

# Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man  
as told by



John P. & C. Buck West

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(Conclusion)

THE UNITED STATES

## ESTEVANICO

Discoverer of Arizona and New Mexico  
and Pioneer Explorer of the Southwest  
(-1540)

"AT LAST, Estevanico arrived on a mountain top from where he saw what appeared to be a city with great battlements and buildings that looked taller than even those of the Old World. He again dispatched messengers to Father Marco to urge him on, and sent envoys ahead to the city with presents and his emblem of power to proclaim that a great black chief had come from the south with a message of peace and to heal the sick. But the chief of the "city" wanted none of Estevanico or his medicine. He sent back to say that the medicine was no good and that if Estevanico knew what was good for him he'd stay out. This served but to excite the black chief who gave the order to march.

"He arrived at the "gates of the city" early the next morning. Once more the chief of the Hawikuh, as these Indians were known, sent a messenger warning Estevanico away, but brushing them aside, he walked in boldly.

"What happened after this is conjecture. Some writers say he was met with a shower of arrows and spears and that his followers, seeing him fall, ran away panic-stricken to Father Marco. A third version is that the Indian chief asked him how many brethren he had and he replied many so they killed him to prevent him from telling them about him and that his body was cut up and a piece sent to each of the fourteen or fifteen headmen and his dog was killed later. One fact is certain, however. The expedition was attacked, and many of its members killed, among them Estevanico.

"FATHER Marco thought it best to return to Mexico but decided he must at least have a glimpse of the city. By giving all his belongings to the frightened guides he persuaded them to take him to the top of a mountain from where he could see it.

"What he saw confirmed all that Estevanico's messenger had reported. Afar in the golden haze of the morning lay what appeared to be a great city. Returning to Mexico, the worthy father spread the news.

"Mexico City was thrilled, the size and wealth of Father Marco's city increasing with each telling. An expedition was organized, Coronado, the governor, himself, leading it in golden armor. Accompanying was Father Marco.

"Several months later the expedition reached the town of the Hawikuh. In the battle that followed the Indians were defeated. But the marvelous city turned out to be only a miserable village. The historian of that expedition said: "When we first saw the village that was Cibola such were the curses that some hurled at Friar Marco that I pray God may protect him from them. It is a little crowded village, looking as if it had been all crumpled up together."

"Why had Father Marco been so deceived? The Hawikuh were cliff-dwellers and these cliffs and other weird natural formations with their many colors, when tipped by the sunlight, really looked like some wonderful city. They still do.

"THE EXPEDITION, still hopeful, continued the search for the other six cities, until it ar-

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# EDITORIAL

## Democracy Is Achieved When ALL The People Participate

NOV. 8 - 1966

*For "Northern" Party Democrats, it is a time for realistic assessment*

*For Negroes, it is a time for private thoughts*

rived near to the northern borders of what is now Kansas. Nothing of immediate value was found. Thanks, however, to the credulity and optimism of Estevanico, a vast region that was later to be the home of millions of American citizens had been discovered.

"Estevanico's journey had taken him through what is now New Mexico and Arizona. Herbert E. Bolton, in "The Chronicles of America," says, "Estevanico, this African was one of the earliest explorers of North America and had wandered over a greater part of its wilderness than any man before him or than any many long after him. The Arab was one of a fearless race, loving freedom, no doubt, as his tribesmen of the Moroccan desert today love it, and only in the desert could he enjoy it. Lured again out of the thrall of slavery, which had fastened on him again after this great journey from Florida, and given three hundred savages to discover the cities of argent tracteries and turquoise doors, he had made his tour like an Oriental chieftan or like a Moorish prince before the conquest with pomp and display and the revels of power. Gifts were brought him and tribute was exacted. His tall, dusky body soon flaunted robes dyed with the colors of the rainbow. Tufts of brilliant feathers and strings of bells dangled from his arms. He carried a magical gourd decorated with bells and with one white and scarlet feather; and sent it ahead of him to awe the natives in each town where he demanded entrance. A score, perhaps, of Indians formed his personal retinue and bore on their shoulders the provisions, and the feathered ornaments accumulated on the road. Flutes of reed, shell-fifes and fish-skin drums played his march against the sunlit mesas. And an ever-increasing harem of gayly-bedecked young women swelled the parade of Estevanico, the black Berber chief, on his way to the city in silver and blue. Perhaps, as has been suspected, the belled and feathered gourd was 'bad medicine' to the Indians of Hawikuh, for when Estevanico presented it with the announcement that their lord had come to make peace and cure the sick, the Indians became enraged and ordered the interlopers out of the country on pain of death. Estevanico, disdainful of fear, went on. Just outside the walls of Cibola, he was seized, 'The sun was about a lance high' when the men of Hawikuh suddenly launched upon his followers. Some of those, who, fleeing, looked back, thought they had seen Estevanico fall beneath the thick hail of darts."

"THE LEGENDS of the Zuni Indians confirm the visit of Estevanico and call him the precursor of the white men. They speak of him as being bold, cheerful, and ready. 'It is to be believed,' they say, 'that a long time ago when the roofs lay over the walls of Kya-ki-me, when smoke hung over the house-tops, and the ladders were still unbroken, then the Black Mexicans came from their abodes in Ever-lasting Summer-land.... Then and thus was killed by our ancient right where the stone now stands down by the arroyo of Kya-ki-me, one of the Black Mexicans, a large man with chili lips (lips swollen as if from eating chili peppers) ... Then the rest ran away, chased by our grandfathers and went back towards their country in the land of Everlasting Summer."

## This Week in Negro History

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|---------------|---|
| Nov. 10, 1782 | Elihu Embry, Tennessee emancipationist, was born.   |
| Nov. 10, 1880 | Clarence Cameron White, noted violinist-composer, was born.   |
| Nov. 10, 1901 | T. J. Hornsby, Pilgrim Life Insurance company executive, died in Augusta, Ga.   |
| Nov. 10, 1960 | Andrew Hatcher, first Negro assigned to White House Press Service. He was appointed by President John F. Kennedy.                 |
| Nov. 11, 1831 | Greatest slave uprising in U.S. history ended when leader, Nat Turner, surrendered in the Southampton insurrection.               |
| Nov. 11, 1904 | Author Shirley Graham, wife of the late Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, was born in Indianapolis, Ind.                                       |
| Nov. 12, 1831 | Rev. Richard DeBaptiste, pastor, Olivet Baptist church, Chicago, during 1860's, was born.   |
| Nov. 12, 1950 | Gwendolyn Brooks (Blakeley) was first Negro woman to receive a Pulitzer Prize (for poetry).                                       |
| Nov. 13, 1858 | Dr. Daniel Williams, first surgeon to stitch a human heart (at Provident Hospital, Chicago), was born in Pennsylvania.            |
| Nov. 13, 1944 | Harriet Pickens and Frances Wills become the first Negro members of the WAVES.  |
| Nov. 14, 1915 | Booker T. Washington, famed educator-founder, Tuskegee Institute, Ala., died.   |
| Nov. 14, 1956 | U.S. Supreme Court outlawed bus segregation.  |
| Nov. 15, 1777 | Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union adopted.  |
| Nov. 15, 1897 | J. M. Langston, lawyer and race leader, died.   |
| Nov. 15, 1947 | Marques Haynes, world's greatest basketball dribbler, organized Harlem Magicians.   |
| Nov. 16, 1873 | William Christopher Handy, musician-music publisher-composer of "St. Louis Blues" and "Memphis Blues," was born in Florence, Ala. |

## LAS VEGAS Voice

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