THE LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

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ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The purpose of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc., is to stimulate public interest in matters relating to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the contributions to American history made by the Expedition members, and events of time and place concerning the expedition which are of historical import to our nation. The Foundation recognizes the value of travel-oriented programs, and supports activities which enhance the employment and understanding of the Lewis and Clark story. The scope of the activities of the Foundation is broad and diverse, and includes involvement in pursuits which, in the judgment of the directors, are of historical worth or contemporary social value, and communicate with the heritage of Lewis and Clark. The activities of the National Foundation are intended to complement and supplement those of state and local Lewis and Clark interest groups. The Foundation may appropriately recognize and honor individuals or groups for art works of distinction, achievement in the broad field of Lewis and Clark historical research, writing, or activities which promote the general purposes and scope of activities of the Foundation. Membership in the organization comprises a broad spectrum of Lewis and Clark enthusiasts including federal, state, and local government officials, historians, scholars, and others of wide-ranging Lewis and Clark interests. Officers of the Foundation are elected from the membership. The annual meeting of the Foundation is traditionally held during August, the final month of both Monticello, Lewis and William Clark. The meeting place is rotated among the states, and dues generally are arranged to visit sites in the area of the annual meeting which have historic association with the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

We Proceeded On is the official publication of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. The publication's name is derived from the phrase which appears repeatedly in the collective journals of the famous expedition.

E.G. CHURNARD, M.D., FOUNDER

Martin L. Erickson, Editor
1203 28th Street South #28
Great Falls, MT 59405

EDITORIAL BOARD

Robert C. Cartier; Spokane, WA
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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. is open to the general public. Information and an application are available by sending a request to: Membership Secretary, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 3434; Great Falls, MT 59403.

We Proceeded On, the quarterly magazine of the Foundation, is mailed to current members during the months of February, May, August, and November.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES*

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President's Message
by Robert E. Gatten, Jr.

Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Executive Director Jay Vogt has resigned from his position effective March 31, 1996. During the latter portion of 1995, Jay's duties in his other position with the State of South Dakota increased substantially and he was unable to devote an appropriate amount of effort to the work of the foundation. Jay and the board of directors realized the situation could not remain as it was and Jay submitted his resignation. Following consultation with and approval from the board, the executive committee considered the matter of replacing Jay and has appointed Barbara Kubik to the position of interim executive director, effective April 1, 1996. Barb brings to the position a detailed knowledge of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the history of the Northwest and considerable experience in working as a historian. We very much look forward to her work for the foundation. Please direct all correspondence to Barb Kubik, 1712 S. Perry Court, Kennewick, WA 99337.

A number of important planning initiatives are underway. The finance committee, under the leadership of Ed Wang, is preparing a long-term financial strategy for the foundation. The planning and development committee, led by Sid Huggins, is working on a mission statement for the foundation; the draft statement will be submitted to the board for consideration and endorsement. In addition, the Planning and Development Committee will, after approval of the new mission statement, begin work on specific goals and objectives that follow logically from the mission statement. The P&D Committee is also preparing a list of equipment, furniture and other items needed for the permanent office of the executive director. The past presidents' council, under the direction of Stu Knapp, is preparing a recommendation on the establishment of the foundation's headquarters and the location of the permanent office of the executive director; the most likely site is the

From the Editor's Desk

What makes *We Proceeded* On the wonderful, readable magazine that it is? Why do WPO readers write the editor about whatever and down in the corner of the letter is a handwritten note saying "I read it from cover to cover, unlike other magazines I receive..." I got to thinking about that the other day and the more I thought about it, the more I realized it was the people who write the variety of articles we print every issue.

Take Arlen J. Large, for example. He makes history eminently readable and understandable. Whether he is writing about mastodon bones or maps he writes in a style that makes history come alive. Or, how about Robert Hunt? He fills in the details on the small things on the expedition. He writes about how bothersome the mosquitoes were and how many and what kind of tents were used. And then there is one of our newest contributors, Joseph Mussulman, whose lyrical phrases create a sense of the flow of the expedition. Writing about common everyday things we might not think about such as the sounds and humor of the expedition is his specialty.

