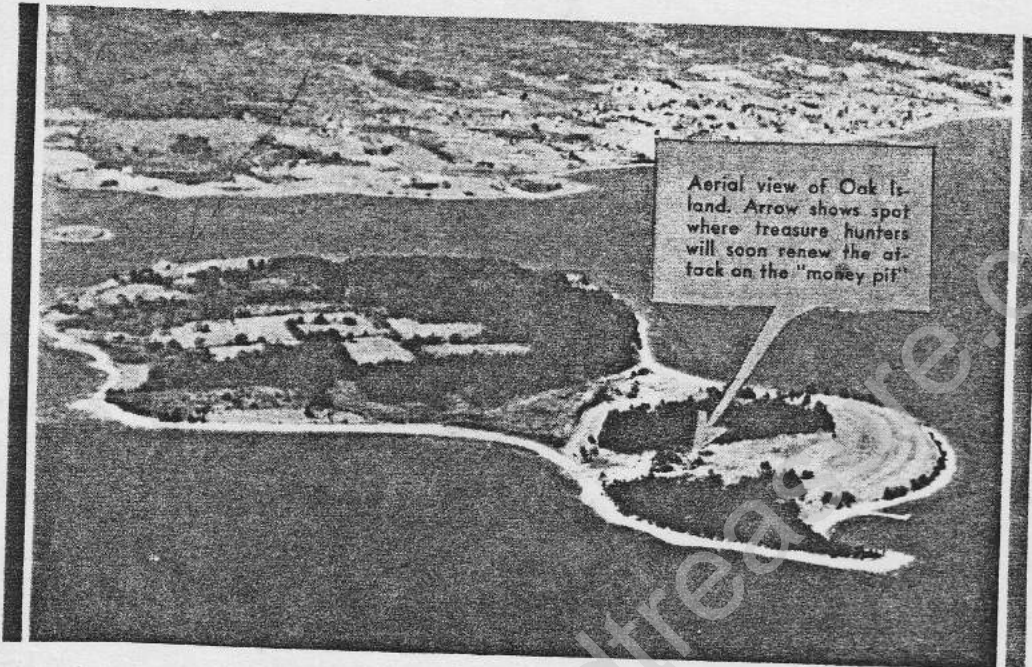


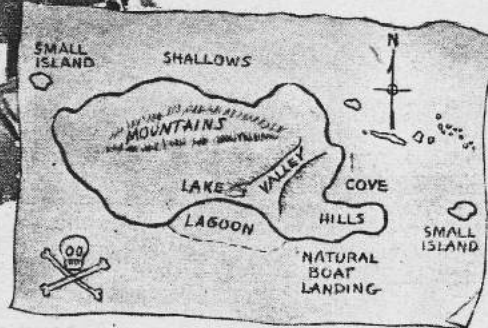
File:
Hadden



NEW CLEWS AID SEARCH FOR Oak Island's Gold



This map, drawn from the charts of Captain Kidd, is much like Oak Island both in outline and in small details



WHEN compressed-air drills begin biting through blue clay and brown marl on a tiny island off the Nova Scotia coast, a few weeks hence, gold seekers will be returning once more to the long search for the most elusive treasure in the world. One hundred and forty-four years have passed since the shovels of the first searching party cut through the sod of Oak Island. Since then, during half a dozen generations, party after party has come, probed the earth, and left, baffled by the riddle of the island.

These diggers found wooden platforms buried 100 feet in the ground; a beach cove excavated to form a gigantic artificial sponge with tons of tropical fibers buried beneath the sand; a mysterious "money pit" flooded by an endless stream of sea water flowing down a crude underground

JUNE 1939

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Old Pirate Maps Reveal a Strange Resemblance to the Hiding Place of Captain Kidd's Treasure

