History of
Headwaters Chapter of Lewis and Clark
Trail Heritage Foundation
1985-2009

Compiled by
Roscoe G. Montgomery
HEADWATERS CHAPTER HISTORY -- 1985-2009

Lewis and Clark historians surfaced as the national awareness of the two hundredth anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase appeared on the horizon in 1984. The first focus of the country was the 500th year celebration of Columbus journeying to the new world. Don Nell and Jack Taylor were not looking for celebratory plans in their western history pursuits. They purely enjoyed history and especially the explorers, Lewis and Clark, who seemed to have a lot of interpretive signs around Montana. The men had not made a connection with each other, but their common interest led them from two roads to a fork and a single road. By the early 1980s they read Bernard DeVoto’s trilogy on exploration of the West, especially his edited version of The Journals of Lewis and Clark and John Bakeless’s Lewis and Clark: Partners in Discovery. The Bozeman Public Library had Reuben Thwaites centennial edition of the original journals as reference resources, also. Probably known to Don and Jack would have been historian Donald Jackson and his published Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. It was Jackson who strongly urged a new edition of the Journals be edited because of much new research uncovered. The two men were constantly buying these single focus books at the Country Bookshelf owned by Mary Jane Disanti, who observed to each of them that their common interests in Lewis and Clark might be pursued together. The suggestion worked and the synergy of these Lewis and Clark types proved special. Soon an ad appeared in the “Bozeman Daily Chronicle” requesting Lewis and Clark enthusiasts meet and form an interest group.

Portage Route Chapter had been formed in 1983 and the National Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation met in Great Falls for their 16th Annual meeting in 1984. Don and Barb Nell attended the programs and met more L & C “family” friends. One common thread of people belonging to Headwaters Chapter and to the national association was expressed by chapter member, Lois Roby, “Local history got [us] up too the first meeting --but it was the friendly, welcoming, casual atmosphere that kept bringing us back.”
"Headwaters Chapter" Field Trip Retraces Clark’s Return Journey Over Bozeman Pass

(Left-hand illustration, left to right) Headwaters Chapter’s Director Jack Taylor, President Don Nell, Secretary Jean Schmidt, and Treasurer Teddy Sanem, and (right-hand illustration) enthusiastic members of the Headwaters Chapter photographed at one of the campsites of Clark and party on the return journey. On June 2, 1985, sixteen members departed from Bozeman and retraced, by automobile and on foot, the eastbound route of Clark’s party and their July 1806 journey following present-day Rocky Creek to its confluence with Kelly Canyon, and the explorers’ July 14, 1806 campsite (about three miles east of present Bozeman). After photographing the site, now occupied by beehives, chapter members traveled up Kelly Canyon into present-day Jackson Creek—crossed Jackson Creek Meadows and another drainage to where they crossed the divide (the pass through the mountains known today as Bozeman Pass) and into the Yellowstone River drainage. In a letter, accompanying the photographs, Don Nell remarked “The trip was a gradual ascent—a just likeClark stated in his recapitulation of 'Course Distance & Remarks...'. " documented in his July 15, 1806 journal entry. We then located the area where the explorers first struck the Yellowstone River, and then proceeded to the mouth of Shields River which enters the Yellowstone from the north a few miles east of today’s Livingston, Montana. Our total travel was about 20 miles from Bozeman.” The above photographs were taken at the site where the Expedition’s party established their July 15, 1806 night camp. Local residents refer to the place as “Sheep Cliffs Campsite.”

1. Named for the Expedition’s John Shields. An Expedition name that has persisted, although early trappers frequented the area in the years after Clark’s naming of this waterway often referred to it as “25 Yard Creek.”

We Proceeded On, July 1985, p. 17

The Headwaters Chapter organized in 1985 with President Don Nell, Vice President Jack Taylor, Secretary Jean Schmidt, Treasurer Teddy Sanem, and Directors Jack Fellerhoff and Doug Habermann. On April 8, 1985, they were presented with their Chapter Charter (See Appendix). The Nells were the only two Chapter members to attend the national meeting in St. Louis that year with Don receiving an Appreciation Award for helping organize the new Headwaters Chapter. The excitement of Gary Moulton’s new volume 1, the Atlas of the Lewis and Clark Expedition exponentially added new interest in exploring the trail. The WPO reprint above illustrates the point as sixteen members traveled Clark’s trail from the Gallatin Valley to the Yellowstone Valley using the new atlas as proudly displayed.
The next adventure was a float of the Upper Missouri with six of the voyagers shown in Image 3.

In 1986 ambitious projects were begun as recorded in their February meeting report. New officers were: President Don Nell, Vice President Jack Taylor, Secretary Cheryl Farmer, Treasurer Teddy Sanem, Board Members: Dick Ellis, John Rogers and Don Lee. Ambition and drive were the order of the day:
- Don presented the group with a new 15 star flag;
- Jack Fellerhoff chaired the committee researching Clark’s return on the Yellowstone;
- Pursued need for L. & C. street signs in Bozeman;
- President and Foundation Director Nell discussed interest in Dillon sites such as Clark’s Lookout for FWP development consideration;
- Investigation for a sign for Clark’s Kelly Canyon campsite location --Dick Ellis to research sign cost;
- Everyone was given a souvenir handout of Jefferson’s letter of credit to Lewis;
- Dr. Charles Kirkpatrick gave a slide show on the Chapter’s spring float trip of the Missouri;
- Followed by Jack Taylor’s slide show on plant life of the expedition.

An inordinate number of doctors and professional people belonged to the club at this time as Dr. Patrick Holland said, “Don recruited me at the Medical Arts Building where we both had offices” and Jack Fellerhoff remembered, “Working in an office which adjoined Don Nell’s and numerous ‘coffee sessions’ where Lewis and Clark was a constant topic of conversation.” Fellerhoff recalled the excitement and challenges of
exploring and mapping as they used the Lewis and Clark atlas to make an updated map for today. Jack relates his involvement in the following story: “Don and I did a fair amount of work on locating the campgrounds of the Clark Party in their travels from the Three Forks of the Missouri to the Yellowstone and down that river to the Canoe Camp site during the period of the 12th to the 17th of July of 1806. (The site of the Canoe Camp was the site they stopped at to build boats to continue the journey down the Yellowstone River to the point of its joining the Missouri at the Montana-North Dakota border. Up to the time of our survey, the canoe camp’s location was something of a mystery... Don and I flew the route of the Clark Party from the Three Forks of the Missouri to the Canoe Camp in the vicinity of Park City, Montana. We then visited the sites location on the ground.... A case in point. In developing the location of the camp ground at the mouth of Kelly Canyon where they camped on the night of the 14th of July 1806, the journals mentioned crossing a small stream before reaching the site of their stay. We could find no stream in a ground survey, however, when we surveyed the site from the air, we saw an old, dried-up stream bed that would have to had been crossed by the party just before reaching the camp site... The ground visit to the Reed Point Site provided an interesting variation to the confirmation of the actual site location. When we arrived there, nothing matched the Clark’s journal description of the details of the sites. All we found was a steep slope and no flat land typical of all other camp sites. Don and I drove up a road to to a farm house, introduced ourselves to the ranch owner and explained our confusion. He told us it was understandable because as a boy he remembered a flood on the Yellowstone River which washed out their farm road and the flat ground we identified as missing from Clark’s campground... We found what we believe was a fairly precise location of the CANOE Camp with the aid of a copy of a map, drawn in 1806 by Coulter [Sic.], and a modern-day Cessna 182 aircraft. With those features identified, we could closely identify the map location of the Canoe Camp with its actual location. The site was about three miles south of Park City, Montana... We visited the site and made a ground survey. We did find very large cottonwood trees and the location conformed to the Clark Journals and their description of the surrounding terrain.”

Jack in reminiscing made a true statement for all those who follow the trail, “Study of the Lewis and Clark Expedition can easily become addictive. The more you learn, the more you want to learn and experience, and also gain more conclusions.”

Robert Bergantino, Research Hydrologist with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, was also actively involved in the research as he worked on a map of all campsites in Montana.

Figure 4 picture is part of the Group at the Clark Canoe Camp near Park City, MT. Don Nell, foreground with yellow cap, Warren McGee behind Don, Bob Bergantino in blue plaid shirt and Charles Kirkpatrick far right.
Field trips increased Chapter membership. Headwaters and Portage Route Chapters met for an excursion boat (Hilger Rose) trip up the Gates of the Mountains, June 12, and then traveled to Headwaters State Park for more information. Don Nell read from the Journals during the boat ride. June 13th Charles Kirkpatrick “captained” twelve members on a float of the Missouri River from Judith Landing to Fred Robinson Bridge using two rafts and two canoes. Cheryl Farmer describes well the thoughts and experiences of later Lewis and Clark voyageurs in her account of the trip:

With clear skies and sunshine, we left the Judith River landing at 8:00 AM. This section of the Missouri has been designated a National Wild and Scenic River, and we were quickly seduced by its quiet beauty. We sat in relative comfort as the river took us gently, at its own pace, effortlessly toward New Orleans. For two full days we watched the rugged scenery: cliffs and badlands, trees and prairies. Lewis and Clark saw abandoned Indian camps, we saw abandoned farms/homes; Lewis and Clark saw beavers, big horn sheep, deer and herons, and we saw some of the same species. After an estimated 30 miles we camped the first evening on a high bluff. Instead of sending hunters out for dinner, we were fortunate to have president Don Nell cook sizzling burgers over a hot wood fire. Dr. Kirkpatrick provided sunset entertainment with the story of the Nez Perce flight.

After a huge breakfast by cook Nell, of bacon, eggs, pancakes, juice and coffee, we again settled into our boats. Thirty-five miles were covered this second day. Among the historic sites, we were able to see former ferry crossings and Cow Island. We were again fortunate with good weather, although we did have some brief wind and rain in the evening. The last of the party arrived at Fred Robinson’s Bridge and campground about 8:00 PM. Dinner and a campfire story on the steamboats of the Missouri river was provided by Don Nell.

As we adjourned after dinner, to go our separate ways, the consensus was that everyone thoroughly enjoyed our voyage on the Missouri River.

