

## Old Ghosts Guard Gold?

OAK ISLAND — If the ghosts of 17th century pirates still haunt this small island off Nova Scotia's south shore, they are doing a pesky good job of guarding the legendary loot said to be buried there.

Robert R. Dunfield, a Los Angeles petroleum geologist and engineer, said Tuesday a cracked engine block or blown gasket in a diesel generator is the latest problem encountered in his mechanical attack on the 170-year mystery that has foiled numerous treasure-seeking expeditions.

The generator, a 550-volt machine procured in Montreal, is still working, he said, but the engine will have to be "torn down" and repairs made from parts flown in from Montreal.

Production resumed earlier in the day when a water pump in

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the island's fabled Money Pit was put back in working order. It sprang a leak Monday, forcing another delay in the search that had taken a 48-hour respite while teeth on the buckets of a 70-ton digging machine were sharpened.

The teeth had to be welded to a point to enable the Digging Clam to gnaw through layers of old spruce and oak hampering the operation at the 152-foot level, deeper than any attempt has ever gone. Mr. Dunfield said the pump was working well and the digging machine performing as it should.

He said he thought most of the old wood, which he believes was part of cribbing in a pit that collapsed about 1850, had been cleared away and "we should be getting close."

However, progress was slight Tuesday and no measurements of the hole were taken.

Recent setbacks have slowed actual working time to "4.2 hours out of every 10" on the average during the last six weeks.

"We hope to make better progress soon," Mr. Dunfield said, "but bettering that average is going to be a tough job."

## Closed-Circuit TV Eyes 'Money Pit'

OAK ISLAND, N.S.

A closed-circuit television camera peered into the "money pit" on this Mahone Bay Island Wednesday and "got a good picture" of the deep hole reaching for a legendary fortune in gold and jewels.

The television circuit is the latest device used by California geologist Robert R. Dunfield in his search for loot that is said to have been cached there by buccaneers.

Dunfield said the picture showed the hole was standing up well. A 70-ton digging machine clawed away another four feet of earth Wednesday,

but he said revised calculations placed the excavation depth at about 140 feet instead of 152 feet reported earlier.

Dunfield's first objective is a depth of 155 feet, the height of Niagara's Horseshoe Falls.

A new diesel generator, which produces 550 volts for the submersible pump and night lighting, arrived Wednesday "trucked right through from Montreal" after the original generator broke down Tuesday. A mechanic from Montreal was expected to have the new machine

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## Weekend Break In Oak Island Treasure Hunt

The treasure hunt on Oak Island will take a holiday today and Sunday.

Robert R. Dunfield, director of the operation on the tiny south shore isle, said last night digging in the pit will be discontinued until Monday.

He said that during the two-day break the digging-clam bucket will be changed and the earth-biting teeth sharpened, along with the servicing of the equipment used in the search.

"It has been a pretty tough week. Everyone is quite tired and I believe this two-day shutdown will help every one feel better. But we'll be in full operation Monday," he added.

Mr. Dunfield denied reports on television and in a Toronto newspaper that the operation was at 170-feet by using drills and had found iron casings.

"There is not a drill on the island" he said.

The excavation is at the 150-152-foot level.

working by the night shift.

However, the "digging clam" being used to burrow into the island's clay soil leaves today on contract to another job, and Mr. Dunfield said another larger machine on order from Montreal, will not arrive until Monday, "at the earliest."

"If we don't come up with something interesting tonight (Wednesday), we'll be delayed until next week," he said.

Wednesday's efforts unearthed more old wood that has hampered digging operations for more than a week, but it may prove more of an encouragement than a hindrance.

Dunfield said hand-hewn logs were brought up that a visiting provincial forest service official believed might be hemlock, a wood not native to the area.

"It must have been the original flooring," Dunfield said. The forestry official, Lloyd Hawboldt of Truro, is examining the logs in an attempt to date them.