By
EDWIN TEALE

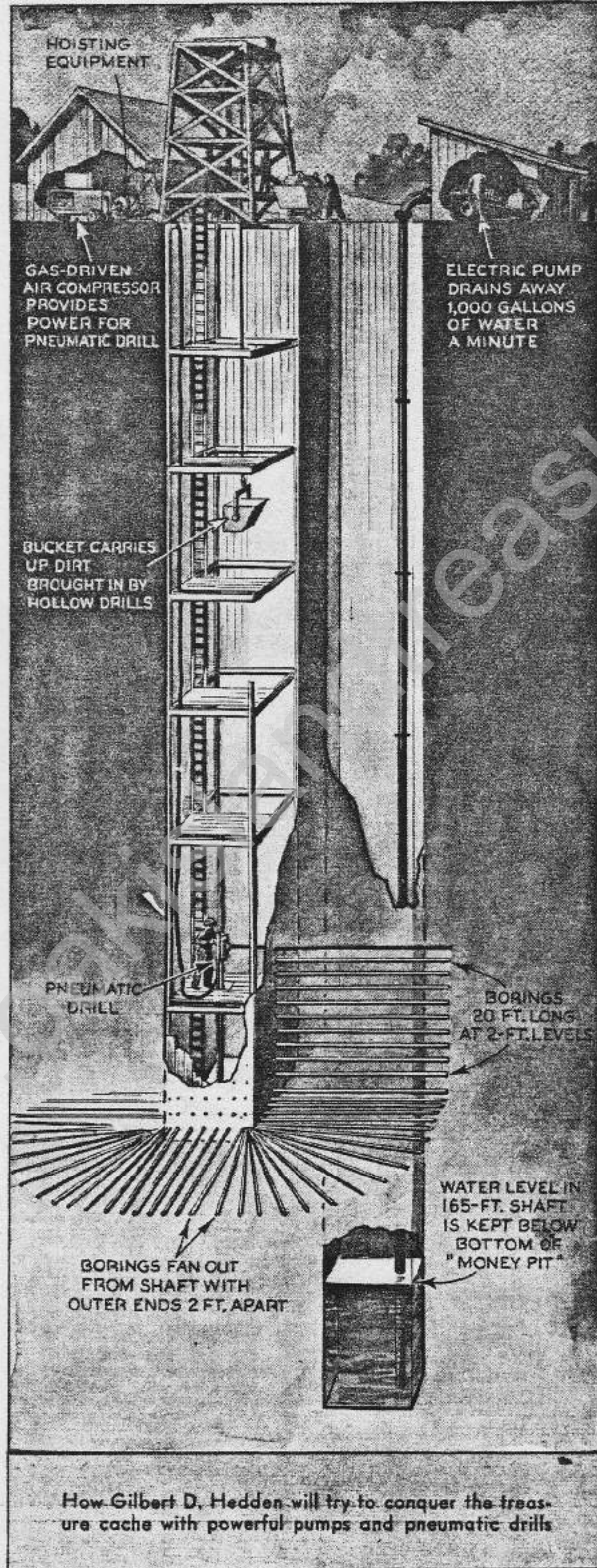
conduit. Plumbing with core drills the depths of this drowned stronghold, they brought to the surface a fragment identified at the Smithsonian Institution as parchment, and material analyzed in England as man-made cement.

Who were the artisans that tunneled far beneath the surface of the island? What mysterious treasure lies in the subterranean, sea-guarded vault? A host of searchers, including among others Franklin D. Roosevelt, have journeyed north in hope of erasing those question marks. As was related in the two previous installments of this series, drills and dynamite, pumps and deep-sea divers, failed to solve the enigma of what lies beneath the curious, elm-like oaks that set this island apart from the more than 350 other dots of land in Mahone Bay.

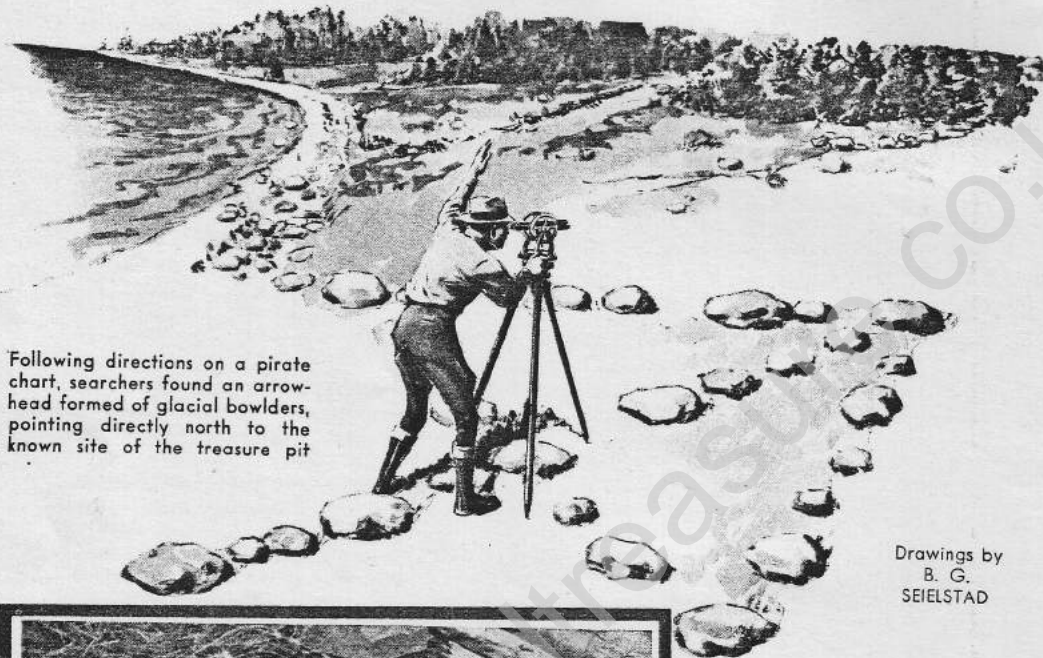
And now we come to the remarkable story of Gilbert D. Hedden and his 15,000-mile search for clues.

