

D'Arcy O'Connor Interview Notes and Correspondence Received re Oak Island - 1976/77

(Compiled for David Tobias by Les MacPhie - July 2000)

Name	Date	Page Number	Number of Pages	Remarks
<u>Interview Notes</u> <u>by D'Arcy O'Connor</u>				
Dan Blankenship	May 19, 1975	1	12	Int. at his home, Martins Point, N. S.
Charlotte Adams	April 27, 1976	13	4	Int. at Western Shore, N. S.
Malcolm Vaughan	May 1976	17	1	Int. in Pirate's Lure, Western Shore, N. S.
Amos Nauss	May 5, 1976	18	7	Int. at Marriott's Cove, N. S.
Fred Nolan	May 18, 1976	25	8	Int. at his Oak Island Museum
	May 19, 1976	33	12	Int. at his home
	Sept. 23, 1976	45	9	Int. at O'Connor's place
Claude Chappell	July 20, 1976	54	5	Int. at his home
M. R. Chappell	July 20 & 21, 1976	59	27	Int. at his office, Sydney, N. S.
Mildred Restall	Aug. 10, 1976	86	25	Int. at her home, Western Shore, N. S.
Parker Kennedy	Aug. 12, 1976	111	6	Int. at his home
Charles Roper	Aug. 12, 1976	117	4	Int. at his home, Halifax, N. S.
George Bates	Aug. 16, 1976	121	11	Int. at his home
Mendel Peterson	Oct. 20, 1976	132	7	Int. by phone, Arlington, Va.
Craig Lorimer	Apr 18, 1977	139	1	Int. by phone, Harvard University, Mass.
<u>Correspondence Received</u> <u>by D'Arcy O'Connor</u>				
Robert Dunfield	July 12, 1976	140	2	2 page letter
	Oct. 21, 1976	142	2	2 page letter
M. R. Chappell	Aug. 3, 1976	144	4	3 page letter + 1 sketch
	Feb. 7, 1977	148	9	4 page letter + 5 sketches (see Note 1)
	Feb. 18, 1977	157	2	2 page letter
	Mar. 31, 1977	159	3	3 page letter
Lavern Johnson	Aug. 30 & 31, 1976	162	3	3 page letter
	Nov. 9, 1976	165	4	4 page letter
	Jan. 13, 1977	169	4	4 page letter
	Jan. 26 & 28, 1977	173	3	3 page letter
	Mar. 18, 1977	176	3	3 page letter
	May 11, 1977	179	3	3 page letter
Notes: 1. The M. R. Chappell letter of Feb 7, 1977 refers to one sketch of stone triangle and one sketch of money pit location and these sketches could not be specifically identified. Therefore various sketches by M. R. Chappell related to the stone triangle and the money pit location are included with this letter.				

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dan blankenship interview - may 20/75 (at his home in Martins Point, N.S.)

(just got back from month in florida. sold home and now living permanently near island with wife and son)

"I stopped into new york on way up to get pump. hit cavities at four different elevations in hole 10-X in 1971. twice in glacial till, overburden. and then we hit a small cavity in 15 or 20 ft. of bedrock, below the 180-foot mark. and then we ended up the hole in 235 feet into a hell of a big cavity. and the water has been staying constant at about 44 feet below the top of the hole, though she does rise and fall with the tide, though not exactly with the tide. the 235 feet is in bedrock which starts at 180 feet. started diving into the 27-inch hole to check the size of the cavity. started the hole with a six-inch rotary drill. in the glacial till at well over 100 feet the bit dropped about four feet or so. that was a cavity, and there shouldn't be a cavity in glacial till, no way. but it is possible to get a cavity in bedrock, because its the limestone family and the gypsum family and this family is noted to have cavities in it, sinkholes, fissures and one thing and another; not too unusual. ~~the~~ Anyway, we hit one cavity there. then we went down another 15 or 20 feet. then we hit another cavity about another 20 feet below that one. and then we hit bedrock about 180 feet. About 30 feet into bedrock we hit a small cavity about two feet high and from then on we never got a return (of material). we continued on through that and hit another cavity right on the bottom at 230 to 235 feet. so we pulled off of the hole and moved down to the money pit area and put another hole in there that triton wanted to put in. and that was an interesting hole too; we hit wood below bedrock in that hole. then went back to 10-X. At about 150 feet, actually below that, we were blowing out the hole and all of a sudden pieces of metal started coming out of the hole. the metal blew out from 165 feet, but weren't sure (what depth) where it came from. got two ~~handfuls~~ handfuls of this metal. it was thin metal and at the time I picked up it was chewed up and obviously it was ~~unmoving~~ against some kind of cement or something because it had small pieces of cement on one side. amazingly, the metal was free of rust, not bright and shiny, but more like the color of lead. and it was soft. but in a few minutes the darn stuff started to oxidize, showing that it had been starved for oxygen for a long period of time. by the next morning, the metal had hardened. it changed composition. had it analyzed by stelco and they said it was low-carbon steel. this happened in the fall of 1970. after that we were in the bottom of the hole, cleaning it out with a churn drill to find out where in the hell that metal came from. well, we weren't successful. winter came on and we pulled out of the hole.

"The next spring (1971) we went back there (10-X) with the 27-inch bit. then we took it down, adding casing as we went. (1-4-inch steel casing) Some of the members of Triton did not think there would be anything in bedrock; they were more concerned with on top of bedrock. so with this in mind, we put the casing down to 165 feet and tried to get into bedrock without casing. but we couldn't do it. so we ended up with 27-inch casing down to 165 feet and then we took a 25-foot piece of 25-inch casing, slipped it ~~down~~ down inside of that to keep the stuff from falling in and then we ~~we~~ finished the hole down to the bottom. but we couldn't find anything foreign down there. but when we went down with the big 27-inch bit, we did hit wood in the glacial till

above bedrock. We hit a lot of it. that wood was analyzed; we sent it away for ~~analyzing~~ carbon-dating to a testing lab. The carbon dating came out in the year 3100 B.C. It was radioactive. the lab ran other tests; we came out with a ~~whole~~ whole dishpan of this wood. the tests came out the same; 3100 B.C., plus or minus 75 or 80 years. a lot of people speculated that it was probably regular glacial wood. but I can't believe it, because the wood was in perfect shape, no rot in it whatsoever and it came from well below 100 feet. It was spruce and it was tough wood. I couldn't see any cut edges on it, even though we got a lot of big pieces. but at any rate, we didn't like the carbon dating. We found out later that it's an old old practice to use pitch blend in preserving wood. Now, pitch blend is radioactive. So the radioactivity could have come from the pitch blend.

"Anyway, we played around for a long time on the bottom of this hole and we couldn't come to any conclusions. So we said we're going to examine on top of the bedrock now. (above 180 ft) I went down the casing on a seat with a couple of lights ~~and saw~~ (after pumping out the water) and hell, I saw a big cavity about eight to ten feet around at 180 feet, in an irregular shape. (had already pulled out the 25-inch casing, so nothing but rock walls) About three to four feet on top of the bedrock is limestone. so there was an outcropping of this stuff on top of the bedrock. I stayed down there about a half hour, examining the walls very very carefully, but I couldn't find anything that was unnatural.

"Then we drove the casing the rest of the way down and really explored the bottom. Started diving on the bottom. Had four different divers down on the bottom at different times. But trouble with the diving is that your in anhydrite rock and your shoulders rub against it and it turns the water cloudy like milk. Can't even see your hand in front of you. I made seven dives down there myself.

3ILL ARKIN → "We've just about discounted the bottom of that hole. We've had a new member that's joined Triton. He's a scientist and inventor. He designed a sonar (detector) last summer. Had an oscilloscope on top and we detected a disturbed area ~~where~~ behind the casing in the overburden. The plan now is to put a couple of pumps in there, pump the water down and I'll go down on a seat and cut a couple of observation holes in the side (of the casing where the cavities have been detected by sonar). Will cut holes through the 1-4-inch steel casing. Cavity detected by sonar appears to be towards Smith Cove. That's where we're going to cut the holes.

"Another thing that came out of that ~~hole~~ damn hole besides that metal, we brought up about seven or eight pieces of chain which also was tested by stelco as being very old, definitely before 1740. And we brought up two other kinds of metal from that hole, from a higher elevation. This corresponds to the area that we're now interested in. That's the plan in 10-X - is to stabilize the water, pull the water down and go down in the dry holes. We tried to cut holes a year ago under water, but we weren't successful. Going to cut the holes myself this summer with an acetelyne torch. Will use a compressor ~~xxx~~ for torch and fresh air. I almost killed myself one time, I was only ~~knawing~~ blowing air through a 1-4-inch hose; no good. (you got to replace the air that the torch uses) So, I'll have at least an inch and a half pipe for air down there.

"We can pull the water down to any place we want (in 10-X). All you need is an 860, 1,000 gallons a minute pump. This is what we're trying to get now. Once we cut these holes, we're going to see what's behind them. They're just observation holes. Now, it's possible; after all we did hit wood with that big bit; so the casing has to be against wood somewhere (behind the casing). There's only 20 feet (section) where it can be, we know. So once we find that area, doubtless ~~this~~ this is where the metal came from. It might be all collapsed in there now, we don't know. Hole 10-X is 180 feet northeast by east from the Money Pit. (east-northeast). We know the hole is connected to one flood tunnel, because one diver we sent down had good visibility at 170 feet. He was only in about 70 feet of water because we'd pulled the water down to 100 feet below the surface of the hole. At 170 feet visibility started getting bad, he kept going down. In the neighborhood of 200 feet he couldn't see in front of his mask. He said mud is coming in and it's coming in above me, coming in from under the casing. he said he could feel the current (from the flood tunnel). We checked the Smith's Cove area and saw it was mudied up. And we did it with our pumping in 10-X. So there's no question we stumbled on one of the flood tunnels. So we bulldozed the area (in Smith's Cove) over. Got the diver back two weeks later and visibility was good. ~~xxxxxxx~~ So we did stop the water from coming in from that particular area. But had to keep pumping. ~~xxxxxx~~ But we still know that the water is still coming in at about 600 gallons a minute. It's not natural seepage, it's salt water coming in from the ocean, there's no question about it. They've got so many ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ flooding systems tied together ~~xxx~~ it's amazing. I've got fairly good evidence of over a dozen (flood tunnels). Some of them I've picked up on aerial photographs. We've done an awful lot of ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ flying with light planes over the island while we're doing pumping tests and dye tests. You can see quite a bit when the water's calm. You can see disturbed areas on the bottom. Weren't successful in blocking them all off, but we know generally the area that they're in. We know the flooding rate is about 600 to 650 gallons a minute and the pump I'm getting will pump between 800 and 1,000 gallons a minute. (only have a 350-gallon a minute pump now)

"There's another area we're interested in going back to this summer. (where shaft in enclosed house is) Came up with a small piece of wire there within about 10 feet of the surface. We put a shaft 6 1-2 by 12 feet down to 110 feet, cribbed to 100 feet. The wire was analyzed by Stelco as being definitely man made before 1850, possibly before 1800. Analyzed by a metallurgist. We had to pull out of that shaft when spring (1974) came and the shaft got too wet. We started the shaft in october 1973 and quit in march 1974. Shaft is approximately 800 feet northeast of the Money Pit. Not planning to work in that ~~xx~~ shaft this summer, If I do, it would be late summer. First order of priority is we're going to install this large pump and see what in hell is behind the casing in 10-X. Then, of course we're going to continue this shaft down with the proper type of pump. Ideal time to do this ~~xxxxxxx~~ is in that fall when it's dryer.

"Another thing we're going to do this summer is put some more 12-inch holes in the Money Pit area. We have some areas in the Money Pit area that we definitely hit wood in the bedrock in about five holes. And that was (in 1967) 30 to 35 feet in the bedrock. Bedrock there averaged ~~xxxxxxx~~ around 160 feet. Can't tell is any of the wood was hand hewn because ~~they~~ they were too small. But carbon-dated to couble hundred yrs ag

"Nolan has seven lots on the island. his operation is separate from Triton's. (chuckles and takes a long pause when asked about the aerial photography markers nolan discovered on his lots saturday) "Well, let me ~~put it this way~~ try and cover it this way. In 1967 we gave nolan shares because he surveyed the holes that were being put down by Becker Drilling Company around the money pit area. He was given compensating shares. I don't know what, \$3,000, \$3,500 worth of shares or whatever he considered his work was worth at the time. So ~~we~~ we figured he was a member of triton. Then later on, Triton reorganized; it wasn't ~~Triton~~ Triton then, just David Tobias and myself. And then Triton was organized in April 1969 and everyone who had shares in the previous thing was sent papers ~~whereby~~ where they would return their shares and they would be held in escrow by an attorney and then they would be issued shares in Triton, depending on how many shares they had. ~~It was~~ approximately half of what they had. But nolan never returned his shares, but technically he's still a shareholder in Triton because whenever he does return his shares, he'll be issued shares in Triton. Now, at that time, about 1969-70, four or five years ago, he ~~claimed~~ claimed ownership of seven lots in there. He tried to get treasure trove license on these lots that he claimed he owned. We fought him ~~and~~ and the minister, Halliburton at the time, wouldn't give him the license. Then Halliburton went over on vacation in England and when he was away, Stanfield was the premier and Stanfield gave him the license. So we became very upset about that. Anyway, we've been fighting Nolan all along up about until two years ago, two and a half years ago and he was breaking up my causeway, one thing and another. We had it out hot and heavy, and we were just getting ready to go to litigation; the papers were signed and everything. We were going to get into the whole ball of wax in this litigation. But about two days before the thing, Nolan came out there and started talking to me. He approached me, I did not ~~approach him~~ approach him. This was about two or three years ago. He approached me and wanted to know if something could be worked out. So I said I don't know, it's kinda late but I'll do some quick telephoning and I did. And one member (of Triton) wanted me to work out something with him, one member didn't want to, and I had the deciding vote and I decided I would try to work something out with him. So he and I worked out an agreement.

"Basically, it acknowledges his treasure trove license. We agree in the agreement not to get into the ~~the~~ question of ownership of those lots, because we were primarily interested in the treasure trove license, not ownership, not real estate. So, with this understanding, we allow Nolan to use the causeway and we allow him to cross Chappell's property to get to these contested lots. We don't acknowledge ownership, only his treasure trove ~~rights~~ rights. And for this, he reciprocates and he gives us rights to pass over Crandalls Point and these lots that he considers he owns. It works both ways. He definitely owns Crandalls Point, no question about that. So anyway, that basically is the agreement. And then I worked out a deal where he had to give me some sweetener for me to sell it to Triton. So the sweetener was that if anything is found on these contested lots that he claims ownership on, Triton gets 40% of it, if he finds it. Now, if we agree to a (search) program between he and I, and Triton foots the ~~the~~ bill on the program and we do find something then, then Triton gets 60% and he gets 40%. And, he has no claim on the balance of the island, period; with the exception of

if he ever turns in his shares, he'll be given corresponding shares for his legitimate holding. No percentage beyond anything we find. But basically, that's the agreement we have. So we don't have a ~~fight~~ fight with Nolan. He ~~sign~~ signed that agreement. It's still in effect and will be as long as ~~sig~~ either one of us holds the (treasure trove) license.

"I know of some of the original markings and he (Nolan) knows of probably many more than I know. These people (original diggers) did the markings on the island, there's no question about that. Not only did they leave markings, they left monuments. They left stones cut certain ways, there's no question about that. We have found several different types. It's amazing how they were able to cut these damn stones and get them the same, but they are. If you know what to look for, you can see them. Now, we have not let this out, but they had a code and they knew what the whole code was and of course it's taken a hell of a detective job on Nolan's part and our part too to try and pursue it.

"Triton basically is not interested in what Nolan is doing. I ~~personally~~ personally am because I happen to feel as strongly as Fred does that these markers do go back to the original people. And once you accept that, then you have to place importance on them. As far as reconstructing them (the markers) Nolan is running various sight lines through on different ways, and I know more or less what he's doing. In fact, a little bit too much for his satisfaction. But that's neither here nor there; I'm not stupid, I hope. So anyway, he ran lines through our property last fall. I wasn't aware of this. I was up there drilling, working my ass off, and I didn't know that he was running these (lines) off. But he ran lines through there and at the end of these lines, my god, he dug trenches, 18, 20 feet long. Dug them by hand. So then when I started seeing this, I raised hell. I got hold of him (and) I said 'you have no business of digging on our property, none whatsoever.' And I said 'it's going to stop right now, because as far as I'm concerned, you've broken our agreement.' This was last fall. This is where he found one ~~marker~~ marker that comes to a point. I know where he found it; I know exactly where he found it. So when he found it, then he backsighted it to another certain point that we're aware of.

"The thing is, there's no question, he stumbled on something, in my opinion. He stumbled on something. And the pieces are falling together now; it's a question of time, it's starting to gell.

Whoever (between Nolan and Triton) unlocks the secret of Oak Island first ~~is~~ is not important to me; I didn't know it was important to Fred.

"As far as I know he (Gordon Coles) still owns shares (in Triton). I don't know anything to the contrary. He probably has put the shares in trust. Gordon Coles has nothing to do with Triton now other than doubtlessly his shares are still valid. Just because he became ~~Assistant~~ ^{deputy} Attorney General (for Province of Nova Scotia) doesn't mean that he would give his shares away; it would be foolish. But he don't believe in Oak Island, but that's neither here nor there. He accepted these shares in lieu of fees and one thing and another. But he is very very careful and he's still a friend of mine and, I'm sure, a friend of David Tobias. But he has nothing to say in this dispute that Fred Nolan has gotten himself into. He (Nolan) got himself into this. We don't even know what

he one Nolan showed me.

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the hell he's trying to do; we really don't. We think he must be crazy in order to antagonize the government like he's been doing over Crandalls Point. Why did he put up a roadblock there (last summer)? He waited until the road department put up the road and boom, he ran and put a fence across it, see. Now, this is between him and the government; we have nothing to do with it. We're at peace with Fred. And ~~now we're at peace with him~~ he's bringing this on himself. But Gordon Coles is staying completely out of it. If he (Nolan) thinks Gordon Coles is using his influence (to favor Triton), ~~well~~ he's crazy as hell. Because you call up Grodon Coles and ask him what's going on at Crandalls Point, he don't know nothing about it. He'll say attorney so and so is handling it and that's it. And he don't get into it, because he does not want anyone to come back to him and say 'conflict of interest', you know.

"If he (Nolan) thinks that Triton is trying to work and use Coles' influence in order to ~~get him~~ get him (Nolan) to lose his license, he's wrong. Because we have nothing to gain in that respect. We have no irons in the fire. (But if Nolan were to lose his treasure trove license) "who the hell (but Triton) should pick it up. We had the treasure trove license over the whole island. What he's doing now, he's bring on himself.

"As far as we're concerned, we would prefer seeing the province run conducted tours in there. And the reason is quite obvious. It's getting to be a bigger and bigger tourist attraction. 20,000 to 25,000 (people) should come this year. So the thing is, to just have these people go on the damn island, ~~xxx~~ going any place they want to go, would be a ~~xx~~ bitch. You don't know who's going to watch out for fires and one thing and another like that. Plus the fact they get in your hair. They come right down to where I'm working. So the guided tours are a good idea.

"I wouldn't have the guts to do what he's (Nolan) is doing (re fighting the province). Not me. Triton got part of the tourism revenue on Oak Island "last year for the first time. The first year (summer of 1973) we got nothing; asked for nothing; wanted nothing. But then we found out that they had worked out a deal with Nolan after we said we didn't want nothing. They worked out a deal with Nolan and gave him a third. So last year, knowing this, we said we're not going to let this happen again. So we said we'll take the same deal you gave Nolan, thinking they were going to give Nolan the same deal. And they were going to, but at the last second he pulled out of it. ~~xxx~~ As far as I know (Nolan got 30 pc last year, Triton got 30 pc and the government kept the rest). It didn't amount to no great amount of money, but sure, it did help to pay for some of the maintenance on the causeway. Then too, they paid \$3,000 or \$3,500 for a parking lot three years ago over here (on the island) so I allowed them to use the parking lot. Reasonable compensation. And too, when you're dealing with the province, you don't just give them carte blanche cheques to come in and do anything damn thing they want to, because then you might be giving away your legal rights, and we have to be careful in that respect too. We want to cooperate with them; we want them to have their tourists.

Triton "won't" get any revenue on tourism this year. "The province has seen fit that they don't want to make any deal with Nolan, they don't want to make any deal with Presley, and they didn't want to make

any deal with us. I've got a letter telling them that they've got three ~~different~~ different sets of circumstances. Nolan is one set of circumstances because of his ownership of Crandalls Point, and they put the road up there; it's up to them to do whatever they want to do with him. Now, if they trespass on Presley's property, that's another set of circumstances. But the ownership of the causeway is uncontested. * We own the causeway; or M.R. Chapell does, and he's a big shareholder in Triton. So we own the causeway and we own the island, or the bulk of the island with the exception of these contested lots. And we have to maintain the causeway, and now I have to spend about 5 or 6 grand building it up and everything. So we feel it's only fair ~~xxx~~ that we be given some compensation in order to, if not anything more, at least pay for the parking on the other (island) side, or something towards it, and maintainance of the causeway. It can't be no great amount of money, but by the same token, if you give away your rights, once you give them away, you can't get them back. We have to have something in writing saying that we have to be relieved of any responsibility if somebody goes across the causeway and runs off it and gets killed or anything like that. That's the main thing. We're not penny pinching or anything like that, but by the same token, if we allow them a blank cheque to go across, then we give up our rights.

| Daniel Henski⁶⁶ is "in the (Triton) syndicate. We gave him shares; he's a shareholder. (Got shares) more or less (for the work he does). Dan has no responsibility really; he's alone. The only child with his mother. He came up here in 1965; had a run in with Dunfield and then he went back. I treat him a lot more kindly than Dunfield. He spent a ~~making~~ hellish long time doing his conductivity testing. I helped and worked with him and gave him a little encouragement now and then. But he has yet to perfect the system where it would work. ~~The~~ If a thing's going to be scientific, you have to be able to repeat it at will, you know. Dan hasn't been too successful with it.

"He (Dan Henski⁶⁶) got some damn good ideas from Bill Parkin who is a member of Triton. Bill gave him some good ideas. He (Parkin) is from outside of Boston, from Wayland, Mass. He's a research scientist, inventor and brilliant. He joined Triton about two years ago. I just stopped ~~xxxxxxx~~ and saw him when we came through Boston.

| "Surprisingly enough (Triton has had) not too many (new members join the syndicate since 1970). You see, with the corporate setup that we have under Canadian law we are allowed a maximum of 50 members then it has to go public. Now, I believe our membership is still around the 30 mark. I don't think there are over 30. Now what we did when we saw ~~that~~ we were pushing 30, what we did is that Tobias and I got in agreement that we just couldn't let anybody come in for a few hundred dollars or anything like this here, because we'd be using up our numerical number and not getting the money. So with this in mind, we set up a minimum investment. Because we're not after the small man anyway. No way. We're after persons that if they lose the money, they can afford to lose the money, you see. It's not an investment to make money, it's something that you have to be more or less interested in, and sure, maybe we may be lucky, maybe we'll all end up being millionaires no question about it. But in the same token, it is the search that is the the compelling force that keeps you going. Because everybody has their own mountain that they want to climb. This is our mountain we want to climb.

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The minimum investment in Triton "is \$5,000. Actually, it's \$5,021, because you get 21 common shares and they're \$1 a share. That's the minimum investment we set. ?

"Triton, again, I'm not positive of my figures because they're being audited now. But I would say off hand, Triton has spent probably right in the neighborhood of a half million dollars. And Tobias on his own before then I would say probably spent another \$150,000 besides that. So I think these are a ball park figure. I haven't had it (the money) to spend lately. Actually I think I spent a little over 5 grand the year before last of my own money and then I think I spent close to \$7,000 last year. So it's still a drain. (Spent) in the neighborhood of (\$100,000) of my own money (on Oak Island). I started on Oak Island in 1965; ten years, going on 11 years. Crazy! It's crazy little things like this here (shows me small piece of wire) that just keep me going. Now this came out of the ~~shaft~~ hole where I put the shaft in. (calls Janie to show me her piece of metal). No doubt about it (the wire was man made). It was hand drawn. It goes back at least 200 years. A. B. Dove, metalurgist at Stelco did the analysis. He has retired now. That's why we put the shaft down, believe it or not. We found it (the wire) about 10 feet down below where we started. (It was the) only piece we found. Only that. We came up with pieces of wood, but that's the only peice of metal.

"Now, the amazing thing is that we also came up with this wire in 10-X with the 27-inch churn drill. Same identical analysis on it. It was about the same size; the same diameter. Probably two or three or four pieces came out of 10-X. (shows me various peices of the lead like metal that came out of 10-X).

"Dan Henski put the (aerial) survey markers out. This is what we don't like about Fred. There are certain piles of stones up in here. These stones mean something, we know they do. Now, as quick as Fred spotted these here and located them accurately on his surveys, he deliberately tried to mislead me and moved these stone piles. As soon as he surveys an area, he deliberately bulldozes it so that he covers over his tracks. We don't do this. We try not to disturb the area, at all. And I'm mad at Fred for this here. And I've told him he has no right to do that. He's come on our property here and he's bulldozed. He is on our property 150 feet here right now. Legally, with our agreement we have, see. But, I don't want to go to court with him and fight with him all the damn time. But he keeps needling you. He does more and more all the time. And he better smarten up. So Dan Henski put these out because, sure, we've got arial surveys showing different markers around here and everything. We've had them for a long time. We had them for ~~unknown~~ before he did. And I've worked out certain things. The government, Lands and Forests department, are going to be running some runs this week and he (Henski) asked me if I mind if he ~~puts~~ puts up the markers. Hell no, I don't mind, not in the least. I'll be using the information. You'd be surprised what you can see (from arial photographs). Nolan has no business saying anything about that because the S.O.B., he bulldozed property that don't even belong to him here, and I've not taken him to court. So he has nothing to say about us putting on markers on there (Nolan's 7 lots). He goes whay the hell down here (Triton property) and puts all kinds of trenches through here, and he had no business doing that. I don't mind him running sight lines through here; I do mind him doing digging. And that's where that (surveyor's) marker came

See map in "Blankenship" file.

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Nolan has lots #5 and #9 through #14. on the island. "He don't have all of the swamp (area), that's what's bugging him. (laughs). You have no idea how complex and the magnitude of this thing. We'll put them (the aerial markers) back; don't you ~~worry~~ worry about that; I'll put them back. I haven't seen Fred yet, ~~the way things are~~ I'm going to have a few things out with him. I don't get excited when he does something, why should he get excited when I do something? He's been on our property, and he continues to do it. So when the hell is he going to honor this agreement we have. He hasn't even started to honor it yet. We're not doing any racing (with Fred to find the treasure first). I wish him all the luck in the world (in his expectation of finding the treasure this summer). Who knows? (how far away Triton is from finding the treasure) We know more now than ~~we~~ what we knew last year and we knew more last year than what we knew the year before.

"If we had the money to invest now that we had when we started as Triton; ~~if~~ if we had that kind of money, then we feel that we could get to the bottom of this very quickly. We've gotten estimates on putting a large diameter hole down in the money pit area ending up with about a 30-foot (diameter) hole in bedrock at 180 feet and down into bedrock to 225 feet. And my god, the damn estimate was \$350,000 four years ago. The shaft would start off 100 feet across, telescoping down and ending in bedrock at 30 feet across. An open shaft.

"We've been going along on reduced expenditures for quite some time now, a smaller operation ~~than~~ than what we were doing years ago, because of the finances. It's a steady drain all the time. We haven't got the money now to do what we would like to do based on the knowledge we have. Now, if we went public, we could raise \$1 million or \$1.5 million. And that would ~~undoubtedly~~ doubtlessly accelerate how quickly we resolve this thing. We've talked about (going public) and we do know, we've been told, that we could raise \$1.5 million, no problem, by going public. It's a possibility that if we don't get to something this summer, the possibility is open that we may go public. So far, I'm against it and I've been trying to pursue this thing as fast as I can with the funds that are available, that's all. Fred (Nolan) is more or less the same thing. Fred will only do a certain amount of work ~~with~~ with what funds he wants to spend for that time. He's not going whole hog. (It's) not true (that Nolan is, as he claims, spending more on legal fees than on the Oak Island search). But we almost got into ~~him~~ him (on a legal battle) It was within two days and then we worked out that agreement.

(Shows me survey maps made recently of the island, showing piles of stones and old surveyors' markers found by Triton over the years) Nolan has bulldozed a lot of this stuff off. (stones with iron ringbolt - what Nolan says are surveyors' sight lines) A five stone triangle was exposed not too long ago and then three drilled ~~rocks~~ rocks. Found these just two years ago in 1973. Drilled rocks are in a row. There's others, but we know about these here. Straight lines through these markers and they're hundreds of feet apart, hit dead on with a transit on other drilled rocks and ring bolts. ~~These~~ These are some of the things that make you wonder. Drilled some 8-inch holes along these lines and hit wood and probably iron, but not sure (of the iron). And running a straight line through is where I hit wire (was on the basis of these surveys that Dan decided to put the shaft where he did in 1973 autum) The shaft (according to the chart) is about 650 feet north of the money pit.

// "these are some of the things that I know about and Nolan knows about. But he also has other stones with drill holes in them and quite a few other goodies that I know about. So, sure, it's just a question of time before this thing will start falling together. I think these markers and stones were put there by the original people in order that they could sightline the places they buried the treasure. These sight lines are amazingly accurate. I agree with him (Nolan, that the ring bolts, so called, are really used by old time surveyors to sight along) He (Nolan) don't leave nothing in place once he finds it. He moves the rocks after he'd located them. (But Triton knows the location of most of the markers and drilled rocks) because he (Nolan) very foolishly gave me a survey a long time ago that he forgot about. He'd give anything to ~~xxxxxx~~ get it back. That was while we were buddy-buddies. He's ~~xx~~ a hell of an accurate surveyor (shows me how Nolan has plotted the ring bolts and other markers). I think we're going to come up with something very interesting this summer, I really do. I think Fred will too; Because we found some things this winter that we intend to do something about this summer. I'd love to tell you about it, but I don't feel free to tell you about it because it just gives him ammunition (Fred) and it's just unnecessary ammunition, you know. I don't want him reading something in the paper and coming back to me; do you follow me? I give him (Fred) credit for being very very clever and I think that he's put together doubtlessly much more on the surface of the ground than what I have done because I don't have the time, you see. I have doubtlessly found things in here that he don't know about, but he probably has found twice as much as what I ~~xxxx~~ know about, because he has spent more time doing ~~that~~ that. And not only that, my investigation has been mostly with drilling, right. I've had reasons to suspect chambers and one thing and another in certain areas and we were drilling these areas. I think it's quite possible that he (Nolan) will come up with something this summer that will probably be near or on the surface of the ground. He (Nolan) has found out a lot of things quite recently, within the last six or eight months. And I know about some of it, and you'll hear about it this ~~xx~~ summer; no question about it. There's certain things that he wants to do and he'll probably have to do it in conjunction with Triton. I don't see how he can do it legally alone, you know. (Because it's not just on his property) and because of other reasons.

Re aerial markers: "Dan (Henski) knows they're ~~going~~ going to be running (aerial) surveys this week, so he asked me if I mind (him putting out the targets) and I said 'hell no' because we ~~xxxx~~ did the same thing last year and it can be done quite well. If he (Nolan) wants to make a big deal out of it then he's going to suffer by it. Because I'll insist that he don't absolutely come off of his property at all, to even run a sight line through. He's taking a narrow minded attitude. He has no business to make a big deal about that (aerial target) enterprise. Obviously (the dispute is over treasure.)

*// "The main reason why I believe (the treasure is still there) is that I havent ~~seen~~ any physical evidence of anything being taken out of ~~the~~ the ground and I believe that if they took anything out of the ground, they wouldn't have been careful about concealing it. Why should you cover ~~xx~~ your tracks up once you take something out. I've looked the island over pretty daman carefully; it's ^{not} a big island; and I've never seen anything where they took anything out.

/// (Shows photographs - ck id) "If you look carefully you can see small ~~xx~~ pieces of wood that was in those samples. (picture of Bill Parkin with osciloscope & grid paper for sonar readings) (picture of

180
+55
235

body with analysts report from underwater photography and physiology reports - "this is outline of a body/ jaw and mouth very realistic; * perhaps too much so/ no teeth in evidence/ suggests body in sitting position originally, then toppled over" - picked up by underwater camera in 10-X in late 1971 - after hand was sighted, couple of months later. We never disclosed the head thing before) (Shows picture showing logs and - very clearly - cut boards with nails in them - this is 10-X down at the bottom, 235 feet) This is 55 feet in bedrock; this is why I wasted so much time in this damn hole. We've tried already to recover these things (by diving). But I'm not going down there no more because it's too damn dangerous; it's much much too dangerous. This cahmber is real big, maybe 8' by 14', elongated and you hang down like a pendulum and you drop down into this chamber and you just hanging down in space. What you want is away from you quite a bit. The bottom is now ~~xx~~ eroded and once you do step on the bottom, then all the silt comes up and obscures your vision. (shows another picture showing a rectangular shape - "looks like a rectangular box of some sort and something on the end of it - it would be a hell of an ~~odd~~ odd shaped rock) This hole (10-X) has cost us a fortune.

Re piece of wire: "He (Stelco metallurgist) says that they used to make wire back to 10,000 years ago. A.B. Dove, senior development metallurgist for stelco. wire ~~xx~~ dated between "1500's to 1800's" by Dove. It was man-made, no question about that. (Found spike and metal strap on beach last year on beach about nine feet below original beach level - spike and strap analyzed by Stelco as being at least 200 years old.)

"We may go public, but I don't know. Ask Tobias; fine person. I worked out on that island some miserable, miserable days. I've worked out there in the winter on the churn drill, well below zero with the winds 35, 40 miles an hour blowing. You've got to be some kind of a nut to do this, see. We're (Triton) definitely going to stick to it through this year anyway, we have a treasure trove license through another year after this ~~xx~~ here. (expires dec 1976; same as Nolan's license) We have a good thing working for us up on 10-X now and that's going to bear further investigation and we may be lucky there. And then we're going to put some large-diameter holes down in the Money Pit area. But we're also going to be doing something else this summer that's going to be very interesting, that's for sure; and we could come up with something. It's very possible. I feel very strongly about coming up with something that you can actually see, hold, this summer. I ~~xx~~ feel very very encouraged about that. We've come up with more evidence this past winter.

"I question pirates (as the source of the treasure) more than anything for the simple reason that it doesn't seem their cup of ~~xx~~ tea to do something like this (didn't). This thing was a very very well engineered and well laid out thing; and I think it could have had one designer. How often can you get a ~~xxxxx~~ bunch of cutthroats to listen to one man and do everything he said. ~~xxxxxx~~ I rather suspect that hopefully it might go back to as early as the Spaniards. The Spaniards had the Western Hemisphere for 90 years to themselves before the English with Drake came over. And in those 90 years they looted South America, Central America something fantastic. This is the period between 1550 to 1650, because the Spaniards were here in 1528, ~~xx~~ give or take, and they started looting South American right off the bat. ~~Rozere~~ goes back to 1534, and he was one of the greatest looters of all.

"When you look at a globe and see the pattern of trade winds, the natural sailing route (from central america) would bring you to Nova Scotia. And so they said what the hell, why give it all to ~~Queen~~ Queen Isabella; ~~xxxxxx~~ give her one and we'll take three, or something like that. "We hope" (that' it's Inca gold)

A Spanish type anchor was found by Peter Beamish in 1965 and he took it to Hanover, Mass. (Anchor has disappeared).

"I still believe that we're going to come up with something this summer. And I don't discount the fact that Fred might come up with something, I don't discount it in the least. I believe he's right. (re the treasure being spread all over the island) I think he and I are the only two that believe that (it's Spanish treasure) Found two old shoes ~~xxxxxx~~ 11 feet below the beach in 1970. And found another big wooden structure on another part of the beach with an oak peg in it. (Old workings) are from one end to the other (of the island).

* "I really don't know" (how many shares I have in Triton.) I'm really ~~xxxxxx~~ so damn much interested in that. Chapell probably has about 25%, Tobias probably has about 15% and I would probably have about 10%.

"The main thing is climbing that mountain. Being the first to get to the top of that mountain."

Re Esquire article - "If you've got time for a short drink, I've got time for a short story." (rest off the record).

(Her husband Jack Adams died March 16, 1974 at age of 81. He worked in the Money Pit under Hedden and Hamilton from 1939-45. Her daughter Peggy -now Peggy Franklin of Bridgewater, who'll be 40 in Oct. 1976, saw the ghosts on the island at the age of four in 1940)

"We lived on the island from '39 to '45. We'd go over in September and leave in April but Jack would work over there with Hedden and Hamilton through the summers. We was caretakers in the winter time and he (jack) worked there in the summers. We lived in a tarpaper shack. Ruben Stevens lived there ahead of us as caretaker for Hedden. He's still alive; lives in chester. he was there in the '30s.

"Jack had a stroke and died march 16, 1974. He was sick before ~~he~~ that and had a tumor in his eye. He lost one eye. But it wasn't cancer; they took his eye out and it was very clean underneath.

"Jack was always exploring. (even after 1945) I remember once in the wintertime (in 1969) he was over by the pond (swamp) He had a big long pole and he was poking it down through the ice and he ~~xxx~~ felt something. He brought up pieces of tin; tin that was rusted. He told Mr. Nolan about it and the last time he (nolan) was here he said some people told him that jack was only fibbing. well, i said he wasn't fibbing, for i saw it. it was ~~x~~ shell-like tin that was rusted. after he (nolan) said that, i said dont you come here anymore. I wouldnt even talk to him. the tin is lost now.

jack was 81 when he died. we was married 60 years. ~~ixixix~~ i'm 83 now.

They've (successive searchers) destroyed the island something wicked since we lived there. when i was there last (about four years ago) I didn't even know where our cabin stood.

Jack found a key down in the pits over a hundred feet down and it was so rusted. Dan (blankenship) and a Mr. Richards from toronto came here once and they wanted this key. jack was in the hospital then and i wouldnt give them the key for anything. so they took it outside and took a picture of it. i've got the key yet. (Shows it to me. An old trunk key covered with layers of rust). I guess he found it about two years before he ~~xxx~~ gave up working there. (i.e. found it in 1943). Mr. hamilton sent it up to ontario and the experts said it was very old and was smaller when it was used. it was rusted over a lot. He found that key in the pit, about 170 feet down. down where they were digging; i don't know if it was the money pit or not. Nolan has seen the key. he wanted it but jack wouldnt give it to him.

Old mr. restall; after he was gone (he and his son killed on oak island on Aug. 17/65) it was a big heavy sorrowful load. They were here (at the house) three parts of their time. First he (bob restall) came alone (1959) and was here two years alone and then his sons (robert jr. and ricky and wife Mildred) came. If he had papers to write, he'd come over here (to adams' house) to write them and then take them to the post office to mail.

I know of ~~xi~~ five people that have died in those pits. One was maynard kaiser, but that was long before i was born. And then there was the two restalls and the ~~kinkhmbroyx~~ Hiltz boy and karl graeser. kaiser died when he was guiding the horses. they were digging a hole with horses to pull the mud out, and the chain broke and drove him back in the pit where he ~~drowned~~ drowned. (that was march 26, 1897. Another man died back in 1868 when a boiler, used for a pumping operation in the pit, exploded and scalded him to death. Several others were injured in that accident.)

We had six children (when we lived on the island) but they were mostly well growed up. two of them was married, and Harry was overseas. But we had to take two with us. The youngest one (Peggy) was not quite three years old when we went over the first winter).

Peggy was the one that saw something over there on the island. God only knows what it was. I never seen it; jack never seen it. But through that winter there was a little snow on the ground and we used to have a little storage cabin (near the money pit). She was out playing near there one morning and she came in the house. "mommy, she says, there's a crowd of men coming up from the shore (smuggler's cove)" she says, and she says "what pretty clothes they ~~kaxxmxmx~~ got on." she says "there's big stripes down their pants." she was too young to know the colors of them. she was four years old then. It was the third winter we were over their. she was between four and five. And when Jack came home, i says, "jack there's somebody on the island. peggy says she's seen a pile of men coming up from the shore. there was snow on the ground, you know, so he goes down to the shore but he says there wasn't a track. This was down where the wharf was, on the east side of the island. Hedden built the wharf. So jack went down and he couldn't see nothing. But peggy said she did see men ~~wx~~ walking up from the shore. we thought it was someone coming (to the island) from chester (across the bay by boat). Now, we had never mentioned anything about pirates or the treasure to Peggy. we never mentioned to the children that everybody thought the island was haunted long ago. but anyway, we had to come home (to western shore) for easter dinner. The day after easter we went back to the island. Her (peggy) and I went back along ~~txx~~ the footpath to our house on the island. I went in and peggy was playing outside. I was in making a fire on the ~~xx~~ stove and peggy she went out to play and after a while she come in and she was crying. I said "peggy what's the matter." and she says, "mommy there's three big men down there." she says "there's one sitting on the wharf down there that looks like Luthor, the big man in the Mandrake comic strip. And she says there's another one with funny looking clothes on and there's another one with a big patch on ~~xxxxxx~~ his eye" she says, "he must be blind." About that time jack came along and i says "jack, peggy says there's somebody down there." so he went down but there was nobody there.

That was all she ever ~~xxx~~ saw. She never said anything about it after that. she never said i'm firghthened over here or anything at all. but she don't like to hear the story.

Years later my son-in-law took me to the citadel museum (in halifax) when jack was in the hospital. And my oh my, when I went into this one room it just came right to my mind that I bot you that was the kind of things ~~xxx~~ that them people had on that peggy saw. She had said their clothes was so pretty with red coats and pants with yellow stripes down the legs. It was old British army uniforms in the museum. I remember when those coats were around, when i was a little girl people used to take those red coats and make quilts of them. She never saw anything like that again; three big men she said. And there was no tracks in the snow.

I remember she came in crying and saying there's three big men down there. And she was never a child with a big immagination. never in her life before did she ever say anything like that, she didn't even say anything about any dreams. It was unusual for her to say it.

Her real name is not Peggy; it's phillis. But we always called her peggy ever since she was a baby. She's a married woman with two children now. She was born in 1936; 39 now and she'll be 40 in october.

I remember when I was a very little girl there was a very old man that lived down the road. He was a rough~~x~~ old man and he used to tell us the story about the treasure on Oak Island. And he told us about the oak tree with a cut limb sticking out and there was a ridge around where the limb was to lower the chests. We were only little kids and he used to tell us the story how it was seven men that had dug the hole in silence and they was supposed to flag up on the treeand soaked it in human blood and there was supposed to be a man killed where they put the treasure. That was old mr. george hiltz that told me that story. That was young george hiltz' grandfather (george hiltz still lives around here.) Some of those old people say their fathers used to see pirate ships come in here in the 1700's. And lots of people around here have seen the "Teazer." on fire in Mahone Bay.

I remember one time when we was over living on the island and old man who was on the island said he saw a submarine in the water just off Oak Island. This was during the war. And he started saying around town that we was supplying a ~~submarine~~ german submarine. Well, seven policemen came over one day when I was there all alone. They asked me for the keys to the storage house where all our machinery and pipes ~~where~~ were. I said I 'm not supposed to let anybody in that room. I wasn't afraid; I had my shotgun above the door. They said if you don't give us the keys, there's seven more policemen and army men coming along the shore. Soon there was ten of them at the door. Three of them police from chester and seven army men. They demanded the keys and I gave them to them; what could I do. They looked in the shack but they wouldn't tell me what they were looking for. Then they want~~d~~ed to go down into the shafts by the money pit. They were down there a long time. They thought there was a submarine base under the island. They thought we were supplying the submarines with oil.

There weren't too many oak trees on the island when we lived there. They were all dried up and dying. There was one big one we used to saw up for firewood. There was lots of spruce wood, apple trees, birch wood. It's mostly spruce trees now. When we was there ~~xx~~ there was cleared areas people used to cut hay on and we used to grow gardens. we planted enough cabbage to make saurkraut enough for the winter. We'd plant turnips in the spring and get them at the end of the fall. There was a lot of rabbits and deer there too. the deer used to swim out from the mainland.

There are still some ~~old~~ people around that used to work on the island. ~~Enos~~ Nauss (or Amos), who lives down at Marriotts Cove, near chester basin. He worked with jack and hamilton. And Ruben Stevens; he used to keep the island (for Hedden). He lives down the other side of Chester. He was caretaker before us. East Chester, I think he lives.

Jack always believed there was something there on the island but after he dug so long he didn't know anymore. I'd say there was probably some treasure on the other side of Frog Island, Little Birch Island.

