

Treasure Hunt on Army Range OK'd

Santa Fe, N.M.

The Army told Governor Bruce King yesterday that it will allow access to White Sands Missile Range for a search for the fabled Victorio Peak gold treasure.

King, Land Commissioner Alex Armijo and Attorney General David Norvell sent Army Secretary Howard Callaway a telegram last week requesting permission to go onto the missile range to search for millions of dollars of gold.

"Secretary Callaway is adamantly opposed to exploration for this purpose, but is committed to a program of permitting qualified applicants who claim to know the exact location of the treasure to enter WSMR under a 48-hour license and close supervision of the commanding general, WSMR, by a sequential entry procedure which is fair to all, for the purpose of locating the treasure," the Department of the Army said. "We are prepared to proceed with the program . . ."

Reports of a treasure valued from \$225 million to \$250 billion hidden on Victorio Peak in southern New Mexico have circulated for decades.

Interest in the treasure increased this month when Norvell appeared with attor-

ney F. Lee Bailey in Washington to say they were prepared to file suit to prevent the Army from searching for the treasure.

Although King has remained skeptical about the alleged treasure, he said he might personally travel to the missile range to look for it if he is presented some proof that it exists!

A representative of a group claiming to know the location of the treasure said he would present such evidence to the Governor in the form of a gold bar allegedly removed from the site of the treasure.

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