

1976

Interview with M.R. Chappell on July 20 and 21/ at his office,  
\* Island Construction Co. in Sydney, N.S.

Fred Blair (who died at 84 on April 1, 1951) had a big chest in his office (full of Oak Island material) and it disappeared (after his death); we don't know where it went to. He had a lot of things taken from Oak Island. One thing that i was particularly interested in was an anchor fluke that was taken out of the ground at the island and I would like to have gotten hold of that and have the steel in it analyzed to see how old it was; what type of steel it was made of. It was found on the island in 1931 when we were putting our shaft ~~xxxx~~ down. that anchor fluke was of a different type than the anchors of today. the rib that runs up today is on the bottom (of the anchor) and the wide part is on top. Well this one was the other way; the rib was on top. It was about an inch and a quarter thick, about 8 or 9 inches wide and about fourteen inches long. And it was the same thickness all around. It was an old, old anchor fluke.

I have an idea that whoever cleaned out his (blair's) office sent the stuff away to the dump. His son tried to locate it (gordon blair) but he was unsuccessful. Gordon died a couple of years ago; he was living in Halifax. The papers that his father had, through my good efforts I guess, he (gordon) gave them to reg harris ~~kw~~ when he was writing his first book, and we ~~xxxx~~ never could get them back from reg. young blair told me that he gave reg two cabinet drawers full of correspondence and four box files. well now, i've got two of those box files. Reg harris was secretary of the masonic lodge in Halifax; he had been secretary. reg had an office there and one of the masonic office girls used to do all his (correspondence) writing for him. A ~~ms.~~ Surrey. now, when reg died (in 1968) she told me at the funeral that reg had told her that to gather up any masonic data and sent it to any of the lodges that it belonged to. He had data of our local (sydney) masonic lodge, the old st. andrews lodge, and he was supposed to be writing a history on it. he had gotten the minute books and all the data that the lodge had and by golly, they couldn't get it back from him.

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So when he (reg) died, through the good offices of the Rev. Espray, director of St. Georges church here now, who was a great friend of harrises, harris left him a part of his library, his masonic library. And espray was able to get from Mrs. Surrey the st. andrews lodge data. now, mrs. surrey told me at the funeral that she would gather up all reg's data concerning oak island and send it to me. I never got a thing from her.

Now, I am quite satisfied that she took it down to her home in east chester and I am quite sure that she sold it to a fellow by the name of nolan; fred nolan. I don't think there's much doubt about it. I told Tobias and blankenship to visit her and see what they could get from her. she said she didn't have anything. And finally blankenship made a stab and he said 'how much of that data that was mr. harris's re oak island did fred nolan get?!' and she darn near fell off the chair. which indicated to me and to them that ~~gx~~ fred got it. And I know that fred had some data that he couldn't have gotten no where else in this wide world except from blair's correspondence.

Nolan at first was quite friendly with me; I suppose for a reason, trying to lead me on. But I didn't fall for it, fortunately. but he told me some data that he had, and I know that he couldn't have gotten it from anywhere else. how he could have gotten it unless he got the (blair) data, I don't know.

Blair's son turned over to the (pans) archives everything he had left. and harris turned some stuff over to the archives. but I got two of those four box files. I was in the office (harris') one day; reg wasn't there. His office was open and I asked mrs. surrey 'where does reg keep this oak island data?' oh, she says, 'he keeps most of it at home, but there's a couple of box files in here.' well, i picked those box files up and put them in my car and brought them home. He was still alive then. In one of those files there was quite a number of letters in envelopes. The first one i picked up i recognized the handwriting as my father's (william chappell). letters that he had written to blair when he was there (oak island) in the 1890's. There were about 50 of those letter. father used to report pretty nearly every day or every couple of days ~~anyway~~ anyway.

There was a folder in that box; not a letter size folder, but a bit smaller. and darned if it didn't have a sheet in it with that piece of parchment attached to it. now, I claim that reg never opened that file or i never would have seen that piece of parchment. he got the parchment from blair. blair had the treasure trove rights and was in charge when father worked there in 1896-7. he went down there with blair. blair asked him in 1895 to come down with him for a month or two to take charge of machinery and straighten things for him. I don't know how long he was there in '95, but he was back there in 1896 and ~~was~~ again in 1897.

father's experience there is the only thing that gives me any credence to oak island. if it wasn't for that, I wouldn't be interested in oak island at all. but with his experience, I am convinced, absolutely convinced that there is a treasure there in the money pit area. either immediately in the money pit or just to one side of it in that immediate area within a few feet, where father drilled and brought up that piece of parchment.

