

Notes on conversation with Dan Blankenship, Aug. 3, 1976; late afternoon at the money pit (ty taking photos) and back at his house over some home-made wine that evening.

Dan is currently using a churn drill (owned by triton ~~simmmxxx~~ since 1971) in the money pit area, sinking several eight and ten inch holes. The first two he sank in July started glancing off the sides of old casing pipe down around 100 feet and had to be abandoned. They were ~~dir~~ a few feet west of the Hedden shaft (~~12x~~ 12x24 ft wide and 124 ft. deep) and a few feet northeast of the 1931 Chappell shaft (12x14 ft wide and 163 ft. deep). In effect, pretty well on what is believed to be the money pit. Back in the late 1960's Becker Drilling sank several eight inch holes for Dan in this same area. Dan recalls that down just below 200 feet the drill (rotary type) hit a metal plate and wouldn't go any further. The driller could tell it was metal and not rock. A diamond bit was put on and "you could hear the high pitched wine all the way up the hill (by borehole 10-x). It took 40 minutes to get through the plate. By then it was evening and quitting time and the drillers were in a hurry to pull their string of pipe out (which had the core on the bottom). Just as the string reached the top of the hole (being uncoupled piece by piece) they heard the core sample (the iron) go plop back down the hole. There was no way to recover it.

Dan today (aug 3) is drilling the third hole this summer in the m.p. area. he's now down to 100 feet but says he isn't interested in anything he brings up until he gets below the 130-foot point reached by Dunfield with his clam bucket in 1965-66. He's going to continue the hole through bedrock (about 170 feet here) and down to 200 feet to see what he can hit. He's already bringing up pieces of old wood cribbing from earlier shafts. the wood has a rotten ~~smxxx~~ smell to it, indicating stagnant water and methane gas down in the hole. As soon as he strikes something interesting, dan plans to put a shaft down in the area to below 200 feet.

M.R. Chappell is happy that dan is back in the m.p. area. "I owe that old guy at least this much," says dan, referring to the fact that m.r. has been after triton for years to "investigate what father hit in 1897."

M.R. will be 89 years old on the 14th of august and dan "would sure like to hit something for his birthday."

Bill Parkin is coming back to oak Island in mid-August to do some more tests. Bill has been associated with Triton for several years now; he's a scientist and an inventor. He'll be bringing up equipment to measure the salinity of the underground water, the volume and direction of the underground flow, a magnetometer to locate underground metal, and sonar equipment to detect cavities in bedrock or behind casing.

Dan tells me of the magnetometer bill invented that fits on the end of a 15-foot aluminum pole. One night dan and bill spent all night working with it in the swamp (nolan's property) "probing down to see what was down there." "that's a secret," he says, adding that "nolan knew nothing about it." Dan won't say whether they found anything of interest with their probes.

The Triton Shaft, sunk in 1973 is about 100 feet deep (cribbed) and is 12x6 1/2 ft. wide. That's where the piece of wire was found. Dan hopes to return to it someday and continue it further down. He won't say what prompted him to ~~dig~~ dig a shaft there (about 700 feet northeast of the money pit) or why he put down 10-X (about 200 ft east of the m.p.) I would presume he dowsed those areas and got very positive readings.

On dowsing, dan says he doesn't like to talk about his divining abilities because most people don't take it seriously. But by dowsing he has charted out an "immense" underground system of corridors and flood tunnels. "I wouldn't be surprised if there were a dozen separate flooding systems feeding into the money pit area." He says he knows of two such tunnels that come from the east side of the island (one being the long discovered smith's cove tunnel). The other comes a little farther east of smith's cove from a part of the beach where dan uncovered another drain system made up of seven drains. **DAN ALSO GOT GERALD DOREY INTO DOWSING & DOREY PINPOINTED ALL THE OLD SEARCHERS TUNNELS IN THE M.A. AREA. (DAN HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN IN AND MAPPED THEM)**

In the summer and fall of 1970 Statesmen Mining of Aspen, Colo., sank two 26-inch holes for Triton with an auger drill. Dan describes how he and Tobias and Gordon Coles went out to California to interview the Statesmen people who had contacted Tobias after they saw my July 1970 WSJ piece ~~of~~ on Oak Island. John Wayne is one of the directors and ~~managers~~ owners of Statesmen and they were hoping to meet him to try and arrange the making of a documentary about oak island and Triton's work there. They never ~~met~~ met him as Wayne was on his ~~boat~~ boat (the Golden Goose?) and didn't come to the meeting. Through this dinner meeting with the statesmen people (who were trying to lease this fancy drill to triton) Dan kept asking the president of the co. if he could supply a written ~~pr~~ performance guarantee for the machine's work on Oak Island. "The guy kept telling me that it would do 40 feet a day. I said fine, give us a written guarantee of only half that; 20 feet a day. he said he wouldn't put it in writing. Said the machine worked fine, but might have difficulty if there was rocks or much water." ("now I ask you!" says day, "where in the hell can you drill without hitting water or rocks?") ~~and~~ Anyway, against Dan's better judgement, Tobias ended up signing an agreement with Statesmen. "The whole thing must have cost him (tobias) about \$35,000."

The drill arrived on oak island and the first thing they discovered was that the casing (which triton supplied) was too big for the hole. "So we had to cut and weld it down from 26-inch casing to 25-inch casing; that was a hell of a job." Then the drill put down a total of 82 feet in two holes up in the area of 10-X. "And it took them three or four months to do it." In both cases the Statesmen drill hit large rocks at some point and couldn't get through them. Dan went down the hole and tried to set dynamite charges, but couldn't work because of the flooding problem. So Statesmen went home, their drill and the operation proving nothing more than a financial loss for Tobias. - Parker Kennedy was then called in to finish the job on 10-X. Dan says "Parker is the best damn driller I ever had on the island."

