

CIA
SF Examiner OCT 19 1975
Glomar in gold fuss

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — The Howard Hughes spy ship, Glomar Explorer, may have secretly snatched \$30 million in gold from a sunken Spanish galleon, a Southern California treasure seeker claims in a letter to the State Lands Commission.

Chuck Kenworthy, president of The Quest Corp. of Los Angeles, made the allegation against Hughes' firm, Summa Corp., and others involved in the Glomar venture.

Kenworthy announced last year that he had identified materials from the galleon that sank about 1590 after crashing on submerged rocks off Catalina Island.

His claims were confirmed by Stanford Research Institute scientists. He purchased exclusive exploration rights from the state last year.

Kenworthy said the Glomar conducted "sea trials" near the galleon site Aug. 30 using a huge underwater barge and other equipment designed originally to salvage a sunken Russian submarine near Hawaii in 1974.

Alan Scott, a state land agent, said Kenworthy's contract with the state specifies that California would get up to half of any treasure his company finds.

Scott said the state wrote to Glomar operators last month after the vessel was seen in the Catalina area.

Scott said a Summa official replied that the Glomar conducted only sea tests and did not engage in any salvage operation.