Iowa's Lewis & Clark Assoc. Co-sponsors Conference

"New Visions of Lewis & Clark" was the title of a conference sponsored by Iowa's Lewis and Clark Historical Association and the Iowa Board for Public Programs in the Humanities. The September 26-27, 1975, event was held at the Eppley Fine Arts Bldg., Morningside College, in Sioux City.

Dr. Michael Husband, Associate Professor of History at Morningside College delivered the keynote address entitled "In the Footsteps of Lewis and Clark: The New Exploration".

The Maximilian-Bodmer Collection of 19th Century Art, depicting the midlands and western America, part of a permanent collection loaned for the conference through the sponsorship of the Northern Natural Gas Co., was on display during the event. The Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council also provided an interesting display which included aerial photographs, slides and information on the development of the Missouri River.

The conference included a 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM Missouri River tour on the 90 passenger simulated paddlewheeler River Bell. With interpretation by experts, the river tour was designed to illustrate dramatic differences between the river today and what was seen by the Lewis and Clark Expedition. While on the river trip, those who attended the conference heard remarks from: Howard Christiansen, Channel Stabilization, Hydrology Division, U.S. Corps of Engineers; Donald Meisner, Director of SIMPCO; Dr. Webster Sill, University of South Dakota, Environmentalist; Dr. V. Strode Hinds, President, Lewis & Clark Historical Association; and Dr. John Lawrence, Professor of Philosophy, Morningside College.

David Van Engelenhoven, Assistant Professor of History, Morningside College, acted as Conference Director. Eighty-nine individuals were registered for, and attended the event.

Montana Members Take Part in Lewis & Clark Seminar

On October 18, 1975, Foundation President Wilbur Werner, Director "Boo" MacGilvra, and member Vivian Paladin were speakers at Great Falls, Montana, for the "Lewis and Clark and Sacajawea Rediscovered" Bicentennial Seminar. The event was sponsored by the Montana Big Sky Chapter of American Women in Radio and Television in cooperation with the Educational Foundation of AWRT.

President Werner was the keynote speaker in addition to providing a slide presentation related to the expedition's "Camp Disappointment" and the "Two Medicine River Fight Site", in Pondora County, near Cut Bank, Montana.

Mrs. Vivian Paladin, editor of Montana, the Magazine of Western History, presented a paper entitled: "Will the Real Sacajawea Please Stand Up?".

"Boo" MacGilvra, who has served on the Board of Trustees of the Montana Historical Society under five governors, was the final speaker, and his subject was: "One Man's Love Affair with the Lewis and Clark Adventure".

Art works relating incidents involving the expedition by Russell, Seltzer, Morgan, Schriver, and Ralston, together with other displays from the Montana Historical Society, were exhibited during the event.

The seminar sessions and displays were held in the Providence Forum at the College of Great Falls. More than 100 interested persons attended the Seminar.

"News Notes" detailing Lewis and Clark activities in other states will be found on pages 3, 4, 5, and 9 in this issue.
President Werner’s Message

It was not until I became President of the Foundation that I truly appreciated the depth of interest that people from all walks of life have in the Expedition. I receive frequent communications from persons interested in the Expedition as it may pertain to their locale, the equipment of the Expedition, or the work and accomplishments of our Foundation. There is a mystique about the Expedition that continues to spread – and deservedly so! This is evidenced by the well prepared and attended Lewis and Clark Conference “New Visions of Lewis and Clark”, at Sioux City, Iowa; the Seminar on “Lewis and Clark and Sacajawea Rediscovered”, at Great Falls, Montana; the Third Annual Oregon-Washington Lewis and Clark Symposium, at The Dalles, Oregon; the Washington State Lewis and Clark Trail Committee’s Quarterly Meeting, at Colfax, Washington; and the Missouri State Lewis and Clark Trail Committee’s Quarterly Meeting at Kansas City and Weston, Missouri.

Particularly do I note the growth of interest in the Expedition in Idaho, which has been stimulated by our Director Marcus J. Ware of Lewiston, Past Director John Caylor of Boise, and Ralph S. Space of Orofino. The Idaho Historical Society’s interest in the development of a Lewis and Clark Foundation entity in Idaho is also noted. We look forward to an Annual Meeting activity in Idaho, and on the Lolo Trail in the not too distant future.

Here in Montana the Great Falls Tribune publishes the pertinent daily journal entries of the Captains in each daily issue, and this has created enormous interest, particularly in people, who at best, prior to this had only a hazy idea of the Expedition. Hopefully, other newspapers will follow the fine example set by the

THE FOUNDATION NEEDS THE CONTINUED INTEREST AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF LEWIS AND CLARK ENTHUSIASTS ON A NATION-WIDE BASIS. WE HOPE, IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY A MEMBER, THAT YOU WILL CONSIDER LENDING YOUR SUPPORT TO THE FOUNDATION. IF YOU REQUIRE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, A PROSPECTUS DESCRIBING THE FOUNDATION, TOGETHER WITH A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, WILL BE forwarded PROMPTLY. ADDRESS YOUR REQUEST TO THE SECRETARY.
Tribune as a contribution to our Bicentennial.

While visiting in Portland, Oregon in October, my wife and I had the privilege of visiting with Robert E. Lange, the editor of We Proceeded On. To be in the lovely home of Bob and Ruth Lange, and to see his library of some 400 current and rare books, periodicals, pamphlets, etc., and other memorabilia related to the Expedition, is indeed a privilege. Bob edits our quarterly publication as a "labor of love". There is no possible way that any of us, alone or collectively, can sufficiently thank him for the countless hours that he puts in on each issue of the publication. While most ably assisted by Ruth, Dr. "Frenchy" Chuinard, and Secretary Irving Anderson, the main burden falls upon him. Not only does he write copy and edit all of the stories and feature articles submitted for publication in his home and library, but it is also from a basement room that all the mailing is handled for WPO, and for the upcoming distribution of the map bonus due 1975 members who renew their membership for 1976. (See story this page.) We are deeply indebted to him.

