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Triton

# Explanation of hand said 'utter nonsense'

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OAK ISLAND — An explanation given on a recent radio program for the appearance of a hand projected by a submarine television camera lowered 212 feet below the surface of this Mahone Bay island of mystery, has been branded "utter nonsense" by Dan Blankenship, project manager for Triton Alliance which is working on the island.

Jack Adams, who had previously been employed by other explorers in their attempts to unravel the mystery of the famous money pit, said that several years ago a plastic hand had been dropped into one of the shafts and that this undoubtedly was what had been spotted by the camera.

"I don't know why Mr. Adams would make such a

statement," Mr. Blankenship said.

The contention that the hand, together with a mechanical attachment, had been used in an effort to determine if it would be carried by an underground shaft to the sea, "just could not be possible."

The only method for determining this sort of thing is by the use of dyes and these must be kept down under constant pressure in an effort to force them through suspected shafts, the Florida construction company owner explained.

The shaft in question is far removed from any previous drillings.

The first report of the "human hand, fingernails and all" being picked up on the TV monitor was carried in this newspaper Nov. 23, 1971.

At that time, the camera also spotted what appeared to be two or three chests

and a pick axe. In his determination to reach what the camera picked up, Mr. Blankenship donned a diving outfit and was lowered into the cavern about 230 feet deep. He was unable to move far enough away from the shaft to examine the area.

In the meantime, a new drilling project is expected to begin in about two weeks.

A theory advocated by British author Rupert Furneaux on the same radio broadcast that British engineers had carried out the vast underground workings on Oak Island at the time of the American Revolution, was also dismissed by Mr. Blankenship as not being consistent with the fact that no records of such an undertaking have been found.

It is inconceivable that the British engineers connected with British military forces in North America at that time, would not be required to record what was being done. Apparently, no such records exist.

He is convinced that no organized group, such as an army, constructed the maze of tunnels and perhaps many money pits, otherwise there is no doubt that someone, somewhere would have told or written about it he said.

The only positively permanent way for keeping the secret would be for the workers who did the job to have died without revealing the secret.

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