The stone triangle, I saw it lots of times, ~~xxxx~~ was right down near where our cabin was. (in Smith's cove).

Dunfield was a terrible man. The very minute those people (restall) was taken away from that hole he starts working on the island. Without any investigation at all. That was such a terrible piece of work. he (restall) was such a careful ~~xxx~~ man. I can't understand why they let mr. dunfield put that causeway in there. At one time there used to be fishing vessels go through there. Now they have to go all the way around the island.

17
Malcolm Vaughan ("Mac") Interview in Pirate's Lure, Western
Shore in May/76

46 years old

home - 627-2965

Anthony Vaughan was malcolm's great great grandfather.
George Vaughan (Anthony's grandson and Malcolm's grandfather)
is suspected (by the current family) of having found some
treasure on Oak Island in the 1930's. When he died shortly
thereafter (around 1940) he was supposed to have left a chest
with gold bricks in it, though he never earned more than \$500
a year in his lifetime. He had two sons, Edward and John, and
the chest was left to Edward.

Edward Vaughan left his wife, children and property 33
years ago and died somewhere in Ontario about 8 years ago. (i.e.
left about 1943 and died about 1968).

Anthony Vaughan was the son of Rowland Vaughan. They moved
from Mass. to Western Shore in the 1750's. They had immigrated
to America from Wales before that. Anthony was about 13 years
old when he, McGinnis and Smith discovered the Money Pit

(Nauss is 79 years old and worked under ~~Rx~~ Hedden and Edwin H. Hamilton from 1936 to 1943)

"The last time I saw Hedden was in 1961. He was up here and he and I and Mr. Hamilton had dinner together. Mrs. Hedden was only on the island once, in 1936. Her daughter, Barbara, and my son who's in the air force, they went out together for over a year. He was my youngest son and he worked on oak island in 1936 building the ~~wharf~~ wharf. We lived downtown in Chester in those days. He was only 21 then. Hedden's had another daughter too; an older one.

I started working on the island in August '36. Hedden had been working there since May. I was there till '43 when I took the stuff (equipment) off. I dismantled everything, buildings and all. So I was there seven years altogether, first under Hedden and then Hamilton. Ruben Stephens was there when I was, he was the watchman. He and his wife stayed there on the island. He lives in East Chester now.

I heard Jack adams talk about the key he found, but I didn't really see it. It was found down in the pit. It could have been authentic. But some of those old guys (that worked on the island) used to play all kinds of tricks. They used to bring stuff and drop it in (the search holes). I know because I saw it happen. But I never saw the key. They used to drop stuff in like chain, old chains that had been laying about for a long time somewhere. So old that a half-inch link would be almost (corroded to) a sixteenth of an inch. Stuff they'd find in some field that had been lying there since their grandfather's time. And stuff like queer old broad ~~axes~~ axes. They would bring stuff like this down into the pit they were working in and they would make sure when they sent it up (in the buckets) that they (Hedden or Hamilton) were around to see it. All kinds of things like that (they'd send up) even five dollar gold pieces they'd dump into the tub. Then the fellow on deck would holler 'I see something shining here.' It would stir up a little commotion every time.

I was the one that first saw the stone triangle (with Hedden). I discovered it when the tide was down at the south cove. They've bulldozed over it now I think. (Dunfield did that in the '60s.) It was covered over when I found it in some bushes. (Nauss takes out Roper survey): This is it here. After it was found he (Hedden) got this survey made. (in 1937). There was a coffer dam here (smith's cove). It was dammed up here one time. Now it's all filled in there. The wharf's gone too. Hedden had these (surveys) made. Shows all the old shafts. It was just before this survey was done that I found the triangle. That was the reason they surveyed it. To see what the triangle meant.

Hedden had an old map on parchment. It came in a couple of sections. He got it in England. (probably the Wilkins Del Mar map). There was an island between Oak Island and Frog Island years and years ago, and ~~this~~ this map showed it. I can still reach bottom there where that island was. (see Des Barres map). There's a big rock there and then some smaller rocks. But anyway, that map Hedden had showed an island just about where those rocks are. And the map showed land right out where now there's a sand

"I wouldn't work in those (Oak Island) pits again if you gave me the island and all of Captain Kidd's treasure. I didn't think it was dangerous at the time I guess, but I know now ~~it~~ damn well it was. The shaft I worked in was two sections. The first was 125 feet down from the top. (shows me the 1937 cross section drawings). Then when Hammy (Hamilton) was there we went down from 125 feet to 176 feet in a shaft beside it that was only 6' by 6'. We were down two months in that. There were two men of us and we had the electric drill down there. It was cribbed, but it was cribbed about two feet apart and then we put little spruce trees in the backing (of the crib work) to keep the water and mud from coming in. But sometimes after a ~~xxxxxx~~ rainstorm we'd get one heck of a pile of rain water getting in there; it would come through the ground and come down on top of us. We had a pump down there keeping all the pits dry because there was a lot of sea water coming into the holes from the flood tunnels. The pump ~~xxxx~~ had to be turned off from the top and when we'd finish working in the hole we'd give the signal to turn off the pump and we'd start to come up. But by the time we'd disconnect the drill so it could be hauled up with the pump motor, the water would be up to our hips and pretty soon it would be up to 30 feet from the ~~xxxxxx~~ top of the hole when the pumps were off. We couldn't stay down there too long once the pump was disconnected and we headed up the ladder. Once you got to the 125-foot level you could take a rest on a platform.

We had a couple of close accidents. In 1937 Hedden had a fellow named Bill Horicks as his top man looking after his accounting. He done all the book work. He always had a gallon of bootleg liquor with him. Well, one day the pump was making a racket and he got it in his head he wanted to go down into the pit to check it. There was no ladder going down then, and he got a brand new coil ~~xxx~~ of rope and put a bosuns chair on it. But he just put it on a single block on the frame over the hole. The frame was about twenty feet high. There was six of us there and we let him down; he wanted to go down to see what was the matter with the pump. And he weighed over 200 pounds; we had quite a job to get him up. We put this coil of rope in this galvanized washtub and I was in charge of the rope paying it out. Well, it happened that there was about six feet of it that was all frayed, you could pull it apart with your hands. And it was a new coil of rope. He was about 40 feet from the bottom when this part of the rope came through my hands, and I stopped them lowering him. We had a real job to get him up again. And when he got back up, he was wild; he was half-drunk then. He was mad and saying why didn't we let him go down all the way. And so I showed him the rope. That stopped his complaining right there. If that would have broke, down he would have went and he would have killed himself for sure. He would have drowned if he didn't break his neck first; there was fifteen or twenty feet of water in the bottom. ?

But the other time he went down, I went down with him. We had oil clothes (slickers) on because water was spurting in all directions from the old Money Pit next to the pump. We were down between 75 and 90 feet. And the timbers; you could hear the old timbers cracking in the Money Pit next to us. They sound just like a 12 guage shot gun when they go off down there.

11 We went down the ladderway through a couple of trap hatches. I had my flashlight with me and I could see this six by six beam moving. Those things get such a pressure on them, they can break off. So I grabbed bill by the arm, you couldn't talk because of the noise of the pump, and I pointed up and said to him ~~take him up, up, up~~ 'we better go up, up!' But he wanted to go further down. So I said, 'nope, I'm going up.' So I started up and then he heard one of the timbers cracking and he was right behind me. When I got up to the next platform I had to through a trapway. The sides were all reinforced with heavy timbers, but I could see the timbers twisting from the pressure. When we had gone down through the hatch it was ok and it was about four feet by four feet. But when I got back up through it, it was twisting and about ~~xxx~~ half the space was ~~xxx~~ left to get through. And you know Bill had to take his rain gear off in order to get through it. And fifteen minutes from that, the hole closed right up. Because we got up on the next platform and it was allright. But Bill looked down ~~down the shaft~~ the shaft and he says 'Amos, I don't see any hole down there. Sure enough, it was all choked off at that lower hatch. There was 24 six-by-six timbers in that ~~old~~ old money pit that had to be replaced. They'd snapped right off. We could have been trapped down there if we'd stayed a few minutes longer. It was the wet weather we had and the water seeped through the earth and put pressure on the pits. And the salt water was still coming through from somewhere too.

11 When we were down there there was always salt water coming in. But we couldn't find where it was coming from. Never saw the flood tunnels. But some of it was coming in from somewhere further down from where we were and we were at 176 feet. But anyway, that time I was scared. I said 'no more; I'm not going down there any more. you guys are going to have to hit me on the head and ~~throw me down~~ throw me down if you want to get me down there.' I said 'I won't go down there any more.' But I did anyway.

main 11 One time Hammy put dye down in the bottom of the pit and it came out on the southeast side of the island (between Smith and South cove). It came out off about 100 yards from high tide. We took my boat out to it and we could see the dye coming up from the bottom of the sea. So we knew there's a connection there with a waterway going through to the money pit area. But that part of the island has probably washed away a lot in the last couple of hundred of years. So where that dye was coming up was probably lot closer to the beach at one time. I know that just in the seven years I was working there that point (off smith's cove) was being eaten away by the ~~xx~~ sea. So the entrance to the flood tunnels now is quite a bit out.

11 There's big tunnels all under the island that I went through. But those were ones put in by earlier people looking for the treasure. I got down and started walking around those tunnels one summer. They were cribbed up with big pieces of 8x8 and 8x10 beams; most of them were hemlock. This was in 1941. They were tunnels put there before Blair's time. They were the early tunnels. The pit we were working in was near Smith's Cove at the time. and when we got down to about 75 feet there was a tunnel we ~~xx~~ found.

It was a short tunnel and it went across and went into another tunnel that came up from the shore in Smiths Cove. We pumped it out and we went all through it. Then it connected to one that went up the hill and right over to near the money pit. But we couldn't get into the money pit; it was blocked off between by an old shaft that had caved in. But we could hear the men working on the other side of the cave in, in the money pit, or at least in a tunnel that went right around the money pit. Hammy had built that. We could hear the men working there but it was all blocked off. We retimbered the old ~~pit~~ tunnels where it was needed, but it didn't need too many; probably only about a dozen timbers that had cracked. I took the old ones out and put ~~the~~ new ones in.

Anyway, ~~I remember one time~~ one time when I was down there I found this old pipe that was in back of the casing where the others were working in the money pit. Old ~~Charlie~~ Billy ~~Barkhouse~~ ^{Barkhouse} and Charlie Langaille (sp?), they were a superstitious couple of guys. Those two were doing the work down there. So I got on the end of this pipe and I started groaning. They were working about fifty feet from where the pipe came out behind the casing. So I started groaning 'oooh, I been here for ~~xxx~~ so many years. Been down here alone. I wonder what you're doing down here.' And my god, the first thing you know, Billy and Charlie ~~and~~ running up the ladder. And poor old Billy Barkhouse was the first one, and a superstitious man he was. And he came up and he said he's going home. By this time I had come back out the other pit and I said "what happened, billy?" And he says "I heard em, I heard em, I heard em!" That's all he could say. Do you know, it took a lot of convincing to get him to go back there to work.

Another time, I had the skeleton of an ~~Ox Head~~ ox head and I put two red reflector eyes in it and stuck it way up in the end of the pit after Billy and Charlie were gone home one day. But when my wife heard what I was going to do, she said "if you do that, I'll tell them" she says, "they'll die, you'll scare them to death." And I ~~had~~ had walked about three miles that night to get this skeleton head. Too bad I couldn't do it. I reckon I would have had some fun with that.

There's no decendants of Smith or McGinnis around here any more. But there's ~~Vaughn~~ Vaughn. There some relatives still around in the South Shore. Frank Vaughn lives on the road that goes ~~down~~ down to the Oak Island Marina and Hotel. Right across the road from that there's a couple of houses there and he lives in one of those houses. He's not a young man.

There used to be quite a few families living on that island, on the southwest side and other parts. There was a colored family name of Butler. There was only one person living on the island when we were there, Archie Duffy and his family. ?

My youngest son, Art, worked over there for a while. And my oldest boy too worked there. But I worked there about as long as anybody I guess. We had the MGM newsreel down here one year in the 30's. We had people dressed up like pirates and casks of stuff that was supposed to be gold.

Once (when MGM was up doing a film) I almost fell into an old pit down by the shore (smiths cove) I got one leg in but managed not to ~~xx~~ fall into it. If I had gone into that I would have been like the old ox they lost down there one time. They lost an ox down there and never got it out.

Hedden used to live up on the hill (near the money pit). All this side ~~(xx)~~ (northeast) they mowed the hay when we were over there. And now I guess it's pulpwood growing there now. It all grew up around there.

loop?
There was a big grey rock near his house with names written on it. It got broken up in five or six pieces; big pieces. It was smooth stone with writing on it. It was up on the northwest side of the island, towards Western Shore. And we got a float and Hedden wanted it put on that and floated down to the wharf (at Smiths Cove) where he was going to haul it up to the cabin with a team of horses. I don't know where the rock came from.

*probably
rock
stall
and.*
When I was up there too there was a big flat rock that weighed about 60 or 70 pounds. Written on it was stuff like "Captain Kidd, 1671." That stuck around there for a long time. Some practical Joker probably carved it. Well, When I moved all the stuff ~~xx~~ off the island in '43, I took ~~the~~ this rock over the bank and under a tree near ~~smiths cove and buried it there~~ South cove and buried it there, thinking the next guy that come along looking for the treasure would go crazy when he found it. But I don't know ~~where~~ where it is now because that whole area was bulldozed back in the 60's (by Dunfield). Somebody had carved that rock as a joke; we never thought it was original.

When we found the stone triangle, it was all growed up around it and there was sod over the rocks. So it was there for a long time.

lets
The first time I had ever been to the island was when I was 14 years old. ~~xx~~ (that would have been 1911). The people I was working for at the time, Scotch people, they had a house down here. ~~Colonel~~ Colonel Miller was the name. They had an ~~old woman~~ old woman who was their cook. She was a superstitious sort. And she had had a dream that over there (on Oak Island) she knew where the money was buried. But the funny part was she was never on the island. And she drew a map with a pencil showing where we were to land (on the island). I suppose she saw pictures of Oak Island anyhow; she must have. And the map showed where we were to land, and we'd walk up and we'd come to a fence and we'd go a little ways, 120 feet or something like that I think it was, and there'd be a gate. And we were to go through the gate where'd there be a bunch of scattered trees; which was there. And we were to go down, come back towards the water and there would be two mounds about six feet apart. Those mounds were there. Well, it was one of those hot days in the summer and the black flies just couldn't be any worse. So, Ernest (Miller) and Mrs. Miller and her sister and the old lady (cook) and I went over. I took them over in my boat and landed them where the map said.

Anyway, The funny part was that where she had drawn on this piece of paper, it was the same as if she was there the day before and drew it. Because there was the fence, there was the gate, back here was these big trees and here was these two big mounds. I never got over to this day how she knew all that. She never left the house and I knew and the Millers knew she was never on there. I was appointed to dig, and it was one of those terrible hot days in July with lots of blackflies. I got down about three and a half or four feet and I was sweating. But I wasn't supposed to talk. None of us could talk, according to the instructions from the old woman. But I forgot about that and I finally said "look, time for one of you to get down here and shovel." Well, the old ~~lady~~ woman got mad when I talked. She said, "let's go home, let's go home." She figured the spell was broken by my talking.

I don't know what's on Oak Island. I don't know how they ever would have got down that far at that time.

(Gives me school essays written in 1868 and says he got them from Hamilton who had transcribed them) or got them from Hedden who might have transcribed them in 1936)

We quit working on the island in 1942 because we shut down because of the war. I went up to work in the iron ore mines in Berwick, N.S. in the Annapolis Valley; the North Mountain. The government figured ~~xxx~~ men were needed more to work there for iron ore for the war than to look for treasure on Oak Island. So we quit in '42 and in '43 I took the stuff off the island.

Hamilton died Dec. 17, 1969. He never came back and tried again after 1942. He believed there was something there all right. By the time he quit he believed it was treasure from a French pay ship ~~xx~~ from Louisburg. He worked all alone and paid it all alone. He spent \$58,000 on it. He wasn't with a company. Wages were cheap at that time (40c an hour) but that was still a lot of money for that time. (to spend treasure hunting). And 40c an hour was top wages.

But I could never get through my head that there was anything down there, not at that depth anyhow. Because they didn't have the machinery in those days to dig that far down. They had the engineering but they would have had to have modern tools and machinery to work with. Unless maybe there was a cave down there then that's been ~~washed down~~ washed down since. But I was down deeper with my drill than anybody ever dug. We had the pit down to 176 feet and I used to drill holes another 80 feet from that, and I'd get practically the same thing on the core, nothing that ever shined. went through bedrock lots of times. I ~~was~~ went through one place once that was nothing but an old pit. I brought up pieces of wood from the cribbing. And that was more than 200 feet under the ground. Some of the wood was squared off where it had been cut.

There were Oak trees on the island when I was there, but not too many. There was only two of the old original ones. They

were out on the point, on the south point by Smiths Cove. I don't know ~~xx~~ if they're still there now.

Hamilton was a professor of mechanical engineering and aeronautics. He taught at NYU. He first got interested in Oak Island when he came up to visit Hedden in 1937. I picked him up in Chester then and took him over to the island to see Hedden. Hedden was planning ~~xxx~~ on pulling out of it and Hammy was going to take it over, which he did the next year in '38. But I worked with ~~Mxxxx~~ Hammy 32 years. First on Oak Island and then with the boat building business. We built our first boat in the winter of '46-'47. When ~~xxxxxx~~ Hamilton gave up, somebody took over the island ~~xxxx~~ between him and Restall. Louis I think. Mrs. Restall still lives here in Western Shore, near Gold River.

There's been six people killed in the search. And there was almost a Rafuse killed in 1943 when I took down the framework for the big pit. It was the hoist we used to bring the earth up. Rafuse, he weighed over 200, stood on a beam that had been sawed nearly off, and down he come. I was on the deck and we had the cover off the pit. Anyhow, old Rafuse was lying there on the ~~xxxxxx~~ framework. He'd fallen about fifteen feet and was lying across the struts. He was unconscious and had broken ribs on both sides. If he ~~xxxxxx~~ wouldn't have had a big stomach on him he probably would have broken more. Henslem Rafuse was his right name.

Finding the stone triangle: I was looking around the island with Hedden. He was looking for something that had been ~~xxxx~~ first seen in 1897 by Captain Welling. Hedden gave me some idea that there was something down there by the beach (at south cove) that he wanted to find. So I was exploring around there. I had a hoe with me. I was clawing around and suddenly I hit one rock, then another and another, all in line with each other. So I decided there was something here. I started clearing it and called Hedden over. He was up in his cabin at the time. So we cleared all the rocks off and painted them all white. Then Roper he came in and set up his instrument on the rocks and made this survey. Hedden figured it was a pretty important discovery. The rocks are gone now. (Dunfield bulldozed them away.)

(long rambling history going back to late 50's on Nolan's first involvement with Chapell and Oak Island, Dunfield, Restall, etc)

"Didn't own the seven lots until 1961 when I discovered Chapell didn't own the whole island and I bought them. It was right in the middle of the island, left right out of all his (Chapell's) deeds. I ~~find~~ found out who the original heirs were. Mostly in Chester. people like Anthony Graves' ancestors. Put down first shaft in summer of 1964. Paid around \$3,000 for all seven lots. We have clear deeds to the seven lots. We don't think there's a dispute (with Triton) over ownership of the lots at the moment, because of many things. They paid us money ~~for~~ for going through (the seven lots) and we've been paying taxes every year (on the lots)

"CHAPPELL

"Triton gets about 30% of the ~~Trux~~ Triton syndicate. And I don't think he could get out if he wanted. They're (Triton) pretty shrewd operators. Mrs. Restall says Chapell used them something awful. Mrs. Restall blames Chapell for her husband and son's death (speeding up their work); because he wanted to bring Dunfield in.

"Starting in 1965, when Dunfield was going to come in with his open pit mining operation that would have destroyed everything (surface clues), we went about locating everything methodically, and now we're the only ~~the~~ ones that have everything located on the whole island. and they (triton) know this. Things like surveyors' markers that we know were put there by the original people who dug the shafts, buried the treasure and the whole bit.

"The (original) operation took place here approximately 200 years ago. The only way you can date any of this stuff is by the usual carbon dating ~~method~~ method; and this only gives you things within maybe ~~200 years~~ 100 or 200 years, so the result is that you can't get things pinned down within a 200 year period. It's too close. So the result is that you can't date them (by that method) But we have been able to date them because of the variation of the compass needle. We have located the marks and the marks are referred to the magnetic needle. So the change of variation in this period of years brings us back to approximately in the period of 1780. (variation for that area is now 22° and decreasing 1' annually) The key to the whole thing is that they (original diggers) left a starting point which led us on course after course on the island. Every point we left would take us to another point, and all of these were (original surveyors') markers, definitely worked by man. And this brought us to a certain path. (startin with triangle of stones which gave an exact magnetic compass bearing North about year 1780) The result is that one of these lines is based on, shows a change of 7° 40' from today's bearings, which is approximatel the change between the variation today and a period between 1760 and 1790.

~~xx~~ (In 1965 Warren Presley owned Grandalls Point) Dunfield bulldozed land from the point to build the cause way in 1965 without Presley's permission. Dunfield tried to buy the point from ~~Presley~~ Presley. When he (Presley) came over (to the point) and saw what they (Dunfield) had done, he said 'those high-handed buggers; no wonder they wanted to

IN 1965

buy the land.' So, I asked him to sell it to me to help our position re chapell. He said okay. so we bought the land. Dunfield put a guy with a shotgun out on the end of this point. But I went to him and I said I don't mind you using the (Crandalls Point) land, I don't want to interfere with your work, but I want acknowledgement that you're crossing it. He wouldn't enter into any agreement, because Chapell didn't want him to.

also * "Not only Chapell, but Chapell had very good lawyers; a chap named Gordon Coles, who'll come up again. Gordon Coles now is the deputy xx attorney ~~gener~~ general of the province of Nova Scotia. Bear this in mind, that's a strong point. He's in a very powerful position in government now. He was Chapell's lawyer at that time. Anyway, they stalled me off re the agreement. Lawyers letters back and forth. Meanwhile, Dunfield ran out of time (money and patience), so he left (the island).

"In 1967, Coles was still Chapell's lawyer. We were contacted (that year) by Coles. Apparently, David Tobias, who's in Montreal and who is the head of Triton, wanted to start a large-scale drilling operation on the island. He came down from Montreal a couple of times and he paid us \$1,000 for a six month lease to use ~~xxx~~ this land here (the point) and our land ~~on the island~~ on Oak Island for just getting through. Nothing else, just access. And after the first six months, the second six months was to be renewed. In the meantime, I'd become involved and they wanted me to. And I said, 'well, they gave us \$1,000 and that's good, that shows we have possession. From that point of view, it wasn't the \$1,000, but it was enough to make it (claim to the 7 kots) stand up in court; to show we ~~xxx~~ had good occupation. We'd gone over and ~~done~~ done some surveying during that first six months and located some of their holes. My god, they had a \$100,000 drill in there and they'd put about \$150,000 worth of drill holes down, and they weren't marking their locations where they weren't going. They weren't logging it. So we logged some of them during that period. We tied them into our survey system over there. That went along fine; we provided this information for them.

"After the six-month period was up, I wanted another \$1,000 for continuing on. They said 'no; you're involved with us now; we're not going to pay you another ~~thousand dollars~~ \$1,000. They in turn had given me what they called two shares in their operation. I said I didn't especially want their two shares. They said that because they'd given me these two shares, they didn't owe me any more money. So I wasn't about to make any agreement to that effect. I was dealing directly with Tobias at this point. And I was dealing with Coles. Coles was down here as much as Tobias was.

"Coles was a shareholder in Triton. It's a hard thing to prove (whether he still is). But we've got documents, papers, letters and everything showing Coles being deeply involved in it (Triton). He was acting not only as Chapell's lawyer, but as Triton's lawyer. In a ministerial hearing in 1970 with minister of Lands and Forests, Coles was down as Chapell's lawyer and Triton's lawyer. (this is before Coles became Asst. Attorney General.

* *///* (According to Allard, "Coles was Triton's corporate secretary for several years.") - CONFIRMED BY COLES ON JUNE 4/75

// "Anyway, this argument came up (with Triton) on this business about the \$1,000. As far as I was concerned, that was important, and we started to run into a hassel. Then they wanted to get through (my lots and Crandall's Point). Dan (Blankenship) went out and hacksawed through my gate (on Crandall's Point) and I had him charged in court. But the power these people (Triton) have is tremendous. The influence is all through the courts, judges, everything. So they said to Dan, 'we'll just charge you with ~~fixax~~ minor mischief and we'll fine you \$1.' So Dan walked away and bragged that 'I'll cut any gate any day for \$1.'

"This was small stuff, mind you. But we were still showing our rights to it (the point and the 7 lots) And they (Triton) were going through continually. We couldn't stop them; we couldn't camp here all the time. So we erected that gate (on the point at causeway entrance). And then, of course, he (Blankenship) hacked it ~~xxx~~ through. That was in 1969.

// "After we got our treasure trove license (for the 7 lots in 1971) they (Triton) were trying to block us by putting cars across the causeway (which Triton claims to ~~own~~ own). And, of course, we were trying to block them ~~by putting cars across~~ from getting through here (the point). So it was a chaotic situation. We had blocked the road in the part that runs through our property. And Blankenship ~~made a threat~~ had made a threat that he'd bulldoze them away. There were different occasions that we had confrontations. One night we'd gone over with a big truck with a boom on it and we lifted some big boulders and put them across the road (on the island where it ~~crosses~~ crosses the 7 lots). And they (Dan and his helpers) couldn't get out (by vehicle) that night; so they had to ~~walk~~ walk across. But we'd told them we were going to do this; they were trespassing. The next day, Blankenship comes down ~~to~~ (to the point) and he's got a rifle with him. This was in 1972. So we said, this is ridiculous, we're not going to get our heads blown off.' So we called in the Mounties. The Mounties came over; there were four of them. Dan said he had the gun to protect his property. He showed it to them. The magazine was fully loaded, with a bullet in the chamber. They confiscated it from him.

* Nolan had an agreement last summer with the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism to get 30% of the take from the Oak Island tours. "It was just ~~only for this summer~~ a one year agreement. We got approximately \$3,000 last summer (as result of the agreement). There's no agreement for this summer. We were called into Len Bagel's office (Minister of Tourism) about two months ago and he said this year there will be no agreement. He said we have orders from the Attorney General's department that there will be no agreement with you, no agreement with Triton, no agreement with anybody. So I said to ~~myself~~ myself, 'so much bilgewater; there'll be an agreement with Triton.' And I said, that's fine; that's fine with us/

"The attorney general's department calls the shots on everything that goes on in government. And Coles, being the deputy attorney general, you can imagine the power that he weilds. Because that everything that goes through government has to be sanctioned as legally okay.

"Coles is not still Triton's lawyer. No, he couldn't be, in his position. I have nothing in writing to prove (that he ever was a member of the Triton Syndicate). But he did have shares when I was in with them (Triton). It was obvious (then) that Coles share was so much, Dan's share was so much. This was back in 1968. We were all friends then. That was before I wanted that extra \$1,000.

"The situation today is they (dept of Tourism) won't sign an agreement. So, about a month ago, I went out (to the point) and we started to extend our building (museum). We had got the footings in and were starting to get ready to construct the walls. Then I got a notice served on me (dated April 21/75) from Leonard Pace (Minister of Highways) saying the extension of the building is encroaching on a public highway. (road leading to the causeway). Another similar paper was served on my wife back in Bedford (NS). This was harassment. They've always bothered my family before; trying to drag my family into it, figuring this would bluff me. To pressure me, in other words. I was building that extension to expand my museum. We have a deed to the property. Extension doesn't even block the roadway. So they came down, RCMP and everything, a whole crowd of them. They arrived at 1 pm on April 27. The highways department was there with a bulldozer and they'd moved some old cannons and were bulldozing the foundation into the bay. I got there and told them to stop. Told them this was private property. They stopped.

~~xx~~ "What they're trying to do, is they're trying to drag me into the courts. You've got to remember that Coles and Triton are ~~xxxx~~ behind the whole operation. They're dictating (to N.S. government) everything's that's done (to me). Everything that's done, Triton is behind it. It's cost me about \$25,000 in legal fees over the years; just legal fees alone fighting this whole dispute. I've kicked in another \$50,000 over the years looking for the treasure, \$40,000 anyway.

"This is the thing I'm getting at; Coles is calling all the shots. He's in the key position in government. This is why Bagnell (Tourism) can't sign agreements with us; this is why the Highways Dept. comes down (on us). Coles, Bagnell, Pace; they're all buddy-buddies in there. And I'm trying to be made the villain down here, you see. And they've done a pretty good job of it, you know. They're ~~xxxxxx~~ (Triton) trying to maneuver me into a position where I'm interfering with tourism. Now they've got the government doing their battle for them, and that's what they want. To maneuver me into a position where I'm fighting with the government. And Coles being in that position; if I was to sue the government ~~xxxxxx~~ for the damage they've done here, then I would be fighting the government over this issue, and it's really Triton's issue (i.e. ownership of point and 7 lots).
~~xx~~

~~xx~~ (Reason for the fight over Treasure?) "Yes; they ~~(Triton)~~ (Triton) know that we're on to something. We're on to it; we know we're on to it and we've got it now. They're (Triton) trying to maneuver us into a position where it appears we cause so much trouble to the government that they'll (the government) ~~xxxx~~ cancel our (treasure trove) license. And that then they'll ~~(Triton)~~ (Triton) will be able to get it. This is what they're after. Because they know what we're interested in up there. (the 7 lots). We were working all last winter. This is what it all boils down to. The license is good for a year and a half yet. (Dec. 31/76)

// * "They (triton) know we have a good year and a half left (before license expires) and they know we can easily do it (find the treasure) in that period of time. We'll have the treasure this year (said very emphatically). We'll find it this summer. Whether we're going to find a treasure or what it is, I don't know. But we're going to find something; it's down there, we know where it is. It's on our property, and they (Triton) know this. All last winter we were out there working in a certain area, and they know it. We were zeroing in on a certain location. They're trying desperately to stop us. The idea is to get our license from us. They know they can't do it themselves. But if they can make it look as if we're causing the government a lot of problems, the the government might say 'well, Nolan's not cooperating with the government, so we'll take his license from him.'

* "It's not the value of the treasure so much. It's been twenty years of fighting. It's been like a chess game. One move, then another move. And this is the way it's been. And one of us, either Tobias or myself, is going to win this game. And they've pulled every dirty trick in the book against me on this thing. And you don't forget this easily. The name of the game is you don't give. You don't back down at all. Once you back down, you show weakness. And once they get control of this point, then they undermine my position with relation to the whole picture. Once I let them through here and they get easy access through here, they'll say, 'well, he's backing down, now we'll attack him on his (7 lots of) land on the island. It's like Southeast Asia, the domino theory.'

// (Does Triton think that you're that close to finding the treasure that they have to stop you this summer?) "Well, I'll give you an example. I was out to the island ~~this morning~~ this ~~morning~~ morning, and I found all over our survey monuments these (aerial photo targets) are put down on our property for aerial photography. On all our key locations that we've got out there. (they went there Tuesday). Dan (Henski) says he put them there. He says he did it on his own. There are about 15 ~~markers~~ alltogether, on all the key locations. Henski can say what he wants, but he's working for Triton. Where does Dan get all this special foil and stuff. He said he was doing it because the province (Lands & Forests) is making an aerial survey of the area around here, Lunenburg County. Coles knew about this and all the guys in Triton and government knew about it. So they thought, well' this way, we'll locate all of Nolan's monuments and we might be able to figure out what he's on to from all the key markers. I've (already) shown them some of the original markers and they've got these marked. But I just showed them what I wanted to show them. I ~~didn't~~ didn't show them any of the ~~real~~ real key efforts; they don't know where they are. But the thing is, they don't know this. They don't know what I know, or if what I've told them is ~~known~~ true or untrue. So it's obvious they're desperately trying to do something. Otherwise, why would they go all through our property. Henski's not supposed to be on our property. Here they're coming over on our property when I'm away. Same as they come down here (to the point) when I'm away and they try to bulldoze my building.

"Coles and them want me to take them to court. This is what I've always done before. As soon as something's come up, I've always gone to court. They knew that this is a sort of a trend, a pattern I've set over the years. So they figured if they did this, Nolan will automatically attack the government, drag them to court, and it would be a losing battle because he'll be fighting the province. And ~~it's~~ it's Triton I should be fighting, and it's Triton who are calling the shots. In other words, Coles is in the government working for Triton. And he's trying to maneuver me in a position whereas I'm fighting with the province. Whereas the argument here has always been between Triton and ourselves, now they've maneuvered me into a position whereas Triton has slipped out of the picture and I'm fighting the government. And if I were to take them to court over this issue, they could bankrupt me. They can bankrupt anybody on a deal like that. That's the ~~idea~~ idea, is to bankrupt us. Any money that we can put into the treasure hunt this summer, they'd drain from us in ~~known~~ legal ~~known~~ fees. But we didn't take the bait. They've been waiting for three weeks for something to happen.

The government hasn't started the Oak Island tours yet this summer "because of this dispute." Triton is trying to get the government ~~known~~ to come in and do all the dirty work; and at taxpayers expense. The only ones that are going to lose on the whole deal are us and the Nova Scotia taxpayers. Triton will come out laughing. Because they won't be spending a nickel and they'll be draining us at the same time.

"I have no intention of stopping ~~known~~ tourists from coming through here. We never have; we never will. All we've done is provide parking here and charged a few cents for it. But we want a percentage (of the take) to allow the government ~~use~~ use of Crandalls Point and the use of the island. The same as it was last year. If tourists want to ~~park~~ park here (on the point) and go through the museum, fine, ~~they'll pay~~ There'll be a small charge for it. But not as much as they'll be charged when they go over there (to the island) They're (dept of Tourism) going to hit them for \$1.50 each individual this year.

"If they (tourists) want to come in and go across the causeway and ~~park~~ on the island, fine. But no government official is going to cross the causeway. We're still letting Triton go across the causeway. We've got an agreement with them.

(Nolan claims that he owns the land on Crandalls Point right out to the water; i.e., owns the only existing access to the causeway. Government claims that part of it is a government road, however.)

"I would let them use the land if they enter into an agreement with me. I'm not all that interested in a percent of the gate. I'm not going to allow government officials go through here; the same government officials who come in and bulldoze my buildings. Government officials, including Linda Masland, are going to have to go (to the island) by boat. Unless they want to enter into an agreement with me. An agreement acknowledging that they're using my property to go through. (don't insist on getting a percentage of the gate, ~~but~~ but) I wouldn't be all that ~~happy~~ happy about it (if Triton got a percentage). I don't think Triton deserves anything.

"Either I own Crandalls Point or I don't. I say I do. They (the government) could expropriate it under the Highways Act. But the thing is, if they expropriate it, ~~they~~ then they're going to be interfere with free enterprise. And once they've expropriated it, then they admit that I owned it all along. So the thing is, why don't they take me to court. They're not doing it. They're trying to force me to take the action against them. Because the one who takes the action, the onus is on him to prove he owns ~~the~~ it (the land). So they want me to be in that position. I'm not going to bite.

"We hope" ~~we~~ we'll solve the mystery of Oak Island this summer. Twenty years is a long time; too long, really. I think there's a massive treasure there. There's strong indications that it's under our property. I think the treasure dates back to approximately 1780, 1790, in that region. It was buried by a secret group; a secret society. They were maybe pirates, I don't know. But they were highly skilled and very knowledgeable people. Not aztecs or anything like that. They were European people who settled in this country and they show ~~signs of~~ signs of military and naval background and training. It's not a single ~~xxx~~ pirate like Captain Kidd. They were a group of highly influential people; something like Triton today, I guess, who had tremendous power. Where they came from has been kept secret. But they had military training, possibly like army corps of engineers. It was much more than a pay ship. European ancestry. The origin of the treasure consists of Spanish treasure. Spanish gold and silver. There are large amounts of Spanish gold and silver that are in it. What else is in it, we don't know. We have certain knowledge that backs ~~maxxxx~~ this up. Knowledge that we've gotten by investigating the island over the years. They were a very methodical outfit. ~~They~~ They could have controlled a dozen ships and they could have controlled a vast army of people/. The thing is, they were very skilled people. ~~They~~ I think their home base was possibly out of the Carolinas or down that way. I think they preyed on the Spanish Main from down there. This was their summer base here; Where the ships were overhauled every so often..

"A number of treasures have been removed (from the island); no question about it. The place has been sacked, as far as I'm concerned. Because a lot of treasures were buried as single treasures. We've located three that have been removed. Our markers bring us to those points. But this one that we're on to now was not. And it's on our property. I don't have any gold or silver in my possession. I have found things besides the surveyors' markers. But I've got to be awful careful on this, ~~xxxxxx~~ we're dealing with sort of a weird situation. People get carried away on this kind of thing and I've ~~xxx~~ got to protect my position from different angles. From the angle of Triton and from you never know who. We have in our possession part of something that was buried by the original people. ~~xxxx~~ It was manufactured. (declines to say what it is) It's locked away in safety deposit. Very cautious about letting too much out, because it would give certain information to Triton. If Triton had what we had, they could probably raise money by selling considerable stock. And we're not in the market to do Triton's work for them; not under the circumstances. This is why we want to get it over with this summer, because it has dragged on too long. We're not just doing survey work this summer, we're going to go after treasure this summer. The survey work has been completed.

"None of the treasures have been deep on Oak Island. Most of the treasure has been buried ~~less than a foot under the ground~~ not much more than a foot under the ground, that we located. Everything was based on location. Once you knew the location, it doesn't have to be deep. We have certain work to do in relation to the swamp area.

"I started this thing when I was 25 years old. I'm 47 now. My profession is a provincial land surveyor. Conduct private land surveys under a provincial license.

Problems with the province, ~~Trax~~ Triton and the treasure is "all one package. It's a race against time. Triton knows we're on to something. They're done up there. They're finished. What do they do now?

"Dan (Blankenship) is a worker; there's no question about that. But it's Tobias that's calling the shots, and Tobias's group. And this is where the money is; big money too. And this is what I'm up against

(we take truck across causeway and on to island where Nolan picks up some more aerial targets and throws them in back of the truck)

Interview continues on island:

"it's a race (by Triton) to try to stop me. I think it's reached this point now. It's a desperate race to try to stop us. No question about it, I think we'll win; because Triton doesn't know what to do. They've fouled up everything they're involved in up on the hill. They've ruined that cavern that's down below. If there was anything there, they've filled it all with about two feet of silt and they don't know where it is. They should never have pumped it out like they did. Triton has been botching things for years and years like this. As far as we're concerned, the only thing we're interested in is what we can see, what we can touch and what we can feel. It has to be that combination. If we can just see it and we can't get to it, then that's not good enough.

"I don't know why they (Triton) are trying to cause so much problems with us; why Coles is.... He's out to destroy us, there's no question about it.

"My partners all prefer to remain in the background. They can do more by operating this way. There's about a half dozen of us altogether, including myself. I'm the most personally involved. All the partners are Nova Scotians; businessmen. They've been putting a bit of money into it in late years. They are standing in the background with the money when it's needed. If we're ~~ready to~~ ready to move, I have enough money there (with the partners) to keep us going on anything big. I'm not talking half a million or anything like that, like Triton."

"We're trying to remain as quiet as we can on this (treasure hunting) thing. We're not trying to generate publicity. we're not a big group like triton. we find that knowledge is more important than money spent. Our idea of surveying (oak island) has been quite successful. the difference between triton and ourselves is that triton is an incorporated group. they're in the business to sell shares. we're not operating that way.

they're under a half dozen in our group; all of them nova scotians. (declines to disclose the names of his partners).

we have certain basic knowledge from our undertakings. any clues to that island don't come overnight. it's a very frustrating business. there does appear to be some kind of military technique behind it. the monument (found by nolan several years ago on the island) is vital. we found tremendous (surveying) techniques that these people used; very exact. we're convinced these markers are original. one marker leads to another; a very set system. the angles (between the markers) are very significant. we started working in the 1950's and have completely surveyed the whole island. we have at least on one occasion entered an empty cavern. I have a map in a vault in Halifax; a map we reconstructed from a highly accurate survey. we've recreated the original treasure map. (says the map he gave to blankenship some years ago "isn't complete")

I own 7 lots on the island and they take in four acres each, but they're not in the money pit area. my agreement with triton and chappell (allowing triton and nolan access on parts of each others land) is dated November 1971. my land includes Joudrey's Cove. I'm building a sort of summer house there this summer.

re secret of oak island. I'll leave you a phrase and you'll find out what I mean later. 'The key is in the lock'. there are maps buried on Oak Island; I'm sure of it.

In 1969 before he died jack adams called me and told me he wanted to show me something he'd found in the ~~swamp~~ swamp. just before ~~we~~ we were supposed to get together he went blind. So you think there's no curse on Oak Island? (according to Mrs. adams, jack had one eye removed in 1969 as result of a tumor. and he did find some pieces of metal in the swamp in the winter of 1969.)

I bought my lots from all old women in their 80's and 90's. i paid somewheres around \$3,000 for the lots altogether. I got lots nine through fourteen plus lot five. that's seven lots of about four acres each; 28 acres out of the island's total 130 acres. (island is divided into 32 lots of four acres each).

re monument - it's an old surveyors monument we found in the summer of 1974. I stumbled across it while running some survey lines off the drilled rocks. transitline hit it dead on the tip. it was mostly buried and standing perfectly ~~skrxix~~

straight up and down. I had a geologist study it and he said it was almost certainly hand cut and the fact that it was found in a vertical plane was unnatural. he said it was not a normal way for it to be in the ground. there are also scorch marks on it where it must have been fired (only on one side) when it was being cut. the geologist said it had been fired but what caused it he didn't know. he did say it wasn't a natural cause like a brush fire, since it was only scorched on one side. found it in the centre part of the island and the transit line hit the point dead on. it tied into other lines we had run. our starting point was a stone pile we had found years before. and the stone pile hit a drilled rock. I'm convinced too there's a tie-in with these markers and the stone triangle (found on the south cove).

I have a chest of charts made over the years of how all these clues tie-in. I couldn't give you a copy of the final chart we made. it's still our secret. Over the years they (triton) tried to con me into giving them all the information I have and what I was to get for it was the sum total of nothing; just a lot of promises.

(shows me a letter from attorney general's office where government is suggesting getting some sort of settlement worked out over crandall's point issue. letter is signed by a "Cavanaugh, J.W.", director of Civil issues. Nolan says letter is really from ~~Gunter~~ Gordon Coles. Government seems to be backing down in this letter, written may 1976, and suggests Nolan submit a figure he estimates for past damages by dept of highways to his museum property.) (John E. Godwin is the lawyer representing Nolan in the issue.)

So far the government has paid me \$2,700 for the use of my land; for the tours to cross through Crandall's Point. I don't think that was a smart move on their part, but they did it. I didn't get any share last year from the tour revenues. I didn't find out if triton got any percentage of it. The government said they didn't (Bagnell said that) but he wouldn't show me the agreement between the government and triton.

We did some work (on the island) last year. we concentrated on the swamp. I think it was around october we started. we built a road out into the center of the swamp and we put a shaft down into the swamp. it was about 15 feet square and we went to the bottom of the swamp. The bottom of the swamp is about 12 feet in that location and with the back-hoe we went down about 15 feet and completely checked the area. we found sand and shore gravel at the bottom. there were an awful lot of old stumps in the swamp that must have been washed in there over the years; birch and oak even.

We had a confrontation with triton over the swamp last year. we had done an extensive survey of the swamp over the previous two winters (when the swamp is frozen and passable). Last year we brought in pumps and we wanted to drain the swamp to the south side of the island on the beach. We wanted to drain the top water off and get through the peat; it was like a big sponge. we brought a heavy dozer in and what we wanted

to do was cut a trench from the swamp to the beach (south cove), excavate a hole into this stuff (peat bog), put it up on the beach and have the dozer push it into the sea and it would gradually wash out into the ocean; it wouldn't do any damage. So we started doing this and Blankenship came over and he was furious. he said 'you can't do this to this beach!' You think they'd never done anything to a beach on Oak Island? You should see what they've done to the other side (Smith's Cove) beaches. he said 'I use this for swimming in the summertime. you mean ~~xxxx~~ you're going to dump all this stuff on the beach?' I said 'we're just going to dig a hole in there.' Oh no, he says, 'you can't do this.' and then his son came over, and whiskers (Henski) he came over. I had a crew of men there, about six men. I was trying to talk reasonable to blankenship. And whiskers gets in between blankenship and me and the next thing his (henski's) chin is under my nose. I was having my quarrel with blankenship and this fellow starts butting in, so I put my hand up and I said 'get him out of here,' and I leaned back with my right. Everything was about to explode. So blankenship then ordered henski out of the way. henski was quite riled up about the whole thing. So then i said to blankenship, 'look, if this is going to cause all this row, we'll fill it in and forget it. we started arguing about where my line comes down. we don't agree where our lines divide in the swamp. anyway, we were down on the beach and that doesn't belong to either of us. (fed govt property). So I told the men to fill everything back in and said 'we're leaving.' I said i'll go to the other side of the island and drain it from the other side (Joudrey's cove). I said 'that's on my side of the island and don't let me catch you over there.' We haven't drained it through there. it would be hard because we'd have to do some pretty heavy ~~drainage~~ ditching.