There are many others who contribute and each one adds a bit of knowledge to our understanding of the expedition and the events surrounding it. History is most often not some grand and sweeping epic, it is a series of small everyday events. The journey that is the Lewis and Clark Expedition is made up of the Corps of Discovery advancing two to twenty-five miles a day, grinding it out, surviving day to day whether in the heat on the Great Plains, blinding snow in the Bitterroot Mountains or the drizzly rain on the Oregon coast. It is ordinary men and a woman with a small child dealing with the unknown and making it known day after day after day.

The overall result of the expedition was an epic accomplishment, one never to be matched in the

(On the Cover—A replica of the keelboat used by Lewis and Clark will be visited during the 28th Annual Meeting in Sioux City, Iowa, August 4-7. The boat is shown being pulled by ropes.)
More than a century ago one of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's keenest students was a soldier named John Gibbon, whose admiration for those bold explorers colored his own career in the American West.

Gibbon himself won some notice during the Civil War as a mid-level commander whose federal division took the brunt of Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg. He was to become much more famous as a postwar Indian fighter who nevertheless thought the Indians were getting a raw deal.

In 1870 Colonel Gibbon was stationed at Fort Shaw, an Army post on the Montana plains some 25 miles west of modern Great Falls. That July he led two cavalry companies westward toward the front range of the Rockies, intending to occupy one of the passes crossing the Continental Divide. The Pennsylvania-born officer had gone out West carrying a copy of Nicholas Biddle's narrative of the 1804-1806 Pacific expedition of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Now, as his horsemen trotted toward the mountains, Gibbon saw a chance to indulge his hobby as a Lewis and Clark enthusiast.

Specifically, he wanted to find Lewis's 1806 eastbound route over the divide toward home. Gibbon kept notes, and nine years later published an account of his quest in the American Catholic Quarterly Review. He titled his article "An Autumn in the Rocky Mountains - Searching for Lewis and Clark's Pass."!

Gibbon wrote that his outfit headed straight west up the Sun River, called Medicine River by the 1804-1806 explorers. "As this stream was the one down which Captain Lewis and his party traveled in 1807 when on his return from the Pacific coast, I anticipated a good deal of interest in tracing out his route and comparing his description of the country with its appearance of the present day."

The expedition student repeated that date—wrong by one year—in a later passage, so it wasn't a typographical error in the magazine. But Gibbon rightly focused on the most interesting question: how
much had changed since Lewis described this same scenery just 64 years before?

“Although the appearance of the country must have looked about the same,” he said, “under what different circumstances were the two trips made! Then, this region was a perfectly unknown wilderness, actually swarming with game…” Gibbon cited Lewis’s description (as paraphrased by Biddle) of hunting among multitudes of deer, antelope, wolves and buffalo, and then added: “On our trip we had no such sport in prospect, and pursued our way up the river, seeing nothing more formidable than a few timid antelopes, one of which I wounded at long range and captured after a sharp chase.”

Gibbon’s official military objective was Cadotte Pass across the Divide. He wasn’t sure where that was, but one of his junior officers claimed to have been there a few months before. Gibbon seemed to assume it would be found eventually while he pursued his personal quest:

“I could obtain no information whatever in regard to Lewis and Clarke’s Pass, nor indeed did anybody seem to know there was such a pass in existence. To find this was therefore the first object of our search. Accordingly, the next morning, the main command was started across the country in the direction of what was supposed to be Cadotte’s Pass, whilst with a few men I started along the foot-hills to try and discover any trail leading into the mountains.”

A scout found what looked like an Indian “lodge-pole trail” marked by the well-worn tracks of travois dragged behind horses. Gibbon hurried to that spot, pulled out his Biddle and checked Lewis’s description of the landscape seen on the east side of the mountains right after descending from the divide. What previously had caught Lewis’s eye was an isolated height he called Shishequaw Mountain. It’s Haystack Butte on modern maps. Wrote Gibbon:

“There before me, standing out in plain view and bearing in a northwest direction, was ‘Haystack’ Butte, the Shishequaw Mountain of Lewis and Clarke, and we were in all probability upon the very trail used by Captain Lewis’s party sixty odd years ago.”

Gibbon followed the trail as it...
Captain Lewis as a 'low' one was so only in reference to its surroundings; for although high peaks rose on both sides of it north and south, the gap was high enough to give a very extended view of over a hundred miles to the eastward. At certain seasons, too, it was evidently high enough to be a very breezy place, for the stunted pines which grew there were all lying bent to the eastward very close to the ground, forced to grow that way apparently by the strong western winds which sweep over the mountain."