I have tried, every outfit that has worked there since i became owner of the island back in 1940 (? shud be 1950. ck) i've tried to get them to locate that spot, and gol darn it, i can't get them to do it. ?

blankenship ~~now~~ i think is definitely now trying to locate it. i think when he gets his drill fixed up; i was talking to him last night incidentally and he said he expects by the end of the week to get his drill fixed up. he's down about 100 feet in that hole that he's putting ~~down~~ down. it's not the pumping hole, that's about 200 feet from the money pit. (10x) this hole (that dan's putting down) is ~~right~~ right ~~at~~ at the (money) pit.

I'm convinced that whatever father drilled into (in 1897) is of immense value. I have no doubt about it. it's still down there; nobody has ever taken it out.

I don't know exactly where it (the hole dan's drilling now) is, only from what he told me, but I would say it is just about on the edge of the original money pit; the one that the boys in 1795 uncovered. I have no doubt that that hole is right on the edge of it. I think i know exactly where the

money pit was and i know exactly where father had his drill set up when he brought up the parchment. those two items (locations) are definite.

I have records of hedden's shaft that hamilton worked on and according to his (hamilton's) records and my own ideas, the hedden shaft was between three and four feet from the shaft that we put down. some people say it's five feet some say it's ten feet (away). but I know that it's not, damn positively that it's not. because both shafts were visible there when restall was there (1959-65). They were only about three feet apart. the south end lined the both of them; ours went up twelve feet, his went up 24 feet; there's no question about it. I would say the roper survey (showing the shafts in 1937) is quite accurate. roper was a very good and accurate surveyor.

I'm convinced there's a treasure in or within a few feet of the money pit. Now, whether there are other treasures, I don't know. but if there are not, why was there so much work done away from the money pit that we definitely know was done.

Now, blankenship expects within a few days from now to get down into that shaft 10-X and cut a hole in the casing at 168 feet where the drill went through heavy timber and a void, and open it up and find out what really is there. we don't know. that drill (in 1973) went through eight inches of spruce timber (in 10-X). when they went through that eight inches of spruce, one side of that drill was still on wood and they had to narrow their casing a couple of inches to get ~~back~~ by that side wood, from 27 inches to 25 inches (diameter). Now how dan is going to get down there and cut a hole there with a torch, I don't know. he's got pretty darn narrow working space in a 27-inch shaft.

why dan put a small drill hole down in that location originally, dan himself knows; perhaps nobody else knows why. but he put it down, and at some distance below 150 feet he brought up some thin metal; iron. it's quite thin. And at 168 feet he brought up some links of chain. They analyzed that metal and they claimed it was a type of steel that was made prior to 1750. the canadian steel co. analyzed it (a.b. dove).

One of the drillers that I had down there was a fellow by the name of george greene from texas (in 1955). he was an oil driller. the cigar-chewing texan; he always had a cigar in his mouth unlit. well, i went down with george and i said 'george, immediately under this spot is where father's drill was set up and at 126 feet his drill hit an obstruction and diverted; now what direction it went and how far it went, we don't know. but at 153 feet he struck this wood and four inches of some sort of metal, ~~not~~ soft, it wasn't steel anyway, and a couple of feet of loose material. because when they probed their drill down they couldn't make any headway, but when they wiggled it, it would go down and when they'd pull it up the hole would fill. That was in 1897.' Now i told george (in 1955) that 'we know it (the loose metal discovered in 1897) didn't go in the direction where our (1931) shaft was, because we were down to 165 feet and ~~where~~ what father hit was at 154 feet, so it didn't go in that direction. And hedden's shaft is here, so it didn't go in that direction. so I showed george where it must have gone withing ~~thxxxxx~~ a triangle and suggest he drill in several arcs down vertically. but instead of vertical, what did he do but slope his darn drill so that when it was at 154 feet it missed the area (he should have been in). If he had gone straight I have no doubt he would have eventually struck what father drilled through. but he didn't.

(asked ~~why~~ why triton hasn't tried to drill in that area in the past 10 years, ~~xxx~~ chappell replies with exasperation and almost anger) I don't know! That's one I can't answer. I've told them; I've told tobias, I won't say a hundred, but several times: 'mr. tobias, I am convinced, and the only reason that I have any interest in oak island whatever, is father's experience in 1897' And so I said, 'try and locate it.' well, they had a driller down there known as the becker drilling company and they put down I guess 40 odd holes. but the funny gol darn thing about it was they didn't put a hole down in that triangle (near the 1897 shaft). They went off to one side and they went out around all over the darn place and most of their holes they went down about

200 feet; they got through into bedrock in practically every drill hole. Their drill was a hammer drill, it wasn't a revolving drill. I think becker lost about four bits in that bedrock.

However, I think I've convinced both Tobias and Dan that if they can strike what father drilled into they're going to strike a fortune. There's no doubt in my ~~xxx~~ mind ~~whatsoever~~ ~~xxxx~~ ~~whatsoever~~ ~~about~~ ~~xxx~~ whatever about it that there's a very valuable fortune down there; what it is I don't know.

