

## *Analysis of Artifacts*

### **Item # 19**

*40' deep cavity from 142' to 182' in Money Pit area*

<b>WHO FOUND</b>	Dunfield
<b>WHEN FOUND</b>	1965
<b>WHERE FOUND</b>	Money Pit area. Several boreholes (approximately 139' to 189')
<b>FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND</b>	
<b>REFERENCES</b>	R.V. Harris "The Oak Island Mystery", pg. 183 D'Arcy O'Connor, "The Big Dig", pg 147 "Herald Chronicle" article dated March 22, 1966
<b>LOCATION TODAY</b>	Approximately 10' to 20' north and west of Chappell's and Hedden Shafts respectively
<b>ODDIFY FACTOR</b>	
<b>ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY</b>	4: Appears 10 to 20' too deep to be explained by other searchers shafts (e.g. 1931 Chappell/Hamilton)
<b>COMMENTS</b>	Compare with Nixon's and Greene's experiences. Dunfield claimed it was floored with iron.

to do some core drilling in the same spot. A series of six-inch-diameter holes were put down to almost 190 feet. In several he found the same cavity structure that George Greene encountered in 1955. Dunfield reported that it consisted of a 2-foot layer of limestone between 140 and 142 feet, followed by a 40-foot void that extended to about 182 feet. Below that was bedrock. Dunfield planned to use the crane to examine the cavity the next spring, when the ground would be drier and less susceptible to caving in.

Meanwhile, he excavated the Cave-in Pit to 108 feet, finding old timbers at 68 feet and again at 100 feet (perhaps part of the 1860 search tunnels). But once again heavy rain and mechanical failures halted the work, and the pit began caving in rapidly.

In April, Dunfield returned to California to dry out his clothes and count his losses. He and his partners had spent \$131,000 during their seven months of investigation. He still hoped to reopen the Money Pit, but before proceeding any further he wanted to purchase the island from Chappell. However, the asking price of \$100,000 was more than Dunfield could raise or wanted to pay, and he gradually lost interest.

Although his direct involvement in the search ended, Dunfield was an early shareholder in the current Triton Alliance group. He was convinced that a complex mystery remained to be solved under the island, but he knew it would take considerably more time and money to find the answer.

Dunfield spent his final years in Encino, California, running a gold- and silver-mining company. Before his death in 1980, he told me that "a preponderance of evidence suggests underground work done by men many years in the past" on Oak Island. In his opinion as a geologist, however, the so-called cement found underground at various times was "nothing more than limestone" forming part of the Windsor Formation in that part of Nova Scotia. As for the cavity he drilled into, Dunfield suggested it "could be a natural feature as found in limestone units throughout the world. Normally I would have considered this as a natural cavity, and I doubt that this geological concept could have been known by the

In the debris of this operation were found pieces of porcelain dishware, believed to be of the eighteenth century, also drill-casings, evidencing previous exploration and, most significant of all, old timbers, and pick marks on what must have been the sides of the original Money Pit.

However, because of rains and spring-like conditions causing earth slides and cave-ins which required three successive re-excavations of the sliding earth, Dunfield decided that a pit 100 feet in diameter at the top would give better results, could be handled more expeditiously and cover more cubic contents than the pit he had dug.

The shaft would go to a depth of 100 feet before narrowing in width. The project called for an excavation of the Pit to a depth of 184 feet, if found necessary.

And so, on January 2, 1966, he gave orders to fill in the huge pit and start over again after winter and spring conditions should clear up.

The whole money pit area, fifty feet in diameter, was then filled with top soil material which could later be easily removed. He estimated that the new attempt to solve the mystery would last several months, for the most part would be through solid ground and would reach a depth of 155 feet; but he would go 180 feet before giving up.

#### Drilling Operations

When this task was completed Mr. Dunfield, for the first time, brought to the Island a drilling rig to assist in exploring the subterranean areas. "If nothing is found," he said, "to indicate we're in the area of the treasure, we'll drill a few feet away."

We've taken this thing this far and we're not going to give up. About half a ton of material was brought up to the surface from four six-inch holes drilled 140 feet deep, in an area nine feet square, and sent to the University of Southern California in Los Angeles for spectrographic examination and chemical analysis. The results of this analysis were not made public, but after receipt of them Mr. Dunfield announced his intention to proceed with the redigging of the Money Pit on a large scale.

At a depth of 139 feet the drill dropped into a chamber with a two-foot *wooden* roof. The floor of the chamber was hit at 184 feet, and the drill brought up a piece of cast iron, probably evidence of previous exploration. Other dimensions were uncertain.

This was believed to be the same cavity located by George J. Greene in 1955 (p. 173).

The drilling showed four chambers, one above another, presumably of gypsum and of a natural formation, known geologically as the Windsor rock formation, composed of carbonates, such as limestone, gypsum et cetera. There are outcroppings of this formation on the mainland around Mahone Bay and on several islands in the neighbourhood. The gypsum we are informed is excellent in making cement (see p. 88).

