

THE NAME of COLUMBUS

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

HE WAS born nearly 500 years ago. He was not a native of this country and never once did he see or set foot on the soil of the continental United States. Yet, every year, 31 of the 48 states in the Union celebrate a holiday that is named for him and that also commemorates the event in his career which has made him immortal.

His name was Christopher Columbus and October 12 is the date which we annually celebrate as Columbus day or Discovery day.

The 31 states which honor him on that day are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont and Washington.

One of our territories honors him on a different day from October 12. In Puerto Rico November 19 is Discovery day, for it was on November 19, 1493, that the Italian navigator sailing under the flag of Spain was the first white man to look upon that island.

Universally hailed as the "discoverer of the New World," yet Fate ruled that the name of another man should be given to the two continents made known to the Old World by the voyages of Columbus. In 1499 a Florentine named Amerigo Vesputci accompanied Ojeda, a Spaniard, to Espanola (Haiti) and the mainland in a search for pearls. He wrote a letter in which he called the country he had seen "Mundus Novus" New Land. Eight years later at St. Die in the Vosges mountains Mathias Ringman, a Latinist, and Martin Waldseemuller, a geographer, two members of the faculty of a little collegiate institute which was the center of the geographical learning of the time, were preparing a new edition of Ptolemy's "Geographia." However, before its publication they printed on the new printing press which the institute owned a little essay called "Cosmographie Introductio" to which they added the letter that Amerigo Vesputci had written. In this essay Waldseemuller offered the suggestion that since Amerigo Vesputci had seen and described this "Mundus Novus," it might properly bear his name and be called America.

Later map-makers followed Waldseemuller's suggestion. And that is why we have North and South America instead of "North and South Columbia."

Although a German scholar's suggestion cheated Columbus out of having two continents named for him, on both there are innumerable landmarks which bear his name or a derivation of it. In South America there is a republic of Colombia and the chief Caribbean port of the republic of Panama is Colon, which preserves the Spanish spelling of Columbus' name—Cristobal Colon. In far-off Ceylon, an island off the coast of India, which he sought but was destined never to reach, there is a city of Colombo which honors his name.

The map of North America is dotted with reminders of him. Canada has a province of British Columbia and in it rises one of the mightiest rivers on this continent—the Columbia. The little tract of land which contains the national seat of government of the United States is called the District of Columbia, and one of the poetical names for this nation is Columbia. So when we sing two of our favorite patriotic songs—"Hail, Columbia, happy land . . ." and "O, Columbia, the gem of the ocean . . ."—we are pronouncing two syllables of the name of the Italian sea captain.

Two state capitals—Columbus, Ohio, and Columbia, S. C.—also honor him. Eleven states—Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Texas and Wisconsin—have cities named Columbus and one state, North Carolina, has a Columbus county. Iowa has a Columbus Junction and Ohio has a Columbus Grove.

Eight states—Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Tennessee—have cities named Columbia and eight states—Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington and Wisconsin—have Columbia counties. Ohio has a Columbiana county, also a city by that name, as has Alabama. Indiana has a Columbia City, Montana has a Columbia Falls and Minnesota has a Columbia Heights.

The largest university in the United States is Columbia university in New York City with 3,064 faculty members and 30,588 students. There is also a Columbia college in Iowa and innumerable grade schools throughout the country bear the name of Columbus or Columbia. One of the most important fraternal organizations in the United States is the Knights of Columbus and the first world's fair—in many respects, the greatest—ever held which honored the achievements of a man bearing his name was the World's Columbian exposition in Chicago in 1893.

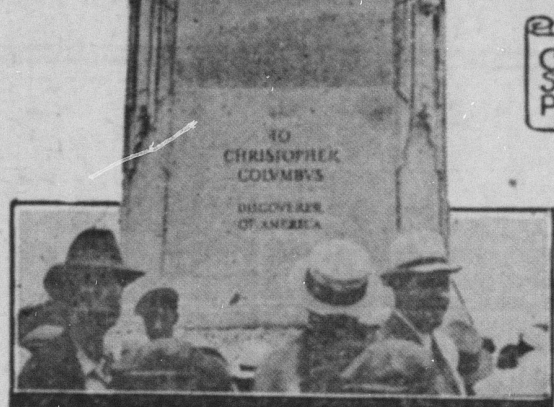
Memorials to Columbus in the form of statues and monuments are legion. One of the latest, if not the latest, is the magnificent statue which was unveiled on August 3 of last year (the anniversary of Columbus' sailing from Palos, Spain, on his first voyage of discovery) on Chicago's lake front. (It stands overlooking Columbus drive, one of the main thoroughfares in Chicago's boulevard system.)

