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Denies evidence shows pirates buried treasure at Oak Island

There is no real evidence that pirates did bury treasure beneath enigmatic Oak Island but if great riches do lie concealed there, they are more apt to be the valuables of a lost civilization, William S. Crooker said in an interview.

Mr. Crooker, Nova Scotia surveyor and engineer recently completed a book entitled "The Oak Island Quest" in which he presents numerous interesting theories concerning "who" buried "what" on Oak Island and "why".

He does not make any startling revelations or provide any sound answers but he does indulge in educated speculation compelling the reader to consider the theories he introduces. He carefully examines many possibilities, even delving into ufology as he seeks to dispel many pirate myths which have long been circulating.

"I once went along with the herd, believing pirates did bury treasures beneath Oak Island but much conflicting evidence and information have led me to dispel myths about pirates in this book," he said.

"If I favor any theory of what may be buried there it's the Lost Civilization theory."

In the 1500's when the Incas were evacuating their cities they had to dispose of vast quantities of treasures and it seems plausible to Mr. Crooker that Oak Island may have been the chosen spot.

But Mr. Crooker said it may



William S. Crooker

not be a treasure. He suggests an ancient civilization might have found it necessary to dispose of some lethal weapons and the elaborate "money pit" was designed to house the ware.

Ever since the money pit was discovered on the island in 1795 many people have clung to the belief that at the bottom of the pit a great treasure is to be found, a treasure skillfully planted there by pirates Mr. Crooker said. But many people hae "treasure on their brains" when they're digging and anything they find they manage to attribute to pirates he said.

Furthermore the money pit was constructed skillfully enough to ensure that anything buried there would remain so for many generations. Mr. Crooker questions why a pirate would have buried a treasure so securely if he hoped to recover it in his generation. He said it would have taken pirates a number of years to complete such an elaborate engineering project.

"Oak Island is one of the great mysteries of the world and I do

not think it has received the attention it deserves... I cannot help but think it is somehow linked with the mysteries of the Great Pyramids or Easter Island," he said.

Mr. Crooker said it could be a great tourist attraction but he lamented the manner in which incessant digging has totally devastated the island.

"Any topographical resemblance to its original topographical nature is strictly coincidence," he said.

"They are tearing the island apart," he said. But if the government took it over a great tourist attraction could be created and it could be one "big booming business".

Digging is still underway on the 3/4 mile long by 1/2 mile wide island. Triton Alliance is drilling near the site of the original money pit and Fred Nolan who owns the middle section of the island continues to drill. But Mrs. Crooker said the trouble with all diggers is that any information they discover follows them to the grave. They refuse to tell anyone what they have learned thinking when they run out of funds they'll eventually renew their resources and continue the search. The problem Mr. Crooker said is they seldom do come back.

"People like me only get perioheral information... if the government took the island over maybe people would begin to reveal what they have learned and the secret of Oak Island might slowly dissolve, he said.

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