One such cavity was found in April 1966 in the Western Shore area when two bulldozers working along the shore adjacent to Oak Island, were preparing the surface for a new boat-building yard. About fifteen feet had been bulldozed off the surface when the driver, after "hooking" what he thought was a rock, looked back and discovered behind him a "gaping hole" about thirty feet deep and about twenty-five feet in diameter!"

#### The Cave-in Pit

In February 1966 Mr. Dunfield also excavated the "Cave-in" pit, and found old timbers and two-inch planking. Unfortunately, one of the crane's buckets got lodged at the sixty-eight-foot level, which caused a halt until another bucket could be obtained to pull it out. At the depth of one hundred feet there was no evidence of water.

He also verified the existence of the fan-wise drains on the shore of Smith's Cove.

He expressed the opinion that "somewhere on the surface of the Island there is an entrance to the treasure chamber." It could be on higher ground where drilling had released streams or pockets of "dry, stale air."

In an interview, he said that this would be his last try. If it failed, he would go back to drilling oil wells and try to recover

# Sky Spy Curbs

Californian petroleum geologist Robert Dunfield this week called a temporary halt to his treasure hunt on Nova Scotia's famed treasure spot, Oak Island.

Here he talks to Staff Writer SCOTT BRIGLEY about his search.

## I'll Never Rest...

—SAYS DUNFIELD

BRIGLEY: Mr. Dunfield, in your opinion is there a treasure on Oak Island?

DUNFIELD: Well, this remains to be found. This is a job we have to finish. At this point we have had very little evidence, but there is sufficient evidence of original work to continue the program.

BRIGLEY: How much do you estimate this hunt has cost you and your associates to date?

DUNFIELD: It's in the neighborhood of \$130,000.

BRIGLEY: Why are you leaving Nova Scotia and will you return?

DUNFIELD: I'll return to finish the job. The reason for leaving is I have quite a few affairs to straighten out in California and also the island with the inclement weather and rain, of course; as you would imagine it's real muddy and we have to get it in a workable state before we can continue.

BRIGLEY: You arrived in the province in July for the challenge of solving the riddle of the island. First with the Restall expedition and later directing your own operation. In this time do you have any material evidence

## "I don't think it's a lost cause..."

that this hunt is making progress and not a lost cause?

DUNFIELD: Well, I don't think it's a lost cause. We have sufficient evidence now of where the Windsor formation is and this is the answer to the water problem. Until I learned something of the product of our work I felt like a freight train with all slack taken out of it.

(On Monday, the 39-year-old geologist announced that the area of the money pit, the site commonly believed where the legendary fortune is buried, is part of an underground natural rock structure of carbonates as in materials such as limestone, etc.)

BRIGLEY: How long will you remain searching on Oak Island?

DUNFIELD: Whatever time it takes to finish this thing, and we have got quite a problem here yet. I think we have recovered one of the main answers right now. We know where the water is coming from and there are no flood tunnels. We have gained this much information and this sort of excludes every area of the island except Smith's Cove as far as I am concerned.

BRIGLEY: Do you have any indication that treasure



Robert Dunfield

could be buried at Smith's Cove and not where you have previously concentrated most of your efforts?

DUNFIELD: I think this is a very rational view.

BRIGLEY: What technique will you employ at Smith's Cove (the south west corner of the island) upon your return?

DUNFIELD: We tried digging this site with a machine before. We got down about 15 feet in it... and this is an original hole, ringed with rocks.

BRIGLEY: When do you expect to return?

DUNFIELD: As soon as it dries up (the island mud situation), I would think... but who can predict Nova Scotia weather? I can't.

BRIGLEY: Oak Island is owned by Mel R. Chappell of Sydney. What is the length of your agreement to search for the fabled 'booty' there?

DUNFIELD: Well, we should have things resolved by August 31 or an extension may be required.

BRIGLEY: Mr. Dunfield, what has been the biggest obstacle in your pursuit of answers on Oak Island?

DUNFIELD: Obstacles, there are hundreds of them—keeping machines in repair, getting parts, weather conditions.

BRIGLEY: Are you optimistic that on your return to the island you will find what you are seeking?

DUNFIELD: Put it this way. I would think we can get the answers we have to know.

BRIGLEY: Within the period up to August?

DUNFIELD: I would think so.

BRIGLEY: Mr. Dunfield, can you sum up in a few words your determination in this search?

DUNFIELD: We will investigate every possibility and all original work there must be explored. There is just no two ways about this—we intend to do it. I could never rest unless I did. I don't know how it will come out, but I'll go as far as I can.

(The Dunfields leave for California via Montreal today.)

## 11 Bills Introduced

Eleven bills introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Finance and Economics Minister G. I. Smith are intended to gather into the annual Appropriations Act all lending agencies within the provincial government.

Another bill will permit provincial money advanced to Industrial Estates Limited to be raised from \$50,000,000 to \$60,000,000.

This proposed increase is designed to permit the province to invest in further expansion measures for the Deuterium heavy water plant at Glace Bay, or advance a loan for a new plant.

The amount advanced under IEL payments for expansion or relocation of industries in the province will run roughly to

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