Front row-John Rogers, Joe Gutkoski, Ron Farmer

Another field trip featured Cut Bank lawyer/historian Wilber Werner interpreted his assessment of the location of Two Medicine Fight Site with a visit to Camp Disappointment and the Great Northern Railroad Monument. The “We Proceeded On”
copy, August 1987, records the trip and a perceived observation of Don Nell as low-key. It hardly fits his excited comment, “It was a moment of awe...we almost flipped when we saw the monument surrounded by colorful pinto and paint Indian ponies...could these possibly be descended from the horses Lewis and his men had left behind 181 years earlier?” The next day the group continued to the portage area for more history.

Headwaters Chapter rapidly expanded their local focus as national board member Don Nell proposed Bozeman host the LCTHF National Meeting in 1989. Although still an all volunteer event, it was planned with weekly meetings. Buttons were handed out two years earlier at the national meeting in Billings to inform people of the big event in Bozeman in ’89. 1988 chapter officers made the long-range plans: Jack Fellerhoff served as chairman for the upcoming 21st Annual Meeting, August 3-6, 1989; Jack Taylor served as president; aided by Vice-President John Rogers, Secretary Cheryl Farmer, Treasurer Don Nell, and Board Members Don Lee, Dick Ellis and Teddy Sanem. Jack Taylor, with help from Grace Bates and Warren McGee, planned visitation sites for meeting participants totaling over 450 miles of bus adventures. Featured speaker for the event was renowned author, David Lavender. Bob Doerk, of Great Falls, was sworn in as the new LCTHF President at the 1989 meeting to succeed Don.

Don Nell was elected President of LCTHF in 1988. The November issue of WPO described him as “ambitious and dedicated”. The article reported he was a native of Livingston, Montana, where he and wife, Barbara, owned a ranch. Don was a realtor for 35 years and formed the Bozeman Medical Arts syndicate for 40 tenants. He wrote manuals for a school for realtors at Montana State University required in Montana. Don served in the South Pacific during World War II. A unique opportunity was given him by the government when he was awarded one of the last homesteads on the Heart Mountain Reclamation and Relocation Project near Ralston, Wyoming.

The pictures below show Headwaters Chapter founders Barb and Don Nell, John (Jack) Taylor and the book on which they collaborated.
The 21st Annual meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation was held in Bozeman August 3-6, 1989. Weekly planning meetings came to fruition as Jack Fellerhoff and the all-volunteer Headwaters Chapter planning committee prepared scripts as bus guides; registered several hundred participants; and gave people the best kind of Montana welcome. Tours covering 450 miles of the Lewis and Clark Trail, included a boat tour through the Gates of the Mountains, visits to the Three Forks of the Missouri, Beaverhead Rock, Clark’s Lookout, Rattlesnake Cliffs, Camp Fortunate, Lemhi Pass, Kelly Canyon Campsite (newly dedicated), Bozeman Pass, and the point where Clark reached the Yellowstone River.

Post annual meeting goals indicated an apparent change in priorities, centering on the Chapter’s Mission Statement: “The Headwaters Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation seeks to provide stewardship of the Lewis and Clark trail within the chapter’s region and to promote public education related to the Lewis and Clark Expedition.”

Ambitious programs needed more money and grants to educate the public and school students on their western heritage. “Older” chapter members welcomed new members with field trips adding excitement for everyone. Speakers were recruited because of their specialty areas.
Several projects were suggested primarily as money makers but gained minimal profit. It helped when the treasurer, Don, who volunteered his time, stated, "I do it all for free, including phone calls, letters, copier, scales and 200 trips to the Post Office. This is my hobby and I love doing it." Summary of costs at this time were:

- Incorporating papers for the Chapter: $62.00
- National grant for operating funds: 150.00
- Setting minimal membership dues for communication: 12.00
- Money outlay (from many persons) to produce Yellowstone map: 400.00

By this time the Chapter had caps, maps, calendars, slides and videos for sale. Ralston’s, “Clark on the Yellowstone” mural photograph by Jack Taylor and Albert Schlecten’s 1914 photograph of the three forks of the Missouri were available; Elijah Criswell’s book Pioneering Linguists was Xeroxed by the club for resale; Stu Knapp, Jack Taylor and Don Nell were on the national video-visual committee and had 340 videos of “We Proceeded On” as well as 27 slide shows prepared for resale. Collecting special slides and permissions for use earned a reimbursement from national to the sum of $1600.00. The sign at Kelly Canyon locating Clark’s July 14th, 1806 campsite cost the Chapter only $200.00 because Fish, Wildlife and Parks paid the balance. Charles Kirkpatrick and Don Nell put it up one morning. It was dedicated at the Annual Meeting in Bozeman in 1989. The Potts [Colter] and “Drewyer” sign were paid for by Don personally.

Bill Sherman, philanthropist, Butte native, WWII hero, inventor and past president of the LCTHF was instrumental in the success of Headwaters Chapter’s ability to be generous in their benevolences and programs. His friendship with Don garnered stocks and donations for Lewis and Clark activities. In a financial report to the Board in 1991 Don pointed out, “He made these donations because of our friendship and wishes me to continue to be a signer of the Chapter Checks until it is disposed of...we should spend his money on L&C as we have no other purpose -- holding it forever does not make a useful purpose.”

Some of the expenditures at this time included $300.00 to Camp Fortunate Chapter to get Clark’s Lookout on the National Register; $2500.00 to Ken Karsmizki’s archeological dig; and a $5,000.00 pledge to the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center fund drive. The newest big project was the authorship of a resource book by Jack Taylor and Don Nell entitled Lewis and Clark in the Three Rivers Valleys (picture p. 6). Many travel hours and much research time were needed to make this happen. The project proved to be an invaluable source for Lewis and Clark enthusiasts everywhere.

One field trip during this period was a trip to the upper reaches of the Missouri, in 1990, to the Sawtell Peak area in Idaho. Dr. Pat Holland, Ron Farmer and Carlton Shaw considered this a most memorable experience. The difficult hike made it a real challenge, the unfortunate part of the trip was the broken ankle of Jack Taylor resulting in a flight to a hospital by helicopter.
The picture on the right identifies the farthest reaches of the Missouri River on Sawtell Peak. This field trip was remembered by many as their favorite adventure and true hiking challenge. Don Nell continued to research the area and historical papers which culminated in the November, 2002, We Proceeded On article "The Utmost Reaches of the Missouri" which he co-authored with Anthony Demetriades, the first president of the Gallatin County Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission who had a summer home in the area.

Many expert/amateur historians were members of the Chapter contributing their skills. During the first five years a rich variety of talks were given by Jack Taylor, Don Nell, Charles Kirkpatrick, Cheryl Farmer, Jack Fellerhoff, Stu Knapp, Ken Karsimizki and Patrick Holland. During the early '90s more visiting lecturers spoke: Dr. Dale Tash, retired president of Western Montana College; Bob Haraden, retired superintendent of the Lewis Monument on the Natchez Trace; and Jenny DeVoe on "Medical Aspects of the Zebulon Pike Expeditions".

Politically, the Chapter lost three efforts on behalf of the Corps. In 1986 Don with the support of Darla Joyner, executive director of the Bozeman Chamber of Commerce, made an appeal to honor Lewis and Clark by having North Seventh Avenue renamed in their honor. There was great resistance from the businesses and it was rejected. When North Nineteenth Avenue was being completed, in 1992, Dr Holland requested that that avenue be designated Lewis and Clark Avenue. The County Commissioners rejected this one also. An effort by Don to the school board to use the Journal spelling of Sacagawea rather than Sacajawea School was also met with rebuke. He did win one name change. The Geographic Society accepted the spelling of Sacagawea as the official name of the highest peak in the Bridger Range, but naming its twin peak, Nya Nuki, upset Don because it is based on a fictional character.

During the 1993 Annual Meeting in Collinsville, Illinois, Don Nell was presented with the Distinguished Service Award. Many years later Barb Nell expressed the reason she participated in Lewis and Clark activities, "Honestly? I wanted to spend time with
Don! Don was never much of a participant in ‘group activities’ but Headwaters Chapter and Lewis and Clark became his life. After retirement, he loved both and I learned to love both, also. Only our family was more important to him.”

A Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee was organized to plan for the upcoming commemorations. Stu Knapp, Headwaters member, was appointed to the Committee. His firm commitment for equal presence of Indian tribes to tell their story was a key element to its success. In 1994 Stu became National President of the LCTHF.

The Chapter in 1994 was led by President Cheryl Farmer, Vice-President Jack Fellerhoff, Secretary Jack Taylor, Treasurer Don Nell, supported by Board Members Patrick Holland, Shirley Powell, Charles Kirkpatrick, John Rogers, Roger Holm and Lois Roby. Highlight of the year was the Upper Missouri River float trip from Coal Banks to Judith Landing led by Jack Taylor. This was noted as one of the most notable memories in which they participated by many Chapter Members. Ken Karsmizki continued to be supported by the club in his archeology digs.

June 23-24, 1994
Organizing at Coal Banks for another Jack Taylor led trip.
Ron & Cheryl Farmer; Carlton & Sara Shaw; Patrick, Chris and Wade Holland; (others not identified). Jack is seated in front.

Jack Taylor paddling on the Upper Missouri 2009 he will celebrate 50 consecutive years of floating the White Cliffs area.

Dr. Patrick Holland presided over the Chapter for 1995 and 1996 with Lois Roby Vice-President, Jean Thorson-Secretary, Don Nell-Treasurer, and Larry Merkel and Bob Haraden--Board Members. Don Nell continued communicating with enthusiasts and selling various L & C teaching materials as well as the bronze called “The Mapmaker” and Eldon Chuinard, Only One Man Died.

Talks during the year featured Jack Taylor recounting the expedition’s time on the Columbia River, a script which he uses for his tour of that area. Dr. Stu Knapp talked on the scientific “Legacy of Lewis and Clark”; Dr Ron Loge, Ennis, talked on the medical aspects of the expedition; Don Nell on “Expenditures of the L & C Expedition”; and Ken Karsmizki on “Lewis and Clark and Their Connections with the Early Fur Trade”.
The first time the Chapter journeyed to the Lolo Trail for a Lewis and Clark experience was August 3-4, 1996. Below are some of the pictures taken of high mountains, with bear grass in abundance, teeming with history.