What I want Dan to do if he will do it is when he gets down to 153 feet and he strikes heavy timber, I want him to stop and get a core drill from the department of mines in Halifax, and core drill through that wood and whatever is under it. And I have no doubt that they'll bring up something that will amaze us. I have no doubt about that whatever, if he can strike that thing that father drilled into. And if he don't strike it in this hole that he's got down there now at around 150 feet, and he gets down to 154 or 155 feet, he says he's going to go to 200 feet with it. well, i told him he can go to 200 if he wants to. but if he doesn't strike the timber at around 153 or 154 feet, I'm going to try and get him to move over about five to six feet to the east and put another hole down; if he's do it for me, I don't know.

That pump that he (dan) has there now i think will eliminate the flooding problems; it's 1,000 gallons a minute and it should take care of the water. My suggestion is that if we strike what father drilled into that we get one of these large drills that will put down ~~xx~~ a 36-inch, even a four-foot diameter; one fellow even said he can put down a six-foot diameter hole with a drill. It's a revolving drill they use. There's a fellow up in the valley (annapolis?) that I believe can put down a four-foot diameter shaft and that will give ample room for a person to work in, so a man could go down and uncover and bring up whatever is down there. It would be cribbed with a circular stell pipe (like 10-x); a steel-casing shaft.

An open-pit mining operation (tobias's 1975 idea) would be a little bit slower. although with the water out of the way it would be easier. When we went down (in 1931) we had to contend

with water. The shaft that we put down in '31, we were pretty near six months (doing it) and we had a lot of difficulties to contend with. Our pump was 500 gallons a minute. Hedden had an impellor pump of about 1,000 gals a minute. Hedden had an it (hedden's pump) was only six-inch diameter. This one that dan has now is over nine-inch (diameter), 9 5/8-inch, I think.

Hedden and Hamilton had the advantage of ~~xx~~ using our (1931) shaft as a ~~xxx~~ pumping pit. They had no trouble going down into their shaft because they were able to take care of the water using our shaft as a pumping pit at 165 feet.

If (amos) nauss' memory is good and he wants to tell the facts, he should be able to tell you ~~xxxx~~ quite a lot about the workings down there because he worked on it several years.

It was father's auger that brought that piece of parchment up on the screw of the auger after they had bored through the wood. When they brought up the auger there were some pieces of wood shavings on it and this little fuzzy piece of stuff around the screw of the auger. they (later) flatened it out. I am not positive that that parchment was sent to the smithsonian institution. I was told that it was. It was checked by Porter (A.E.) and declared that it was definitely genuine parchment; no question about it. Today it's all wizzled up. I still have it at home. There's not much to see now because it's all wizzled up. It's about the size of the original little (canadian) five-cent pieces; very, very small. It's all wrinkled up and I've never attempted to open it up; I didn't want to break it up because I was afraid if I tried to straighten it out to see what the letters were I might break it up. It's cemented on a piece of cardboard; blair had cemented it on. There's a picture of it in Harris' book.

Re furneaux: <sup>directly</sup> There's a lot of data that is in furneaux' book that really is not connected with oak island. But what is connected with oak island is almost word-for-word copied; whether he got it out of harris's book or whether he got it out of the oak island co. prospectus from which harris' book was written, I don't know. Furneaux thinks that he has located ~~captain~~ ~~xxx~~ kidd's (skeleton) island in the caribbean sea. I think he got that from this fellow (w.l.) johnson in Vancouver. That's the

first I heard about it was when Johnson told me, and he told Furneaux about it (the Kidd island in the Caribbean).

Furneaux claims to have seen Blair's data from Gordon Blair, but he couldn't have seen much because shortly after Blair's death the stuff disappeared.

Harris started doing his actual writing in 1954 and it was before then that he got this data from Blair's son. Now Blair's son did have some other data which I think he turned over to the archives.

(re Harris memo on splitting royalties with Hedden, Blair and Chappell): Harris' first book (1957 edition) the Ryerson Press of Toronto printed it and Harris apparently couldn't make a satisfactory arrangement with them. So I financed it. I paid Ryerson Press for printing that first book. I think it was \$1.05 a copy I paid them for printing costs. When the books were sold, I got repaid, and I think that's all I ever got out of it, was repaid what I had advanced. I never got anything out of the royalties. I don't know whether Gordon (Blair) got anything out of the royalties or not.

Gordon (Blair) and Harris didn't get along too well together, because he tried to get the data back from Harris that he had given him, and he couldn't get it. Harris was one of these fellows that if he got a hold of anything, he had it and you couldn't get it from him. I happen to know a little bit about it because when I was Grand Master of the Masons in Nova Scotia, I appointed Harris as grand secretary. Jones was the grand secretary and he died and I appointed Harris in his place and Harris carried on for years. A Masonic organization in Toronto had certain data that they wanted kept secure and they didn't have anyone there connected with it (the lodge) that had a vault. So Harris said 'I have a vault in Sydney (probably means Halifax) and I'll put it in my vault for you.' I don't know whether it's still in the vault or not, but I know that they tried to get it some five to ten years afterwards for some reason and they couldn't get it then. Now whether they've got it since Harris died, I don't know. But he was just that type when he got hold of something.