So while we couldn't drain the swamp as much as we wanted, we got it down about four feet. then we went out and started digging the shaft in the part of the swamp we were interested in. We didn't crib it. we were going to but couldn't because of this boggy material down there. we only cribbed the top six feet and then dug out the rest with the back-hoe. but the water was always flooding in. it was fresh water under lots of pressure. so we couldn't really examine it the way we would have liked to. We didn't find anything of significance. but years ago when we put down a 25 foot hole in the center of the island we kept thinking we were hitting timbers with the clam-digger. but we never actually saw any wood. you can start imagining things when you're looking that hard.

When we did surveys of the swamp we did it in the winter when the ice made a solid platform. Like drilling for oil in the arctic tundra. When we were drilling we seemed to break through something several times. There was a layer down there about half an inch thick and it took an awful hard time to break through it. but once we broke through it, bang the drill went down easily. that layer was around the bottom, about twelve feet down. it was very unusual, we didn't hit it anywhere else in the swamp. that's why we picked that place to sink a shaft. Also, it was reasonably near an intersection of lines we'd gotten from the old surveyors markers. After excavating we ~~figured~~ figured that it must have been a hard layer of

sand that we had been hitting. We didn't get any metal out of there.

Jack Adams said he had gotten pieces of metal out of the swamp. I never saw it. Some people say that someone once threw an old pot bellied stove into the swamp and that's what jack adams was bringing up. who's to say.

I've been involved with oak island 23 or 24 years now. I've learned to be careful; not to jump at conclusions. because there have been so many disappointments; so many things like that (finding nothing at swamp bottom after being lured to dig by unexplained hard layer during drill tests.) That's all we did last year; just concentrated on the swamp. but it was long hard work because of the rain. So we checked that area out and the results weren't all that good.

This summer I'm just marking time. I've got a number of things that we can do. And i'm not just sure yet what approach i'm going to apply to this thing this summer. I'm just going to take my time with this thing. I don't know if we'll do any digging on the island this summer. A lot depends on money. Money's getting tight and it's nothing to throw \$5,000 into a few weeks digging in that place.

Over the years ~~ix~~ I've spent, aside from the value of my own time (I would say I've spent a full continuous three years of my life at ~~diggingmanxoxoxislandx~~ searching oak island) but apart from my own time, out of my own pocket I would say I've spent \$50,000 to \$60,000 in personal investment. And that doesn't count my legal costs in fighting triton and the government.

Every year now I've been at it. Every year since 1963 ^(1961?) when I acquired the land on the island. Every year I've spent a lot of money there.

I looked at Blankenship the other day and I said to myself, here he is, living on that island; he's got his wife and his son working with him (~~Dunfield~~). He's got a daughter too and his son-in-law worked the island one year). And I thought, here's a man who... Se what happened to him was he had \$25,000 when he came here (in 1965) and ~~Dunfield~~ went up to Dunfield, who was a smart operator, and made that cheque out for \$25,000 and turned it over to him. That was all his savings. Dunfield wasted the money, and from then on they didn't like one another. I can see why blankenship doesn't like dunfield. Anyway, I was looking at blankenship and thinking that Tobias, the multimillionaire and all that money those backers are supposed to have, and I thought look at the way blankenship is existing; he's got that beat-up old car all rusted out, and that little house on the island. so I though where's all that money from Tobias; look at the way he's treating blankenship. That's tobias' style.

I feel sorry for Dan, but at the same time, i'm dealing with tobias. And as far as I'm concerned, tobias, if it meant five cents in his own pocket, he'd kick the gold out of his mother's teeth. That's tobias as far as I'm concerned. Dan must be discouraged. No man can live like that without being discouraged. Because he's completely at the mercy of Tobias in his position. Almost like a dog on a leash.

This is the way tobias tried to get me. He tries to organize the whole thing so we're all ~~xxx~~ slaves in his camp. While we're on that subject, we may as well get things clear. my problems with tobias started from what I consider to be a reasonable foundation of what you might call discussion. He wanted to create this operation on oak island in 1966; to carry over from dunfield. there was nobody there at that time, but apparently tobias was communicating with blankenship, chappell and others. Tobias came to me and he said "all right fred, how much do you want to let us go through (crandall's point, which nolan then owned) as well as the seven lots on the island) for six months." This was in 1966. I thought for a minute and said 'how about \$1,000.' so he said ~~okay~~ 'okay, i'll have Gordon Coles draw up an agreement.' So gordon coles draws up an agreement and gives me \$1,000. but in an accompanying letter he says, and this is what has caused all the trouble, he says if we wish to extend our agreement for another six months then we should have the same opportunity to give you ~~another \$1000~~ another \$1000 for another six months. I said that's fine, and I signed it. I got my \$1,000 and they drilled for the first six months.

What happened was I went over ~~there~~ there while they were working, Coles, Chappell and all of them were there, and I suggested they have their drill holes surveyed. They weren't even keeping track of all of their holes. They said how would you like to do that. I said fine, I'll do that. They said, well, if you're going to do that, you just charge us for surveying. I said Ok. But a little later they approached me and said well look, instead of paying you for the work, how would you like a share of the operation. They said we'll give you a one percent share of the (Triton) operation. (this was actually before Triton was incorporated under that name). They had a hundred shares and Tobias gave me one. So I agreed., and did the surveying. They weren't even on the exact location of the money pit and I showed them where it was. Back in the 1950's I had accurately surveyed all the various holes and shafts. (Blankenship is drilling right on the money pit now). They were drilling around Dunfield's old hole but he wasn't anywhere near the money pit.

I might downgrade Tobias, but I certainly won't say he's not smart. He's very smart, a very shrewd man. We may have our differences, but he has all my respect as far as being a worthy opponent.

So after I did that survey, they said they were happy with my work there and through Gordon Coles they offered me another share, bringing my interest to two percent. So I said ok, and they gave me this other sheet of paper. So then in march or april of 1967, the operation ceases and the drill is pulled out. Then the expiry date comes up for those first six months of our

11 agreement. But when I contacted them to renew the agreement, I asked for my next \$1,000 and they (through Coles) say, 'oh, we're not going to give you that now; you're part of our operation; we've given you two percent.' So this comes ~~xxxxxx~~ completely out of the blue. And I say I'm not going along with that. I asked for my \$1,000 and they wouldn't pay me. And that's when the arguments started. They were still crossing my property and sawing gates down when I'd put them up. I got hold of lawyers and the argument has been going on ever since. Nine years.

11 I still have my two shares, but I doubt very much they would honor them if they find something. Because Tobias called me ~~xxxx~~ here five or six years ago and ~~xxx~~ wanted me to turn in my two shares and I was to get something like 15 new shares in Triton. They were devaluing the shares in order to raise funds. But I never turned my shares in. See, these are people who want you ~~to~~ to do everything their way. I'll try to collect if they ever find anything. And if they wanted to buy their shares back I'd talk to them. I'm a reasonable man. I'm really not interested in their shares.

11 The last time I saw Tobias was around 1969 or 1970 when he was out on the causeway. (see tobias reference to blackbird) (Nolan laughs at blackbird story) That's complete fabrication. I don't remember that.

Tobias is a man that when he gets what he wants, that's it. He's got what he wants; he's got all the use out of you that he can get, and from then on you're of no more use to him. You're just used material as far as he's concerned.

I went to ~~xxxxxx~~ montreal to have dinner with Tobias. That was the first time I met him, back in 1966. I sized him up and he sized me up. Gordon (coles) gave me the plane fare and I went up there. The one thing he didn't know is that before I went up to Montreal, I went to see Mrs. Restall. I had never met Tobias and I said to her 'I want you to tell me about him; what sort of person am I going to meet.' She said, 'well, fred, you'll meet a man who is ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ extremely smooth.' She said 'he'll go to no lengths in order to impress you, in order to get what he wants from you.' she said, 'what he'll probably do is you'll go up there and he'll maybe meet you with a chauffeur driven car and he'll probably bring you to his big mansion in Westmount for drinks and possibly after that you'll probably be invited to some fancy restaurant with him, probably Rooby Foo's.' And she said he'll probably try to impress you by making a big deal of snapping his fingers at the head waiter and insisting on things being just perfect, with everything just flowing to the Tobias table. And he'll summon the head waiter and complain loudly that everything is not perfect.' he's as smooth as silk, she said, 'polished to the enth degree.' So I go to Montreal and sur enough there's a guy in a black suit with a red feather in his lapel waiting for me and he introduces himself as Tobias' chauffer. he ~~xxxx~~ says Tobias is busy right now and that he's to show me around the city. He showed me the Expo site where they were getting

ready for the World's Fair the following year. Anyway we go to Tobias' office and pick him up and go to his house where the maid greets us at the door and we have cocktails in the living room. We talk about different things and then that evening we go out to eat. Sure enough it's Ruby Foos. I ordered a steak and he orders something like corned ~~beef~~ beef and cabbage. And he calls the ~~waitress~~ waitress over and complains loudly about the vegetables, saying they're yesterday's vegetables. He sends her back three times to get fresh vegetables. It was all just as Mrs. Restall had described it to me. I couldn't believe it. It was if I was sitting through a movie for the second time. She had gone through the same thing with Tobias before that. Anyway, all this was supposed to impress me. That was Tobias' way. It was just me and Tobias there. That was the sum ~~of~~ of our meeting. He drove me back to the airport that night and I came back here.

But it was because of that that I became leary of Tobias. As things have turned out, it was a warning that was well placed. Since then he has welched on our original agreement. And even more ~~xxx~~ bloodthirsty things have happened since. Things even affecting my own family. Indirect threats to my own wife and child. They figured they would scare me off.

The agreement to go through my property is still in effect. I owned the land, but I never owned the license to dig for treasure on the land. It took a lot of years for me to get that. It ended up I got the license, But Chappell and Triton tried to block it in the government. It was 1971 that I finally got it. It's good for two years and I keep getting it renewed. Right now it expires at the end of this year. Same as Triton's. Don't see any problem in renewing it. But Triton has control of part of my license. If I find anything on my property, under the agreement we got set up they figure that they're going to get a big slice of it. (40%)

The two shares that I have from the original agreement I don't think are worth the paper they're printed on. I didn't exchange them because they were trying to devalue my shares. The 15 shares they were offering are worth only one percent of Triton's total stock. (1,500 shares currently outstanding?) The only reason they brought me in originally is because I suited their purpose; because I controlled access to Oak Island. I was conned into signing this agreement with them. Apparently my lawyer was bought off for \$30,000 to get me to sign this agreement. He was ~~recommended~~ recommended by a friend of my brother's. And I ended up losing a good part of my license rights according to the way this agreement is drawn up. They've got complete access through Crandall's Point, complete access through ~~my land~~ my land on the island. All I got out of it was access through Chappell's land on the island (west end). There's no time span on this agreement. It runs forever. I signed this about three or four years ago. But in the agreement (which is dated November 1971) it's never to be told to anybody; it's a secret agreement. But we'll see what the courts have to say when it's all over. The ~~xxxxx~~ courts will have the final say.

11 Triton is doing nothing over in the Money Pit now. The same as they've done for the last five years; absolutely nothing. They've got nowhere else to go; they keep going back to the money pit. They are sitting back watching me, figuring that ~~xxxxxxx~~ I'm on to something and figuring perhaps that maybe I do know something and that if I strike something it will help them. That's their attitude.

Tobias has very powerfull friends. And even with that power, it can only be exercised so far. People like that are careful; they stay within the law. They'll ~~xxx~~ bend the law, but never break it. But Tobias has to win on this thing because if we win on this, he is not going to look very good with the people he's gotten involved (in Oak Island) over the years. I mean with regard to finding the treasure. As far as I'm concerned, he couldn't find his wallet if it was in his hip pocket. This is as far as the treasure business goes; he could find ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ somebody else's wallet in their hip pocket, though.

11 Tobias refers to the bird and me being some sort of a nut. But what he's referring to, I think, was a reporter, a freelancer, contacted me, Anderson I think his name was. But he was bought off somehow. I told him I was very interested in the American eagle and its date ~~xx~~ of origin and so on. Because I believe it has a relationship with the island. But I can't say exactly what it is. So he (the reporter) wrote me and told me all about the eagle and its connection with the American refolution, and so on. I suspect this is what Tobias is referring to. And this is the only time I ever mentioned a bird to Tobias. But Tobias doesn't know what I'm talking about.

I believe it's Spanish treasure down there. But the Spaniards ~~xxxxxxx~~ had nothing to do with it. I think it was taken from the Spaniards. It's not very old. Not much before 1795. I'm limited about what I can say about this, I have to be very careful. I'm hoping before your book is finished I'll be able to ~~xxxx~~ provide you with some vital facts.

11 Chappell has apparently said that he hired me years ago to do surveys on the island. But chappell never ever hired me. And it's been said that when I did the surveys I doublecrossed Chappell and that I never gave him the maps that he hired me to make. But he never hired me in his life. I wrote him and asked him if ~~xxx~~ he would have any objection to me going on the island and doing surveys. And this goes back to the 1950's. There were a lot of low blows like this made against me and things like this were said to try and prevent me from getting a treasure license.

11 As far as myself goes and what we plan to do, well we're going to continue on with the work on Oak Island. All the things we're doing are more or less tests, probes. We feel that everything we do is giving us more ~~ix~~ information. Sometimes a little bit, sometimes quite a bit; but it's all adding up. it is giving a broader picture of what was done on the island.

I can't tell you at this stage about all the specific things we've found. The rock (surveyors monument) is one thing, but we've found other things that we can't issue because they're more important than the rock. It would hurt our work at the moment, it really would, to generate a lot of publicity, and I don't want that. But rest assured, I will be able to give you something before the book is out.

I don't think any of the drilled stones Hedden found (in 1937) were original. They were put there by surveyors, not by the original people before 1795. The stones I found are different. They're mostly original. There was never occasion for surveyors to be down in the area where we are. They always looked for the treasure only in the money pit area.

R.V. Harris last wrote me July 17, 1968. He died two weeks later, August 1, 1968.

(shows me various clippings and photographs in his four large scrapbooks and says I can get copies of maps, charts and photos.)

~~Charles Roper is still alive.~~
Charles Roper is still alive. He lives over in Dartmouth somewhere.

When we first showed up on the island in the 1950's, the shoreline was about 15 feet away from the stone triangle (on the South Cove). But by the time Dunfield swept it away, the water was only a few feet from the triangle. There's continuous erosion on the south side of the island.

re map of various markers and such that nolan made and gave to blankenship - "It's not accurate. You see, I agreed to give them a map, and those were the days when we were at each other's throats. So it's not as accurate as they would like it to be. I can give you a copy of it. (Blankenship told me last year that 'I'll bet Nolan regrets ever giving this to me', referring to the map). You see, they were trying to get from me all the information that I had; information that has taken me decades to put together. And this is tobias' attitude; once he got the information then I was of no more value. I was cast aside like everybody else. You can ask anybody, ask Mrs. Restall, ask anybody who's ever been associated with them. They have no friends in the Western Shore area; because they've used everybody.

See Restall P. 36.

I've heard some strange rumblings underground when I've been working on the island. Some of my men have heard them too. (Vaughn reported hearing them too).

(Nolan, besides the four scrapbooks, has a whole huge suitcase full of data on Oak Island, which he shows me).

111 Last year we uncovered a rock with two drill holes in it. We call it the "rock of two eyes." (that's the one I saw in May 1975 near Joudrey's Cove.) I showed it to this government geologist and he picked up the significant thing about it right away. These two drill holes are lined up in a true north meridian, exactly true ~~xxx~~ north on the north star. He had a compass with him and he took his own magnetic bearing and saw that the current variation was exactly as it should be off the line of those two holes. He gave me a report on it afterwards and he told me those holes were definitely man-made, they're not natural. I showed this to him last fall. I'm sure it's original work. We tied that rock in with other markers we have found. The geologist wants to go back now and do a sort of field trip on the island this summer.

111 I keep asking myself 'what are you really after, what are you really interested in.' And I sometimes wonder really if I am after the treasure or not. I wonder what I'm really after. I mean, what are you going to do if you find \$10 million. It won't make anybody happy, I think. It will make the lawyers of Nova Scotia happy, keep the legal fraternity busy for the ~~xx~~ next ten years if I find it or Triton finds it. You'd probably be the most unhappy man if you found it. But I think you might be much happier if you said, 'take it, there it is, take it; I don't want it. I've done it, I've solved the mystery and that's all I'm interested in.' I think I'd almost be content to say 'pay me for the work and time I've put in, but take the treasure; let somebody else have it; give it to the government or anybody.' (all this said in a reflective musing way). It's more of a challenge than trying to get rich.

? 111 Chappell was supposed to have had the piece of parchment, but he's lost it. He blamed Harris for losing it. And Harris said he never had it, Chappell had it. And this is what they were fighting over ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ towards the end. I never saw the piece of parchment, just pictures of it. I think old Chappell just lost that stuff.

I have some coconut fibre. There's not much of that stuff left around. Restall gave me that. He found quite a bit of it on that beach in Smith's Cove.

111 You know, whoever did that down there. Those original people, they did it to ridicule people. They did it to ridicule anybody who might try to uncover their secret. Part of their plan was to make fools of anybody who came along to try to find their treasure. This keeps coming up all the time from many directions. They lead you down false trails, and the money pit is a good example. Look how they've made fools of the people over the years there.

I feel there's been treasure taken off the island. This is my view. And I feel there was one taken off not too long ago; less than 20 years ago; in the late 50's. Restall was on the island when it was taken off. It probably happened in 1960. We were there. We were camped on the other side of the island. It was taken off at night. We were ~~xxxxxxxx~~ camped

in 1960

on the northeast side of the island at the time. We had set up a survey camp and had six or eight surveyors there. We were camped by the ~~xx~~ shore. Actually, we were on the northwest side, between Joudrey's Cove and the mainland. We were doing a lot of work that summer on our surveys. We knew there was something going on the other side of the island and it was going on at night. It wasn't Restall; he was over on the ~~southwestern end of the island~~ southeastern end of the island by the money pit. He was living there. He didn't know anything about it; we asked him. At that time it was early in the game for us. We said some fools were over there digging at night. We thought it was ridiculous. But we were ~~digging~~ green then; we were still thinking money pit, like everyone else (in terms of where any treasure might be buried). It was happening on the south side of the island, between the swamp and Crandall's point. What's left over there now is a big excavation that Dunfield did. Dunfield went in there in 1965 and found the holes they had dug and bulldozed the area out. This was all he knew, was just a bulldozer. We heard digging going on over there and it wasn't Restall. The restalls never left the money pit and they never worked at night. Restall was money pit, completely money pit. He couldn't even understand what in blazes we were doing way over there. We ~~xx~~ didn't know what we were doing ourselves. We were surveying just seeing what we could come up with. We had no particular reason to pick that area. We were staying there for a month; we were camped there. We had a cookhouse and camp there.

Anyway, we'd go over to the southwest part of the island during the day and the first day we noticed one hole dug. Then the next day there were three holes. The next night we went over there were four holes. All shallow and all concentrated in about a 12-foot square area. It took me ten more years to figure out what had happened. That was when those reference markers finally led me to that point (where the holes had been dug). We couldn't actually hear the digging going on every night, but we saw the holes and saw them increase in number each day. So that had to have been dug during the time we were there. And in those days nobody ever thought beyond the money pit. The digging went on for about three nights. The holes were only about four or five feet deep. What they had done probably is they found something the first night and then came back to see if there was more treasure in the same place. The holes were only a few feet apart. We know they took it off by boat on the south side. They left a trail; marks of something being dragged to the shore. Also, they dropped something significant. But I Can't say what it is. It wasn't treasure.

I've kept this secret all these years, because nobody would believe me anyway without proof. So even today, how can you prove it. So I've been waiting and I've been watching, looking ~~xx~~ and trying to hear some report of somebody ~~xxx~~ in this area showing wealth. But there hasn't been anybody from that area showing sudden wealth to any great extent. Because I feel that anybody who dug that up, whoever it is, he's still thinking about Oak Island and he's going to come back to look again.

The only great wealth that has shown up and come back to Oak Island is in that Longboat Inn (Oak Island Inn and Marina). It went bankrupt, but where did the original money come ~~from~~ from, who was behind it? It's always been a mystery around here. That treasure that was dug up could have been millions. A lot of that money that went into the Longboat Inn seems to have come from Massachusetts. It could have been some tourist from New England.

Peter Beamish is still alive, lives in New York somewhere. He was on the island last year.

I think there's been a lot of treasure taken off the island over the years, over the last hundred years, maybe even farther back. The treasures were ~~hidden~~ buried in key places, key locations. I think the Money Pit was a decoy. I know it's pretty elaborate and that's a hard pill for anybody to swallow. But I have to apply some sort of reasoning to what we've found, and that's the only thing I can go back to.

The only other possibility is that there was not only one operation on Oak Island, but there were two. (perhaps when the island was two islands) At different times. That's quite possible.

I've talked to a number of geologists on the ~~subject~~ subject of Oak Island once being two islands, and they say the same thing (as Peter Treuitt). But some of them say that might have been ~~thousands~~ a thousand or two thousand years ago. But maybe it could have been as recently as 250 years ago. But they did agree that it was once two islands. And we did find beach gravel in the bottom of the swamp, a gravel bed in the center and also on the sides of the swamp; some large beach stones too.

We have a key map to the whole island. This map that we've given to Blankenship isn't the key map. The key map is in a vault. We consider it to be vital to the whole thing if we're on the right track. It's a map that we made based on various clues. A lot of people would like to get their hands on it. The map Blankenship has is a totally different map but it does show some of the things that have been found in our surveys. But it's not as accurate as they'd like it to be.

I approached Mike Flemming (of halifax chronicle-herald) to do the story (re finding the wooden chests) and the treasure of Havana theory).

The engineers of oak island had to come from the military. that's where they all were in those days. When they (the british) sacked ~~in~~ havana in 1762 they brought the loot to oak island. the sacking of havana is in reference books, but very little is said. It was kept secret by most people. The Spanish were in Havana then and havana at that time was a tremendous fortress; Something like Quebec or Halifax. And when the british got through with the french at quebec (1759?), they knew what kind of wealth was in havana and made plans to take it. The spanish empire was dwindling at this time. Havana was a storehouse for south and central american booty and plate shipped by the spanish to spain. It was a tremendous fortress and they felt safe there. They never dreamt anybody would attack havana.

I feel that an account of the losses at havana is in the spanish archives (at seville).

? / This whole operation was all directed from Halifax by the british. When the ships came back they came to halifax; not to new york or boston which would have been more normal. There are stories about the crews coming back to halifax and spending pieces of eight and gold doubloons like it was coming out of the skies, (he doesn't know who led the expedition). The british army were involved in it. there was even a local halifax garrison on this ~~expedition~~ expedition. There was enough to fill two treasure ships just distributed among the army and crews of the british attackers. What happened to the rest, no one knows.

One or some of the ships came to oak island, maybe to steal some of the treasure from the british crown. or maybe the british officially hid it on oak island; I don't know. (note that louisbourg at this time was already taken back from the ~~fr~~ french and the treasure could have been put there - nolan's reply is that louisbourg was not an easy place to defend.)

The question is ~~xxxxxx~~ why not bring it back to england; why bury it on oak island? This is a mystery in itself. And this is why I say if it was completely run by the top people in britain, by british forces and royalty; why wasn't it all brought back to england? There's something there that went on by the british army and navy and upper people in local government in halifax.

(re the fact that chester was founded in 1759 and people would have observed a 1762 operation on oak island): I know this is a problem in the timing; can't explain this. But there was a secret local organization involved and this will eventually come out. They're there and we're zeroing in on them. There's marking on oak island that point to them.

I'm absolutely convinced (that oak island holds the treasure of Havana); no question about it. I'm saying this was the start of oak island. What I'm saying is that this same organization after Havana was sacked and the stuff was put here expeditionary forces were still being sent out for years afterwards by this same organization for years afterwards attacking spanish ships and these things were broughtback to oak island. the island was used as a storehouse for years to come. ~~SECRET~~ The people who did oak island were able to keep it secret and that's fantastic in itself. The thing is, I could take a crew of two dozen men in 1976 and head into an isolated area of nova scotia today and I could operate there for two years without being spotted. and I could redo oak island. When we were finished in two years time nobody would know we had come or we had left or what we did. I know nova scotia; I've tramped it and I know what kind of isolated areas there are.

Re wood chests: I have them; they're ~~local~~ away. They're old; but they can't be carbon dated because there's only a couple of hundred years old and (carbon-14 testing) isn't accurate for that small a period. That's why I don't believe that Triton ever had anything carbon dated by the Smithsonian. I think they made that up. That guy A.B. Dove of Hamilton (ont.) did some carbon dating of steel for them I think. But it's not accurate.

Some of the chests (that nolan found) were reinforced with steel fittings; steel bolts drilled through the ~~xxx~~ outside; steel dowels through the bottom into the sides to reinforce the chests. I found four chests; or at least four parts of chests in four locations; sides, tops and pieces. These chests are all oak; about nine inches high; 2 and a half feet long and about two feet wide.

These sites (where the chests were found) had been picked over; these sites were found and the treasure removed. There were eleven sites altogether where treasure was removed. The sites where the four chests were found were all in the swamp. And the reason the chest parts were still there is because the swamp preserved the wood. In the other locations all we found was the empty holes. Some of the chests were found in the ~~xx~~ center part of the swamp and some down near joudrey's cove ~~(xx~~ (to the west of nolan's house). One of the chest~~x~~ parts, a top, still had two brass hinges intact on it.

These chests were all found within the last three years. I'm not sure if these are spanish chests or not. I've tried to get them analyzed and dated at the museums here in halifax but the people there say they have no way of ~~knowing~~ being able to evaluate this type of thing. There's no way around here that I'm going to get my findings backed up. so that's why I'm cautious about talking about it.

But there were witnesses to these findings. I have sworn affidavits from these people that these things were found where they were.(affidavits from people working with nolan at the time). They were found in our digging in the swamp, or at least three were. They were only down two to two and a half feet, though the deepest was down about four feet. It was the swamp water that preserved them. They were found over the last three years. the most recent one was found this summer just behind the cottage (to the west of nolan's house where ty and I were walking around in august). One had brass hinges around it and another has brass flashing around the bottom. And some of the screws are still there. The wood is all black, the way old oak becomes.

Some were found in the swamp (under water) and some were found under the ground in the swamp, very close to the surface. The one we found this summer was four feet deep. It was spotted by Marshall who was working with me. Marshall is a guy from Dartmouth who's worked with us a number of years. I was running the backhoe and marshall spotted it.

The people who emptied the ~~XXXXX~~ chests didn't take the whole chest because they were so rotten. so they transfered whatever was in them to something else. we didn't find any coins or anything like that around those sites. The spots were picked clean.

I don't know who uncovered these 11 treasure locations. I think Vaughan (edward, back in the 1930's) found one of them, but that was probably an accidental find. But we found these things using the marking system on oak island. And I think someone knew that system and used ~~x~~ it to remove the treasures. This is how we found these 11 sites, ~~xxx~~ by following the marking system.

In one case we even found some cribbing made by some searchers before us; the cribbing they made to go down into the ~~xxxxx~~ site. and their cribbing is still there. It was crudely made cribbing of hewn logs. We also found a pipe in the swamp where someone had been probing. The retrievals were done secretly; there are no records of it. it seems someone had a map or some information on these markings and systematically ~~followed the~~ followed the trail. I would say the retrievals were done within the last eighty years or so. Vaughan might have just stumbled on one of them. But I think the other ten were removed by the same person or group who had information. I don't think ~~xxxxx~~ they were ~~xxx~~ locals who removed them.

Two of the chests were found by me and one other person. In another case it was found by a group not involved with me. A small group of fellows from halifax found it about two years ago. they were searching the island with my permission.

Two of the chests had brass fittings on them. Both made of oak. One had the brass hinges on the back of the cover. It also has two oak braces underneath with brass screws going into them.

The other one had part of the front piece ~~with the~~ where a clasp obviously was. The hinges are about ~~three~~ four inches long. This was a ~~smallish~~ smallish delicate type of chest, with countersunk screw holes.

The one we found this summer wasn't as good condition as the ones we found in the past. It was found by Marshall and he's made a sworn affidavit about when and where he found it. It was the bottom of an awfully large chest; like a sea chest. around the bottom there's a wooden support piece. The width is about two feet and the length must have been three or four feet long. the wood itself was in very good shape. It was found about four feet down just west of my house (in Joudrey's cove). Marshall saw it ~~while~~ while I was digging with the backhoe. it had no markings on it and no metal pieces on it.

One of the early ones we found we haven't shown to anybody because it has certain information on it. Symbols that we haven't deciphered yet. I have these chests in a vault in Halifax.

(brings in his huge wooden chest of drawings and charts of oak island, including the original full scale roper map)

(Nolan says he saw the cross in the apex stone of the south shore triangle in the 1960's. He ~~found it~~ saw it after Johnson had removed the moss from the rock).

(Nolan's surveys from the 1960's show the three stone piles several hundred feet north of the money pit. these piles form a triangle pointing west and this was his takeoff point toward the swamp that started all his later survey lines to locate markers and the removed treasure ~~boxes~~ caches.

One of the 11 treasure found was on Chappell's land (on the south shore just west of the swamp - see 1975 air photo for hole dug there by Dunfield). That's why Dunfield dug there.

The three stone piles forming this ~~giant~~ giant arrow (north of money pit) is what started it all for me in my work in the swamp. Where Johnson went wrong is he never found the westerly

stone pile. But he found what looked to be another stone pile south of the other two (forming an approximate ~~xxxxxxx~~ north-south line). Harris' book mentions three stone piles in a line and Johnson took this for gospel. (Johnson then followed that line south and using other information made his ~~xxx~~ 1962 shaft about 300 feet north of the money pit. shaft is the one I saw the other day with the cribwork; about six ft. by six ft.)

These stone piles were original (depositors') work. Other stone piles (as shown in the 1936 survey of east end of island - see ownership file) were just cairns to mark the property boundaries. These original stone piles were all 12 feet in diameter. (at their base). They made a triangular arrow pointing to the swamp. The triangle points to what magnetic ~~xxxxxx~~ west (270° W(M) would have been in about the year 1762 (sacking of Havana year). (In Nolan's 1964 survey, a line drawn from the westerly apex of the triangle of stone piles to the median of the base is ~~xxx~~ shown as N $82^{\circ} 30'$ E (M) at a time when variation was $21^{\circ} 50'$ W. In 1762 local variation was about 13° W. So that line in 1964 had a westerly magnetic bearing of $262^{\circ} 30'$ and a true bearing of $240^{\circ} 40'$. And that true bearing in 1762 would translate to a magnetic bearing of $253^{\circ} 40'$. So how's it a Magnetic east-west line???) (nolan says the declination for the area was $7^{\circ} 30'$ 200 years ago, but he's wrong. It was about 13° ; see Morris survey and canadian declination graph, both of which give it as 13° in 1762.)

(In 1971 Nolan put the shaft down that's ~~xxxxxx~~ shown about 300 ft east of his two huts on the 1975 air photo. it went down about 35 feet ~~xxx~~ and was on the line between the three rock piles triangle and the swamp. Shaft was put down with a crane.) We stopped short (when putting down the shaft on that east-west line.) We should have continued on (along the line) ~~xxx~~ to the swamp (before excavating). But there were strong intersections there, That's about where we found the ring bolt imbedded in a rock. It's all a process of elimination. We then cut a trench right through from that shaft to the swamp (see 1975 air photo).

(re missing trunkload of Blair's stuff): That's chappell's story (re nolan getting some of that stuff from mrs ~~Surrey~~ surrey, harris' secretary); that's not right. I was with triton when they were looking for that stuff. I don't have it. When Blair died (in 1951) a lot of that stuff was thrown out I think.

I'm going to continue the search and renew ~~my~~ my license at the end of this year. Triton's going to renew theirs too.

I believe the money pit was a decoy. But I believe there are flood tunnels and other tunnels underground. The money pit is certainly no hoax; it was a very scientific and well constructed project. But the reason for it was to draw people away from other areas of the island. That's a difficult thing to accept, I know. If there is something down there in those ~~caverns~~ caverns, the money pit was not the way to get down into it. There was another entrance.

The treasure locations I found were more or less surface deposits. There may be ~~deeper~~ deeper ones too. I believe that swamp was cleaned out one time and was dry as a bone. This is strictly a theory, but I think the secret entrance to the money pit is at the bottom of that swamp. But the swamp would have to be drained to get to it. (check this against fact that swamp seemed to be lowered slightly by pumping operations at 10-X). There's probably no treasure in the money pit itself, but in the caverns that extend out from it. Everybody's been looking for the secret entrance for years. Now what better place for the secret entrance than at the bottom of the swamp. (n.b. how about possibility that when there were two islands - see trutt marked photo - the coffer dam was made by blocking off north and south approaches to passage between. then tunnel is dug eastward to money pit as the entrance. coffer dam was left intact, but over the years it silted in and became marshy in the center till it became one island!)

(nolan declines to say why he chose this time ~~ex~~ -hfx chronicle-herald about 2 weeks ago - to finally make his chests discovery and havana theory public. I suspect ~~because~~ its because his treasure trove license is coming up for renewal at the end of this year and

he wants something to show for his years of work to encourage government to renew the license.) ~~(Says)~~

(nolan says he's had offers, though not lately, to sell his seven lots on the island but that he has no intention to sell them.)

We have uncovered several things this summer that has given us new leads on the island. It's a whole new sphere in the treasure hunt. (won't say what it is) It's a matter of getting the time and the money to dig.

Those guys from texas (nutt et al) approached me to make a deal. I've told them to give me an offer in writing. This is the usual routine, like with Goodman. When they run into trouble (tring to make a deal) with triton then they come to me to try and make a deal. They claim to know where the treasure is. Furneaux was the same thing. He wanted to dig on my property after he got turned down by triton. Old Joe Carsely had a great time selling them (~~nutt~~ and his partners) treasure maps by the dozen.)

E. MACER

That Ms. Storey lives in Ipswich, Mass. I don't believe in these ~~psychic~~ psychic things. There were a couple of fellows who were diviners from out in alberta who've written to me too.

That place (oak island) is weird. I try to cover my tracks there. There's some odd things around (like traps) even around the swamp. I watch it every time I put my foot down around there. The chances dan (blankenship) takes are amazing. I don't think he should take those chances going down 10-X and things like that.

I have evidence to back up my theory about havana treasure being on oak island. But I can't talk about it right now. I know I'm way out on a limb on this.

(Nolan has never heard about those clay ^{flasks} ~~jars~~ supposedly found by Hedden. Neither had Blankenship or Chappell). This is the tragedy of oak island the way so many artifacts and pieces of information disappear.

The only other mention I've ever heard of jugs or flask was from this Ms. Storey. In her last letter she said something to the effect of 'I see a diver going underwater and coming up with a crokery flask.' Then she said jokingly that maybe we'll find a brewery under the island.

That secret organization of British people who were responsible for oak island were local, from ~~halifax~~ halifax. There are probably still some of their ancestors around. We know that a nova Scotia british army batallion called Rogers Rangers was involved in the sacking of Havana. There were many other people involved too. What I'm saying is that Oak Island represents the loot of a whole city (havana); this is my approach to it.

Interview with Claude C. Chappell (M.R.'s cousin) at his home, evening of July 20, 1976.)

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I've been involved with Oak Island since 1931. But it was 1897 when I first heard of it. A fellow named Wellington, he came up (from the U.S.) to try and get father (George Chappell) to put some more money into it. I was sitting on a fence (as a young boy) listening to their conversation and the first thing I knew I was down hanging (from the fence) by the legs, I got so interested in it. I was five or six ~~then~~ years old then. I'll soon be 84. A few of the chappells died in their seventies but most of us get to our eighties and ~~ninties~~ ninties.

Capt. John Wellington

The last time I was on the island was six or seven weeks ago. I've been down two or three times this summer. I'm a member of Triton Alliance. I went with triton about five years ago. I'm just in as an investor.

I invested first in 1931 in Oak Island. With Blair, M.R., William Chappell. My father (George) wasn't living then. There was a couple of fellows that came up from the States. They were quite anxious to buy the island. But they put in a couple of thousand dollara (in the 1931 search) and they claimed they knew a lot about it but they didn't tell us what they knew. This was in 1931 and Blair had the treasure trove rights. We had signed up with Blair; we got our (digging) rights from ~~Rak~~ Blair. Uncle William was 70 years old then. He wasn't an engineer but he could do engineers work.

About six or seven years ago I was down there (in the Oak Island area) visiting some friends and I went out to the island. They had signs up all around saying No Trespassing. It was a sunday afternoon and I didn't see anybody so I was walking around. Then Dan (blankenship) came out and said 'what are you doing here?' I said 'just looking around.' he said 'see those signs?' I said 'yeah, I saw the signs' or something like that. Then he said 'who are you?' and I told him. Oh, he says, and ~~he~~ then he spent two hours or three hours asking me questions. So the next year I put in some money and became a triton shareholder.

I'm convinced there's treasure there; that it's still there. I'm sure it was never removed. There's so much work been done underground there; there's tunnels and tunnels and tunnels.

Dan was telling me there's 14 places (underground) there; 14 places that are hollow. He described them as square blocks (cavities) that are 14 feet by 14. I had a fellow up there by the name of Thurston. I had a letter from him the other day. He's from the other side of Toronto (sudbury). I ^{took} ~~had~~ him down there (oak island) twice. He's supposed to be able to find minerals and stuff like that. Dan was working and he couldn't get down any further in one of these holes (with his drill). Dan said there were boxes down there, big cavities. Thurston went to work with the stuff he had. He had a pile of different things (detectors) and he tried them to get a reaction out of them. He told Dan 'you're right on a ~~granite~~ wall' he says, 'you're trying to drill through a granite wall down there.' then he says 'there's copper inside that wall.' I don't know whether he was right or not. But he claimed there were 14 of these things (granite and copper lined chambers) right in the area where dan was drilling near the shack and borehole 10- X. He (thurston) ~~s~~ ^{sc}ared Dan. Dan got out. He said 'I wouldn't bore down there; I wouldn't fool around with a place like that. I might dig it out around, but I'm not going to try to go through it.' then he got out. This was two years ago. (1974)

This fellow Thurston had two bars (like coathangers) like a divining rod. Dan could get some readings, but he could only get two or three ~~km~~ kinds of things. I took him (thurston) down there twice. It cost me \$500, but it didn't turn out the way he claims it's going to turn out. In our pit that we put down (in 1931) he got a lot of reaction (from the rods) there. The kind of things he was looking for he'd have it on that rod. If he was looking for gold he's have a gold ring on; and he had a diamond ring of his wife's when he was looking for diamonds.

He (thurston) claims he's been successful other places with his rod. Last winter he wrote and told me he was going to do some work for a fellow. And in his letter the other day he said he's discovered several heavy gold veins but he hasn't been able to work them. He's a mechanic more than anything else, I guess. Though he's not very well health wise. I ~~xxxx~~ showed him a map

that a friend of mine had sent me from out west one time. My friend had told me where there was a gold and a copper mine in ~~the~~ and area covered by the map. This fellow thurston used his rod and showed me where the two mines where. And he had no way of telling at all. He was right on the exact locations.

He won't be going back to Oak Island unless I take him and pay his way. I paid his way down there twice. I don't say he did anything definite. But he ~~said~~ ^{has} a lot of things that Dan ~~said he was right~~ claims that he was right on. And he didn't know any of that stuff from dan (beforehand).

They've found so many tunnels under oak island that it's just hard to say where (the treasure) it would be.

When we first went down there (in 1931), Uncle William and I were down, and he'd (William chappell) had worked there three years (1895-97) and he staked out where he thought we should put down a 12 by 14 foot pit, and eventually we did that (~~started~~ ^{started} it). And Blair come out and he said you're about six feet from where you should be. Well uncle william said we can't shift the head (of the shaft) now, but when we get down there we can look around. Well, when we got down to about 100 feet there were two old pits down there. There was one pit there of about six by eight feet or maybe by 10 feet. And there was another pit over where we had our elevator ~~there was~~ and there was a tunnel there. One pit stopped at 112 feet and the other went to 120 feet. After that we got down to 135 feet where there was a change in the soil where there was one big rock. we took that rock out. Underneath that rock we found a piece of ~~xxxx~~ birch bark, heavy bark from a birch tree. And over from that a bit we found an axe. It was very much like a a cross between a broad axe and what we call a pole axe. It had a long handle in it. We spent three days shoveling around trying to protect the handle. We got it out, but somebody stole the axe ^{afterward} ~~afterward~~ We lost that. Then we kept on going down. And as we were going down we came to a sort of shale rock and ^{more} water started coming in. It was coming in from three or four feet on one side; it wasn't just coming in from one little hole. It was a round clearly-defined tunnel at around 155 feet and it was wherethe water was coming in.

That pit (chappell pit) is all filled in now; the timbers have all ~~waved~~ in. The Hedden shaft is ~~still there~~ still there alongside of it though. It's 10 feet by 24 feet, I believe.

I don't have any theories as to what the treasure is; I can't make any guesses about that. Maybe it was pirates in the 1600's. They might have put people on there and kept them there to do the work. It could be a communal bank because there's so many underground tunnels there.

I sold a couple of my (triton) shares up in Amherst.

I'll be going down there (oak Island) again later this summer as soon as I get better. (Claude had a stroke about six weeks ago).

I came down here (to Sydney) in 1939. We were living in Amherst before that. There was the chappell lumber company there owned by Charles and his brothers William and James (who died in 1934). The business was pretty bad then and it looked like the company couldn't survive. We started a business here making construction materials, window sashes, doors, stuff like that.

M.R. Took off on his own and started Island Construction. It failed once and paid \$1.82 on \$100. But it's doing good now.

I got back into oak island (via triton) because I always believed in it (the treasure) and I was visiting there one ~~sunday~~ sunday and got interested again. And I got a chance to make a dollar. I put \$5,000 in ~~xxxxxx~~ Triton that first time, then bought more but sold two lots to a couple of friends of mine in Amherst. There were 27 shareholders when I went in. We can only go up to 50 shareholders before the rules (under the companies act) get changed.

I saw the parchment when Blair had it. And I saw the axe of course. I had a piece of oak (found underground) and I gave it to Dan. We dug up coconut fibre in 1931 too. Down at Smith's Cove.

Dan Henskee is kind of a weird fellow in some ways. Living there all alone in a ~~xxx~~ shack and eating out of a can.

We lived on the island in 1931. ~~Mrx~~ M.R., William, M.R.'s

mother, his brother-in-law and his sister; they all lived in one camp. We lived in another camp.

I never heard anything unusual on the island. It was a nice place to live in the summer.

Fred Blair (who died at 84 on April 1, 1951) had a big chest in his office (full of Oak Island material) and it disappeared (after his death); we don't know where it went to. He had a lot of things taken from Oak Island. One thing that i was particularly interested in was an anchor fluke that was taken out of the ground at the island and I would like to have gotten hold of that and have the steel in it analyzed to see how old it was; what type of steel it was made of. It was found on the island in 1931 when we were putting our shaft ~~xxxx~~ down. that anchor fluke was of a different type than the anchors of today. the rib that runs up today is on the bottom (of the anchor) and the wide part is on top. Well this one was the other way; the rib was on top. It was about an inch and a quarter thick, about 8 or 9 inches wide and about fourteen inches long. And it was the same thickness all around. It was an old, old anchor fluke.

I have an idea that whoever cleaned out his (blair's) office sent the stuff away to the dump. His son tried to locate it (gordon blair) but he was unsuccessful. Gordon died a couple of years ago; he was living in Halifax. The papers that his father had, through my good efforts I guess, he (gordon) gave them to reg harris ~~hw~~ when he was writing his first book, and we ~~xxxx~~ never could get them back from reg. young blair told me that he gave reg two cabinet drawers full of correspondence and four box files. well now, i've got two of those box files. Reg harris was secretary of the masonic lodge in Halifax; he had been secretary. reg had an office there and one of the masonic office girls used to do all his (correspondence) writing for him. A ~~Miss~~ ^{Mrs.} Surrey. now, when reg died (in 1968) she told me at the funeral that reg had told her that to gather up any masonic data and sent it to any of the lodges that it belonged to. He had data of our local (sydney) masonic lodge, the old st. andrews lodge, and he was supposed to be writing a history on it. he had gotten the minute books and all the data that the lodge had and by golly, they couldn't get it back from him.