Lois Roby became president of Headwaters Chapter in 1997 and 1998. This was a time of rising interest in the upcoming 200 year celebration of the Louisiana Purchase and ultimately the role of the Corps of Discovery. Stephen Ambrose’s timely book, *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson and the Opening of the American West*, published in 1996, piqued an American interest in heroes and history. Stephen Ambrose said his publishers estimated a run of 20,000 books for a first edition considering it was a story of a 200-year-old local hero and story. Soon reprints climbed to one million increasing to about three million before the Bicentennial was over. Entrepreneurs saw money in what might happen as people exhibited a renewed interest in history. Eleven original trail states claimed Lewis and Clark as their own. Shortly twenty-six states, not to be denied, became part of the commemoration and received federal funds for grants, monuments, museums, signage, etc. Montana created a very active Bicentennial Commission with good support from the state legislature. Bozeman formed a Regional Group, in 1999, that functioned for a few years until finally being absorbed into the Headwaters Chapter, because so many members and priorities were shared. Tony Demetriadis and John Langenheim served as local organizers and presidents of the Regional Chapter sponsoring many activities. An ensuing increase from schools, clubs, museums in learning more on this subject made Headwaters Chapter a natural source for securing discussion leaders. The Headwaters Chapter membership grew to 110 with many new people wanting to see parts of the trail that the charter members had already experienced.

The officers in addition to President Lois Roby for ’97 and ’98 were Vice-President Larry Merkel, Secretary Jean Thorson, Treasurer Don Nell and Directors Patti Goodrich, Everett Lensink and Pat Holland (’98).
The Chapter gave $3,000.00 to the Museum of the Rockies to co-sponsor several national speakers. In the Fish Wildlife and Parks Building speakers at chapter meetings were Dr. Pierce Mullen on “The Big Picture”, Joe Mussulman on “In Greatest Harmony: Medicine Songs of the Lewis and Clark Trail” (held at United Methodist Church), Robin William’s film titled “The Trail of Lewis and Clark Expedition 1803-1806”, Dr. Stu Knapp on “The Literature of the L & C Expedition”, Cheryl Farmer on the “Journey from Camp Wood to the Platte River”; Christopher Harris on “Albert Gallatin”; Ron Laycock, National L & C Board member, on “Women of the Expedition”; and Don Nell added his take on “Perfect Harmony !!!!!!: All was not Perfect on the L & C Expedition”. The Museum of the Rockies talks were: Ken Karsmizki, “From One End of the Trail to the Other: Archeological Investigations in IL, ND, MT, and OR; Dr. William Swaggerty, “The Indianization of Lewis and Clark”; Merna DeBolt, “Insights Into Meriwether Clark”; Don Nell and Jack Taylor, “Traveling Along the Trail”; Dr Philip Morgan, “York’s World: Slavery and the Lewis and Clark Expedition”. 

Field trips were basic to maintaining high interest by members. The trip to Fort Remon, by way of Pictograph Cave State Park, gave members an opportunity to see Ken Karsmizki demonstrate magnetometry research in the hunt for Lisa’s original fort at the confluence of the Bighorn and Yellowstone Rivers. In July Don Peterson, Great Falls, was interpreter on the Portage Route on a visit to the Lower Portage Archeological dig.

Lewis and Clark Pass was visited by several members with Jack Taylor presenting details on the history and botany of the area. Dr. Patrick Holland led a field trip to historic sites in the Gallatin Valley, concluding at Headwaters State Park.

Members from Headwaters Museum and other Three Forks community representatives met many times to plan ways of honoring the importance of Lewis and Clark coming through the area. Lois Roby and R. G. Montgomery represented Headwaters Chapter indicating how the group could help with what developed into the Festival of Discovery and eventually into The Children’s Festival. The event was scheduled close to the weekend of July 25 and 27 when Clark, and then Lewis, first reached the three forks of the Missouri. The chapter recruited and coordinated speakers
Weekend of Discovery at Headwaters State Park

Left- 1999 Co-Chair Dale Hedman organizes speakers for the event. Right. 2000 Jackie Montgomery gives a speech as well as keeping speakers on schedule.

At Headwaters Park for the two-day event. Lois Roby and Dale Hedman, a teacher at Manhattan Public Schools, chaired the event; R. G. Montgomery set up the Chapter tent and educational trunk on Fort Rock while Jackie Montgomery coordinated the speakers tent. The Black Powder Fur Trappers participated with displays of interest. A similar program was presented for two years at Headwaters Park until the program moved into the city of Three Forks. Portage Route Honor Guard joined the event with their historical re-enactments; a flag ceremony and parade opened the event; and the museum and library offered a variety of learning activities on history of the area. Chapter members continued to be involved in the event until the end of the L. & C. Bicentennial.

HEADWATERS CHAPTER EDUCATIONAL TRUNK

Top Center. The closed education-trunk was available to teachers with many special-ordered replica materials.
Bottom Center. The open trunk, with easy access, on display, contained $5,000 in materials for classroom use.
Bottom Left. Two wedge tents, a tarp and outdoor cooking tripods gave realism to set-ups as shown in Virginia City n
Bottom Right. R. G. Montgomery showed the trunk over 230 times in 45 different schools to over 11,000 people.
Two requests were made in early 1998 by Lois Roby. The new specially-made traveling educational trunk needed someone to transport it and display contents and talk about the replicas of materials from the early 1800s. A second appeal was for an editor to produce a newsletter to inform the membership about the diverse Lewis and Clark Bicentennial activities, seeming to be arriving at critical mass speed. R. G. Montgomery, retired biology teacher, and wife, Jackie, former teacher and church secretary, volunteered to do the respective tasks for a "short time" which extended to ten years plus for both.

Larry Merkel served as President for 1999 with Vice-President Patrick Holland, Secretary Carolyn Rogers, Treasurer Don Nell and Board Members Everett Lensink, Patti Goodrich, Jean Thorson and R. G. Montgomery. The past president, in this case Lois Roby, also served as a voting member of the board. In 2000 officers were President Larry Merkel, Vice-President R. G. Montgomery, Secretary Vic Lograsso, Treasurer Don Nell and Board Members Jean Thorson, Carolyn Rogers, and Past President Lois Roby.

PAMPHLET AND MAP PUT TOGETHER BY HEADWATERS CHAPTER

Lois Roby, with the help from many members, capably handled the task of multitasking many activities. The chapter, with a grant from National Park Service,
published the very popular pamphlet, “Three Forks of the Lewis & Clark Trail: Their Montana Travels” (image previous page). Its information and maps proved so popular that it needed to be republished in a couple years. The Bozeman Chamber of Commerce asked the Chapter to design a wall mural of Lewis and Clark’s travels in Southwest Montana. Beth Merrick, Director of Exhibits at the Museum of the Rockies, contributed her artistic skill to create the mural with help from historian/geographers Patrick Holland, Don Nell, Lois Roby, Bonnie Hammer, Casey Lipok.

Chamber of Commerce Project. Completed large picture shows two walls in the foyer of the building. Left inset shows Beth working on the art model while Don Nell, background, and Patrick Holland, foreground, actualize the early history of the area. Right inset shows Casey Lipok, artisan at the Museum of the Rockies, and Patrick Holland working on the final painting.

Carolyn Rogers and Lois Roby coordinated the Three Forks Children’s Festival of Discovery for the Headwaters Chapter.

The Chapter commissioned Robert Morgan, Helena, to paint ”Homeward Bound” (Clark says goodbye to Ordway)” showing the confluence of the Gallatin and Missouri Rivers as Clark prepared to trek to the Yellowstone while Ordway continued floating down the river to Great Falls. Robert Morgan (left in Picture) is shown presenting the painting to Carolyn and Sam Rogers who made the purchase and allowed the Chapter to sell the prints made from the painting. Sam and Carolyn donated many prints to local schools.
A special field trip called “Beth Merrick Day” was held February 26, 2000 to thank her for her generous gift of artistic skills in helping the Chapter, a great chance for Don Nell to give a Park-Gallatin County historical tour. It proved to be a cool but fun and educational outing.

Don Nell donated over 250 books to the Gallatin County Historical Society valued at $13,000 to $15,000. He also gifted the LCTHF Library with collections of pictures, books and miscellaneous archival papers. He received the first Robert Betts Award for his “exceptional service to the library” at the 2000 National Meeting in Dillon, Montana.

A wide variety of topics surfaced and celebratory ideas flowed. Carla Wamback, Helena, told of “Bird Sightings of Lewis and Clark” and Margo Krager illustrated cloth of the late 18th century entitled “Trade Goods-Textiles: Blankets and Calicos”.

The picture to the right shows Prince Hans Von Sachsen-Altenburg and his fiancée from the Georgian Province in Asia. He visited Montana and talked on his book Duke Paul of Wurtemberg on the Missouri Frontier: 1823, 1830 and 1850. His own family history is from central Germany where Duke Paul lived.

Jean Baptiste Charbonneau “Pomp” acted as guide to Duke Paul of Wurtemberg. The story relates to the visits of Duke Paul on the frontier in 1823, 1830.
and 1851. Prince Hans' fiancee, from the country of Georgia, also of royal blood, accompanied him as the Montgomerys gave them a sightseeing tour of Lewis and Clark sites in southwestern Montana, on the way to his speaking engagement in Dillon. Since that time there has been much political turmoil in Georgia and no one has heard from the pair in recent years.

Projects in 2000 include Jim Sargent's Pomp "parties" described later. R. G. Montgomery talked to groups numbering over 1300 people, using the educational trunk with the addition of a Model 1803 Harpers Ferry 54 caliber rifle plus two Wedge tents for re-enactments.

Several new members became active in administration of the Chapter 2001 and 2002 -- President Roscoe "R. G." Montgomery, Vice-President Carolyn Rogers, Secretary Vic LoGrasso, Treasurer Don Nell with Board Members Beth Merrick, Jim Sargent, Jean Thorson, and John Mest. After years of effort Don finally got 501(c)(3) tax status for the Headwaters Chapter. A new logo was proposed for the Chapter.

Many members traveled to the Cut Bank area to see Camp Disappointment and the Two Medicine Fight Site. Larry Epstein, National LCHMF President, gained permission for the group to travel on private property and the Blackfoot Reservation to see these historical sites.

Lois and Ed Roby, with help from R. G. and Jackie Montgomery, set up their trailers and acted as camp hosts and interpreters at Headwaters State Park during the summer. Culmination of much work by Lois resulted in receiving the top Fish, Wildlife and Parks Volunteer Award for Montana. Park Director Ray Heagney gave R. G. an Appreciation Award for his park interpreting and Carolyn Rogers received a Special Recognition from FWP for her support during the legislative session.

