaguing the expedition since the digging machine took its first bite at the fabled "money pit" last August.

The 50-foot-wide hole reaching for treasure, said to have been buried here by pirates two centuries ago, was within the 39-year-old geologists's first objective of 155 feet last week.

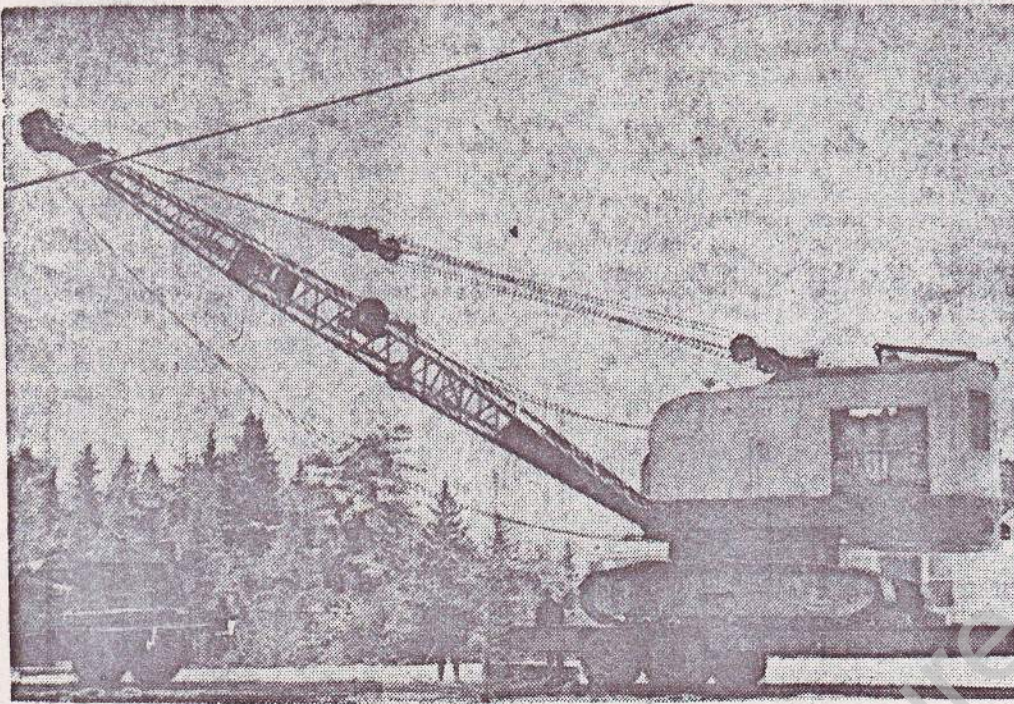
But "slough," loose sliding earth, pushed the measurement up to 112 feet before a 12-foot advance since Christmas.

Another machine, a 22-ton mobile digging unit from Halifax, was due to arrive at the island today, Mr. Dunfield said, but is not expected to be operational until Monday.

He said the machine will work on the beach to investigate flooding of the main pit, but details of its purpose were being shrouded "until it arrives."

2487 - R. V. Harris Papers  
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80-Ton Digging Crane Joins Oak Island Treasure Hunt.  
(Rafuse, Halifax Photo Service)

*Starts Dec 8/65*

# Digging Resumes Thursday

Digging operations for treasure are expected to resume tomorrow on Oak Island.

A new 80-ton digging crane was moved onto the island yesterday, replacing one which left last week.

Robert Dunfield, the California geologist who is head-

ing the digging operations, said yesterday that it will take a day to get the crane rigged and ready to go.

The month-long contract ran out on the first crane which Dunfield used in his quest for the island's legendary treasure.

The new machine is owned by a Halifax firm and arrived by rail from Moncton. Like the first crane, it also has a 90-foot boom.

When digging operations ceased last Thursday Dunfield and his crew reached the 140-foot level in its treasure quest.

*Starts 15 Dec/65*

## Snapped Cable Slows Digging At Oak Island

OAK ISLAND — A snapped cable on a digging machine early Tuesday added to the woes of Robert Dunfield Jr., trying to find treasure he believes is buried on this small Nova Scotia island.

Mr. Dunfield said work fixing the cable, had slowed digging operations about 12 hours.

For several days, the Dunfield crew has been digging out sliding earth in the pit it has been drilling since early October. Mr. Dunfield said about 30 feet were cleared from the 130-foot pit Monday, but said he couldn't estimate how much had been taken out Tuesday.

"We just go on bailing it out," he said.

Mr. Dunfield, a Los Angeles petroleum geologist, said he couldn't estimate how long it would take to get the remaining fill out of the pit.

"The rain didn't do us any good today and the snapped cable held us up more than 12 hours."

Most of the earth has peeled off the side of the hole, much of it from the tunnel system at the 110-foot level, he said.

*2484 - R. L. Harris Papers  
M 61 Vol 384*

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HALIFAX, N. S.

*From Smith's Core*



# "Should Be Paid Handsomely"

To The Editor:

Sir, — The present Oak Island drama is exciting to contemplate. What is there? How much of it?

These questions are being asked by all people who daily follow the events. How thrilling it will be when and if the actual uncovering takes place.

One question bothers me. What happens to the treasure when and if it is found? Does Robert Dunfield walk off with the lot, and pay taxes on it to the American government? Or does it, by a legislative act, become the property of the people of Nova Scotia, so that it can be placed in a museum (on Oak Island)?

If we do retain it, Mr. Dunfield should be paid handsomely for his time and effort.

In the past, Nova Scotia has allowed valuable and irreplaceable treasures to slip from its fingers. One such item was the Bluenose, which was sold to outside interests, who I am sure never treasured her as did the people of this province.

She should have been created into a museum, which for all time would have housed the trophies she won, and perhaps, too, relics of former fishing days of which so many Bluenosers love to boast.

Unknown perhaps to most Nova Scotians is the fact that a very large and someday priceless collection of Earl Bailley paintings is now housed in a gallery in Bermuda that bears the artist's name. These, too, will never come back to Nova Scotia.

Is this to be the fate of the Oak Island treasure?

By the way, the Bermuda government has nationalized all treasure found in wrecks which are

discovered in Bermuda waters. The museum at Flatts, Bermuda, contains a priceless treasure found by Teddy Tucker.

He was paid a fair and handsome price for his find, and the islanders have the treasure to boast and to view.

(Rev.) R. W. DEMPSEY  
Port Hawkesbury

As we understand the situation, Mr. Dunfield would share the spoils with his backers, pay five per cent to the provincial government under the provisions of the Treasure Trove Act, and perhaps, although this last is by no means clear, a tax of some sort to the federal government. He would not "walk off with the lot," but would walk off with a great deal.—Editor.

## Old Ghosts Guard Gold?

OAK ISLAND — If the ghosts of 17th century pirates still haunt this small island off Nova Scotia's south shore, they are doing a pesky good job of guarding the legendary loot said to be buried there.

