

EDITORIALS



Do Or Die On Oak Island

Will Nova Scotia's Treasure Island give up its secret of hidden pirate treasure? So much has been written about Oak Island in the last half century that it would spoil the beautiful fantasy that most people have about the island, if one were to dispute whether Pieces of Eight and gold doubloons were even hidden in a pit.

So most people, whether they live in Nova Scotia or New Zealand, assume that there must be something to the story about pirates and hidden treasure. The only stipulation some people have is that perhaps the treasure was removed long ago by the same characters who hid it in the first place.

Dozens of expeditions in the past 100 years have worked to find treasure on Oak Island. Some stayed for months, some stayed for weeks, others departed after only a few days. Now comes Robert Dunfield from California who like many of the others is determined to find an answer to the question.

Only this time the 39 year old petroleum geologist is going to use more mechanical equipment than was ever used before on Oak Island. The search will be centered mainly around a 100 ton crane with a 90 foot boom and a two yard clam bucket which is used for just one thing . . . excavating. It's capable of digging a 200 foot deep hole. This equipment should really find out if there is any treasure on the island. When the search is over Oak Island won't ever bear any geographical resemblance to the island that was. Perhaps it will look like a pocked moon crater.

To get to the island a 700 foot causeway has been built to the mainland and the heavy machinery will cross over easily. If water interferes in the digging the newest and most powerful types of pumps will go to work.

Mr. Dunfield was associated with the group that was digging on Oak Island for the past few years and ended in an unfortunate tragic loss of life.

While this newest attack on the treasure may

bring a definite yes or no answer to the romantic stories of pirates and the Spanish Main, it could also bring to a close a very alluring chapter in Nova Scotia history.

If there is no treasure then Oak Island becomes just another one of the forgotten 365 islands that dot the coast line between Mahone Bay and Halifax. If there is pirate treasure and it's discovered, Oak Island will then lose much of the glamour. Unfortunately it too, will be one less subject for editors to write about.

Meantime this tiny piece of real estate will hold the attention of many, many people as the newest expedition goes to work.

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Ray K. Cooke