Lastly, I call your attention to Secretary Anderson's, November seventh message, which was mailed to all members of record for 1975, with his emphasis on membership renewal and securing new members. If you have not renewed your membership, please send in your Renewal Application and check today, and have your friends join with you.

Wilbur P. Werner, President

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Members To Receive Bonus For 1976 Membership Renewal

Recently mailed to all 1975 Foundation members was an end of the year "Secretary's Message", together with a Membership Renewal Application for 1976. As indicated in the message, prompt remittance of 1976 dues to the Foundation Secretary will bring renewing members by return mail, a fine 14" X 30" unfolded reproduction of William Clark's "Map of Lewis and Clark's Track Across the Western Portion of North America". Originals of this, the engraved map published with the 1814 Biddle/Allen History of the Expedition Under the Command of Lewis and Clark, are very rare. Both Coues and Thwaites indicate that only 1417 perfect copies left the printer and bindery, and it is possible that only part of these contained the map.

Printed on fine paper stock, the reproduction is a precise facsimile of the original, and when appropriately framed for home or office, becomes a unique conversation piece. The map will be forwarded promptly to all members renewing by December 31, 1975.

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Progress at Cape Disappointment Interpretive Center

Construction is progressing excellently on the Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission's new Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center atop Cape Disappointment (Fort Canby State Park) at the mouth of the Columbia River. Since this photograph was taken, the large plate glass panorama windows have been put in place. The building is now heated, and will be ready for the installation of the interpretive displays early in 1976. The dedication ceremonies and opening date are yet to be announced. (Photograph by Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission, Interpretive Services Department.)
Washington (Cont'd from P. 3)
the night of October 11, 1805, about
one mile upstream from the
confluence of Almota Creek with the
Snake River. Because the campsite is
now under water, it was decided to in­
stall the marker at the community of
Boyer, Washington, which overlooks the
Almota Creek outlet. The marker
was fabricated by the Whitman
County Parks and Recreation
Department, and funding came from
the Department and the Whitman
County Historical Society. At the for­
mal dedication, Ralph R. Ruden rep­
resented the Washington State
Lewis and Clark Trail Committee,
Director Michael Werner was in
attendance from the County Parks and
Recreation Department, and Roy M.
Chatters represented the County His­
torical Society.

Prior to the dedication, the commit­
te members visited the site in Pa­
louse where the Whitman County
Historical Society is developing a
newspaper and printing museum. The
letter press equipment from several
county weeklies has been acquired as
a nucleus of the museum. From Pa­
louse, the party went to Colfax to
tour the Perkins House and log cabin.
The 1870 cabin and the 1884 Victorian
home are being restored by the County
Historical Society, and were
recently placed on the National Regi­
ster of Historic Places.

After a picnic luncheon, the commit­
te and their guests returned to Col­
fax for the business meeting at the
county library building. Marcus J.
Ware, a Director of the national
Foundation, and Mrs. Ware from
Lewiston, Idaho, attended the dedica­
tion ceremonies, the tours, and the
business meeting.

Idaho To Have State
L. & C. Committee

Good news from Idaho! The forma­
tion of a Lewis and Clark Trail Com­
mitee in the State of Idaho has long
been the aspiration of John A. Caylor,
Boise, and Marcus J. Ware, Lewiston.
Caylor is a past Director, and Ware is
a present Director of the national
Foundation.

On August 22nd, at the meeting of the
Board of Trustees of the Idaho State
Historical Society, the appointment of
such a committee was authorized.
Eleven persons have responded fa­
vorably to the invitation extended to
them by Arthur A. Hart, Director of
the Society, to serve on the commit­
te.

According to Mr. Ware, plans have
(Continued Page 11)

Dr. Allen Accepts
Invitation To Be Annual
Banquet Speaker

John Logan Allen, associate professor of
geography at the University of
Connecticut, has responded to Founda­
tion President Werner’s invitation to
address members and guests at the
Foundation’s Eighth Annual Ban­
quet, August 18, 1975, at Great Falls,
Montana. Dr. Allen writes: “I can’t
tell you how delighted I am that you
have asked me to speak at the con­
closing banquet of the Foundation’s
1976 meeting. Naturally, I accept
the invitation with enthusiasm.”

Dr. Allen’s new 412-page volume, Pas­sage
Through the Garden: Lewis and
Clark and the Image of the American
Northwest was published this summer
by the University of Illinois Press. (See
George H. Twarone’s book review in
WPO, Vol. 1, No. 3, p. 5). Lewis and
Clark students are also familiar with
his periodical writings: “Geographical
Knowledge and American Images of the
Louisiana Territory”, in Western
Historical Quarterly, II, April 1971;
“Lewis and Clark on the Upper Mis­souri: Decision at the Marias”, in
Montana, the Magazine of Western
History, XXI, Summer 1971; and “An
Analysis of the Exploratory Process:
The Lewis and Clark Expedition of
1804-06”, in Geographical Review,
LXII, January 1972.

Certainly one of the high-lights of our
1976 Annual Meeting will be John
Logan Allen’s banquet address.

“Freedom Train” Cites
L. & C. Expedition

The American Freedom Train, now
touring the country and being exhib­
ited daily at many stops along our
national railroad system, is packed
with sights, sounds, and treasures of
our great American spirit. This
immense Bicentennial project is not a
museum—rather, the American
Freedom Train represents an experi­
ce in sight and sound which becomes
a reminder of what freedom means to
the people of the United States. From
all corners of the country, American
ingenuity has designed, shaped, weld­
ed, donated, collected and researched
the Freedom Train into existence.