Robert R. Dunfield, a Los Angeles petroleum geologist and engineer, said Tuesday a cracked engine block or blown gasket in a diesel generator is the latest problem encountered in his mechanical attack on the 170-year mystery that has foiled numerous treasure-seeking expeditions.

The generator, a 550-volt machine procured in Montreal, is still working, he said, but the engine will have to be "torn down" and repairs made from parts flown in from Montreal.

Production resumed earlier in the day when a water pump in

# Closed-Circuit TV Eyes 'Money Pit'

OAK ISLAND, N.S. A closed-circuit television camera peered into the "money pit" on this Mahone Bay Island Wednesday and "got a good picture" of the deep hole reaching for a legendary fortune in gold and jewels.

The television circuit is the latest device used by California geologist Robert R. Dunfield in his search for loot that is said to have been cached there by buccaneers.

Dunfield said the picture showed the hole was standing up well. A 70-ton digging machine clawed away another four feet of earth Wednesday,

but he said revised calculations placed the excavation depth at about 140 feet instead of 152 feet reported earlier.

Dunfield's first objective is a depth of 155 feet, the height of Niagara's Horseshoe Falls.

A new diesel generator, which produces 550 volts for the submersible pump and night lighting, arrived Wednesday "trucked right through from Montreal" after the original generator broke down Tuesday. A mechanic from Montreal was expected to have the new machine

working by the night shift.

However, the "digging clam" being used to burrow into the island's clay soil leaves today on contract to another job, and Mr. Dunfield said another larger machine on order from Moncton, will not arrive until Monday, "at the earliest."

"If we don't come up with something interesting tonight (Wednesday), we'll be delayed until next week," he said.

Wednesday's efforts unearthed more old wood that has hampered digging operations for more than a week, but it may prove more of an encouragement than a hindrance.

Dunfield said hand-hewn logs were brought up that a visiting provincial forest service official believed might be hemlock, a wood not native to the area.

"It must have been the original flooring," Dunfield said. The forestry official, Lloyd Hawboldt of Truro, is examining the logs in an attempt to date them.

the island's fabled Money Pit was put back in working order. It sprang a leak Monday, forcing another delay in the search that had taken a 48-hour respite while teeth on the buckets of a 70-ton digging machine were sharpened.

The teeth had to be welded to a point to enable the Digging Clam to gnaw through layers of old spruce and oak hampering the operation at the 152-foot level, deeper than any attempt has ever gone. Mr. Dunfield said the pump was working well and the digging machine performing as it should.

He said he thought most of the old wood, which he believes was part of cribbing in a pit that collapsed about 1850, had been cleared away and "we should be getting close."

However, progress was slight Tuesday and no measurements of the hole were taken.

Recent setbacks have slowed actual working time to "4.2 hours out of every 10" on the average during the last six weeks.

"We hope to make better progress soon," Mr. Dunfield said, "but bettering that average is going to be a tough job."

DEC 2/65

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DUNFIELD

# Only 28 feet of earth hides victory or failure of N.S. treasure hunt

OAK ISLAND, N.S. (CP) — Only 28 feet of earth is between Robert R. Dunfield and a treasure trove or a costly disappointment.

Mechanical troubles yesterday stalled efforts of the 39-year-old Los Angeles petroleum geologist to uncover the 170-year mystery of this tiny island a stone's throw off Nova Scotia's south shore where pirates are said to have buried their loot two centuries ago.

Mr. Dunfield said his 70-ton digging machine has clawed its way to a depth of 152 feet, only three feet shy of his first objective and a scant 28 feet from the level at which he says he will either be made a rich man or call it quits.

Mr. Dunfield, who read about the island and its legendary pirate treasure as a

youth in Denver, Colo., denied a report that two days of rain had caused a cave-in at the excavation site.

"The hole is in beautiful condition," he said. "The walls are holding just as we expected."

Mr. Dunfield said his crew had trouble with a water pump and the digging machine itself, but the problems were strictly mechanical. Similar setbacks in recent weeks have slowed the search for the gold and jewels that legend says were buried on the island.

The lure of underground wealth brought death to Robert Restall, a former Hamilton steelworker, his son and two workers in August when they entered a gas-filled pit on the island.

Mr. Dunfield bought the treasure-seeking rights from Mrs. Restall less than two weeks after the tragedy. He has been digging for the treasure for more than two months.

"We're in the original pit, there's no question about that," he said yesterday. "We're finding bits of old oak and other artifacts." He estimates the search is costing him about \$2,000 a day, a total of \$70,000 so far.

Mr. Dunfield said he is hopeful of reaching the area of real interest soon. He has sold exclusive rights to still pictures of the operation to Life magazine.

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# Treasure Hunters Stalled

Mail Nov. 2/65

OAK ISLAND, N.S.(CP)—Los Angeles petroleum geologist Robert Dunfield said Monday he hopes to move a 70-ton digging crane into position near the "Money Pit" on this small Nova Scotia island today to begin excavations for pirate treasure believed buried here.

The 70-foot high crane has been at work on the shore of the Island for the last two weeks, digging a 200-foot-long, 15-foot-deep ditch Dunfield hopes will cut off two underground water tunnels that have foiled treasure hunting operations in the past because of flooding.

Dunfield, 39, said he had no idea how long he will continue. "We thought at first it would only take three weeks," he said. "But we make discoveries every day that make us change our opinions. I can't predict how long we'll be here."

This 132-acre island, one of more than 350 in Mahone Bay on the South Shore, has been the object of more than 1,000 treasure hunting ventures since 1795 when three youths discovered a depression in the ground 13 feet across at the foot of a knife-marked oak tree.

The "Money Pit" is on a hill, 32 feet above sea level, on the east side of the Island, overlooking crescent-shaped Smuggler's Cove where New England immigrants first settled in the 1830. There legend has it, Pirates in the 17th century—perhaps Captain Kidd—buried a multi-million dollar fortune in gold and precious jewels.

The 170-year-old treasure hunt claimed its first victims this year when a crew of four men, including Robert Restall, a 59-year-old Hamilton, Ont., steelworker, died Aug. 17 at the bottom of a gas-filled, water-draining pit. Three others also died in the pit.

Restall died believing he was within feet of finding a \$30,000,000 treasure.

## New Oak Island Venture

FROM THE LUNenburg PROGRESS-ENTERPRISE

Will Nova Scotia's "Treasure Island" give up its secret of hidden pirate treasure? So much has been written about Oak Island in the last half century that it would spoil the beautiful fantasy that most people have about the island if one were to dispute whether pieces of eight and gold doubloons were ever hidden in a pit.

So most people, whether they live in Nova Scotia or New Zealand, assume that there must be something to the story about pirates and hidden treasure. The only stipulation some people have is that perhaps the treasure was removed long ago by the same characters who hid it in the first place.

Dozens of expeditions in the past 100 years have worked to find treasure on Oak Island. Some stayed for months, some stayed for weeks, others departed after only a few days.