This statue, which was designed by Charles Brioschi of St. Paul and cast in Milan, Italy, is 11 feet 7 inches high and stands on a 22-foot pedestal of Baveno granite from Milan. It was presented to the city of Chicago by Italian-Americans of that city and August 3, 1933, the date it was unveiled, was Italian day at the 1933 Century of Progress exposition when thousands of people of that nationality gathered to honor not only the great navigator of 400 years ago but also a modern navigator who had led his "caravels of the air" across the Atlantic—Admiral Balbo of the Italian navy.

Besides the new statue which thousands of World's fair visitors passed on their way to the exposition, there was another reminder of Columbus at last year's exposition. That was the model of the Columbus Memorial lighthouse, which formed the exhibit of the republic of Santo Domingo. This lighthouse, which is to cost approximately \$1,500,000, is being erected on a point of land facing the harbor of the city of Santo Domingo, not far from the ruins of what



Earliest Engraved Likeness of Columbus



Columbus Statue in Palos, Spain

The New Statue of Columbus in Chicago



The Landing of Columbus Re-enacted at the World's Fair

was once the palace of Columbus' brother, Bartholomew.

It is just such a memorial as Columbus himself would have most desired—a beacon of light shining through the darkness to guide the sailors of both the sea and the air, and since the project is in charge of a committee of the Pan-American Union, which is composed of representatives of all the 21 states of North, South and Central America, it will be an enduring symbol of friendship among the nations whose existence Columbus' voyages made possible.

He has been dead 428 years but his name still frequently makes the headlines in our newspapers. Recent years have seen many "discoveries" about the discoverer, which adds to our knowledge of him. It was only a few years ago that Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, the noted collector, acquired abroad and brought to this country a manuscript volume some 400 years old and written by one Andres Bernaldez, which revealed Christopher Columbus in the hitherto-unknown role of a bookseller. The reference in the volume was only a casual one but interesting nevertheless. It said: "There was a man in the land of Milan who was a merchant in books and who traveled in Andalusia who was called Christopher Columbus, a man of high genius, who was not a man of letters, but was very shrewd in the art of the cosmography of the world, who followed what he had read from Ptolemy and other works regarding the world in which we navigate and walk." And this man, who "had read from Ptolemy," was to see, in the declining years of his life, a revised edition of Ptolemy's "Geographia"—that of Ringman and Waldseemuller—with another man's name given to the two continents which he had discovered!

Indicative of the fact that this man, dead and buried these four centuries, can still provide "live copy" for our newspapers is the following news story which appeared in the New York Times last May:

"A life-size white marble statue of Christopher Columbus, carved in Rome in 1867, for many years unnoticed in the storage yard in Central park, will be placed shortly in Columbus park, at Baxter, Mulberry, Bayard and Park streets. This announcement was made yesterday by Park Commissioner Robert Moses, who said the statue was an exceptionally fine piece of work. It was carved 67 years ago by Miss Emma Stebbins, then in Italy.

"Existence of the statue was disclosed to the park department officials through receipt of a letter two months ago from John Barnell of Syracuse, in which the writer said a beautiful statue of Columbus was stored in one of the park department buildings. Mr. Barnell wrote that, as a collector of Columbus monuments, he would like to have a photograph of the statue carved by Miss Stebbins.

"A research worker of the park department was immediately instructed to locate the statue. Search brought to light in the files of the department correspondence in 1869 from the donor of the statue to the board of commissioners of Central park and the reply. The donor was Marshall O. Roberts, whose letter follows:



The "Lost" Statue

New York, February 20, 1869.
Fifth Avenue, Corner Eighteenth St.
Hon. Andrew H. Green,
Comptroller of the Central Park.
My dear sir:

I have the pleasure through you to present to the Central park commissioners the colossal statue of "Columbus," the work of our gifted countrywoman, Emma Stebbins. Columbus is represented as standing upon the deck of a ship alone and at midnight, just before the land of the Western continent burst upon his view. His mutinous crew have all deserted him and are feasting below, while he—the intrepid discoverer, with a firm grasp upon the rudder-post, looks eagerly, anxiously forward, piercing the darkness with his eye of faith, and with earnest prayers to heaven for success, waits for the dawning of day—that day which, coming at last, brings with it victory and repose.

