



Associated Press Wirephoto

Santa Maria Temporarily 'Becalmed' in New York

A reproduction of the Santa Maria, Columbus's flagship, is shown on a flat-bed trailer in Queens, N.Y., en route to her mooring at the New York World's Fair. After bucking heavy traffic, the Santa Maria hove to in a parking lot, 'becalmed' in a sea of soft asphalt. Story of Santa Maria's 'dry run' through Queens: Page 3

Santa Maria 'Becalmed' In N.Y. Tar

By the Associated Press

New York

In 1492 when Columbus sailed the ocean blue, times were hard but problems were simple—rough weather, uncharted courses, and mutiny.

Well, at least they were relatively simple as compared to navigating the streets of New York in Sunday traffic.

Early Sunday, a reproduction of the Santa Maria, Columbus's flagship, set out from Flushing on a five-mile journey through the Borough of Queens.

Aided and abetted by 99 assorted experts (11 more than Columbus's reluctant heroes) it made port—a parking lot on the World's Fair grounds—by late afternoon.

But there, alas, it became becalmed in soft asphalt, and there the 90-foot, 100-ton ship must lay to for a week. Next Sunday, it will try to make the remaining two miles to its berth. It is hoped, fervently, that traffic will be lighter.

Costs Have Gone Up

The Santa Maria, 38 feet tall and 25 feet wide, was built in Spain. It crossed the Atlantic aboard a steamship, then took a barge from Hoboken to Flushing.

With a plastic statue of Columbus crouched in the bow, the ship was loaded aboard a flat-bed truck and put to pavement, armed with 14 special city permits and \$7.5 million worth of insurance. Columbus brought three ships across the Atlantic for \$17,500.

Surrounded by electricians, tree surgeons, truck drivers, house movers, and a fleet of police cars, red lights flashing, the voyage began.

Out front marched a big policeman bellowing into a bull horn:

"The Santa Maria is coming. The Santa Maria is coming."

It was, in the words of an awed spectator, "the biggest thing that ever happened to Queens."

Cameras Clicked

Children ran alongside, laughing and dancing. Adults hung out of apartment windows. Innumerable cameras clicked. A mischievous little brown dog got into the act, dodging in and out between the wheels of the big truck.

The Santa Maria's escorts, armed with power saws, cut their way through tree limbs; lopped the tops off telephone poles; swung street lights out of the way.

As the ship was maneuvered through a narrow street, a man asked police Sgt. Andrew M. Mihalick what was going on.

"It's the Santa Maria," said Sergeant Mihalick.

The man stared and said:

"You mean it's still afloat?"

A Nation Divided

Vietnam has been divided politically since the Vietnamese succeeded in ousting the French, who maintained a protectorate from the end of the 19th century to the middle of the 20th.