Now comes Robert Dunfield from California who, like many of the others, is determined to find an answer to the question.

Only this time the 39-year-old petroleum geologist is going to use more mechanical equipment than was ever used before on Oak Island.

The search will be centered mainly around a 100-ton crane with a 90-foot

boom and a two-yard clam bucket which is used for just one thing . . . excavating. It's capable of digging a 200-foot deep hole. This equipment should really find out if there is any treasure on the island.

When the search is over Oak Island won't bear any geographical resemblance to the island that was. Perhaps it will look like a pocked moon crater.

To get to the island a 700-foot causeway has been built to the mainland and the heavy machinery will cross over easily. If water interferes in the digging, the newest and most powerful types of pumps will go to work . . .

While this newest attack on the treasure may bring a definite yes or no answer to the romantic stories of pirates and the Spanish Main, it could also bring to a close a very alluring chapter in Nova Scotian history.

If there is no treasure, then Oak Island becomes just another one of the forgotten 365 islands that dot the coast line between Mahone Bay and Halifax.

If there is pirate treasure and it's discovered, Oak Island will then lose much of the glamor. Unfortunately it too, will be one less subject for editors to write about . . .

Halifax Herald Nov. 2/65

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MG1 Vol. 384



# Treasure Hunt

## Los Angeles Geologist Leads Latest Effort To Find Pirates' Loot on Nova Scotia Island

OAK ISLAND, N.S. (CP) — There's a hole the size of three railway boxcars coupled end-to-end in this 132-acre Nova Scotia island, and within feet of the mine-like shaft, Robert Dunfield expects to find a multi-million-dollar treasure.

Mr. Dunfield, a Los Angeles petroleum geologist, and a crew of 11 men have been at work on Oak Island for the last two weeks, blocking off seeping water so they can put a 70-ton bucket-carrying crane into operation near the shaft.

The crane, its 50-foot neck conspicuously jutting from a barren hill on the south side of the island, will dig a hole 150 feet deep and 100 feet in diameter in search of treasure believed buried here in the 18th Century by pirates.

Rented from a New Glasgow, N.S., steel firm, the crane was in operation 250 feet from the shaft Thursday, digging a 200-foot long, 20-foot-deep ditch that Mr. Dunfield expects to block off sea water that has seeped into the shaft or money pit.

"We're about two weeks behind schedule," said Mr. Dunfield, a quiet-spoken 39-year-old graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles. "We hoped to finish the ditch and begin the main excavation 10 days ago. The time our operation will take is indefinite now."

Mr. Dunfield, who lives with his wife in a nearby motel, has undertaken the most modern treasure-hunting operation in the history of Oak Island. More than 1,000 persons have spent an estimated \$1,500,000 in search of the legendary treasure since three boys discovered a depression in the ground, 36 feet across, at the foot of an oak tree in 1795.

"I don't know how much wealth might be hidden here," he said. "But if it's there I think we'll find it."

Mr. Dunfield has a 37-per-cent share in the \$35,000 operation. Other major shareholders are in Los Angeles. He has a lease on the island, obtained from the wife of Robert Restall, 59-year-old Hamilton steelworker who died here Aug. 17 with three other treasure-seekers at the bottom of a 27-foot gas-filled pit. The island is owned by M. R. Chappell of Sydney.

Mr. Dunfield said he be-

lieved the treasure to be hidden on the island because of a book written by Halifax barrister R. V. Harris, called Oak Island Mystery.

"I've been over the treasure theory a thousand times," he said. "The findings in Mr. Harris' book led me to the conclusion the treasure was here. I think it still is." He first read of Oak Island's treasure as an 11-year-old school-boy.

James Keizer, 32, of nearby Robinson's Corner, foreman of the Dunfield crew, was unable to get to his job on the island Aug. 17 — the day four died in the pit that was to drain water flooding the money pit. Had he been on the job he too would have been in the pit.

"Mr. Restall believed, like no other man, that treasure was buried here," said Mr. Keizer, who lives in a small, plywood-walled house built by Mr. Restall on the island. "He used to work 10 and 12 hours a day helping us work on the money pit."

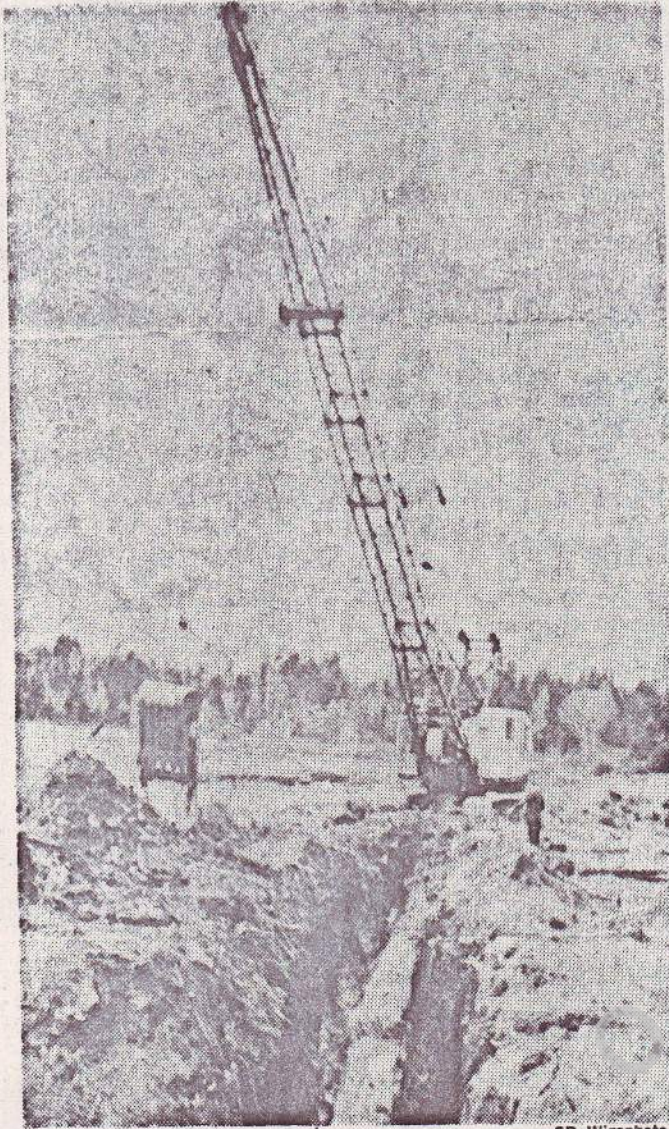
"He told us there was \$30,000,000 buried here, and we all believed what he said," said Mr. Keizer. "Last summer I found 18th Century dishes buried under five feet of clay on the shore, and Mr. Dunfield found a large rock with the initials DH worn into it." (G.D.H. ? Hedden)

Also found over the years on the island were three links of gold chain, a fragment of parchment and scraps of coconut fibre.

