

Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man

as told by



John P. & C. Buck West

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS retirement as President of Central State College, Wilberforce, Ohio, this past summer, Dr. Charles H. Wesley, one of the nation's leading educators and historians, said, . . . "Most Negro, as well as white Americans, know far too little of the Negro's historical background and contributions. . . Standard school textbooks generally overlook the Negro's participation in the American Revolution; his early contribution to the cultural and technological life of the nation, his numerous inventions and his writings."

Dr. Wesley is the new director of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Wesley, a Negro, served as president of the association for 15 years before taking over the active directorship last month (Nov. 1965).

American historians adopted the half-truth policy of their European predecessors when they recorded the historical episodes in which the Negro played the leading role. They either disguised the racial identity of the character, or they played down his part. This historical hoax was deliberate. Anglo-Saxon America did not want either white or black Americans to believe that the Negro slave could possibly be the equal of his master. European chroniclers initiated this policy when the nations of Europe controlled the continent of Africa. The ruling class of Europe believed it mandatory to create the delusion of the African's inferiority.

UP TO THIS POINT, in this Hidden History series, we have dealt with a few of the lesser-known characters of far antiquity. From this point on we shall be writing of historical figures who are generally familiar to American readers. One of the prime purposes of Hidden History is to uncover the Negro ancestry of those characters of the past who had been disguised by stereotyped textbook authoring.

In America today, the most critical domestic problem is racial differences which prohibit national unity and tranquility, both of which are essential to national security. Racial tensions must be resolved if President Lyndon B. Johnson's dream of the Great Society is to become reality. We are dedicated and committed to aid the building of the Great Society. Hidden History aims to reveal the rich heritage of the Negro as it restores a wealth of knowledge stolen from us by writers of yesteryears.

THE HISTORICAL HOAX DESIGNED to discredit the black man's rich heritage was born many centuries ago with the advent of slave-trading, but it did not reach full maturity until the 18th century AD. In the mid 19th century, the fraud became a stereotype for all historians.

The population of the European continent, as well as the British Isles, was nearly wiped out in the middle 17th century period by the scourge of Bubonic Plague, which was given the fearsome pseudonym of The Black Death. A century later, there was a population explosion which created economic frustration which was felt among all nations of the continent. The population growth overtaxed the facilities of these nations, and critical shortage of necessities for existence led to an industrial revolution which was spawned to resolve the dilemma, but did, in fact, make the problem more critical.

In the early 19th century, factories sprang up all over Europe. People left the farms to work in the factories, and a more serious shortage of raw materials resulted. The farm lands first were short of manpower because the farmhands were working in the cities. As the cities expanded during this migration, they grew at the expense of lands that once raised the food and raw materials. The nations of Europe were com-

VOICE READERS COMPRISE a \$30,000,000 MARKET

EDITORIAL

A GIFT FOR TONY

Dear Santa:

This is by way of being a postscript to Tony's requested Christmas list. Tony has just had his third birthday, and he has asked you, particularly, for a "Musting" to drive and a "s'wing" to swing in. I have every faith in you and am certain that Tony will find his car and his swing under his tree Christmas morning.

What I want for Tony are less tangible things, but so important to his well-being as he grows and develops into the kind of person we wish him to be. Gift him with pride of heritage and a sense of responsibility to that heritage. As he is made aware of the injustices and inequities that exist --when he stumbles over the obstacles of discriminatory practices and is bruised by the stinging darts of patronization and tokenism, give him the wisdom to accept the philosophy of "lighting candles rather than cursing the darkness".

Give him the foresight to recognize and to take advantage of those opportunities that are available to rise above the economic, social, and cultural mire resulting from centuries of segregation and deprivation. . . Give him strength to overcome temptation to use the misuse of his people as a crutch for his personal weaknesses or shortcomings.

Wrap him in the warm blessing of commitment . . . commitment to what is right and just --to involvement in helping to make this a better world in which to live and in which to bring up his children.

Santa, I suppose what I really want for Tony are those qualities mandatory for a Negro to possess in order to become and remain a well-adjusted human being; one who is free of bitterness and hate; forbearance, understanding, justifiable self-pride, determination and, by no means the least necessary--a well-developed sense of humor.

Santa, you possibly are wondering why I should consider this any of your business. It is my feeling, Santa, that it's everybody's business--yours, mine--any and everyone who professes to be an American. You'll have to admit that, in your business, America is your best client.

pelled to seek remedy, and all eyes turned toward Africa. The dark continent became the topic of the day in all of Europe. Africa was the most feasible solution to Europe's plight. It offered an abundance of raw materials as well as a source of cheap labor.