Talks in 2001 included "Horses on the L & C Expedition" by Don Nell; "Fishing Along the Lewis and Clark Trail" by Bud Lilly, international fly fishing expert; "Fur Trade: Its Effect on Montana & Fort Three Forks" by Bob Doerk; "Who is, or was,
Sergeant Floyd” by Bev Hinds, Lewis & Clark historian from Sioux City, Iowa: “Native Americans in the Gallatin Valley” by Barney Old Coyote, Crow Elder; and “The Rest of the Story”, a look at some enigmas as viewed by Don Nell.

In 2002 the State Legislature approved the Bicentennial L & C license plate which advertised the commemoration and raised money for state-wide programs. Clint Blackwood headed the State Bicentennial Commission. Carol Bronson was hired as the Executive Director of LCTHF, resulting in the longest tenure in that position with eight years going into 2009.

Three special events occurred during 2002 in the Chapter’s outreach. A new rest area was built on North 19th Avenue near the interstate exchange. Headwaters, under the tutelage of Don Nell, raised money from many sources to purchase and erect historical signs to relate Gallatin Valley History.

Lois Roby, Beth Merrick and others read and reread, and proofread the narrative to make it artistically presentable, grammatically correct and historically accurate. R. G. Montgomery acted as Master of Ceremonies, with Clint Blackwood present, for the dedication as Don Nell unveiled the finished products for the public. The Chapter’s spring picnic at the Headwaters featured Ken Sinay and his local guides giving half-day float trips ending at the Park picnic area. Those not floating visited historical sites around Three Forks and Willow Creek.
In the July 8, 2002, issue TIME Magazine featured the upcoming two-hundred-year celebration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Local member Leandra Holland, working on her book on period foods, aided in a photo shoot for the magazine. The focus of the article was foods including a variety of meats (and occasional vegetables) that the Corps consumed. Betty Nason, local caterer, provided the partially-cooked fare. Beth Merrick chose a site along the Gallatin River and R. G. Montgomery set up the replica cooking site with metal tripod and Dutch ovens to finish cooking the food so all could sample the cuisine. Jack Taylor offered his knowledge of plants for their questions.

TIME photographer Chip Simons took pictures and Joel Stein authored the article with tongue-in-cheek comments which illustrated challenging questions about food of the Corps which are still a puzzle. A new name for folks with the passion for the history of the Corps was gained as a result of the article’s reference to “Lewis-and-Clarkheads”. Joel Stein wrote they are a “group of the obsessed...[who] like to display their obscure knowledge by arguing over factoids, which creates a menu issue”.
Two field trips were held in 2002. The Chapter sponsored a bus trip to Pompey’s Pillar for those who had already experienced one with Don Nell as leader, and for those who were new to share the excitement. The group did not realize this would be Don’s last tour. Lewis and Clark sites were thoroughly covered but additional history such as John Bozeman’s memorial on a farm site; first Crow Agency location; Hunter’s Hot Spring Resort location; and Canyon Creek site of the Nez Perce fight before they moved to Bears Paw Mountain for their final stand were visited.

Sam and Carolyn Rogers arranged an equally memorable trip to Lolo Pass and the Nez Perce Trail. New research using GPS coordinates added a modern interpretation of the Lolo Trail as Steve Russell, an electrical engineer from Iowa State University, theorized on where the trail should be re-located in his new cartography of the area. Members participating in the trail story not only connected with the Nez Perce, General Howard’s trials, early trappers and gold seekers, but also to the history of the Chapter and how field trips connect to former members.
The Gallatin L & C Bicentennial Committee sponsored a Captain’s Mess at Kountry Korner Café in May. Besides eating appropriate foods, participants looked at replica items, listened to fiddle music and enjoyed the company of Captain Clark as re-enacted by Ritchie Doyle, of Lolo, Montana. Leandra Holland presented a Power Point talk on foods of the expedition. The Fourth Annual Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Conference was held in Bozeman October 2-4, with John Langenheim continuing as president and grant writer for the Regional Bozeman Chapter.

Another full array of speakers were featured for the edification of interested historians. Ella Mae Howard, from Portage Chapter, spoke on “Heading South on the Upper Missouri With Lewis and Clark”; Nick Gevock and partner Drew Winterer gave a fun fact rendition of “Fishing with Silas, the Complete Anglers Guide to the Lewis and Clark Trail”; Jack Taylor talked on, “Place Names on the Lewis and Clark Trail”; and Pierce Mullen overviewed a specific time of history with “A Tour of the United States and its Neighbors Around the World in 1800”.

The Lewis and Clark Marathon was instituted in the fall of 2001 with Dr. Patrick Holland’s support. Lois Roby and Beth Merrick, after agreeing to Chapter support with a water station, also made 14 signs to lessen the running pain with Expedition facts and whimsy. Two members from the Portage Chapter Honor Guard were available to encourage runners with a black powder salute as they ran the course.

Clark’s Birthday Party was an annual celebration around August 1st at the Headwaters State Park. Headwaters Chapter provided a cake and sometimes buffalo stew to add to the festivities. Captain Clark a. k. a Ritchie Doyle would have a new take on the expedition leader each year. The party was held on Saturday night when FWP summer series of talks were held.
The Lewis and Clark Bicentennial officially began at Signature Event number one at Charlottesville, Virginia, at Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello. The three-day event in January of 2003 centered on The Louisiana Purchase, Indian cultures and authors’ analysis of what has been learned in the last 200 years.

Carolyn Rogers began a term president of the Headwaters Chapter but a temporary illness necessitated Vice-president Beth Merrick taking over. Other officers were Secretary Vic Lograsso, Treasurer Don Nell and Board Members Jack Fellerhoff, John Mest, Rita Sand and Jim Sargent.

Headwaters Chapter co-sponsored with the Museum of the Rockies a program at the museum entitled a “Taste of Monticello.” Fort Benton Historian Robert Doerk played Jefferson, relating his philosophy which set the stage for expansion of the United States in the future. Period recipes were researched and prepared and many attendees wore clothing representing the past to make a very colorful affair. It was a unique opportunity to visit with the “president” and to hear the Werner String Quartet play music that Jefferson might have chosen.

Speakers at chapter meetings were diverse and gave increased understanding of the total picture of the expedition. Stuart Knapp reviewed the “Scientific Legacy of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and Origins of American Natural History”; Franci Taylor talked on “An Indigenous Perspective on Euro-American History”; Author Thomas Schmidt enlarged on his book co-authored with his brother, Jeremy, entitled The Saga of Lewis and Clark: Into the Uncharted West; and Pierce Mullen followed the money trail in his analysis of “The Louisiana Purchase”. One meeting was preceeded with a display of quilts depicting Lewis and Clark themes by Helen Pedula of Big Timber. The Three Forks Area Festival was supported with talks from several Headwaters members including: Jackie Montgomery, Lois Roby, Vic Lograsso and R. G. Montgomery.
2003 was a particularly bittersweet year for the Chapter as Don Nell’s close friend and Chapter benefactor, Bill Sherman, died in March. Already in process was a book about Mr. Sherman which Don and others had been working on to surprise him. Don continued processing the research to complete the text and help finance the publishing with other Lewis and Clark Chapters. The second blow came on August 5th when Don Nell died suddenly, leaving the Chapter without its dependable rudder. Jim Merritt, editor of We Proceeded On in Nov. 2003, page 48, recounts Don’s activities which is copied on the next page. The third tragedy was the death of Leandra Holland in a one-vehicle accident in October. She had recently authored an article in WPO entitled “Empty Kettles in the Bitterroots” and had just had published her book Feasting and Fasting, an excellent sourcebook for Lewis & Clark scholars.

Boy Scout Venture Crew 888 composed of boys and girls from ages 15-20 became part of a Montana BSA Council Program commemorating the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. Units chose roughly 50-mile segments of the Trail in Montana to walk, bike or hike from June 22 to June 27. The 14 Venture Scouts and 5 adults wanted as much authenticity as they could build into the trek. Beth Merrick and Leader Vicki Hasler helped the Crew to make period shirts, notebooks, and canvas sleep bivouac bags.
In Memoriam: former Foundation president Don Nell

Donald F. Nell, 80, a former president of the LCTHF and one of the founders of its Headwaters Chapter, died of an aneurism on August 5 at his ranch near Emigrant, Montana.

"Don passed away just as he would have wanted—chasing a bear off his porch at his beloved ranch in the Paradise Valley," said his long-time friend Bob Doerk. A native Montanan and a retired real-estate agent, Nell grew up on a ranch near Livingston and lived most of the year in Bozeman. He served in the Marine Corps during World War II.

Nell's passion was Lewis and Clark. In addition to his service as an officer of the Foundation, he gave his extensive collection of expedition-related books to its library in Great Falls. He was a contributor to WPO and the co-author, with John "Jack" Taylor, of Lewis and Clark in the Three Rivers Valleys. He led tours of the Lewis and Clark Trail and on the day of his death was scheduled to help the Gallatin County Museum with an exhibit about the Corps of Discovery. "Don never quit learning, and he enjoyed being a mentor to young people interested in history," said another old friend and member of the Headwaters Chapter, R. G. Montgomery.

Doerk admired Nell for his toughness, directness, and ability to "cut to the chase" of any issue under discussion. "Anyone who knew Don also knew that behind his gruff exterior was a teddy bear," he said. "When, long before the Foundation had any paid staff, I was collecting its mail, he answered hundreds of requests for information about the Corps of Discovery. He also responded to many local and regional requests that didn't come through the Foundation." Regarding his toughness, Doerk recalled hiking with Nell on the hills behind his ranch less than six weeks after a quintuple bypass. "He was carrying a cross-saw because he knew there was a log that needed cutting on the trail. I could hardly keep up! He was happy just to be up in the mountains, appreciating every day he had left. That was Don."

He is survived by Barbara, his wife of 54 years; four children (Bill, Jim, Nancy, and Bob); and seven grandchildren.
Venture Crew 888 dressed and ready to retrace Captain Clark’s path from July 14-16, 1806. They hiked 70 miles, learned a lot of history of Lewis and Clark, learned about themselves, and never complained. R. G. Montgomery, right front, handled the camp set-up, history and flint-lock shooting.

R. G. Montgomery brought wedge tents, other canvas shelters, and accoutrements of the early eighteenth century, moved the camp gear for the 70-mile hike and assigned roles of Corps members for each Scout. R. G. made small wooden quill and ink containers so they could record thoughts in journals; set up history and role-playing sessions at campfires; demonstrated the flintlock rifle, allowing some of the Crew to shoot it; and assigned a Pomp baby doll (made by Jackie Montgomery) and cradleboard to their care (he survived!). Members of the trek later shared their experiences at an advanced adult training program at a BSA summer camp. They hiked from Clark’s Kelly Canyon Campsite to Grey Bear Fishing Access, west of Big Timber.