In the spring of 1928, Hedden picked up the magazine section of the Sunday "New York Times" and read an article on Oak Island. At the time, he was head of a steel-fabricating company in New York City and the engineering problems presented by the money pit fascinated him.

He began collecting articles and books on the island mystery. He traveled half a dozen times to Nova Scotia. He had aerial photographs snapped from the sky over Oak Island. He journeyed to England and the Continent, interviewing persons who might provide new clues to the old mystery. He hired a lawyer to check up on the family history of all persons connected with the various treasure companies. The report

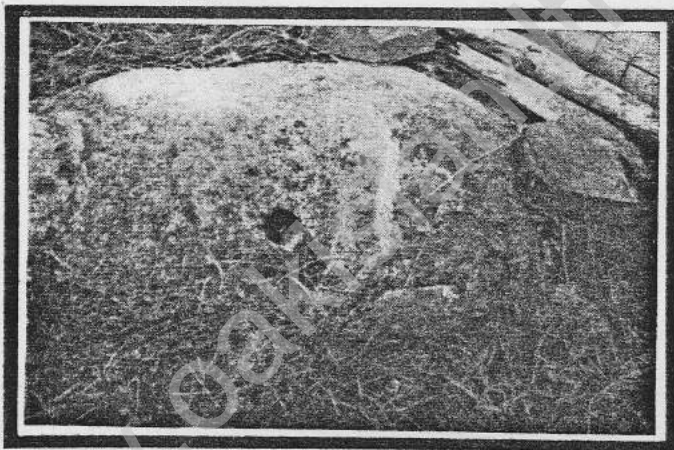


How Gilbert D. Hedden will try to conquer the treasure cache with powerful pumps and pneumatic drills



Following directions on a pirate chart, searchers found an arrow-head formed of glacial boulders, pointing directly north to the known site of the treasure pit

Drawings by
B. G.
SEIELSTAD



Holes drilled in stones, like the one above, fit the descriptions of landmarks in an old map supposed to show Kidd's hidden loot

showed that all were honest, trustworthy, highly respected citizens.

Convinced that the story of the island was no hoax, Hedden and a few of his close friends formed a syndicate. They bought the southern end of the island, where the money pit and the mysterious cove beach are located. A contract was signed with Sprague & Henwood, prominent Pennsylvania firm of mining and drilling engineers, to supply the latest machinery and equipment. Electricity, reaching the island from the mainland through submarine cables, will spin high-speed pumps when the operations of the summer begin. Before we take up plans for the coming season in detail, however, let us digress for a moment and consider an amaz-

ing discovery of recent months.

In a book written by a European author, who had access to maps known to have been passed down by the notorious pirate, Capt. William Kidd, Hedden came upon a composite chart supposedly representing the "tropical" island where Kidd buried the bulk of his long-sought-for treasure. Immediately, Hedden was struck by the similarity between the Kidd island and Oak Island.

Both were approximately the same shape. Valleys and elevations were in similar positions. On the south side of Oak Island a low, swampy tract appeared where the Kidd map indicated a "lagoon." The spot on the Kidd island where a legend indicated the "boate" had landed, corresponded to the only place on Oak Island where a sloop could anchor close inshore. In all, Hedden found fourteen points of similarity. Chance might account for a few, but so many points of likeness convinced him that he had struck a fresh trail which might lead him to the correct solution of the island riddle.

He began checking back over the tangled records of Kidd's activities. When the pirate returned from the West Indies, before his arrest, he was known to have been in the re-

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gion of New England for some time. Hedden believes it is entirely possible that he sailed north to the maze of islands in Mahone Bay, long a haunt of pirate craft, and there secreted most of his loot. The history and legends of the Nova Scotia coast strengthen his belief.