THE NATIONS OF EUROPE started an African land-grab that resulted in colonization of all of Africa except for three sovereign states, one of which was Egypt, a British protectorate. Liberia on the west, and Ethiopia on the east were the other two. Caucasian control of Africa reached its peak in the mid 19th century, and African colonies became synonymous with European survival. The nations of Europe guarded this life-line zealously. They left no stone unturned to make their African colonies more permanent possessions. Much of the true story of Africa, and of the Africans, was distorted (sometimes deleted) in order to serve the aims and pleasures of the ruling powers.

When the history of an important person was recorded, there was a deliberate disguise of racial stock if the person was of Negro heritage. The purpose of this fraud was to discredit the Negro in such manner that he would not be considered as the intellectual equal of the European whites. When description of physical features of History's Negro characters was recorded, they were described as Nubian, Ethiopian, and later, as Moorish. Actually all three of these references indicated the Negro heritage, but the hoax became so stereotyped that the association of these terms with Negro ancestry became vague after a period of time. Now, a century later, it has become necessary to expose this historical hoax so that students of History can know the truth of the rich contributions of the Negro. Reference to Webster's Dictionary clarifies the terminology satisfactorily.

Frankly, Santa, as both you and I know, Tony is going to get his "Musting" and the "s'wing" anyhow (with the Good Lord's help) but what I want for Tony entails a deal of support and cooperation from all the unsaintly inhabitants of this earth. . . Else the Lord would have taken care of it a long time ago, as he will, inevitably.

But in the Name and the Spirit of Christmas, which is after all, totally His, let us try, together, to see that Tony (and all the Tony's in the world) will, some day, understand the true meaning of the brotherhood of all mankind.

a.k. (Tony's Grandmother)

THE GRAND SPEAKS

The following editorial is from the Elk News, the official publication of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World which is circulated among over 450,000 Elk members. "The Grand" is Hobson R. Reynolds, Grand Exalted Ruler of the Elks, probably the most dynamic and powerful figure in Elkdom since J. Finley Wilson.

THE NEGRO PEOPLE are not a violent race. Today should not be a Day of Violence. Today we go on a positive road toward our destiny and we must remember that violence is not positive. How does it help us on the path we travel?

The Negro people are on the threshold of the Age of Equality. With the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Law and the 1965 Voting Rights Bill, the time has come when the Negro must act to help himself. The Theme of this Convention shall be implementation of these two laws by SELF-HELP. We have been asking God for many years. . . asking God to help us. . . now we can do something to help ourselves.

Instead of at a Snail's Pace, the way we moved until now--today we move quickly, with new recognition. The new dawn of a new day has come, and God's sun shines brightly upon us.

Until this moment, each one of us has had a small part in creating what has been accomplished today. Now each one of us must join hands with the other, for the time has come to step over the threshold to begin in the new world that awaits us. It is there--and now all we have to do is, forgetting what was, having confidence and hope--grasp in our hands what has been offered to us by God and the leadership of this Great Nation.

This is the beginning. There is a long way to go, as all of you know, on the winding road toward complete freedom. How much is yet to be done! But at least we have made a substantial crack in the wall of discrimination, prejudice and segregation.

Today, I, Hobson R. Reynolds, Grand Exalted Ruler of the Grand Lodge of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks of the World, call upon our 450,000 members throughout the world to lead the way to the future of our world.

**Support The Merchants
That Support Your Press**

**LAS VEGAS
Voice**

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER (Published every Thursday) DEDICATED to the INTERESTS and ASPIRATIONS for a BETTER LIFE of the NEGRO CITIZENS of the STATE of NEVADA

CHARLES I. WEST, M.D. - Publisher & Editor
ALICE KEY - Associate Editor * JOHN P. WEST - General Manager
DOROTHY WEST - Treasurer * CARITA HARBERT - Office Manager

SONDRA REID - Homemaking, Fashions * EDDY K. KIM, Society
REV. DONALD M. CLARK - Religion * DICK MILLER - Children's Books
RICHARD WILLIAMS, HENRY MILLER & ROBERT JOHNSON - Advertising
CLINTON WRIGHT - Photography * EARL PERKINS - Northern Nevada

EDITORIAL, ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION OFFICES
958 West Owens Ave. (Golden West Shopping Center) Las Vegas, Nevada
Telephone: 642-3308

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED UPON REQUEST
Price per copy - 15¢ * One year - \$6 * Two years - \$10
(Application for 2nd Class Mailing Permit pending at Las Vegas, Nevada)