He (harris) had, I understand, in his home two bedrooms filled with data, masonic and anglican church stuff. He wrote histories of a number of the anglican churches <sup>in Canada.</sup> He was at one time the ~~xxx~~ highest layman in the anglican church in Canada. he was the top layman. I guess he had something to do with appointing bishops, as a layman. I've forgotten his title, but he was high up in the anglican church.

Gordon Blair never got anything back from Harris. I think that lady (Harris' secretary, Surrey) took everything to her home in east ~~xxxxxx~~ shester (when Harris died). I was told by one of the executors of Harris' estate, a Mr. Wood whom I knew, that he understood that Mrs. Surrey took a big truckload of material from Harris' house to her home. Oak Island and other material. Incidentally, St. Andrew's lodge as I said got their data back, but they had to pay her \$50 for it. She said she had to charge them \$50 for it because she wrote it; she typed it. I think that's why Gordon Blair and Harris didn't get along (because Harris wouldn't give Gordon his father's oak island material back). I think that was the reason; I can't imagine any other reason. Gordon Blair died about two years ~~xxx~~ ago. I was talking to his wife about last March I think it was.

Harris had two sons, and one of those sons did some of the drawings in Harris' book. Those locations (of the various ~~xxxxxx~~ pits and shafts) weren't all accurate. Reg was on TV in Halifax one day when I happened to be in Halifax and I went over to the studio with him. I was outside (the glass in the control booth) and I heard it (the interview). And when he came out I said 'reg, you were a little bit off on <sup>some of</sup> your dates and your data.' and he says 'what's the difference, nobody else ~~knows~~ will ever know the difference.' And that's the way he was with his book. there are a number of items in his book that are not correct; not correct at all.

Hedden sent me a package that was about four inches thick with some correspondence and data (about oak island) and some of Hamilton's data in it. This was about 10 years ago. He sent it to me and I got it. (according to Blankenship a lot of Hedden's material was sent to Nova Scotia and lost).

I have letters at home, two cabinet drawers plus, dating back to 1931. most of them don't mean a darn thing. the majority of them are from people who have ideas, and how fanciful some of them are!

There was that guy with the theory about the inverted pyramid below oak island. mr. (charles b.) thomas. He was quite an old man; I imagine he's long dead now. In 1957 he met me in Winnipeg. I was in winnipeg in 1957 and he was just below the border in (great falls) montana. and he was bent on coming to oak island. I wrote and told him that i would be in winnipeg at this certain time; to visit my youngest daughter and her husband and to attend a certain conference, a three-day conference. I planned on arriving in winnipeg on a wednesday morning; I had my plane reservations already made; and I wrote and told him that if he wanted to see me that I would be there, arrivinf there wednesday morning; the plane was arriving at 8 o'clock wednesday morning; and I said that I would have all day wednesday and up till noon thursday that I could give him, but that thursday afternoon I had to attend these conference meetings. So he wrote back and said that he would be there; he would come up tuesday night and he would stop at the YMCA. So wednesday morning I called the Y and they hadn't heard of him; I called at noon; I called at night; same reply: hadn't heard of him. Thursday morning, no reply. The conference was being held at the Royal Alexander hotel and I was staying at the Royal Victoria hotel. And I was just going out of my room at noon; in fact I had my hand on the door knob, when the phone rang. It was mr. thomas. well i said 'mr thomas, you're a little bit late.' well, he says 'I couldn't make it.' well, I said 'i'm afraid I'm not going to be able to give you very much time, because we have our first meeting and I must be there at three ~~at~~ o'clock this afternoon.' But, I said, 'if you want to come over now, I'll give you what time I can.' So he came over and he was still harping on this inverted pyramid. My lord, I said, 'mr. thomas, you're absolutely off. there's no granite there at 150 feet (deep) even.' Oh, he says, 'it's there. it was put there by divine providence for suffering humanity. And it's going to be uncovered this year (1957)' I couldn't get rid

of him. I had to take him by the shoulder and push him out the door. So I went to my meeting at 3 o'clock and when ~~were~~ we were going into the banquet at seven, my appendix ruptured. (it was operated on that night, about midnight. Chappell was unconscious until the following Sunday, had a tube up his nose for 18 days.) I nearly went, the doctor told my daughter 'i'm afraid; I'm afraid he's going home in a box.' But I got over it and have had no ill effects since.

I get lots of letters all the time (from people with weird ideas like Thomas). Most of them that I've been getting lately wanted an opportunity to go to work (on the island).

