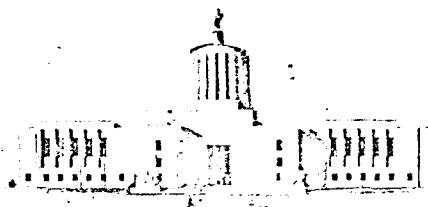


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STATE OF OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES  
1069 STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97201

NEAHKAHNIE  
TREASURE

February 27, 1968

TILLAMOOK  
COUNTY

To: Hollis M. Dole, State Geologist  
From: Herbert G. Schlicker, Engineering Geologist  
Subject: Investigation of Geologic Formations Involved in Tony Mareno  
Treasure Hunt at Neahkahnie Mountain, Oregon

At your request I have investigated the site of the diggings of Tony Mareno near Neahkahnie Mountain. Your request, it is my understanding, is in response to a letter dated February 20, 1968, from the Corporation Division of the Department of Commerce (see copy attached).

Mr. Mareno and his associates, Mr. Roy Daniels and Mr. Carl Trussel, met me at the site at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, February 23, 1968.

Assistance and hospitality offered by Mr. Mareno and his associates while making the inspection were greatly appreciated. I was impressed by the energy and sincerity of the group in their undertaking. Mr. Mareno was anxious to have certain geologic phenomena explained in context with the digging site and the area immediately surrounding the site.

The bottom of the shaft is at about 42 feet below the surface, and the casing, about 6 feet in diameter, extends to within  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet of the bottom. The only rock exposed was identified as a sandy shale of the Astoria Formation of Miocene age. The rock was deposited prior to 15 million years ago and is

considered to be bedrock. Although the bedrock was jointed and contained bedding planes dipping about 15 degrees, the rock was in place and no evidence was present to indicate it had been previously disturbed by digging.

Due to the hole being cased from the surface to within 1½ feet of the total depth I was unable to examine the walls of the excavation. But, according to Mr. Mareno, the material overlying the bedrock is mostly sand, gravel, and boulders extending from the surface to the contact with the bedrock at a depth of about 40 feet. This material, according to my informant, is unconsolidated and therefore would be similar to the present-day materials at the surface.

Mr. Mareno reported that various objects have been taken from the unconsolidated sand and gravel. Iron bars, rods, and a chain were found at depths ranging from 9 to about 28 feet, and Mr. Mareno stated that what was thought to be an iron plate was penetrated by core drill at 40 feet. At 17 feet a part of a porcelain cup, reportedly of early design, was found and at 19 feet a piece of concrete. A chunk of beeswax was recovered at about 15 feet.

Mr. Mareno reported that other items recovered from the diggings have been identified as sharp wooden pins and a human hair. Some other items recovered have not yet been identified.

The iron has reportedly been examined by a "governmental agency" at Reno, Nevada (George Toombs, State Board of Health, Portland; personal communication) and, I am informed, is believed to be of the type made in the 16th century. This may have been brought here by ships wrecked along the coast, by material lost overboard by coastal shipping, or from flotsam from the Orient brought in by ocean currents.

Beeswax from the Neahkahnie area has been established to have come from a wrecked ship carrying beeswax from the Orient, possibly to the missions in

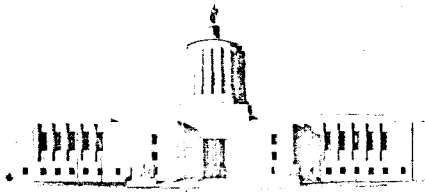
Mexico and South America. The ship, believed to be a Spanish galleon, was wrecked on Nehalem Spit. The age of the wax has been dated by Carbon 14 methods as having been formed between 1570 and 1790 A.D. This age dating has a 95 percent confidence level.

The depths and ages of the various items found in the sand and boulders overlying bedrock suggest that most of the material could have been deposited by wave action. The other possibility, and the one held by Mr. Mareno and his associates, is that the man-associated objects found in the digging were placed there by men burying a treasure. If it could be shown that the iron and the other man-made objects could be found at similar depths in other areas, it would seem unlikely that this material would represent an excavation, rather it would be the result of natural processes.

In summary, the material found in the excavation neither proves or disproves the presence of a previous excavation. The occurrence of bedrock at the bottom of the excavation does indicate that there could be no "buried treasure" below the site and that if such a treasure does in fact exist, it will have to be somewhere besides down.

*Herbert G. Schlicker*  
*ck*

Herbert G. Schlicker  
Engineering Geologist



STATE OF OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
CORPORATION DIVISION  
COMMERCE BLDG.  
158 12TH ST. N.E.  
SALEM, OREGON 97310

RECEIVED  
FEB 21 1968

STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY  
& MINERAL INDS.

February 20, 1968

Mr. Hollis M. Dole  
State Geologist  
1069 State Office Bldg.  
Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Mr. Dole:

Re: Tony Mareno Treasure Hunt

As you know, the above-named has filed with this office a registration statement covering interests in the treasure-hunting venture being carried on by him under a permit from the State Land Board. In connection with this Registration, this office is requesting that a member of your staff visit the site at Neahkahnne and examine the excavation work carried on to this time, as well as examining some of the materials removed from the excavation which Mr. Mareno has in his possession.

One item of information we are interested in is the nature of the material forming the floor of the existing shaft. Any other pertinent observations you can furnish in written report form will be appreciated. As you also are aware, time is of the essence in this matter, so that your prompt attention will be appreciated. Mr. Mareno's consent is appended hereto.

Very truly yours,

DRP:C

FRANK J. HEALY  
Corporation Commissioner  
*Don R. Piatt*  
DON R. PIATT, Fiscal Auditor

February 20, 1968

Permission is hereby granted to a member of the staff of the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to enter onto and into the excavation at Neahkahnne for the purposes set forth above, and I pledge my cooperation in this matter.

*Tony Moreno*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Moreno

cc: Bill R. Vertrees, Attorney  
Dale Mallicoat, Clerk, State Land Board