Gibbon said his small party "had now discovered the existence of a second pass through the mountains not known to the people of the country," that is, to the local settlers. He was careful not to claim that the pass's location was totally unknown, or that he was the first literate person to stand there since Lewis. Possibly he was aware that this vicinity had been investigated at least 15 years earlier by War Department surveyors looking for a railroad route over the mountains to the Pacific.

Isaac Stevens, too, had been equipped with a copy of Biddle's Lewis and Clark narrative when he began searching in 1853 for a rail route running from St. Paul to Puget Sound. As governor of Washington Territory, Stevens took the War Department surveying assignment with an obvious interest in promoting a northern line that would benefit his political turf. James Doty, Stevens' secretary, marched in July 1853 from Fort Benton, Montana, southward through the mountains via Lewis and Clark Pass on his way to the Bitterroot Valley. Stevens himself followed in September. Instead of using the Lewis Crossing-place, however, Stevens veered about three miles further south to a pass recommended by his French-Canadian guide, Pierre Cadotte.3

Stevens crossed the divide again in 1855, this time from the west. Now he followed roughly Lewis's 1806 eastward track and, guided by Doty, rode up the valley of Alice Creek "and passed over Lewis and Clark's Pass, where many observations were taken." Stevens continued:

"This divide can be arranged for wagon roads with gentle declivities on either side. Little or no timber would have to be cut away. We found grass on both sides of the mountain, as well as near its summit... From the top of the mountain, it may be remarked, we had a delightful view of the country before us about an hour before sundown. The air was perfectly transparent and we could see, running nearly to the north, the mountain spurs of the main chain of the Rocky Mountains..."3

While Stevens thought wagons eventually could use Lewis and Clark Pass, he said a rail crossing would require a tunnel. Alas, neither highway nor railroad has ever traversed that lonely saddle. Roadbuilders in the 20th century instead chose Rogers Pass, a bit farther south of the Lewis and Clark and Cadotte passes, for the crossing place of Montana State Highway 200 running between Missoula and Great Falls. That gap was named for Major A.B. Rogers, who surveyed it in 1887.4

After his 1870 visit to Lewis and Clark Pass, Colonel Gibbon wondered whether Cadotte Pass was the alternate "Road to the Buffaloes" that Lewis reported hearing about from the Nez Perce in 1806. Continuing his "Autumn in the Rocky Mountains" account in the Catholic Quarterly Review, Gibbon said he and five companions took a hunting and sightseeing trip on
the west side of the Divide in October, 1871. The colonel was an avid sportsman who habitually packed a flyrod and shotgun with his field gear. On October 7 Gibbon arrived at the Blackfoot River and began following it eastward through country he thought he recognized from the Lewis journal.

"Being now on the route of Captain Lewis," Gibbon wrote, "every foot of the way is of especial interest, and the journal is consulted at every step." He saw hillocks and surmised he was looking at the "Prairies of the Knobs" described by Lewis on July 6, 1806. Noting that Lewis had seen a terrain thick with antelope, deer and game birds, Gibbon marveled:

"Now we see none of these, and perhaps no fact speaks more plainly of the advance made in the settlement of the country, than that a region which 65 years ago was teeming with game of all kinds is now a solitary wilderness. Not a living thing except ourselves is to be seen, and as we move along through the white waste, we brush from the heavily loaded limbs overhanging the long-unused trail the masses of snow which have accumulated there."

Gibbon's group left Lewis's trail and bore right, climbing into "a howling storm" of wind and snow. They topped the summit of a pass and went part way down the sheltered eastern slope, where camp was made. The next morning the hunters looked for game. Lamented Gibbon:

"We soon became aware that the hunting days of Lewis and Clarke were past, for after climbing over miles of rough mountain spurs without seeing so much as a single deer, we returned to camp, packed up and resumed our trip eastward down the mountains. Our guide, as we issued from the foothills, announced that this was the modern Cadotte's Pass, and as we got farther away from the mountains, the landmarks around the entrance of Lewis and Clark's Pass, explored in the preceding summer, were distinctly recognized at about three miles to the north of us; so that we had demonstrated not only the existence of two passes close together, but that they were the two described by Lewis, and named by him 'Lewis and Clarke's Pass,' and 'the Road to the Buffaloes.'"