In May John Mest led a canoe float for chapter members of the upper Missouri River from Coal Banks to Judith Landing. Much natural history was learned because of John’s knowledge. The image on the right shows Lois Roby, John Mest, Ed & Joyce Zacher finding the BLM marker for the campsite of Lewis and Clark on May 30, 1805.
A driving trip to Lemhi Pass was sponsored July 19-20. Leaders Vic Lograsso, Rita Sand, Lois Roby and Carolyn Rogers planned the two-day event which several participants cited as the most memorable trip they'd ever made on the trail.

Lois Roby had a passion for history; a love of people; and the skill to involve and integrate people into a program; bringing out the best in everyone. She always kept in touch with spouse, Ed, and their children, even when busy. If Don Nell was "head" of the Chapter, then Lois was its heart and soul. Their home was open to parties, visitors, smorgasbords, and brain-storming sessions. Her total renaissance approach to the Lewis and Clark history gained her chapter nomination for and selection for the Distinguished Service Award from the LCTHF which she received at the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. On the right are the Robys in St. Charles, Missouri.
Restructuring Headwaters Chapter to adjust to the void left by Don Nell brought the group into 2004 with President Lois Roby, Vice-President Beth Merrick, Secretary Vic Lograsso, Treasurer R. G. Montgomery, and Board Members Jack Fellerhoff, John Mest, Carolyn Rogers, Rita Sand, and Jim Sargent. The year started with a long-range planning retreat at the Rogers home. Chapter member Charles Rust acted as the moderator for the day-long event held January 24. Many provocative ideas were brought forward for consideration and some adopted as projects.

The Museum of the Rockies planned two major undertakings to recognize the achievements of the Corps of Discovery. Inside the museum, John Logan Allen, University of Wyoming, was curator for the "West of Wonder: The Natural History of Lewis and Clark" exhibit. Beth Merrick, Director of Exhibits, performed the masterful job of moving visitors through the exhibit for a logical and educational sequence and securing local historical artifacts and books to enlighten the story.

THE CHALLENGE COURSE AT THE MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES

The three-acre area north of the Museum of the Rockies is home to the Lewis and Clark Challenge Course to allow people to experience and learn as they hike the path through the area alone or with an interpreter. Beth Merrick dreamed, planned, and executed this superb display. Upper left: the Mandan gardens planted from genetically preserved seeds from Mandan-Hidatsa tribes. Upper right: the 55 foot long replica of the keelboat which the Chapter sponsored financially in honor of Don Nell. Lower left: interactive display where anyone can learn to shoot a flintlock rifle with minimal instructions (and farther along the path one can attempt to outrun a grizzly (one can never win) but the fun is in the experience. Lower right: path through types of plants that the Corps first collected and identified.

Beth was particularly responsible for the three-acre outdoor "Lewis and Clark Challenge Course" -- a mixture of educational signs, models, living plants and challenges
for the young (and young at heart). The Headwaters Chapter honored Don Nell by sponsoring the actual-sized keelboat setup. R. G. Montgomery served as historical consultant for sign scripts; helped teach a course on the history of the Corps to the museum docents and chapter volunteers; and worked for two summers as interpreter for the outdoor program. The outdoor “Challenge…” was manned for two years and maintained for several more years to allow visitors to walk the educational sequence located north of the museum. Indian presence in the course included three tipis with demonstrations conducted by tribal members during the two-year emphasis.


In the fall Headwaters Chapter Meetings featured Carla Wambaugh with a hands-on interpretation of cultural activities that may have been a part of the great ethnic diversity of the Corps. R. G. Montgomery expanded on historian Jim Large’s “Ten Significant Events of the Lewis and Clark Story”.

The bicentennial events for 2005 included Lewis and Clark at the Headwaters and moving on towards the west coast, with great focus on the many visitors and travelers who wanted to participate in the commemoration at appropriate sites along the trail. The three forks of the Missouri is unique because one can still see much of the area as the expedition would have seen it. The St. Charles (Missouri) Discovery Expedition gave first-person presentations at their campsite at Headwaters State Park, inviting the public to visit and learn of the challenges faced two centuries ago. Headwaters and Crimson Bluffs Chapters helped feed the visitors. The CORPS II traveling “Tent of Many Voices” was set up in the Gallatin County Fairgrounds, with speakers scheduled at one-hour intervals all day for three days. Displays, such as a keelboat, were manned by the CORPS II crew. Headwaters Chapter, under the leadership of Carolyn Rogers, sponsored art projects in the local schools and displayed them for the public. Photos from the Legacy Photography Project, sponsored by the Chapter, were also displayed, showing how southwestern Montana Lewis and Clark sites appeared after two hundred years.

The Annual Sweet Pea Parade was led by R. G. Montgomery as Grand Marshall with Chapter members, Darrell Bowman and John Mest, as standard bearers.
The Chapter in 2005 was led by President Beth Merrick, Vice President Julie Kleine, Secretary Vic Lograsso, Treasurer R. G. Montgomery, and Board Members Jack Fellerhoff, Bonnie Hammer, Rita Sand, Ken Sinay, Jim Sargent, John Mest, and Past President Carolyn Rogers. Twelve Chapter Members logged 4,662 volunteer hours in Lewis and Clark activities during 2005.

The Bozeman Sweet Parade was led by Grand Marshall R.G. Montgomery with standard bearers John Mest and Darrell Bowman.

Great Falls hosted a signature event entitled “Explore the Big Sky”. Jim Sargent and R. G. Montgomery trained at the Interpretive Center the previous fall to serve as guides and hosts, riding tour buses between Great Falls and Fort Benton relating the history of the area.

Chapter Board member Jim Sargent tells of his special program that became part of Chapter lore and fun. Jim relates, “One of the more dramatic and far-reaching bicentennial projects of Headwaters Chapter was the '200 Birthday Parties for Pomp's 200th Birthday'. The parties far exceeded expectations. Chapter member Jim, who initiated and conducted the project, summarizes, “I quit counting when we got to 500 parties, attended by over 18,000 people. Parties were held in every state of the union and in 12 other countries”. Easily the most significant outcome was that thousands of people learned a lot, not only about Pomp, but also about the Lewis and Clark Expedition. And they had fun. They ate cakes (at some of them very colorfully decorated) and they sang, too!

How did the idea originate? Jim explains, “During the bicentennial, I was doing programs for various groups. I began to focus on various members of the Expedition. Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, the baby son of Sacagawea and Toussaint Charbonneau, attracted my attention. I noticed that the journals of the expedition include much more about his birth at Fort Mandan on February 11, 1805. In sharp contrast, a year later when the crew was wintering at Fort Clatsop, there is no mention of his first birthday in any of the journals. I came to the conclusion that Americans should make up for any omission that may have occurred, by having 200 birthday parties for his 200th birthday." The baby eventually received the nickname of Pomp. The parties actually occurred over a period of several months, they were not all on the exact date! They varied widely in length, attendance, and age of participants. Some were attended by hundreds. The smallest one was held by one person, a Lewis and Clark buff, who wrote, “My party consisted of imbibing in one gill of spirits of wine while meditating on the life and times of Pomp.”
Some parties were preceeded with extensive study. Planners were encouraged to be creative, and they were. A day care in East Helena made bean, corn and squash soup (named Sacajawea Soup) and had pumpkin cupcakes, too.

--- Lewis and Clark Story ---

ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE YEARS LATE

A Party for Pomp's First Birthday

by Jim Sargent

Jim Sargent (pictured inset on right) put together a great project when he planned and cajoled people into celebrating 200 birthday parties for the 200th birthday of Jean Baptiste Charbonneau “Pomp”. Its success prompted a book and much fun. The image inset to the left is Jim’s doll that traveled nearly as many miles as the original Pomp.

An Octogenarian Club in Bozeman diverted their usual discussion of political issues to have a birthday party. According to Jim two factors were critical to the project’s success: many people became enthused about the plan, led several parties and encouraged
others to do so; and his 35 e-mail “Pomp Reports” to ever-expanding lists of people, who ordered resources for parties and sent accounts of what had happened. The party reports soon filled five three-ringed notebooks. Jim decided the only way he could share the “excitement and uniqueness” of the parties was with a book. One Hundred and Ninety-Nine Years Late: A Party for Pomp’s First Birthday which came out in August, 2000. Only 2000 copies were printed; Jim encouraged book owners to preserve the books for the tricentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. He used a variety of clever sales techniques, never printing a price on the volumes, and giving many away. He signed and numbered each copy and set aside some with numbers matching significant dates during the Expedition. For those he added a special gold seal and a story especially for that book. Jim indicated great satisfaction with the fascinating project. He values a copy of the obituary in the Auburn, California, newspaper, “The Placer Herald” dated July 7, 1866: “Mr. Charbonneau was of pleasant manners, intelligent, well-read in the topics of the day, and was generally esteemed in the community in which he lived, as a good meaning and inoffensive man.” Jim concluded, I’m happy to have had birthday parties for him.”

Jim received an Appreciation Award from the LCTHF at their annual meeting in Portland in 2005 for his efforts to honor Sacagawea’s baby Pomp with hundreds of birthday celebrations around the world.

New speakers with new research were “on the trail” and challenging serious Lewis and Clarkers at Chapter meetings. Gene and Mollie Eastman, of northern Idaho, presented their interpretation of the use of horses from their book Bitterroot Crossing: Lewis and Clark Across the Lolo Trail. Dr. Paul Knapp, geographer, gave an insightful talk on the climate during the expedition titled, Window of Opportunity: The Climatic Conditions of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-1806.” Paul Sivitz, explored Lewis’ behavior based on the journals, and called his lecture, “Meriwether Lewis: His Best Writings”. National Director Hal Stearns, of Helena, shared his “Reflections on the Lewis and Clark Commemoration Thus Far” Historical archeologist Dan Hall talked about his research at Travelers Rest where he identified the latrine location by mercury residue he found which pinpointed their finding as the camp of 1805 and 1806.