Comprising two “Showcase Cars” and
ten “Exhibit Cars”, the exhibits offer
a wide range of covering the found­ing, expansion, development, and
heritage of our nation. The themes of
each of the ten cars relate to: The
Beginning, Exploration and
Expansion, Growth of a Nation, Ori­
gins, Innovations, Human Resources,
Sports, Performing Arts, Fine Arts,
and Conflict and Resolution.

Lewis and Clark students and enthu­siasts will be interested in knowing
that a Journal of the Lewis and Clark
Expedition, is displayed among the
memorabilia in Car Number Two, the
Exploration and Expansion exhibit

Lewis & Clark in
Current Periodical

Foundation Director E. G. Chuinard,
M.D., of Portland, Oregon, has con­	ributed the “lead-story” in the West­
ern History Association’s publica­tion
The American West for November
1975 (Volume XII, No. 6). “Fren­chsy’s
article is titled: ““The Lewis and
discovery: Incident on the Missouri
Have Done More?”. Regarding the
subject he says: “Jefferson was very
aware of his own historical perspec­tive
and acumen. He wrote frankly of
‘the peculiar part I have had in the
designing and execution of the expedi­tion.’ To his friend William Dunbar
he wrote, ‘We shall delineate with cor­rectness the great arteries of this
country; those who come after us will
extend the ramifications as we be­come
acquainted with them, and fill
up the canvas we begin.’ And yet, even
with his great sense of history, his
vividness for acquiring knowledge, and
his perseverance in filing and classifying
artifacts and papers, Jefferson fell
short of expectations, in the view of
some historians, in his handling of
certain elements of the expedition.”

Dr. Chuinard discusses six items in
detail which may be intriguing to stu­dents of the famous exploring adven­ture. Copies of the publication may be
ordered from the American West Pub­lishing Co., 599 College Avenue, Palo
Alto, Ca. 94306, postage paid upon
your remittance of $3.00.

Editor’s Note

Heretofore, the editor has attempted
to make use of the several spellings:
“Sacajawea”, “Sakakawea”, or “Sac­a­
ragawa”, as these spellings related to
the usage usually applied in the geo­
ographical region involved with the
specific article making reference to the
Indian woman. Henceforth, with a tip
of the hat to Irving Anderson (see his
article, page 10, Vol. 1, No. 3), and
many others who have made a sincere
effort to solve the dilemma the inten­tion
is for the editor to use the form
“Sacagawea”, unless same appears
otherwise within a quotation. This
may be difficult, since the editor is a
westerner, and has for many forty
years been an advocate of the western
spelling!
WPO has received a report detailing the October 27, 1975, meeting of the Missouri State Lewis and Clark Trail Committee from Mayor C. M. Bassman, Hermann, Missouri, Vice Chairman of the committee. Mayor Bassman represented the Missouri Committee at the Seventh Annual Meeting of the Foundation at Bismarck, North Dakota, last August. What follows is the report of Missouri activities as reported by "Burgermeister" C. M. Bassman.

The Missouri State Lewis and Clark Committee held an interesting quarterly meeting in Kansas City and Weston, Missouri, on October 27, 1975. Members assembled for a luncheon at the Marriot Hotel in Kansas City, and then adjourned and reassembled at the McCormick Distillery at Weston, Missouri, some thirty miles northwest of Kansas City on the Missouri River.

The distillery site is of great significance to the Lewis and Clark story, since the exploring party is credited with being the first white men to discover the huge limestone spring, which is still giving forth some 20,000 gallons of clear, cold water daily. An early Indian trading post was located here and became the site of the city of Weston in 1837. In 1856, the spring became the property of an early whisky distiller, and later was taken over by the McCormick family, who still use the waters from the spring in the manufacture of all of their famous spirits.

The committee held its quarterly business meeting in one of the limestone caves on the McCormick property. About 25 committee members and guests were present, both State Committee members and representatives from county Lewis and Clark Trail Committees. State Committee Chairman Lt. Governor William C. Phelps introduced a discussion concerning expeditions' historic sites along the trail in Missouri. He recommended that these sites be included in the National Register of Historic Places, and that they be appropriately marked. The previously activated "Lewis and Clark Keelboat Commission" was instructed to continue work on their project, so as to have the boat constructed and to arrange for the vessel to visit cities, towns, and communities along the Missouri River during the 1976 Bicentennial.

Director Wm. Clark Adreon reported on the fine "Expedition Party" at St. Charles, Missouri on May 21st. Mayor Bassman presented a detailed report on the national Foundation's Seventh Annual Meeting, which was held in Bismarck, North Dakota, August 10-13, 1975. He expressed his gratitude to the state committee for the honor and privilege of attending the annual meeting as the Missouri representative, and spoke most highly of the fine program and of the many enthusiastic, erudite, and dedicated people that he met at the annual meeting.

The Mayor also presented a strong plea for more memberships for the national Foundation, and urged all in Missouri to become active and interested in Foundation activities. He suggested that they begin now to prepare for the Ninth Annual Meeting which is to be held in St. Charles, Missouri, and other related expedition sites along the Missouri River, including East Alton (Wood River), Illinois.

**Governor Appoints Foundation Member**

Governor Daniel J. Evans, Washington, has recently appointed Foundation member, Mrs. Ray (Viola) Forrest of Walla Walla, Walla Walla County, Washington, to the Washington State Lewis and Clark Trail Committee. Ray and Vi Forrest's friendly presence will be remembered by all who attended the Seventh Annual Foundation meeting at Bismarck, North Dakota, last August. Vi reports that Clifford Imland, Seattle member and frequent lecturer on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, was the speaker at a recent Bicentennial lecture (one of a series) at Walla Walla, and that she has had favorable responses from several individuals in the area, concerning the organization of a local entity as part of our national Foundation.

