

# Leather Boat Crosses Ocean, Challenges Columbus, Ericson

By ROBERT C. RADCLIFFE  
National Geographic News  
Christopher Columbus and Lief Ericson may have to move to the back of the boat. Now it looks as if a 6th-century Irish monk was the first to cross the Atlantic and set foot on the New World.

That theory, floating around for years, may have been shoved onto dry land at last, thanks to four men who completed the crossing just as the old Irish legend claimed — in a skin boat.

Timothy Severin, who conceived the voyage, sailed his 36-foot leather curragh from County Kerry in western Ireland to Newfoundland along the route that scholars say St. Brendan supposedly followed about 1,400 years ago.

Greeted by Crowd  
"We are back in the 20th century," grinned Severin as his boat, named after the famous seafaring missionary, was towed through the shoals off the fishing village of Musgrave Harbor on Newfoundland's northern coast.

The Newfies, as they call themselves, had followed the voyage almost from the start, and they were crowding the pier, cheering, at the finish.

Severin, a 36-year-old English historian and student of the history of exploration, will write about his voyage for the National Geographic and Reader's Digest Press, which helped support the trip.

The voyage began in 1976, the Brendan putting out to sea on May 17—the day after St. Brendan's Day. She sailed from a miniature fiord called Brandon Creek on Brandon Head, the first of a number of place names recalling the adventurous saint that the 20th-century voyagers were to find along the route.

After a two-month sail to Iceland, with stops in the islands of the Hebrides and Faeroes, they overwintered in Iceland, leaving Reykjavik May 7.

Exactly 50 days later the Brendan made her North American landfall, nearing place names that recall the early days of exploration along the coast: New World Island, Cabot Island, named after John Cabot, and even an island community named St. Brendan.

Near Viking Settlement  
On Newfoundland's northern tip lies the New World's only known Viking settlement, L'Anse au Meadow, excavated with National Geographic Society help in the early 1960s.

The voyage of the 20th-century Brendan ended when sailing master George Molony, 28, of Woking, England, waded ashore, pulling the Brendan by her painter.

Severin, as master of the craft, stayed aboard, and was still sitting by the steering oar when waiting newsmen on a Canadian coast guard boat began shouting their first questions to him.

What does it all prove?  
"That a medieval boat can actually get across the Atlantic by a very cold and difficult route. And what we experienced is just too much like St. Brendan's account to be a coincidence," Severin said.

The voyages of St. Brendan and the early Irish missionaries were described in an early Celtic book, the

"Navigatio Sancti Brendani Abbatis," which became one of the world's first best sellers.

"I think now that all is left us is to find some concrete evidence, some relic," said Severin. "Now there is every reason to look."

So far, unlike the Viking settlements, no archeological trace has been found of the Irish in North America.

Troubled by Winds  
The modern voyage was bedeviled by contrary winds that sometimes drove the Brendan in circles because, with her two square-rigged sails, she could not sail into the wind.

Severin said his biggest fright on the voyage came one rough night as he stood watch and a huge wave washed over the entire boat, the water swirling up to his chest.

"I thought, my God, we're a submarine," Severin recalled.

Only air trapped beneath the foul weather tarps covering the open boat prevented her from possibly going under.

Off the coast of Labrador, pack ice punctured the leather bow, but after a night of bailing, the crew patched and sewed her until she was seaworthy again.

According to Severin, a wooden-hulled ship would have been crushed by the ice.

The 36-foot Brendan has a sturdy oak frame covered by 42 ox hides, sewn together and waterproofed by an ancient concoction of cod oil, wool grease, and tallow. She was so watertight that water leaked in at the rate of only eight gallons a day, which was easily bailed.

On the slow and often monotonous voyage, the crew tried fishing, without too much luck, and caught seagulls for the cooking pot. Several birds hung lifelessly over the stern as she arrived in the harbor.

One day Severin was wakened from a nap by the sound of the sea rushing by the hull. He discovered that the Brendan was being towed by a 15-foot pilot whale harpooned—briefly—with the idea of adding fresh red meat to the voyagers' diet of ship's stores.

The whale had been harpooned by Trondur Patursson, 33, from the Faeroes, a sometime fisherman and whaler turned artist. Curious whales often sounded within yards of the Brendan.