The most important project resulting from the previously-mentioned long range planning was the project to create a photographic legacy of the Lewis and Clark Trail as we see it in 2005. Chapter President Beth Merrick presented the idea to the head of the photography department at Montana State University, and an upper division landscape student, Patrick Coffey, was assigned to do the shoot. R. G. Montgomery took Patrick to recognizable sites between Livingston and Lemhi Pass to record their present state. The men covered 575 miles on May 12 and 13 with an overnight at Dillon in a campground. The 50 images were printed (11” X 14” format) for display purposes and two sets of DVD images are permanently stored at the National Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Library in Great Falls, and in the Gallatin County Historical Society Archives in Bozeman. Patrick Coffey made a Power Point presentation to chapter members and interested photography buffs in February, 2006, while R. G. Montgomery told the historical background for the images.
The Bicentennial Commemoration of Lewis and Clark in 2006 featuring the return of the Corps of Discovery, was split to recognize Lewis’s trip north to check on the Marias River origin while Clark returned to the three forks of the Missouri, splitting again his squad between Sergeant Ordway’s float down the Missouri and Clark’s exploration of the Rochejhone (Yellowstone) River to add to his excellent cartography.

Headwaters Chapter President Beth Merrick continued with the same Board as the previous year. The Chapter hosted a Regional LCTHF program at the Museum of the Rockies, where discussion centered on beginning the third century of Lewis and Clark. Dr. Harry Fritz, University of Montana historian emeritus, gave a chapter talk on the “Lasting Results of the Bicentennial”. Bob Bergantino, research hydrologist of the Montana Bureau of Mines and Technology, challenged the perceived movement of Lewis in Blackfoot Country based on his research entitled “Lewis Meets the Blackfeet”. Dr. Sally Thompson, University of Montana, talked on clues in the journals that led to “Miscommunication Along the Lewis and Clark Trail”. Bob Haraden, chapter member and former Superintendent of the Natchez Trace, presented a slide show on “The Bones of Meriwether Lewis” with facts surrounding his final days.

The Museum of the Rockies sponsored a community event to mark Clark’s return to the Gallatin Valley in 1806. On the outdoor “Challenge Course” Headwaters Chapter presented a program of speakers on subjects ranging from historical flags of the U.S. to fur trapping to Indian music. The St. Charles Discovery Expedition was invited to share their knowledge, including a talk by leader of the encampment at Headwaters, Bud Clark, great, great grandson of William Clark. Dugout canoes were displayed.

The summer Signature Event held at Pompey’s Pillar proved highly successful as Clark’s carving on the historical feature was re-enacted and Crow Indians and other tribes provided a great parade in full regalia, encounters and displays.
At the L&C Foundation Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, September, 2006, R.G. Montgomery received the Distinguished Service Award. The award is presented for outstanding contribution toward furthering the objectives of the Foundation. Highlights of the bio information presented included R.G.'s eleven years of research, including specialties in shooting black-powder rifles, constructing leather clothing, writing with quill pens, and cooking outdoors. Research was based on detailed study of the Journals and visits to sites the entire length of the Trail. At that time, he had made presentations to over 11,000 persons, often using the Chapter's interpretive trunk. He had also led the Chapter as president and treasurer. R.G. served as consultant for historical signs and displays at both the Museum of the Rockies and Missouri Headwaters State Park. As historian he has guided annual Elderhostel float trips on the Upper Missouri River.

Post Bicentennial years, 2007-08, established a new slate of officers. R. G. Montgomery returned as president, Rita Sand as vice-president, Jim Sargent as secretary, and Bonnie Hammer as treasurer, with board members Gayle Clifford, Virginia Holman, John Mest, Pierce Mullen, Carolyn Rogers, Ken Sinay, past-president Beth Merrick, Program Committee Chair Julie Kleine, and Education Committee Chair Carolyn Rogers Newsletter Editor Jackie Montgomery (her ninth year) also served in 2008 as secretary. Jennifer Woodcock, membership liaison to National LCTHF, moved to the Chapter board in 2008.

Jackie Montgomery volunteered to produce a chapter newsletter in 1997, continuing until her retirement in 2009. Her philosophy included education of the membership with a column of information about the Corps in each issue. She designed it to be concise in newspaper format with columns to aid in easy reading. The publication informed members of upcoming programs with contact information and reports of interest about events and stewardship of the Trail.

Speakers were chosen to pursue subjects about events taking place after the expedition. Emeritus historian Dr. Pierce Mullen spoke on “Precedents Set By Lewis and Clark on Future Expeditions.” R.G. Montgomery, with art slides, reviewed, “The Influence of the Corps on Three Forks and the Early Fur Trappers and Mapping of the West.” John Vincent, historian, presented an overview with “Fur Trade and Mountain Men, Everything in Spades.”
The Chapter’s Mission remains “Keepers of the Story; Stewards of the Trail.” The Chapter supports Headwaters State Park in their summer speaker series and in youth education when teachers use park resources and seek chapter expertise for field trips. The Park is the primary distribution source for the chapter’s popular pamphlet and map titled “Three Forks of the Lewis and Clark Trail“. Financially, Headwaters Chapter supports Native American educational programs to help maintain their cultural heritage.

THE HEADWATERS OF THE MISSOURI RIVER
NORTH  45°56.079"  WEST  111°29.428"

This photograph is part of the Legacy Photography Project sponsored by the Headwaters Chapter for the visual heritage to be saved for the next generation. The picture was taken by Patrick Coffey from Lewis Rock above the Headwaters with the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin Rivers all visible.

Speakers in 2008 continued to broaden historical perspectives of evolving exploration of the world. Dr. Robert Rydell, professor of history at MSU, talked about the significance of the one-hundred-year celebration of the Louisiana Purchase with related World Fairs. Chapter member Jennifer Woodcock illustrated the often-overlooked topic of “History Not Written by the Winners: The Black Guy, the Woman and the Dog”. Patrick Finnegan, local historian, recounted history of the Three Forks area from 1350 BC to 1908 entitled simply, “What Came Before”. Renowned Native American Bill Yellowtail, rancher, environmentalist, State Senator, and teacher inspired a large crowd with changes needed within Indian tribes today to continue their relevance as a culture.
Virginia Holman instituted a reading group for Chapter members. It has become a special interactive group who enjoy reading and discussing western history. The picture shows part of the book group from left to right Barb Nell, Jean Thorson, Beth Merrick, Gordon Strachan and leader, Virginia Holman.

As the Headwaters Chapter begins its 24th year in 2009, the new administration will be led by President Pierce Mullen, Vice-President Jim Sargent, Secretary Gayle Clifford, Treasurer Bonnie Hammer, Board members: Virginia Holman, Tommy Thompson, John Mest, Jennifer Woodcock, Carolyn Rogers and Past President R. G. Montgomery.

The appendix contains three questions asked of members in 2008 -- what was a best memory, why participate in the chapter and what day would be special to live with the Corps? Love of history was a primary reason to be a part of the chapter.

Memorable experiences tell the importance of field trips to "hook" folks on Lewis and Clark history -- worth getting "hooked on"!

NOTES FROM THE AUTHOR

Former National Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation President Ron Laycock challenged all chapters to write their history. I put it off until I realized how many key people were no longer involved as they had been in the past. Others are somewhat “burned out” by the high energy given to the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. We still enjoy learning and consider these memories as “Lewis & Clarkheads” to be special events in our lives.

I gleaned much from past records, from papers preserved by Cheryl Farmer; pictures taken and identified by Barb Nell; and recollections of beginnings by Jack Fellerhoff, Jack Taylor, and Patrick Holland (who involved his whole family in activities). Combine those with years of hearing recollections by Don Nell and the care, compassion, and energy of Lois Roby, and I had a unique story.

As one reads, it becomes apparent that Don Nell epitomizes Headwaters Chapter! We all were welcomed, and once Don discerned your similar passion, he willingly shared his knowledge, time, and thoughts. He’d guide, direct, and challenge a person to flesh out the stories.

After Don passed on and Lois Roby moved to Portland, I needed to use what I had learned and experienced to tell the tale of the chapter, with the hope of encouraging others to celebrate western history. This history would not have been written without the help of my wife, Jackie. She traveled the trail, researched and reenacted the story, kept me on task, edited the newsletter, and put the story into a more readable form. I sincerely hope we have truly been “Keepers of the Story and Stewards of the Trail”.

Roscoe (R. G.) Montgomery
January 2009
WHAT INTRIGUED YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE HEADWATERS CHAPTER?

Alice Sargent
Jim! When we went on a bus trip with Don Nell and Jack Taylor, seeing many Lewis and Clark travels.

Jim Sargent
Ever since grade school I’ve been interested in U. S. history. I learned of Headwaters about the time I retired and its been a great ride.

Beth Merrick
Jean Thorson bought me a membership.

Bonnie Hammer
I was always interested in history.

Larry Merkel
It was very easy to get involved. Don Nell, Jack Taylor & Stuart Knapp provided such genuine knowledge with integrity that it was an enrichment of this era. I have always been interested in this historic time and these men presented a huge amount of information that was presented from an angle that was simple. Not one of them presented the info with any attitude other than here it is. Nell was all done with sincerity. Taylor & Nell were also great at playing games of factual detail. I am sure you remember.

Jackie Montgomery
Dayton Duncan’s book, Out West, encouraged R. G. and me to explore Lewis and Clark sites as we drove for visits with family in ND, SD, IL and GA. Much of our route followed the Trail or was very near significant historical places. Then, we discovered the Chapter, and Don Nell, and lectures and field trips! And, just at the time of the Bicentennial Commemoration! How fortunate!

R. G. Montgomery
I enjoyed reading history books and came to realize Lewis and Clark was such an important part of our western heritage. Traveling along the Missouri River to St. Louis at least once a year was incentive to explore some of the sites that they discussed. Meeting Don Nell, who guided me to read the right books to experience this rich treasure of L & C, brought everything together.

John Mest
I have an inherited lifelong interest in outdoor activities. I know what it is like to be a fisherman, hunter, trapper, horseman, packer, and canoeing multi-day trips on remote rivers in Montana. I spent the summers from 1949 to 1956 in northern Idaho working from remote U. S. Forest Service tent camps working in the Blister Rust control program, forest fire fighter, trail building, first aid instructor and camp boss. I wanted to learn more about the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Eleanor Mest
I enjoy hearing and reading about what life was like in the early years of our country and particularly Montana.

Marla Wesen
Visiting local sites where L & C recorded in journals.
What intrigued you to participate in the activities of the Headwaters?

