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Machines Working Full Time At Oak Island

OAK ISLAND — Treasure hunter Robert Dunfield said Wednesday two machines now are working full time at stopping the flow of water into the underground tunnel system on this south shore island and said he hopes to resume digging for gold in the spring.

Mr. Dunfield, a Los Angeles petroleum geologist, last week filled in a hole he had spent three months digging in an effort to reach the treasure legend says was buried here more than 200 years ago.

The flow of water into the pit was just too much,” Mr. Dunfield said in an interview. But he hoped the operations

now under way would keep the water from flooding the tunnels and seeping into the pit.

He said the present work probably would last several months but hoped its results would enable him to dig his shaft once again, “this time through solid ground.”

Mr. Dunfield said in November he thought he had solved the flooding problem, but water still seeped into the 130-foot-deep hole in December.

He has said he hoped to reach a depth of 155 feet, but would go as deep as 180 feet before giving up.