About 1763, for instance, according to the famous "History of the County of Lunenburg" by Judge Mather des Brisay, a man died in what was then called "the British Colony of New England." On his deathbed, he confessed that he had sailed with Kidd and had helped that notorious pirate bury great treasure on a little island somewhere "east of Boston." It is interesting to note that the coasts to the northeast of Boston are generally called "down east" by New Englanders.

Again, there is a record of a mysterious stranger who appeared in one of the coast towns not far from Mahone Bay in the early years of the nineteenth century. He purchased a small sailing craft and hired a native of the town to sail it according to his directions. Day after day, he would head out to sea, reach a certain point and then sail in along the same compass bearing. When Hedden laid out a straight line on the map, from the spot where these trips commenced to Oak Island, he found the line missed all of the other hundreds of islands in the bay. Only from this one direction, could a ship come straight in from the sea to the mysterious island.

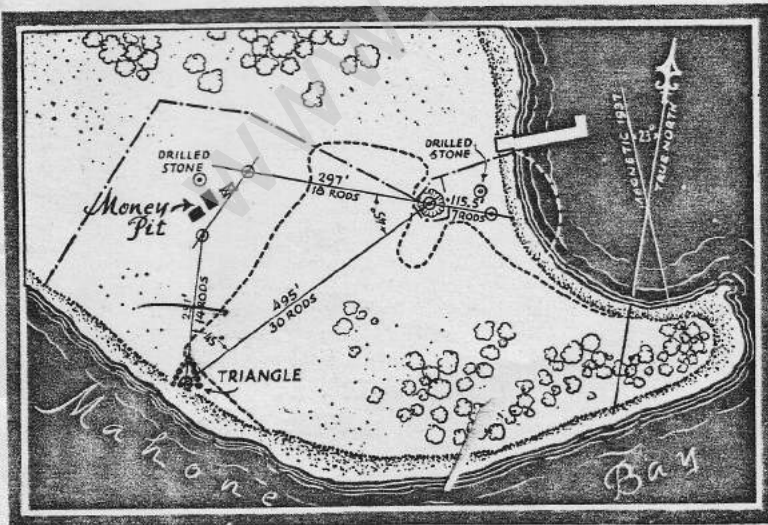
In the Bodleian Library, at Oxford University, England, letters written by Kidd himself are still in existence. One of these promised the government official to whom it was addressed to reveal the hiding place of the pirate's treasure if his death sentence

would be commuted to life imprisonment. Nothing was done about the plea, and when Kidd was hanged in London on May 23, 1701, he left behind him a treasure mystery unsolved to this day.

The possibility that this mystery and the riddle of Oak Island are one and the same, is spurring on the efforts of Hedden and his associates.

Last summer, with the assistance of a surveyor from Halifax, N. S., Hedden discovered an astonishing additional link between the Kidd map and Oak Island. At the bottom of the published chart, there appeared the legend: "18 W and/by 7 E on Rock, 30 SW, 14 N Tree." What that meant nobody knew. Then, one day last August, Hedden noticed a curious hole in a gray granite boulder. The hole was perfectly round, two inches deep and an inch and a quarter in diameter. Frederick L. Blair, who has been associated longest with the island, recalled he had seen a similar hole in another rock somewhere near the center of the island. After considerable hunting, it was located. The hole was exactly the same depth and diameter. Who drilled it, when and why, are still mysteries.

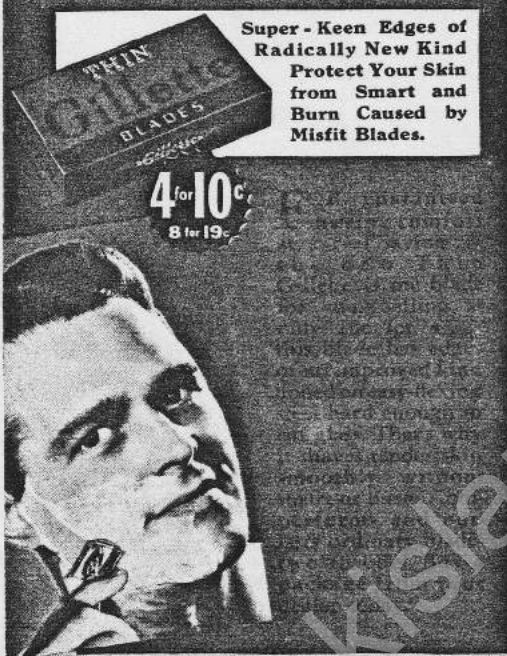
But when Hedden ran a line between the two rocks, he found its direction was due east and west and that the sink hole into which the oxen fell, as was related in the first article of this series, lay directly on the line. More than that, it was almost exactly seven rods from one stone to the hole and eighteen from the other. Hedden recalled the "18 W by 7 E on Rock" legend on the chart. He hired a surveyor from Halifax to lay off the lines accurately. Then, from the sink hole, he had the surveyor run a line thirty rods southwest, as indicated on the chart. Before this could (Continued on page 226)