Gibbon was mistaken about that detail of naming. Lewis assigned no name to this or any other pass,
merely calling his 1806 crossing-place "the dividing ridge between the waters of the Columbia and Missouri rivers." As did Cadotte Pass, Lewis and Clark Pass probably got its name during the Stevens railroad survey in the 1850s. It was half wrong, of course, because Clark never got near the place.

Gibbon continued to sightsee in the West, visiting Yellowstone in the summer of 1872, just five months after Congress had made it a national park. Eastern magazines were hungry for western travel yarns, so Gibbon found a ready market for an 1873 article about the Yellowstone trip in the Journal of the American Geographical Society of New York. The American Catholic Quarterly Review published two more Gibbon pieces about his Rocky Mountain "rambles" in 1876.

That year the frontier soldier started gaining a reputation as an Indian fighter. Starting from Fort Shaw, he led in 1876 one of the army columns trying to force huge numbers of Sioux and Cheyenne onto their reservations. It was Gibbon's outfit that first stumbled onto the Little Bighorn battlefield and buried the dead of George A. Custer's 7th Cavalry.

En route to that battlefield one of Gibbon's officers showed himself to be an equally avid fan of Lewis and Clark. On April 17, 1876, Lieutenant James H. Bradley, keeping his own journal, reported that his advance detachment pitched camp on the Yellowstone River "a few hundred yards below Pompey's Pillar." That was the sandstone butte on the river's south bank described by Clark on his homeward route in 1806.

Wrote Bradley:

"Our boys have been busy all day transmitting their names to posterity by carving them in the soft sandstone of Pompey's Pillar. A number of earlier visitors have done so, first among whom was Captain Clark, who, on the occasion of his descent of the Yellowstone in 1806, discovered the rock and gave it its name. Wm. Clark, July 25, 1806" is the inscription he left behind, and it still appears as distinctly as when graven there seventy years ago. But a cavalry vandal today disfigured the inscription by carving his own name over the letter 'k,' for which he deserves to be pilloried. When taken to task about it he is said to have defended himself by saying: 'Be Jases, it's a dom lie anyhow, for there uz niver a white man in this country sivity years ago.'"

Bradley perceptively observed that the name didn't match the landmark. In his manuscript journal Clark had called it Pompy's Tower, most likely in honor of "Pomp," his nickname for Sacagawea's year and a half-old son. Nobody in Gibbon's or Bradley's day knew that, however. They could only rely on the 1814 narrative by Biddle, who had preserved Clark's physical description while fancifully changing the name to Pompey's Pillar. Biddle seemed to be mimicking an Egyptian column by that name honoring a Roman general. An upright column, then, is what visitors expected to see. Said Bradley:

"Many of the officers expressed themselves disappointed when they saw the rock, having expected to see a slender shaft rearing itself needle-like above all surrounding objects, whereas in fact the rock is broader than it is high, slopes off gradually on the river side, and is overtopped by the neighboring bluffs of which at one time it formed a part. The name is something of a misnomer, but a reference to the [Biddle] journal of Lewis and Clark will show that they described it fairly."

In 1877, back at Fort Shaw, Colonel Gibbon got word that rebellious Nez Perce tribesmen were heading eastward into Montana from their Idaho homeland. In July 1877 he received emergency orders to rush his infantry west into western Montana's Bitterroot Valley to protect the settlers. Once again Gibbon had to cross the Continental Divide in the locality he had visited seven years before. This time he headed straight for Cadotte Pass and the Blackfoot River route to Missoula. If the Nez Perce were coming east on their traditional Road to the Buffalo, the colonel wanted to block their path.

Once through Cadotte Pass his unit picked up Lewis's old Blackfoot River trail that Gibbon had partially retraced in 1871. As he studied the knoll-studded terrain further west, "a light suddenly dawned upon me," he recalled in an 1879 article about the Nez Perce campaign. Now he was entering the real Prairie of the Knobs described by Lewis. "There could be no question about it," he wrote. "This was the spot referred to, and in fancying that I had discovered in the expedition six years ago the place so named by Captain Lewis, I was in error."

Reaching the Bitterroot Valley the colonel turned south in pursuit of the Nez Perce. At the head of the valley he came to Ross's Hole, where he noted there were still descendants of the Flatheads who met Lewis and Clark there in 1805. The local chief's father had been called Victor, who Gibbon said "lived until only a few years ago, and was present at this meeting of Lewis and Clark." Gibbon reported
receiving “many interesting reminiscences” about that meeting from a local settler who had known Victor well.