The money pit, probed to a depth of 124 feet by Mr. Restall and others before him, is about 12 by 20 feet in diameter with sections of ladder going to the bottom. Below is a 40-foot-deep pool of water, constantly being pumped out by a large engine.

Mr. Dunfield said when the crane goes into operation at the money pit, the wooden shaft would be torn out. He said more than 1,000 tourists have tried to get on the island to see the excavations since a 650-foot causeway was built three weeks ago, but they are kept off because of the danger of injury.

The causeway, which required 15,000 yards of fill, may not be removed when the excavations have been completed, Mr. Dunfield said. People have asked it remain because of the island's attraction to tourists.



—CP Wirephoto

### DIGGING FOR TREASURE

Crane digs ditch on Oak Island, N.S., where geologist Robert Dunfield is trying to find legendary treasure.

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Public Archives of Nova Scotia  
HALIFAX, N. S.



# Oak Island Gets 650-ft Causeway

## —To Let Big Machines Join Treasure Hunt

By SCOTT BRIGLEY  
Staff Writer

Nova Scotia's famed Oak Island ceased to be an island yesterday.

But only temporarily.

On Sunday bulldozers filled the last gap of a 650-foot causeway connecting the mainland with the small South Shore island.

The temporary one-lane, earth and stone structure was designed to allow huge earth-moving machinery to be admitted to the island for the latest search in the mystery of what is buried there.

Robert Dunfield, 39, a petroleum geologist from California, is directing the largest scale assault ever placed on Oak Island in an attempt to uncover its secret.

"We built the causeway only as a means of accessibility to the island with this heavy equipment. It will come down and the channel deepened in three weeks."

The causeway was completed in ten days taking 7,000 yards of fill.

With the use of a large mechanical earth digger, the new search team expects to be off the island in three weeks, confident that their equipment is capable for this assignment.

The strength of this belief is based on one particular piece of equipment weighing close to 100-tons fitted with a 90-foot boom and two yard clam bucket (digging scoop). This crane-like structure is capable of digging an excavation over 200-feet deep by 100 feet in diameter, handling over 800 yards an hour under ideal conditions.

Past attempts on the 170 year-old search for hidden wealth on the island have been chiefly foiled because of seeping water filling the diggings.

The Dunfield party hopes to solve this problem in one of two approaches. Either by controlling the water believed entering the money shaft from the beach or by pumping water directly out of the excavation as work progresses.

If pumping should be required the seven-man team on the project will use a deep submersible pump capable of handling 110,000 gallons of water an hour.

Mr. Dunfield plans to set the digging crane 40 feet from the excavation to keep the vehicle in stable ground while maintaining the boom over the site.

A safety harness and nylon rope will be attached to one of the team who will stand near the open pit and direct the crane operator where the bucket would be used best.

When the 140-foot level in the pit is reached the mining venture will take on more scientific approach. Everything extracted from the hole at that time will put into a sluice, a water filtering method that screens and separates the rock and other objects from the soil.

"My basic objective is to go to the 155-foot level. We will go no further than a maximum depth of 180-feet, unless we find something of interest," the young geologist stated.

Work on the island starts today as the crane will be taken to a beach site for investigation of a drainage system that is commonly believed connected to the actual money pit.

Mr. Dunfield explained that they will spent several days to a week investigating drainage sites before moving to the actual area of the excavation.

"If all goes to plan in three

days over the main excavation we will be reaching the real area of interest."

Work is scheduled to operate

on a two-shift basis, with servicing taking place in the intervals.

The Dunfield search, costing

in the vicinity of \$43,000, is the largest mechanical search of its type to be conducted on the island.

2459-R. V. Harris Papers  
MGI Vol. 384

OAK ISLAND



# American Geologist Has

Oct 2 1965. Hx. to himself ✓

# "New Plan" For Oak Island

2457-R.V. Harris Papers  
MGI Vol. 384

BY SCOTT BRIGLEY

A young U.S. petroleum geologist, long interested in the tales of Oak Island and the mystery of what is buried there, expects to have the answer to that question by the end of this month.

Robert R. Dunfield, 39, from Canoga Park, California, is confident that his large scale earth moving equipment — a type never used before on the tiny south shore island — will reveal the hidden secret.

Mr. Dunfield purchased the controlling interests in the treasure rights from Mrs. Robert Restall, widow of the 59-year-old former motorcycle Acrobat, whose six year search ended in tragedy Aug. 17.

Mr. Restall died of toxic gas poisoning when he fell into a water filled shaft. Three other men on hand also perished in going to his assistance.

### RETAIN INTEREST

The Restall family and other parties of that original agreement will still retain interest in the new venture.

Robert Dunfield, who was a backer of the Restall search and has been in the area for the past three months, will, in the next weeks, employ a three yard Link-Belt "digging clam" to start the fresh hunt. The venture will cost \$42,000.

This large piece of equipment resembles a crane-like structure and weighing about 100 tons is capable of digging an excavation over 200 feet deep and 100 feet in diameter.

"The capacity of this machine is such that we should have the answer before the end of October," Mr. Dunfield commented.

"I am of the opinion that there is something buried on the island at different elevations,

but I would not hazard a guess as to the desposer or what is desposited.

The Californian, who owns his own oil geology consulting business, described the project as a problem in excavation and open pit mining but with the added difficulty of seeping water.

"My knowledge of the clay section leads me to believe that we can complete this excavation successfully if we can dig it dry."

Mr. Dunfield said that the water problem which has foiled

search operations in the past may be solved from two approaches.

"Either we cut the water off at the beach or pump it directly out of the excavation."

Whatever the planned attack it will remain a secret among the Dunfield group, at least for the present.

Alene Dunfield, who flew into Halifax from California on Thursday to join her husband in a short stay, has the same quiet confidence in her husband's ability and judgement as he reflects to the five man team who work at the site.

"Bob has been interested in Oak Island ever since he was old enough to read about it. We are all 100 per cent behind him."

The Dunfields have two children at home, Sharon, 19, and Robert, 7.

Apart from Robert Dunfield's ability as a petroleum geologist, other technical knowledge in the project has come from his father, R. George Dunfield who has spent many years in the mining engineering field.

The senior Dunfield is kept well informed of the progress and plannings of the hunt by telephone.

All is in a state of readiness awaiting the arrival of the mechanical digger, now working elsewhere in the Maritimes.

Two bulldozers already on the Chester Bay island have cleared passages for the clam digger in which to operate.

### SINCE 1795

Promise of pirate gold or privateer's fortune has kept generations of treasure seekers digging in the tiny island, 45 miles from Halifax, since 1795 when two boys discovered traces of a mine pit and oak platforms under the ground.

Since then subsequent searchers have dug to find platforms at 10 foot intervals to a depth of 90 feet. Each staging bearing quantities of charcoal, putty and coconut fibre.

Augers have drilled to depths of 170 feet and have been reported to have struck buried objects. Some shavings from the drill at that reported depth have been proved to be iron—but what lies at that position remains a mystery.

