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Ex-Sewer Division Employee Now Prospecting For Gold

BY GEORGE GROOBERT

A former Wallingford Sewer Division employee, Stewart McGlinchey, has transferred his talents from field inspections and developing sewer assessments to prospecting for gold in Nova Scotia, teaming up with a veteran treasure hunter.

McGlinchey and the chief operations officer of the Maritime Mining Corp., who exhibited Monday an ounce of gold mined from their vast land holdings in Lunenburg County, which is approximately 30 miles south of Halifax, are hopeful of a "real gold strike in the area."

The top official, James Troutman, a former electronics engineer from the Pacific Coast, said the tract owned by the group encompasses some 3,840 acres, or roughly six square miles, in the heartland of an area previously worked for gold and other minerals.

Troutman, 43, was part of an expedition formed in 1965 which attempted unsuccessfully to reach the fabled "Treasure of Oak Island," serving as an advisor to the Robert Dunfield party which dug into the so-called "Money Pit" in search of the much-sought-after treasure.

The pair outlined their plans to continue their mining operations utilizing modern techniques, some of which are based on devices developed by the former electronics engineer, including the use of dynamite and drilling.

McGlinchey said he is convinced that Troutman's long experience in the field of mining and treasure hunting "will give us every advantage in our search for a gold strike, or discovery of other minerals," on the large Nova Scotia tract of land.

He recalled that the chief operations executive had done considerable mining in Death Valley for gold and other minerals before signing up on the Oak Island treasure hunt where he quite accidentally found some samples of gold ore.

The two prospectors, who hardly resemble those of the California gold rush era, learned that the samples of gold ore passed onto Troutman were taken from a gold district proclaimed by the government — and in a section of Nova Scotia where mining had been abandoned for many years.

They exhibited a map of the area — the only known map, produced in 1901, which disclosed that several mines had been worked in the late 1890's for an estimated ten years. "As an example, we found that 47 gold stamp mills were operating by 1865, but since most of the miners were fishermen and had little knowledge of the possibility of their discoveries, they abandoned going beyond a depth of 60 feet."

Troutman assumes that the California gold rush transplanted interest from the prospective gold resources of Nova Scotia and believes that their effort, which has attracted the attention of the Canadian Broadcasting Company and other news media, will stimulate "more than casual interest."

"We've had the CBC crews down to take films of our operation and within a short time learned that a syndicate acquired land nearby. Some of our prime prospects, which are open to us now, are the sites of the old gold mines which were worked to ~~little depth~~ which may produce real finds."

The mining staff at the Maritime Mining Corp. has been limited to six men at the present time, mostly general workers and hoist operators recruited from the area.

How did the California electronics engineer and Wallingford man get involved in prospecting for gold in Nova Scotia? It was simply the matter of knowing mutual friend — a retired Maine judge.

Troutman recalls that during a visit to the Maine jurist, he was referred to McGlinchey, whom the court official had known for the past 20 years. "Once the judge told me that Stewart might be interested in such a venture, we got together and here we are — looking for gold in the wilds of Nova Scotia."

"Should the area produce what I think it will, we will move on to the exploration of other minerals. The Canadian government encourages such activity as evidenced by the large-scale mining explorations undertaken by U.S. corporations. And we are very encouraged by what we've found to date."



CANADIAN GOLD PROSPECTORS — Stewart McGlinchey, right, of 78 New Place St., Yalesville and James Troutman, chief operations officer of the Maritime Mining Corp. of Nova Scotia, scan a map of their

tract of 3,840 acres bordered by Gold River, Nova Scotia, where they started mining operations for gold ore. The pair report favorable gold ore samples as the result of preliminary digging.

(Record Photos by Adwin Rusezek)