Mild Weather Hindrance To Treasure Hunters

The warm spring weather may feel balmy to most residents of the South Shore but it's a costly headache to the treasure hunters on Oak Island.

Robert Dunfield, 40 year old petroleum engineer who is now backing the hunt along with three other associates in California says, "This mild weather turns this clay into a soft soup. If it were colder the clay would freeze and our clam shovels would be able to work much faster."

To date Dunfield has spent about \$120,000 and has been here since August. He recently returned from a five day holiday in Bermuda with his wife, and is hoping the warm weather will change and there will be a drop in the temperature, before spring begins.

Dunfield claims that the location of the real money was lost about 30 years ago but he now has it established. Water seepage is still a problem. With freezing weather now or a real dry summer it could be licked because it would be easier to work in the clay. So he is hoping the weather man will co-operate. The geologist claims he has found a large cavern or pit down deep. "It may be a fault in the rock formation, I don't know. But I want to find out if there is anything in it," he says.

At the moment there are two bull dozers and two big cranes with clam shovels at work. His equipment has built a causeway to the island and there is a guard on duty, day and night: To pay a visit one has to have special permission.