One of these second-hand tales threw light on Clark’s journal entry for September 4, 1805, relating how the Flatheads “threw white robes over our Shoulders.” Recounted Gibbon: “He [the settler] says that Victor had often described to him this first meeting with white men, and how from their pale faces they supposed they were cold, and covered them with robes.”

“In imitation of Captain Clark,” said the colonel, the infantrymen crossed into the Big Hole basin over the pass which now bears Gibbon’s name, and was used by Clark on his separate return trip in 1806. On the morning of August 9, 1877, it was Gibbon who ordered soldiers to start shooting at the sleeping Indian camp in the Big Hole. Both Nez Perce and army casualties were heavy in the ensuing battle; Lieutenant Bradley, the Pompey’s Pillar visitor, was the first soldier to die. The bloody fight heightened Gibbon’s celebrity among newspaper readers in the East. He had become a reasonably famous man in 1879 when the American Catholic Quarterly Review published his two articles about Lewis and Clark Pass and the Nez Perce campaign.

Despite his aggressive role in the Big Hole battle, Gibbon later made it clear he thought the Nez Perce had legitimate cause to resist their treatment in Idaho in 1877. Writing in 1895, the then-retired officer used the Lewis and Clark Expedition to make that point. Gibbon recounted how the explorers in 1805 first encountered the Nez Perce, or Chopunnish, on the west side of the Rockies: “On the Clearwater they met and established friendly relations with a tribe of Indians (Chopunnish) whose cruel fate nearly three-quarters of a century later (1877) was to mark the culminating point of the maltreatment of the Indians in this country.”

Gibbon died in Baltimore in 1896 at the age of 69, and is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

—FOOTNOTES—
2The article also appears in a new collection of Gibbon’s writing: Alan and Maureen Gaff, eds., Adventures on the Western Frontier. (Indiana University Press, Bloomington, 1994) pp. 36-56. Guided by Nicholas Biddle’s 1814 narrative of the expedition, Gibbon here spelled Clark’s name with the extra “e” that ran throughout Biddle’s text. Gibbon’s article was called to the attention of We Proceeded On by foundation member Eugene Swanzey of Hamilton, Montana.
3Marshall Sprague, The Great Gates: The Story of the Rocky Mountain Passes. (Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1964) p. 155. Before acquiring the name Cadotte Pass (the modern rendering has no possessive apostrophe “s”) during the Stevens expedition, the crossing was known as Blackfoot Pass.
4Isaac Stevens, Reports of explorations and surveys to ascertain the most practicable and economical route for a railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. (House of Representatives Executive Document No. 56, Washington, 1850) Vol. 12, Book 4, p. 215.
10John Gibbon, “The Battle of the Big Hole,” originally published in Harper’s Weekly (1895) and reprinted in Gaff, Adventures on the Western Frontier, p. 204.

About the author...
Arlen J. Large of Washington, D.C. is a former foundation president (1983-84), a frequent contributor to WPO, a retired science correspondent of the Wall Street Journal, and continues to travel the world pursuing his many scientific interests. He certainly ranks among the top Lewis and Clark authorities in the nation, and he serves on the editorial board of WPO.

From the East
Lewiston (Idaho) Tribune
September 10, 1955
Four photostatic copies of original records of Lewis and Clark’s expedition 150 years ago have arrived for the Lewiston Chamber of Commerce. They will be on exhibit during the Sesquicentennial celebration here October 7-8-9 said Marcus J. Ware, president of the Lewis and Clark Sesquicentennial Celebration Inc.

October 5, 1955
Lewistown’s official celebration of the Lewis and Clark Sesquicentennial will open October 7 with one of the largest street parades ever staged by the Twin Cities. The line of march will be from the Clarkston Post Office through Lewiston to Clearwater Memorial Bridge.

October 10, 1955
The third and final day of the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the visit of Lewis and Clark Expedition to this valley was highlighted by the presence of two governors at breakfast, the dedication of Clark Hall, new men’s dormitory at Lewis-Clark Normal School, and the annual Air Fair at Lewiston Airport. At Roundup Park, Indians who have been encamped in tepees since before the start of the celebration held final war dances and prepared to break camp.
Humor on the Lewis and Clark Trail

by Joseph A. Musselman

"He who laughs, lasts."—Anon.