1. The editor assumes that local Lewis and Clark historians and enthusiasts have authenticated the documentation that the explorers discovered this spring. However, his search of the unabridged journals of the Captains, Sergeant Floyd, and Private Whitehouse (Thwaites), Ordway (Quaife), and the paraphrasical version of Geiss Journal (McKeenan), as well as the narrative based on the original journals (Biddle, Allen, and Coues), provide no references to the subject either in the texts or annotations. A search of Thwaites Vol. 6 in the sections titled: Lewis's Summary of Rivers and Creeks, Etc., and "Clark's Summary Statement of Rivers, Creeks, and Most Remarkable Places", reveals that there are no pertinent references.

2. Instrumental in the founding of the national Foundation, and a Director since the Foundation's inception. A great, great grandson of Captain/General William Clark of the expedition.


**News Note**


There has always been speculation concerning Captain Meriwether Lewis's branding iron, which was found among the rocks, either on the north shore of the Columbia River, or on one of the Indian burial islands, three and one-half miles above today's city of The Dalles, Oregon, in 1892 or 1894. Clarke, in the absence of documented data related to the artifact, makes a plausible reconstruction of the possible history of this particular branding iron.

A similar question concerning the branding iron, is whether the instrument was actually used to brand the party's thirty-eight horses left in the care of the Nez Perce Indians after the overland transit of the Lolo Trail and the Bitterroot Mountains. In early October 1805, after the construction of five dugout canoes near present Orofino, Idaho, the exploring enterprise was an amphibious operation again on the Clearwater, Snake, and Columbia Rivers, headed for the Pacific Ocean.

The branding iron may be seen today at the Oregon Historical Society in Portland, where, as Charles Clarke says: "Many viewers have speculated on its history and have probably wished that this mute object could tell its own story".

Bibliophiles may be able to obtain the back issue of this publication. Make inquiry to Thomas S. McNeill, 207 Avenue G, Redondo Beach, Ca. 90206, enclose $25.00, and specify publication Number 106 (June 1972).

*There is considerable confusion as to the place and date of Charles Winan's find. Olin D. Wheeler, in his *The Trail of Lewis and Clark* - 1804-1806, G. P. Putnam's Sons, N.Y., 1904, Vol 2, p. 118, indicates the place as one of the Indian burial islands, in 1882. In the *Oregon Historical Quarterly,* June 1942 (Vol. XLII, No. 4) issue, p. 199, the location of the find is said to be on the north shore of the Columbia, below Memaloose Island, in 1894.

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*News Note*
THE GREAT PORTAGE - LEWIS AND CLARK'S OVERLAND JOURNEY AROUND THE GREAT FALLS OF THE MISSOURI RIVER

By Larry Gill

Was Thomas Paine forecasting the problems which were to be encountered on the month long portage around these rapids when he pronounced that "These are the times that try men's souls"? No, his reference was to the Revolutionary War period, but indeed his words were valid here. For here at the portage site were packed together more danger and excitement, several narrow escapes from accident and fatal sickness, more toil and sweat and thwarting of the will than perhaps any like section of the trail between St. Louis and Fort Clatsop on today's Oregon Coast.

Conversely, it offered the explorers great beauty - some serene, some wild, some spectacular. It gave them a whole new galaxy of plants, animals and bird life, a couple of new species of fish, and, to a magnificent degree, an esprit de corps to all members of the expedition, for each other and for the common cause. Here, on his first day at the site, Lewis rested at the base of a great roaring cataract, yearning for the gift "to give to this enlightened world some just idea of this truly magnificent and sublime object ...".

Just down the river, a member of the party reached for a bush on the bank to help him pull the boat along ... and found he had a rattlesnake instead. Lewis made a long, long one day trip up the river and back during which he was presented "one of the most beautiful objects in nature" - Rainbow Falls. He was chased by an open-mouthed grizzly bear, almost charged by a trio of buffalo bulls, faced a near attack from a cat-like animal which disappeared down a burrow when he fired at it, was sore put to return to camp over prickly pear.

Larry Gill, a former resident of Great Falls, is a dedicated student of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and particularly of the trials and eventful victory over the navigational barrier of the Great Falls, which required the abandonment of their amphibious travel on the Missouri for nearly a month in June and July 1806. The text is from a paper presented at the June 4, 1975, Quarterly Meeting of the Oregon Lewis & Clark Heritage Foundation. We are indebted to the author for permission to publish this as a feature article in this issue of We Proceeded On.

Cown's Longspur, and also the Pack Rat, Cutthroat Trout, Thirteen-striped Ground Squirrel, and the Kit Fox. All these and the narrow-leafed cottonwood.

Additionally, they discovered for white men's eyes, five major falls on the river, a half dozen creeks and rivers, an enormous spring, and a couple of mountains. The Lewis and Clark Expedition was exploring - mapping, describing - sketching - recording - and by-passing an especially hazardous and irksome series of rapids which barred their waterway to the West.

So now let's turn to the map of the Great Falls, Montana area as it looks in contemporary times, and with the 17¾ mile portage route imposed on it.

(See map on facing page)

Note the present city of Great Falls (it has grown a great deal since this 1953 map was published), which is now clustered on either side of the Sun ("Medicine") River, and within a big bend of the Missouri. Downriver about 20 miles is the mouth of Belt ("Portage") Creek ... and below that ¾ of a mile is the lower portage camp.

Students of the Lewis & Clark Expedition know that they surveyed as they went along by shooting points, or sighting and listing the compass heading of a turn in the river ahead. When that point was reached, they sighted again, estimating the distance between points. One of Captain Clark's first duties at the portage site was to explore, decide on a route, then mark it out. Again he sighted in compass headings, left flags at each "point" and chained the distance overall. But, as you know, there is a difference between true North (the lines on the map are true north and south) and the magnetic reading of a

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1. See also, Mr. Gill's feature article, same title, in the August 15, 1965, Great Falls Tribune (newspaper).

