

ROBERT DUNFIELD

Dunfield Not Ready To Give Up

OAK ISLAND - Robert Dunfield, the Los Angeles geologist who is now in his ninth month in his search for the legendary treasure believed buried on Oak Island off the coast of Nova Scotia, said yesterday, "I'm running out of nerve, but I'll be damned if I'll quit."

Dunfield, who began the treasure hunt shortly after four men died in August of last year in their search for the \$30,000,000 said to have been buried there by pirates in the 18th century, is now digging a hole in an effort to cut off flooding water which continued to wash in the digging for the treasure chamber.

The Dunfield operation had almost reached their objective a few days before Christmas of last year, but the men decided to take the festive holiday off from the search for treasure.

The result was sludge and silt had slipped back into the hole, and it continued to fill even after the digging was resumed. Water oozed into the money pit, and Dunfield was forced to fill

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in the pit and dig another hole to cut off the troublesome water.

Digging on the new shaft to cut off the water had reached a depth of 108 feet when a bucket of the huge crane fell. It took the past 10 days to recover it.

When he has reached the 120foot depth, which he expects will be in a couple of days, Dunfield said he will attempt to re-dig the money pit and drive on for the treasure chamber.

"If anyone wanted to quit anything, this is the best excuse in the world . . . but anyone can do that," Dunfield said. He added, "If we can shut the water off within the present shaft, I would think we can have this thing whipped before too long."

The present pit to cut off the flooding is 70 feet deep and 80 feet in diameter.

Two cranes are working around the clock on the project. One is a 100-foot boom with a two and a half yard bite, and the smaller machine has a 45foot boom with a three-quarter yard bite.

Mrs. Dunfield is with her husband on the location, and his son Robert, 8, is attending school in Chester, not too far from the fabled treasure island. His daughter Sharon has returned to their home in Canoga Park, Los Angeles.

When asked if his son liked the Canadian school, Dunfield said, "It's great, he is in grade three but he has to hustle to meet many of the requirements."