

Army Chief Refuses to Allow a Treasure Hunt

Santa Fe, N.M.

Secretary of the Army Howard Callaway yesterday denied a request to allow a group represented by attorney F. Lee Bailey to go onto White Sands Missile Range to recover a portion of the fabled Victorio Peak treasure.

Three New Mexico officials, Governor Bruce King, Attorney General David Norvell and Land Commissioner Alex Armijo, last week asked Callaway to grant the Bailey group permission to go onto the missile range for 12 hours to remove a portion of the treasure. The group claimed it knows the exact location of the trove.

Last week, the Bailey

group presented Governor King with a bar of gold said to have been removed from the treasure at an earlier date. The bar was to have been proof that the group knows the exact location of the treasure, and should be granted first access to it.

But state officials weren't satisfied with the gold bar, saying tests from the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory on a sample from it proved nothing.

"They have not established what they said they could, so now we're reconsidering them as just one of the many groups claiming the treasure," said Land Office attorney Oscar Jordar.

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