2. Lewis and Clark: Pioneering Naturalists, by Paul R. Cutright, Univ. of Illinois Press, Urbana, 1969, Appendices "A" and "B".
compass. This difference is called the angle of declination and it varies by geographic location and year. In 1953 the angle of declination at Great Falls was 19 degrees, and Francis Mitchell, who collaborated with me on this study, and I used that figure successfully in laying out the portage — that is, correcting each of Clark's compass headings by 19 degrees, before marking the map. After allowing for declination, we found it necessary to correct Clark's figures only by a matter of a fraction of a degree, or a few feet. For example, if the directions called for a heading for a certain distance that led the trail up a steep hillside, common sense told us to turn at the bottom of the swale and go up a long easy slope. While we walked nearly every foot of the route, and eye-balled the rest (through residential districts or Malstrom Air Force Base), the contour lines on this map and aerial Soil Conservation maps were extremely helpful.

The lower portage camp site was very close to and on the south bank of the Missouri, with a deep ravine a few yards further downstream, a bluff which would have helped protect them from the wind to the West, and a nearly flat camping area. Following Clark's first compass heading takes you ¼ of a mile up along a relatively narrow but flat bench between the river and the bluffs to the Southeast. And this is "Portage Creek" — even today, in summer and fall; clean, clear, and cold — in low water, 10-12 yards wide and a foot or more deep. Almost directly opposite, across the Missouri, a small stream of water cascades off a 25 foot rock wall to fall into the Missouri — this the water which gurgles out of the Sulphur Spring not more than 150 yards back from the river. It was these waters which were given to Sacagawea in such quantities to save her from death by dehydration and infection, fever, and the blood loss doctoring of her day.

This entire area is private land now; permission to visit it should be obtained, and a four-wheel drive, or four-legged type of conveyance is best, especially on the South side. Up a very steep hill, beginning almost at water's edge, and at almost the same compass heading for three miles or more, takes you over some steep rolling hills and up on the level prairie, crossing one quite deep ravine at 2½ miles. But this route was probably only used when they were coming back to camp empty-handed; the boats and heavy packs either came up Portage Creek ¾ of a mile, then up on the prairie by way of a long, fairly easy incline (now the site of a county road, no doubt then the site of a buffalo trail), or perhaps some packs were carried across the rough stretch of ground directly from lower portage camp to the Portage Creek egress and then up the incline just mentioned. Once up on top, and around the head of the deep ravine, all trails became one. The canoes were mounted on axles and slices of cottonwood trees made to act as wheels, as soon as level ground was reached.

The land was gently rolling now for the rest of the way westward to the upper portage camp at White Bear Islands. The soil, especially at the eastern end, is often a heavy clay, locally called gumbo, and it's sticky when wet and can dry as hard as concrete. At the time of Lewis & Clark, this area was, and had been, heavily overgrazed for years by buffalo and other wild game, and cactus with long vicious spines, called Prickly Pear, was everywhere. Their inch-long spines, the hardened clay, the rocks and brush, made the portage route become torture itself for the feet of the crew, even when they wore double thick, dried bullhide moccasins.

"Willow Run" (present day Box Elder) Creek, is a dry coulee most of the year, and treeless in the middle of an immense plateau. Although the
bottom, the largest (in free fall drop), and perhaps the most spectacular, was the Great Falls. It was later surveyed by Clark and adjudged to be 87 feet, ¾ inches in height. Cliffs 150 to 200 feet high piled in the river above and below. One of several Montana Power Co. hydroelectric dams has now changed the appearance and free flowing aspects of the falls.

Above the Great Falls five miles or so is an irregular cataract, with a fall of 19 feet. Its contemporary design is something on the order of an uneven horseshoe. In low water much of the shelf rock is dry. Gradually the gorge-like cliffs have dropped away until at this point they are rolling hills on the north bank, and low cliffs on the south.

Just around the bend from Crooked Falls and the small island and regular as Crooked is jagged, is the 47 foot “Beautiful Cascade” now called Rainbow Falls. Even today this is a most interesting and delightful cascade - the contour of a quarter moon, and rainbows still form in late afternoon as the sun shines through the mist of high water.

You can’t find Colter Falls now; concrete added to the top of Rainbow to form a reservoir, has backed water over the top of the six foot step which formed Colter Falls and it is lost to sight. Just above that a half mile, and also somewhat changed by the Rainbow backwater, is the “Giant Fountain” of Lewis & Clark’s Journal now called Giant Springs. At that time it boiled out of the ground near the water’s edge on the south bank, and dropped eight feet into the river. Now the drop is barely noticeable. But the volume of water may be nearly the same; it is clear and cold (53 degrees) and covers about ¾ acre – one of the largest in America. Some geologists think that Giant Springs is the outlet of an underground river – that glaciers filled the old Missouri River bed which cut across the elbow with gravel, and that some of the river still crosses under the city.

Two and a half miles above the Spring is the last of the falls. This one was 26 feet, but was unnamed by the Expedition. However, they did describe it in detail a little island just below the falls, containing a single cottonwood tree, and in this an eagle’s nest. Because either that lady eagle, her daughters, granddaughters or other of her tribe continued to nest there each year, the falls was eventually named Black Eagle Falls. Today it too is surrounded by concrete and steel, and is a “working” falls for the users of electricity. For many decades, either side of the river at this point was an industrial complex - to refine basic metallic elements, mostly copper. One of the tallest smokestacks in the world (so big a railroad freight car could fit inside its brick throat) now rears its snout above the hill from which Lewis first looked out over the “Medicine River Valley” to the southwest.

