

POETRY COUNCIL TO OPEN APRIL 1

Five contests for the Poetry Council of North Carolina, Incorporated, which has for its aim discovering and encouraging writing talent, will open on April 1, 1980, and will close on June 15, 1980. The contest categories include the Oscar Arnold Young Memorial Contest for the best book of poetry with more than twenty pages, published in 1979 by a writer who is, or has been, a resident of North Carolina; the Charles A. Shull Contest for any traditional form, except the sonnet, and limited to twenty-four lines; The James Larkin Pearson Contest for free verse and experimental forms and limited to twenty-two lines; The Archibald Rutledge Contest for only sonnet entries, of either Shakespearean or Italian forms; The Virginia Dare Contest for writers aged twelve to eighteen, with any verse form, preferably traditional, and limited to twenty-four

lines. Each year prizes amounting to approximately six hundred dollars are awarded winners on Poetry Day, held annually in Asheville during the color season in October. This year Poetry Day will be an all-day celebration at the Sheraton Motor Inn on Woodfin Street on October 18.

The winner of the Young contest for a book of original poems receives a check for one hundred dollars and a large cup to be engraved with the winner's name and to be kept one year.

Winners in the Shull, Pearson, Rutledge, and Dare contests receive for first prize fifty dollars, second prize twenty-five dollars, and third prize fifteen dollars. Those winning places of Honorable Mention in each of the four contests will be given a book of poetry. Eleven other winners

In each contest will receive Certificates of Award.

A contestant may enter only one poem in any contest. If the writer submits a poem in a second contest, he must send a different poem. Poems must be original, previously unpublished, and not offered at the time to any other contest or publication. Contestants should avoid using bizarre language and pornographic words or images. Each poem submitted will be accompanied by \$1.00 to help defray printing and mailing costs.

For further contest information and rules, the writer should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the contest chairman:

Miss Carolyn Kimzey
Route 1
Horse Shoe, N.C. 28742

or to the president,
Mrs. Carl Dan Killian, Sr.
Drawer AJ
Cullowhee, N.C. 28723

While Europe has fewer than 100 tree species, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park has about 150.

NEWS ★ NEWS ★ NEWS ★ N

Attitudes — Shaping the Future

By Melvin Wolfe
Sharpsburg Joyner

Over the last several years, a major change in attitudes has prevailed which has, in the opinion of this writer, had a devastating and doomsday effect on the future of this country. America has always been a land of opportunity and the place where innovativeness is rewarded. Somewhere along the road we have deviated and our system rewards the unproductive through countless social programs and penalizes the productive element through increased regulations and higher taxes. The percentage of workers on government payrolls has increased rapidly with the incentive of securing a place where one can advance and be recognized. This advancement is at the expense of the over-burdened taxpayer.

The prevailing attitude is for government to do something about any and all of our problems. It is time for us to wake up and realize that government is not a panacea for our problems. In a democratic society government has certain responsibilities to maintain a proper balance in our economy. Few of us, if any, really understand the factors which have impaired our lives and caused this erosion in our standard of living. The social implications of spreading the wealth over large masses of people have redirected our emphasis toward

building dynasties layer upon layer. 1980 is an election year and an opportunity for millions of Americans to seek out those candidates who will do the best job for our country. Those candidates who speak of the free enterprise system and getting back to the basic supply - demand determinants which are supposed to set price in a free society. Too much government regulation and intervention is taking place today and it is time for the middle class taxpayer to stand up and be recognized in proportion to his contribution toward keeping this country moving.

What happens when we all become a part of the system and free enterprise as we know it today, ceases to exist? The example of Great Britain is at hand and we don't want to model our system after theirs.

We are still "America", the land of opportunity; however, to remain a viable capitalistic system, people must get involved to the extent of requiring their representatives in elected offices to be responsive to the things that best serve this country as a whole and less toward special interests.

Attitudes make the difference and we can do something about the way things are. Let's get going.

AMERICA'S PHYSICAL BIRTH came much later than that of the other continents. The recession of the Great Ice Age left behind it a vast new territory which today comprises sixteen million square miles. When man first set foot on American soil, he was already fully developed in the physical sense, not just the sub-man of evolution. Europe, not America say the authorities, was the nursery for physically-developing mankind, and archeological disclosures fully support that conclusion.

I like the way the Indian writer, Jennie Laughing Cloud, puts the matter, "When man first set foot on the Western Hemisphere in the fog of creation, 'in the mist of potent growth,' as the Zuni Indians describe it, he saw before him a land covered with flowering plants and towering trees growing in rich, soft soil... a green continent fairly exploding with life and color... a veritable Garden of Eden." It was a truly new World, replete with all the botanical delights the human heart could conceive or imagine. It was in such an atmosphere as this that my ancestors lived, loved, moved and had their being. Then came the white gods the Indian prophets had foretold, or people who looked like them and pretended to be. And ultimately there also came the fall. Writes Robert F. Marx: "The Spaniards might well have failed in their New World conquest if the Indians had not believed them to be the returning 'bearded white gods' who according to legend had visited their lands in the heroic past." The Aztecs, under Montezuma, welcomed Cortez with open arms, every man sure in his own trusting heart that Cortez was the Fair God Quetzalcoatl.

