

A Treasure Under Santa Cruz Beach?

In olden times did Sir Francis Drake send a crew to Santa Cruz Beach to bury doubloons and other golden goodies looted from a Spanish ship?

Two Santa Clara residents, William Hawkins and Warren Fletcher, think that gold and other treasures were cached in the sands way back there in 1579, and they want approval from the Santa Cruz City Council to dig for it May 1-10 under "an equitable fair share agreement."

Fascinated councilmen delayed a decision for two weeks to give the applicants a chance to attend a meeting and answer numerous questions about the project.

One of the questions is whether the true loot sought is television, motion picture and story revenues, rather than actual booty, and Councilman Bruce Van Allen said:

"I am concerned to make sure they are not planning to have an excavation fund-rais-

ing event. And I also want to know how deep they will go."

City Manager David Koester explained: "They seem to think they know precisely where the gold is buried and they say it is not very deep."

City Attorney Rodney Atchison explained that the city owns the beach, and that led Councilman Joseph Ghio to ask rhetorically: "Why should we give up anything?"

Councilman Bert Muhly said, "We don't want a circus," but he added considerable levity to the proceedings by stating: "I would like to know the parcel number."

According to a public letter from Hawkins and Fletcher, the cache is to be found on Parcel 3, Book 5, Page 34 of the Assessors Map, which translates to a specific parcel on Santa Cruz Beach.

Hawkins and Fletcher want 50 percent of the find plus 50 percent of television, motion picture and story rights. Ex-

penses would be shared for protection, storage and cataloging to safeguard the interests of all parties.

Sentinel

Thursday, March 29, 1979 — Santa Cruz —23



INFLATION BUSTERS!