Just below, the little town of Black Eagle (they called it “Little Chicago” for a while) is now located. Lewis shot a buffalo cow ... and while he leaned on his gun to watch her die ... was attacked by a most belligerent, pricky bear. With an empty gun and no tree to climb, Lewis tried to bluff it out - first he retreated at a slow walk, then a fast walk, a trot, a gallop. The bear stepped up the pace until Lewis swerved to the side, ran into the river (which is nearly level with the bank at this spot), and turned to face the bear. Thankfully, just at that moment the bear turned and lumbered off up the valley toward the “Medicine” (Sun) River. Even after that, Lewis had the courage to follow in that same trail, to figure out the lay of the land more accurately.

Following the fiasco of the iron boat, by Van Kirke Nelson, M.D. and Cato K. Butler, Kalispell, Montana, 1966, pp. 6 and 7. The original painting is the property of the Thomas Gilcrease Institute, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

6. The iron frame for the vessel was constructed at the Harpers Ferry Military Arsenal in 1803, and was assembled so as to be transported to the upper Missouri, there to be assembled again, cut the boat into sections, and made ready for the continuing ascent of the river. Paul R. Cutright tells the story of the iron boat in his volume (op. cit., pp. 20, 164-165). “The iron boat frame seems to have been a product of Lewis’s inventive mind and to oversee each step of its construction, he stayed on in Harper’s Ferry a full month instead of the week originally intended ... above the Great Falls in 1805” When the iron boat was finally completed, it was 36 feet long, four and one-half feet wide, and capable of carrying an estimated load of 8,000 pounds. To give it proper integument, Lewis had employed 28 elk and four buffalo hides. Not having tar or pitch with which to pay her seams, he improvised with a paste of charcoal, beeswax, and tallow. When launched, “she lay like a perfect cork in the water ... A few hours later the seams opened, and it was all too obvious that Lewis’s cherished experiment had come a cropper. The failure was ‘mortifying’ him. The iron boat covered half the distance of the trip, and was left behind. It was then put aside, the place of two pirogues ... now they faced the necessity of further delay to construct two new dugouts.”
which sank dead in the water, the Expedition went on up the river to "Canoe Camp"—22 miles by river, only six to seven miles across country, and found some mighty cottonwood trees which they chopped down, hollowed out, and made canoes for further progress up the Missouri. They had expected the iron boat to transport almost four tons of weight, and so the two new dugouts were expected to carry most of that total weight.

In 1965, when Dr. Paul Cutright of Jenkintown, Pa., and his late brother of Wooster, Ohio, Dr. C. R. Cutright, visited us in Great Falls, we searched out "Canoe Camp" once again and found a large grove of giant cottonwood trees in presumably the same spot. Dr. Paul Cutright described them as "by far the largest cottonwood stand (five in particular) that I have seen anywhere in my journeyings up and down the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers". All five had circumferences, four feet from the ground, of at least 17 feet, and one giant had a girth of 20 feet, 2 inches and a diameter of six and one-half feet. "Canoe Camp" is located on the present Larry Gannon Ranch and is available for inspection only by permission.

And so the Lewis & Clark Expedition proceeded on!

Oregon-Washington
3rd Annual Symposium

Irving W. Anderson, Secretary of the national Foundation, Past President of the Oregon Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation, and member of the Governor’s Oregon Lewis and Clark Trail Committee, served as Co-Chairman for the Third Annual Oregon-Washington Lewis and Clark Symposium. His report on this splendid, well attended two-state activity follows:

Sponsored jointly by the Oregon-Washington Governors' Lewis and Clark Trail Committees, the Third Annual Symposium was held at Postage Inn, The Dalles, Oregon, on October 4, 1975. One hundred and fifteen Lewis and Clark enthusiasts were in attendance, including national Foundation Directors from three states. These were the two Governors' committees' chairman, Dr. "Frenchy" Chuninard, Oregon, and George H. Tweeney, Washington, together with Marcus J. Ware, Idaho. Dr. Johnaylor, past national Director, Idaho, and Mrs. Caylor were also present. Co-Chairman for the Washington State committee was Roy D. Craft, who also served as Master of Ceremonies.

Participants enjoyed a superb symposium program, which included the following:

1. A narrated slide presentation titled: "Farewell to Celilo", by Mr. Ray McGuire, of The Dalles Camera Club. This consisted of a marvelous collection of vintage color slides of Celilo Falls, showing traditional Indian salmon fishing activities comparable to those described by Lewis and Clark. Celilo Falls is now inundated by back waters of The Dalles Dam, and traditional Indian dip-netting scenes have passed into history.

2. A paper by national Foundation Past President Robert E. Lange, titled: "Lewis and Clark at Their 'Great Falls' of the Columbia." This fine paper sketched the background and progress of the Expedition, with special focus on the incidents of greatest hardship, hazard, and extreme physical effort experienced, including negotiating the "Great Falls" and the "Long and Short Narrows" of the mighty Columbia River. Bob accompanied his paper with slides of maps, including the one by Captain William Clark, which are amazingly accurate in portraying the falls, rapids, and narrow constriction of the Columbia River Gorge at this historic place.

3. A paper by Dr. Chuninard. Titled: "The Expedition's Rock Fort Campsite." "Frenchy's" paper recited the journal passages relating to Expedition events at this site, and then reviewed the background of the site investigations and verifications by members of the Governor's Oregon committee, and local The Dalles residents, especially Mr. Ed Dick, who suggested that the site be authenticated.

Upon completion of these outstanding presentations, the symposium participants toured the Expedition's "Rock Fort Camp" for a first hand view of the area. Dr. Chuninard discussed briefly proposals for its protection, preservation, and interpretation. The group then walked over the site, absorbing its great historical significance, made more enjoyable by the warm October sun of Indian Summer.