On this same day, while Ty and I are talking to Jane Blankenship at the canteen this guy walks up with a dog and asks "where can I find Dan Blankenship." Janie asks why and who are you. He introduces himself as Charles Milkie (the guy from Little Liscomb) and says he wants to see Dan "to make a deal with him." Ty asks him what his theory is about oak island and milkie replies "I don't have a theory, I know where the treasure is." He says it's less than 30 feet deep and that it was put there around 1670. He also claims to know the location of several other treasures in islands off Guysborough County. (He later goes to the money pit, sneaking around the south side of the island to avoid paying the \$1.50 fee to the girl at the museum, and sees dan. He tells dan that he's wasting his time digging there and that deep. Dan thanks him and goes back to work.) Milkie, incidentally, tells me he too is writing ~~xxx~~ a book. It's about the treasure on Oak Island and on other islands in Nova Scotia.

Back home Dan sorts through today's mail, including one addressed to "The Mayor, Oak Island, Canada" from some school children in Australia who'd read about oak island in Reader's Digest. ~~xx~~ "I get lots of letters like this but I can't answer them; I just don't have the time."

Dan seems to also think that the treasure might well be Spanish and be from the 16th or early 17th century. He can't accept the fact that ~~pirates~~ did it. They wouldn't have had the trust, ambition, brains or even enough loot to warrant such a project.

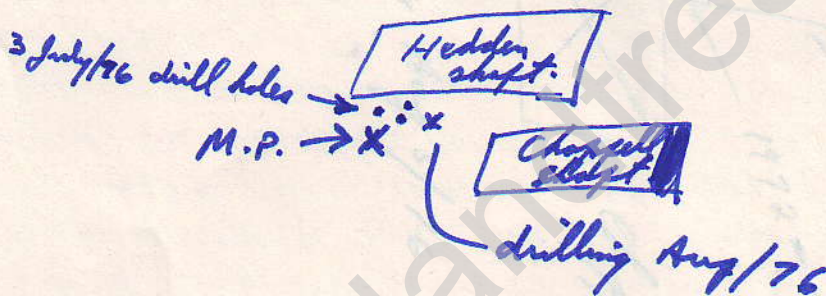
The coffer dam that ~~xxx~~ dan made in 1970 in Smith's Cove never really worked. Just when it was being finished a storm came up and destroyed it. he estimates it would cost about \$5,000 to build a proper coffer dam there. But while building it he did discover the slipway. He also discovered a more crudely built ~~xxxx~~ slipway on the northwest side of the island. The smith's cove slipway ~~xx~~ had beams in it that were sawn, says dan. He's convinced both are original work.

See also 18

After the Smith's Cove slipway was discovered in 1976 some Triton members, especially Kerry Ellard, were all for rebuilding the coffer dam and completely exposing the slipway as a means of proving that it was original. ~~Kerry~~ Kerry confirmed this last year in a conversation with me. He also saw it as a project that would attract more tourists and would help in any fund-raising ~~xxxxxx~~ campaign.

~~xxxx~~

work currently being done by Dan:



When Bill Parkin comes down later this month (aug) he and dan will run some salinity and flow tests in the various holes. Also, dan will pump out and go down borehole 10-X to cut holes in the ~~xxxxxx~~ casing where sonar has detected cavities. That could be dangerous as it's quite possible there's methane gas behind the casing and the acetylene torch will cause an explosion. Dan is also worried about earth and rock slippage ~~in~~ around the casing higher up in the hole and this could tumble down and squeeze off the casing either where he's working or above him.

Water shaft (1973) 100 ft deep.



12' x 6 1/2'

(21) 700 ft.

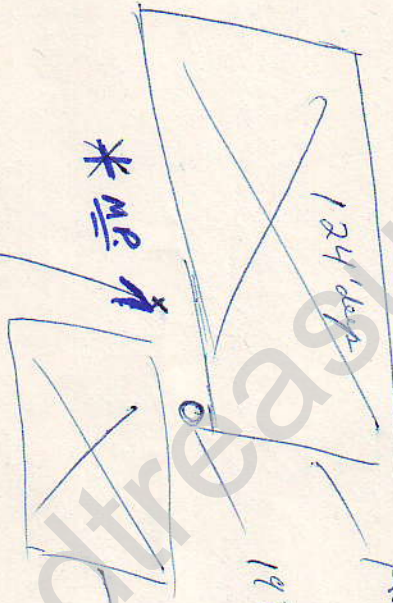
Don't recall
Parker's well
1980's
Bill had made
in 1980's a record "don't
know"

Aug. 3/76 - Charles Millie owner with his dog on Oak Hill looking for "Don" to make a deal "I don't have a thing" & then when the terrain is "low then 30 feet deep."

Headlam Shaft. (1936)

Headlam

1972 - 4 inch wood, clay, 4 inch wood, 6 ft. cavity, clay.



* M.P.

Mulling Aug 3/76

Chappell Shaft. (1931) 163 ft deep

Statenon Mining (John Wagner)

couldn't give them a written guarantee of operable capacity. Said verbally it would be 40 ft. or less.

(ended by being a total of 82 ft. in 3 or 4 months) cost them about \$35,000

The Messer, Oak Island, (1976 letter to Congress from Rutherford)