Cortez was not. Quite the contrary. Like Columbus before him, he used the Indian's religious hope of a coming white Messiah or Savior to his own advantage, playing the god-role to the hilt. In the name of God, he killed, robbed and enslaved. And innumerable were the other European dare-devils who followed his formula for conquest.

AMERICA'S MULTIPLE "DISCOVERERS." To discover means to obtain sight or knowledge of... for the first time... or to find. And while it is true that Columbus discovered America for himself, and even also for certain others, it is equally true that he was not the first person to do so. The Indians did so unknown centuries before; and indeed, Columbus was not even the first European to discover the New World, by his own admission.

An entry in the New Standard Encyclopedia: "Columbus was probably not the first European to reach American shores. Vikings are thought to have landed on North America 500 years earlier." These rough tough sailor-adventurers of the northern seas, also called Norsemen and Northmen, operated from the shores of Denmark, Norway and Sweden; and were somewhat similar to the Spanish pirates of Spanish-English history. Having unusually strong ships for that period, they sailed far out from their home ports, "plundering and pilaging." It has been recorded that, in the year 1000 A.D., Leif, the son of Eric the Red, discovered the coast of North America. This discovery seems to have created little interest, however; and by the day of Columbus, seems to have been all but forgotten.

This is not surprising, however, under the circumstances. The times that followed were days of intellectual or scholarly decline for Europe. It took Columbus and better days to rekindle that spark of interest in overseas discovery.

Marx in Oceans for Nov.-Dec. 1973 wrote: "Rather than enjoying fame as the 'discoverer' of the New World, Columbus should be known as the man who renewed European interest in the lands that lay on the far side of the Atlantic."

Within the past few years, a number of books and articles have been written to show that Columbus did not sail blindly to seek out either unknown lands or a new route to the Indies, as most people believe him to have done. More modern research indicates that

HIDEAWAY VALLEY a handbook to Lumbee History

BY LEW BAEKON
Knight of Mark Twain



The New York Public Library

A very old drawing of the American Indians as they fled from Columbus in 1492. Presumably, this scene took place on San Salvador (now Watling's Island), an island of the Bahamas group. The Indians mistook the Europeans for gods. That Columbus took advantage of this misconception is proved by the later fact that he compelled them to do his bidding by foretelling an eclipse of the moon. In describing his fourth and last voyage to America, New Standard Encyclopedia says: "The natives, friendly at first, were made hostile by the bad conduct of some of Columbus's followers. They stopped providing food until Columbus worked on their superstitions by foretelling an eclipse of the moon." In describing the third voyage, this source says: "On his return to the colony, Columbus found general unrest among the settlers. In an effort to calm them, he divided the land among them and made slaves of the Indians." This was an action with which Queen Isabella of Spain was very much displeased. Thus we see that what started out to be a beautiful friendship ended because the Indians were exploited (for the first but not the last time in American history.) Ironically, the Indians were not only deprived of their lands, but were actually forced into slavery to work them.

he was actually well-aware of America's existence.

In his article, "Who Really Discovered the New World?" the Oceans writer states: "Columbus himself actually reported evidence of European contact with it. (The New World.) During his second voyage he wrote of finding wreckage of a European ship on the island of Guadeloupe. Some months later, while cruising along the coast of Venezuela, his small fleet of vessels was approached by a large wooden canoe containing eighty men, who he described as being of 'stout build, hair skinned, with long blond hair and beards.'"

Columbus and his men tried to communicate with the "strange men," but they fled before their identity could be ascertained. These men might very well have been the offspring of the very Norsemen who reached this country's shores, or other American shores 500 years earlier. This much is certain: These were no Hollywood stereotypes of the American Indian. Did you ever hear of a typical Indian boat of the times which could carry 80 men?

The religion of the Mormon Church revolves about the American Indian whom its members regard as the chosen people of God for these latter days. Thus their research of Native American history is tireless and endless. The church has long recognized the existence of at least two physical types of the Native American. To them, the American aborigine is the "other sheep" Jesus declared Himself to have, adding, "and these must I also bring." Is it

any wonder that the entire Mormon religion revolves around the Native American? The Mormon Church is the only Christian denomination to originate in America.

AMERICAN COLONIZATION by Europe, once popularly believed to have begun with Columbus in the 1490's is now known to have been begun by Norsemen fully half-a-millennium earlier. Largely because of the lack of original documentation, the subject of the non-Columbian discovery of America was discounted and stirred heated controversy among scholars until recent years. About a decade ago, however, Dr. Helge Lustad, a noted Norwegian archeologist, excavated at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland, indisputable evidence that Norsemen established a colony on North America fully five hundred years earlier. Thus scholars could no longer conscientiously dismiss, discard and disallow any longer the old Norse "sagas," narratives which spoke of voyages to these shores in the dim long ago. No longer could they be dismissed as fictitious legends, for at last they had the support of tangible proof. So now at last, a fuller and truer account of American discovery and settlement can be told. And a people long deprived of historical credit and credence may at last receive the historical honor due them. And who knows? The world tomorrow may even get around to honoring the Native American for a discovery and settlement that came even much earlier than that of the Vikings! We must first, however, be fully recognized as fellow human beings.

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