Shirley Powell
The chance to go on field trips with a group to learn more about Lewis and Clark’s journey was especially appealing. Also our meetings with speakers are very informative—some better than others.

Vic Lograsso
Love of history. Wanting to know about L & C and their part in the discovery & exploration of Montana and the western U.S.

Laura Clifford
Thanks to the Headwaters chapter for hosting “Corps II” at the [Gallatin] Fairgrounds. I also appreciated the work that the chapter did on the Festival of Discovery in Three Forks. A lot of work and preparation went into these events and they wouldn’t have been possible without dedicated volunteers from the Chapter.

Dr. Patrick Holland
Don Nell recruited me@ the Medical Arts Building where we both had offices. I had an interest in western history.

Barb Nell
Honestly? I wanted to spend time with Don! Don was never much of a participant in “group activities” but Headwaters Chapter & Lewis and Clark became his life. After retirement, he loved both and I learned to love both, also. Only our family was more important to him.

Lois Roby
An interest in Lewis and Clark and local history got [us] up to the first meeting—but it was the friendly, welcoming, casual atmosphere that kept bringing us back.

Jack Fellerhoff
Working in an office which adjoined Don Nell’s and numerous “coffee sessions” where Lewis and Clark was a constant topic of conversation.

Jean Thorson
The Centennial was coming up. The Chapter meetings & Headwaters speakers offered a lot of information for my Social Studies classes. I enjoyed visiting with other members and speakers.

Bob Haraden
Interest in Meriwether Lewis from late 1960s [and my being] responsible for care of his bones at Meriwether Lewis National Monument at Hohenwald, Tenn. on the Natchez Trace Parkway.

Grace Bates
Very interested in history.

Rita Sand
History being in my backdoor which lead me to long wonderful friendships. Also the fantastic opportunity to hear wonderful speakers, be on site where the Corps actually were and to hear wonderful speakers, writers and Native Americans.
What intrigued you to participate in the activities of the headwaters Chapter?

Cheryl Farmer
I had just finished reading Sacajawea by Anna L. Waldo and was really captivated by her story. Ron and I had recently moved to Bozeman. There was a notice in the Bozeman Chronicle about a group meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail enthusiasts. I was really interested in history, in learning about history of this area and thought this might be a good way to meet new people, especially people interested in the same things I like. All the people I met were welcoming, enthusiastic & fun. I found I was learning so much also that I was happy to be able to participate.

Ron Farmer
Cheryl & I had moved to Bozeman from Colorado and felt that joining the Chapter would help us learn about the area’s history. This decision resulted in a wonderful payoff, being able to spend time and travel with some remarkable historians.

Ken Sinay
An interest in understanding what the members of the expedition experienced, an interest in the environment and wildlife of the time prior to the Euro-American invasion, and an interest in the relationship between Native Americans and early explorers, mapmakers, and traders.
Equally significant, I wanted to participate in two major goals: (1) understanding how things have changed since the time of L & C, and recognizing how they are the same, and (2) helping preserve and express the value of our historic resources.

Tommy Thompson
I was given a sincere & warm invitation to attend by a member “on duty” at the MOR L & C outdoor course. It was the bicentennial build up & I had started my much delayed study of the L & C saga.

Pierce Mullen
I became interested in the Lewis and Clark story by way of working with Stu Knapp. He and I had taught a course together for sometime and he was enthusiastic about the whole L & C business, mainly from a natural science perspective. Mike Malone and others had talked about the subject but I had only looked at it in the context of the history of American science. Once I made contact with folks like you and Vol Steele and Don Nell, I was hooked. When Don suggested a “follow the money” idea for the Louisiana Purchase, the nature of the Corps of Discovery became even more important. Many of the specific items they were charged with examining flowed from that momentous expansion of US territory.

Virginia Holman
Meeting new people with common interests in history.

Gayle Clifford
I joined the Headwaters Chapter in 2003 to be a supporter and volunteer of the Chapter when they sponsored the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery II to set up their traveling interactive exhibit at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds in 2004. The Corps of Discovery II was part of the National Park Service.

Carlton Shaw
We wanted to learn more about the country we live in and are familiar with.

Sam Rogers
Carolyn’s early involvement in L & C events gradually led me to become interested in L & C history in general. We eventually attended bus trip classes at M. S. U.
Carolyne Rogers
I had some interest in Lewis and Clark for years but hadn't really studied them. Cheryl Farmer who is a friend of mine gave a talk at a chapter meeting. I was intrigued to hear what she had to say. Not long afterwards I went on a fieldtrip led by Pat Holland to Billings. I was hooked after this adventure.

WHAT EVENT LECTURE, FIELD TRIP, FRIENDSHIP, INCIDENT WAS THE MOST MEMORABLE FOR YOU?

Alice Sargent
The friendship we have shared with the people in the chapter...and many more.

Jim Sargent
Training & participating as a guide at the Bicentennial event in Great Falls.

But, of course, the birthday parties for Pomp are easily the top--what a wonderful experience.

Beth Merrick
Dedication of Great Falls Interpretive Center. Had a BIG accident with Jim Ronda & J. L. Allen in the car! And sat next to Stephen Ambrose at the dedication. I loved the Williston ND events, and Corps of Discovery at Headwaters. And anything with Ritchie Doyle doing Clark's Birthday at Headwaters...Buffalo stew.

Bonnie Hammer
The field trip to Idaho when we went camping and followed the Lewis & Clark Trail on top of the mountain ridge.

Larry Merkel
The river trip with Jack, Don, Pat Holland stands very tall. Don and Jack for three nights filled the evening with history and the meals were great. Jack provided a huge amount of knowledge into plant life and vegetation. This trip occurred in the early 90's and was the last trip, canoe trip, that Don and Jack were on. This was a "living" trip with these men as they knew every stretch from Coal Banks to the Judith.

Jackie Montgomery
Afer a decade, and with notes from 200 lectures, scores of photos, and a huge L & C library, how to choose "most"? ! I remember my heart pounding (not just to keep warm!) at the Bicentennial kick-off on the lawn at Monticello, and at the signature event at Pompey's Pillar (not just to keep cool!) with the pageantry and hosting by the Crow tribe. Meeting wonderful people across the country is the greatest memory, sharing love & knowledge of history.

R. G. Montgomery
The spring of 1996 I drove by myself to the lower end of Shoshone Cove and tented overnight. The next day I drove towards Lemhi Pass as far as I could go considering winter wetness and snow which did not allow any vehicle access, yet. I walked the two plus miles to Lemhi Pass which allowed me to imagine McNeal and his comments on his excitement on being at the far reaches of the Missouri River; Lewis wondering if he would ever meet the Shoshones; and the worrisome, fortuitous meeting with Clark at what would become Camp Fortunate. What a memorable experience!
What event, lecture, field trip, friendship, incident was the most memorable for you?

John Mest
The friendship and camaraderie of R. G. Montgomery and Lois Roby (who paddled in the front seat of my canoe) on the 50 mile wild and scenic stretch of the Missouri River from Coal Banks to Judith Landing. R. G. picked up a Northern Horned Lizard which was the first one that I had ever seen in the wild.

Eleanor Mest
The dedication of the Crimson Bluffs land purchased by BLM Conservation Funds on July 27, 2002 stands out in my mind. We canoe that area of the Missouri and I was pleased to have the site preserved for the public. This summer we were excited to see one of the black garter snakes they described in their Journals.

Marla Wesen
Chapter's 2-day carpool from Bozeman past Dillon.

Shirley Powell
There were several field trips that come to mind that were outstanding:
- Lois leading the group to the confluence of the Big Horn where Ken K[arsmizky] used magnetometry & finding a rock with Colters name carved on it.
- Carolyn & other leaders on the L & C Trail-Camp Disappointment & Clark [Reservoir] Dam & beyond. Stay over nite in Dillon.
- Tour at Two Medicine Fight Site near Cut Bank led by Larry [Epstein].

So much history at our fingertips!

Vic Lograsso
National meetings in Great Falls, MT and Pierre, S. Dakota. All fieldtrips. I like to explore and to see new places. The field trip over the Lolo Trail was especially nice. And also the trip to Lemhi Pass. All the people I met along the way.

Laura Clifford
As a member of the Corps of Discovery II and growing up in Three Forks, my most memorable event (sponsored by the Headwaters Chapter) was the gathering at Missouri Headwaters State Park. It was great to be able to show my co-workers “Lewis Rock”, float the Madison river, and have the picnic with DESC Chapter members & the community.

Dr. Patrick Holland
Weekend over the Ni-Mi-Poo [Nez Perce] Trail with a few of the members including the Robys, Don, my family. Camped overnight up on the trail route. Learned a lot. Memorable trip to the origin of the Missouri when Jack Taylor broke his ankle & had to be evacuated by helicopter. Jack was always fun to have along, including when we floated the historic Missouri R. when the “Eye of the Needle” was still intact. Merkel, Farmers, Jack, etc.

Barb Nell
Almost impossible to pick, but I especially enjoyed the bus trips [with] lots of togetherness. I treasure all of the friendships.
What event, lecture, field trip, friendship, incident was the most memorable for you?

Lois Roby
So many...Don’s last bus trip was the greatest, Lolo Pass field trips and Gallatin Valley tour. But most memorable for me was Alice Creek to the pass, I think because it was Don’s first time to the L. & C. Pass too.

Jack Fellerhoff
Other than Don Nell, I can not recall a specific event.

Jean Thorson

Bob Haraden
Friendship with Don Nell and Jack Taylor and their knowledge of L. & C.

Grace Bates
In 1980 I was Director of the Lewis & Clark Pageant at the Headwaters [Park] in Three Forks. It turned out (1 1/4 hr. outdoor drama cast of 150. Approx. 2500 attended) to be very good, with the help of many others.

Rita Sand
This is a hard question. Every time I was with the group discussing the expedition, it was memorable. But if I had to pick one, I would say the Signature event in North Dakota with Beth & Barb Nell. It was windy, cold & cloudy, but the people & events were warm & welcoming. The conference was beautiful & peaceful & so historical.

Cheryl Farmer
The canoe trip in June 1994. We floated the White Cliffs area (Coal Banks to Judith Landing) with Jack Taylor as our guide. We explored camp sites and other locations mentioned in the Expedition journals. It was a quiet journey-no motors, no cars. The landscape was mostly unchanged since the Expedition came through so we could experience the same sights they did 189 years before. Our group took three float trips on the wild & scenic portion of the Missouri River but this trip was my favorite. Don Nell was our cook and Jack Taylor gave us campfire stories about the Expedition.