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So when he (reg) died, through the good offices of the Rev. Espray, director of St. Georges church here now, who was a great friend of harrises, harris left him a part of his library, his masonic library. And espray was able to get from Mrs. Surrey the st. andrews lodge data. now, mrs. surrey told me at the funeral that she would gather up all reg's data concerning oak island and send it to me. I never got a thing from her.

Now, I am quite satisfied that she took it down to her home in east chester and I am quite sure that she sold it to a fellow by the name of nolan; fred nolan. I don't think there's much doubt about it. I told Tobias and blankenship to visit her and see what they could get from her. she said she didn't have anything. And finally blankenship made a stab and he said 'how much of that data that was mr. harris's re oak island did fred nolan get?! and she darn near fell off the chair. which indicated to me and to them that ~~gx~~ fred got it. And I know that fred had some data that he couldn't have gotten no where else in this wide world except from blair's correspondence.

Nolan at first was quite friendly with me; I suppose for a reason, trying to lead me on. But I didn't fall for it, fortunately. but he told me some data that he had, and I know that he couldn't have gotten it from anywhere else. how he could have gotten it unless he got the (blair) data, I don't know.

Blair's son turned over to the (pans) archives everything he had left. and harris turned some stuff over to the archives. but I got two of those four box files. I was in the office (harris') one day; reg wasn't there. His office was open and I asked mrs. surrey 'where does reg keep this oak island data?' oh, she says, 'he keeps most of it at home, but there's a couple of box files in here.' well, i picked those box files up and put them in my car and brought them home. He was still alive then. In one of those files there was quite a number of letters in envelopes. The first one i picked up i recognized the handwriting as my father's (william chappell). letters that he had written to blair when he was there (oak island) in the 1890's. There were about 50 of those letter. father used to report pretty nearly every day or every couple of days ~~anyway~~ anyway.

There was a folder in that box; not a letter size folder, but a bit smaller. and darned if it didn't have a sheet in it with that piece of parchment attached to it. now, I claim that reg never opened that file or i never would have seen that piece of parchment. he got the parchment from blair. blair had the treasure trove rights and was in charge when father worked there in 1896-7. he went down there with blair. blair asked him in 1895 to come down with him for a month or two to take charge of machinery and straighten things for him. I don't know how long he was there in '95, but he was back there in 1896 and ~~amx~~ again in 1897.

father's experience there is the only thing that gives me any credence to oak island. if it wasn't for that, I wouldn't be interested in oak island at all. but with his experience, I am convinced, absolutely convinced that there is a treasure there in the money pit area. either immediately in the money pit or just to one side of it in that immediate area within a few feet. where father drilled and brought up that piece of parchment.

I have tried, every outfit that has worked there since i became owner of the island back in 1940 (? shud be 1950. ck) i've tried to get them to locate that spot, and gol darn it, i can't get them to do it.

blankenship ~~now~~ i think is definitely now trying to locate it. i think when he gets his drill fixed up; i was talking to him last night incidentally and he said he expects by the end of the week to get his drill fixed up. he's down about 100 feet in that hole that he's putting ~~xxx~~ down. it's not the pumping hole, that's about 200 feet from the money pit. (10x) this hole (that dan's putting down) is ~~xxx~~ right ~~xx~~ at the (money) pit.

I'm convinced that whatever father drilled into (in 1897) is of immense value. I have no doubt about it. it's still down there; nobody has ever taken it out.

I don't know exactly where it (the hole dan's drilling now) is, only from what he told me, but I would say it is just about on the edge of the original money pit; the one that the boys in 1795 uncovered. I have no doubt that that hole is right on the edge of it. I think i know exactly where the

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money pit was and i know exactly where father had his drill set up when he brought up the parchment. those two items (locations) are definite.

I have records of hedden's shaft that hamilton worked on and according to his (hamilton's) records and my own ideas, the hedden shaft was between three and four feet from the shaft that we put down. some people say it's five feet some say it's ten feet (away). but I know that it's not, damn positively that it's not. because both shafts were visible there when restall was there (1959-65). They were only about three feet apart. the south end lined the both of them; ours went up twelve feet, his went up 24 feet; there's no question about it. I would say the roper survey (showing the shafts in 1937) is quite accurate. roper was a very good and accurate surveyor.

I'm convinced there's a treasure in or within a few feet of the money pit. Now, whether there are other treasures, I don't know. but if there are not, why was there so much work done away from the money pit that we definitely know was done.

Now, blankenship expects within a few days from now to get down into that shaft 10-X and cut a hole in the casing at 168 feet where the drill went through heavy timber and a void, and open it up and find out what really is there. we don't know. that drill (in 1973) went through eight inches of spruce timber (in 10-X). when they went through that eight inches of spruce, one side of that drill was still on wood and they had to narrow their casing a couple of inches to get ~~back~~ by that side wood, from 27 inches to 25 inches (diameter). Now how dan is going to get down there and cut a hole there with a torch, I don't know. he's got pretty darn narrow working space in a 27-inch shaft.

why dan put a small drill hole down in that location originally, dan himself knows; perhaps nobody else knows why. but he put it down, and at some distance below 150 feet he brought up some thin metal; iron. it's quite thin. And at 168 feet he brought up some links of chain. They analyzed that metal and they claimed it was a type of steel that was made prior to 1750. the canadian steel co. analyzed it (a.b. dove).

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One of the drillers that I had down there was a fellow by the name of george greene from texas (in 1955). he was an oil driller. the cigar-chewing texan; he always had a cigar in his mouth unlit. well, i went down with george and i said 'george, immediately under this spot is where father's drill was set up and at 126 feet his drill hit an obstruction and diverted; now what direction it went and how far it went, we don't know. but at 153 feet he struck this wood and four inches of some sort of metal, ~~xxx~~ soft, it wasn't steel anyway, and a couple of feet of loose material. because when they probed their drill down they couldn't make any headway, but when they wiggled it, it would go down and when they'd pull it up the hole would fill. That was in 1897.' Now i told george (in 1955) that 'we know it (the loose metal discovered in 1897) didn't go in the direction where our (1931) shaft was, because we were down to 165 feet and ~~xxxxx~~ what father hit was at 154 feet, so it didn't go in that direction. And hedden's shaft is here, so it didn't go in that direction. so I showed george where it must have gone withing ~~xxxxxxx~~ a triangle and suggest he drill in several arcs down vertically. but instead of vertical, what did he do but slope his darn drill so that when it was at 154 feet it missed the area (he should have been in). If he had gone straight I have no doubt he would have eventually struck what father drilled through. but he didn't.

(asked ~~why~~ why triton hasn't tried to drill in that area in the past 10 years, ~~xxx~~ chappell replies with exasperation and almost anger) I don't know! That's one I can't answer. I've told them; I've told tobias, I won't ~~way~~ a hundred, but several times: 'mr. tobias, I am convinced, and the only reason that I have any interest in oak island whatever, is father's experience in 1897' And so I said, 'try and locate it.' well, they had a driller down there known as the becker drilling company and they put down I guess 40 odd holes. but the funny gol darn thing about it was they didn't put a hole down in that triangle (near the 1897 shaft). They went off to one side and they went out around all over the darn place and most of their holes they went down about

200 feet; they got through into bedrock in practically every drill hole. Their drill was a hammer drill, it wasn't a revolving drill. I think becker lost about four bits in that bedrock.

However, I think I've convinced both Tobias and Dan that if they can strike what father drilled into they're going to strike a fortune. There's no doubt in my ~~xxx~~ mind ~~whatsoever~~ ~~xxxxxwhatsoeveraboutxxxx~~ whatever about it that there's a very valuable fortune down there; what it is I don't know.

What I want Dan to do if he will do it is when he gets down to 153 feet and he strikes heavy timber, I want him to stop and get a core drill from the department of mines in Halifax, and core drill through that wood and whatever is under it. And I have no doubt that they'll bring up something that will amaze us. I have no doubt about that whatever, if he can strike that thing that father drilled into. And if he don't strike it in this hole that he's got down there now at around 150 feet, and he gets down to 154 or 155 feet, he says he's going to go to 200 feet with it. well, i told him he can go to 200 if he wants to. but if he doesn't strike the timber at around 153 or 154 feet, I'm going to try and get him to move over about five to six feet to the east and put another hole down; if he's do it for me, I don't know.

That pump that he (dan) has there now i think will eliminate the flooding problems; it's 1,000 gallons a minute and it should take care of the water. My suggestion is that if we strike what father drilled into that we get one of these large drills that will put down ~~xx~~ a 36-inch, even a four-foot diameter; one fellow even said he can put down a six-foot diameter hole with a drill. It's a revolving drill they use. There's a fellow up in the valley (annapolis?) that I believe can put down a four-foot diameter shaft and that will give ample room for a person to work in, so a man could go down and uncover and bring up whatever is down there. It would be cribbed with a circular stell pipe (like 10-x); a steel-casing shaft.

An open-pit mining operation (tobias's 1975 idea) would be a little bit slower. although with the water out of the way it would be easier. When we went down (in 1931) we had to contend

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with water. The shaft that we put down in '31, we were pretty near six months (doing it) and we had a lot of difficulties to contend with. Our pump was 500 gallons a minute. Hedden had an impellor pump of about 1,000 gals a minute. But I understand it (hedden's pump) was only six-inch diameter. This one that dan has now is over nine-inch (diameter), 9 5/8-inch, I think.

Hedden and Hamilton had the advantage of ~~xx~~ using our (1931) shaft as a ~~xxx~~ pumping pit. They had no trouble going down into their shaft because they were able to take care of the water using out shaft as a pumping pit at 165 feet.

If (amos) nauss' memory is good and he wants to tell the facts, he should be able to tell you ~~xxxxx~~ quite a lot about the workings down there because he worked on it several years.

It was father's auger that brought that piece of parchment up on the screw of the auger after they had bored through the wood. When they brought up the auger there were some pieces of wood shavings on it and this little fuzzy piece of stuff around the screw of the auger. they (later) flatened it out. I am not positive that that parchment was sent to the smithsonian institution. I was told that it was. It was checked by Porter (A.E.) and declared that it was definitely genuine parchment; no question about it. Today it's all wizzled up. I still have it at home. There's not much to see now because it's all wizzled up. It's about the size of the original little (canadian) five-cent pieces; very, very small. It's all wrinkled up and I've never attempted to open it up; I didn't want to break it up because I was afraid if I tried to straighten it out to see what the letters were I might break it up. It's cemented on a piece of cardboard; blair had cemented it on. There's a picture of it in Harris' book.

Re furneaux: ~~There's~~ ^{directly} a lot of data that is in furneaux' book that really is not connected with oak island. But what is connected with oak island is almost word-for-word copied; whether he got it out of harris's book or whether he got it out of the oak island co. prospectus from which harris' book was written, I don't know. Furneaux thinks that he has located ~~captaintxx~~ kidd's (skeleton) island in the caribbean sea. I think he got that from this fellow (w.l.) johnson in Vancouver. That's the

first I heard about it was when Johnson told me. and he told furneaux about it (the kidd island in the caribbean).

Furneaux claims to have seen blair's data from gordon blair, but he couldn't have seen much because shortly after blair's death the stuff disappeared.

Harris started doing his actual writing in 1954 and it was before then that he got this data from blair's son. Now blair's son did have some other data which I think he turned over to the archives.

(re harris memo on splitting royalties with hedden, blair and chappell): Harris' first book (1957 edition) the ryerson press of toronto printed it and harris apparently couldn't make a satisfactory arrangement with them. So I financed it. I paid ryerson press for printing that first book. I think it was \$1.05 a copy I paid them for printing costs. When the books were sold, I got repaid, and I think that's all I ever got out of it, was repaid what I had advanced. I never got anything out of the royalties. I don't know whether Gordon (blair) got anything out of the royalties or not.

Gordon (blair) and harris didn't get along too well together, because he tried to get the data back from harris that he had given him, and he couldn't get it. Harris was one of these fellows that if he got a hold of anything, he had it and you couldn't get it from him. I happen to know a little bit about it because when I was Grand Master of the Masons in Nova Scotia, I appointed harris as grand secretary. Jones was the grand secretary and he died and I appointed harris in his place and harris carried on for years. A masonic organization in toronto had certain data that they wanted kept secure and they didn't have anyone there connected with it (the lodge) that had a vault. So harris said 'I have a vault in Sydney (probably means Halifax) and I'll put it in my valut for you.' I don't know whether it's still in the vault or not, but I know that they tried to get it some five to ten years afterwards for some reason and they couldn't get it then. Now whether they've got it since harris died, i don't know. But he was just that type when he got hold of something.

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He (harris) had, I understand, in his home two bedrooms filled with data, masonic and anglican church stuff. He wrote histories of a number of the anglican churches in canada. He was at one time the ~~xxx~~ highest layman in the anglican church in canada. he was the top layman. I guess he had something to do with appointing bishops, as a layman. I've forgotten his title, but he was high up in the anglican church.

Gordon blair never got anything back from harris. I think that lady (harris' secretary, Surrey) took everything to her home in east ~~xxxxxxx~~ shester (when harris died). I was told by one of the executors of harris' estate, a Mr. Wood whom I knew, that he understood that mrs. surrey took a big truckload of material from harris's house to her home. Oak Island and other material. Incidentally, st. andrew's lodge as I said got their data back, but they had to pay her \$50 for it. She said she had to charge them \$50 for it because she wrote it; she typed it. I think that's why gordon blair and harris didn't get along (because harris wouldn't give gordon his father's oak island material back). I think that was the reason; I can't imagine any other reason. Gordon Blair died about two years ~~xxx~~ ago. I was talking to his wife about last March i think it was.

Harris had tow sons, and one of those sons did some of the drawings in harris' book. Those locations (of the various ~~xxxxxx~~ pits and shafts) weren't all accurate. Reg was on TV in halifax one day when I happened to be in halifax and I went over to the studio with him. I was outside (the glass in the control booth) and I heard it (the interview). And when he came out I said 'reg, you were a little bit off on ^{some of} your dates and your data.' and he says 'what's the difference, nobody else ~~knows~~ will ever know the difference.' And that's the way he was with his book. there area number of items in his book that are not correct; not correct at all.

Hedden sent me a package that was about four inches think with some correspondence and data (about oak island) and some of hamilton's data in it. This was about 10 years ago. He sent it to me and I got it. (according to blankenship a lot of hedden's material was sent to nova soctia and lost).

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I have letters at home, two cabinet drawers plus, dating back to 1931. most of them don't mean a darn thing. the majority of them are from people who have ideas, and how fanciful some of them are!

There was that guy with the theory about the inverted pyramid below oak island. mr. (charles b.) thomas. He was quite an old man; I imagine he's long dead now. In 1957 he met me in Winnipeg. I was in winnipeg in 1957 and he was just below the border in (great falls) montana. and he was bent on coming to oak island. I wrote and told him that i would be in winnipeg at this certain time; to visit my youngest daughter and her husband and to attend a certain conference, a three-day conference. I planned on arriving in winnipeg on a wednesday morning; I had my plane reservations already made; and I wrote and told him that if he wanted to see me that I would be there, arrivinf there wednesday morning; the plane was arriving at 8 o'clock wednesday morning; and I said that I would have all day wednesday and up till noon thursday that I could give him, but that thursday afternoon I had to attend these conference meetings. So he wrote back and said that he would be there; he would come up tuesday night and he would stop at the YMCA. So wednesday morning I called the Y and they hadn't heard of him; I called at noon; I called at night; same reply: hadn't heard of him. Thursday morning, no reply. The conference was being held at the Royal Alexander hotel and I was staying at the Royal Victoria hotel. And I was just going out of my room at noon; in fact I had my hand on the door knob, when the phone rang. It was mr. thomas. well i said ! mr thomas, you're a little bit late.' well, he says 'I couldn't make it.' well, I said 'i'm afraid I'm not going to be able to give you very much time, because we have our first meeting and I must be there at three ~~xx~~ o'clock this afternoon.' But, I said, 'if you want to come over now, I'll give you what time I can.' So he came over and he was still harping on this inverted pyramid. My lord, I said, 'mr. thomas, you're absolutely off. there's no granite there at 150 feet (deep) even.' Oh, he says, 'it's there. it was put there by divine providence for suffering humanity. And it's going to be uncovered this year (1957)' I couldn't get rid

of him. I had to take him by the shoulder and push him out the door. So I went to my meeting at 3 o'clock and when ~~XXXX~~ we were going into the banquet at seven, my appendix ruptured. (it was operated on that night, about midnight. Chappell was unconscious until the following sunday. had a tube up his nose for 18 days.) I nearly went. the doctor told my daughter 'i'm afraid; I'm afraid he's going home in a box.' But I got over it and have had no ill effects since.

I get lots of letters all the time (from people with weird ideas like thomas). Most of them that I've been getting lately wanted an opportunity to go to work (on the island).

I have no idea who buried what on oak island. Now I have had two cases where the parties told me definitely that it was Inca treasure. The first one was in 1932. We had been working there since 1931. Mr. Blair got a call from this ~~fax~~ fellow in Saguenay, Michigan; one of the Wicks boys, from wicks boiler works; a big steel company. There were two ~~xxx~~ boys, grandsons of the original wicks; they were playboys. one of them was familiar with spanish and he was a musician too, and the other fellow was a sculptor. they were down in Washington and in the public library they ran across a document there regarding oak island. It was in spanish, incidentally. One of these fellows was an automatic writer. He'd sit on one side of the table and take up his pencil. after a while he'd concentrate hard and everything was quiet and he'd start writing. And my ~~xxx~~ god, it was amazing the stuff that he wrote. he got messages from two different parties. One was a mr. menzies, a priest who was with the spaniards who went to incaland. And when Pizarro left to go back to spain for reinforcements so that he could come back to clean them up; this isn't ~~tumbez~~. tumbez is another story; And this menzes told the (inca) emperor what pizarro was going to do. So they gathered up their material and they ~~xxxxx~~ took it up to Tumbez. And that was about as far as they ~~xxx~~ (the wicks brothers) got. menzes apparently didn't know what happened after that. But there was another writer, Circle, and he started in writing in circles. and it was circle that told them (the wicks) about (the incas) going to oak island with the treasure.

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Blair and I went out there (Saguenay, Mich.) and we spent a week with them (the wicks brothers). And my gosh the writing they did was absolutely fantastic. They wrote on wallpaper, rolls of wallpaper. The writing was really fast; legible and in english. It was amazing. there was some power behind it; I don't think a person could write as fast and as clear as he ~~wrote~~ wrote by physical effort alone. there's something supernatural about it; at least I thought that. Well, I brought home I suppose a dozen rolls (of wallpaper) and I had them in the vault in the old office. And by gosh one day the whole factory took fire and the office caught fire. The old vault had a three-inch plank frame that had been left inside it and the heat was so great that the frame caught fire and burned everything in the ~~vault~~ vault. That fire was in 1942. The writing was done in January 1932.

CLAYTON
STANKIE

That was one experience. Now about two years ago I had a telephone call from a fellow from Phoenix, Ariz. I ~~didn't~~ didn't get much out of him. all I could get at that first conversation was that he wanted, he and his associates, wanted three months to come down and investigate. Well, I was tied up with Triton Alliance and I couldn't give it to them. Well eventually by telephone calls and later by letters, while he didn't tell me where he got his information which I tried to find out from him, or how authentic it was; but he definitely stated that it was the Tumbez treasure that was buried there. He said that he knew all about it, what was there, the amount, how it was put there, just when it was put there, who put it there, and how it could be recovered. now, one of the three of them, one is an engineer; the other two I don't know what they are. But one of the other two; not the fellow that was talking and writing to me, he visited mr. tobias. and tobias came to the conclusion that this other fellow was ~~the~~ a clairvoyant, and that was where they got their information. now, whether there is anything to it, I don't know.

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But there is one thing about the Incas (theory) that has always puzzled me. And that is that ~~xxx1795x~~ Oak Tree in 1795. Now that Oak tree might have been 200 years old; that would be 1595 when it started to grow. It might have been as old as 200 years; but I don't think the oak trees there live more than 200 years at the most. All the big oak trees that were there ~~12x~~ in 1931, they all died (or were subsequently cut down for timbering) since. I hacked into one (in 1931) that had a scar on it and ~~xxxxxx~~ xxxxxx at the end of the scar I found the point of ~~xxxxxx~~ a knife. I counted the rings into the heart and it was 183 years old, that tree. And it wasn't a very large tree when that knife was stuck in it because the point of the knife was in pretty nearly to the centre, within an inch or so of the centre of the tree. So that knife was stuck in there (that was in 1931 when I hacked the tree) perhaps 150 years before. (i.e. about 1781).

There's nothing mysterious about them (the original depositors) being able to to the (digging) work, because the ground is so firm and so solid that you don't have to crib it. All they had to have is manpower; picks and shovels, a rope and a bucket; that's all they needed. On undisturbed soil/^{in that area}there today you could go down and dig a hole without any cribbing. It's hard clay. You don't strike the blue clay until you get down to about 90 feet; then you strike a layer of about 10 feet of blue clay. And under the blue clay there's about a foot of fairly white sand. That clay is practically impervious to water; it's a very very dense hard clay. ~~xxxxxx~~

So hard that when I fell for a metal detector outfit and we went down there and dug a hole and they had a clam shell digger, the soil was so hard that the clam shell couldn't touch it. They had to blast ~~xxxxxx~~ the clay, it was so firm and hard. Yes, it was one of these metal detectors in which I have absolutely no confidence in anymore whatever. I spent \$35,000 on that thing. That was in the early 1950's, shortly after I acquired the island. (~~shouldn't that be early 1950's??~~)

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J. Whitney Lewis bought the island from Col. Gardner. Now how col. gardner got it from hedden, I don't know. Gardner died and Mr. Blair, who was in touch with mrs. gardner, was on the point of going down to kansas city to make a deal with her (to buy the island) when Lewis came to Nova Scotia and tried to get the treasure ~~xxxx~~ trove rights. ~~When~~ he found that blair had them sewen up.

At that time (1950) treasure trove rights were in a different status than they are today. today treasure trove rights come under the same(guidelines) as mining rights. Prior to that, a person might have had the treasure trove rights but they had definite arrangements with the owner; the owner could stop them from going on. But with mining rights a person can go on whether the owner allows him or not. the law will allow them to go on and pay damages.

If nolan could get a treasure trove license to go on my lots, I couldn't stop him. That is, if he went through the process of law, he could go on. But I don't think they'll ever give nolan treasure trove rights on my lots. I haven't seen nolan's house, I haven't been down to the island since last fall, (chuckles at the thought of nolan and blankenship as neighbors on oak island)

I was talking to dan last night and he says nolan has put the chain up again on his road on crandall's point. Funny thing about crandall's point: the man from whom that property got its name crandall is my great, great, great grandfather. (the charts showing it as "grandall" are incorrect.) my mother is a Crandall. her father was a great grandson of the original Joseph Crandall that settled on Crandall's Point in 1756. He was a Baptist Divine and he and another chap established baptist churches all over ~~xxx~~ nova scotia and new brunswick.

Lewis bought the island from gardner in 1950 and if I remember rightly I bought the island from Lewis in 1950. ~~these dates~~ When Lewis bought the island, I incidentally got the premier, angus. l. macdonald, and the attorney ~~gnex~~ general, malcolm patterson, who lived up the river here and was a very close friend of mine, to change the law. You see, when Lewis got the title (to oak island) he wouldn't let Blair

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go on (the island) although blair had the treasure trove rights. So I got the government to change ^{out} to mining rights. And when Lewis found that out and he found that blair had the treasure trove rights ~~sewed~~ sewed up for five years, he said god, I'm getting old, I may be dead in five years. I think he lived a little longer than that. So he said to me, he said, "look mel, you might as well buy the darn island from me because I'll never get a chance to go to work on it now, And I can't stop blair from going on. Well, i said, if you don't want too much for it, I might consider it. He said I'll give it to you for just what it cost me; which I think he did, I think he was truthful. (looks a bit surprised when I ask him if that price was \$6,000) Lewis might have (paid that price) it's a military secret (what chappell paid lewis for the island).

\$6,000

Why those lots that nolan claims; why those lots aren't mine, I don't know. Because three solicitors told me that I had the whole island absolutely. Harris and two other lawyers(said that.) There's a plan made of those lots, 5, 9,10,11,12,13,14, along with 15 to 20, a plan made of them and marked on it is 'property of Gilbert D. Hedden from that lawyer in New Jersey for Gilbert D. Hedden; 52 acres; which took in those lots. But in the description, for some unknown reason, those lots were not numbered. for some reason 5,9,10,11,12,13,14, they're not named in the official written record. And this fellow Nolan... Have you ever met him? You can't believe a darn word he says. He bought those lots from three old women who were in their dotage. one of them was blind. From the time Hedden bought, nobody was assessed or paid any taxes on oak island except hedden, beamish and myself. Up until 1963 I think when Nolan got them to assess one lot to him. Harris did the arranging (when chappell bought the island. Kenny (of bridgewater) could have been another one and the other's name begins with G, I forget his name. Coles wasn't involved in that; that was before Coles' time.

Tobias may take nolan to court over the ~~ownership~~ title of those lots. You see, I had undisputed posession of the entire island; I cut timber off it, sold it, pastured horses and cattle on it for over 20 years. Nobody else was assessed for

anything, except I and my predecessors hedden and beamish, and nobody else paid any taxes. whether that's going to give me ~~any~~ a title, I don't know. It depends on the ~~xxxxxx~~ courts; what they decide. The assessor, Mr. burgoin in bridgewater, he was the assessor in chester at the time. and he says that these old ladies, so far as he knew, they had no claim. but they gave nolan a deed. Now I don't know whether it's a quick claim deed or a ~~xxx~~ warantee deed, I don't know. But anybody can give anyone a quick claim deed. It doesn't mean anything though.

I only heard one story. He (Nolan) had a ~~xx~~ shyster lawyer from halifax, kitts I think was his name. Anyway, my lawyers may have overlooked something, I don't know. I was supposed to have them (all the lots) and that print that was made in Chester on the registry there ~~didn't~~ gave hedden all those lots.

He (nolan) claims that he has located things there (on his seven lots). Course, I don't believe him; Dan don't either. Two things that ~~xxxxxx~~ Nolan said he had located Dan investigated on the quiet and he said there was nothing to it. I understand dan to say yesterday that nolan is digging on his property now with a backhoe.

I can't understand why the government don't just go over there (through nolan's crandall point property). because that had been a public waterway to the shore for at least 150 years; no doubt about it. Now why, when the dept. of highway engineers when they recorded the road that they made down there, instead of saying from the main highway (route 3) to the water, which they should have done, they said from the main highway so ~~many rods~~ many rods, or chains, and when you come to measure those, they come to within 160 feet of the water (at crandall's point). And nolan bought I think it was 65 feet or 95 feet next to the water (from Presley). And how much presley owns, I don't know.

Triton has an agreement with him (nolan) that he can't stop triton (from using crandall's point). but whether he can stop tourists, I don't know. There's nothing in the agreement (between nolan and triton) about tourists.

Dan (blankenship) is a pretty good head. You can depend on him and he's got a darn good head on his shoulders. He's absolutely sold on it (oak island); there's no question in this world about that; he's absolutely sold on it.

= Oh absolutely (I'm convinced there's something down there) No (I have no favorite theory about who put it there). It's awfully hard for me to believe that it was done by pirates. It could have been; but I can't imagine why they did ~~xxx~~ so much work. There's no doubt the work took some time to do. I mean they didn't do it in a season. ~~thxxxxxx~~

There's no question the piece of work that was uncovered at Smith's Cove two or three years ago by Dan proved to myself and to him and to Dr. Cook (ck!!) at Dalhousie that the people who did the work there built a skidway to bring their ships up on to repair them. there's no question in our minds about that at all. it wasn't part of the coffer dam and it wasn't done by searchers. The work that dan uncovered there was two big logs with cross timbers every four feet, and numbered with roman numerals. it was a little below the present low water mark, about two feet below the present low water mark. It was below the silt too. It was found by dan. He built a dam there and he pumped it out to see what he could find. and this is what he found.

Besides this work they picked up an old caulking ~~xx~~ iron and old pair of shears (see photo). They were analyzed. and some bolts and some hand-made spikes were analyzed that were taken from the skidway. So we know that it was prior to 1750 (that the skidway was built). The steel co. of canada claimed that their analysis was the same as steel that was made prior to 1750; the same carbonization.

Anyone that knows anything about oak island knows that somebody in the earlier years did a tremendous ~~xxx~~ amount of work there. There's no question about it. why they did it, I don't know. Although I am satisfied that what father drilled into is a valuable deposit; there's no question in my mind about it. And if it wasn't for that, I wouldn't have any interest in Oak Island whatever. I and my father have (together) invested about \$125,000 (in Oak Island over the years).

You don't invest that kind of money on somebody's hearsay: Although I spent \$35,000 on somebody's hearsay; on that metal detector. I fell for the metal detector. It looked possible to me. But (turned out) there was nothing to it.

PARKER CONT

...(Interview continues July 21 - M.R.'s office)...

(Chappell never heard of or heard from Alarik Walton or George Simpson)

There have been a few, not too many, people who have visited oak island and have claimed that they did work there. But we have no record of it at all. we don't know anything about them. whether they're telling the truth, I don't know.

I have a list here of people I've had letters from. For instance, back on aug. 30, 1971, there was a fellow by the name of M.R. Lipsett. Now he had a method of controlling the water. No, that was another chap. The way he (this other chap) was going to control the water was to go down the shaft and locate where the water is coming in and put in a 12-inch pipe with a valve on the end of it, cement it around good and tight and then close the valve, and that would shut the water off. Now how in the name of heavens was he going to get down there to put that pipe in? I asked him and he had the most weird answer. In fact, I met this fellow in New York. He was a mechanic; he had a machine shop, that was his business. I don't have his name because this fellow didn't correspond with me; it was all by phone (and in person).

There's another fellow L.J. Kennedy who had a detector, or he was making a detector that could locate any metal or any material at practically any depth. Well, there was nothing to it, he was just imagining things.

Yes, I've met E.J. Thurston (of Ontario). He and Claude (chappell) have had a lot of correspondence. I don't think there's one god darn bit of truth to his divining. That's my own personal truth, now. The art of divining and finding water, yes. I agree with that. But to find metals, I think it's all up here (taps his forehead), going around.

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I had a letter from John J. Prinkey and he had a method of proceeding with the work. And at the same time I had a letter from a fellow by the name of Sydney A. Martin; he had a method. These letters go back to 1971.

This fellow Kennedy who was making this device, he wrote me and wanted me to invest with him. I asked him the value of his device. He never told me. He wanted to form a partnership.

I had a letter from a fellow by the name of Dave Townsend in Ottawa on May 4 this year. He wanted to make a contract to dig in 1978. That's when he would be able to make it; I don't know. I don't know what he had in mind (re recovery).

(Chappell never heard of or heard from Charles Barnard)

This Clayton Stankie, Phoenix, Arizona 85008. And their address is Granada Plaza, Suite 303-305. Their phone is (602) 275-2342. Now, that fellow clayton, that's the chap that says he knows all about it and that it is Inca treasure from Tumbes. It's about two years since I had the first call from him and there's been correspondence since. I've been trying to find out how authentic his information is, and I haven't been able to get anything from him at all. I think he got his information from a mystic. He has a partner who's an engineer and the other fellow (third partner) I don't know anything about him or what he does. I don't know what his (stankie's) work is either. They want to get three months to investigate (on oak island).

I think I have replied to every letter I ever got (re oak island) just to see what they would come back with. Had a letter from one fellow; he was a Polander I think. He wrote from Toronto and he gave an address and I had a granddaughter living in toronto at the time. And I wrote her and asked her if she could check up for me and see what she could find out. So she checked on the address, She said it was a Polish club and they didn't know the name that this fellow corresponded under; they didn't know him there at all; never heard the name. So I've come to the conclusion that he was just a faker to begin with because he wasn't using his right name. His letters were written in pen and ink and they were very short, not more than ~~sixty~~ eight or ten lines most of them. But he know all

about oak island apparently, according to his letters, and how to recover the treasure. And he wanted an opportunity to do it right away. And he wanted, if I remember rightly, it was six months that he wanted (to recover treasure). I wrote a letter back to him that must of kinda got under his skin. And he wrote back a very very short letter, only about eight lines, and he said 'I received your letter of such and such a date. I am of the opinion that you are full of shit.' (laughs). I answered it and told him that usually a person judged other people by themselves. And then he sent that letter back to me with no comment on it. It was a scream. I've cleaned out a lot of stuff and I may have thrown that letter in the wastepaper basket. I can't find it anyway.

(re the gold chain) You've asked a good question. Was there ever a gold chain? All I have on that gold chain is that Pitblado, who was in charge of the work (in 1849), was in charge of the outfit that was doing the work, he happened to be at the pit at the time this fellow was drilling and brought up the drill. And Mr. Gammell who was the foreman on the job saw him take something off the end of the drill and put it in his pocket. And he asked pitblado what was that you took off the drill and put in your pocket. And he (pitblado) said that information will be divulged at the next directors meeting (of the Truro Co.), not before. Pitblado was in charge of gold mining at Gold River, which is only a few miles from oak island, and I have two stories. One is that there was a premature explosion (at gold river) and he was killed; and the other is that he disappeared; left the country, and later tried to buy oak island. There's the two stories; which is correct, I don't know. And whether there's any gold chain, I don't know. My father never saw it; definitely not.

Practically everything that I've got (re oak island) I've turned over to tobias. He's gotten practically all of my data. I would say all of my data pertaining to ~~titles~~ titles, deeds and any other documents, and a great deal of correspondence, that I've had. And the only artifacts that he hasn't got is that piece of parchment, which I don't consider of very much value today because of its condition. I looked at it last night and

it's all wizzled up. You can't tell what it is. And it's hard, very stiff. There's a possibility that it might be soaked in water and softened, I don't know. But I didn't want to try it.

(Among oak island authentic artifacts are): the piece of parchment, heart shaped stone, pieces of metal, pieces of chain, coconut fibre. Restall, when he was working there he was digging around the shore at Smith's ~~Cove~~ Cove and he uncovered a bunch of what he thought were Oak Tree branches. But they weren't; they were hazlenut. And there are hazlenuts there. he thought they were ~~acorns~~ acorns, but they were not. they were hazlenuts; I know hazlenuts when i see them. Hazlenuts grow on the island because when we were there in 1931 i picked some. He (restall) did an awful lot of digging around smith's cove by hand trying to locate the drains. he found a lot of coconut fibre there too. // +:

In ~~1931~~ 1895 when father went to oak island for the first time, he told me that there was a pile of that coconut fibre that had been piled up on the shore by the searchers in 1849 when they uncovered it (looking for the drains). He said it was piled up on the shore and that it would fill a big truckload. And when I was there in 1931 I looked around and got several pieces of coconut fibre. Some of it was sent to the smithsonian institution for analysis; some of it was sent to tobias for analysis in montreal or toronto. I don't know who did his (tobias') analyzing. It wasn't dated, just authenticated as definitely coconut fibre; the fibre off the husks of coconut.

The only thing I hang my hat on regarding oak island is father's experience. Nothing else. And father was there when we put our shaft down. Our company had a contract with mr. blair to put the shaft down. Father was there; we were living right on the island; we had a bunkhouse and a dining room. And blair was there most of the time too. He had a little shack for an office.

You know , most of the data that I have had, unfortunately, people have written and asked for plans and pictures and data, and foolishly I have sent it to them. I have never yet gotten one solitary piece back; never got a piece back. If I didn't

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have a copy, it was gone. What I had was mostly copies anyway and the originals, I would say that tobias has the originals.

I don't know what happened to restall's stuff. from 1959 to 1965 restall accumulated quite a lot of information. now what happened to it on his death, I don't know. But tobias, who was on very friendly terms with restall and the family (yes, tobias invested in restall's search). they were on very friendly terms and he (tobias) tried to get the data, artifacts and what have you that restall had accumulated, and by gosh he didn't get anything to speak of. he may have gotten some very minor bits of work. but mrs. restall says she didn't know what got it.

Now whether dunfield who was there at the time of restall's death; whether he ~~got it~~ gathered that stuff up, we don't know. dunfield kinda dropped out of the picture then. I've written him two or three times and never gotten a reply. now whether he got my letters or not, I don't know. but they never came back; they were never returned, so somebody must have gotten them. The last I heard ~~from him~~ of him he was in south america. he was down in venezuela working on oil geology. I don't know what he did with his material; i suppose he took it with him. I think he's still a partner in triton; tobias probably arranged that. Mrs. restall has some (triton) shares. and fred (nolan) has a couple of shares I think. And gordon coles (has some shares in trust or something). I suppose there's about 25 that have ~~xxx~~ shares in Triton.

I don't know (whether the smith's cove flood tunnel is definitely blocked). It may be. when father was there, both in 1890 odd and in 1931, he drilled a series of holes out at smith's cove hoping to locate the water source. four holes ~~that~~ were dry. on the fifth hole, or on one of the five holes water came up to tide level and he put down about 160 pounds of dynamite.

A number of people who have worked there are definitely of the opinion that when they put colored dye in the (money) pit and pumped water in it to get a head, it came out on the south shore. I don't know anything about hamilton's (dye) work, but when father was there some of the men said that they could

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distinguish the color of the dye coming out on the south shore. the water from the pit ran to the south shore and there was quite a lot of the red clay sediment coming out with the pump, in fact tons of it, and it discolored at the bottom of the shore, this red clay from the bottom of the pit. My father said the ones that claimed they saw the red dye may have been mistaken; that it was the red clay that they saw. He said 'son, I can't say that I saw dye.' he said 'I know we had colored water there, but I think it was from the red clay at the bottom of the pit.'

Father was very conservative and he wouldn't make a statement unless he was sure it was correct. he was that type, and I've learned that ~~from~~ from him too. I don't make a statement unless I think it's true. (for instance) I've been asked about those gold chain links you mentioned and (I say) I don't know anything about them. It may be true that Pitblado got gold chain links off of that bit; it may not. it may have been something else that he took off, I don't know. I don't think there is any ~~xxx~~ proof of it (gold chain) anywhere; I don't think there is. The reason I say that is they (truro co) were drilling at a depth of around 100, 110, perhaps 115 or 118 feet at that time. Now what father drilled into (in 1897) was at 153 feet. And our shaft in 1931 was the first shaft that was put ^{down} below 118 feet. It was the first shaft that went down deeper than 118 feet, so far as any records that we know of. And I think blair had all the records; because he was directly connected with it from 1893 as a young man and secretary of the oak island treasure co. And he was directly connected from then on until his death in ~~196x~~ 1951. So I would say that blair would have known pretty well all about everything that was done.

I have an idea that there probably is (a ~~xxxxxx~~ flood tunnel from the south cove). I don't know positively, but I am of the opinion that there is; I think there is, let's put it that way.

Mr. Thurston (claude's friend); he says that there are fourteen places on the island where there are tunnels dug in from the shore, but not all in the immediate money pit. Some (are) up at the mainland end of the island. That's why I say I don't pay too much attention to mr. thurston's theories.

Mr. dunfield, who is a geologist, he told me one day, he says 'mel, I'm not too sure whether there are natural channels in the subsoil or in the bedrock that the water's coming in; I'm not too sure from a geological standpoint, the geological formation.' Now, the rock there is; there is a limestone and gypsum formation. Well, ^{there's a} we all know that in a gypsum formation there are times when ~~xxx/xxx~~ void and sometimes it will ~~xxxx~~ silt right up to the surface.

Now one party, a chap from new york incidentally, he told me; he was down here, he told me that that so-called money pit, he says, that's the gypsum that's down at the bottom there that has disintegrated and dissolved and the ~~earth~~ earth has silted up. I said 'all right, I agree with you; but you tell me this: how did nature put those layers of timber in the money pit; you tell me that.'

(re accuracy of early information) The ~~xxxxxx~~ boys in 1795 discovered it and they went down 30 feet. seven years later in 1802 Lynds from truro formed ~~xxx~~ a company and they went down 90 feet. And they took out these platforms every ten feet. Mr. Vaughn, who was a young fellow of 16 when they discovered it (that's anthony vaughn); he worked with Lynds and he also worked, and his son worked, in 1849 when the next bunch (truro co) went in on it. And mr. blair had, I don't know what happened to it, he had correspondence, the actual letters that passed from the workings in 1849 to the head office, which was in amherst at that time. Now he had copies of those letters which told what they were doing. the letters described the whole work, particularly the platform at 90 feet, where the 1802 people quit. And there was nothing done until 1849. That platform was (still) there in 1849. And blair had the original letters that went to the head office in amherst.

You see, every group that has worked on oak island, there's been a tie-in in personnel; right from the start. With one exception; that was in the 1860's, known as the Halifax company. Now as far as I can find out there was only one man in that company that had any connection with the 1849 company; and he died while the halifax company was working there. (find name...).

In 1931 I spent a half a day with an old lady who's mind was just as bright as a button, and she was the ~~xxxxxx~~ granddaughter of the original vaughn. and she told me the story that her grandfather told her. It corresponded, I would say, almost 100 pc with blair's data, and on the Oak Island Treasure co. prospectus. She owned the island at that time. she died in the fall of 1931, shortly after we were through working there. Her name was mrs. Sellers. It was her son or grandson that became owner, from whom Hedden bought it. He got it from Selwyn Sellers. ~~xxxxxxx~~

Hedden bought the island through his lawyer G.W. Grimms. I was talking to Grimms just before he died and he said if I have any records in my office, I will send them to you. He was in Halifax when he said this and if I remember rightly, he died on the way home (to New Jersey). That would have been about 10 years ago.

W.L. Johnson of Vancouver has a theory that the shaft (money pit) was put down more less as a blind and that from that shaft there's a tunnel upwards to within probably 15 or 20 feet of the surface, and that's where the main deposit is. He was down there (oak Island) twice. He ~~had~~ had a surveyor come in. He got an idea that from the money pit, due north, seven degrees west was the line of that tunnel. Now how he arrived at that, I asked him. He couldn't tell me how he arrived at it; he just guessed. It was due north 7 degrees west of the money pit but it would also be the same from the triangle, because the money pit was due north of the triangle. The engineer, or the surveyor, struck his line due north and went off seven degrees. And I think he had a distance of about 150 feet (on that line) to where the deposit was made. And he put a hole down there 30 feet deep and about eight feet in diameter. (but he didn't find any treasure). He came back two years later with an air drill and he put forty holes down between his shaft and the money pit, about 15 or 20 feet from his shaft that he put down, expecting to strike the tunnel. He put them down I believe about 40 feet (deep) but didn't strike anything. His shaft was due north seven degrees west of the money pit. It's still there. There was a tripod over

it, but I think Dan took that down; somebody took it down. (Johnson worked there in about 1962-63). I ~~skilix~~ hear from Johnson two or three times a year. I've been keeping Johnson more or less informed on what's been going on. Not in too much detail, but generally. I don't know whether there's anything to Johnson's theory or not anymore than there is to Thurston's. Johnson had a lot of correspondence with Harris, and he sent me a copy of every letter he ~~xxxxxxx~~ wrote to Harris. I have a file of Johnson's correspondence that must be nearly two inches thick. Johnson wrote an article on oak island, but there was nothing to it. (c/k!)

(re Backman group): (doesn't remember this group) I had a letter from somebody, it wasn't backman, regarding the charcoal. (it was) a theory that they (original depositors) made their charcoal down in the shaft.

I think it was the becker drilling company; when they brought some of this stuff up, I think it was from between 150 and 200 feet, that there was bits of charcoal in it. It was analyzed as charcoal; it was charcoal all right. That would have been the late 1960's or early 1970's. It would have been about four years ago that becker was drilling. Dan can tell you about the bits of charcoal.

I don't know why dunfield destroyed a lot of stuff (like the triangle) there; unbeknownst to me. I asked him when he took over from Restall; I said 'now Mr. dunfield, I don't want any of the original markings ~~destroyed~~ destroyed.' But by gosh, he destroyed practically all of them. But, from Roper's plan I think they can be reestablished; the locations. Roper's plan is pretty accurate; there's no doubt about it. I knew roper. He's dead now but bates is still around. He's a very accurate ~~man~~ man too. But roper was a darn good civil engineer.

I'M convinced it (the triangle) was original. And those two drilled stones that are mentioned; I think they were original. Although there are other drilled stones and so far as I'm concerned, they don't mean anything (like the ones Nolan claims to have discovered).