I have no idea who buried what on oak island. Now I have had two cases where the parties told me definitely that it was Inca treasure. The first one was in 1932. We had been working there since 1931. Mr. Blair got a call from this ~~few~~ fellow in Saguenay, Michigan; one of the Wicks boys, from Wicks boiler works; a big steel company. There were two ~~xxx~~ boys, grandsons of the original Wicks; they were playboys. one of them was familiar with Spanish and he was a musician too, and the other fellow was a sculptor. they were down in Washington and in the public library they ran across a document there regarding oak island. It was in Spanish, incidentally. One of these fellows was an automatic writer. He'd sit on one side of the table and take up his pencil. after a while he'd concentrate hard and everything was quiet and he'd start writing. And my ~~guk~~ god, it was amazing the stuff that he wrote. he got messages from two different parties. One was a Mr. Menzies, a priest who was with the Spaniards who went to Incaland. And when Pizarro left to go back to Spain for reinforcements so that he could come back to clean them up; this isn't tumbez. tumbez is another story; And this Menzies told the (Inca) emperor what Pizarro was going to do. So they gathered up their material and they ~~xxxx~~ took it up to Tumbez. And that was about as far as they ~~guk~~ (the Wicks brothers) got. Menzies apparently didn't know what happened after that. But there was another writer, Circle, and he started in writing in circles. and it was Circle that told them (the Wicks) about (the Incas) going to oak island with the treasure.

(See also Hadden P. 198) →

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Blair and I went out there (Saguenay, Mich.) and we spent a week with them (the wicks brothers). And my gosh the writing they did was absolutely fantastic. They wrote on wallpaper, rolls of wallpaper. The writing was really fast; legible and in english. It was amazing, there was some power behind it; I don't think a person could write as fast and as clear as he ~~wrote~~ wrote by physical effort alone. there's something supernatural about it; at least I thought that. Well, I brought home I suppose a dozen rolls (of wallpaper) and I had them in the vault in the old office. And by gosh one day the whole factory took fire and the office caught fire. The old vault had a three-inch plank frame that had been left inside it and the heat was so great that the frame caught fire and burned everything in the ~~wat~~ vault. That fire was in 1942. The writing was done in January 1932.

CLAYTON STANNIE → That was one experience. Now about two years ago I had a telephone call from a fellow from Phoenix, Ariz. I ~~didn't~~ didn't get much out of him, all I could get at that first conversation was that he wanted, he and his associates, wanted three months to come down and investigate. Well, I was tied up with Triton Alliance and I couldn't give it to them. Well eventually by telephone calls and later by letters, while he didn't tell me where he got his information which I tried to find out from him, or how authentic it was; but he definitely stated that it was the Tumbez treasure that was buried there. He said that he knew all about it, what was there, the amount, how it was put there, just when it was put there, who put it there, and how it could be recovered. now, one of the three of them, one is an engineer; the other two I don't know what they are. But one of the other two; not the fellow that was talking and writing to me, he visited mr. tobias. and tobias came to the conclusion that this other fellow was the clairvoyant, and that was where they got their information. now, whether there is anything to it, I don't know.

But there is one thing about the Incas (theory) that has always puzzled me. And that is that ~~in 1795~~ Oak Tree in 1795. Now that Oak tree might have been 200 years old; that would be 1595 when it started to grow. It might have been as old as 200 years; but I don't think the oak trees there live more than 200 years at the most. All the big oak trees that were there ~~in~~ in 1931, they all died (or were subsequently cut down for timbering) since. I hacked into one (in 1931) that had a scar on it and ~~found the rings in the heart~~ ~~and it was 183 years old~~ at the end of the scar I found the point of a knife. I counted the rings into the heart and it was 183 years old, that tree. And it wasn't a very large tree when that knife was stuck in it because the point of the knife was in pretty nearly to the centre, within an inch or so of the centre of the tree. So that knife was stuck in there (that was in 1931 when I hacked the tree) perhaps 150 years before. (i.e. about 1781).

There's nothing mysterious about them (the original depositors) being able to do the (digging) work, because the ground is so firm and so solid that you don't have to crib it. All they had to have is manpower; picks and shovels, a rope and a bucket; that's all they needed. On undisturbed soil/<sup>in that area</sup> there today you could go down and dig a hole without any cribbing. It's hard clay. You don't strike the blue clay until you get down to about 90 feet; then you strike a layer of about 10 feet of blue clay. And under the blue clay there's about a foot of fairly white sand. That clay is practically impervious to water; it's a very very dense hard clay. ~~So hard that~~

So hard that when I fell for a metal detector outfit and we went down there and dug a hole and they had a clam shell digger, the soil was so hard that the clam shell couldn't touch it. They had to blast ~~the clay~~ the clay, it was so firm and hard. Yes, it was one of these metal detectors in which I have absolutely no confidence in anymore whatever. I spent \$35,000 on that thing. That was in the early 1950's, shortly after I acquired the island. ~~(shouldn't that be early 1950's?)~~

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↓ see also p. 21

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J. Whitney Lewis bought the island from Col. Gardner. Now how col. gardner got it from hedden, I don't know. Gardner died and Mr. Blair, who was in touch with mrs. gardner, was on the point of going down to kansas city to make a deal with her (to buy the island) when Lewis came to Nova Scotia and tried to get the treasure ~~xxx~~ trove rights. ~~When~~ he found that blair had them sewen up.

