DUNFIELD

(8)

October 21, 1976
5440 Lindley Avenue
Encino, California
91316

Mr. D'Arcy O'Connor
P. O. Box 321
Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

For the past few months I have been out of town and have, therefore, been unable to answer your letter of August 7. I am sorry about the delay and hope these answers will be of some help:

1. With respect to the cavity we drilled in after refilling the open pit, which had been excavated to a depth of 141 feet, the drill went through approximately 2 feet of limestone (Windsor formation) and tapped into a small cavity or waterway, possibly derived from dissolved limestone, and the drill may have deviated its course following the cavity. The Chappell shaft was to the south of our excavation, a portion of which collapsed into our open pit, and missed this limestone although Mr. Chappell mentioned limestone being present in minor amounts. At the bottom of the Chappell shaft Mr. M. R. Chappell turned northeast a short distance to a point where mud and clay broke in on the workers. In fact, Mr. Chappell saved one of the worker's lives by pulling him free of the muck coming in. It is possible our drill sank through this dissolved material between boulders of limestone lying on top of the old erosional surface of the Windsor formation prior to the last period of glaciation which left glacial debris and material in the form of a drumlin which is Oak Island. Further, the Truro shaft was on the west side of our pit filled with muck fron another shaft which completely came out with our excavation of the pit. I believe the depth of that shaft as we saw the bottom of it was about 128 feet. We excavated a shaft on the south shore immediately south of the triangle which had no timber in it and had apparently been excavated prior to any searching. This area was excavated to a depth of 80 feet which seemed to be the extent of the original digging - for what reason I don't know.

2. My letter to Harris with reference to encountering no water was to imply no flood tunnels were encountered, and we kept the area dry by pumping the Hedden shaft dry to a dept of about 120 feet with an electric submersible pump. We did not see evidence of any drains or tunnels. Upon seeing limestone, which I then assigned to the Windsor formation, it was my strong consideration that we had encountered natural cavities in the limestone unit of the Windsor formation, as could be expected and which are common in other limestone formations throughout the world. Caverns and cavities, etc. are present elsewhere in the Windsor formation.

3. Yes. The coconut fiber was analyzed to be "coir", a fibrous mass between the coconut shell and the outer husk, which was used as dunnage in the early days of primitive shipping. The so-called cement is nothing more than limestone.

4. The stone triangle was definitely original however I am uncertain about the drilled rocks in respect to when they were drilled.

5. I have seen very little material possessed by Mr. Restall and therefore doubt he had much data.

6. We spent $131,000 in our operation.

7. Dan Blankenship had invested approximately $21,000 in the 1965-66 efforts.

8. Regarding Mr. Killman, he was a member of Mr. Restall's project. Certainly freezing is a possibility, however pumps available on the market today will adequately resolve the water problem.

I have never met George Green and cannot help you regarding his address. I have no data on the china but would suspect it was left by searchers.

Very truly yours,

Robert R. Dunfield

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