There is a possibility (that there's treasure in different parts of the island aside from the money pit). The theory is quite prevalent that it was done by pirates and that ~~they~~ it was more or less a community, a communal affair, something like the one that was done down in Haiti. Dan and Tobias spent I think two days with one of the men who worked there (in Haiti) (Lochard). He's on Long Island. It was during the forties (that Lochard was supposed to have taken coins from Haiti communal bank) It was 1965 or 1966, 1966 I think, (that dan went to Haiti). It could be of course (that lochard made up the whole story re haiti).

M.R. (Roy) Lipsett's address: 3060 Chipman Crescent, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2G 2K2. Letter written by Lipsett to Chappell June 18, 1976; in which Lipsett is suggesting that he ~~xxx~~ knows how to ~~xxx~~ hand-dig oak island to recover the treasure. (see p. 18) *(he visited the site in June, 1976)*.

L.J. Kennedy: 84 Windsor Ave., Flin Flon, Manitoba. He wrote Chappell in 1971 and 1972 re detector. I've had something from him since then. (see. p.18) (and p.19)

P.J. Mallon from Ireland has written Chappell too. (c/k my file for address)

There was one guy who wrote me claiming to know where the treasure was and how to ~~xxxxxxx~~ retrieve it. He had a complete inventory of everything buried on the island and he offered to sell me the list for \$5,000. I forget his name or where he was from. I didn't pay any attention to his letter; I don't think I even answered it.

As soon as dan has (dug up) anything of any consequence I'll be going down (to oak island). If he cuts that shaft, I'll be down there.

Mildred Restall - Interview at her home in Western Shore, evening
of August 10, 1976.

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You can't deal with Tobias, he deals with you. He wants what he wants and that's it sort of thing, even if he has to wine you and dine you and all that business. Yes, I told Fred Nolan before he went (to Montreal to see Tobias) what would happen (re chauffeured limousine, Rooby Woods etc.) I know when he (fred) got back he told me, he says 'by golly, you were right.' I hadn't had dinner with Tobias, but my husband had. You see we'd travelled around a lot, my husband and I, and we met all those (kinds of) people before and we know the steps that you go through. And in those days, those were the steps that you go through; wine and dine and the best of this and that and showing off; big shot and all that. And then you get down to the nitty gritty. And bob (restall) came back and he said 'god almighty, that fellow (Tobias) treated me as if I was from the country; didn't know anything.' We've travelled the world, mind you; been all over the European continent and the North American continent. And bob got this treatment. He thought it was funny.

That was back (in 1964) when Tobias was interested (in investing in Oak Island) and he wanted bob to go up to Montreal. He showed bob around his plant (Jonergin) and all this and that. You know, it's like putting out the bait. You say 'well here, I'll put up so much' (investment) and then you show off that you can afford that; that's peanuts; there might be more to follow sort of thing. It's the old carrot on the stick. I forgot what year it was (that Tobias ~~first~~ first got interested in the Restall expedition). But he invested money in the expedition.

Dunfield did too (invest) but with strings on it.

It's eleven years since I left Oak Island. The tragedy was ~~xx~~ 11 years ago a week from today. (August 17, 1965). That of course I never forget. But the years between then and now, it's hard to realize it's been 11 years.

~~My husband and I had backers from Hamilton with~~

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People can say what they like, but as far as (M.R.) Chappell was concerned, he was looking for a big fish. We never got a contract. Our contracts were by the year, to end Dec. 31. Sometimes we didn't get that contract until May. That is, the contract with Chappell. He had the treasure trove rights. He wouldn't give anyone more than a year. But you never even got a full year, because by the time ~~xxxxxx~~ dilly dallied around and said 'well, I don't know; so-and-so is interested, and this party's interested.' I've got letters from him and I guarantee there's not one of them that fails to mention that so-and-so was interested (in taking over work on the island). There'd be someone from sweden, or someone from germany or someone from here or there.

Did you ever hear about W.L. Johnson from Vancouver? He was working on the island when we were; that was the whole drawback. When my husband ~~xxxxxx~~ first came down, in september 1959, he got the contract with Chappell. But there was a clause in there to the effect that if anyone wanted to come on and sort of investigate the island, they could do so. Not in our exact area, but on oak island. So boh said alright. All he wanted to do was come down and see if there was anything to ~~thems~~ this (oak island treasure) story, So we came down in October 1959. Well I went back, because we had a boy (ricky) in school, in december, and then joined them again in june of 1960, and brought rick with me. Robert jr. was already here.

Things were all right at first. and the following year we got a contract (from chappell) for 1961. But there was this bit here that johnson could come in. And a map was drawn up and that was our area and this was his area. Well there was quite a squabble over that, but finally ~~ixgnd~~ it got evened down and johnson came down. Well, (the problem was) how can you get people to invest in a treasure trove sort of thing that's supposed to be there, but it might be over there and there's a fellow (johnson) digging over here. It can't be done. We did have the so-called money pit area; the hidden shaft and the chappell shaft. But it could have been that those places were the wrong place anyhow.

BB

In 1931 when the Chappell shaft was put down there was some debate at the time whether the money pit area was there, because it was all caved in. Someone said it was here, Blair said it was there, somebody else said it was there, and finally they decided to dig here. Now they might have been off by 10 feet, 15 feet; they might not have been on it at all. And then of course Hedden came along and put his shaft right next to chappell's. My husband bob used to always say that hedden came closer to finding the treasure than anybody ever did. he felt he was on the right track. it was too bad he couldn't have stayed to finish it. ~~Rukxxxxxx~~

But how you can say (to your investors) that that is the exact money pit area. It is the so-called money pit area. And there's a fellow (johnson) coming up here digging just a hundred feet away. who's going to put money in (under those circumstances). Johnson had a separate contract with chappell. That screwed things up for two or three years. (Johnson was there in 1963 1964.)

He (johnson) was interested in the triangle. The first year he was there he went and he dug down and dug down and the water came in and he was pumping it out. and he was sure that he had struck one of the (flood) tunnels, and he kept at it and finally gave up (that season). And the next year he came back, emptied the pit out, ~~xx~~ went down, looked around, messed around and then he was gone in two days. He didn't stay anytime at all the second time.

And then you see there's Nolan in the middle of the island with his part of the island that he has the ownership of. Which of course infuriated chappell. It was all legal. He (nolan) was surveying the island in 1961 for triton.

Chappell didn't have a leg to stand on (re contested ownership of nolan's seven lots) But he (chappell) was always too damn smart for his own good, was chappell. he cut his own throat every time.

When we were there (on the island) it wasn't just chappell letting johnson on. There's nolan come along in the wintertime surveying, coming right across our area and everything. but he's surveying the island; he's not treasure hunting. And he took his time surveying, because he over there many a time. And when he found that these (seven) lots didn't belong to chappell or hedden or anyone ~~xxx~~ else, he went around to people (the old time owners) and bought them.

/// And, as fred will admit, I don't know if he ever told you this; Chappell had promised him that he would follow us (as the resident searcher on oak island). That was after he got those lots in 1961. And the deal was to be that he would turn those lots over, sell them to chappell, in return for a (search) contract. And chappell got on his high horse and he said 'what; you give me the deeds first.' And Fred said no deal, no deeds without me (taking over the search operation). This was two or three years before the accident (in 1965). Chappell wanted those seven lots in exchange for the contract that we would go (and fred would follow). And then when it was put out that we had the contract for the next year, that of course got fred's back up. Fred got messed around too (by triton and chappell).

/// I haven't got any shares (in triton). Mind you, the last time that I saw Mr. Tobias, which was around five years ago, and he was sitting here (on the couch) and his P.R. man (ellard) was sitting there (chair); and kerry ~~xx~~ (ellard) said to me that if anyone got in touch with ~~xx~~ me (about oak island) I was supposed to phone them (triton) or at least steer them to kerry ellard. So kerry said you have an interest in this (triton alliance). And tobias says 'yes, your shares are over there in the halifax office (of triton) anytime you want to pick them up.' But I know gordon coles; I know well enough to stay away from him. And I thought to myself fine, if they're (my shares) in halifax, why don't they mail them; it only costs eight cents or so.

(Tobias told me a year ago that mrs. restall still owned a couple of shares in triton and that they were being held in trust; as were gordon coles' shares). They may have given me or put aside a couple of shares; I don't know whether they're common stock or what. I'll worry about that (exercising my shares) when the time comes (i.e. when something is found). When they put it (share of the treasure) in my hand, then I'll believe it. I'm not going to go out and rock the damn boat now. I know for a fact ~~that~~ if they find anything that I'll get something.

Bob didn't have any shares in triton because there was no triton alliance then (in 1965). I conveyed his shares (in the restall ~~xxxxxx~~ expedition) over to Dunfield. You see, Dunfield was supposed to have bought those shares from me. He didn't buy them; it was one of those legal contracts where he gets them for the sum of \$10 or something. He got all the shares and there was so much of a percentage held back for me. But that was with Dunfield, not Triton Alliance. And another thing Dunfield tried to do, he had a paragraph in that contract whereby any media interviews (i gave) that he would get 40 percent (or any fee paid). And this was only two weeks after I lost my husband and son, and I was still in a daze. We were at the lawyers, Gordon Coles, and I said (to dunfield) what's this mean here. And the lawyer ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ said that means mr. dunfield gets 40 percent of any fees you get from interviews or a book, And I said well I'm not signing it. That woke me up. I realized that everything was going. I had already signed all the damn equipment over to dunfield, which of course he wrecked right away. There was \$20,000 worth of (restall's) equipment there.

I had an agreement where I had a partnership in Dunfield's operation. ~~xxxx~~ So many shares were kept back for me, so ~~maymforx~~ many for richard and so many shares were kept back for my daughter (lee). I think it was 5 pc for me and 2 1/2 pc for rick and 2 1/2 pc for lee. But of course that's over and done with.

D = 14, 17, 200, 205, 32, 33, 34, 35

Tobias took over after Dunfield in 1966. And he (tobias) wanted me to sign a contract to the effect that I would get a percentage (of the triton company to be formed) and I was to undertake that I ~~xxxxxx~~ would pay the people who had invested with my husband. Fred Sparham of Hamilton was one of them (the restall investors) He was a very close friend of my husband's. And (I was to pay off) one or two others that were getting a little bit edgy (about their investment following restall's death). None of those people are with Triton now. It was something like Triton would give me a five percent share and out of my five percent I would give these other people a part; something to quiet them down. But I refused to sign it. Why should I have been responsible for paying them.

Then they formed Triton Alliance. Tobias was being very very nice to me. He dropped around to see me several times and all that. But I haven't seen him in three or four years.

I don't know where they're (triton) are getting the money from, but I know darn well that Blankenship isn't working for nothing. Not like my husband not drawing any salary. Tobias has blankenship because he knows what blankenship wants. blankenship wants to live over there (on oak island) and he wants to treasure hunt. As long as they can keep the money coming in (for operating costs) dan is very happy. And he'd stay there forever. He's committed, and that's it; he's quite sure he's going to find it (the treasure). Well good luck to him; I wouldn't want to go through that again. My god no; life's too short and there's too much to be lived.

(of the names of the possible restall investors I give her she only remembers Fred Sparham and Murray Killman). But as far as I was concerned, when my husband died, those agreements (with investors) died too. And the shares that were conveyed over to dunfield, ~~xx~~ well then it was his ballgame. And then of course when tobias came in it was different altogether; it was a new outfit. Now Killman, I don't think he put in anything worth speaking about. I think he kept writing and phoning Tobias

and Dunfield; but I don't know what his investment was. The person from New York (who was killed in 1965) Carl Graeser, was an investor too.

(She confirms newspaper accounts that said the total investment of the Restall expedition was \$75,000 from 1959 to 1965). We started off putting in \$5,000 or more in 1959. But there was no income or wages for us. I'm telling you; if we had had anything like a half million dollars, it would have been a different story. But as I said, how can you get money (from investors) when you're absolutely handicapped by a contract that isn't worth the paper it's written on. In the first place you got people (nolan and johnson) who are surveying or digging holes over there who have a right to. And then after that you get a contract for a year which you don't get until May. Now who in May is going to invest in something that expires on (the next) December 31. And that was the holdup (in obtaining adequate financing) all the way through.

Now, how these other fellows (triton) got something out of him (chappell), I don't know. I wouldn't be surprised if chappell isn't being paid so much a year for this use of the land by triton. Chappell was always ~~making remarks about~~ ~~telling~~ to us about this one had offered him \$5,000 to come in and dig and have the use of his license; but he'd tell them that wasn't enough, he wanted \$10,000. Always dropping things like that.

Pressure! You have no idea what pressure is! He (chappell) used to bring people over (to the island) and introduce them to my husband and to my son. There was one fellow, Wheeling or Wheeler his name was. We used to call him wheeler the big wheel. He was from ~~somewhere~~ somewhere in the States. He wanted to take over and he was going ~~to drag the thing up~~ to drag-line the whole thing and really take it up. He (chappell) brought him over to the island. ~~I don't remember what year~~ it was (presumably 1963 or 1964), but we had to work that year without a contract because of (chappell's interest in) this

Wheeler person. And then someone had Wheeler checked out, and wheeler was just what his name was; he was a wheeler-dealer and that's it. And he was wheeling dealing and going on trips to china and that sort of thing. He would not have put his own money in; he didn't have his own money. He would have got people to put money in and of course he would have taken a skinning off the top. It was a beautiful set-up for him. He was from Texas or somewhere that way in the States. This was before Dunfield came on the scene (in 1965); I think it might have been the year before.

(In 1965 restall was working under a contract from chappell that was due to expire at the end of the year; they had no indication that chappell was willing to renew it for 1966.)

By 1965 Dunfield had stepped in. You'd be surprised at what happened. The day after the accident, or it might have been the day of the accident, Dunfield shot in (to Halifax) to see Gordon Coles and Chappell, chappell came down from Sydney; and chappell's ~~mixxxx~~ own lawyer, an old friend of his named Smith was there (at coles office) and they had it all set up. And then dunfield came back (to oak island). This was (now) two days after the accident. My husband and son weren't even buried and he (dunfield) suggested to me that I go into Halifax and get these contracts signed up. ~~xxxxxx~~ When I got in the lawyer's office eventually; this was a week to the day of the accident; My daughter and (her) husband were there, and dunfield and one or two others; and Smith is supposed to be ~~xxxx~~ representing me; this is coles partner. And smith was chappell's friend and lawyer and advisor and everything else. (all of this is being spit out very bitterly by mrs. restall). All he (smith) did was ~~xxxxxxx~~ sit there and find out what I had in terms of assets and my husband's assets, then he got up and walked out. Then Coles sits behind the desk and then he starts drawing up the deed (turning over operations to dunfield).

And Lee was there and her husband was with her. And

he had put money in (to restall's expedition). That fellow had cancer and he was dying right ~~there~~ then. This was in August (1965) and he was dead in October. He was 34 years old. And anyway he was sitting there and he didn't look well at all; but he came down with me to have the family together. And as Lee said to me afterwards; there they were all ~~xxx~~ sitting there looking at me (mrs restall); they're ~~xxxxndromkingx~~ like a pack of wolves, all drooling at the mouth; waiting to get their hands on the (oak island) ~~rightx~~ search rights. ~~They're~~ They got it, and what good has it done them; not a damn bit.

Dan's happy in his fool's paradise. I don't need him. I don't need any of them. So, let them go to it.

Mind you, I never did believe there was any treasure there. Never. No way. But, if they find any, I'd be very happy. It was there, but I believe it was gone long ago; long before we got there. I feel that there was a treasure there, but I also feel that it was taken up before the depression (in the ground) was discovered (in 1795).

~~Re milderd's belief~~ (Re mildred's belief once that it was Acadians who deposited the treasure): Yes, I did (believe that). The way I look at it is like this. The acadians were all farmers along here and they were very wealthy farmers. They had hundreds of head of cattle and they had wheat and whatnot. And they ~~xxxxx~~ used to ship and sell stuff to France in return for goods. But they also were supposed to have been trading with the pirates. They would give the pirates food in return for treasure and whatever, jewels or money or even things (of value) they couldn't use. I think a whole community (of acadians did it). I think a group of them did it. At that time (about 1750) they were expecting to be invaded (expelled, actually). That's why they did it. Supposing they sold their cattle, flour and what ever they had to pirates in return for articles of value; it didn't have to be money. If they had money they wouldn't want their own government to find out because their government

would tax them and take it off them. Maybe they kept using the (oak Island) workings as a sort of bank. Anyhow it seemed at the time I was reading (acadian history) it seemed very logical. Far more logical than Captain Kidd (making the deposit). There's no way did we ever believe it was captain kidd. Captain kidd is supposed to have come down the La Have river at some time. But there's no real evidence of that.

(Re rock bob found dated 1704): That's right, 1704. (three years after kidd was hung). Now that rock for instance. People dispute this and dispute that. Now, he dug this rock from six maybe more feet below the beach (smith's cove). But people like Dan (blankenship) He said well, people play jokes; somebody put that rock there (as a joke). But why would they (the prankster) put that date 1704 on it, because it does not relate to anything in history. There's nothing to relate to 1704. The engraving had been chipped out with a chisel; it wasn't new or sharp edged. I know I chipped a piece off. I dropped it and I got bawled out for that. I chipped a little piece off. It was about six or seven inches long. It was sort of flat on the one (engraved) side; a grey slate rock or something like that. I still have it. I've got it in Ontario (hamilton). I've decided to say nothing about it, because if anything should ever come up and it ties in with that, I'm just going to ~~tm~~ Dan Blankenship and go 'blah' (stick her ~~kaunge~~ tongue out).

Another thing, we found some pieces of pottery. This too was down on the beach. The fellows were digging a trench and they were down about five or six feet (at smith's cove) and they came across this cluster of pottery; just broken pieces, you know. So my husband glued them alltogether, and one of them would have been a jug, another was a plate. But the plate was blue; it had blue fancy work on it. I was showing this; this was after the accident; and dunfield and chappell and tobias were here. And tobias asked me if he could see it. Then he asked if he could have a piece to have it analyzed. I said sure, and I gave him a piece. Lo and behold, about two months later Mr. Dunfield found a piece of blue china down in this big hole he was digging. And I think it was my piece of blue china.

He'd put it down there for publicity. You've got to show something or people won't put money in (to a search group). Nope, I never got a thing about an analysts report from Tobias. I didn't worry about it. What's the use. You bet your sweet life ~~(I kept the rest (of the pieces))~~. ~~(there they're in hamilton)~~. Channell had some he was going to get analyzed ~~(ch)~~ and he didn't. I never got any analyzed.

We used to find mats and mats of coconut fibre (in smith's cove). And you know what we used to do? Dig it out and we had a shed down there with a little platform on it. We'd just leave it out there (to dry) and people would take pieces of it. We never realized the value of it at the time. Chappell had a hunk of it. I have none left, I know that.

Now that coconut fibre; we called it coconut fibre. But that fellow (erwin) hamilton, he said ~~it~~ that it was bark off spruce trees. (scraped off by earlier searchers when they were making spruce timbers for their ~~tunnels~~ cribwork). He claims that's what it was. But it's been analyzed as coconut fibre. And when you pull bark off you take it off in long strips, not short peices like that (which we found). We gave some of our fibre to people ~~who~~ who had it analyzed, and they ~~ix~~ said it was the husk of coconuts. We had a fellow in the States who had it ~~xxx~~ analyzed by some place in New York. We didn't have copies of the analysts' report, just in the letters.

Dan (blankenship) is very superstitious. So is Fred (nolan). But then, a lot of nova scotians are. I heard stories (when on the island) about how when it was foggy on the island you could see fires burning. But I never saw them. Course, I never when out when it was dark; I was too darn scared. Yes, I found it spooky there at night. ~~Rnk~~ I had no choice about living there, but when it was getting dark you'd find me hightailing it for the cabin and that was it. I know when the fellows left me at night to pull the boat up or something; if they weren't back in five minutes then I'd start to chew my fingernails.

(see p. 37)

Rick (youngest son) is in Ottawa now. Working in construction and he writes on the side; short stories. He was 25 this year. He studied by correspondence six years on the island. That kept me busy helping him with his schoolwork. He's married now and has a little baby girl. He's not at all interested in Oak Island now. When we left the island after the accident it was like he just ~~xxxx~~ shut a door; he never mentioned his father or his brother again. He liked living on the island; he was really happy over there. Because he was always something of a loner and he could always find something to interest himself in. He took quite an interest in the wildlife there. And he had some friends on the mainland. He was only nine when we first went over and when we left he was 14. He was never really interested in the treasure 'hunt but he liked the idea of living on the island. He knew every inch of that island.

There were quite a few oak trees on the island when we were there. And down on that point of land at Smith's cove there was still the remnants first year we were there of the twin oak down there with just a few branches on it. (plainly visible in my 1931 air photo). Of course that's gone now.

Robert Jr. believed in the treasure too or else he wouldn't have stayed. He and his father were pretty close. And bobby and rick were very close too. After the accident Rick just never talked about them. It was a pretty rugged two or three years after that.

My husband believed that it was an unknown pirate that could possibly have had something to do with it. He believed there was no reason they couldn't have done something like that. But I found it hard to see pirates doing it; usually when a pirate buried anything it was six feet down or so. He believed it took a couple of hundred of men to do the job and probably over many many months. He thought maybe it was some sort of confederation of pirates doing it. Could have been slave labor taken there by a few leaders and the slaves didn't know exactly where they were or what the whole project was about.

Then they could have been taken ~~partx~~ back by ship without even knowing where'd they'd been. Or might have been purposely drowned at sea or buried at the bottom of the pits (to ensure their silence).

(Re Bob restall's estimate of a \$30 million treasure):

I know; because people always kept asking how much do you think is down there. He based the \$30 million on the inscribed stone that was supposed to have said 'forty feet below 2 million pounds lie.' And bob figured that in those days (1704) 2 million pounds was about today's \$15 to the pound, or \$30 million.

I can't understand why nobody photographed or took a rubbing of the inscribed rock. Surely somebody could have copied it down.

(re piece of parchment): Chapnell hasn't got it. I understand the last thing that happened to that was Harris's son, or Blair's son was supposed to have taken it. A whole trunk full of stuff was supposed to have disappeared after Blair died in 1951. (Is surprised to hear that Nolan might have gotten some stuff from miss surrey). Oh I think if Fred had anything (from miss surrey) he would have told me. I must ask fred next time I see him if he did get something from miss surrey.

Blair was supposed to have ended up his days in a rooming house in Amherst. And there he had a trunk full of all this sort of (oak island documents and artifacts) stuff. And then it disappeared somehow or other (after he died in 1951).

There were things missing (from the island) after my husband's death. When he died, in his wallet he had a key to a lock ~~mx~~ for a box on the island. In it were papers and certain things. That key was missing. And in that box were two revolvers that we had on the island. It was a strong box.

And when I went (to the police station in chester) to pick up his (bob restall's) effects from the police, that key was

missing. Now he had that key inside a little part of his wallet that buttoned down, and nothing else was there. And you could still see the outline (of the key) but the key was gone. I asked the officer where's the key and he said there was no key in there. Then he gave me the wallet and the money that was in it and everything. Well, when I went into the police station, dunfield was coming out of the corporal's (the officer in charge there) office. He saw me there, said hello and went on.

Also in Bob's pocket and young bobby's pocket were all the keys to the different buildings and all the boxes. we kept all the boxes locked because you never knew who was going on the island. We had boxes up in the clearing (by the money pit) and boxes down on the beach (smiths cove). And we had a tool shed down below that we kept locked. And there were the keys to the cabins up above. Well, these keys also were missing. The police didn't know anything about it. (eventually had to break open the boxes). When I started to take stuff off the island I found that photographs were missing, and two photograph albums I had (were missing). The boxes were still locked, though. we had to break them open, including the strong box. There were little odds and ends missing too. The revolvers were still there. There was nothing missing from the strong box that I can recall, just the other boxes. As soon as I saw that (strong box) key was missing we went straight back to the island and got the strongbox and took it to the bank. The other stuff missing was in the cabins and other boxes. There were two photograph albums missing; one of them was out show business album (from the Globe of Death days); the other was personal pictures and that, some of them pictures of the island.

Dunfield was taking movies (with a camera borrowed from bob réstall earlier) of the accident, the island and everything and shipping them off to ~~hampstead~~ Hollywood. He sold the (moving) pictures. I still have that movie camera.

I think Chappell paid \$6,000 for the island from Hedden (Lewis actually). But I think it was one of those deals where it was bought by Blair who was actually buying it for Chappell. We tried to buy the island from Chappell (at the end of 1964). He wanted a \$100,000 for it. My husband went back to hamilton and arranged the money and was ready to buy it. This way we wouldn't have to worry about running out of a contract ~~this year~~ every year. Chappell was going bankrupt (with Island construction) then and wanted the money. He said the price (of \$100,000) would only give him back what he paid for the island as well as what he and his father had invested looking for the treasure. Anyway, while bob was in hamilton he got a wire from chappell ~~ask~~ asking him to call him as soon as possible. Bob called him and chappell said the deal was off. He had already gone bankrupt and so it was too late for the money. He owed the bank something like \$500,000.

George Greene preceded us on the island (1955). He was there the first time bob and I took a trip to the east coast. Why we landed up here I don't know, but I guess he (bob) knew what he was doing. This is where he was heading for. He'd heard about oak island way back in school. Anyway we got down here and greene was drilling at that time. He (greene) showed us cores he'd brought up on his drill. I think he only lasted about six weeks then he gave up. Then my husband got interested. He met chappell the year before we came down; in 1957 or maybe 1958. Bob was working on construction then; at least when we weren't traveling.

We did the motorcycle thing up until 1956. That was with Pollock Brothers Circus in the States. (c/k for brochure). I did that with him since I was about 18, on and off, all through europe and the states. (shows me picture on wall of two of them on bikes that was taken in 1956). I used to ride around the globe horizontally and he (bob) was looping over the top at the same time. Everything timed to a split second. He'd be going about 30 mph at the ~~middle~~ ^{top} and 2-1-2 times faster (about 75) ~~across the bottom.~~

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= I was a ballet dancer (in London, England) before I started doing that. I always like a change, but that was a bit radical I will admit. We toured all over Europe with the Act. It was called "The Globe of Death." We had a few accidents; I had my jaw broken once doing it in Germany and Bob had his arm broken. It was a precision act with timing down to a split second. We had to keep ourselves in trim shape. There was none of this running around to parties and getting up the next day with a big fat head. We had a good act and we did pretty well with it. But we quit it several times then we'd get back to it. We did it last in 1956 or 1957.

Hamilton was out headquarters and we'd come home there. Bob was originally from Toronto. I was born in England. that's where we met. he was in England working when we met. He was doing that (motorcycle act) and looking for a partner. I was dancing then. ~~xxx~~ He was working at the Pier up in Blackpool. And the manager of our (dance) show thought it would be nice to take us girls down to meet the boys down there (at the ~~circus~~ ^{theatre}) and have pictures taken for publicity. We were at the Winter Gardens then with a ballet troupe there. So I ~~xxx~~ went down and had my picture taken with them. Bob was doing the act then with his brother. But they were looking for girls as partners. Bob took my name and address but I wasn't really interested. I was 17 at the time.

Later when he came to London my show was closed and I wasn't working at the time. I was living with my mother and he invited me to go to Germany with him. So I went; learned to ride in Germany and that was it. That was 1931. (which makes her 62 years old now).

(Re Panama deposit): That was something Bob read in some books about a similar deposit in Panama. I don't know where it was. It was a similar thing with a treasure and tunnels to the ocean that protected the treasure.

Bob got to thinking after he was there (on Oak)

island) a while that it was possible that in order to get at the treasure, they'd (the depositors) would have a place between the ocean and the money pit. Behind the drains, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ somewhere in that flood tunnel~~x~~ they'd have a place where they could block it off. Like a valve of some sort. He spent a long time on the beach looking for that.

He exposed what was left of the drains. they'd been torn up quite a bit over the years.

(Shows me her scrapbook of Oak Island showing various discoveries and pictures of the family.)

Blankenship was the one who wrecked the stone triangle, not dunfield. (??) Dan was putting those big metal cylinders down (large rusty casing on south shore) and that's when he messed all that (area) up. (That was in 1965 or 1966).

You used to be able to go down a pit at Smith's Cove, along a tunnel and up out of the hedden pit. Hack adams did it ~~xxx~~ many times. (so did amos nauss).

Halifax Tunnel?

(Shows me a ring in a rock that looks like one of the so called ring bolts. Says it was a "hydro post.") We found that and we wondered at first what it was and then we realized after that it was for electricity. When Hedden was there ~~xxx~~ he had electricity and they ~~xxxxxxx~~ put the ring in the rock for guy wires to the poles. Nolan can say what he likes (about survey markers) but that's what it is. (a hydro post.) ~~xxxx~~ He's found (nolan) the one that we found, because we showed it to him. ~~xx~~ A lot of this stuff that nolan's found is what we found and showed him.

(Shows me a picture of ~~xxxxxxx~~ the "in memory of captain kidd - 1701" stone). This stone was done up as a joke (presumably in hedden's time). ~~xxxxxxx~~ Another marked stone, I found it on the beach. You'll see it now in the museum (nolan's), ~~cause fred took it off the beach~~. Another (picture of a) stone says "Ross 1861"; he may have been a man working there at that time.

James did it!

(confirms that photo of family on shaft work is taken on the hedden shaft)

(Has photo of 1704 stone sitting in snow; was presumably found during the winter).

(used a raft to take the car and compressor to the island - and old chevy. the wreck is still on the island)

Bob one time was poking around the beach and he came across a dome of stones and when he pried one away there was a depression under it. (at smith's cove) And there was water in there. He thought it might have been the place to shut the water off.

(has drawing of the old Halifax Co. tunnel 120-feet down, That's the one people could walk through between the hedden shaft and the beach at smith's cove.) Parts of it are caved in now. One night we were sitting in the cabin and we heard this "thumph" and everything shook. We wondered what it was and we went out and found that this depression here (toward the smith's cove) had really gone down. The next day we found it was all filled in with water and earth, That was above the cave-in pit, more up the hill.

Bob never tried x to build a coffer dam on the island.

We had a diesel up there that used to pump out 1,000 gallons a minute.

The island got hit by Hurricane Genny (1963). We had a new wharf and it took the whole thing away. It was one of the last hurricanes (spring of 1963).

(has photos of pieces of china) They might have been left over there from by earlier searchers.

(also has photo of Robert Blair and W. J. Blair)

showing using a "100,000 decaiter metre" on the island that they

borrowed from the Bedford Institute in 1965 or so.)

At low tide when we were there you could walk around the top of the coffer dam (built in 1866) and ~~it~~ there'd only be a little water within it. The false beach we found was paving stones, then ~~xx~~ little stones, then the coconut fibre then the sand ~~xxxxxx~~ beach and sand on the ~~xxxx~~ top. We weren't able to follow any of the drains because they'd been pretty well pulled out and destroyed. But sometimes, when the tide was low and water was still dropping in the pits (without pumps) we could poke in xx parts of the smith cove beach and water would bubble out and in it would be little pieces of wood and brownish water from the pits. Definitely from the pit flowing back down to the beach.

The longer you were there the more ~~thingsxxxx~~ things you find out and you either have to be very ~~xxxx~~ dedicated and very dogmatic in many respects to stick to the story, or as id did, you have to take everything with a grain of salt.

I think that as far as bob was concerned, i don't think they really cared about any treasure, but they sure would have liked to know how it was done. And that's what held them there more than anything.

Dunfield was on the island the day of the accident. He wasn't working; just sort of hanging around.

The accident happened down at the beach (smith's cove). I was in the cabin when the accident happened. Some of the boys who survived are still around. There was marshall kaiser. And the demont boy, but he was unconscious when they brought him up; andrew demont, I believe he still lives in gold river. I think Gordon Hiltz was another one.

It couldn't have been fumes from the pump that knocked them unconscious, because the pump was on top up in the air and the exhaust was turned up and went way up above the shaft. the did do an autopsy and the blood samples were

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inconclusive (as to whether it was exhaust fumes or swamp gas) but they drowned. That was the cause of death.

I know it seems odd that nobody has run into swamp gas before or since. They hadn't been down that particular hole since they'd dug it several weeks before. My husband was construction orientated and safety first; that's what got me. That shaft (tragedy pit) was being emptied of water; nobody was working down there at the time. All I can gather is that my husband was supposed to have gone over there to look at the thing. He wasn't working that day, he was taking pictures (moving pictures) and was waiting for the boat that was supposed to pick him up at 3 o'clock to take him to the mainland and then he was going to halifax. He had put the camera down, because later I found it half way up the hill. What he was doing over at the pit, I don't know. Perhaps it was practically empty (of water) and he was going to clean the bottom out. Anyway somebody said that my son bobby yelled out 'hey,' and ran. Then the other fellows saw him fall down the hole and they ran over. Whether my husband fell over into the pit or had climbed down, I don't know. The shaft was about 15 feet deep, I think, and about 12 feet ~~long~~ ~~It was~~ long and about four feet wide. It was mostly empty of water I think. The pump was keeping it down. It was a cribbed shaft with cross beams. Whether he fell down, I don't know, but I do know there were bruises on his head and down his shoulder according to the autopsy. Then Carl Graeser went in next after bobby (he died) He was an investor with bob. He'd come to visit from new yourk and stay a week or so with us.

That shaft was an exploratory hole checking for the flood drains. It was part of a series of shafts along the beach.

I don't think anybody will ever find anything on oak island. It's a pity they destroyed the island. When we were there it was beautiful. Now it's a mess. The last time I was there was maybe three years ago. I went over with the writers of that esquire articles (ron rosenbaum in 1973).

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I don't like going over to the island if you want to know the truth. It's just not the same island any more.

(re feud between nolan and triton): To me it's six of one half a dozen of the other. Let's face it, he (nolan) owns the (7 lots of) land, it's his land, and what are they (triton) going to do about it. If there was anything they could do they would have done it long ago. And it just rubs Dan the wrong way that someone else can go over on that island anytime they want to.

It was the restalls that put up the causeway. (?) Dunfield did it, but with my shares that I turned over to him (in 1965). because there wasn't a causeway then. These were my shares (in the restall expedition) that I owned and would own to the end of the year (dec. 31, 1965) and that I turned over to dunfield to continue the job. With those shares that he sold, he got the money and put in the causeway. So it's really the restall causeway.

People had tried to get ~~xx~~ permission earlier to build the causeway but they couldn't. Even now they (the government) could make them tear the causeway out. Dunfield didn't (ask permission to built it); he just put it in.

(If Triton ever finds a treasure) that thing will be tied up in litigation so long I'll never live to see it cleared and you ~~xantmentkery~~ might not either. The only ones who'll get rich off oak island will be the lawyers. And there are going to be people who's forebears owned land over there that are going to be trying to come in (on the treasure). I heard that Hedden (or now his widow) still owns some of the ~~ixx~~ island; that he didn't sell all his property (to col. gardner). (c/k??) I did hear that there's one piece that did not get over to blair and to chappell. (in 1950).

Bob was always of the opinion that there wasn't just one cache (of treasure) down there. He had an idea that the caches would lead from one to another to another.

(Nolan's) fight isn't just with the province over crandall's point. That's the whole thing. This Gordon Coles being the assistant attorney general, he's doing some of Triton's dirty work.

Fred certainly has backers behind him. And he's got backers who are people of importance too. They can hold their weight in government circles. He's not just got business men (behind him) but also people with (political) pull.

My husband was never positive (that the original depositors didn't come back and remove their treasure). He believed there may have been a walk-in tunnel to the treasure. And this tunnel could have been purposely flooded as soon as anybody tried to dig from the top (breaking the air seal in the money pit). They might have retrieved the treasure but still filled in the entrance to the walk-in tunnel because they might have wanted to come back again to use the same workings.

It's quite possible that nothing ever was buried on oak island. There's no proof for ~~whxix~~ most of what has been claimed found underground. When they put it (any treasure) in my hands, ~~thxix~~ then I'll believe it.

Bob (restall) once wrote to chappell and suggested he (restall) put cement around the stone triangle to preserve it. Chappell didn't think it would be a good idea. I think he talked to mr. johnson and johnson told him it wouldn't be a good idea beacuse it might interfere with some original plan or something. So now the triangle is gone. Maybe with cemeht around it it would have stood out more and ~~xxxxix~~^{he} would have thought twice about (removing) it. It was dan (blankenship) that removed it when he was putting those big cylinders down (at the south cove). Dunfield was there first and then Dan came along and they worked together. Dan invested with dunfield. But dan put those cylinders down and then they caved in at the bottom.

We had the triangle and the drilled rocks, the one

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at the top (of the hill near the m.p.) and the one at smith's cove, all paced off and located. They were there when we were. 11

/// Dunfield once said that if he couldn't find it (the treasure) he was going to take darn good care that nobody else would find it. He said that to dan. (c/k!)

/ Fred Sparham is the only investor I can recall for sure with Bob. He was darn sure of it (the treasure). He was from Hamilton and a friend of my husband's. He didn't lose interest after the accident, but he didn't get involved with Dunfield.

/ Rum Dan told me that he thought dunfield was a con man. And yet dunfield (later) was supposed to be working for triton alliance and getting american investors in. But nobody even mentions dunfield anymore.

/ (W.L.) Johnson was going to start a company too (to look for the treasure). (c/k!)

/// I wonder sometimes just what type of contract these fellows (triton) have with chappell, that they're able to hold it for so long. I'm quite sure they don't have a year by year deal (like restalls had). I think their contract is for an automatic renewal (each year) as long as he (chappell) has the (treasure trove) license; I wouldn't be surprised. Dan said to me once, and this was a long time ago, he's (chappell) not doing that business with us (triton) of getting a year's contract half way through the year. He said our contract automatically renews. (c/k!!)

I think triton's investment has dropped off a lot. Last year they weren't doing anything on the island. They weren't even drilling.

/// Re pit found on Dr. Donaldson's property at Nader's Dove: I believe he's dead now, I don't know. We went to see him a couple of times, bob and I. Because we had heard about

this place on his property, and his property is way up above sea level. He was a practicing doctor at that time. There was this depression on his property so he started to dig down and he came across timbers and this and that, and water came in too. Two or three times they tried to dig down and then finally he got in touch with archeologists and people like that in ~~halifax~~ halifax. They studied it and took samples. And apparently (they said) you can get a natural sump or sink hole that can go down for 50 or more feet. And the earth there is soft. Then they dug down they came across wood and other stuff (?) and they thought ~~it was~~ that maybe it was another thing like oak island. It wasn't wood platforms. Old dead trees and stuff like that. But it wasn't like oak island, it was a natural thing. I don't know when it was discovered. But it was just a natural statex of the earth in that particular spot. (it was found in the 1940's according to enos nauss).

It kind of makes you wonder about this thing here (on oak island; whether it too is a natural phenomenon). (those 'oak platforms' could have been just tree trunks in the ground).

The cave-in pit was still there when we were there. But dunfield scooped it all out. Now it's just a great big pond.

Don't ever talk religion with Dan Henskee. That would really send him around the ~~mad~~ bend. He's very religious; he knows the bible backwards.

Even dan (blankenship) believes in these evil spirits that posess people, you know. That I don't ~~go~~ go for. But I think looking back in time or ahead in time is possible. But Dan believes in the forces of evil and that sort of thing.

My mother was in show business too (played summer stock as an actress).

There used to be friends of jack's (adams), fishermen who claimed to see strange things on oak island. There was one fellow, Ronald Rafuse (Lawrence Rafuse??), he'd dead now; died

a couple of years ago. He had a boat and he used to take visitors out to the island. He used to tell us the darndest tales about Oak Island. He was the one that told us about the lights ~~and~~ (he saw on the island) when it was foggy. And he told us about another island further out (in mahone bay) and ~~xxxx~~ one night he was coming home and it was stormy so he pulled into the island. He spent the night on the island and he said that island shook all night long; just vibrated. He was a one for tall tales. He used to say 'I wouldn't spend a night on this island for all the treasure that's down there.' He wondered why we weren't afraid at nights. He used to swear that there were lights there on foggy nights. And he'd come out after a fog maybe a couple of days later and ask 'did you see the lights the other night?' I could see them from the mainland.'

The people around here they're really superstitious about oak island. Charlotte Adams is another one. And Jack (adams) was a tall tale teller. (see jack's story re band in 1973). I know after the accident Jack got on the air (radio) and he was telling how he helped us and what he had done on the island and all sorts of stories. I sat there listening to the radio and I thought what a liar. He used to visit (us) on the island now and then. He wasn't there the day of the accident though.

~~xxxx~~ I was never so glad to get off the island as I was that day before ~~xxxxxx~~ christmas of 1959. Because when we went over (the first time in october 1959) it was a dreadfully miserable day; dark, overcast and cold. We were staying on the mainland at first. And when we did get over we found that the place had been looted of about \$200 worth of equipment. So that's when Bob said 'o'okay, we're going to have to stay on the island.' So we made the tool shed bigger and put in bunks and that was it; we moved out there. And lived there until the accident. It wasn't a fancy place like dan has. (or fred).

(Parker was driller on the island in 1939, ~~1968~~ 1967 and 1972. Is not certain, but pretty sure he was working for M.R. Channell in 1939. In 1967 he was working with dan putting down experimental holes and in 1971 he put down hole 10-X; Dan has referred to Parker as "the best damn driller I've ever had on the island."

There was a george layton from windsor, ont., in charge of examining the drilled material in 1939. Maybe it wasn't George, but his surname was Layton. And the fellow that serviced us on the island (brought out supplies and equipment by boat) was a fellow by the name of Tam Freda from Chester. Layton used to wash out every bit of cuttings that came out of that hole. But we didn't really find anything (in 1939). It was M.R. Channell involved in that dig. There used to be some sort of metal detector device on the island then. We took it all over the bloody island and on that end (east) of the island it used to go crazy; on the other end (west) it wouldn't do a thing. We were using a churn drill; bailing everything out and sifting it through a screen and layton would wash it out and see if there was anything in it. We drilled a bunch of holes there and then left. It was over a period of two or three weeks in the summer (of 1939). That was the first time I was on the island. Marge come down with me and stayed there in the camp. (just north of hedden's shack).

I never believed there was anything on that island till I hit that wood (in borehole 10-X in 1971) at 230 feet. before that I never believed there was anything on that island; it was just a job we were getting paid for. But now I really believe there's something down there. God, I hit that wood and it just felt like I was hitting a spring (with the drill). Then we went right through it and ~~xxxxx~~ (the bit) dropped about 7 feet (in a cavity). That was with the 27-inch drill. We got a washtub full of wood out of that thing. It was really heavy wood impregnated with water; it was like rock it was so heavy. I was there when the metal came up too (in 10-X). Some of it come up and it was right soft and then the next day you could break it off like nothing. That had been (down) there a long, long time. That was in 1971.

Before I was there (in summer of 1971) they had a machine there from California (Statesmen Mining in 1971) first. Some kind of a hydraulic thing. John wayne was involved with that company. But they were stuck; they couldn't get anywhere. So dan called me and asked me how many feet I could make a day down there. I wasn't working on the drill then (was with the CBC as a prop man.)

But I knew dan before that when I worked with dan a couple of years before that. He had his own drill then. And He and I got all smashed up in a car accident that time (dec. 22, 1967). Or at least he got smashed up. David (blankenship) was driving; I was in the back seat. I was working at the cbc at the time; I was there about five years as a stage hand. But I didn't like the cbc; I wanted to get the hell out of there. I was used to (being) outside; drilling and that sort of thing. I started to work on drills when I was very young; maybe when I was about 15. I didn't work steady at it. But I've been running a drill ~~xxxxxx~~ machine now for I suppose for about 30 years. I always come back to it.

In the fall of 1967 I was working for dan drilling. There was no (drilling) company involved. He (dan) had his own drill then. He bought this drill from Johnson in Bridgewater and it was a 30-Keystone churn drill and he had nobody to run it. How he got hold of me, I don't know. I was working on the McKay bridge putting up steel at the time; and my got it was cold. Anyway, Dan called me and wanted to know if I ~~xxxxxx~~ wanted to know if I was working. I told him I was and he offered to pay me the same as I was making on the bridge. So I came down (to oak island). We worked there for two months, I guess. That was around October-november. (parker thinks the accident was just before christmas of 1968; but I believe it was christmas 1967. c/k with dan.)

So when I come back(after the accident) I went back to cbc. Got a job backstage.

Didn't hit anything interesting in 1967. That was just experimental drilling. Dan planned on working all that

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winter; but we had that car accident. He was laid up all winter down in Florida. Dear god, it's a wonder we ever came through (the accident). We were all drinking pretty hard that night. It was just before Christmas and we come in from the island. We went over to Bill Bowmasters to get four bags of fondu cement (used in drilling). We stayed there and helped them drink two or three forties (oz) of rye. Then we started back to chester on icy roads. I went to sleep in the back seat and Dave was driving because he wasn't drinking. But he lost her on that corner in Chester Basin. He told me he was going around 75 or 80 (mph) when he hit that bridge. I don't know how we ever came through it. I thought I was ok when i got out. but I was laid up two or three weeks. I got home and I was black and blue from my shoulders right to my feet.

