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A KEY TO WORLD AVIATION HISTORY LIES BURIED NEAR PATRICK'S COVE

By JACK FITZGERALD

A secret undisclosed for the past forty-eight years may lie hidden below approximately 10 feet of water in a small lake six miles, East-south east of Patrick's Cove.

In 1921 a small blue and white aircraft named "The White Bird" set out from France with two pilots on board in the first attempted east-west crossing of the Atlantic.

Nothing has been heard of the two men or their aircraft since that time. It was a general feeling in France during that year that the aircraft crashed at sea during a heavy storm killing both pilots on board.

Trouble

However, on the day following the take-off of the "White Bird" the engines of a plane were heard flying over the Patrick's Cover area of Placentia Bay. Suddenly the engines stopped. It was a stormy day, visibility was nil and people only possessed a limited knowledge rick's Cove) discovered the under

sticking up out of the pond. Before they had the opportunity of examining the structure, when the ice began to break up, the item sunk into the water.

There the matter ended until seven years later when a well known guide, hunter and trapper, James J. Doyle and his companion Patrick Judge (who still resides at Pating at Colinet.

Time Yet

Mr. McGrath told the Herald that even at this late date it would not be to late to investigate the pond and determine once and for all if this plane lying at the bottom is the "White Bird".

The "White Bird" is reported to have been a blue and white plane. Blue and white are also the same colors of the plane carriage discovered by the two trappers.

Skeletons

If Mr. McGrath's theory is right then the first east west crossing

A search of the pond now known as Big Gull Pond could result in the discovery of information of great significance to world aviation history. The pond is located about six miles from Patrick's Cove.

merly of Patrick's Cove now resid- the bottom of the lake entombing it's[sic] two pilots.

> tempt is to be made to find the A boat combing the pond with plane and the skeletons of the sonar equipment would easitwo piilots thereby effecting a ly detect the exact spot where change in world aviation histo- the plane lies. The find, he said ry, sonar equipment should be could make world headlines. used.

Sonar

He said the pond in its deep-He suggested that if an at- est part is only 10 feet down.

A resident of the area pointed out that in spite of the incident being brought to the attention of government authorities in the 1920's nothing was ever done about it. He suggests that the screening of the pond with Sonar devices could turn up the important information which could make headlines around the world.

of aircraft in those aviation carriage of what was identified as pioneering days.

No move was made to check into the possibility of the plane having crashed, simply because that possibility had not entered the minds of anyone in the community.

Discovered

A couple of weeks after the incident some residents venturing six miles into the woods to a pond now known as "Big Gull Pond" and saw what they believed to be part of a plane belonging to a plane.

Nothing!

This information was sent on to government representatives at the time. But, again nothing was done about the incident. In those days according to one resident people were not so concerned with search parties, and history as they are now, because it was such a struggle to keep body and bones together.

This information was given the Herald in an exclusive interview this week by John McGrath for-

of the Atlantic was made by these two French pilots Nungesser and Cole[sic] whose skeltons[sic] should be located at the bottom of Gull Pond.

Another resident of the area told the Herald that man residents of the community can verify the story of a plane having gone down in Big Gull Pond" in 1921[sic] and of the events following the incident.

Bottom

They point out that since no attempt has ever been made to recover the plane, it still lies at