At that time (1950) treasure trove rights were in a different status than they are today. today treasure trove rights come under the same (guidelines) as mining rights. Prior to that, a person might have had the treasure trove rights but they had definite arrangements with the owner; the owner could stop them from going on. But with mining rights a person can go on whether the owner allows him or not, the law will allow them to go on and pay damages.

If nolan could get a treasure trove license to go on my lots, I couldn't stop him. That is, if he went through the process of law, he could go on. But I don't think they'll ever give nolan treasure trove rights on my lots. I haven't seen nolan's house, I haven't been down to the island since last fall, (chuckles at the thought of nolan and blankenship as neighbors on oak island)

I was talking to dan last night and he says nolan has put the chain up again on his road on crandall's point. Funny thing about crandall's point: the man from whom that property got its name crandall is my great, great, great grandfather. (the charts showing it as "grandall" are incorrect.) my mother is a Crandall. her father was a great grandson of the original Joseph Crandall that settled on Crandall's Point in 1756. He was a Baptist Divine and he and another chap established baptist churches all over ~~xxx~~ nova scotia and new brunswick.

Lewis bought the island from gardner in 1950 and if I remember rightly I bought the island from Lewis in 1950. ~~(I~~ ~~these dates!!)~~ When Lewis bought the island, I incidentally got the premier, angus. l. macdonald, and the attorney ~~gxxx~~ general, malcolm patterson, who lived up the river here and was a very close friend of mine, to change the law. You see, when Lewis got the title (to oak island) he wouldn't let Blair

go on (the island) although blair had the treasure trove rights. So I got the government to change <sup>out</sup> to mining rights. And when Lewis found that out and he found that blair had the treasure trove rights ~~xxxxxx~~ sewed up for five years, he said god, I'm getting old, I may be dead in five years. I think he lived a little longer than that. So he said to me, he said, "look mel, you might as well buy the darn island from me because I'll never get a chance to go to work on it now, and I can't stop blair from going on. Well, i said, if you don't want too much for it, I might consider it. He said I'll give it to you for just what it cost me; which I think he did, I think he was truthful. (looks a bit surprised when I ask him if that price was \$6,000) Lewis might have (paid that price) it's a military secret (what chappell paid lewis for the island).

\$6,000.

Why those lots that nolan claims; why those lots aren't mine, I don't know. Because three solicitors told me that I had the whole island absolutely. Harris and two other lawyers(said that.) There's a plan made of those lots, 5, 9,10,11,12,13,14, along with 15 to 20, a plan made of them and marked on it is 'property of Gilbert D. Hedden from that lawyer in New Jersey for Gilbert D. Hedden; 52 acres; which took in those lots. But in the description, for some unknown reason, those lots were not numbered. for some reason 5,9,10,11,12,13,14, they're not named in the official written record. And this fellow Nolan... Have you ever met him? You can't believe a darn word he says. He bought those lots from three old women who were in their dotage. one of them was blind. From the time Hedden bought, nobody was assessed or paid any taxes on oak island except hedden, beamish and myself. Up until 1963 I think when Nolan got them to assess one lot to him. Harris did the arranging (when chappell bought the island. Kenny (of bridgewater) could have been another one and the other's name begins with G, I forget his name. Coles wasn't involved in that; that was before Coles' time.

Tobias may take nolan to court over the ~~xxxxxxx~~ title of those lots. You see, I had undisputed possession of the entire island; I cut timber off it, sold it, pastured horses and cattle on it for over 20 years. Nobody else was assessed for

anything, except I and my predecessors hedden and beamish, and nobody else paid any taxes. whether that's going to give me ~~any~~ a title, I don't know. It depends on the ~~xxxxxx~~ courts; what they decide. The assessor, Mr. burgoin in bridgewater, he was the assessor in chester at the time. and he says that these old ladies, so far as he knew, they had no claim. but they gave nolan a deed. Now I don't know whether it's a quick claim deed or a ~~xxx~~ warantee deed, I don't know. But anybody can give anyone a quick claim deed. It doesn't mean anything though.

I only heard one story. He (Nolan) had a ~~xy~~ shyster lawyer from halifax, kitts I think was his name. Anyway, my lawyers may have overlooked something, I don't know. I was supposed to have them (all the lots) and that print that was made in Chester on the registry there ~~didn't~~ gave hedden all those lots.