The next four years I wasn't involved with Oak Island. Next time was in 1974. I took over from the John Wayne company. I remember dan called me and he said how many feet a day can you make there in a 27 inch hole without the casing. And I told him six feet (a day). Well, we done better than that; we done much better than that. That was with a Bucyrus-Erie churn drill, a 60-L model. I put two holes down; both in the same area. There's 10-X and right behind it there's another one, a 20-inch (diameter) hole. And then we put a couple of six-inch holes down. I forget how deep that 20-inch hole was. But the deepest one was 10-X. We hit the cavity in that one at 237 (feet), went right on by it down to maybe 280 feet. Bedrock was 180 feet there.

I still don't know how in the sam hill the wood got down there (at 230 feet); but it was there. The people who analyzed it said it was 3,500 to 5,000 years old. That's what the archeologist said it was. I think it (oak island workings) was done that long ago; I really do. Because I talked to the archeologists back there on the island; there was two or three of them there when we got that wood; There was one from California and one from Boston. I can't remember their names. But they think that this wood was put there when that island was 100 feet higher (above sea level) than it is now. And the people that dug

down went down without any water to bother them at all. That was their theory about that thing. They suggested something about incas or aztecs doing it.

I'm satisfied that there~~is~~ was something done there. I've seen that tv camera (pictures) there ~~(in 1971)~~ (august 1971). And that damn thing showed it (a cavity) cribbed up on two sides; those were the only two sides we could ~~xxxx~~ see. And dan said he could see two cases (chests); well they looked like two cases. But the cribwork looked really plain. I ~~xx~~ saw it right off the (tv) monitor. The cribwork was definitely there. That was at 230 to 237 feet. I saw the hand (on the monitor) too. If you'd a seen the had you'd thought for sure it was a hand. It looked just like a hand. It was floating. And it was sort of waving (from the water being stirred up by the pump and flooding). I didn't see that face (see photo) and I couldn't be sure of these trunks. They ~~looked~~ looked like cases and they could have been, but they weren't as plain as the cribwork in the cavity. The cavity and cribwork were really there, no question about it.

Dan was (diving) down there several times after that. But there was a fellow named Sigel was down there when I was there. And another fellow from liverpool was there; we lowered them down. A diver from dartmouth and a diver from liverpool. Sigel was a professional diver; he had just retired from the navy; a commander in the navy. Runs a scuba diving shop in dartmouth now. He made several dives down there.

I hope dan has lots of air when he goes down (10-X next week). Because one time there (in 1971) we almost lost him. (oxygen was being used up by the torch). We pulled him up faster than we ever should ~~xxxxxxx~~ have pulled him through that casing. But it was the only thing we could do. We whipped him out of that hole and he was passed out by then. He wants me to go down there next tuesday and wednesday (when he cuts the observation holes in 10-X). I'm going to run the hoist.

In 1971 we had a pump in there (10-X) pumping 1,400 gallons a minute and another one was pumping 700 (gpm).

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AND we couldn't get the water below that (180 feet) I don't think. And the first thing we knew it (the water) started to rise (in 10-X)/ . ~~It~~ It was just like trying to pump out the ocean.

It's mostly clay there (on oak island). As I see it (as a professional driller) It's impossible for that water to come through (the ~~soil~~ soil naturally) like it does. Maybe it can in limestone (but that's below bedrock). I wouldn't have thought anything (unusual) about that water coming through limestone if I hadn't hit that ~~bad~~dy wood. Because that wood was there; it had to be there. We never put it down there. We brought a washtup full up. Somebody had to have been down there to put that wood there. There wasn't that many big pieces, but some were good size chips about the size of your hand. None of them had evidence of having been (previously worked or cut) but they were gouged by our drill. The only pieces that we saw were cut was what I seen with the camera. (notched logs).

That hand (in 10-X on the camera) was so plain you almost felt you could reach down and get it. But we went down and we never found it again. It was gone and I think it went out (a tunnel) with the water. It was waving but that's because we had the pump wide open when we had the camera down there. We thought we had the whole thing (solution to oak island) wrapped up then. Dan thought so, so did I. But the diver ~~xx~~ went down there and he never seen a thing. He was rubbing the walls going down; He had everything stirred up and he couldn't see a thing. He just knew when he was in the cavity; he could see that much of it. When he hit the bottom he said he could feel it was all flat stone. It wasn't a natural floor. Felt like it had been purposely made there with stone. The cavity was 7 feet high and the wood in the roof was about 8 ~~inches~~ inches thick. But the water was all milky. The diver couldn't see a thing. The diver done him (dan) no good at all, ~~Then dan~~ and he went down about six times. ~~xxxxxxxx~~ Dan wanted him to go to the sides (of the cavity) and feel around to see what he could feel. But I don't think the diver ever did. He was scared to get away from (the entrance to) that hole (casing). He was scared for his life, I suppose. That water was moving fast.

I'm not a shareholder in Triton. I worked straight on a salary basis. But I'll tell you, when I was working there it was understood that because I'd done them a few favors, if they ever found anything while I was there I had a ten percent share in it (probably a 10 pc share of dan's shares). But ~~xxx~~ that's over now.

Roper
Charles P. Roper - Interview at his home in Halifax Aug. 12, 1976.

(Roper surveyed the east end of Oak Island for hedden in 1937 after triangle was found)

As my memory serves me, Hedden came to me; we were running a survey business at that time (1937) and (George T.) bates worked for me at that time. He (Hedden) came to me and he told me that he had certain marks on the island and he wanted the distances (and bearings) between them measured; one from the other. So we went down there. Hedden was staying then in Chester. We went out on the boat to Oak Island and he showed us these marks. There was, as my memory serves me, a stone triangle.

/// The triangle was made up of stones about the size of a man's head. And they were 90 pc buried in the ground. They were pretty near covered over; just the tops of them showing. He had found these marks before we went there.

/// In addition to the rock triangle there were certain rocks that had a drill hole in them. It looked like some person had put it in with a drill. It would have been an inch ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ or maybe three quarters of an inch in diameter. And in depth, not very deep; a quarter to a half an inch. And he wanted us to take bearings and measure between these marks. And that's what we did, and we made a sketch plan of it (Roper survey) and we took that down to hedden.

We set up on the apex of the ~~xx~~ triangle and discovered the (median) line ~~xxx~~ ran true north and intersected the money pit. Hedden was with us when we ran the lines, and George Bates and a couple of locals (Nauss was there). We spent two days there, staying in chester overnight. (This was Aug. 17/37)

/// I remember seeing the (flood)tunnel (at smith's cove. It was a rock tunnel affair; didn't seem very deep. And it had a big rock on the top of it. A man could have gone through it with some difficulty. It was at the Smith's cove and we saw it.

Hedden had this (Wilkins) book with him. That's where he got the idea about these marks; that they might mean something. He correlated those marks with this map that was in Wilkins book. And he (hedden) had gone to England and met Wilkins. Wilkins ~~xxxxxx~~ said he made it all up. But there were 14 points of similarity and Hedden recognized these and Hedden of course was very excited about these marks at that time.

The distances we ran off were the ones on that map. They were the same distances between the triangle and the points on the rocks (drilled). I remember we were rather skeptical of these marks on the rocks. But there was no question that the (drilled) marks were there and that the rock triangle was there. The rock triangle had been there for many years, because it was practically overgrown in moss. Now the drill holes, how authentic they were we had no way of knowing. Our measurements coincided with the measurements given on Wilkins' map; no question about that.

Furneaux was here too or three years ago and we had a talk. He has some interesting theories.

It wasn't pirates or anybody of that calibre; but there's never been any satisfactory answer to it (oak Island). I haven't been back there since 1937.

Using hindsight, I know we really should have had (fixed) reference points to those marks. (Dunfield swept them away in 1965). But we never took them. Our only reference points were the marks themselves, and they've been moved. It's a pity. If we'd known how important it would be then as we know now, we would have taken more of (a survey) of the surroundings. We didn't make a survey in the true sense of the word. All we did was measure the distance (and bearing) between certain marks. It's too bad that we didn't make a survey, tying it in with the shore and other things.

You see, all hedden wanted from us, he was then planning to talk to wilkins again. And he wanted proof, independent proof that the distance between these marks and the bearings ~~between~~ of

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these marks were the same as they were on the plan in wilkins' book. That's all he wanted us to do. I think it (our survey) turned out as he (hedden) anticipated. I have no doubt he might have already taken a steel chain and measured it himself. But I suppose he said to himself 'here, I've measured this off and I'm satisfied (it fits the wilkins map) but nobody's going to believe me; I'm an interested party. So I'll got to halifax and I'll get a surveyor that will certify that these distances are so.' Which is what he did. But that's the only survey we did.

We sent up our transit on the triangle and found the money pit was true north of that point. Set up a compass on the transit. But we were actually measuring magnetic bearing and just applied the declination to see it was true north.

George Bates has continued his association with Oak Island. I got out of the survey business about 10 years after that (1937). I was no longer that interested (in oak island) really. But George has stayed with it all through the years.

I'm not aware of it (old time surveyors using drilled rocks in surveys; as fred nolan claims). I've never contacted it in my survey work. But it's hard to say; ~~they~~ there may be cases of it. Those drilled rocks we saw would have taken some work to do. It was probably done with a drill and a hammer. It was a clean hole. But I really was more impressed with the stone triangle than I was with the drilled stones. They could have been put there by anybody.

That triangle just from the look of it (in 1937) was obviously quite old. It might have been 30 or 50 years old, might have been a hundred years old. (so it could have been the work of earlier searchers; though there's no record of it.) But the drill holes in the rock could have been put there last week. They weren't ~~the~~ the same type of evidence, I would say, as the stone triangle. But the peculiar thing is that they coincided in every respect with Wilkins' plan.

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How do you figure out the (established) relationship between certain marks on ~~max~~ the rocks on oak island and a map that this fellow Wilkins has. That is to me the mystery of oak island.

(Shows me his scrapbook with a few articles on Oak Island, including the October 14, 1939, article in The Saturday Evening Post, by Parker Morell.) That's the only thing really that I have. I don't even have the Roper survey any more.

There's evidently only two maps of the Oak Island workings; the Wilkins (Mar Del) map and this one (Roper survey). It's an amazing thing that through all those years that someone didn't put more maps on paper. (of latter years fred nolan has). But there was nothing from Wilkins map to the roper map. It was just too bad that we didn't stay there another day or so and do a little more detail.

It was august 17, 1937 that I was on the island to do that survey. It was checked in 1939 (the plan). The date on the plan is the date the survey was done. I don't remember it, but we must have gone back to do the revisions in 1939. (that's marked on the plan). I do remember now that there was some correspondence with hedden about one of the bearings or something on the 1937 plan. I think it was some sort of mistake in transposition or something. The Money pit was between the Hedden shaft and Channell shaft then.

(re Johnson's finding an X carved in apex stone of the triangle in 1962): There was nothing carved into the apex stone when I was there in 1937. Hedden and I would have seen it if there was and I'd certainly remember something like that. If I had made a mark (for plumbing the transit) I would have done it with chalk or ~~amazon~~xx crayon. It (the X) must have been carved there since 1937.

George T. Bates - Interviewed at his home afternoon of 121
August 16, 1976. He surveyed Oak Island with
Roper in August 1937 on request from Hedden.
Bates is also Secty of N.S. Historical Society.

I was an apprentice working under roper in 1937. I graduated (as a provincial land surveyor) in the 1940's. I then became a town planner.

Roper went out of the survey business in the 1940's. Went into the reinforcing steel business and then into aluminum products. He's retired now. He had an aluminum product plant in Dartmouth. We've remained pretty good friends.

Sam goodman was in to see me last winter. He stayed for an hour and I finally had to drive him out (of the house). He's been writing me over the years.

I worked for blankenship about four years ago. The first thing was to survey crandall's point for access to the causeway past fred nolan's land. Fred had surveyed his own property (on crandall's point); this is not ethical, to survey property that you're buying yourself.

I also surveyed oak island for dan. I laid out a grid. As an historian, amateur or otherwise, I deplored the fact that everything they (searchers over the years) found had to be destroyed or moved. (trinagle, drilled rocks, etc.) So I laid out a 50-foot grid from the shore at Smith's Cove (going west). And I begged dan to keep a record of everything he found and to tie it into at least two stakes, like a coordinate system, and to note what he found. And I suggested that he give me the information and I would add it to the master plan. Also to locate all his drill holes. So at least he would have a record. And if and when he was no longer interested in oak island, there would be a record. I think he started doing that; but I think he gave up too. This was at least four years ago.

I remember soon after we had been down there (oak island in 1937 for roper survey) there was an article in the Saturday

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Evening Post (oct. 14, 1939). And there was one sentence in in there 'with hands that trembled, the surveyor turned for the final sight.' (laughs). A surveyor's hands never tremble.

Furneaux was here a few years back and we (roper and bates) went down to see him at the Lord Nelson. And we were both amazed at how well we had reconstructed (the events of those two days with hedden in 1937). Furneaux had not only roper's plan, but a briefcase full of previous surveys, a lot of which were just useless.

I know that when roper and I were down there (oak island in 1937) we saw verious whale oil lamps that had come off ledges (in hedden's shaft) about 10 feet apart out of the money pit. We also saw the blue clay and the coconut fibre.

Hedden had wilkins book with him. but there's nothing in that at all to indicate that ^{kidd} ~~was~~ was ever in this area. (though there were similarities between oak island and the mar del map). Yes, those distances (in rods) did coincide.

// (re "1936 shaft" shown on the roper survey; which seems to actually be the 1931 chappell shaft): It could well be that's just the wrong year written on it.) (ck with chappell).

// Hedden acquired the property in 1935. A deal which harris bunggered up completely (i.e. leaving out the seven lots that nolan laterpicked up.) I don't know who smartened up nolan (re the error) because as a surveyor he's ~~stupid~~ stupid. He may be smart in other things, but as a surveyor he's stupid; plain ordinary stupid. But he was able to acquire partial title from other heirs where the title was split between hedden and these heirs (on the seven lots). However, he (nolan) has a claim. This is the reason he tried to ~~xx~~ stop blankenship from crossing his land (at crandall's point) and this is the reason that I was called in (by dan) as a surveyor; to find a solution to getting him on the causeway without going through nolan's property. It turned out to be a simple practical problem.

// (Bates says he doesn't recall seeing any X mark cut into the apex stone of the triangle - as reported by Johnson). If we had marked it (for setting up the transit plumb) we wouldn't have carved it ~~in with a mallet~~ into the rock (when a pencil mark would have sufficed). The stones were in a natural unmarked state when we saw ~~them~~ them. And they'd been there a long well. (bates was in his 20's in 1937).

The first time I was on the island since 1937 was when I went down to do this work for dan (about 4 years ago). But I've been acquiring material about and an interest in the island from an historical point of view. I've been secretary of the nova scotia historical society for 20 odd years. I have a well founded historical interest (in oak island).

// One time, and this must have been 20 odd years ago, I got interested in oak island as a hobby. I used to have winter projects; something that I could work on, because as a surveyor I was not too busy through the winter. A project that I could work on and have completed by spring. And one winter I took oak island as my project. And I asked myself the question, 'if it's not treasure (down there) what is it?' Everybody's talking treasure, treasure, treasure. And the assumption has been right from the start (1795) treasure right off the bat. And this has followed right through. Even if blankenship gets through and gives up there are groups who'll say he was on the right track and 'we know where the treasure is.'

// However, I went at it with the idea if it's not treasure, what is it? And whether I dreamed it or whether it was a logical sequence or whatever; everything seemed to fit right into place: The first shipyard in north america. A dry dock; ship repair base. You see, in the early 1690's was French, the then french governor wrote to the king of france asking for a warship to defend the french interests in Acadia. The ~~fr~~ king of france couldn't afford to send a warship because he was involved in wars in europe. So the then french governor (Brouillon) ~~xx~~ contacted the pirates in the west indies and said come up here; you can prey on any ship except french flag vessels and have all the 6007.

According to historical records, the pirates came in great numbers. These were pirates, not privateers. There was nothing in writing (between them and the french government at acadia). They preyed upon any type of vessel, English, Dutch, etc., except the french (vessels). And the foodstuffs and clothing that they acquired in these raids they took to Port Royal and they sold it there. (They kept any looted treasure to themselves). This was before Louisbourg; when the French were at port royal. (c/k historical dates).

In 1710 Port Royal was taken by the British and remained in british hands ever since. Since 1710 Acadia didn't change hands anymore (that is except for cape breton). But in the previous 100 years (prior to 1710) it had changed hands 15 or 20 times; nobody's sure of the exact number.

The pirates were located at the mouth of the La Have River. It was an advantageous point to attack shipping passing between europe and port royal or europe and boston, or new york. Also there were all these 365 islands in mahone bay in which they could escape and hide. So they were in the area from the early 1690's at least until 1710. But I think even after Halifax was founded there were still some pirates operating out of la have. Because there was an expedition sent from halifax to clear out the pirates (from la have). I doubt whether there were any famous pirates (like Kidd or morgan) among those pirates used by the french. Stories of famous pirates in nova scotia are legends; there's no tangible evidence (to prove they were here). Captain Kidd wasn't even a pirate. He was a political scapegoat. He was a professional privateer and he was a successful one.

Not every vessel that they (the west indian pirates) went after (in 1690 to 1710) would submit without a fight. Which means that the pirate vessels occasionally suffered damage. Now the pirates were not going to take those vessels all the way down the eastern seaboard to the west indies to have them repaired. The logical thing was for them to build a shipyard of the same type (they had in the west indies) in a good location in their area (where they preyed on nova scotia shipping).

The shipyard, or at least drydock part, if my theory ~~was~~ is true was built on the northeast side of the island (smith's cove) so that while a vessel was in that drydock it would at least be sheltered from observation (from the south and north and west). The vegetation (~~was~~ oak trees) would hide the masts. Any passing vessel from the mouth of the la have would not be apt to see a vessel in the drydock. So the slipway would have been in smith's ~~xx~~ cove.

I saw the cribwork for a slipway that dan found a few years back. it was notched logs with roman numerals cut into them. I developed my theory about 20 years ago (long before dan uncovered the skidway). Now at that time harris was still alive. He had been associated with oak island as legal ~~xxxxxxx~~ counsel (with various people, hedden, blair, etc.) since the 1930's. Now he figured who the hell is george bates compared with a man of standing like r.v. harris. So I kept quiet about my theory. (which ~~ix~~ wasn't mentioned in harris' book). I would have been poo-pooed out of town if I'd told harris (about the theory). So I kept quiet about it.

(Some of the evidence bates used for his theory): You had the tunnels; the underground (flood) tunnels all leading down from the water. You had the so-called money pit. You had the ledges (oak platforms) mathematically 10 feet apart. There is a record that these things were found ten feet apart (down to 90 feet). Now if the purpose of those platforms was for shoring, they'd be vertical, not horizontal. ~~Thxx~~ These platforms were to support the pump shaft. It wasn't a money pit, it was a pump shaft. The pump shaft would be constructed of wood, bound with iron. And according to my theory, the crib work in smith's cove was where the dry dock was. It was probably built partially into land, so that at high water a vessel could go in. They'd close the gates at the back, a coffer dam type thing. Then they would open the ~~xxxxxx~~ (sea) cocks and the water (from the dry dock) would run into the fan drains (found on smith's cove beach). The idea would be to get that vessel in and out of that dry dock as fast as possible. Because while it was there it was a sitting duck (for a british man-of-war for example).

They got the water out of the dry dock, and all the coconut fibre that has been found in smith's cove beach was, I think, originally in that coffer dam to give the workmen dry footing the minute the water went out of the dry dock. The water went down the (smith's cove flood) tunnel and into a chamber. They found chambers (in the ~~money~~ money pit area) according to dunfield and dan blankenship). There were two cavities or chambers ~~xx~~ down there.

The coffer dam was constructed long after (1850 by truro co.) the dry dock had disintegrated. The vessels would have come in the dry dock at high tide. The tides at oak island rise about 7 feet. The bow sprit would be right above the beach. Then they close the gates at the back of the dry dock. The vessel would be floated into the dry dock and blocked up. It would have sides on it and be right up against the shore. They would close the gate at the back then they would open the cocks leading to the fan drains and the water would run down hill into the money pit about 300 or 400 feet away, and into the lower chamber.

And if they were capturing ships in nova scotia, they were also capturing potential slave labor. And they would say dig or else. And that's how they probably built the shipyard.

They get the water down to the lower chamber. The vessel is high and dry. The coconut fibre is laid on the bottom (of the drydock for footing) to cover the slippery wood and slime. The idea was to get that vessel in there and out as quickly as possible. So the idea was to get the water out of the drydock as quickly as possible. And the chambers (at bottom of money pit) were large enough to hold the water that was contained in that drydock.

The ships in those days were about 75 feet long on average with a beam of ~~maxmamenthanxthoxfwt~~ maybe about 20 feet. So this drydock might be a sort of box that's 100 feet by 30 feet wide and tall enough to hold back the water. The draft of those vessels wouldn't be anymore than 10 feet.

Down in the west ~~indies~~ indies they used windmills for similar types of pumps. I don't think they'd use a windmill on oak island; they probably used a capstan (for power). All they had to do was get that water out of that bottom chamber. It's 32 feet from the top of the money pit down to sea level. So all they had to do was pump the water up 32 feet (and either run it back to the sea through a tunnel above the 32-foot point or else pump it right to the surface and let it run down hill to south shore). That pump shaft went down to about 98 feet, where they hit that impenetrable substance ~~(x)~~ (early searchers in 1900's).

The pump was operated maybe by a capstan turned by hand. The capstan would create ~~suckx~~ suction by moving a plunger up and down the money pit. Like an old hand pump. It would have to be primed. I don't know how far down that plunger would be. This is an engineering problem and I'm not an engineer.

I've tried to get some descriptions of the drydocks used by the pirates in the ~~xx~~ west indies. As an individual I got nowhere. So I had Bruce Ferguson (the P.A.N.S. chief archivist and a friend of Bates) write to archivists in Jamaica, Cuba, Haiti and anywhere in that area for information. If he did get an answer, I never got it. Now, Bruce is pretty close with information when he wants to be. He tells me he never got any satisfactory answer at all from those people (in the west indies). But it's a well known fact that the pirates had a drydock at port Royal, Jamaica. If people in the seventeenth century could build ships that were watertight, they could built a tube (pumping shaft) that was water tight. Now whether it was round or hexagonal, I don't know. ?/K

Also, in all of the investigations all down through the years on oak ~~island~~ island, there hasn't been any record of anything that was ever brought to the surface that would support the treasure theory. Also, all of the artifacts that have been publicized, I can fit them into my theory. (wood, metal etc).

(re the gold chain supposedly found at 100 feet in 1849): I was talking to a man who's grandfather was apparently the one who discovered the gold chain (McCully?). Anyway, the family story

is that his grandfather heard one of the principles (in the Truro Co.) say we've been here for X number of days or weeks or whatever, and if we don't find anything by the end of the week we're pulling out. And the next day three links were taken from the drill core and his grandfather's ~~xxx~~ watch chain was three links shorter.

Other than the parchment and the gold chain, nothing has ever been brought up and publicized that would support the treasure theory. Also, if my theory is correct and that shipyard was there for X number of years, with men working around those holes (constructing it), you know how things are dropped. These could be some of the tools and things that were found later.

Also, Dan claims to have found things like scissors and boots and other household artifacts around the island (not necessarily too deep). Well, that island was inhabited (and farmed) for a number of years (before and after 1795) and those settlers would lose things.

There may have been several so called flood tunnels that fed into the pumping shaft. But there has been considerable erosion on the south shore and I think the south shore cove is considerably different today than it was in 1690 to 1710.

I drew the Roper survey plan, although roper's name ~~xxxxx~~ is on it. I was the draftsman, but I wasn't yet qualified to sign plans. But I have no real recollection of why certain lines are plotted on the plan. (re the 231' line running north from the triangle and angling off to the right): That was probably an offset line. There was probably something in the way (of a straight sight from the triangle to the money pit) and we ran an offset and turned an angle. We may have had to calculate things because of foliage or something in our way.

My idea was to take all the factual evidence of what had been found (on oak island) and try to piece that together into one cohesive and substantial theory that would include all of the artifacts and give a theory at least as to what happened on that island, treasure wise or ~~xx~~ otherwise. And, as I say, the

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shipyard theory seems to fit.

I was there when dan was digging up the skidway (~~about in~~ 1973 ~~or 1971~~). Dan would not allow pictures. I had my camera with me but he wouldn't let me use it. I remember when I first met dan there I asked him 'are you looking for captain kidd's treasure?' And dan said 'kidd wasn't even a good pirate.' So I said to him 'what are you looking for?' And he said 'well, I may be able to tell you by the end of the summer.'

So dan and I were working there, just the two of us. And he didn't want anyone to know what we were doing; why or how or what. And I put certain markings on certain rocks and drove certain stakes with certain marks on them. Dan understood them and I wrote them down. While we were working, every once in a while I'd shoot a question at dan that I knew I wouldn't get an answer to. But I watched the look on his face, and I'm satisfied that I've got the answer (to what he's looking for). I'm sure in my own mind that Dan is looking for the so-called treasure of Pizarro. It could be about 1630. (should be about 1530!) Inca treasure. There was a ~~xxxxxx~~ three-year period when Pizarro disappeared apparently, according to Dan. I think Pizarro was supposed to have accompanied a convoy of spanish vessels going back to Spain (from the New World) and he disappeared. He was gone for three years. And when he eventually showed up in South America his story was that they'd been shipwrecked and it had taken them three years to repair the vessel and return. Dan's theory is that Pizarro came up here and was going to start a new civilization. That a bunch of them came up, did the work on Oak Island, most were killed off and a handfull of them returned with Pizarro. And he was hopeful that he could come back afterwards and either A- recover the treasure or B- start a new civilization. But he was never able to come back, and his treasure is still there (according to dan).

NO; Pizarro was delayed in Spain getting financing.

Treasure seekers are secretive, and I don't blame them. They say there's anywhere from 30 million to 200 million dollars of treasure on Oak Island. And for that kind of money (involved) somebody in Australia could buy a second-hand submarine

and sail it over here. And if they (triton or whomever) were supposed to recover the treasure the next day, appear about the time they were recovering the treasure. They'd have enough men on board to ~~overpower~~ overpower whatever force was on the island recovering the treasure. They'd steal the whole damn thing and go off in the submarine. So they're (triton) not going to publicize when they expect to recover the treasure or the amount of it.

I'm not saying there's not treasure on the island. Because if my theory is correct, a sailor on that vessel would hide his treasure maybe on the island while the ship was sitting in drydock. But that entire island has been covered with metal detectors. Like the Beamish ~~expedition~~ expedition in 1965.

(The objection that pirates wouldn't have the know-how or intelligence to make the drydock and pump shaft): It could be that the french engineers at Port Royal, Nova Scotia, designed and built it for the pirates use since they were working for the french government. But there were engineering type pirates. There are people with good common sense that could build something like that. It's not beyone the realm of possibility.

We do have the evidence of the workings there. And to what end were those workings made. Was it treasure or was it something else. If it's something else and not treasure, what is it. Is it a shipyard; which to me is the most likely theory. Or if it wasn't a shipyard, what in the hell was it? It certainly wasn't an underground community.

Also, the south shore (of oak island) could have been used for careening. In other words, if they just wanted to scrape the barnacles off the ship, they'd bring it on the south shore broadside and pull the mast down and scrape each side.

If my theory is correct, the pump shaft was probably made of wood and iron, and it was probably hexagonal. And I think the blue clay they found was probably used for caulking (the

/// pump shaft). The wood forming the shaft would be bound with iron. And when the whole thing collapsed (1865), the wood and iron ~~when~~ went down deeper (than it had originally been). The iron was probably 1-4 inch thick originally.

I've spoken about this theory when speaking to several school, museum or historical groups. I'd go through the history of the island and then I'd get into my theory. But I'm quite open minded on the ~~thingx~~ thing; if anybody can convince me I'm wrong ~~in~~ (about drydock theory), I'm quite willing to hear them out.

I didn't tell Furneaux about my theory because at that point I was actively surveying (~~forxtrition~~). He (Furneaux) wanted me to arrange for a bulldozer to do certain work in certain areas of the island. He wanted a few scrapings done (he never did it). Furneaux could never get permission so it all fell through.

/// (Bates, as secretary of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, knew of James MacDonald, past president): I think he died before I joined the society (20 years ago). (He does know Hattie Dansmore, though): I think she's still alive. I think she's living in the Hants County area, in Maitland area. I heard that story (re James MacDonald (JMD) having been the one who put the inscription on the rock as Gaspereaux Brook). I believe it was in 1927 when there was a survey going on that the rock was uncovered. I know Bruce Ferguson thinks that it's James MacDonald (that did it). He knew J. McD.

I've been making historical type maps for years; since the late 1950's. (He's done several oak island maps).

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Notes on telephone conversation with Mendel L. Peterson Oct. 20, 1976,
at Peterson's home in Arlington, Va. Peterson is now retired, but
until recently he was the Director of the Underwater Exploration
Project, Historic Archeology, Smithsonian Institution. Ex In the
late 1960's he examined some of the Oak Island artifacts found by
Triton, including the scissors and the heart-shaped stone.

(says he never got around to answering my letters this summer.
they were forwarded to his home, but said he is way behind in his
correspondence.)

"I know nothing about Oak Island. I don't know any more
about Oak Island than Mr. (David) Tobias (Triton president), and
probably less.

I saw several pieces of stuff that he (tobias) had. He
has the report on it. I don't even know where my (copy of the) report
is; all my stuff is packed up. I'm moving to another house right now,
and I don't know where anything is.

I don't know anything about what other people (at Smithsonian)
did; I ~~only~~ know what I examined; only three or four items. They
weren't very conclusive. The only things that were entire were that
heart-shaped rock, which could have been a natural formation though
I'm inclined to believe it was man-made. Then the scissors; they
were of a pattern that has been used for 200 to 300 years and they
are still used. They could be 18th century; they could be ~~xxxxxx~~ late
17th century; they could be modern Mexican. That's the only thing
I saw from Oak Island that I was able to suggest an identity for.

(re 1916 smithsonian report on coconut fibre): I've
never even seen that report. But I ~~was~~ never was interested enough
in it to look it up. I've never really involved myself with Oak
Island except in that I offered to identify a couple of things (for
triton). And I wasn't able to ~~xxxxxx~~ do very well at that because
they weren't that conclusive. But I didn't do any ~~xxxxxx~~ research
on it (oak island); I've read some of the (triton) reports on it.
I knew we'd (at smithsonian) done some (early) work on it; but I've
never even seen the report on the coconut fibre. If you have the
year (1916; of the report) all you have to do is go to a large
public library and get the Smithsonian reports and look. (when
I mention I haven't been able to find the report in libraries yet

he suggests): maybe it isn't a good citation; maybe there isn't a report.

There's absolutely nothing (at the smithsonian on file about oak island). I'm the only one that I know that ever answered any letters about it. No study was done on oak island by the smithsonian that I know of. I don't think they would be interested in a thing like that. They've got plenty of other things to keep them busy. It (oak island) didn't intrigue me that much; I wouldn't do it (a complete study of oak island); I've got too many other things (treasure searches) where I can reach a conclusion. (agrees that oak island is highly speculative). I've written quite a few papers myself on various things (treasure hunts with Edwin Link, for example). But I've been involved primarily with shipwrecks, not Oak Island. I've written nothing on Oak Island except letters. And most of those were to Tobias. And they didn't tell him anything, I'm afraid; Because I couldn't reach any conclusions.

(re link with oak island and Haiti communal bank). Yeah, I know all that. Tobias showed it (stuff on Haiti) to me. (Peterson says he personally hasn't done any studies on supposed communal banks in Haiti or Madagascar or anywhere). If it (tobias' lochard report on haiti) is an authentic report from Haiti, then it's every intriguing, because it's a similar thing. (suggests I won't get confirmation of the Haitian find out of Haitian government because "they're not even literate; you couldn't expect to get anything out of them. They don't answer letters very well anyway even under the best of circumstances").

I can't conceive of buccanners stashing a lot of money away and holding it. They were too busy spending it. A few leaders had the foresight to do it; but not the men themselves. They spent it as fast as they could get it. They always knew they might get their throat cut the next day.

One of the conclusions that we made, or at least that everybody seemed to agree on was that that (oak island) was done by professional engineers. The ordinary buccanners wouldn't have had the facilities, unless they had engineers with them. Some buccanners and pirates of course were professional men before they

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were pirates. The (oak island) project looks to me like it was an engineering feat that involved some military engineering unit. A lot of people believe that. It might be the French that did something there before. There'd be certain things they'd (french government in acadia) do they wouldn't keep records of for good reason; a secret project. It could be in some record that's inaccessible or been destroyed. Maybe they shot them (oak island workers) all when they finished (to keep the secret) because they were expendable.

Those reports (of smithsonian identifying or verifying something from an archeological or treasure hunt) are usually exaggerated. You know, ~~xxxxxxx~~ the smithsonian answers a letter and some person exaggerates it, and another person picks it up and before you know it..... Rumors even got around once that we had an oak island room (at the smithsonian), which is of course stupid; what would you put in it. (says those late 1960's claims by Triton that the smithsonian had verified certain things ~~xxxxxx~~ were);: my letters to Tobias, I guess. I didn't verify anything. (says there never was an official smithsonian study of the matter of oak island or any artifacts found there. There was "absolutely not" a study done on oak island where there would be records at the smithsonian in washington). I don't know of anybody in the ~~xxxxx~~ smithsonian (apart from peterson) that's interested in the place (oak island). I wasn't even interested that much. I was just doing my part; doing my things which I had to do. (Is Peterson perhaps a member of Triton? forgot to ask him). I don't know of anybody (at smithsonian) that's interested in it. I got involved through inquiries (from tobias) to identify material. From tobias and other people. Because I used to get anything that had anything to do with something that might be military or naval. And frequently it didn't even ~~xx~~ have to be that. They'd send to me (stuff) to identify. Tobias called and wrote and then he came to see me (in washington. I answered several (of tobias') letters. He tried to promote some money to work his projects. He used up a lot of his own. I tried to give him some suggestions as to who to go to; but after all, a guy that's doing (treasure' research himself doesn't give away his own sources. I tried to help him there without much success because people aren't going to put money into that kind of a tenuous thing. It would be sort of silly.

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(The \$750,000 spent by triton so far): is pretty expensive curiosity, isn't it. They ought to get public funding to do it and just let the quest be financed by the damn government. Private people shouldn't ruin themselves to satisfy their curiosity.

I can't explain it, but what I do feel is that they (oak island depositors) dug this thing (money pit) and then they opened up that (flood) channel after they dug it, without thought of how they'd ever get back down ~~themselves~~ in there themselves. Unless some geological changes have occurred which have changed the whole setup (and caused the flooding). Because obviously, if modern people can't get in it, they (original diggers) couldn't.

Sonar signals; if they (original diggers) filled the tunnels up, ~~themselves~~ with material left tightly packed in the ground around it, should show up. Sonar should show it up; a different texture (and density). It would have a different echo. (that would perhaps explain the positive readings parkin got at 160 feet where this september dan only found loose material behind the casing which would have naturally happened because of the churn drilling operation in 10-X).

I must confess that I have a temperment somewhat different than that (of blankenship and tobias and anyone else obsessed for so long over oak island). I'm willing to admit that there are certain things that I'll never understand and say the hell with it; I'll do something more interesting. Now, of course, people who stick to it are fine. ~~Sometimes~~ Sometimes they make discoveries that way that wouldn't be made otherwise. But generally they lead very unhappy lives.

(Peterson says he's never run into anything similar to oak island): The only thing was that reported bank down in Haiti that I heard about through Tobias. I know about the (Albert Lochard) report; but there's another guy by the name of ~~Kurt~~ Curt Fisher who now lives in Puerto Rico. I knew him there and he was interested in all those things (like the Haitain bank) and was a collector and researched a lot of stuff. I thought he might have had a finger in it (the supposed haitain discovery). He's the sort of person that would be interested in something like that.

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(Peterson informs me that R. I. Nesmith is dead. He died in his eighties several years ago.) He was the Foul Anchor Archives (at Rye, New York). It no longer exists. When Bob Nesmith died, it died to. It was a one man operation. It was his own research library and I don't know where it went. Somebody in Florida I think bought it; but I don't know who. It might have been Mel Fisher who bought ~~xxxxx~~ it. (discoverer of the Atocha wreck).

(the people working with Mel Fisher are Mathewson, an archeologist. And Eugene Lyon, an historian.)

Those scissors (that triton found) were of the type made in Mexico and could have had a Spanish origin. They're still used there, or at least were until recently. They were of a design that didn't change for centuries; that's why I couldn't be precise on dating them. I think they may have been spanish or spanish-American.

(Peterson says he had no carbon dating done for Triton): I wouldn't do it because it costs money and we wouldn't have spent money on their (triton's) oak or their wood. Carbon dating is fine if it's an old enough object you're looking at. I don't know how much they've (triton carbon daters) reduced the error; but the last I ~~xx~~ heard it was about 50 years on each side of the date. (they started with +/- 85 years but then made it more precise). But when you're talking about a 2,000 year old object, that's significant. But when you get up into the 18th century, it's not significant; the error is too great. The margin of error (in carbon 14 testing) is the same quantity for every date. If you're talking about a 100 year old date and you're talking about 85 years error on ~~xxxxx~~ either side, you got nothing. If you're talking about a 300 year old date you've still got very little (in terms of an accurate date identification). You have to get all the way back to 2,000 years or 1,000 before it becomes significant. Because the actual measureable quantity of error is exactly the same. So lets say 1850 plus 85 - 1935. 1850 minus 85 is 1765; so it doesn't mean a damn thing. But get all the way back to say the year 100 BC, then you have something; ypu got 35 BC vs 185 BC.

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There isn't anybody there (at~~h~~ the smithsonian) that I know of that is even remotely interested in oak island. Because it's one of those things they've never studied; it's a tenuous thing. They've got plenty of things to keep them busy; they've got projects that they feel can lead to some results, and they just didn't get interested in it (oak island). I mean, people (at smithsonian) read about it; they say it's intriguing. But nobody goes around doing a lot of research on the damn thing because there's nothing to do research on. You've probably already proved that yourself. A (smithsonian) curator can't go around devoting himself in a research project that's something that doesn't have any (factual) sources; what the hell would he do. He'd waste his whole life and have nothing to show for it. Which is quite likely what the people around Oak Island are going to do. They're making a big tourist attraction anyway.

I ~~drove~~ by that place. I drove right down the road (to the island); even drove in a little ways. But Tobias wasn't there. That was in 1973. And I didn't even bother to go in. I didn't go see anybody (on the island); I just went on. The weather wasn't very good and we were on our return trip to Washington. I said the hell with it; it's not that important. So I left. So you can tell what I think about Oak Island. It's a legend and you can't see a legend unless it's printed. (There's nothing much to see on the site itself, he means). It isn't an outright legend (with no facts behind it); it's a puzzle. It's an enigma and I grant you it's an intriguing one.

But I can't see people spending a fortune there to answer the question. I'll tell you why they do it. In the back of their minds ~~is~~ is the idea they're going to discover treasure. They're not doing it just out of curiosity; they (triton) don't act like that.

I hope I live long enough to know the answer (to oak island); but I'm not going to spend a lot of time on it. (Peterson is currently doing some writing and taking on a treasure project in the Bahamas.) Still involved in underwater exploration; been working on a project down in the northern bahamas lately.

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/// We (at the smithsonian) have to be damn careful what we say about anything (connected with a treasure expedition). And sometimes no answer it the answer. That's the way it was with me on that oak island material, except for the scissors. But even they are not very precisely datable. As for the stone, there are plenty of geological formations that look exactly man made.

My whole archive on oak island is in those letters to Tobias. That's it.



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→ 4419 Van Nuys Boulevard, Suite 200
P. O. Box 55067
Sherman Oaks, California 91403

July 12, 1976

D'Arcy O'Connor
P.O. Box 321
Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

By the date of your letter, the mail service has not improved much over the past few years - your letter arrived here July 10.

In addition to your detailed research on newspaper accounts of my activities on Oak Island, there is not much I can add. To answer your questions, my interest in Oak Island began when I was eleven years old after reading an article about the suspected treasure buried on Oak Island. The article appeared in the Denver Post.

During the latter stage of Restall's efforts I did furnish financing for Restall to explore his theories to locate a flood tunnel at Smiths Cove.

After my geologic evaluation of the area, it was clear the Island is of glacial deposition - clay, till, and typical glacial material, and suspected to overlie the Windsor and Halifax formations. The clay of the Island has a shear angle of nearly 0 degrees and therefore offered the possibility of digging an open pit without massive caving, and to expect minor peeling of the sides. The pit was completed to a depth of 141 feet using a 2½ cu. yd. P&H clam. At that depth the crane operator dug for six hours only to recover very small amounts of hard limestone, which I suggest is the Windsor formation - limestone unit. Later drilling confirmed the limestone which was 2 feet thick, then a cavity beneath extending to about 182 feet. This could be a natural feature as found in limestone units throughout the world. Normally,

I would have considered this a natural cavity and I doubt that this geologic concept could have been known by depositors (?) of treasure before burying anything of value. However, if something is buried on Oak Island, the limestone could have been a surprise to any depositors (?) and used to their advantage - specific items of wrought iron and wood along with other items recovered by Triton Alliance have been carefully dated and fall into the pirate era. These items recovered are man-made and foreign to glacial deposits.

As a shareholder in Triton, I am most interested in seeing a successful excavation of the area - a preponderance of evidence suggests underground work done by men many years in the past.

If I can be of further help to you, please let me know. I wish you the best of luck on your book and I would be very honored to have a copy when completed.

Very truly yours,

HOPE BAY MINES LTD.

Robert R. Dunfield

Robert R. Dunfield
President
Registered Geologist
Cert. No. 1036

RRD:ad

October 21, 1976
5440 Lindley Avenue
Encino, California
91316

Mr. D'Arcy O'Connor
P. O. Box 321
Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

For the past few months I have been out of town and have, therefore, been unable to answer your letter of August 7. I am sorry about the delay and hope these answers will be of some help:

1. With respect to the cavity we drilled in after refilling the open pit, which had been excavated to a depth of 141 feet, the drill went through approximately 2 feet of limestone (Windsor formation) and tapped into a small cavity or waterway, possibly derived from dissolved limestone, and the drill may have deviated its course following the cavity. The Chappell shaft was to the south of our excavation, a portion of which collapsed into our open pit, and missed this limestone although Mr. Chappell mentioned limestone being present in minor amounts. At the bottom of the Chappell shaft Mr. M. R. Chappell turned northeast a short distance to a point where mud and clay broke in on the workers. In fact, Mr. Chappell saved one of the worker's lives by pulling him free of the muck coming in. It is possible our drill sank through this dissolved material between boulders of limestone lying on top of the old erosional surface of the Windsor formation prior to the last period of glaciation which left glacial debris and material in the form of a drumlin which is Oak Island. Further, the Truro shaft was on the west side of our pit filled with muck from another shaft which completely came out with our excavation of the pit. I believe the depth of that shaft as we saw the bottom of it was about 128 feet. We excavated a shaft on the south shore immediately south of the triangle which had no timber in it and had apparently been excavated prior to any searching. This area was excavated to a depth of 80 feet which seemed to be the extent of the original digging - for what reason I don't know.

2. My letter to Harris with reference to encountering no water was to imply no flood tunnels were encountered, and we kept the area dry by pumping the Hedden shaft dry to a depth of about 120 feet with an electric submersible pump. We did not see evidence of any drains or tunnels. Upon seeing limestone, which I then assigned to the Windsor formation, it was my strong consideration that we had encountered natural cavities in the limestone unit of the Windsor formation, as could be expected and which are common in other limestone formations throughout the world. Caverns and cavities, etc. are present elsewhere in the Windsor formation.

Mr. O'Connor

-2-

October 21, 1976

/// 3. Yes. The coconut fiber was analyzed to be "coir", a fibrous mass between the coconut shell and the outer husk, which was used as dunnage in the early days of primitive shipping. The so-called cement is nothing more than limestone.

// 4. The stone triangle was definitely original however I am uncertain about the drilled rocks in respect to when they were drilled.

5. I have seen very little material possessed by Mr. Restall and therefore doubt he had much data.

6. We spent \$131,000 in our operation.

7. Dan Blankenship had invested approximately \$21,000 in the 1965-66 efforts.

8. Regarding Mr. Killman, he was a member of Mr. Restall's project. Certainly freezing is a possibility, however pumps available on the market today will adequately resolve the water problem.