The distance of 170 feet is not inaccessible in ordinary conditions, but at Oak Island time

after time the forceful sea streams into the diggings causing cave-ins and retaining the island's secret safe.

The intriguing lure of the possible treasure has already cost several lives and thousands of dollars, but aside of the fact Oak Island may hold a great fortune, Robert Dunfield makes no open comment on the actual hidden prize.

Instead it appears to be more a personal challenge and problem between a man of education in geology and the elements of time and nature.

Perhaps with a new scientific approach and a great deal of good luck, the Dunfield project will prove to be the closing pages of the story of Nova Scotia's legendary treasure island.



Robert R. Dunfield: "answer before end of October."



# Island Treasure Hunt

**DUNFIELD**

OAK ISLAND, N.S. (CP)—A California petroleum geologist, has renewed the hunt for buried wealth that six weeks ago lured four men to their deaths on this tiny island.

Robert R. Dunfield, 39, of Canoga Park, Calif., who read about the island's mystery-shrouded treasure troves as a boy in Colorado, said in an interview Tuesday he has purchased the controlling interest in treasure rights from the widow of Robert Restall, a 59-year-old Hamilton steelworker and motorcycle acrobat whose six-year search ended in tragedy Aug. 17.

## SMALL PERCENTAGE

Mrs. Restall, her son and daughter are to retain a small percentage, Mr. Dunfield said, but major shares in the venture are held by Jack Nethercutt of Beverly Hills, Calif., Dan Blankenship of Miami, Fla., G. R.

Laperle of Bakersfield, Calif., and himself.

He said his share probably would amount to 37 per cent and total investment by the four chief participants would run to about \$35,000. Mr. Dunfield was optimistic about reaching whatever is hidden beneath this 275-acre island's hard clay surface within a month.

## CERTAIN OF SUCCESS

"The way we are going about it we certainly should know within a month. I'm convinced there is something there. What it is and who put it there I couldn't venture any opinions."

Mr. Restall, a few months before he died in a gas-filled shaft, estimated the fortune to be at least \$30,000,000. But Mr. Dunfield would not "hazard a guess." He also holds no theories of his own regarding where the legendary treasure came from and who buried it under its confounding layers of

oak platforms and intricate network of drain tunnels.

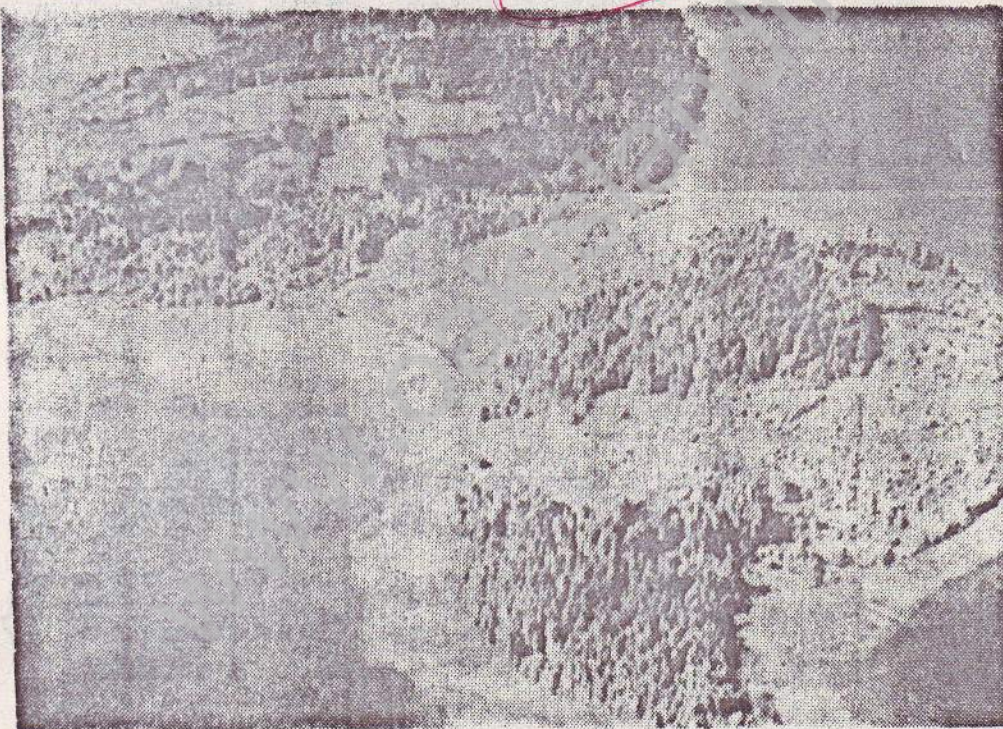
Generations of romantics have speculated that the English pirate Capt. Kidd, other Caribbean pirates or the crew of a French pay ship on an ill-fated voyage to besieged Louisbourg in 1758 placed the booty here—a snug shelter one mile from the Nova Scotia coast in Mahone Bay.

The island is pockmarked with numerous shafts and drill holes clawed or bored in the earth by several unsuccessful expeditions since two young boys found the "money pit" in 1795. The futile efforts brought up only three pieces of gold chain, a fragment of parchment, now in the possession of owner M. R. Chappell of Sydney, and some scraps of cocoanut fibre.

## ISLAND KILLED FOUR

Mr. Restall died, apparently of carbon monoxide poisoning, when he tumbled into a water-filled shaft and three others, in-

THE EDMONTON JOURNAL, Wednesday, Sept. 29, 1965



NOVA SCOTIA'S OAK ISLAND

... where fabled wealth believed buried

cluding businessman Karl Graesser of Long Island, N.Y., and Robert Restall, Jr., 24, perished after they went to his assistance.

Mr. Dunfield said he has been interested in Oak Island since reading its history in the Denver Post as a youth, but only decided to invest in the venture earlier this year after he had corresponded with Mr. Chappell and Mr. Restall.

## CAME IN JULY

He came to Nova Scotia in July to work at the enterprise and was with Mr. Restall a few days before he died.

Now employing a crew of five and heavy machinery, Mr. Dunfield said two bulldozers have flattened most of the island in preparation for the arrival of a "digging clam"—a 100-ton machine with which the new operator hopes to dig a hole 200 feet deep and 100 feet in diameter.

"If there is anything there it should come out," he said.

2455-R. V. Harris Papers

MGI Vol. 384



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# Feverish Hunt for a Jinxed Treasure!

There may be \$30 million in pirate gold buried on desolate Oak Island—but you'll have to beat the hoodoo to get it

By BOB GAINES

Aug 28 1966

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HALIFAX, N. S.

