

#### Buried Treasure from a Spanish Galleon

Around 1750 a Spanish galleon was sailing north from a South American port. They were thought to have gold. They were pursued by pirate ships and the primitive U.S. Navy. [?!] The galleon reached the coastline of what is now Oregon. They ran into a storm and were blown ashore at Cape Foulweather which is the shores of Mount Neahkanie. Sailors were able to get ashore, and I've heard that they struggled to bring ashore treasures. The Indians which inhabited this area attacked, and they were all killed.

Stories that have been handed down around here say that there is a map of the whereabouts of the buried treasure. There are no authentic reasons for this map as far as I can see, but the directions I've heard go something like this. Travel one mile east of the beach at Neahkanie to an enormous fir tree, then two hundred yards south to a big rock. . . .

I've heard these stories since I've lived in this area. Every native is familiar with the legend. At first I didn't believe them, but now I do. My children are as familiar with the tales as I am, although their tales involve more superstitions. . . .

I do actually believe that there is a treasure. I know the area well. Neahkanie is easy to see from the ocean, and there is a lot of truth to the facts that ships can be caught in the southerly drift off the coast. I would even be tempted to dig for the treasure, but for some reason I never have. I think it's because I would rather think about it, and I don't want to be disappointed. (Recorded by Joanie Bayless in March 1973 from a second unnamed informant: Randall V. Mills Archive.)

#### An Indian Account

When I first came here 51 years ago [in 1843]. . . there was beeswax among the Indians from the Salmon River on the south to the Columbia River on the north. They did not know what it was, using it for lights and leaky canvas. They said it came from a wreck near the mouth of the Nehalem River. . . .

In talking with the Indians from that place often they would tell us of the wreck, and of the vessel that brought up the gold and silver coin, and carried it up Necanny Mountain, and would refer us to some very old Indians, who never came to Clatsop. . . . Solomon H. Smith and myself concluded we would go down and buy the drugs [from an 1848 wreck at the mouth of the Nehalem River] and find out what we could from the old Indians about the wax and money vessels. . . . All they could tell us was that long before they were born, the wax vessel was lost on the spit, and another anchored near the shore, and some people brought a chest up on Necanny Mountain and carried sacks of