Our New President, Wilbur P. Werner

Elected president of the Foundation for the term August 1975 - August 1976, Wilbur P. Werner will serve as the Foundation's seventh president. Born in Falls City, Nebraska, Wilbur received his law degree from Creighton University and the University of Omaha Law School, Omaha, Nebraska. He began law practice in Cut Bank, Montana, in 1937.

A devoted student of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, he has, together with Hal Stearns, John Lepley, Emil Don Tigney, Elers Koch, Clifford Worthen, "Boo" MacGilvra and other Montanans, researched the Expedition’s route encompassing some 2000 miles, and the location of 286 different campsites in Montana's "Big Sky Country". His proximity to the July 26-28, 1806 "Two Medicine River Fight Site" where the near disaster took place involving Lewis, Drouillard, Joseph and Reuben Field with the Blackfeet Indians, establishes him as a recognized authority on both the site of the skirmish with the Indians, and "Camp Disappointment", the most northern point visited by Lewis's party during the exploration of the Marias River country. Following earlier research carried out by Helen B. West, Robert H. Anderson, Ed Mathison, John C. Ewars, and the Boy Scouts in the area, he has been instrumental in the preservation of the sites, and is spearheading the move to recognize the "fight site" as a National Historic Landmark. The Camp Disappointment site received such Status in 1967.

Wilbur’s lovely wife, Mary, and his five children have shared his interest, and they have given many hours to the study and preservation of Lewis and Clark history in Montana. A son-in-law, James C. Nelson, has recently joined Werner’s law office.

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