Joining the Oregon Governor's Committee for the occasion were members of the Oregon Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation, who traveled from Portland to The Dalles via chartered bus. Retracing the Lewis and Clark Trail through the magnificent Columbia River Gorge, the bus passengers were treated to excellent interpretive talks at four Lewis and Clark sites enroute. The itinerary included stops and talks at the following:

1. Lewis and Clark State Park, Sandy River. Roy J. Beadle, speaker.

2. Rooster Rock State Park. Panorama of the Columbia River, including Lewis and Clark's Beacon Rock, Phoca Rock, and Cape Horn, all names that have survived. Kenneth Burkholder, speaker.


All of the talks were excellent, the weather was perfect, and the added dimension of the bus tour was most pleasing to the participants.

Local arrangements for the symposium were handled by Mrs. Allen "Nicky" Tom, Oregon Governor's Committee member who resides at The Dalles. The bus tour was arranged by Malcolm Carter, President of the Oregon Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation. Efforts by both were highly productive, and these, together with the fine program presentations and great assistance by many others from each state committee made the Third Annual Oregon-Washington Lewis and Clark Symposium another delightful "living history" experience.

South Dakota Flotilla
to Commemorate L. & C.

Director Dayton Canaday, South Dakota, has furnished WPO with the following information.

A Legion-Auxiliary Flotilla up the Missouri River to Commemorate the Lewis and Clark Expedition is in the planning stages, according to South Dakota State American Legion Commander, Woodrow Sinkular, and "Spirit of '76 Committee" Chairman, Jack Gerkens of Hill City.

Tentative plans call for leaving North Sioux City, South Dakota, on June 30, 1976, with overnight stops at Yankton, Pickstown, Chamberlain, Pierre, and arriving at Mobridge on July 4th. Other stops are being planned for fuel and noon meals. The overnight stops will include dinners and short historical-patriotic programs recognizing the 1804-1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition, and observing the nation's 200th birthday.

All Legion Posts within 50 miles of the Missouri River have been urged to become engaged in the activities, and anyone interested in boating, whether members of the Legion or not, are invited to participate in the flotilla.

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Two Medicine River Fight Site is Protected
Scouts Rebuild Fencing and Construct Rock Dams to Raise Water Table

By Wilbur P. Werner**

Forty-seven Boy Scouts from six troops in Cut Bank, Valier, Shelby, Sunburst, and Galata-Devon, Montana, erected a permanent fence around the trees and made other improvements at the Two Medicine River Fight Site. The project was completed by late September, as a Boy Scout Bicentennial Project. The three ancient trees have been identified as the site of the first and only armed conflict between members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and Indians. On July 26 and 27, 1806, Captain Meriwether Lewis and three other members of the exploring party skirmished with eight Piegan** Indians at this place.

On the return from the Pacific, the expedition divided into two parties for the portion of the return journey through the country that is now known as Montana. Separating at their "Traveler's Rest" campsite, about eleven miles south of present Missoula, a portion of the party under Captain Clark proceeded southeasterly to the Yellowstone River. Captain Lewis and his party traveled directly to the vicinity of the Great Falls of the Missouri. After leaving some of his men to recover supplies cached here the previous summer, and to effect the portage of their canoes and supplies around the falls, Lewis and three

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3. Piegan or Pikuni, one of three Blackfeet Tribes, the other two being in Southern Alberta, Canada, known as the Blood or Kainah and the Northern Blackfeet or Siksika.

From Grace Flandrau, "A Glance at the Lewis and Clark Expedition"

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*** Piegan or Pikuni, one of three Blackfeet Tribes, the other two being in Southern Alberta, Canada, known as the Blood or Kainah and the Northern Blackfeet or Siksika.
of his best men, Drewyer, Joseph and Reuben Field, made a side-exploration to determine the most northern sources of the Marias River. Their "Camp Disappointment" was the most northern point reached by members of the expedition, and is located on Cut Bank Creek (a tributary of the Marias) about 20 miles west of Cut Bank, Montana. After camping here for three days, they departed on the morning of July 26th to rendezvous with the balance of the party at the confluence of the Marias and Missouri Rivers.

That same afternoon they met a party of eight Piegan Indians on the south bank of the Two Medicine River. The hostile encounter that took place at daybreak at the site where they encamped with the Indians, in the vicinity of what Captain Lewis described as "three solitary trees," on July 27, 1806, is historically noteworthy for several reasons, but principally because it was the first and only conflict involving loss of life between expedition members and the many Indians encountered along the approximately 8000 mile route of their journey. No other event in the two years, four months, and nine days of the exploring enterprise so threatened its successful conclusion.

The three trees at the site are narrow leaf cottonwood, and have many dead limbs and give evidence of great age. By securely fencing the area and by placing seven dams of rock and flood debris in a nearby coulee, the Scouts and their leaders hope to raise the water table and prolong the lives of the trees. The informational sign prepared by the National Park Service in 1968 was also permanently reset.

A historical first during the project was a religious service under the three trees conducted by Monsignor Martin E. Werner of Great Falls. Special remembrance was made of the late Pat Sanderson, beloved camping chairman, at both the religious services and the campfire ceremonies on the evening of September 27, 1975.

Adult Scouters helping on the project were: Donald and Robert Kihn, James C. Nelson, Donald J. Topp, Leo Bachmeier, Alan Lowry, LeRoy Grosser, Wilbur P. Werner, and W. E. "Hoot" Evers, all of Cut Bank; and Dan Kenney, District Scout Executive from Great Falls. Tony Mitch of Cut Bank hauled posts and corral poles from Columbia Falls, and the Glacier County Commissioners and the Monticello Kearns, District Commissioner, supplied the additional corral poles from Columbia Falls, and the Glacier County Commissioners and the Cut Bank hauled posts and corral poles from Columbia Falls.

6. Editor’s note: During the final evening campfire after the project was completed, Foundation President Werner addressed the scouts and scouters concerning the historical significance of the "Camp Disappointment" and "Two Medicine River Fight" sites.