Whale Recalls Legend  
According to one of the legends of St. Brendan's voyages, the missionaries once supposedly beached on a small island where they built a cooking fire, only to have the island lurch into life and disappear. It was a huge whale.

The fourth crew member of the Brendan, Arthur Magan, 25, of Dublin, Ireland, also has been a commercial fisherman.

Severin will truck the Brendan to Boston soon for controlled sailing and rowing tests of the unusual vessel, a faithful copy of 6th-century currachs.

The Brendan ended her voyage as Newfoundland observed a special holiday.

Newfoundland coastguardsman Bill Ryan put it this way: "June 24, 1497, was when John Cabot discovered Newfoundland—but now we find that St. Brendan was here first."



These Christmas stockings were entered in the Christmas Stocking Contest held last Thursday in the Home Economics Extension Office of Warrenton. (Staff Photo)

## Stocking Contest Set

The Christmas Stocking Contest for Warren County Extension Homemakers was held Thursday, Sept. 22, in the Home Economics Extension Office.

Six stockings were entered in the contest. The top three will be judged at the state level.

The state judging committee will select one Christmas stocking per county to be exhibited at the Southern Christmas Show in Charlotte, from November 5-13.

The three county winners will each receive two tickets to the Christmas show.

The contestants were Mrs.

Gracie Burton, of the Macon Extension Homemakers Club; Mrs. Clarence Kearney of the Snow Hill Club; Mrs. Magnolia Alston of the Ridgeway Club; Mrs. Willie Williams of the Ridgeway Club; Mrs. Thelma B. Howard of the Olive Grove Club; and Mrs. Helen Rooker of the Zion Club.



GRANITE MEMORIALS...Each time a family member died, Col. Henry C. Woodridge erected a full-sized granite statue over the grave at Maplewood Cemetery, Mayfield, Kentucky. Woodridge accumulated a fortune as a horse and mule trader. His fame—and family,—are remembered in the cemetery.

### HENDERSON'S Golden Belt

# FAIR

ALL NEXT WEEK

OCTOBER 3-8, 1977

Rides ★ Amusements

Wednesday and Thursday will be

## SCHOOL DAYS

Children of Warren County will be

Admitted Free Both Days & Nights

Rides Reduced until 6 School Days

FUN FOR EVERYONE!

# SAVE-WAY

**U.S.D.A. CHOICE ROUND Steak** FULL CUT LB. **\$1.19**

**U.S.D.A. CHOICE TOP ROUND STEAK** . LB. **\$1.49**

**U.S.D.A. CHOICE ROUND ROAST** . BONELESS LB. **\$1.29**

**U.S.D.A. CHOICE RUMP or SIRLOIN TIP ROAST** BONELESS . . . LB. **\$1.49**

JUNE DAISY OLD CHEESE . LB. <b>\$1.09</b>	SMITHFIELD BACON . LB. PKG. <b>\$1.20</b>	HI-LINER FISH STICKS . LB. PKG. <b>69¢</b>	BALL PARK FRANKS . LB. <b>\$1.00</b>	RICHFOOD BOLOGNA . LB. PKG. <b>99¢</b>	H.F.P. BEEF PATTIES . 3 LB. BOX <b>\$2.59</b>	H.F.P. CHUCK WAGON STEAKS . 3 LB. BOX <b>\$2.59</b>	OYSTERS HERE!
---	---	--	--------------------------------------	--	---	---	---------------