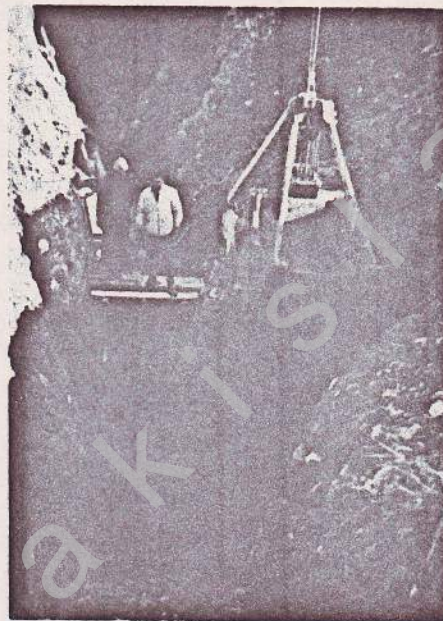
**L**AST SUMMER, rescue workers pulled the bodies of four treasure hunters out of a muddy pit on Oak Island, Nova Scotia, the world's most famous treasure island.

The coroner's report later stated the men had died of carbon monoxide fumes from a defective pump. But old-timers in the area had a different explanation. It was the Oak Island jinx: the incredible bad luck which has frustrated treasure hunters on this small, desolate Canadian island for more than 170 years.

Once again, the \$30 million in treasure, which is said to be buried on the island, had slipped through the clutching fingers of searchers.

So far, an estimated \$1,750,000 has been spent on Oak Island in a search for this elusive treasure. As this is being written, men are working feverishly again on the island. Under the leadership of a California petroleum geologist, Robert Dunfield, the searchers hope shortly to locate the treasure.

They have spent more than \$120,000 on the project. The cost to their nerves has been as great. Expensive machinery has broken, pits have col-



Geologist Robert Dunfield peers into shaft where buried treasure may lie.

don the project because of their jobs on the mainland.

In 1803 a group of local businessmen heard the story and decided to excavate the puzzling pit. A crew of men was sent over to the island to dig. At successive 10-foot levels, they found more platforms of oak. The

miles of Nova Scotia. The fiber stretched like a thick sponge for 145 feet along the beach. And beneath the fiber lay five channels filled with loose stones, which seemed to run from one main channel.

Whoever had dug the pit had also created a highly complex drainage system that sucked the Atlantic Ocean into the pit! It was an amazing job of engineering, and the treasure hunters wondered what breath-taking prize must lie beneath the ground to warrant such an effort.

The diggers sank a series of shafts and tunnels, hoping to block the water flow. But always it rushed in, ripping down the framing and collapsing the tunnels. The company eventually gave up.

Over the years, 200 shafts have been sunk. Oak Island historians now believe that the ground over the treasure has been gouged and excavated so often that the treasure, if it exists, has shifted many feet.

What evidence of treasure is there to merit all this work? There are stories of fragments of gold brought up by drills in the 19th century, but no one alive today has seen them. There is a tiny scrap of ancient parchment which was brought un-

Rock lobster tails served hot from the grill with zesty lemon butter or icy cold with a superb dipping sauce; piping hot cheesy-topped cat-sup bread; an attractive cottage cheese-fruit bowl—all make for good midsummer feasting.

Blend 3 cups tomato juice, 3 table-  
spoons lime juice, 2 teaspoons  
Worcestershire sauce, 12 drops liq-  
uid hot pepper seasoning, and 4  
teaspoons sugar. Pour into a large  
refrigerator tray and freeze; stir-  
ring occasionally, until mixture is  
crystalline. Mound in stemmed or  
footed sherbet glasses. Garnish  
with mint sprigs. About 8 cups

1. Cut cantaloupe into wedges, re-  
move seedy portion, pare wedges,  
remove pink portion, and cut  
wedges into 1-in. pieces. (There  
should be 3 1/2 to 4 cups.)  
2. Cover cantaloupe in a bowl with  
a salt solution made by dissolving  
1 tablespoon salt in 2 qts. cold  
water. Cover and let stand 8 hrs.  
or overnight.



Aug 15. 1966

# Brine Could Be Solution To Oak Island Treasure

2504- R. V. Harris Papers ✓  
MGI Vol. 384

HAMILTON (CP) — Brine, chilled to sub-zero temperatures, could be the solution to finding the Oak Island treasure.

Murray Killman of nearby Caledonia, a shareholder in the Oak Island project, learned of the new idea after a telephone call to Robert Dunfield in California.

Dunfield, a geologist, has led the hunt on the tiny Nova Scotia island since last September. He took over after four men, including Hamilton steelworker Robert Restall and his son, died when they were overcome by gas in the "treasure pit."

Dunfield suspended the search in March because of bad weather and flooding in the excavation shaft.

The freezing process is useful when water and mud inhibit excavations. First pipes are driven deep into the ground. Then super cold brine is circulated until the whole area is frozen.

The salt water solution makes this possible because it can be cooled far below the freezing point of water while remaining in a liquid state.

Mr. Killman expects Dunfield will soon return to Oak Island to try the freezing method.

*in Triton too?*

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HALIFAX, N. S.

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# Dunfield's Return To Oak Island Is Delayed For Now

1966 *Halifax Herald*  
Unexpected developments delayed the planned return this weekend to Oak Island by California geologist, Robert Dunfield.

Dunfield, who suspended his search for the fabled treasure on Oak Island earlier this year because of continuing rain and mud, said he expects to resume

digging operations within a few weeks.

Speaking by phone from his home in Canoga Park, Calif., Dunfield said work is already underway on the island preparing the location for machines to re-dig the 'prospect hole'.

Shortly before Christmas of last year, Dunfield and his nine man crew were only feet away from the money chamber, but a two-day delay caused the project to be discontinued. During the two-day pause, silt and water filled the greater part of the money pit and made a continuing search next to impossible.

Dunfield began his search for the treasure last August, shortly after four men died in their bid to uncover the legendary treasure. The treasure is believed to be in excess of \$30 million, and is said to have been buried on the tiny island by pirates in the 18th century.

2503 - R. V. Harris Papers  
M61 Vol. 384

July 166

Public Archives of Nova Scotia  
HALIFAX, N. S.







# Dunfield's Nerves, Money Feel Strain

March 15/66

CHESTER — Treasure hunter Robert Dunfield says both his money and nerves are feeling the strain of a six-month search for legendary pirate loot on Oak Island

"This has cost more than \$120,000 now," he said Monday. "And my nerves show it. There's a limit to everything and I've gone about as far as I can go."

The Los Angeles geologist dug down to a depth of about 150 feet last fall over the spot where he believes a

hoard of treasure was buried about 170 years ago.

But dozens of others have dug holes on the little island, too. Mr. Dunfield estimates that since the digging started more than a century ago \$1,750,000 has been sunk into Oak Island.

He said he expects to begin digging again today on a hole he has sunk to a depth of 108 feet. He plans going as deep as 120 feet in this hole in an effort to shut off water that floods into the pit sunk in search of treasure.

Before his digging machine broke down a few days ago he had found wooden pilings driven at a depth of 100 feet in 1866 by a Halifax group seeking the treasurer. They, apparently, failed to stop the water flow that has plagued all the hunters.