NEW DEVELOPMENTS ADD TO MYSTERY

How landmarks on Oak Island agree with those on the pirate map. From a fixed point on a line between the two drilled stones, searchers were led to discover a triangle of stones, which in turn pointed to the money pit. Bearings and distances matched the cryptic directions on the old treasure chart

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**New Clews Aid Search for
Oak Island's Gold**

(Continued from page 109)

be accomplished, workmen had to fell nearly half a hundred trees.

Instead of leading out into the water, as was half expected, the line ended at an overgrown tangle of vegetation near the south shore. The vegetation was cleared away. Beneath, glacial boulders arranged in the shape of a rough arrowhead, approximately ten feet broad at the base and nine feet long on either side, pointed north. Setting up his transit and measuring off distances, the surveyor found the money pit lay almost exactly fourteen rods due north from the arrowhead. Thus, using the drilled stones as starting points and following the directions given on the Kidd map, the surveyor had arrived at the treasure site where, incidentally, a giant tree had stood when the spot was first discovered.

Fascinating as this discovery is, it does not provide a final answer to the riddle of Oak Island. What treasure will be found far below the surface of the earth is still a matter for conjecture; the secret of the flooded money pit is still a mystery.

As soon as it became known that Hedden and his associates were planning a new attack upon the money pit, letters began to pour in with original ideas for overcoming the unique problems at the island and with offers of assistance. One man, for example, suggested that Hedden freeze the whole island and thus halt the flow of sea water. Another sent a letter all the way from Scotland. He had, he said, inherited a divining rod from his great-grandfather. If the syndicate would pay his passage to America, he would bring the magic rod to Oak Island and trace the exact path of the sea-water conduit. A third correspondent stated that he was the inventor of a remarkable "treasure smelling" mechanism. Carried in an airplane, it indicated exactly where gold would be found in the earth below. He wrote to say that he had just flown over Oak Island and the attraction of the vast treasure below was so great the delicate machine had been broken to pieces!

Hedden has his own scheme of attack carefully worked out, and a picked crew hired to help him. Starting at the bottom of the money pit, he plans to "fan out" with powerful pneumatic drills. Like twenty-foot fingers of steel, they will probe the earth on all sides of the shaft, radiating out like the spokes of a wheel. When such a "wheel" is completed at one level, the drills will be

(Continued on page 228)

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New Claws Aid Search for Oak Island's Gold

(Continued from page 226)

moved two feet higher and the process repeated. At their outer extremity, the holes will be no farther than two feet apart. Thus, no object such as a treasure chest, larger than two by two feet, can escape being encountered by the drills.

If the cores brought into the shaft by the hollow steel tubes show anything suspicious, a horizontal tunnel will be run out and the area explored thoroughly. Powerful gas-driven compressors will operate at the top of the shaft to supply power for the drills.

Also close to the mouth of the pit will be the sixty-horsepower, 550-volt electric motor which will spin the twelve-inch, deep-well turbina pump that will drain away as much as 1,000 gallons of water a minute from the flooded shaft. Instead of working directly in the money pit, it will suck the water from a second shaft nearby, 165 feet deep. As the water goes down in this pit, it also drops in the money pit. By keeping the pump running, the level can be kept below the bottom of the shaft in which the drillers are at work. What the horse-driven pumps of the 1897 company failed to do, the modern, scientific machines of 1939 will accomplish.

An area approximately sixty feet long and fifty feet wide will be explored thoroughly by the drills, beginning at the 125-foot level and working upward. Several summers may be required to complete the task. But the fresh clues which have come to light in recent months have given new impetus to the search. A news flash this summer telling of success in finding the treasure and in solving the baffling mystery of Oak Island would be one of the most interesting reports possible. The near future may see an answer to this riddle which has defied solution for nearly a century and a half.

POPULAR SCIENCE Question Bee

How did you make out in the Question Bee on page 134? In the list below, letters indicate the right answers to the numbered questions. Give yourself five points for every correct answer. A score of 75 to 85 points is good; 90 or better is excellent.

- | | | | | |
|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. b | 5. d | 9. b | 13. c | 17. c |
| 2. d | 6. b | 10. c | 14. d | 18. b |
| 3. a | 7. c | 11. b | 15. b | 19. d |
| 4. b | 8. b | 12. c | 16. c | 20. b |