He (nolan) claims that he has located things there (on his seven lots). Course, I don't believe him; Dan don't either. Two things that ~~xxxxxxx~~ Nolan said he had located Dan investigated on the quiet and he said there was nothing to it. I understand dan to say yesterday that nolan is digging on his property now with a backhoe.

I can't understand why the government don't just go over there (through nolan's crandall point property). because that had been a public waterway to the shore for at least 150 years; no doubt about it. Now why, when the dept. of highway engineers when they recorded the road that they made down there, instead of saying from the main highway (route 3) to the water, which they should have done, they said from the main highway so ~~many~~ many rods, or chains, and when you come to measure those, they come to within 160 feet of the water (at crandall's point). And nolan bought I think it was 65 feet or 95 feet next to the water (from Presley). And how much presley owns, I don't know.

Triton has an agreement with him (nolan) that he can't stop triton (from using crandall's point). but whether he can stop tourists, I don't know. There's nothing in the agreement (between nolan and triton) about tourists.

Dan (blankenship) is a pretty good head. You can depend on him and he's got a darn good head on his shoulders. He's absolutely sold on it (oak island); there's no question in this world about that; he's absolutely sold on it.

= Oh absolutely (I'm convinced there's something down there) No (I have no favorite theory about who put it there). It's awfully hard for me to believe that it was done by pirates. It could have been; but I can't imagine why they did ~~so~~ so much work. There's no doubt the work took some time to do. I mean they didn't do it in a season. ~~thats~~

There's no question the piece of work that was uncovered at Smith's Cove two or three years ago by Dan proved to myself and to him and to Dr. Cook (ck!!) at Dalhousie that the people who did the work there built a skidway to bring their ships up on to repair them. there's no question in our minds about that at all. it wasn't part of the coffer dam and it wasn't done by searchers. The work that dan uncovered there was two big logs with cross timbers every four feet, and numbered with roman numerals. it was a little below the present low water mark, about two feet below the present low water mark. It was below the silt too. It was found by dan. He built a dam there and he pumped it out to see what he could find. and this is what he found.

Besides this work they picked up an old caulking ~~in~~ iron and and old pair of shears (see photo). They were analyzed. and some bolts and some hand-made spikes were analyzed that were taken from the skidway. So we know that it was prior to 1750 (that the skidway was built). The steel co. of canada claimed that their analysis was the same as steel that was made prior to 1750; the same carbonization.

Anyone that knows anything about oak island knows that somebody in the earlier years did a tremendous ~~xxx~~ amount of work there. There's no question about it, why they did it, I don't know. Although I am satisfied that what father drilled into is a valuable deposit; there's no question in my mind about it. And if it wasn't for that, I wouldn't have any interest in Oak Island whatever. I and my father have (together) invested about \$125,000 (in Oak Island over the years).

You don't invest that kind of money on somebody's hearsay: Although I spent \$35,000 on somebody's hearsay; on that metal detector. I fell for the metal detector. It looked possible to me. But (turned out) there was nothing to it.

PARKER CONTRACT

...(Interview continues July 21 - M.R.'s office)...

(Chappell never heard of or heard from Alarik Walton or George Simpson)

There have been a few, not too many, people who have visited oak island and have claimed that they did work there. But we have no record of it at all. we don't know anything about them. whether they're telling the truth, I don't know.

I have a list here of people I've had letters from. For instance, back on aug. 30, 1971, there was a fellow by the name of M.R. Lipsett. Now he had a method of controlling the water. No, that was another chap. The way he (this other chap) was going to control the water was to go down the shaft and locate where the water is coming in and put in a 12-inch pipe with a valve on the end of it, cement it around good and tight and then close the valve, and that would shut the water off. Now how in the name of heavens was he going to get down there to put that pipe in? I asked him and he had the most weird answer. In fact, I met this fellow in New York. He was a mechanic; he had a machine shop, that was his business. I don't have his name because this fellow didn't correspond with me; it was all by phone (and in person).

There's another fellow L.J. Kennedy who had a detector, or he was making a detector that could locate any metal or any material at practically any depth. Well, there was nothing to it, he was just imagining things.

Yes, I've met E.J. Thurston (of Ontario). He and Claude (chappell) have had a lot of correspondence. I don't think there's one god darn bit of truth to his divining. That's my own personal truth, now. The art of divining and finding water, yes. I agree with that. But to find metals, I think it's all up here (taps his forehead), going around.

I had a letter from John J. Prinkey and he had a method of proceeding with the work. And at the same time I had a letter from a fellow by the name of Sydney A. Martin; he had a method. These letters go back to 1971.

This fellow Kennedy who was making this device, he wrote me and wanted me to invest with him. I asked him the value of his device. He never told me. He wanted to form a partnership.

I had a letter from a fellow by the name of Dave Townsend in Ottawa on May 4 this year. He wanted to make a contract to dig in 1978. That's when he would be able to make it; I don't know. I don't know what he had in mind (re recovery).

