

A Treasure Trove of Gold Under U.S. Missile Range

Santa Fe, N.M.

New Mexico Attorney General David Norvell said yesterday he believes there may be something to the story that billions of dollars worth of gold is buried on the White Sands Missile Range.

"There is satisfactory credible evidence that lends support to the proposition that there is at least some gold in the area," Norvell

said.

Norvell and lawyer F. Kee Bailey announced in Washington on Tuesday that a group represented by Bailey knows where gold worth up to \$225 billion is buried on the southern New Mexico missile range.

Governor Bruce King on Wednesday asked the Army for permission to send a small expedition onto the range to dig for it.

Norvell said the key evidence is a gold bar Bailey's clients delivered to the U.S. Treasury Department "which was assayed at 60 per cent gold and was cast 300 years ago!"

Norvell said that even the Army, which says the treasure doesn't exist, has admitted the existence of the gold bar.

"There is no reason to prefabricate this story to

me," Norvell said. "They're not trying to sell a bill of goods to me or con me. There's no question about that."

The earliest, dating back to the 1700s, is that Padre La Rue, a renegade priest, came to New Mexico in 1798 and operated a gold mine for several years. He supposedly amassed a huge quantity of gold before disappearing.

The second story, subscribed to by the late Milton (Doc) Noss, who claimed to have found the treasure in 1937, was that the Mexican Emperor Maximilian tried to ship a fortune in gold out of Mexico before his overthrow in 1867 but it was seized by bandits near El Paso, Tex.

The third legend is that the Apache chief Victorio, after whom Victorio peak in

southern New Mexico is named, buried huge amounts of loot his warriors had taken from Spanish and American settlers before his death in 1880.

Noss' widow, Ova Noss of Clovis, N.M., said her husband told her of finding Spanish gold bars, Spanish armor, crowns and other items in a tunnel in Victorio peak.

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