// I have never met George Green and cannot help you regarding his address. I have no data on the china but would suspect it was left by searchers.

Very truly yours,

Robert R. Dunfield
Robert R. Dunfield

M.R. CHAPPELL

P.O. BOX 58

SYDNEY, N.S.

August 3rd, 1976

Mr. D'Arcy O'Connor
P.O. Box 321
Mahone Bay, N.S.

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

Replying to yours of July 28th I will endeavour to answer the various questions.

1. In echecking back I find it was in 1950 that I bought from Lewis.
2. I do not know Miss Surrey's first name, but in any case she met with a fatal accident in January of 1975.
3. Yes, this was the Parker device. Parker moved to Belleville, Ontario in 1951 or 52. If Parker is still alive I believe Fred Barton of the Intelleger Press in Belleville would know his address.
4. I am of the opinion that both the Wicks boys have passed on, as I recollect they were not young in 1932, probably in their late thirties or early forties. I never had their address as all correspondence was with Mr. Blair.
5. Re John J. Prinkey, 6634 Hegerman St., Philadelphia, P.A. 19135, U.S.A.
6. Yes, Father did say that there did (appear) to be a trace of yellow on the chisel drill ~~but~~ when it was withdrawn, but so faint that he would ^{hardly} say it was gold. I think he died in 1946, he was 86 past.

AUTOMATIC
WRITING

- 2 -

7. Yes, my recollection is that at about 123 feet we brought up an old axe, a pick, part of an oil lamp. The axe had a long handle about 6" longer than the axe handle of today. The body of the axe was a single bit type and with a very badly rusted head, the bit or cutting edge was not rusted and was inserted into the iron head. I understand today's axes have the axe head set into the cutting bit (see sketch enclosed). The pick was not large (see sketch).

The lamp was about 1½" in diameter, the upper end or light end was rusted away, the lower was bright and had part of the wick and some oil in it which was analysed to be seal oil. These items probably were searchers tools which settled down to where they were found except the anchor fluke which was embedded in the clay on the side and was not rusted.

The anchor fluke was taken out at 120 feet (see sketch).. The items were all taken by Mr. Blair. Have never been found after his death.

8. I am inclined to think Harris has the wrong date. (re photo P.19)
9. Regarding the stone or flat rock. I understand this stone was taken out of the money pit and that Mr. Smith one of the original three 1795 was building a home on the Island and used it as a back stone in a fire place. The story is that after the house was destroyed by fire, the stone was taken to a book making company in Halifax and used to beat out the leather used in book making. So far as I know no one during the time of Mr. Blair or my father ever saw it. Whether there were any intelligent markings on it, I do not know.

The markings supposed to be on the stone in the Snow book, I understand were made up by the author, Mr. Snow.

By the way Mr. Goodman places great credit in these Snow markings and claims he has broken the code.

10. I have the whistle given me by Mr. Lewis. I don't know where he got it but it supposed to either come out of the money pit in the Mid 1800 or found on the ground. I don't know who found it or just where it was found.

11. Re Mr Fast, I have never seen him, talked to him or heard from him, but I think he was on the Island "I am not sure" but if he was Mr. Blankenship could tell you about him.
12. That symbol is a big joke. I have no idea what it meant for or what it means but it was in a magazine with no explanation and certainly no mention of Oak Island or Treasure, I just sent it to Goodman to see what he would say, he immediately tied it in with other symbols etc. that he had and set it in with other codes he had broken.
13. Re John MacCormick, I do not recollect ever hearing the name connected with Oak Island.

Did Goodman say anything about his mastering perpetual motion?

I trust I have given you the data you required.

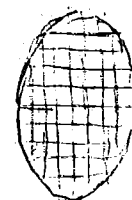
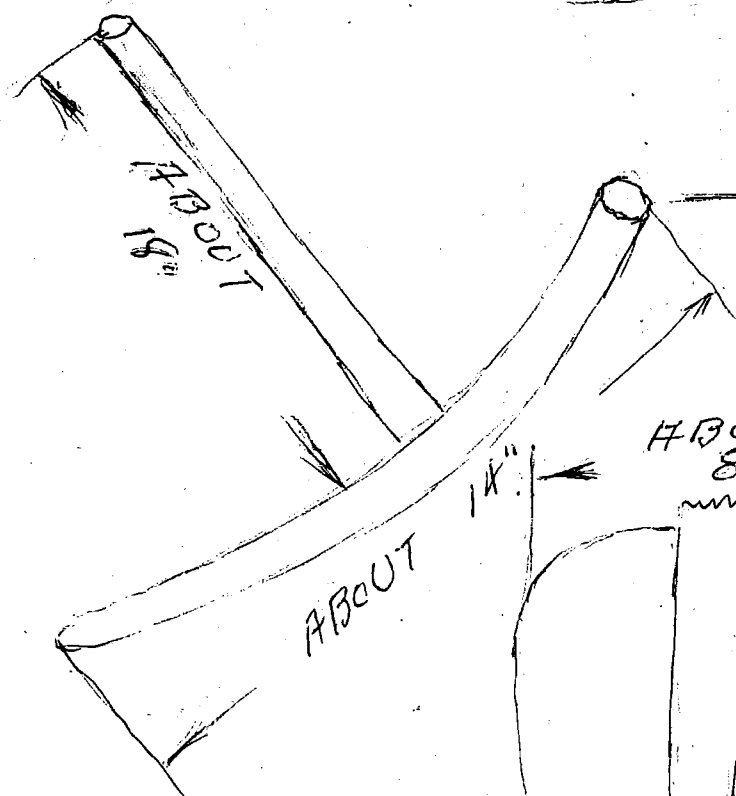
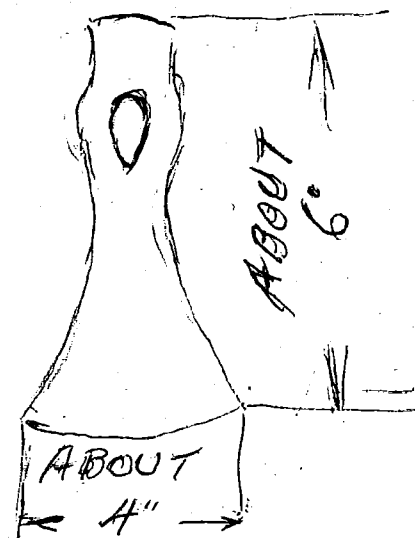
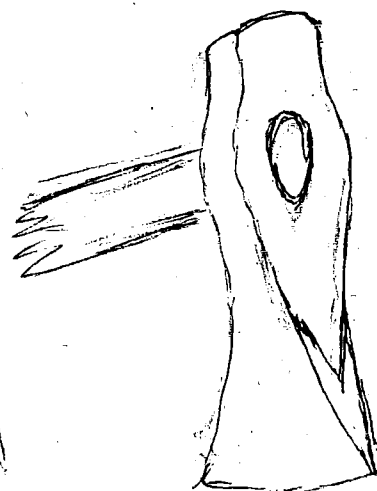
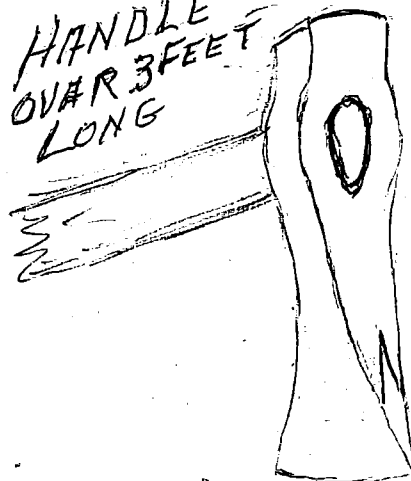
Yours truly,

M.R. CHAPPELL

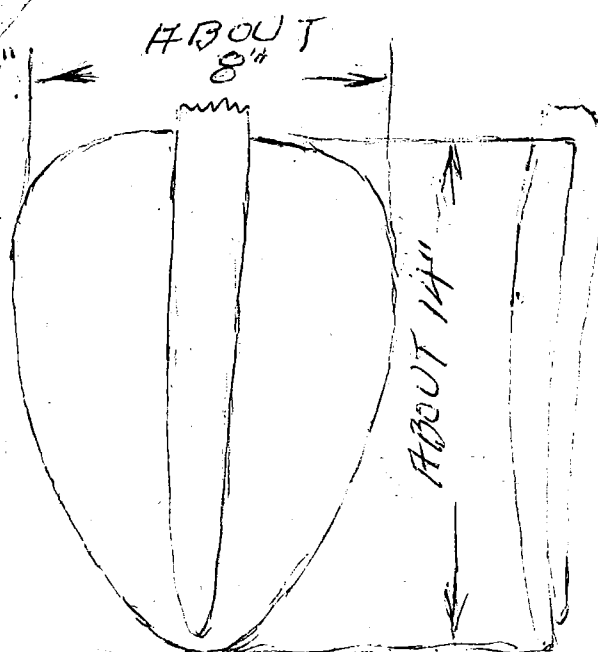
M.R. Chappell

MRC/jh
Encl.

HANDLE
OVER 3 FEET
LONG



END
CROSS
HATCHED
ABOUT 1" x 1 1/2"



M. R. Chappell



Sydney, Nova Scotia

February 7th, 1977

Mr. D'Arcy O'Connor
308 West 104th Street
Apt. 4A
New York, N.Y.
U.S.A. 10025

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

Replying to your letter of January 30th which I received February 5th. Yes, I knew you were back in New York and working on your book. I am certain that you will have written the most complete and factual story of Oak Island that has ever been written or ever will be written, I don't think anyone will devote the time and energy doing research as you have done. You are correct re errors in the Harris book.

Re the questions you have asked, I will endeavour to answer to the best of my knowledge.

No. 1 - I am not sure who first noted the stone triangle near the shore immediately south of the money pit but Father and Blair saw it in the 1890's and I saw it in 1931 and several times prior to 1966. I asked Dunfield not to disturb it but he was under the impression that under it he would find a key to a tunnel to the money pit. Sketch of this triangle enclosed.

No. 2 - Re a second stone triangle. On the sketch I have shown my recollection of this triangle (so called). It is located about 300 feet east of the equilateral triangle. It did not point to either the money pit or the cave in pit.

No. 3 - Father (William Chappell) certainly did not have any connection with a search expedition in 1922 or at any other time until 1931.

No. 4 - When we finished sinking our shaft in late 1931, our foreman Mr. Stevens and myself attempted to drive out tunnels at the bottom of our shaft at between 156 to 164 feet from the surface. We drove one out through the East side about 6 or 8 feet, then drove one out through the North side about 6 feet, we then attempted to join these, this is when the soft soil caved in and practically buried Stevens. I helped him entricate himself.

No. 5 - I am enclosing a sketch showing location of the Chappell and Hedden shafts and the original circular money pit, also the dimensions. In 1931 the area around the money pit was irregular and depressed several feet and covered with grass and weeds. In past years a number of shafts had been put down in the money pit area.

No. 6 - You are correct down to the \$30,000.00 item. The actual amount spent was nearer \$40,000.00 between five and six thousand from outside parties, the balance mostly from Father and myself. The depression did not have any bearing on not proceeding in 1932. The real reason was the death of the owner Mrs. Sellers in January of 1932. Her heirs would not agree to allow Mr. Blair, who held the Treasure Trove License, to proceed without a very substantial payment to each of them some fifty in number all told.

No. 7 - Sorry I cannot make any comment on this item as I don't know anything about it. I never heard of any mercury being found on Oak Island.

No. 8 - This is a most interesting story. I never heard about the Frenchman but have heard about the Haiti discovery. I will try to find out more about it and if anything of interest will advise you.

No. 9 - No, I was not directly involved with any operations between 1931 and 1950. Mr. Kennedy is in error re the time he did some drilling for me, it was in 1951 when I was involved with the Parker equipment. He drilled in two locations that the Parker equipment pin pointed as there being a deposit of gold. He put five holes down in each location to a depth of about 50% deeper than the equipment indicated. Incidentally the Parker Co. attempt cost me about \$35,000.00.

No. 10 - Yes, Restall wanted to buy the Island from me, \$100,000.00 was the figure discussed. However he did not appear to be able to arrange the funds and the matter was dropped.

No. 11 - Yes, there was a Mr. Wheeler who was interested, he was from Oaklahoma and not Texas. He visited the Island with his son. They flew up in their private plane. His idea was to bring in a large dragline and excavate the whole money pit area. He also mentioned buying the Island. It turned out that he was a promoter and I was told later that he became involved in a large financial deal involving many millions of dollars and that if litigation went against him he would be in debt tens of millions, this of course is only hearsay so far as I am concerned. In any case nothing ever came of our negotiations.

No. 12 - Re digging up pottery and/or china. I understand different searchers have found china and pottery. I made inquiry with Mr. Tobias if the parties to whom he sent the items could determine its age and origin, the answer was negative.

No. 13 - Re the Holy Grail. The first person that I remember speaking of it was Mrs. Blankenship.

No. 14 - If my memory serves me the boulder with what were supposed to be burned bones under it was located at the northern end of the bog. No analysis was ever made. I don't know the year or by whom.

+// No. 15 - Dunfield had built the causeway without making an application or getting permission in 1965. I understand Mr. Nolan brought it to the attention of the Department hence the application in 73.

/// No. 16 - Re Treasure Trove License. I have the entire license renewed for five years to Dec. 31, 1981 covering all items, in my name. The Provincial Governments royalty is still 10%.

No. 17 - I am renewing my agreement with Triton Alliance.

No. 18 - I do not know just what Mr. Tobias has in mind at this time re additional financing.

/ No. 19.- Re the Arizona group, *Clayton* I have advised them that I have extended my agreement with Triton Alliance and they will have to deal with them.

// No. 20 - Re the three piles of stones, they are located north west of the money pit some six hundred feet from the money pit.

No. 21 - I have no idea as to the final decision of the Income Tax Department re any recovery from searching on Oak Island.

- 4 -

No. 22 - Re Mr. Nolan's claim, I anticipate that the court
will have to eventually decide this matter of ownership.

No. 23 - Sorry I do not have a photo of either Father or Mr. Blair. Some years ago we had a disastrous fire in which I lost a great number of items, documents, pictures, maps, plans, etc. etc.

No. 24 - I have not heard from Charles Barnard re writing a book.

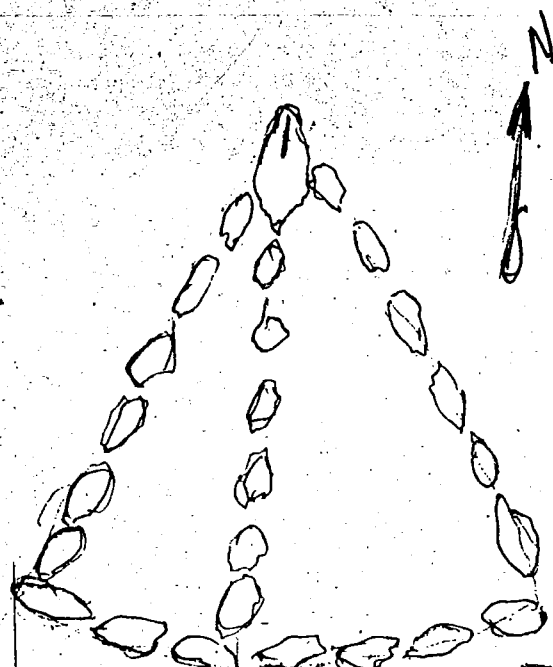
May I suggest you leave Mr. Wheeler out of your book unless you have something other than what I have given you.

Yours truly,

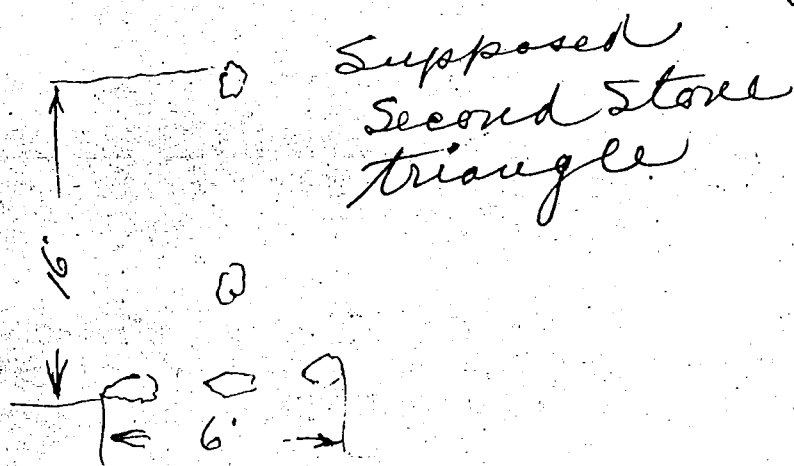
M.R. CHAPPELL

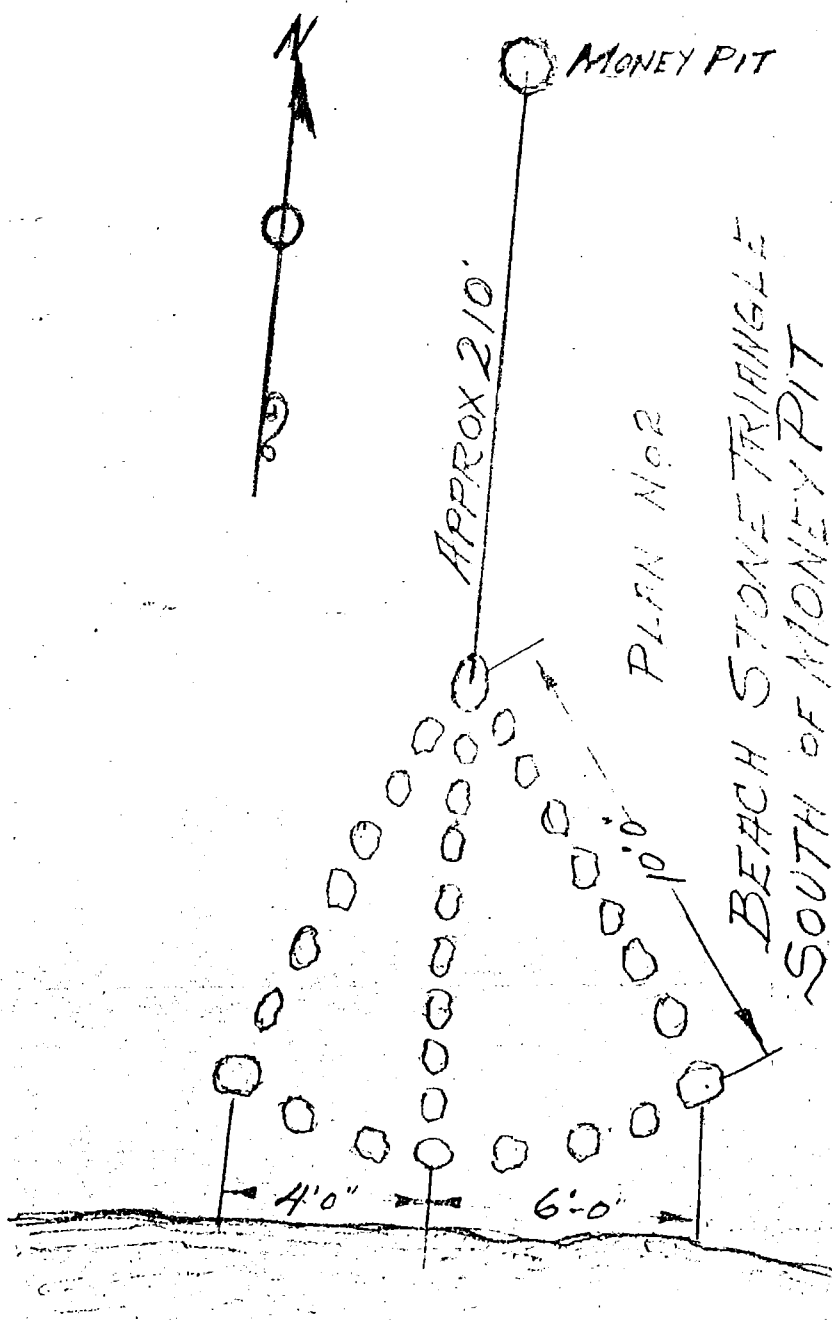
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M.R. Chappell", written over a horizontal line.

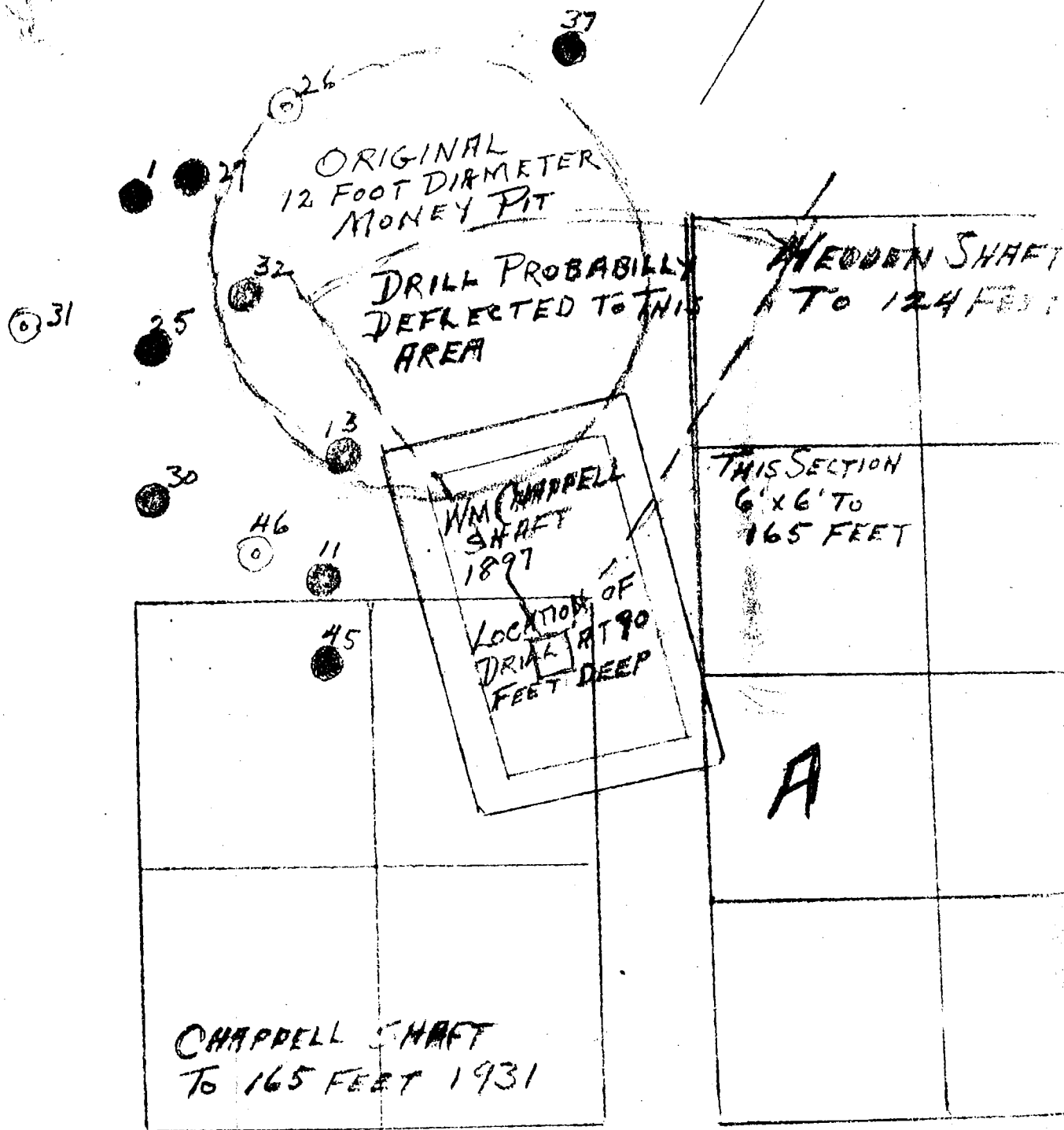
MRC/jh



Sides and base about
10'. Apex Stone had a
groove cut in it at
the upper end.







M. R. CHAPPELL

OAK ISLAND

FYLE NO. 103

DATE JULY 17/1978

DRAWN BY

SCALE

TRACED BY

3/16" = 1 FT

CHECKED BY

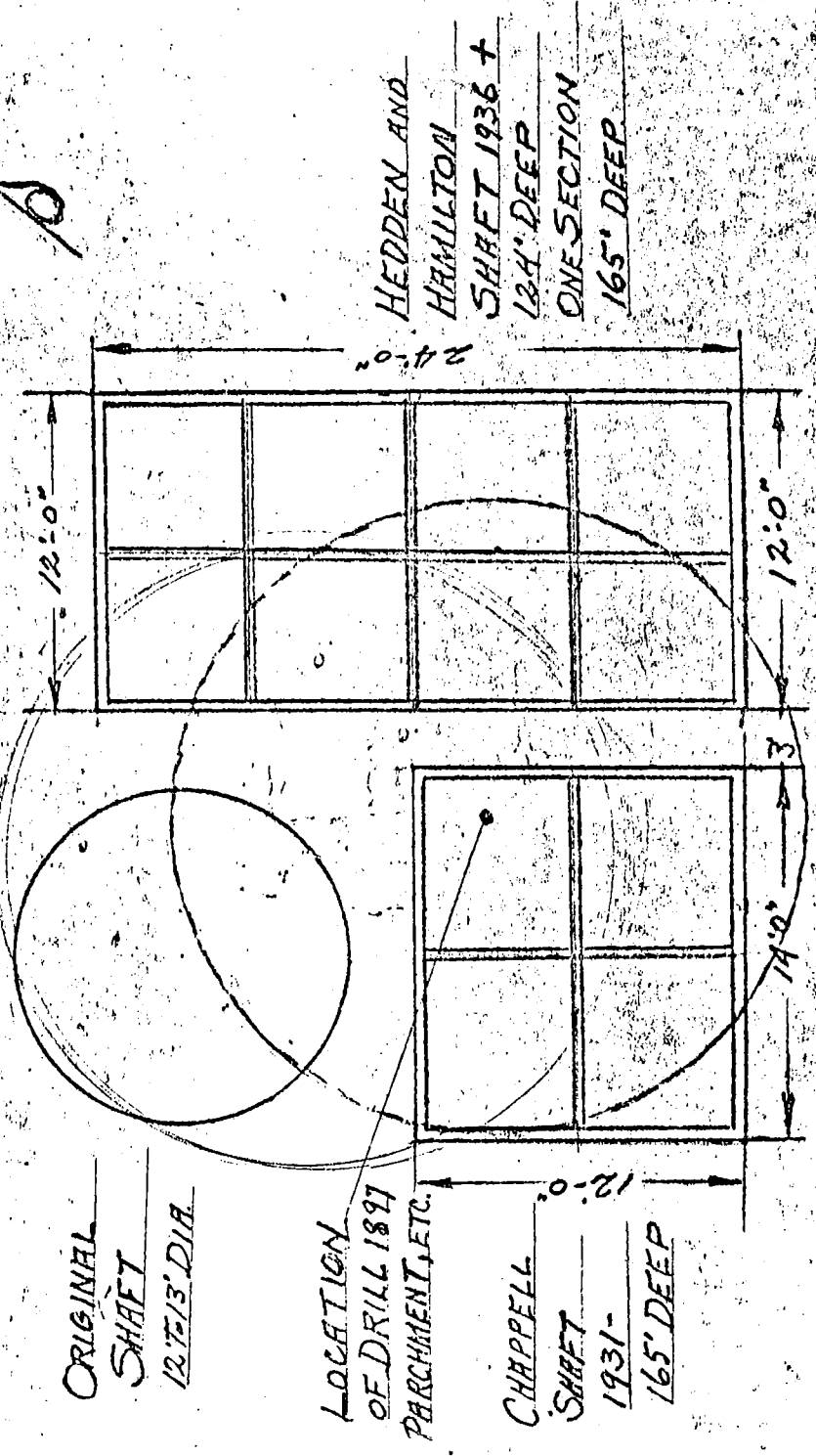
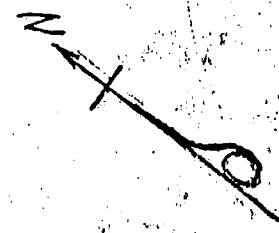
SHEET NO. 1

REFERENCE

I AM NOT TO SURE OF THE

EXACT LOCATION OF THE

ORIGINAL SHAFT



M. R. CHAPPELL

OAK ISLAND

FILE NO. 103

DATE JULY 17/1975

2010 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

DATE RECEIVED

TRACED BY

REAL

 $\frac{1}{2} \times 1 \text{ FT.}$

SHEET No. 2

REFERENCE

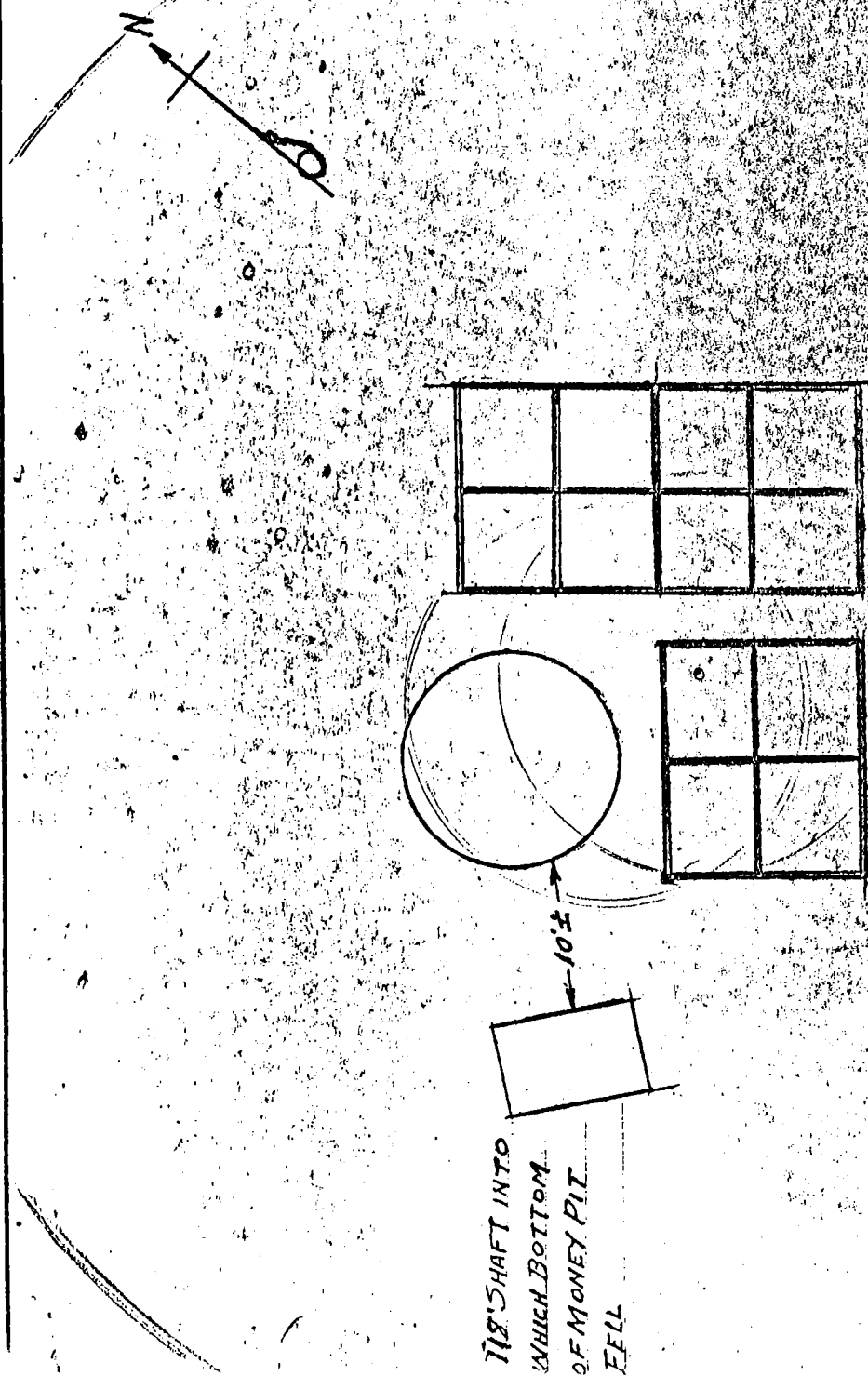
SEE SHEET No. 1

I AM NOT SURE OF SIZE

THE JO NOIMWOT DO
OR LOCATION OF THE

118. SHAFT OR THE

Size



THE SHAFT INTO
WHICH BOTTOM
OF MONEY PIT
FELL

157

M. R. Chappell



Sydney, Nova Scotia

February 18th, 1977

D'Arcy O'Connor
308 West 104th St.
Apt. 4A
New York, N.Y.
10025, U.S.A.

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

Replying to yours of the 14th received last night. So far as I know the data I gave you is correct according to my records and memory.

Re No. 1 - 1931 was the first time I was ever on Oak Island. Father gave me the general location of the triangle. The area was covered with spruce trees and it was difficult to locate it. However I did find it and I showed it to Father and Blair. Frankly we did not give it much consideration and that is no doubt the reason they did not bring it to the attention of Mr. Hedden, that is if they never mentioned it to him.

Re No. 6 - There is a mystery here. It was around the middle or latter part of May that we first visited Oak Island and my recollection is that I spent a half day with Mrs. Sophia Sellers some little time after we arrived. However if she died May 11, 1931 and not 1932 then my memory has gone haywire.

I must admit that I never knew what arrangements Mr. Blair had with Mrs. Sellers, but I am quite sure that the heirs would not allow Chappells to operate after the spring of 1932 without very substantial payments. My recollection is \$5,000.00 to each heir. How it was arranged for Mary B. Stewart and Thomas Nixon and any others to operate from 1932 until Hedden purchased that portion of the Island from Sellwin Setters this is something of which I know nothing.

No. 16 - Re the renewal of my License. I decided to ask for five years and the Government gave it to me. I assume Nolan asked for two years.

Mr. O'Connor
Page 2
February 18th, 1977

1111
No. 17 - Triton agreement also is for five years.

Now re the large pieces of granite, I have never seen any of them so far as I know, certainly not the piece with the markings on it.

I understand there was in 1897 a very large granite boulder on the shore south west of the money pit six or eight feet high and eight feet or more in diameter. I never heard of any markings on it, between 1897 and 1931 someone blasted the boulder to pieces.

Re the Huguenot Story and the communal bank, I have heard nothing more.

I put in a phone call to my son in Washington, D.C. last night but got no answer. I tried again this morning with the same result. His duty as energy Councilor quite often takes him away from home for a few days to the West Coast to Texas and at times to South America and sometimes to Ottawa. Soon as he returns I will contact him and if he still has the data, ask him to mail it to you.

Yours truly,

M.R. CHAPPELL



MRC/jh

159
M. R. Chappell



Sydney, Nova Scotia

March 31st, 1977

Mr. D'Arcy O'Connor
308 West 104th Street
Apt. 4-A
New York, N.Y.
10025, U.S.A.

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

Yours of March 25th received yesterday, note you have completed over 200 pages for your book, those 200 pages will contain a lot of interesting material.

I consider you have done me a great honour in asking me if I would consider reading your manuscript. I would be happy to do so, not that I think I could add anything to it, but for the privilege of reading it.

You can rest assured that no one will know that I was so favoured.

I don't know why the gentleman to whom you refer should think your writing a book would have any bearing on his claim to lots on Oak Island, he is a suspicious character as well as having other undesirable qualifications.

Now re question No. 1.- Spanish coins - I have heard the story of Anthony Graves having acquired a quantity of foreign coins, so far as I could find out, it was rumor only. I know nothing about a coin being found when the Graves House was being torn down.

Regarding Peter Beamish. Through the good offices of my cousin Donald Barrett, Peter with about 16 of his students spent a couple of weeks on the Island in 1964 using metal detectors, they uncovered between 300 and 400 pieces of iron and steel, nails, spikes, horse shoes, oxen shoes, pieces of farm implements, pieces of stoves, an axe, etc. also an anchor, nothing below 4 or 5 feet, none of these items were given to me.

During the summer of 1965 he was back again with about 30 students but nothing of interest was found except what he said was a coin. I saw it and examined it under a fairly strong reading glass. It was about the size of a quarter, very thin, it looked like a piece of brass. I could not distinguish any indication of any markings on it. It looked like a very thin sheet metal to me. No sign of it ever being any thicker and worn thin.

Other than above I know nothing nor have I heard of any coin being found.

Item No. 2 - You have given me news. I had never heard of Avon Associated Enterprises of Windsor, N.S. In fact this is the first time I ever heard of that outfit.

In 1950 Bud Barton, Fred's brother, introduced me to Parker and his machine and I fell for it on the strength of various things they told me it had done, locating various items.

I never heard of Fred Barton until after the Parker machine had been used. Neither Harris or Blair ever mentioned Parker, F. Barton or the Avon Co. to me.

The Parker machine was investigated by a group of New York Scientists who claimed it was of no value whatever.

Thanks for passing along Fred's regards.

Item No. 3 - Re J. Gwynne Evans of London. I do not know anything about his dealings with Harris, Restall and others. I do not know of him making a visit to Oak Island although he may have been there but I am sure he never did any work there. Bob Restall was in full charge of the work during 1964 and 1965 until his unfortunate death in August 1965 after which Mr. Dunfield took charge and carried out his agreement to December 31, 1965. Mr. Dunfield carried on for part of 1966. Mr. Gwynne Evans never contacted me.

No. 4 - It is my opinion that the rock with ring bolts that Nolan found near the center of the Island were anchors for the power line run there in 1931. I was told Nolan had uncovered a marker which he claimed was a surveyors stone stake put there by the original workers. If he did find such surveyors stone or marker it may have been one of the engineers, Mr. Crandall who made the first survey of the Island in four acres lots. By the way my mother was a Crandall, a direct descendant from the Great Great Great Grandfather Joseph Crandall who owned and lived on Crandall's Point.

No. 5 - When Grimm purchased the lots from Sellers for Mr. Hedden his engineer prepared a plan which shows the seven lots claimed by Nolan as well as lots 15 to 20 inclusive making 13 lots of 4 acres each - total 52 acres, which plan is registered in the registry in Chester, but unfortunately lots Nos. 5-9-10-11-12-13-14 were not mentioned in the deed.

A Mr. Ross Corkum born on the Island on lot 13 or 14 "long since demised" told me that all the heirs of Mrs. Sophia Sellers' his family included, all signed a document authorizing Mr. Selwin Sellers to sell these 13 lots to Grimm for Mr. Hedden. J. Whitney Lewis supposedly acquired all lots on the Island except those of Clarence Beamish which lots I bought from the Trust Company after the death of Mr. Beamish. Three different lawyers, Harris included advised me that I owned the entire Island. So much re titles and ownership. The courts will have to decide hopefully this year.

No. 6 - Re the 50 foot shaft or rather hole put down by me in 1950, it was definitely not due north from the money pit, it was about north west or possibly a little more west than north, the distance from the money pit may have been near 150 feet. There was an old shaft which became incorporated in our hole immediately we began digging.

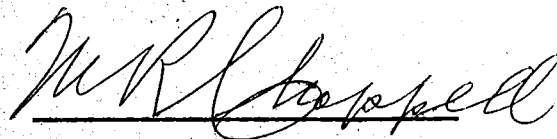
16
Johnsons shaft about 30 feet deep was due north of the money pit 7 degrees west and about 200 feet from the money pit. This was in 1962-- Two years later Johnson made another attempt to prove his theory by putting down about 40 bore holes a few feet from his shaft between the shaft and the money pit.

I hope I have given you the information you require.

When your plan of shaft locations is complete, I would like to see it and check if I have any further data.

Yours truly,

M.R. CHAPPELL



MRC/jh

Johnson

162

3720 West 18 Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.,
August 30, 1976

Dear Mr. O'Connor,

Your letter of August 26 arrived today, and since I assume that your time at Mahone Bay is growing short I shall answer it this evening. I am not retired yet, am still working as shift engineer (Rupert Furneaux didn't have it quite correct) at the Vancouver General Hospital, and am in fact writing this letter at work. However I am in a position where, if I suddenly acquired access to Oak Island, I would be able to get an extended leave of absence.

Up until 1965 all my work at Oak Island was on my own and at my own expense. When I had the 30 foot shaft dug in 1962 it was all manual work except for the first 10 or 11 feet, and it was surprisingly inexpensive even though we had to use water transport all the time. I was there for about a month on that occasion. I was back there again in 1963 to check out some reports which proved unfounded, and just spent a couple of days on that occasion.

I am not a promoter (but I wish I was), and the only attempt I ever made to obtain financial assistance was in 1965 when I put an ad in our local paper suggesting that I had an interesting proposition in treasure hunting. One of the few replies I received was from a local doctor who became quite interested, and we arrived at an agreement whereby he financed the drilling programme. At last it appeared that things were going to begin moving, but then the doctor ran into financial difficulties and our efforts came to a complete halt when Robert Dunfield got control of the Island. You know the story since that time. I do not have the figures with me, but I suppose we spent about \$5000 on our drilling programme. At one time my ophthalmologist who had become quite interested in Oak Island suggested that I should form a company to work on the problem, but it just didn't seem to be in my line and I didn't take him seriously. Now I could really use somebody who could organize things and put pressure where it is needed to get access to the island. And I would like to have more available money than I could provide so that the theory could be worked out to a definite conclusion even though problems cropped up.

When I referred to one of the marks possibly having been shifted I was referring to the easterly drilled rock. It was near the beach at Smith's Cove, and it is possible that during some of the early exploration at the Cove the rock could have been shifted. When I first saw it the Restalls had uncovered it, and it stood on top of the ground. However it was in the same position as shown on the Roper Survey. The way it fits into the code would indicate that it must be very close to its original position, but in case it has been moved slightly it would broaden the possible point of deposit to a small degree, and that is why I would like to have sufficient backing for such a contingency.

You are correct in assuming that the Mar Del map is not applicable to the Oak Island situation. That map applies only to Wilkins' book which was fictional. If you have read any of Wilkins' letters to R.V. Harris you will note that at first he disclaimed any knowledge of Oak Island, but by the end of the correspondence he began to feel that he might be a reincarnation of Captain Kidd. No the best course is to discount entirely the Mar Del map. If you observe carefully it will be obvious that none of the values really applies to the Oak Island situation, and in particular the 14 N. Tree value is so far out that it throws the whole thing into disrepute. I must defend Harris on this score. He merely took Hedden's observations at face value and didn't check out the figures.

I do not know whether or not the cross on the triangle apex was there when Hedden surveyed the island, but I rather suspect it was, and I would not have expected him to see it on his survey. He was simply using the rock to take his bearing from a chalk mark on it, and if the rock was in the same condition as when I first saw it there would be no sign of the cross. The rock was covered with a kind of lichen, and I only found the cross because I was looking for a mark and scraped the lichen off with my pocket knife. The cross was only about 3" across, the lines were only about $\frac{1}{2}$ " across and probably $\frac{3}{16}$ " deep. With the lichen in place there was no sign of the mark.

Going back to the Roper Survey, Roper was making the survey for Hedden, and as far as Roper would be concerned the square shaft was the shaft that Hedden worked in during 1936. He may not even have known that Chappell sank to 155 feet there in 1931. And it is quite understandable that neither Roper nor Bates remembers the circumstances now, 40 years later.

As to my working perimeter under my agreement with Chappell, I had the ground ~~running~~ lying north of a line running east and west either 100ft or 200 ft. north of the Money pit. I have forgotten which, and don't have the agreement here with me. Restall had the ground south of that line.

When Rupert Furieux began writing to me he had some pretty definite ideas about Oak Island. I believe I can honestly say that during our correspondence I shot them down in flames. At the time he began writing I don't believe he had ever thought of the treasure being anywhere other than in the Money Pit. Gradually he came to see that that was out of the question, and finally he settled on the theory as outlined in his book. We didn't exactly arrive at the same conclusions independently, but I do not begrudge him that statement. Furieux was writing a book to more or less romanticize Oak Island and on his promise that as an author he would be honour bound to hold in confidence any information given in confidence I explained to him my theory. He has kept his word. When he says "the spots chosen by Johnson and me" I think he really means "the spots chosen by Johnson, and the spots chosen by me". You may have noted that elsewhere he remarks that he differs with Johnson in that Johnson thinks his (Johnson's) theory is the only right one. Naturally I think my theory is the right one, and there certainly is only one right one. ~~right one~~. Having read Rupert's book I am not sure myself just what spot he favours. He seemed at that time to still have some faith in the Palmer Charts.

