

A NEW SEARCH BEGINS

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MRS. ROBERT DUNFIELD WITH SHARON AND ROBERT JR.
Family receives word from Dad about his diggings on treasure island

Hopes Captain Wasn't Kidding

Geologist Hunts Lost Gold

Sooner or later, just about every man feels the urge to strike off in search of buried pirate treasure.

For Robert Dunfield of Canoga Park, the urge came later.

Dunfield is 40, an established oil geologist, and a family man with two children. But today he's on a little question mark of land called Oak Island off the Nova Scotia coast — digging for the legendary \$200 million treasure of Captain Kidd.

SEVEN VICTIMS

So far, the search for those fabulous chests filled with gold, which Captain Kidd supposedly buried late in the 17th century, has cost nearly \$2 million.

The first real indication that its hiding place might have been located came in 1795 when two boys discovered a deep mine-like shaft on the islands and determined that it had been man-made.

They both devoted the remainder of their lives to exploring that shaft.

But the treasure eluded them.

In the years that followed, various teams of searchers went to the island with various plans for digging up the treasure.

If it is there at all, it is buried at the bottom of a 200-foot shaft, and covered by about 150 feet of sea water.

NEW APPROACH

Before the invention of

It has also claimed seven lives — the last four of them a little over a week ago when Robert Restall, 59, who had been leading the search for six years, was killed with his son and two other men by methane gas that apparently leaked from their gasoline pumps.

But Dunfield is undaunted — and his family is behind him 100 per cent.

"A man has only one life to live," said his wife, who has stayed at their home, 8562 Remmet Ave., Canoga Park, with their children, Sharon, 19, and Robert Jr., 7.

HOUSE FOR SALE

"A wife shouldn't hold her husband back," she said. "I believe in what my husband is trying to do. If necessary, I would move to Oak Island."

And she may wind up doing just that.

The Dunfield home is for sale, and the hunt for Captain Kidd's treasure gives every indication of being a time-consuming proposition.

Restall, whose position as head of the project Dunfield has now assumed, spent six years on the island. Dunfield believes he was close to finding the treasure when he died.

"Mr. Restall's widow and Bob have an agreement that puts him in charge of the expedition," Mrs. Dunfield said. "Bob has a big interest in the search and is confident he will find the treasure now."

20-YEAR INTEREST

Still, Oak Island is a long way from Canoga Park.

Dunfield has been keeping his wife and children posted on progress by phone, ever since he joined Restall on the island two months ago.

"He's no teenage adventurer," Mrs. Dunfield said. "He has been interested in Oak Island and the treasure ever since we were married 20 years ago. He has read a lot about it, and has a theory of his own about how the treasure can be found."

The search has been going on almost since the pirate chieftain buried it.

Before the invention of scuba equipment, this last factor made such searches all but hopeless.

The main shaft was filled by the sea, and shafts sunk beside it — even though lined with concrete — tended to fill the same way.

Restall had been approaching the problem on a new tack, sinking several shafts around the original, and \$200,000 advanced by a treasure syndicate had been spent in the work when he was killed.