

Biplane ready for duty

United Press International
ALBANY, N.Y. — If John Manis can get his propeller repaired in time, he plans to fly a replica World War I biplane from Albany to Pasadena, Calif., to use in mercy missions by a Christian pilots' group.

Manis, 55, of Houston, plans to stop in his hometown on the way to exhibit the one-seat Sebring A-5, a four-fifths replica of the World War I fighter, at an antique aircraft show.

The retired Navy pilot took the biplane on a test flight in Albany Tuesday afternoon, but the craft nearly flipped over on landing.

Just after he touched down on the bumpy, grassy airfield, the plane's right brake failed, causing it to veer to the left, Manis said. The biplane hit some tall brush and tipped forward onto its nose.

Manis was not hurt, and only the propeller was damaged.

Manis said the plane would be used by the Christian Pilots Association for mercy missions. The group, of which he is a member, last year flew hospital supplies from Texas to Mexico and Guatemala.



Battalion photo by Darwin Anderson

Even if it takes forever

"I'm gonna get my tickets if I have to stay out here all night... and all night it took for Bill Blue of Dallas, as hundreds of Aggies camped out last weekend outside of G. Rollie White Coliseum for tickets to the Saturday Texas

A&M-Houston game in Houston. Blue was second in line, but being one of the first in line did not guarantee him good seats. He ended up on rows three and four in the Pavillon section of the Astrodome.

Lady finds prince

Amateur archaeologist discovers Celtic royalty remains

United Press International
STUTTGART, West Germany — An amateur archeologist has discovered the 2,500-year-old grave of a Celtic prince, the first such grave found fully preserved in West Germany.

Amateur archaeologist and housewife Renate Leibfried, 44, turned up what one West German expert called "a find of the century" — the grave of the prince complete with original burial ornaments — while digging near Ludwigsburg, six miles north of Stuttgart.

An Etruscan bronze kettle, a four-wheeled cart, gold jewelry and a 9.8-foot-long bronze coffin were among the treasures found in the burial monument.

Archaeologists from the State Office of Monuments in the West German province of Baden-Wurttemberg kept the find secret until Wednesday, when the news was announced.

The experts said the find will enable archaeologists to piece together new knowledge of Celtic life and burial customs. They also said some

of the objects found suggested strong links between the Celtic and Mediterranean peoples.

The boat-shaped coffin contained the body of a Celtic prince adorned with a gold neck choker, a golden belt, leather sandals and a dagger also decorated with gold.

Next to the head of the prince lay an iron horn with gold decoration.

The archaeologists said preliminary analysis suggested the prince died around 500 B.C. at the age of 40. They said he was about 6 feet tall, unusually tall for those times.

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A&M prof 'digs' site Mayan center found

The French have a saying: "The more things change, the more they stay the same."

Anthropologists from three universities are finding that adage to be true in the rain forest jungles of Belize. Their research has discovered evidence of a civilized Mayan center which specialized in stone tool craftsmanship and remained virtually unchanged for 1,800 years until A.D. 800.

The project, co-directed by Dr. Harry Shafer of Texas A&M University and Dr. Thomas Hester of the University of Texas at San Antonio, also involves anthropologists from Italy and the University of California at Berkeley.

"We have every reason to believe we are on the threshold of one of the most important Mayan sites ever found," said Shafer. "The data we're collecting will provide insight into an aspect of Mayan society the world knows little about: the middle class."

The site covers 3.5 square miles in Belize (formerly British Honduras) and has been described by archaeological experts as "one of the most important lithic (stone) sites in the world."

"The remains these Indians left behind were all stone," Shafer said. "We're able to get a more complete picture of their lives simply because the material hasn't rotted away."

"That's one of the big problems with any Mayan archaeology," he said. "The rain forest does a pretty good job of decomposing anything that's left in it."

So far, anthropologists have uncovered more than 1,000 stone chips and pieces of tools, Shafer noted.

"Of course, there are a lot of questions we want to have answered through our research," Shafer stressed. "We want to know if the area was a Mayan craft center from the very beginning, or if it evolved that way."

"We also want to know if they were specialized in producing flint tools and if they exported any of

their work," he added. "And if they did export any tools, we want to discover what they received in trade."

A project of this size takes a lot of time, money and people to come up with all the answers. Besides the data collected, Shafer will eventually serve as part of Texas A&M's graduate field school.

"The Mayans were a bunch of perfectionists," Shafer said. "They threw away things they could have used, but didn't."

"That's why there is a lot of material left for us to uncover," he said. "The chipped, broken or imperfect pieces they threw away are like pieces of a puzzle to us."

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