**DANDEE BREAD** 4 1-LB. LOAVES **\$1.00**

**HOT DOG ROLLS** . . . . 3 PKGS. **\$1.00**

**HAMBURGER BUNS** . . . 3 PKGS. **\$1.00**

**BROWN & SERVE ROLLS** 3 PKGS. **\$1.00**

**DANDEE POTTED MEAT** 5 3-OZ. CANS **\$1.00**

**LIBBY'S VIENNA SAUSAGES** 3 5-OZ. CANS **\$1.00**

**MERITA**

CINNAMON ROLLS . . . . . 1 Per Pkg. **69¢**

PECAN ROLLS . . . . . 1 Per Pkg. **79¢**

CINNAMON COFFEE ROLLS . . . . . 1 Per Pkg. **79¢**

GOLDEN CIRCLE WHITE BREAD . . . . . 16-OZ. **69¢**

2 LAYER COCONUT LAYER CAKES . . . . . \$1.09

JELLY LAYER . . . . . \$1.09

6 LAYER CHOCOLATE . . . . . \$1.49

BROWN & SERVE FRENCH STICKS . . . 6 Per Pkg. **59¢**

24 COOKED BISCUITS . . . . . 79¢

ENGLISH MUFFINS . . . . . 6 Per Pkg. **59¢**

AUTUMN GRAIN WHEAT BREAD . . . . . 16-OZ. **69¢**

**FRESH EVERYDAY KRISPY KREME DONUTS** DOZEN BOX **99¢**

**DOLLY MADISON ALL NATURAL ICE CREAM** . . . 1/2 GAL. **\$1.49**

**PINE STATE ICE MILK BARS OR FUDGESICLES** . 12'S BOX **59¢**

**DIXIE CLASSIC ICE MILK** . . . . . 1/2 GAL. **69¢**

**HR PORTABLE 'STEAM' CARPET CLEANING SYSTEM**

**STP Performance Partners**

**MOTOR OIL** . . . QT. **89¢**

**GAS TREATMENT** **99¢**

**OIL TREATMENT** **89¢**

**CARBURETOR CLEANER** . **69¢**

Families **FED FOR LESS** Here!

PRICES IN THIS AD GOOD THROUGH MIDNIGHT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

**RICHFOOD MEAT OR BEEF BOLOGNA** . . . . . 12-OZ. PKG. **79¢**

**JESSE JONES MEAT OR MORE WIENERS** . . . . . 12-OZ. **59¢** **99¢**

**JESSE JONES MEAT OR MORE BOLOGNA** . . . . . 12-OZ. PKG. **59¢**

**PEPSI-COLA** 8 16 OZ. BOTS. **89¢**

**RICHFOOD MUSTARD** . . . . . 9-OZ. JAR **9¢**

**EGGS** DOZEN IN CARTON **59¢**

**DAIRY Specials**

**MRS. FILBERT'S MARGARINE** . 2 1-LB. PKGS. **\$1.00**

**RICHFOOD AMERICAN SINGLE SLICED CHEESE** . . . . . 16-OZ. (20 SLICES) **\$1.29**

**FREEZER Specials**

**DOWNYFLAKE WAFFLES** . . . . . 12-OZ. **49¢**

**PET WHIP TOPPING** . . . . . 10-OZ. CUP **49¢**

**PET RITZ DEEP DISH PIE SHELLS** . . . . . PKG. **59¢**

**RICHFOOD FRENCH FRIES** . 22-OZ. BAG **59¢**

**PRODUCE Specials**

**TOMATOES** . . . . . LB. **39¢**

**N.C. GROWN SWEET POTATOES** 5 LB. **\$1.00**

**GARDEN FRESH CUKES** . . . . . EACH **10¢**

**RED OR GOLDEN DELICIOUS APPLES** . . . . . 3-LB. BAG **69¢**

**CALIFORNIA WHITE SEEDLESS GRAPES** . . . . . LB. **69¢**

### Cash Reward

offered for information leading to the conviction of person or persons taking part in recent desecration of the Jones Family Cemetery in which Anne Carter Lee is buried. All information will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Telephone 257-3713. W. Duke Jones.

### BULK LINE & FERTILIZER

**FCX FARM & GARDEN**

"Our business is Growing!"

### Warren FCX Service

Warrenton, N.C.

### Dies On Birthday

William Shakespeare died on his birthday at the age of 51.

**when it's TIME TO ACT**

**Think of JACK HARRIS & AL FLEMING**

Far off places can be your retirement dream. Drop in and let us show you how a Life Insurance program can provide you with a good retirement income.

Attend Church On Sunday

**Citizens INSURANCE & BONDING CO. INC.**

257-3128

**SAVE-WAY**

YES, AT SAVE-WAY WE STILL BAG and CARRY!

Plenty Free Parking Well Lighted Parking Lot

We Accept Food Stamps WE ACCEPT W.I.C. COUPONS QUANTITY RIGHTS RESERVED OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 'TIL MIDNIGHT