Mr. Dunfield is still confident there is something deep beneath the island's surface, if it's only some weird rock formations. Early this year he drilled to a depth of 139 feet and the drill dropped into a chamber with a two-foot-thick wooden roof. The floor of the chamber was hit at 184 feet and the drill brought up a piece of cast iron.

"But that doesn't mean too much," said Mr. Dunfield.

So many holes have been sunk on the island that it is impossible to tell now what was left in the ground by the seekers or those who buried the treasure, assuming, of course, that somebody did bury something there.

When the coins and artifacts were found by the three divers, irony set in for another treasure seeker—Robert Dunfield—who began his search of Oak Island approximately the same time the Louisbourg three struck their booty.

Now the question being asked is: Could the Louisbourg discovery be part of the same treasure believed to be buried on Oak Island?

Neither the island's owner, Mel R. Chappell, nor treasure seeker Dunfield believe it is.

"I don't think the French had anything to do with Oak Island," said Mr. Chappell yesterday after hearing of the Cape Breton discovery.

"I don't think anybody really knows who did the work or when it was done on the island, but someone certainly did an enormous amount of work there at an early period," he added.

Mr. Dunfield, at home in California, because of poor weather conditions in Nova Scotia which halted his search recently, said, when he heard the news of the discovery:

"There is a possibility this

could be the treasure, but I doubt the connection with Oak Island."

"This will not make any difference to our program on the island."

Meanwhile in California this morning, Robert Dunfield said he was not discouraged by the treasure find off Louisbourg. He said he was not convinced the treasure was linked in any way with the booty he has been looking for on Oak Island since last August. In fact he would be returning to Nova Scotia to resume his digging operations "in a few weeks." Apr 5/66

2498- R. V. Harris Papers  
M.G.1 Vol. 3.84



# Oak Island Money Pit Feb. 11/66 Dunfield To Start Re-Digging Today

OAK ISLAND—"If we can't make it this time, we will leave it to someone else," Robert Dunfield said as he prepared to re-dig the money pit on Oak Island in search of a pirate treasure said to exceed \$30 million.

The Los Angeles geologist, who has been working with a nine-man crew in the hunt since August of last year, has just returned from a five-day holiday in Bermuda. "We enjoyed a hard earned few days off, my wife and myself, but we are going to begin this morning to re-dig the money pit we filled in last month," Dunfield said, adding, "we have learned a lot, we know we can dig the hole if the men and equipment hold out."

The Dunfield crew are still attempting to cut off the water channels which continue to flood the pits dug in hopes of disclosing the hidden treasure, but with the equipment running as it

is, Dunfield believes he can control the water to a degree.

The new money pit will be 100 feet in diameter, and will go to depth of more than 100 feet before narrowing to dig into the treasure chamber.

## THREE-FOUR WEEKS

Asked when and if he will call it quits, Dunfield said "three or four weeks should decide."

The Dunfield operation, which includes a huge crane with a 100-foot boom among other earth moving equipment, has cost more than \$120,000 in the six months since he started his treasure hunt.

The pirate treasure is believed to have been buried on the tiny island in the 18th century.

## "Redigging" Job Starts On Oak Island Feb. 11/66

OAK ISLAND — A bulldozer labored on the beach of this tiny Nova Scotia island Thursday, preparatory to a new attempt to recover the elusive treasure that legend says is buried beneath the clay soil.

Los Angeles fortune hunter Robert R. Dunfield said he is trying to block off seepage of ocean water in a 130-foot pit in which he has found only frustrating setbacks.

He now plans to "redig the hole" with a digging crane in a final attempt to find pirate loot.

The petroleum geologist said he hopes to shut off the leakage with clay plugs by the first of next week and get down to the business of excavation. The original hole, started last August, was partially filled by sliding earth during numerous mechanical breakdowns and latitudes.

The new hole, at the same site supposedly located at the "money pit" discovered by two men in 1795, will be 100 feet in diameter. Mr. Dunfield said he will dig to a depth of 184 feet before calling it quits.

Disappointed about past failures, Mr. Dunfield said drilling over the last few weeks located an underground chamber containing wood and gypsum. He thinks the gypsum was used as primitive cement by whoever buried the fabled wealth.

He is still convinced "with reservations that there is something there."

The new hole will be his last try, he said. After that he will go back to drilling oil wells and "try to recover some of my losses." The operation has, so far, cost an estimated \$120,000.

# Feb. 22/66 Treasure Hunt Again Discovers Hard Luck

Once again the treasure hunt on Oak Island has slowed to a crawl.

Robert Dunfield, a petroleum geologist from Los Angeles, said last night that work on the cave-in shaft, several hundred feet from the "legendary treasure-trove," has been hindered by one of the digging crane's buckets being lodged at 68 feet.

Mr. Dunfield explained that they are investigating this shaft to check if any water was reaching the "famed treasure trove" from that point.

He added that at 68 feet there has not been any signs of water.

The 39-year-old geologist said that another bucket would soon

be brought to the island to try to fish the other out of the pit.

Since arriving in Nova Scotia last July, the Dunfield search for fortune has been plagued with misfortune—however, he says he is far from finished here yet.

It was not known when actual work will again begin on the money pit itself, or what technique will be employed.

Drilling over the site conducted by Dunfield in January indicated a hollow chamber, but whether this is a natural formation of the earth's structure or a man-made compartment remains a mystery.

It is estimated that the cost of the Dunfield project which began in August is nearing \$120,000.

2495- R. I. Harris Papers  
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# New Drilling On Oak Island

The search for buried treasure on Oak Island will take on a new twist. A drilling rig, brought to the isle yesterday, will attempt to drill six inch diameter holes into the fabled treasure trove.

Robert Dunfield, a California petroleum geologist conducting the hunt, said this morning drilling would begin today.

The new venture is to examine core samplings from the site.

Mr. Dunfield said he did not know how many holes would be bored. They would penetrate to 180 feet.

On January 3, after months of excavation work, the Dunfield expedition filled in their operation after being plagued by continual cave-ins.

At that time the searchers planned a different approach, shutting off all water reaching the treasure site from the beach.

# Dunfield Awaits Analysis

OAK ISLAND, N.S. (CP)—About 1,000 pounds of material brought to the surface from four six-inch holes drilled 140 feet deep by treasure hunter Robert Dunfield could be concrete or natural carbonate, he said Thursday.

Dunfield said he had sent samples of the material to the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and "I'm just sitting by the telephone now. I could get a reply anytime today."

He said an estimate of the age of the material was practically impossible without a spectrographic microscope, which the university was expected to employ. A chemical analysis also would be done on the material.

The scientific searching is aimed at location of a treasure horde which local legends say is buried far beneath the surface of the tiny island off the southwest coast of Nova Scotia.

Flood tunnels believed by Dunfield to be man-made have foiled attempts by him and many other fortune seekers in the last 170 years to dig through to the area believed to hold the treasure. Dunfield took up the drilling after five months of digging.

