

Bailey Clients Tell of Missile Range Gold

LAS CRUCES, N.M., June 29 (AP)—A number of clients of F. Lee Bailey, the Boston lawyer, say that they have found a cache of gold bars worth millions of dollars in a cave on the White Sands Missile Range.

Wayne J. Smith, an associate of Mr. Bailey, said that the group of 35 to 40 persons wanted to sell the gold but first wanted the Government to determine whether it had been stolen.

The announcement stirred anew the tales told by a New Mexico prospector, E. M. Noss, who said that in 1937 he found a cave filled with gold bars stacked like cordwood.

He said that the cave had been blocked off by a dynamite charge that he set off to enlarge a tunnel.

The prospector was shot to death in 1949 after taking on several different partners in various attempts to dig a path to the sealed cavern.

Stories lived on about the Noss cave, situated on his claim in Hembrillo Canyon below Victoria Peak, on the southern part of what is now the White Sands range.

The discovery was touched on briefly Monday by John W. Dean 3d during his testimony before the Senate Watergate committee.

Mr. Dean said that former Attorney General John N. Mitchell discussed Mr. Bailey's case with the former White House chief of staff, H. R. Haldeman, last March 22.

Mr. Smith said that a sample of the metal had been analyzed by the Treasury Department and found to be 60 per cent gold.

At the current price, the 292 bars weighing 80 pounds each would be worth about \$26.5-million.

Mr. Smith said that Mr. Bailey had been referred to the Department of the Army and was awaiting a response to a June 11 letter.