

# Billy Arthur. Columbus... His Day

Wonder what Christopher Columbus, now safe in his heavenly villa on the Via St. Peter, thinks of having discovered America?

Wonder, too, as he bobs in his celestial rocker, if he doesn't get the fidgets looking down on hula hoops, endurance talkers, drag racers, and the chemise?

Of course, historians say the Vikings were the first to reach the North American mainland, which actually was named for another Italian, Amerigo Vespucci, who arrived on it four years after Columbus did.

As they stroll in the Elysian meadows, Amerigo and Christopher probably are sore in spirit at the outcome of their so-called fleshly triumph. Doubtless they're thinking about the success of still another Italian who came along years later and discovered Ingrid Bergman.

Surely Columbus must feel badly about seeing 40,000 and 50,000 people joyously shouting in stadiums because some young lay figure has battled or carried a leather sphere 300 feet. In 1492 there wasn't a soul on the beach to shake Columbus' hand, interview him, take his picture and carry him off on shoulders.

And another pointed out that Columbus' discovering America cost him only a few bucks, but he didn't have to live in it afterward.

North Carolina's poet laureate, James Larkin Pearson, pointed out, however, that if "Christopher had not discovered America, somebody else would. As big a thing as America couldn't have remained lost forever. It made no effort to get away.

"Columbus has been given too much honor, just as if he had done something very hard to do, like finding a needle in a haystack, or a Democrat that didn't want office. What he did was nothing like that. He started sailing west, and all he had to do was just sit steady in the boat and come on. Here was America stretched out right across his path for five or six thousands miles, and even if he had come with his eyes shut, he was bound to hit it someplace. He couldn't have missed it. Anybody could have done that."

In 1492 everybody wanted to find a short route to the East Indies for gold, gems, drugs and spices. Nobody suspected that America existed and had them. And it may have been better if they'd never found us.

Columbus liked to travel. In the summer of 1492 he arrived in Spain both on his feet and posterior. But he politticked ole Queen Isabella and she put him on the government payroll so he could travel all he wanted to. Like John Foster Dulles.

Back then, however, not many people dared venture far from the sight of land. They believed the world was flat and if they went far enough they'd fall off. Columbus believed the world was round. Little did he know how flat it would be almost 500 years later.

He said the way to get to the east was to sail west. Everybody else said he should see a psychiatrist. That, they said, was like telling people to buy more things and spend more money, and that way everybody would prosper. Didn't make sense to them either.

When he finally disembarked on the New World, he brought greetings from Queen Isabella. And that's the last thing we ever got free from Europe.

For hundreds of years the shipping lanes became one way streets west—till we started asking for interest on our money.

Columbus made several trips over. On the first he left some Spanish colonists. On the second he found the colonists fighting the Indians. On the third he found true American progress was being made—the colonists were fighting among themselves.

After Columbus and the Spaniards came the English. Then the Scotch-Irish came over and put the country on a paying basis.

But it's lucky Columbus discovered America when he did. Had he waited until 1958, he would have been so besieged with chamber of commerce invitations to discover it at Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Norfolk, Wilmington, Charleston, and Miami that the chances are he would have become perplexed and turned back without discovering it at all.

## Employment Workers Needed

The Employment Security Commission of North Wilkesboro is interested in interviewing one or two applicants who would be available for part-time work in Boone, N. C., as Intermittent Interviewer 1.

Applicants would have to pass the Merit System Examination which is given in North Wilkesboro.

Minimum qualifications: Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university. (Paid employment in work involving public contact activities in the fields of unemployment insurance, person-

## Garden Notes

By M. E. GARDNER  
If you are interested in the preservation of flowers and saving "everything except the scent," you should read an article in the September issue of the National Geo-

nel administration, vocational education, accounting or in a related field, may be substituted for the required college training on a year for year basis).

Applicants interested in this work should contact Troy L. Perry, Manager, Employment Security Commission, P. O. Box 390, North Wilkesboro, N. C.

graphic Magazine. The article was written by Mrs. General Condon and is entitled "Blossoms That Defy the Seasons." Mrs. Condon lives in Utah and has conducted experiments for six years using sand from the shores of the Great Salt Lake.

Of course, my wife read the story and wanted to know right away about using our beach sand for this purpose. I told her I didn't think it would work because the character of the sands were so distinctly different. Really my motive was completely ulterior because I had reports that the fishing was

good and I hoped that, if I resisted a little, she would be more determined to go down and get some sand. It worked. We brought back a goodly supply of wind blown sand so she can do some experimenting of her own. The fishing was tolerably good.

Watch out for the cabbage webworm because it can be a serious pest on such fall vegetables as cabbage, collards, turnips, mustard, beets and radish. The damage is done by the caterpillars. They are about 5-8 of an inch in length and a dull grayish-yellow color, marked along the back with five brownish-purple longitudinal stripes.

For control, use Toxaphene on cabbage but be careful not to ap-

ply within seven days of harvest. Do not use Toxaphene on collards after any of the edible leaves have formed. Methoxychlor may be used on cabbage up to seven days before

harvest and on collards and turnip greens up to 14 days before harvest.

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