Have you read the article about Triton which appeared in Esquire a couple of years ago? It is difficult to believe that that was published with Triton's approval, and had I been an investor in the company I'd have been outraged.

Incidentally, last winter an acquaintance told me he heard someone on radio stating that someone in Nova Scotia, seemingly a person in government, was complaining about Triton tying the island up year after year without doing anything worthwhile. I have made enquiries, but have not been able to ascertain whether or not somebody did complain.

I can appreciate your frustration at not being able to get the information you want, but of course your book is to be on various theories, and therefore you would naturally expect to publish the information. Surely there is a solution to the quandary, but at this point I don't know what it would be unless you know someone who can exert pressure to gain access to the ground in question. Triton is welcome to all the rest.

August 31, 1976

I am writing this in between interruptions, so you may find it somewhat garbled. You will note that I did not get it finished yesterday evening.

My drilling programme at Oak Island was completed in about three weeks, (1965) so I really wasn't on the Island long. There is a vast difference between working to shallow depths as I believe the depositor intended to do, and working to the great depths that other searchers attempt. In spite of all the stories about a deeper tunnel at about 150 feet I know of nothing concrete that suggests there really is such a deep tunnel. From the point of view of "probability" it seems very unlikely. This man knew how safely he was burying his treasure, and there was really nothing to be gained by digging a second deeper tunnel. I know many people would be prepared to argue that point, but I do not believe there is such a tunnel.

No, I do not consider the mark on the triangle apex to be significant, or perhaps I should say important. It is significant (if it is original, and I suspect it is) because I felt that if the depositor did what I believe he did, then he might very well left a bearing point on that rock. On my first visit to the Island I had difficulty locating the triangle, and it was Willie Sawler's daughter Elizabeth who ~~actually~~ pointed it out among the trees and shrubbery. It was a dull morning with wisps of fog still drifting through the tree tops when we reached the island and the triangle. When asked, both Willie and his daughter said that they had never heard any mention of marks on any of the stones. Needless to say when I crawled in under the spruce tree, whose branches hid the apex stone, and by scraping off the lichen revealed the cross there was a certain air of bewilderment mixing with the fog. Although finding the mark did seem to provide some support for my theory it was not critical because I would have considered the centre of the rock as the point, and that is approximately where the mark was.

You may wonder how it is that I have never interested Mr. Chappell in my theory if it is so sound and logical. I seemed to have trouble explaining to Mr. Harris just what it was all about until I showed him the mockup I made of the treasure site. Then he changed the last chapter of his 1967 edition. In the case of Mr. Chappell his sole interest is in the container of documents that he is convinced his father drilled through in 1897, and since my interest lies some distance from the Money Pit he knows I am not going to find anything his father drilled through. In fact when we were digging our 1962 shaft he remarked to me one day when he was present on the island, "I don't know and don't care whether or not there is any gold or silver buried on Oak Island, but I am convinced that in 1897 my father drilled through a container of priceless documents, and that is the thing that I want to recover." One time when I gave him a written explanation of my theory to study he read it through and then remarked that he didn't know where I got all this information that nobody else had. I felt that he wondered if I was fantasizing. He and I are on perfectly good terms, but I don't think he has ever taken this theory and studied it thoroughly, and of course he does have this fixation about the documents.

Enough rambling for this time. I do hope to hear from you again, and I would like to be able to help you to a greater extent.

Sincerely,

Lavern Johnson
W.L. Johnson

JOHNSON

165

3730 West 13 Ave.,
Vancouver, B.C., V6S 1B2
November 9, 1976

Mr. D'Arcy O'Connor
7 Lansdowne Gardens
Point Claire, P.Q...

Dear Mr. O'Connor,

Since I wrote on October 20, I have had a second letter from David Tobias, but it was not encouraging. In his first letter he asked half a dozen questions, two of which were, (1) Would I stand all the expenses of my exploration, and (2) How much would it cost? This almost appeared to suggest that if I were not going to stand the expenses Triton might consider doing the work if it was not too expensive. I replied that I would prefer to have Triton finance the venture since I would otherwise have to raise the money elsewhere, and that would further complicate matters. I did not try to estimate the cost, but I gave Tobias a general idea of what would be involved to show that it would be relatively inexpensive. Tobias replied that Triton has done a great deal of field work, holes drilled, shafts sunk, etc., and that they are not prepared to sink a shaft in some designated area on the strength of somebody's hypothesis, but that as a matter of economics they will continue to carry out their own exploration on the strength of what they have learned from their field work. I have written again to enquire of him whether Triton would consider an equitable arrangement with me if I could arrange financing elsewhere, but have not had time for an answer yet. In my letter I brought to his attention several points which I shall include in this letter, just in case any of them may be of interest to you.

David Tobias as well as you have referred repeatedly to my "theory", and you have both used the word "hypothesis" on occasion. It indicates that my repeated use of the word theory through the years has made it sound very abstract and indeed highly hypothetical. I suspect that I have made an unwise choice of words when referring to my "theory". Perhaps if I had called it my "interpretation of the original work done at Oak Island based on the known facts" it would have sounded more substantial and less like another of the many impractical theories that have been advanced. It is probably too late to rectify that with Tobias now, but I did mention it in my letter to him.

I have mentioned in earlier letters to you that I did not sit down and figure out my "theory" methodically, but that it just seemed to fall into place a bit at a time. To illustrate this further, since I wrote to you last I have suddenly realized something after all these years about the depths of the Money Pit and the tunnel at the 150 foot level. I shall cover this in the following paragraphs, which are what I included in Tobias' letter.

The first indication of something unusual at Oak Island occurred in 1795 when McInnis, Vaughan and Smith examined the old oak tree and the depression in the ground beneath the cut-off limb. Now in 1976 the Oak Island story has become such a mixture of fact, conjecture and fantasy that in order to try to understand the problem of recovering the treasure one must try to look back to 1795 and decide what can be accepted as fact from that time to the present.

The first fact was the oak tree which drew attention to the site in 1795.

The second fact was the existence of the deep filled in shaft, established around 1805.

Then in 1849 the tunnel out to Smith's Cove, along with the filter on the beach was discovered.

In 1878 the Cave-in-Pit was discovered when the surface caved in under Mrs. Sellers' ox, and its existence was confirmed by exploration in 1894.

R.V. Harris states that in 1897 Captain Welling pointed out the triangle to Mr. Blair on the south shore. Mr. Blair, according to Harris, had noted the drilled stone north of the Money Pit in 1895. The second drilled stone, near Smith's Cove, is first mentioned when Hedden reported it in 1937. Since the triangle and the drilled stones could not have served any purpose for searchers up to that time it is most unlikely that any of those searchers had anything to do with placing them, and therefore it is very likely that they were placed there by the depositors.

The Oak Island features mentioned above comprise all the known surface evidence left by the depositor on the Island.

When the deep shaft (which became known as the Money Pit) was opened in 1795 a layer of flat stones was found a short distance below the surface. Then as excavation continued timber platforms were found at intervals, the shaft being backfilled between the platforms.

The Halifax Company in 1856 found that the tunnel from Smith's Cove entered the Money Pit about 110 feet below the surface. The conditions in the Money Pit down to 98 feet, and the entrance of the tunnel into the Money Pit at 110 feet are all that is known of the underground works other than the existence of the tunnel itself.

Thus we can define and detail all the work that has actually been proven to have been done at Oak Island by the people who deposited whatever is buried there.

Many questionable assumptions have been made about what is underground at Oak Island, and they have been repeated until they have become accepted as fact, and these stories have caused much confusion and misunderstanding. Let us examine a few of them.

Drillers in 1849 believed they had drilled into metal in pieces, but their drill was reaching down through 50 feet of water, then 12 feet of mud, and finally through a solid timber before they encountered what they assumed

was metal in pieces. They actually had no way of knowing whether they drilled into metal in pieces or into gravel. Coarse gravel has been found at that level, but no coins or metal in pieces. The story or assumption has nothing to support it.

Various drillers have reported striking iron at unexplored depths in the Money Pit area, but nobody knows how many holes have been drilled in that area, or how much equipment has been lost in those holes, or even how many lost tools have eventually dropped into those old drill holes. Any piece of iron struck at depth in that area could be imagined anything the drillers fancied. In the increasingly deeper shafts sunk in the Money Pit area the only iron found has been drilling equipment or old tools.

It has been said so often that there is a second tunnel, entering the Money Pit about 150 feet down, that this statement has commonly come to be accepted as fact, and indeed most drawings of the Money Pit include this deeper 150 foot tunnel. Actually no such tunnel has been found, and there are sound reasons for believing that such a tunnel does not and never has existed. Please note the following: The Money Pit was uncribbed so there was nothing to fasten climbing ladders to in the shaft. Therefore partial platforms set into the shaft walls at regular intervals for ladders to sit on would have been normal procedure in the excavation. Then when the shaft was being back-filled the platforms would be completed to distribute the weight of the backfill. Had the depositor excavated on down to 150 feet he would have had to use the same system of partial platforms down to that depth, and he would have completed those platforms when backfilling to distribute the weight of the backfill. The Chappell shaft went to something more than 150 feet, and the Hedden shaft went to 124 feet and Hamilton deepened part of it to a much greater depth. Neither those shaft diggers nor any of the drillers have reported encountering a series of timber platforms at regular intervals anywhere below the level at which the known flooding tunnel enters the Money Pit. The fact is that there is no evidence that the Money Pit was ever more than 110 or 120 feet deep. And if there was no shaft to 150 feet there certainly wouldn't be any tunnel entering a nonexistent shaft at that depth. Naturally enough nobody has ever reported encountering it. It is just assumed to exist.

1797 drilling?

Had the depositor felt that he needed the added security of a second flooding tunnel his best course would have been to bring that second tunnel into the Money Pit at the same level as the known tunnel. Then any searchers approaching that depth would have been met by a double-barrelled flood that would have dampened the enthusiasm of any treasure hunter.

It is commonly believed that there is a tunnel coming from the south shore because the dye showed up in three places on the south shore, but questioning has produced the statement that the water off the south shore was so muddy from the muddy water pumped out of the Money Pit that it was really impossible to tell whether or not the dye actually did show up there. Dunfield claimed he found an old shaft and tunnel near the south shore, but he did no further exploration there, and instead moved elsewhere to dig. Why?

So all we really know about the original works at Oak Island is the oak tree, the shaft to about 110 feet, the tunnel to Smith's Cove with the beach filter, the Cave-in-Pit, and the triangle and drilled stones. Fortunately, with certain other indisputable evidence available, that appears to be all we need.

In spite of the aforementioned points we now find Triton sinking deep drill holes down into the waterbearing Windsor formation and using 1000 gpm pumps to pump that water out. I remarked to Tobias that this procedure defies comprehension, but no doubt they can justify it by the evidence from their "field work".

I expect to receive the black and white photo any day, and when it arrives I shall forward it to you.

Were you able to look at a copy of the CLAN FRASER COMMEMORATIVE book? If not I know where there is one in this area that I could probably borrow briefly. I have not been able to get any other information on J.Ed Fraser.

If you feel there is any further useful information that I can give you please do not hesitate to enquire.

Sincerely,

W.L. Johnson
W.L. Johnson

Johnson

169

3720 West 18 Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.,
January 13, 1977

Mr. D'Arcy O'Connor
308 W. 104 St.,
Apt. 4-A
New York, N.Y.. 10025

Dear Mr. O'Connor,

Your letter of December 27/76 arrived yesterday. Time slips by, and no doubt the sooner you get all your information assembled the sooner you will be able to complete your book, so I shall try to get a prompt answer off to you.

It seems to me that the records concerning shafts 4, 5, & 12 have become mixed up like a dog's breakfast, but your records confirm that shafts 4 & 5 were dug just up from Smith's Cove. Then according to Harris, #11, the Cave-in-Pit, was cleaned out to about 52 feet and finally abandoned after water had flooded in, presumably from #4, so we have the searchers active in the vicinity of the Cave-in-Pit and driven out of that pit at 50+ feet. They sank #12, but were flooded out at 43 feet. They managed to bail out #12 and they deepened it to 55 feet, approximately the depth they managed to reach in the Cave-in-Pit. They then proceeded to search upward from that level, trying to find the flooding tunnel. I, using that information have to assume that they must have been relating their work to what they had discovered in the Cave-in-Pit. They felt no need to sink #12 any deeper than the Cave-in-Pit, and expected to find the tunnel between that level and the surface, and this would indicate that they must have been east of the Cave-in-Pit. I simply cannot see these men expecting to find the tunnel at 55 feet or less depth when only 30 feet east of the Money Pit. Are the old records definite on just which "PIT" they were measuring from? Something doesn't add up properly.

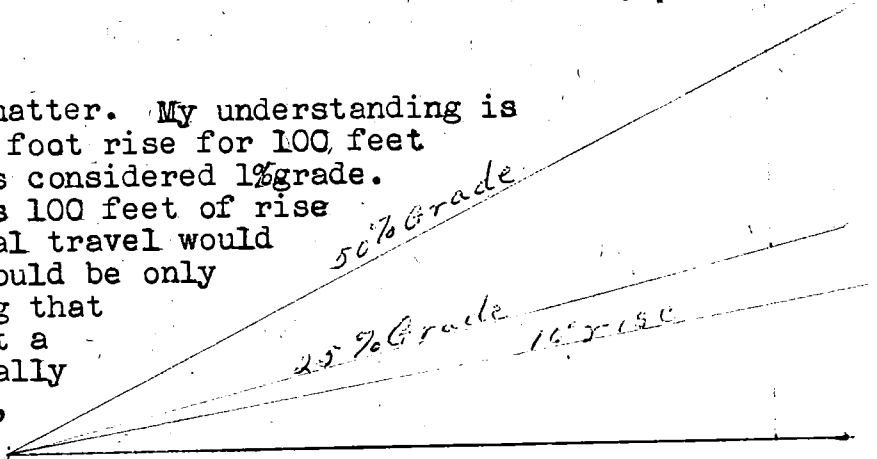
that

As for the parchment, I am happy to let ^{that} question lie undebated. It doesn't seem to ring quite true, but the men involved were reputable men, and most of them (perhaps all of them) believed in the parchment. Nothing would be proved or settled by raising the question at this late date so it may as well rest in peace.

The puzzle of the slope of the flooding tunnel is very interesting in demonstrating how misleading a careless use of words can be. If the 22½ figure is authentic I suggest that the measurement was made by a trained surveyor or some such person, and that he found the tunnel did indeed rise at a 22½% gradient. But note that I have switched from degrees to percentage! Perhaps a

sketch will clarify the matter. My understanding is that in surveying a one foot rise for 100 feet of horizontal distance is considered 1% grade. Carrying that to extremes 100 feet of rise for 100 feet of horizontal travel would be 100% grade. But it would be only a 45 degree slope. Using that relationship we find that a 22½% gradient would actually be a 10.125 degree slope, and that is close to your result. I am not

a surveyor, but I suspect that somewhere along the line degrees and percentages got inadvertently swapped. And of course we do not know that the tunnellers held to a constant grade or how they laid out that part of the project other than that they apparently were somewhere around 55 feet below the uneven surface in the vicinity of the Cave-in-Pit. Satisfied?



When I said Harris put a number of irrelevant statements into his postscript I simply meant that some of his statements were not part of my theory. The opened up sectional mockup showed him how the original works would have looked had one been able to see them in cross section. He seemed so impressed by that sight that he changed his postscript to include the idea, but that view of the works was all he got from the mockup. It is quite obvious that much of what I have always contended did not register properly with him. I'll run through the 17 points mentioned:

1. Reasonable.
2. I have always contended that it could not have been buried before 1650 (they needed a big tree), and it could not have been buried after the middle 1700s when the area was becoming settled.
3. I have always maintained that it was not a pirate deposit, but Harris had accepted the pirate theory and couldn't quite get away from it.
4. Reasonable.
5. The Money Pit was in no sense a decoy. It was a fool-proof and searcherproof seal to prevent all comers from finding out what the depositor did after he got down into the depths. It is quite possible that the depositor never dreamed that searchers would expect to find the treasure in the depths, but he did expect any searcher would try to get down into the Pit to find out which direction he had gone with his treasure tunnel.
6. I do not believe the Money Pit was much if any deeper than the level at which the flooding tunnel let the water into it, and that is alleged to be about 110 feet down.
7. I would just say, above high tide level.
8. As #7.
9. A plausible suggestion by me, and Harris referred to the old shaft which Dunfield claimed he had discovered, but which he did not explore or prove to be a fact.
10. Accepted as fact.
11. Reasonable, but not primarily as an air supply.

12. The filter was probably as described, but there was no reason for putting any gates or means of blocking off the tunnel into the system, because the depositor had no further use for the tunnel other than to continue to supply a flood of water.

✓ 13. I am satisfied that there was no decoy treasure at 100 feet, no casks full of metal in pieces, and no directions. The depositor was satisfied that nobody could get down close enough to the flooding tunnel to ever see anything like that.

14. The platforms were merely to distribute the weight of the 100+ feet of fill.

15. I too suspect that the existence of the ship's block is legend.

16. Reasonable and logical.

17. Agreed.

According to the reports of other searchers as well as Eugand Lyon there is a tremendous store of documentation in the archives at Seville, and I have ~~always~~ believed that the first thing to do is to unearth the deposit. Then we will have enough information to tell us where to look in the archives if that is where the information would be. I read the article in Geographic, and also watched the TV show.

I had an experience with a pendulum dowser when I was working on the island in 1962. Mr. Chappell brought her onto the island, and she seemed to be an acquaintance or at least known to him. We were digging the shaft, and she moved about the area freely, changed substances in the pendulum, or whatever it is they do, and finally decided that the pendulum indicated a considerable amount of silver in a southerly direction. Then somebody (there's one in every crowd they say) asked her how far away it would be. I felt she blew the whole thing when she said it could be a long way even as far as 35 miles, and she was looking toward Lunenburg. I am not putting down dowsing, and I know nothing of pendulum dowsing, but I got the feeling that this woman had acquired this pendulum and was hoping to make it work without knowing whether or not she had any of the dowser's strange ability in her makeup. I would be interested in hearing what develops with "your" dowser.

It is interesting in a way to consider and contemplate the story of Borehole 10-X. If the hole went down to where it is alleged to have gone it went down into an area where the depositor could not and would not have penetrated. I gather from your reports that 10-X was cased to bedrock with 24 or 27 inch casing, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick. Oak Island is pretty solid, is not slithering around, and at 130 or 150 feet can be assumed to be pretty compact clay and stones. With the casing set in place for several years it is reasonable to assume that the clay is pretty evenly packed around the casing. So we have a steel cylinder 27" diameter packed round by clay. It would take an absolutely fantastic pressure acting on the outside of that cylinder to collapse it inward. It can't be flattened because there is clay all round it resisting any flattening effect. Even if there were a space of quite a few feet where there was no clay packed round the casing it would still require some kind of cataclysmic shifting of the island's subsurface

to collapse the casing inward. And if the casing did collapse inward it would not break but would simply collapse. I would suspect that the ~~only~~ way that material would begin to enter the casing would be if a defective joint broke away, and again there would have to be a great and unusual force acting to shift and break that joint and move it out of place. And now suddenly this 240 foot hole is suddenly filled up to the 95 foot level with "solid ground". Where did all that ground come from? Sometimes my typewriter becomes a bit obstreperous, and in this case it takes over and says, "Don't eat that, Elmer! That's horse patokey!" Let's look at the whole 10-X story with our eyes open. The hole was put down into an area where it should never have been put, and there could never have been any sound reason for boring the hole. But it was made to look like a big accomplishment, and it got a fair amount of exposure for Triton. But surely all the Triton members weren't interested in that sort of horseplay. Somebody must have been taking them up the garden path. The years went by and although a certain amount of mileage was wrung out of 10-X nothing more was learned about the ground it passed through, and excuses for no progress became the only results for money spent. By about 1975 10-X was becoming an albatross about the neck of Triton, and the problem was how to get rid of it. 1976 produced the pumping fiasco, but 10-X was still there waiting for somebody to do something with it. Now suddenly something causes that $\frac{1}{4}$ " casing to rupture and mysteriously fill the 240 foot hole with solid ground up to the 95 foot level. Goodbye 10-X. Rest in Peace!

I don't know what to say about the flow of water in and out of the Money Pit other than that there have been many different situations existing there. When the Pit was full of water there would be little force in either direction, and having to flow through mud in the depths of the shaft or through the partially obstructed filter system could well slow down the flow. On other occasions (Harris p.91) the flow sometimes changed remarkably which would indicate caving or shifting of mud in the depths partially cutting off the flow. In the case of the water being kept down to a considerable depth in the Money Pit there would then be a great difference in level of the water in the Pit and in the Cove, and a considerable head or pressure to cause it to flow, and the flow would be much greater, and the more it flowed the more it might be inclined to open up its channel of flow. But, does it really matter, D'Arcy? I enjoy pondering these questions, but I wonder if you are restraining yourself unnecessarily.

I thank you for the information on what Triton may have in mind for the future. No, Tobias gave me no hint of their plans at all. I continue to be puzzled as to their reasons for going at this project in the way they do. It appears they do not wish to encounter any straightforward explanation of the mystery, but are determined to do this with a lot of money. I am perhaps most puzzled by the way the various partners go along with all this.

I look forward to hearing from you again, and do not hesitate to keep firing the questions. Much of your information I do not have, but I have looked at and lived with the problem for a long time, and I may have a few answers.

Sincerely, Loren Johnson

JOHNSON
173

3720 West 18 Avenue
Vancouver, B.C., V6S 1B2
January 26, 1977

D'Arcy O'Connor
308 West 104th St.
Apt. 4-A
New York, N.Y. 10025

Dear D'Arcy,

Your letter of January 20 arrived yesterday, and as I am whiling away the quiet hours of a long night shift it seems like a good time to consider some of the "morsels" you so casually toss around.

I have given some thought to Blair's rebuttal of the Bowdoin article, and it appears to me that you have read into Blair's statement something that isn't there (although I must admit that he didn't word it very clearly). Early searchers, on opening up and examining the works at the Cove, found the five drains between high and low tide levels, and they found that those drains converged to form a larger stoned in drain, but I have no data on their having followed that larger drain very far because of the saturated ground, but they assumed that it led downward to enter the Money Pit. Later searches disclosed that the tunnel entered the Money Pit at about 111 feet down. Excavation of the Cave-in-Pit indicated that at that point the tunnel was approximately 55 feet down. I think we are agreed that shafts 4 & 5 were located between the Cave-in-Pit and the Cove, with flooding encountered at 35 feet in #5. All indicated a tunnel rising on a fairly constant incline from Money Pit to Cove. But then in 1897 they drilled those holes near the Cove and were confused into believing that they struck the tunnel about 80 feet down. It surprises me that they should have abandoned all the prior evidence and taken for granted that the tunnel was so deep at that point. They all seem to have accepted it, and Harris shows it in his book facing page 53. The larger stoned in drain which led into the island was assumed to dump into that deep shaft. Naturally the top of that shaft was at a point as low as the five drains out in the Cove. Blair did not say that the shaft was out in the Cove "just" inside the Coffor Dam. He simply meant that the Coffor Dam would keep the ocean out while the shaft, the top of which was between high and low tide levels, was being excavated. For my part I know of nothing indicate that the original workers built a Coffor Dam or that they sank any 70 or 80 foot shaft near the Cove. Those five holes drilled near the Cove with the water breaking into one of them at about 80 feet merely confused the entire problem, just as the 10X borehole has confused the entire picture in the 1970s, and probably nobody will ever prove or disprove anything about 10X.

Reports state that in about 1850 the filter was opened up on the beach and the five drains were discovered. That means that they were then exposed to tides and storms, and I believe they must have been obliterated in very few years, and the building of more than one coffer dam would complete the obliteration. It always seemed to me that Bob Restall looked for the drains at a depth quite a few feet lower than they would have been. I don't supposed he ever found anything definite pertaining to those original drains.

Your book and Furneaux's book cover two different fields of endeavour. You are researching original material to discover as far as possible precisely what various searchers did and when they did it. Rupert Furneaux, after much correspondence and after considering more than one theory, decided on the theory that British Engineers did the work, and then he proceeded to write his book around that theory using the information that R.V.Harris provided in his own book.

That is about the only explanation I can offer for what happened there.

The shaft #12 in Harris book, dug to 43 feet poses a question that will probably go unanswered, and I don't think we'll be able to do anything about it.

You question the significance of the old Oak Tree, but I am inclined to accept it because although there were many oak trees on the eastern end of the island there was something about that particular oak that caused McGinnis to examine it more closely and thus start the chain of events that has followed. I suggest that the thing most likely to attract his attention was evidence of some kind that men had been active around the tree. Otherwise he would have passed it by without another glance.

I reassert my belief that the Money Pit was never much deeper than the level at which the known flooding tunnel entered it. Firstly there was no good reason for going much below that flooding tunnel. Secondly there is no mention of timber platforms below that level, and they would certainly have been there had the shaft been made deeper. As for alien material found at greater depths, once the searchers began drilling and boring deeper holes there was nothing to prevent such material from falling into those holes and later being discovered and considered as being part of the original works.

It is possible, but I believe very improbable that the depositor planted a false treasure 100 feet down in the Money Pit. So many people have been down there that it is almost inconceivable that some bits of that false treasure would not have been found. And the location of Oak Island would have a bearing as well. The lady with the safe in her parlour was living in the midst of many people; the man who came to Oak Island was in a totally uninhabited area, and it was very unlikely that anybody would land on the island before he came back for his deposit, so it is unlikely he would waste good treasure for no good reason. However one never knows what others might do.

I have been suspicious of Borehole 10X from the very first. When they went so deep and on down into the bedrock at such depth it ceased to make reason. It may be all right for some kind of TV show to provide a cheap thrill for some people, but in real life it lacks credibility. As for what has been found or alleged to have been found in the hole, once again I repeat that it would be quite simple for such objects to be dropped into the hole accidentally, or to be knocked in by the casing as it was being lowered. There really isn't any point in my discussing 10X because I am completely sceptical about the whole thing. I will just say that if there was a flooding tunnel at about 95 feet then it must have been cased off or blocked off by the casing which was apparently set on bedrock much deeper. In such case the water in said tunnel lay still and did not have any place to go and therefore did not wash any clay away from anywhere. As far as I am concerned the cassette tapes of the cataclysm prove nothing and mean nothing. Admittedly I am biased on the point, but if anybody can advance logical grounds for accepting this 10X fantasy then I'll be quite prepared to consider it.

January 28, 1977

I encountered some delay, and now on returning to my letter and reading it over my remarks about 10X sound like a tirade, and I hope it did not sound too unreasonable. I feel that I have good grounds for my opinion, so will not belabour the point further.

I have had no word from a Charles Barnard. Where is he from, and what is his approach to the Oak Island problem, or do you not have such information?

Neither have I heard from a Gary Clayton or Arnold Gilson. Whenever I read about somebody suggesting that the Incas or the Mayans or some such people were ~~being~~ responsible for the Oak Island Treasure, having brought it so far to hide it I am completely baffled. This would be on a par with an Englishman taking his treasure all the way through western Europe to bury it in the Urals. Why oh why would anybody do such a thing? With all that mountain and jungle country which would provide ideal hiding places why would Incas and Mayans carry treasure through the various regions where the whiteman's ships and people were more numerous, and then bury their treasure in those areas, even if the Incas or Mayans had any way of knowing what was up along the Atlantic coast of North America?

I have no explanation for the discrepancy in Harris' account of Frederick Childs being involved at Oak Island in 1909 unless perchance there was more than one Frederick Childs.

At this time I see little likelihood that I will be going east in the near future, but I would certainly enjoy meeting you and visiting your "Oak Island Room". I hope we shall manage a meeting in the not too distant future somewhere, preferably at the wrapping up of the Oak Island Mystery.

This disjointed page indicates that it is time I got away from night shift. Perhaps the next time I write I will be on another shift and will do a better job.

I am curious to hear what the map dowser will tell you.

Sincerely,

W.L. Johnson
W.L. Johnson

JOHNSON
176

#220 West 18 Avenue
Vancouver, B.C., V6S 1B2
March 18, 1977

Dear D'Arcy,

Since this is a quiet (so far) evening at work I shall try to put together a reasonable answer to your letter of March 9, even though there are some points that I fear I cannot answer to your complete satisfaction.

To begin at the beginning, as a child I was an avid reader of almost anything I could get my hands on, and being possessed of pretty active imagination stories of buried treasure naturally fascinated me. I first read of Oak Island in a weekly newspaper in Saskatchewan, probably in the late 1920s, and the mystery of all that buried wealth waiting for somebody to dig it up made a very deep impression on me, perhaps moreso because my mother was a widow and our financial circumstances were not good. Through the years ~~we~~ I read a couple more magazine or newspaper stories about Oak Island, but even when I spent some months in Halifax during the war I did not realize how near I was to the treasure island. Then in 1958 when I saw The Oak Island Mystery by R.V.Harris listed among some new books being published I found a bookstore which carried it, and bought a copy. From that point on has been pretty well covered in my letters to you. My first visit was in 1959, and my wife and I went back in 1960 for a few days to do some more checking. Then in 1962 we dug the 30 foot shaft, and we went back in 1963 to check on a bit of tunnelling I'd had local people do for me late in 1962, a very short tunnel driven from the 25 foot level of our shaft. In 1965 I did the drilling. There is actually very little to be told about the work we carried out there since it was quite limited and did not produce anything of interest. I can say that we got a definite reading on a metal detector at the point where our lines intersected and where we felt there should be something significant. I do not believe the detector we used would detect anything more than 20 feet deep at the very most, so whether there was a bit of scrap iron we never did find somewhere near the surface, or whether it was poor operation of the detector on our part, or what it was we will probably never know, but our 30 foot shaft revealed nothing. And the tunnelling did not add to our knowledge. The drilling produced some puzzling experiences such as the air passing from hole to hole and into the shaft, and the peculiar loss of the drill steel, but there was nothing definite enough to justify any firm statements other than to say that we felt the drilling indicated that further exploration in the area was justified.

Mr Chappell wrote me recently and said that he had a five year renewal of his search rights, but he did not mention giving Triton a five year lease. He simply said that he did not know Triton's future plans other than he understood they were going to make further attempts to find the parchment his father drilled through in 1897. My experience of Mr. Chappell is that he is one of the old school whose word is as good as his bond, and I have much faith in his integrity. I tried to explain my theory to him several times, but as it is so far removed from what he believes I don't think he ever really tried to understand it, and therefore he never appreciated just how well it explains the mystery. After the Restall deaths in 1965 when I lost control of "my area" I asked both Harris and Chappell to destroy any explanations I had sent to them. Apparently Harris did, and quite probably Chappell likewise. Even if he didn't I believe he would consider my explanations as confidential and something that he had no right to pass on. I might add that he could well feel that my theories have enough substance to be worth passing on, even if he understood them well enough to pass on. I could add further that Dunfield dug a hole about

fifty feet south of my 1962 shaft, and he is said to have stated that he had checked out Johnson's theory of a tunnel to the north from the Money Pit, and had determined that no such tunnel existed. His work did not disprove the existence of the tunnel, but I suspect that his opinions and statements were accepted.

You mention Chappell's being a shareholder and director of Triton, but I suspect that his involvement is through his search rights and his land ownership. He told me once that before his wife died (in the 1950s I believe) she made him promise that he'd never spend anymore of his money on the Oak Island search. I f he has adhered to that it may not be any of his money that Triton is using, he does not believe in my theory anyway, and just hopes that Triton will eventually recover those "documentants".

Neither do Tobias' letters indicate that they know the details of my theory. It seems to me that if Tobias knew or understood the details of my theory he would, when I try to arrange something with him, simply say that he knew my theory and considers it baseless, or something along that line, but such has not happened.

I certainly have no desire to take my theory to the grave with me, and in fact would be much opposed to that, but hope springs eternal and all that, and I do hope to participate in the recovery of the Oak Island Treasure or the solving of the mystery. I think that when I approached Tobias in the fall of 1976 to work out an arrangement of some kind he would have accepted my proposal had I been able to do my own financing. I don't know what kind of terms he would have expected, but I do believe he would have been cooperative. At present I am awaiting appraisal of a couple of inventions which would fill a need in hospital service, and there is some chance that these inventions could have a good marketable value. If something like that should materialize to change my financial situation I would be very ready to finance work to prove my theory at Oak Island, and there would be a good chance that Triton would be willing to have me do it.

I would be extremely happy to be able to give you the details of my theory to include in your book, but I think you will appreciate the fact that since I still hope to be in at the final solution I would be throwing the whole thing to the winds to have it published under these circumstances.

Sorry if I threw you with my statement about linear values not being used in the code, but if you pause to consider you will realize that linear measurements leave more room for error than do precise bearings. The use of bearings eliminates the possibility of error in measuring over uneven ground, and one might add that it would be more in character for a seafaring man to set up a code based on bearings rather than on linear measurement.

The markers tell the whole story as far as the code is concerned, but I am rather reluctant to discuss them too much or to draw attention to them. Until I came into the picture the triangle and the drilled stones could not mean anything because everybody accepted the assumption that whatever was buried was deep in the Money Pit. Now there is an increasing acceptance that the depositor tunnelled to some point away from the Money Pit. With such acceptance it is easy to believe that the markers somehow point the way to that point. If enough people concentrate on those markers somebody is almost bound to realize what they mean. I have not changed any of my ideas about where the treasure lies. The code says it s hould be in a certain location, and the work, or some things that happened during the work I did, indicate that there were somethings unusual about that location, and I am convinced that that is the significant location. If I were to explore that location thoroughly and draw a blank, I would have no suggestions as

to what the answer to the mystery could be. I have tried time and again to work out some alternative interpretation of the code, but always I end up with the same set of values leading to the same location.

Perhaps I should add to the remarks about linear measurements that when I speak of linear distances involved I have calculated those distances from the Roper Survey, and that was exact enough for my purposes.

Although the debate can have no bearing on solving the Oak Island Mystery I am curious as to why you would date the original works between 1525 and 1650 instead of between 1650 and 1750. Is it merely because there were richer treasure fleets and more of them in the earlier period?

The 83 page document sounds very interesting, and I do hope someday when the time is right to hear all about it. At present I will just ask if it is a first hand account by someone who had direct information, or was it compiled from reports? When you call it a document you make it sound rather official, and I am wondering if you can tell me its original purpose. One other question I hope you can answer is does it tell anything about the shaft marked #16 on the Roper Survey? That was the shaft north and west of the Money Pit, and is the same place where Chappell dug a big Pit in about 1950. Somewhere I have seen that original shaft marked as a water supply shaft, but there seems little other reference to it.

I did not know that Hedden was a closet Baconian. I suppose that happened sometime after he became disillusioned with Wilkins and the Captain Kidd theory. I consider one of those theories as far-fetched as the other. And even if Bacon had actually been the writer of Shakespeare's material I can't for the life of me see why anybody would want to carry the manuscripts across the Atlantic and bury them where they would probably never be found again.

A few days ago I learned that the treasure ships which were lost in the attack at Vigo Bay were ships of a joint French-Spanish fleet. It would seem that Spain had become so weak as a sea power that it had come to some kind of arrangement with France (with whom there was an uneasy peace) to help transport that accumulation of treasure back to Spain. If it happened in that instance one might wonder just what other arrangements were made at other times, and did some French captain decide that he wasn't going to take his shipload to Spain but would abscond with it and conceal it as near as he could safely come to the French settlements in America.

Sorry I can't go into more detail about my theory, but I do hope you understand my situation at the present time.

Please write again.

Sincerely,

W. L. Johnson
W.L. Johnson

JOHNSON

179

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3720 West 18 Ave.
Vancouver, B.C., V6S 1B2
May 11, 1977

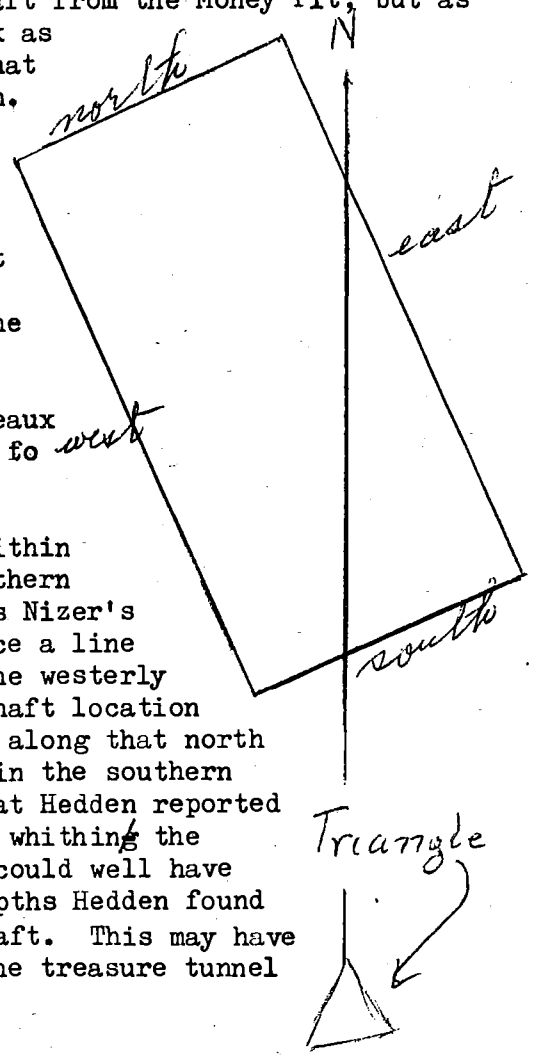
Dear D'Arcy,

Your letter of May 4 arrived yesterday, and with a bit of time to spare today I shall get a reply off to you. I have been involved with Oak Island since late 1958, and during all those ensuing years the correspondence between you and me is the first real "in depth" discussion I have had the pleasure of carrying on with anybody. Others have been disinterested, or have had a very temporary interest, or have been ready to argue the matter with only the scantiest information on the mystery. Chappell is concerned with the parchment that he believes his father drilled through; Harris wrote his book as a permanent record of reports of work done, and he did not ponder deeply the Who What Why, etc.; Rupert Furneaux was looking for a theory around which he could build a book, and so it went. It has been refreshing and fulfilling to be able to bat the whole thing back and forth with someone who has studied the matter and who can approach it with an open mind.

When I referred to a survey done in 1965 or 1966 I was referring to an Englishman whose name I do not have at hand. An Englishman named Gwynne-Evans contacted Harris who passed him on to me. Gwynne-Evans in time visited Oak Island, studied the situation, did some measuring, and had some surveying done by the Englishman referred to above, and it was this Englishman who came up with the 263' distance of my shaft from the Money Pit, but as I stated before I do not know what point he took as the location of the Money Pit. I do not know what Fred Nolan believes about the Money Pit location. Actually, at this time the distance of my shaft from the Money Pit is not of consequence.

You are correct in your observation that my shaft lies 7 deg. west of true north from the triangle apex, and that is of consequence. That is also the direction in which a line bisecting the base of the triangle would have pointed. The median line laid in the triangle pointed to the True North and the westerly drilled rock. The last time Gwynne-Evans wrote to me (before Furneaux came into the picture) he was bound for Rhodesia to support the cause of the white majority there.

I believe the original shaft lay within the confines of the Hedden shaft and in the southern part of the shaft. I am inclined to apply Louis Nizer's "probability of evidence" and conclude that since a line true North from the Triangle apex ran through the westerly drilled rock it very probably ran through the shaft location as well. Another facet of the code tells where along that north south line the shaft lay, and that point falls in the southern portion of the Hedden shaft. I repeat again that Hedden reported finding the remains of a very old shaft largely within the confines of his shaft, and this very old shaft could well have been the site of the original shaft. In the depths Hedden found a band of putty-like clay cutting across his shaft. This may have been laid down by the light flow of water down the treasure tunnel



over 200 years or more. In such case that would also indicate the maximum depth of the original shaft, wouldn't it? All trace of the original shaft would have been obliterated by the time Hedden put down his big shaft. May I ask at this point just why you are so certain that the original shaft lay as you suggest in your letter? There has at times been some confusion as to what is considered the north side, etc., of the Hedden shaft, so I have marked on my sketch the definition I use of the sides.

I have no explanation of the other drilled stones you mention having seen. I have not seen those others, and I have not heard Nolan or anybody else mention having seen them. I have heard somewhere that in Hedden's time some experimental drilling of stones was done to see if they could determine how the code stones were drilled. I only know that the two stones I refer to lie in such a pattern that they form a very precise code, or part of it. One can speculate on various reasons for there being other drilled stones such as the possibility that the line running 7 deg. west of north from the triangle passed through another drilled stone, but those are speculations and nothing more. It is also possible as you suggest that there may be other deposits, but it would seem to me more probable that the original depositors, having gone to such great efforts would deposit their whole treasure in the one extremely secure place. And it is very unlikely that other depositors at another time would just coincidentally use similar drilled stones to mark their deposits.

One must accept the possibility that the treasure may have been retrieved, but if the treasure was concealed the way I believe it was then that possibility becomes fantastically remote, certainly not in accord with the probability of evidence. Our evidence, based on available records says that the first timber platform in the shaft was found about 10 feet down. Therefore there was only 10 feet of fill to settle and produce the depression that we are told existed near the base of the old oak tree. On the other hand if the treasure was retrieved it was retrieved at a date more recent than the date at which the shaft was filled. The probability would be that the retrieval shaft would be left open and unfilled. It follows that if the ten feet of fill at the top of the Money Pit settled enough to produce a noticeable depression then the 20 or more feet of unfilled retrieval shaft would not likely in fewer years fill in and have enough surrounding ground move over and flatten out to make the site not noticeable. There should actually be a much greater depression than was observable at the Money Pit site. I agree with you that the most valuable treasure at Oak Island will be the information and knowledge gained when precise treasure site is opened up.

As regards the old oak tree there are so many variables that any judgement there is to a great extent guesswork. One must consider the climate where the tree grew, the kind of soil in which it grew, and all the things that would have an effect on how rapidly it grew. One would have to know the climatic and soil conditions involving the trees considered by the expert from Harvard. Probably his data was reasonable as far as his specimens were concerned. Harris, at the bottom of page 5 of his 1967 edition writes, "We have it as the opinion of a forestry expert, familiar with the growth of oak trees along the south coast of Nova Scotia, that a tree measuring approximately seven or eight inches would be in the vicinity of fifty to seventy five years of age. The older the tree the slower the increase in diameter. A sixteen inch oak tree in this area would probably be about 200 years old". My own enquiries of Nova Scotia experts elicited the opinion that oak trees in that area have a life of about 250 years. Thus we have two varying opinions, and does it matter if either is correct? Until we discover further more precise evidence about other things we do not know where to look for the depositor.

When I first saw the triangle in 1959 the arc below the base was gone, and the stones at either end of the base line were beginning to drop away out of position. Storms can beat in rather violently on that side of the island, and although the triangle was well above high tide level storm waves had cut away all the sod and soil right up to the triangle so that there was just a long gradual stony beach from just below the triangle down to the water. The shape of the island, comparing early surveys with modern aerial photos, has changed very little since about 1760 so it is hard to tell just what Hedden was using for reference when he stated that erosion on the south side of the island was about 2 inches per year.

Dunfield claimed to have discovered an old shaft down by the triangle, but the fact that he did not do enough investigation there to learn more about it has made me sceptical of his whole operation in that area. I really have nothing to offer on that score.

It is a fact that the Roper Survey places the line between the two drilled rocks 7 degrees off true east-west. There is no doubt about that, but I can see no reason whatever for thinking Wilkins really had anything connected with Oak Island. It was not exactly 18 rods one way and 7 rods the other way from a certain point to the two drilled stones. There is nearly 10 feet of a discrepancy there. The southwesterly line does not actually come to the triangle, but strikes well below the base. The line running north from the triangle or the point below the triangle does not come anywhere near the Money Pit. Have you any sound reliable reason for believing that the original shaft lay on a ~~line~~ line running 4 deg. west of true north from the triangle? Is there really anything from the Wilkins material that really applies to Oak Island? I have found nothing. Hedden became interested in the possibility of some connection, and this interest has persisted with, as time went by, almost an acceptance as fact the idea that Wilkins did have something to offer. I have yet to be convinced. I find it more reasonable and probable to think that the depositor just left a few necessary marks to give him the information he needed when he came back. He was not interested in setting up puzzles for others or confusing future generations. What he did he did for his own purpose.

I wish you the best of luck with your book, and I do hope to hear from you again.

Sincerely,

Lavern
W.L. Johnson

P.J. Harris describes the very old shaft within the Hedden shaft as projecting beyond the north wall of the new shaft. In a letter to me Hedden indicated that the old shaft was in the southern part of his shaft. This is also indicated in the drawing on page 200 of Harris' 1967 book.

Lavern