Ron Farmer
Getting to know and learn from Don Nell was great. Our field trip to find the ultimate source of the Missouri stands out as one of our best adventures.
What event, lecture, field trip, friendship, incident was the most memorable for you?

Ken Sinay
I have been fortunate to have many individual experiences on the “trail” in Montana, and our local area. I am very grateful to have spent time with many individuals and to have been able to share my knowledge, experiences, and personal perspective and to have the opportunity to hear theirs as well.

However, every time I am on a quiet river, near the Three Forks, and I drift silently around a river bend and see a deer on the bank, or a flight of cranes, an eagle in a tree, or the wake and head of a swimming beaver, I feel a kinship with these great explorers through the natural world we share through time.

I loved seeing and listening to James Ronda and Gary Moulton at the Museum of the Rockies.
I will never forget those who helped me to understand and experience the era of exploration...particularly Don Nell. I will forever be grateful to all those who contribute so much of their time and knowledge and are so willing to share with others.

Tommy Thompson
The picnic welcome for the re-enactors of the Corps of Discovery at Headwaters State Park.

Pierce Mullen
Obviously getting to know you, Don and Barbara, Lois and Ed, Jack Taylor and the dedicated and knowledgeable folks interested subject really are the most memorable things about the organization. I had known Carolyn and Sam of course, but not their deep interest in L & C. Once I began to do the Elderhostel things, then it was cemented as an important area of life. I guess any and all of the local programs are memorable, as well as some of the elder hostel treks. When Jack Taylor couldn’t make a Missouri River trip and I filled in, I began to appreciate what you all did in terms of taking on the subject literally on the ground.

Virginia Holman
Becoming friends with Lois Roby and all the other people I’ve met. Going to annual Lewis and Clark meeting with my grand daughter Kelsie in Chariottesville, VA.

Gayle Clifford
Most memorable for me was when the Corps of Discovery II was in Bozeman, MT in 2004. The Chapter also sponsored a Lewis and Clark Art Show at the fairgrounds. Since being a member of the Chapter, I have met wonderful people that are dedicated to Lewis & Clark and have a sincere interest in history as I do.

Carlton Shaw
The field trip across the mountains from Lolo to the Pacific.

Sam Rogers
The earth lodges at the Mandan signature event with the view of the Missouri River was among the many memorable events.

Carolyn Rogers
It is hard for me to pick out which event was the most memorable. Larry Epstein’s field trip to the Fight Site was fantastic. Gayle Clifford and I had a lot of fun going to the Lewiston [ID] Signature event. Along the Clearwater we stopped at Broken Hand’s Camp on Lawyer Creek. While we were there, we were taken up to an ancient Indian cave that over looked the valley. It was very moving for me to think of Lewis and Clark and many Indians going through the valley
IF YOU COULD “GO BACK IN TIME” AND BE A PART OF THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY WHAT DAY WOULD YOU PICK AND WHY?

Alice Sargent
The day Sacagawea discovered her brother and did all the interpretation. What a thrilling event!

Jim Sargent
July 25, 1806 with Clark at Pompey's Pillar——— and maybe I’d get with Pryor & Shannon & go down the Yellowstone in bull boats!

Beth Merrick
Mid July-1805 at the Headwaters, great Sacagawea stories, the mountains ahead...and no Indians or horses.

Bonnie Hammer
The Mandan village when the Indians touched York to try and figure out who or what he was.

Larry Merkel
This one is tough to single out just “one”. First and foremost that sticks out are the days spent at the Mandan Village(s). These days where so cold and to me it was the start of the adventures of the trip. The Teton Sioux must have been somewhat imposing and threatening. The “one” day or the couple of days would have been those around July 27-28 of ’05 etc. As you well know those were the days spent in the West end of this valley. It doesn’t take much imagination to think of the excitement knowing that this was the end of one part of the journey and the beginning of the next.

Jackie Montgomery
I would pick early January, 1806, when, arduous as it was, the trek was taken to see the beached whale. Having experience in backpacking and having seen and lived briefly on the Pacific Coast, I can relate to primitive conditions. I can also appreciate Sacagawea’s need to see the ocean— and a whale! I like to imagine being her companion, conversing about her thoughts regarding the journey, her childhood, and her hopes for the future. I like to think that, I, too, would remove my moccasins and walk on the beach with her, as portrayed in John Clymer’s painting.

R. G. Montgomery
May 14th, 1805. Lewis described such a helpless feeling as he watched a sudden wind squall dump the white perogue. The loss of the perogue with all its scientific equipment, medicine and journals might have stopped the expedition except for Cruzatte’s leadership on the boat as well as Sacagawea’s heroic coolness. Later the same day six confident hunters saw a grizzly bear on shore that they wanted to shoot. It wasn’t long before the hunters became the hunted until the determined “brown” bear was finally defeated when he chased and followed two of the men over a twenty foot cliff and into the river in spite of eight bullets in his body. What campfire stories were told that night!!

John Mest
Saturday, Aug. 17, 1805. The reunion of Sacajawea with her brother, Shoshone Chief Cameahwait.

Eleanor Mest
August 12, 1806. Lewis’s party came down the Missouri and they were all back together again. Aug. 8, Pryor had arrived at Clark’s camp by bull boat after losing all his horses. Amazing!
If you could “go back in time” and be a part of the Corps of Discovery what day would you pick and why?

Marla Wesen
The day Clark carved his initials in a cottonwood near present day Bozeman.

Shirley Powell
The day the Expedition reached the West Coast & saw the Pacific Ocean—what Jubilation.

Vic Lograsso
1. Their arrival at 3 forks to see what it was like then.
2. Arrival at the Pacific Ocean to experience their extreme relief at the “end” of their journey west.

Laura Clifford
There are so many events and happening where I wish I could have been a fly on the wall but if I had to choose one I’d say July 26-27, 1806 at the Two Medicine Fight Site. I’ve been to the modern day location and have read Lewis’ accounts of what happened. I wish I could [have] seen first hand how the two groups treated each other the night before the incident and what was said and done to provoke the fight.

Dr. Patrick Holland
When they floated through the narrows & portaged around on the Columbia R. (currently at the Dalles, Ore.). Would have loved to see it before the Columbia was dammed.

Barb Nell
Probably 8/31 or 9/1, 1803. Meriwether Lewis leaving Pittsburgh, since I know more about [that city] than any other place on the trail. I always felt Elizabeth [PA] identified as place the keelboat was built was incorrect—and now seems proven to be the case. When I was growing up in a community along the Ohio River every Spring a friend and I would make our way to the Emsworth Locks and watched the boats heading downriver, and west, perhaps my first budding interest in “going west”.

Lois Roby
I gave this a lot of thought—made a list of about 10 days and places—but in the end it would be the arrival at three Forks that won out! Such a special place—even with the mosquitoes!!

Jack Fellerhoff
I would like to have been with the Corps on the date of their return to St Louis and felt their sense of achievement.

Jean Thorson
The “wintering” at Ft. Mandan because it was an introduction to the experiences that the Expedition would encounter to the Pacific coast and back. No particular day stands out, but it was interesting how L. & C. dealt with Charbonneau.

Bob Haraden
The day they arrived back in St. Louis! After 2 years of mostly hardships and now safe return with all but one (Floyd). Colter not with them but survived.
If you could "go back in time" and be a part of the Corps of Discovery what day would you pick and why?

Rita Sand
This is also a hard question & it took a few days to think about & then it came to me "finding the Headwaters" at Three Forks. I know everyone was in bad shape, especially Clark, but to spend 3 days resting in that beautiful location & to finally accomplish their biggest mission requested from Jefferson, had to be exciting. But more importantly to me would be being in the Gallatin Valley.

Cheryl Farmer
August 17, 1805, at the time and place where Sacajawea met her band of people and her brother Cameahwait (Chief of her band of Shoshones). After being kidnapped and living away from her family and friends for about five years. I think I'd like to see Sacajawea reunited with her people.

Ron Farmer
Tough question! I will go with the day they first saw the great falls of the Missouri. I would liked to have seen them before they were dammed.

Ken Sinay
Oh, this one is easy. I want to be at the Mandan villages the evening of the "Buffalo Dance". Wow! 'Nuff Said!!
Otherwise, I might like to be with Lewis the day he searched for the "true" Missouri and discovered the Great Falls. Wildlife, grand scenery, adventure (with no injuries), true discovery and exploration.
Even more, to converse with Lewis, Clark, Drouillard, Sacagawea, Charbonneau...we're lucky to have as much information passed on as we do.

Tommy Thompson
Probably the day the Captains challenged the bluff of the Teton Sioux, which probably was not a bluff. A very tense time that could have turned out all bad. If it had gone bad then the Expedition was a failure at that point.

Pierce Mullen
I think it would be the summer day they reached Three Forks and began to look for a passage west—a tough and fascinating period. They knew they had done a great deal in terms of stretching the boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase, but they didn't know the rigors ahead. They had lived on the fat of the land thus far and now they were really challenging the unknown. This is where they showed the mettle.

Virginia Holman
The day they finally got to the Pacific Ocean—it must have been the most exciting day knowing they'd finally gotten to their goal.

Gayle Clifford
If I had traveled with Lewis and Clark, I would most remember our time with the Mandan Indians. I would choose this time because having lived in Montana I know more about the Plains Indians. But to see this native culture with homes, gardens, trading etc. would have been my chosen experience. Also, at that time to meet Sacajawea and to be a part of choosing her to travel with us.
If you could “go back in time” and be a part of the Corps of Discovery what day would you pick and why?

Carlton Shaw
The trip across the mountains and back must have been a real challenge.

Sam Rogers
The realization that Lemhi Pass represented a most or very western part of the Missouri River watershed. This event reminded me if one of my favorite childhood books, “Paddle to the Sea”.

Carolyn Rogers
I would pick August 17, 1805 when Sacagawea met her brother Cameahwait at Camp Fortunate. What a joyous reunion it must have been—I would like to interview Sacagawea about her life. I. e. her kidnapping by the Hidatsa, life in North Dakota, what it was like to take care of Pomp on her long trip west? What she felt about each member of the Corps of Discovery especially Lewis and Clark? Did she have a desire to stay with the Shoshone Indians? In other words I have a desire to really get to know Sacagawea’s thoughts and feelings about her life.