This statue is truly grand in its conception and beautiful in its execution—worthy, indeed, to occupy a prominent place in our Central park. It will add one more attraction to that charming spot, which the commissioners and yourself have done so much to adorn for the pleasure and delight of the people.

The statue and pedestal are both at the Academy of Design, subject to your order as soon as a suitable glass house has been provided to protect the marble from the weather. With the hope that the commissioners will be able to provide this during the present season and receive the proffered gift, I remain,

Your obedient servant,
MARSHALL O. ROBERTS
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HUMAN NATURE

The rector had invited the village boys to the rectory for a strawberry tea. After they had finished he, seeking to point the moral, said: "Now, boys, wasn't that nicer than breaking into my garden and helping yourselves?"

"O yes," chorused the boys.
"And why was it nicer?" he asked a chubby-faced boy.
"Because, sir," was the reply, "we shouldn't have had any sugar and cream with them."—London Humorist.

Somnolence

The stranger was met by a crowd as he stepped off the train.
"Who are you?" asked Cactus Joe.
"I'm Professor Duperino, the famous hypnotist."
"The man who puts folks to sleep?"
"Yes."
"Well, stay right here and catch the next train that comes. What Crimson Gulch needs is somebody to wake it up."

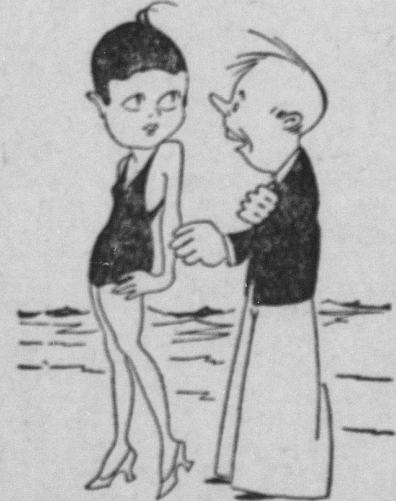
Modern Farm Knowledge

Stranger—Farm products cost more than they did a while back. How do you explain it?
Farmer—Well, when a farmer is supposed to know the botanical name of what he's raising and the entomological name of the bugs that eat it and the chemical name of the stuff that will kill the bugs—somebody's got to pay for all this knowledge, ain't they?—Pathfinder Magazine.

Smart

Applicant (for position of office boy)—I may say I'm pretty smart. I've won several prizes in cross-word and jig-saw puzzles and word-picture competition lately.
Employer—Yes, but I want someone who can be smart during office hours.
Applicant—This was during office hours.—Chelsea Record.

EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT



Timid Husband—We'd better not go out in a canoe, I hear that the bay is full of man-eating sharks.
Wife—What of it? I'm not a man and your life is insured.

Corners

"Is prosperity just around the corner?"
"Of course it is," answered Senator Sorghum. "But in looking for it you've got to take care about selecting a lucky corner."

Dad Had a Supply

Mother—Johnny, will you go down to the cellar and split some kindling?
Johnny—Wait till Dad comes. I heard him tell Mr. Smith that he bought twenty-five dollars' worth of chips last night.

Handy Man

Circus Manager—Well, what's wrong now?
India Rubber Man—Every time the strong man writes a letter he uses me to rub out his mistakes.—Boston Transcript.

The Idea

Father—Jane, that young idiot Simpson's affairs couldn't be in worse shape than they are.
Daughter (Indignantly)—You forget that I am to marry him, Papa.

Necessity

Green—You must be keen on the talkies, old boy, to go twice a week.
Howarth—It's not that exactly. You see, if I don't go regularly, I can't understand what my kids are saying.

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EVEN

"What's a joint account, pop?"
"It's an account where one person does the depositing and the other the withdrawing."

Frank Little Tommy

Caller—Won't you walk with me as far as the car, Tommy?
Tommy—I can't.
Caller—Why not?
Tommy—'Cause we're going to have dinner as soon as you go.

His Place on the Team

Uncle George—I suppose you are on the football team?
Tommy—Well, yes, I do the aerial work.
Uncle George—What's that?
Tommy—I blow up the footballs.

THEY'LL DO THAT



"You are getting stout, aren't you?"
"Yes. I ate some green peaches yesterday, and they doubled me and increased my sighs."

Tough Break

Editor—Well, how's that thrilling article getting on?
Author (looking up from blank paper)—Too thrilling for words.

FRESH
WRIGLEY'S
SPEARMINT
THE PERFECT GUM
FLAVOR