

TIDES		
	HIGH	LOW
9	9:30 a.m.	3:40 a.m.
10	10:15 a.m.	4:25 a.m.
11	11:00 a.m.	5:15 a.m.
12	11:45 a.m.	6:05 a.m.
13	12:30 p.m.	6:55 a.m.
14	1:30 p.m.	7:55 a.m.
15	2:50 p.m.	8:55 a.m.

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## The Treasure Hunt On Oak Island

Over the past 200 years it has been estimated that about \$1,500,000 has been spent by treasure hunters on Oak Island. Some of these efforts have been hit and miss operations, others have had the backing of engineers and heavy equipment such as drills, bull dozers, shovels, etc., have been used.

Only a few of the searchers have come up with real tangible evidence that there may be a treasure trove on the island. There have been reports of coconut fibre and shreds of wood retrieved from down deep on drilling bits. However small the evidence it has helped to create interest in this tiny island which lays just a few hundred yards off Martin's River and near Western Shore. By highway, it is about 12 miles from Lunenburg.

The most recent effort is headed by Robert R. Dunfield, a native of California and by trade a petroleum geologist. He began working on the project last August, arriving shortly before Robert Restall, his son and one other man were all tragically killed in a pit from carbon monoxide.

At the time, Mr. Dunfield owned a minor interest in the treasure hunt, purchased from Restall, who in turn had obtained treasure hunting rights from M. R. Chappell of Sydney, Cape Breton, Chappell owns Oak Island and also controls complete treasure trove rights. His father, William Chappell, started the family's interest in the island when he bought it many years ago.

The Chappell family own a small piece of parchment, which was supposed to have been brought up on the teeth of a bit by a treasure hunting party some years ago. Dunfield has examined it, believes it's authentic, but he says, "I heard about gold chain links and shreds of wood that have supposedly been found. I have never seen any of them."

Just now Dunfield has the option and he is determined to find out if there is a treasure here or at least go home with a satisfied mind that it just doesn't exist.

Just when Dunfield will quit isn't clear just now. After nine months on the job, construction workers have moved thousands of yards of earth fill using two



ROBERT DUNFIELD

bull dozers and two clam shovels, but there is much more to be done. Dunfield is here for a long seige. He lives in the Chester area with his pretty wife Alene, and six year old son Robert, who attends a local school.

Back home is Canoga Park, California. Their only other child, 19 year old Sharon, is a co-ed at Pierce College. Dunfield says, "I've been interested in Oak Island, since I was 11 years old, and read almost anything I could about it."

Petroleum engineers as a group are fairly high up on the salary scale, but even a top job in this category would hardly provide enough green backs for a prolonged stay on Oak Island. Dunfield who has just turned 40, admits to being 'quite well off' from investments in the oil industry which would be much more lucrative than a regular engineering salary.

He attended the Colorado School of Mines and later graduated from UCLA. Married while both were quite young, Mr. Dunfield says, "My wife put me through college, and held a job while I studied. There were a few grim periods when our money wouldn't go all the way, and we had to really stretch our budget."

After graduating he worked for a number of years in the oil fields usually deep in the South American jungles, while

Alene with the other engineers wives stayed in various South American cities, depending on the current project and the locality.

Ever try to define some one's mania for collecting antiques or a gardener's interest for various types of roses? This is the way it is with Dunfield and Oak Island. When asked whether he thought there might be treasure on any of the other nearby islands along the coast, the engineer grinned tiredly, "Mister, I couldn't care less if the whole Inca treasure was just over there," and he nodded to a half mile square island that lay a short distance out to sea, "I'm only concerned what's here on Oak Island, when I find out, I'm heading home."

Associated with him are three other people all living in California. Their total investment, so far, has totalled \$120,000. How much higher it will go depends on the weather, luck in stopping the water seeping into the money pit and other intangibles such as a man's patience to keep pushing on what appears to be a long, long shot winner.

The previous searcher, Robert Restall had made by far the most determined attempt on the treasure search. He had spent perhaps \$100,000, but had been living on the island since 1959 with his wife and family. Restall had sunk several pits by hand and had established the site of a rock drain when he died.

Dunfield's problem has been to stop the water problem, source of trouble for every group that ever came to the island looking for the bonanza.

So far his men have drilled nearly 200 feet. At the 139 foot level, the drills came across an open chamber or cavern which continued about 40 feet.

Used to a business where promising drillings have yielded nothing, this petroleum engineer refuses to get excited.

"This cavern may be a fault, or it may have been made by man, we don't know yet," he explained.

To find out, a way has to be developed to handle the clay which makes up all the island's soil, except for the odd out cropping of rock, all of it covered with evergreens.

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