A well-worn variation on a time-honored aphorism has it that he who laughs, lasts. If anything ensured the safe return of the Corps of Discovery from the Western Sea, beyond the extraordinary leadership, the strict military discipline, and the integrity, determination and resilience of the enlisted men and civilians, it may well have been laughter, that universal palindrome for joy (hah-hah-hah...), transcending all barriers—age, sex, race, nationality, language, and adversity. Even in the journey’s bleakest moments we cannot imagine this robust company facing hardship, any more than triumph, in solemn silence.

In the balance, the journals contain many more references to pain and misery than to joy and laughter, but looking at them from the lighter side leads us still closer to an appreciation of the full human dimensions of the men of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Humor is a delicate subject to deal with, for too much discussion dries up a joke. Not that it hasn’t been tried: scientifically speaking, there are more than eighty distinct and sometimes conflicting theories of why people laugh—and what they laugh at.1 “What we have,” says Timothy Ferris, “is a mystery within the human brain as deep as anything we’ve found among the stars.”2 Empirically, however, we each fathom that mystery in our own way. Almost everyone knows how to laugh, and what to laugh at. The question here is, what did the men of the Corps of Discovery find amusing?

To begin with, that common criminal Human Nature surely supplied them with enough foibles, phobias, mannerisms and annoying habits to spontaneously ignite many a laugh, making a mild insult less abrasive, or honing the edge of a well-deserved gibe. Imagine the hearty haw-haws that taunted the hapless Private Alexander Willard when he caught up with the rest after dropping his gun in a creek while en route back from retrieving the tomahawk he had left behind at the previous day’s camp.3

Laughter must have served, too, as a safety valve to vent feelings of nervousness, anxiety or frustration caused by crises or accidents, as when a buffalo stormed through the camp on the night of May 29, 1805, its hooves missing by inches the heads of some of the sleeping men. Similarly, some gallows humor may have relieved the tension the morning after Private Hugh McNeal let himself be lured into a life-threatening situation by an Indian with murder on his mind. The incident occurred in a village on a creek near a beached whale, southwest of Fort Clatsop. Even William Clark was amused after the crisis was past. According to Sergeant John Ordway, the captain at first thought of commemorating the incident by calling the creek “McNeal’s folly.” The joke evidently withered, though, for he actually wrote “E-cu-lah, or Whale Creek” on his map.4

Other mishaps, too, as serious as they may have appeared at first, surely elicited some light-hearted badinage: Frost nipped York’s penis one bitterly cold day at Fort Mandan.5 On July 18, 1806, George Gibson was severely injured when his horse dumped him and a dead tree-branch punctured his thigh; the accident virtually immobilized him and slowed the party’s homeward surge. Sergeant Nathaniel Pryor was bitten on the hand by a vicious wolf in the middle of the night a few days later. And certainly Meriwether Lewis must have been the butt of some congenial kidding after he was shot in the rear by Pierre Cruzatte on August 12.

Making fun of the food and bad-mouthing the cook is a time-honored soldierly amusement. Eight days west of their Traveler’s Rest camp, on September 18, 1805, with nothing more than a few squirrels, grouse and jays in their hunters’ sights, they “dined and suped on a skant proportion of

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MAY 1996
portable soupe”—scant, perhaps, because the concoction may have tasted like glue. Might not the cooks have seasoned it with a dash of josh or a dollop of raillery? And what of that Christmas dinner of "pore elk," spoiled fish, and roots at Fort Clatsop? No doubt a quip or two helped joke it down. Well, a gag, then?

The Fourth of July celebration in 1805 was certainly one to remember, but a good deal of the company's mirth was probably mixed with disappointment, or perhaps with painful dread in notorius topers such as Hugh Hall and Thomas Howard, or even Captain Lewis, for that was the night the company downed the last of its stock of "spirits."

But with what hilarity must they have greeted, nearing home on September 6th of the following year, the dramas that ended their fifteen-month dry spell when they met some traders, outboard up the Missouri River, who charitably sold them a keg of whiskey.

The tobacco-chewers undoubtedly giggled with delight at the captains' Fort Clatsop Christmas gift of half of the dozen remaining twists. Now, self-rationing is tough enough, but later in March, the captains had to prohibit its use altogether in order to discourage the local Indians from demanding it in exchange for desperately needed food. The craving for nicotine must have exacerbated their hunger, and the camaraderie must have worn a little thin. Just imagine how they cackled and hooted over that hearty rush after they dove into their reserve tobacco supply at the cache on the Beaverhead River, on July 8, 1806.

