

Dunfield's Nerves, *work* Money Feel Strain *66*

CHESTER — Treasure hunter Robert Dunfield says both his money and nerves are feeling the strain of a six-month search for legendary pirate loot on Oak Island

"This has cost more than \$120,000 now," he said Monday. "And my nerves show it. There's a limit to everything and I've gone about as far as I can go."

The Los Angeles geologist dug down to a depth of about 150 feet last fall over the spot where he believes a

hoard of treasure was buried about 170 years ago.

But dozens of others have dug holes on the little island, too. Mr. Dunfield estimates that since the digging started more than a century ago \$1,750,000 has been sunk into Oak Island.

He said he expects to begin digging again today on a hole he has sunk to a depth of 108 feet. He plans going as deep as 120 feet in this hole in an effort to shut off water that floods into the pit sunk in search of treasure.

Before his digging machine broke down a few days ago he had found wooden pilings driven at a depth of 100 feet in 1866 by a Halifax group seeking the treasurer. They, apparently, failed to stop the water flow that has plagued all the hunters.

Mr. Dunfield is still confident there is something deep beneath the island's surface, if it's only some weird rock formations. Early this year he drilled to a depth of 139 feet and the drill dropped into a chamber with a two-foot-thick wooden roof. The floor of the chamber was hit at 184 feet and the drill brought up a piece of cast iron.

"But that doesn't mean too much," said Mr. Dunfield.

So many holes have been sunk on the island that it is impossible to tell now what was left in the ground by the seekers or those who buried the treasure, assuming, of course, that somebody did bury something there.