

## Report claims psychics aid in artifact find

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — A report released Friday said the Palace Complex of Cleopatra, the Palace of Marc Anthony and materials from the Lighthouse of Pharos had been discovered by a research team in the waters of the eastern harbor of Alexandria, Egypt.

The discoveries were made through an underwater archeological survey by the Mobius Group, a Los Angeles based research organization which relied on 11 psychics to help pinpoint the location of the antiquities.

A paper on the discovery was presented Friday to the Eighth Annual Underwater Archaeological Conference by Stephan A. Schwartz, the Mobius project director who co-authored the paper. The conference met this week in Albuquerque.

Schwartz said the discovery was "the mere tip of the iceberg in terms of what must still lie beneath" in the harbor of the city, founded in 531 by Alexander the Great.

The other co-author, Professor

Mieczyslaw Rodziewicz of the University of Warsaw, said the discovery was "of the highest importance."

"I, as an archaeologist would classify it higher than the discovery even of the tomb of Alexander the Great," Rodziewicz said.

Schwartz said the antiquities were discovered in an area which had once been above ground and constituted the shoreline of Alexandria. He said over the centuries, the area had subsided and the buildings became covered with water.

"Despite the fact that those were enormous and well known buildings, their whereabouts was unknown to us," he said.

Previous efforts to locate the buildings through more traditional efforts had been unsuccessful, he said. One problem in searching the harbor was that the waters were so murky it was like "swimming in minestrone soup," Schwartz said.

The Mobius group began its research in November 1978 and along with more traditional underwater search methods, requested the

assistance of 11 psychics. The psychics were given maps of the harbor and asked separately pinpoint locations of the items sought in the search.

Schwartz declined to identify 11 psychics, all of whom he said had been "tested" previously and found to be at least 50 percent accurate in their predictions.

Schwartz said the responses of the psychics were then examined for areas of agreement, and searches were concentrated in those areas.

In addition to the two palaces and the lighthouse — one of the seven wonders of the classical world — the underwater diving teams found the Temple Complex of Isis Pharia, goddess of the Egyptian trinity. Also discovered underwater was a small stone sphinx, blocks from a large temple complex, a cluster of bead-like stones, a large crown from a statue and other objects.

Schwartz said the diving team was also able to determine what had been the shoreline of the harbor before the area began subsiding.

## Texas-style skiing has no snow

HOUSTON — The snow is a black polyethylene carpet, the temperature hovers around 50 degrees, the drop is only 50 feet and the view — a freeway — is less than spectacular.

But promoters of The Mountain argue the creation of modern petrochemical technology and earthmoving machines makes it possible to ski even in flat, humid, snowless Houston.

It is a 50-foot-high manmade mound of dirt, one slope of which is covered with a black, tufted polyethylene carpet called Duranow that, when wet, skis sort of like the real thing.

The Mountain's 300-foot-long, 60-foot-wide slope can accommodate up to 100 skiers at a time. There is a shorter, less steep "bunny slope" for the less experienced.

Steve Gladson, president of City Sports Management Corp., said the idea for the ski center developed after the mound of waste dirt started accumulating two years ago on a lot at the interchange of Loop 610 and U.S. 59.

"We weren't sure what we were going to do with the area and we looked at a lot of ideas," he said. "There has always been a problem

with seasons in the entertainment field. This gives people something to do in the winter."

Gladson said City Sports has between \$175,000 and \$225,000 invested in dirt alone. He said the whole facility so far has cost \$1.2 million and he expects to spend \$200,000 more.

There is a ski lodge at the foot of the hill where customers purchase their tickets. Tickets are \$10 to \$15, depending on the time of day and week. Season passes are \$200, or \$350 for a family.

Lesson packages range from a one-hour group lesson at \$22.50 to a \$175 group package that includes six one-hour lessons, one semi-private lesson and three recreational coupons. Private lessons are \$30 per hour.

In addition, everyone must purchase a \$5 a year "Mountaineer" or membership card.

"If you have the urge to go skiing and can't this is satisfying," said Easy Thayer, an officer of the Space City Ski Club.

Another member differed. "It's probably the best place around here you can learn," said Y. Libergot, "but it's no substitute. What this does give you is a feeling of confidence, a feel of elevation.

"Almost anyone can learn to ski, but you have to be able to handle looking down the slope. This is a great confidence builder and it's entertaining."

"You've got to take it for what it is," Thayer said. "It's much better than learning on a moving carpet a common training method in non-snow areas. For Houston, this is entertaining."

"It's much better than not learning. Officials said one advantage of Mountain is it can be used to teach faded skills in preparation for a ski in real mountains covered with real snow."

But they caution enthusiasts wear long pants, long sleeves and gloves because falls on Duranow can result in skid burns.

## Passengers accuse airline of hijack

BROWNSVILLE — It could have been the shortest hijacking in history, but standoff between airplane passengers and Texas International Airlines officials was solved by the intervention of rental cars.

The situation developed Wednesday evening, according to local TIA station manager Dave Schwartz, when passengers from Dallas touched down at Brownsville, 60 miles short of their original destination of McAllen.

Schwartz said the decision to divert the passengers to Brownsville was made during a stop at Houston, where the passengers experienced a 1½ hour delay because another passenger became ill and had to be removed by ambulance. He said the passengers were told of the flight

juggling before the plane landed in Houston.

However, Schwartz said about a dozen passengers refused to board a bus to transport them to McAllen.

Police officer Rodney Huff said passengers refused to leave the grounds "they had purchased tickets — not bus tickets."

Huff said more than 30 minutes of discussion led to an agreement whereby TIA furnished rental cars to carry the passengers to McAllen.

Huff said in his report on the incident that the passengers filed charges with the Brownsville terminal manager to him to call the FBI and see if the plane could be grounded because "they were hijacked" to Brownsville.

## Value of dollar halved in the 'inflation decade'

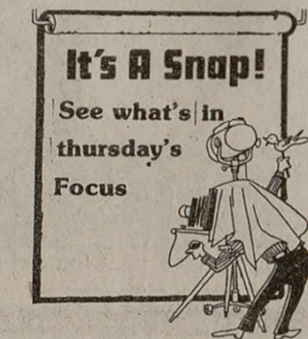
WASHINGTON — A 1970 dollar was worth exactly 50 cents at the end

of the 1970's, the "inflation decade," says an economist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The effect of such a decline in the value of the dollar is like throwing away half the dollar in your wallet or giving away half your savings, said Dr. James Clifton, chief director of the chamber's Economic Action Center.

In fact, the small size and lack of luster of the Susan B. Anthony dollar, compared to the old fashion silver dollar, is a good reflection of what inflation did to the real value of the dollar in the 1970's, Clifton said.

He calculated a dollar in 1970 was worth exactly 50 cents at the end of the decade. He called the "inflation decade."



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