Many days on the journey might also have been punctuated with spontaneous laughter arising from the idle banter, incidental horseplay, and all those countless absurdities that just didn't happen to fall on the journalists' pages. Finally, there were the reactions to the waves of good feeling that rose on the floods of optimism, confidence, success or relief, and which broke over into celebrations such as Christmas, New Year's, and Independence days.

The "frolick" on Christmas Day, 1804, at Fort Mandan began before daybreak, and the men were "merrily Disposed" until nine o'clock that night. At Fort Clatsop, also the observance, typically in the Southern tradition, began with volleys of gunfire followed by "a Salute, Shout and a Song" from the whole party. The salute and the song deserve separate treatment in another article; the shout was probably a rousing "Christmas Gift!" If you could say it first, the other person owed you a gift.

Surely, none but a Grinch or a Scrooge could suppress the urge to decorate it with a garland of laughter.

To be sure, fun could get out of hand. Horseplay, presumably, nearly cost Clark's black servant York the sight in one eye when a companion threw sand at him on a June day in 1804. A few months later York horrified some Arikara Indians by letting on that before Clark had captured him he had been a wild man who ate little kids for dinner. His companions may have rolled on the ground with laughter at the Indians' expense, but Clark was embarrassed because York had apparently "made him Self more turrible in thier view than I wished him to Doe."

There were some occasions when hilarity rolled over into hostility, especially at Camp DuBois during the winter of 1803-04.

There were other times when it would have been muted, if not simply inappropriate. The men were "all in Spirits" on the evening of September 1, 1804, but there probably were none who had not begun to be concerned about young George Shannon, then missed for a full week. And when the wind, rain or cold (or all three taken together) interfered with good fellowship, or when hunger gnawed at the mind as much as the belly, the sensitive man might have kept his sallies to himself. We know how often the disagreeable mosquitoes, gnats, flies and fleas outstripped everyone’s risibility, and only a sick mind could have found anything funny in a foot-full of prickly-pear cactus spines.

Similarly, times of great disappointment or adversity would have been borne in a stoicism consistent with military discipline, and if any wisecracking flickered in the gloom, it had to be kept out of earshot of the officers. On July 9, 1805, at the upper end of the portage around the Great Falls of the Missouri, Lewis's brain-child, his "favorite boat"—a portable iron-framed canoe covered with elk and buffalo skins—sank within hours of its launching, and had to be abandoned. That was a priceless opportunity for any natural comedian, especially one with a hand in lugging 100 pounds of iron and other materials halfway across the continent.

But who would have dared make light of it in the shadow of the Captain's mortification?

The company's general merriment was sometimes even worth a few lines of ink, which is extraordinary, since the experience seldom translates well to the page. You really have to be there.

It was the hearty, good-natured Clark who seemed most to have appreciated the men's more amiable moods, for it is in his entries that we find—at least sixteen times—that the men have been in "high Spirits," or "very Cheerfull," or "very merry." Yet it was the introspective and melancholy Lewis who often revealed his own quiet, Attic sense of humor. In the entry for May 9, 1805, which is too long to quote here, his whimsical
version of Toussaint Charbonneau's recipe for home-made sausage, boudin blanc, suggests that Lewis was not only a gourmet of sorts, but also an entertaining raconteur.

On May 6, 1805, he summed up seven months of grizzly bear encounters with a characteristically discreet circumspection: "I find that the curiosity of our party is pretty well satisfied with respect to this animal." His men, he said, were of two minds: To some the bear was a threat, to others a challenge. Whimsically, he predicted that the beast's ferocity would escalate with the onset of the mating season: "I expect these gentlemen [the bears, he means] will give us some amusement shortly as they soon begin now to copulate."

A month later he related at length the tale of his own solitary face down with one of these "gentlemen." "So it was," he sighed, and then delivered the snapper: "And I feel myself not a little gratified that he had declined the combat." (General laughter.) While retracing the portage around the Great Falls of the Missouri in July of the following year, Private McNeal had a similarly hair-raising encounter with a grizzly. Lewis wryly concluded, evidently having in mind all the other crises they had endured there the previous summer: "there seems to be a certain fatality attached to the neighbourhood of these falls, for there is always a chapter of accidents prepared for us during our residence at them."