(Chappell never heard of or heard from Charles Barnard)

This Clayton Stankie, Phoenix, Arizona 85008. And their address is Granada Plaza, Suite 303-305. Their phone is (602) 275-2342. Now, that fellow clayton, that's the chap that says he knows all about it and that it is Inca treasure from Tumbes. It's about two years since I had the first call from him and there's been correspondence since. I've been trying to find out how authentic his information is, and I haven't been able to get anything from him at all. I think he got his information from a mystic. He has a partner who's an engineer and the other fellow (third partner) I don't know anything about him or what he does. I don't know what his (stankie's) work is either. They want to get three months to investigate (on oak island).

I think I have replied to every letter I ever got (re oak island) just to see what they would come back with. Had a letter from one fellow; he was a Polander I think. He wrote from Toronto and he gave an address and I had a granddaughter living in Toronto at the time. And I wrote her and asked her if she could check up for me and see what she could find out. So she checked on the address, She said it was a Polish club and they didn't know the name that this fellow corresponded under; they didn't know him there at all; never heard the name. So I've come to the conclusion that he was just a faker to begin with because he wasn't using his right name. His letters were written in pen and ink and they were very short, not more than ~~six~~ eight or ten lines most of them. But he know all

about oak island apparently, according to his letters, and how to recover the treasure. And he wanted an opportunity to do it right away. And he wanted, if I remember rightly, it was six months that he wanted (to recover treasure). I wrote a letter back to him that must of kinda got under his skin. And he wrote back a very very short letter, only about eight lines, and he said 'I received your letter of such and such a date. I am of the opinion that you are full of shit.' (laughs). I answered it and told him that usually a person judged other people by themselves. And then he sent that letter back to me with no comment on it. It was a scream. I've cleaned out a lot of stuff and I may have thrown that letter in the wastepaper basket. I can't find it anyway.

(re the gold chain) You've asked a good question. Was there ever a gold chain? All I have on that gold chain is that Pitblado, who was in charge of the work (in 1849), was in charge of the outfit that was doing the work, he happened to be at the pit at the time this fellow was drilling and brought up the drill. And Mr. Gammell who was the foreman on the job saw him take something off the end of the drill and put it in his pocket. And he asked pitblado what was that you took off the drill and put in your pocket. And he (pitblado) said that information will be divulged at the next directors meeting (of the Truro Co.), not before. Pitblado was in charge of gold mining at Gold River, which is only a few miles from oak island, and I have two stories. One is that there was a premature explosion (at gold river) and he was killed; and the other is that he disappeared; left the country, and later tried to buy oak island. There's the two stories; which is correct, I don't know. And whether there's any gold chain, I don't know. My father never saw it; definitely not.

Practically everything that I've got (re oak island) I've turned over to tobias. He's gotten practically all of my data. I would say all of my data pertaining to ~~xxxx~~ titles, deeds and any other documents, and a great deal of correspondence, that I've had. And the only artifacts that he hasn't got is that piece of parchment, which I don't consider of very much value today because of its condition. I looked at it last night and

it's all wizzled up. You can't tell what it is. And it's hard, very stiff. There's a possibility that it might be soaked in water and softened, I don't know. But I didn't want to try it.

(Among oak island authentic artifacts are): the piece of parchment, heart shaped stone, pieces of metal, pieces of chain, coconut fibre. Restall, when he was working there he was digging around the shore at Smith's Cove and he uncovered a bunch of what he thought were Oak Tree branches. But they weren't; they were hazlenut. And there are hazlenuts there. he thought they were ~~xxxxx~~ acorns, but they were not. they were hazlenuts; I know hazlenuts when i see them. Hazlenuts grow on the island because when we were there in 1931 i picked some. He (restall) did an awful lot of digging around smith's cove by hand trying to locate the drains. he found a lot of coconut fibre there too.

|| + 25

In ~~1931~~ 1895 when father went to oak island for the first time, he told me that there was a pile of that coconut fibre that had been piled up on the shore by the searchers in 1849 when they uncovered it (looking for the drains). He said it was piled up on the shore and that it would fill a big truckload. And when I was there in 1931 I looked around and got several pieces of coconut fibre. Some of it was sent to the smithsonian institution for analysis; some of it was sent to tobias for analysis in montreal or toronto. I don't know who did his (tobias') analyzing. It wasn't dated, just authenticated as definitely coconut fibre; the fibre off the husks of coconut.

The only thing I hang my hat on regarding oak island is father's experience. Nothing else. And father was there when we put our shaft down. Our company had a contract with mr. blair to put the shaft down. Father was there; we were living right on the island; we had a bunkhouse and a dining room. And blair was there most of the time too. He had a little shack for an office.

You know , most of the data that I have had, unfortunately, people have written and asked for plans and pictures and data, and foolishly I have sent it to them. I have never yet gotten one solitary piece back; never got a piece back. If I didn't