A Special Item For You or For Your Gift Giving

Foundation members will be happy to know that sales of the Foundation’s Desk-Pen Set are well passed the seventy-five set mark, and additional sets have been fabricated so as to be available to fill orders for Christmas gift giving. The walnut-based pen set displays an enlarged facsimile of the 1954 Lewis and Clark Commemorative United States Postal Issue reproduced on pewter. An additional pewter plate mounted on the walnut base carries a miniature reproduction of the masthead from the Foundation’s publication, WE PROCEEDED ON. A fine quality matching metal-barreled ball-point pen is supplied with the base.

This is an item you will want for your desk at home or at the office, and an ideal Christmas or birthday gift for the Western Americana or Lewis and Clark enthusiast. Additional descriptive information together with an order form is available. Make your inquiry to E. G. Chuinard, M.D., 7307 N.W. Penridge Road, Portland OR 97229.
Lewis and Clark Historian

By Robert E. Lange

Since 1904, much of the literature concerning the Lewis and Clark Expedition makes reference in footnotes and annotations to Olin Dunbar Wheeler's The Lewis and Clark Trail—1804-1904. Wheeler's two-volume work provides students of the exploring enterprise with a most complete and comprehensive treatise on the great adventure. Except for Dr. Elliot Coues, who traveled the trail of the explorers prior to the publication of his four-volume work, History of the Expedition under the Command of Lewis and Clark, Olin Wheeler was one of the earliest to traverse the route of the explorers and to write of his first-hand observations. His two-volume work appeared in 1904 during the Lewis and Clark Exposition (World's Fair) in Portland, Oregon, 1904-1905. In the May 1904 (Vol. 1, No. 5) issue of the Lewis and Clark Journal, the official publication of the exposition, the editor commented upon his writing as follows:

"Olin D. Wheeler, whose forthcoming volumes, 'The Trail of Lewis and Clark', is being anticipated with such lively interest, has not only delved deep into historical lore but has with all the enthusiasm and pluck of the trained mountaineer, actually followed the long and hazardous trail from end to end, a feat that probably no other writer on this subject has accomplished except the late Dr. Coues. This was not done at one trial, but by several summers' exploring jaunts. The trail in fact was taken by sections, and in the sweltering months of July, August and September... Mr. Wheeler with camera and pack train was exploring some wild faraway mountain canyon or sharing the hospitality of some Indian lodge in the vast wilderness. Many an ancient chief on these occasions was probed for traditional lore concerning the two captains of a hundred years ago.

"Finally only one section of the trail remained unexplored, but that was the most difficult of all—the passage over the Rockies. Undiscouraged by many obstacles, he at last discovered a man after his own heart, the veteran mountaineer, W. H. Wright, of Spokane [Washington], who knew the trail of Idaho and Montana like a book. In the summer of 1902, with compass and sure-footed carious ponies, they followed in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark, crossing Lolo Pass, and identifying, from day to day, the landmarks noted in the journals..."

"This work, which is now in press will be in two volumes, richly illustrated with many new designs, recently discovered relics and photographs taken along the trail by the writer... Among historical students... Mr. Wheeler has acquired a reputation for unusual accuracy and painstaking care..."

Olin D. Wheeler was born May 1, 1852, at Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio. He was educated at Baldwin University, Berea, Ohio; Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa.; and Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. Wheeler first tried a business career with the 1st National Bank of Chattanooga, Tennessee from 1871 to 1873. From 1874 to 1879, however, he turned to a life out-of-doors, and was employed as a topographer with Major J. W. Powell's survey of the Colorado River. This was followed by employment with the Tenth United States Census in Virginia City, Nevada, 1881. He then became engaged in freelance advertising activities in St. Paul, Minnesota from 1882 to 1892. In 1883, he joined the Northern Pacific Railway as editor of the company's annual publication Wonderland. In addition to his magazine editing, he authored several booklets published by the railroad company. These were titled: "Indianland and Wonderland", 1894; "Sketches of Wonderland", 1895; "Yellowstone National Park", 1901; and "Eastward Through the Storied Northwest", 1907. During his travels along the westward route of the railroad, he became enraptured by the story and history of the famous Lewis and Clark Expedition, and wrote on the subject in the annual editions of Wonderland. His descriptions of the western lands and his research and story telling about the Lewis and Clark adventure attracted the attention of the well-known eastern publisher, G. P. Putnam's Sons, with the result that Mr. Wheeler was invited to write the story of the Expedition.

Wheeler authored his work as "A Story of the Great Exploration Across the Continent in 1804-1806: With a Description of the Old Trail, Based upon Actual Travel Over It, and the Changes Found a Century Later".

The two volume sets are rarely found today, except in reference libraries and private Lewis and Clark bibliophile's collections. The work is of great value because of Wheeler's meticulous research, keen observations, and splendid descriptions of the landmarks and topography along the trail. Better descriptions than Wheeler's are hard to find, especially of: the Great Falls of the Missouri; the Gates of the Mountains; Lemhi Pass; the Bitterroots and the Lolo Trail; the Celilo Falls and the Dalles of the Columbia; and the scenic Pacific shoreline in Washington and Oregon, as they appeared at the turn of the century. The volumes are profusely illustrated. His biographical section entitled "Organization and Personnel", comprising 80 pages in Volume I, is the first real attempt by any writer to search out the background, duties during the exploration, and the post-expedition life and whereabouts of the members of the enterprise. Previous to Wheeler, only the "Memoir of Meriwether Lewis", written by Thomas Jefferson for the Biddle/Allen work, and Coues elaboration of this, together with his biographical sections on William Clark and Patrick Gass, provided any biographical material of expedition members.

If you are a student or enthusiast of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, you should not miss the journey across western North America with the Captains and their party with Olin D. Wheeler as your guide in his Trail of Lewis and Clark—1804-1904!"