## CAVITY ROOF

Earlier Thursday, Dunfield said he had located a large cavity at the 140-foot level. "That was the roof of the cavity. Then the drill broke through." He said it was about 40 feet deep but other dimensions were uncertain.

The concrete-like material was found at the same level as the cavity over an area of nine square feet. Also brought up was a piece of metal sent to Montreal for examination. He was not sure who was carrying out the analysis for a personal friend of his in Montreal.

Dunfield, a 39-year-old petroleum geologist from California, said he expected it would be two or three days, at least, before he received a reply on the analysis of the metal.

The cavity he claims to have found is believed to be the same one located in 1955 by George J. Greene, a Texas oil driller, who filled it with more than 100,000 gallons of water in an attempt to determine the nature of the cavity. The water all ran away.

Dunfield penetrated deeply in the area believed to be directly over the treasure before sliding earth forced him to abandon and fill in the excavation in the "money pit." He expects to return after reports on the latest yield from the drill holes are received.

# New Find In Hunt For Treasure

OAK ISLAND, N.S. (CP)—Treasure hunter Robert Dunfield today awaits a report on material discovered in four six-inch holes drilled 140 feet into the ground here.

Mr. Dunfield said Thursday core drills brought up about 1,000 pounds of what he thought was concrete or natural carbonate. The material was sent to Los Angeles for examination by spectrographic microscope to determine its age.

The scientific searching is aimed at locating a treasure horde supposedly buried beneath the surface of this tiny island off the southwest coast of Nova Scotia.

Thursday, Mr. Dunfield said he located a large cavity at the 140-foot level. He said the cavity was about 40 feet deep, but other dimensions were uncertain.

The material was found at the same level as the cavity over an area of nine square feet.

The 39-year-old California petroleum geologist said he may have found the cavity located in 1955 by Texas oil driller George J. Greene who filled it with more than 100,000 gallons of water in an attempt to determine its nature. The water seeped away.

# Dunfield Still Enthusiastic

OAK ISLAND — Robert R. Dunfield said Thursday he's no less enthusiastic about his chances of finding buried treasure on this 123-acre Nova Scotia island than when operations began five months ago.

"There have been so many setbacks I don't know what to think," said the 39-year-old Los Angeles petroleum geologist who took over treasure hunting operations here in August.

Use of modern machinery and expenditure of more than \$90,000 have resulted in failure to solve the 170-year-old mystery of the island.

A huge hole aimed at the legendary money vault was abandoned Jan. 3 after sliding earth filled in the bottom of the excavation three times.

But Mr. Dunfield refuses to give up.

He said a crew would begin drilling today over the area of the money pit. Core samples will be taken from a depth of 135 feet to about 180 feet.

"If nothing is found that indicates we're in the area of the treasure we'll dig a few feet away," he said. "We've taken this thing this far and we're not going to give up."

2494 - R. V. Harris Papers  
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# Treasure Pit Filled — For Now

By SCOTT BRIGLEY  
Staff Writer

For two months the latest search for treasure on Oak Island has led searchers 135 feet down the fabled money pit, but last night the excavation was filled in — purposely.

But the hunt is far from over. Robert Dunfield, the Los Angeles petroleum geologist directing the search which has cost close to \$90,000 so far, last night filled in the deepest hole made on the island since the hunt for the legendary treasure began in 1795.

"We filled in the excavation purposely. With so much rain and with springlike conditions for January, we have been plagued with cave-ins. Already the pit has been bailed out three times. We are not finished on Oak Island but will attack the problem with a different approach," the 39-year-old Californian said.

Mr. Dunfield explained that the excavation was refilled with top soil material which would easily come out again.

He said that in the last few days two shafts made by other searchers had caved in and with mild temperatures and rain, digging was extremely slow.

He said he planned to investigate the flood tunnel system at the beach, a few hundred feet from the present operation, and seal off any water which could reach the treasure pit.

# Treasure Hunt Stalled \$90,000 Loss Follows Pattern Over Years

By NICK FILLMORE

OAK ISLAND, N.S. (CP)—Robert Dunfield's treasure-hunting suffered a setback Monday as the Los Angeles geologist was forced to dump fill into a deep hole which he had said would lead him to a multi-million-dollar treasure trove.

Mr. Dunfield, 39, who arrived on the 132-acre Mahone Bay island in August, said he was filling in the 112-foot-deep hole because sliding earth in recent weeks had set back digging more than 20 feet.

However, he hasn't given up his treasure hunt. He said he would try to excavate a system of underground flooding tunnels believed to have been constructed by whoever built the "money pit" discovered in 1795 by a pair of Chester, N.S., schoolboys.

The decision by Mr. Dunfield, however, follows the pattern of numerous treasure hunts here in the past 170 years.

More than a dozen times treasure-seekers have failed to locate the "money pit" and gave up digging to investigate the tunnel system. All soon left Oak Island, defeated but still convinced a vast fortune lies hidden.

Mr. Dunfield used a large digging machine for more than three months to reach a depth of about 132 feet before the cave-ins began.

## SPENT \$90,000

The hole was cleared out three times before Mr. Dunfield, who says he has spent close to \$90,000 here, decided to change his tactics. He had expected to locate the treasure between a depth of 155 and 190 feet.

Past excavations were called off because of either financial ruin or flooding water.

Two underground tunnels, one about 100 feet long and the other more than 500 feet long, have been discovered leading to the

island's shores. Entering the pit at a depth of about 96 feet, the tunnels brought sea water to flood the pit.

The first tunnel was located in 1863 when an ox fell into a large air shaft and the second re-

vealed in November by the digging machine.

Mr. Dunfield believed he had solved the flooding problem but water was still seeping into the pit in December. He hopes to find a way of entering the money pit through one of the tunnels.

More than \$1,000,000 has been spent by thousands of investors in the Oak Island hunt but no solid evidence of treasure has been found.

Mr. Dunfield, backed by several Americans, has vowed to find it or "go broke." He expected in August to solve the island's mystery within two months. He has been here six months and says he may stay until spring.

# Machines Working Full Time At Oak Island

OAK ISLAND — Treasure hunter Robert Dunfield said Wednesday two machines now are working full time at stopping the flow of water into the underground tunnel system on this south shore island and said he hopes to resume digging for gold in the spring.

Mr. Dunfield, a Los Angeles petroleum geologist, last week filled in a hole he had spent three months digging in an effort to reach the treasure legend says was buried here more than 200 years ago.

The flow of water into the pit was just too much," Mr. Dunfield said in an interview. But he hoped the operations

now under way would keep the water from flooding the tunnels and seeping into the pit. He said the present work probably would last several months but hoped its results would enable him to dig his shaft once again, "this time through solid ground."

Mr. Dunfield said in November he thought he had solved the flooding problem, but water still seeped into the 130-foot-deep hole in December.

He has said he hoped to reach a depth of 155 feet, but would go as deep as 180 feet before giving up.

Herold 8/Jan 6/66