We sense Lewis's mixture of amusement and annoyance when, after many embraces by the greased and war-painted Shoshone Indians, he grimmed through gritted teeth that he was "heartily tired of the national hug."

Lewis could appreciate his men's levity, too. On that memorable Fourth of July, 1805, despite an evening rain shower that put an end to their dancing, the men drank the last drams of "spirits" and "continued their mirth with songs and festive jokes and were extrememly merry until late at night."

And what might those "festive jokes" have been like? We can gain a feeling for the repertoires the men could have carried with them by examining some of the printed sources of late-eighteenth-century humor—jesters, as joke-books were called, and almanacs.

At least twenty jesters were published in the United States between the Revolutionary War's end and the turn of the century, including titles such as The Laughing Philosopher, or thoughts on jesting (Philadelphia, 1789); The merry fellow's pocket companion, (by "Billy Broadgrin" of Philadelphia, 1797).
and Laugh and be Fat, or, an Antidote against Melancholy (Salem, 1799).

One of the best, in terms of format, variety and style, and, at 152 pages perhaps the largest, was Feast of Merriment, published in Philadelphia in 1795. Typically, the contents were borrowed—sometimes with, but usually without, acknowledgment—from British sources, and especially from that legendary fount of humor, Joe Miller's Jests, first published in London in 1739. Some items were transplanted to American soil, reset in more familiar geographical contexts: "a citizen of some note in New York," "a taylor's shop in Philadelphia," or "an arrogant Englishman passing through New-Jersey in the stage."

Rambing through the expedition's journals, one comes upon countless incidents that are reported as cold facts, but which in reality might have reminded one man or another of a good story. When the crowning blow to a difficult day on the Great Falls portage route was the discovery that wolves had consumed most of the meat stashed at the White Bear Island campsite, did someone recall a certain old joke, and perhaps suggest a new role for Cruzatte, the company's indispensable fiddler?

A Scotch bagpiper traveling to Ireland, opened his wallet by a wood side, and sat down to dinner; no sooner had he said grace, but three wolves came about him. To one he threw bread, to another meat, till his provender was all gone—At length he took up his pipes, and began to play, at which the wolves ran away. The deel saw me, said Sawney, an I had kent you la'd music sa well, you should have had it before dinner."

Speaking of Cruzatte—did anyone ever tease him with a version of perhaps the hoariest guffaw of all?

A droll fellow who got a livelihood by fiddling at fairs and about the country, was one day met by an acquaintance that had not seen him a great while. who accosted him thus.

Bless me. are you alive! Why not, answered the fiddler. did you send any body to kill me? No, replies the other; but I was told you was dead. Aye, so it was reported it seems, says the fiddler, but I knew it was a lie as soon as I heard it. (32)

Did the men's frolics with Indian women lead to mutual teasing, with embarrassed shuffles and grins, and did someone remember one of Joe Miller's shriekers...

Lord W—G—n, playing at
questions and commands, with some very pretty young ladies, was commanded to take off a garter from one of them, but she, as soon as she had tied it over her petticoats, ran away into the next room, where there was a bed; now, madam, said he, tripping up her heels, I bar squeaking, bar the door you fool, cried she. (28)

January 7, 1806, the first day without rain since they had holed up at Fort Clatsop, must have aroused good cheer, though there is no mention of it in the journals. Meanwhile, recalling the rainy nights many of them had occasionally spent without shelter, did any of the corps ring a change on...

A gentleman riding over Salisbury plain, when it rained very hard, set up a gallop and passed by another whose horse stood still; a little surprised at this sight, he asked the reason of it; Zounds, says the other, who the devil but a fool would ride in all this wet. (33)

As the westward trek across the Bitterroot Mountains in the fall of 1805 dragged on into the tenth day beyond the one they had originally expected, perhaps someone lightened the gloom with a gasser such as...

Two Irishmen having travelled on foot, from Chester to Barnet, were very much tired with their journey; and the more so, when they were told they had still about ten miles to London. "By my soul, cries one of them, it is but five miles a-piece, let's e'en walk on." (84)

When their clothes, shelters and blankets began to wear out as the expedition neared the Pacific Ocean, did anyone cleverly recall...

One asked another why he wore his stockings the wrong side outwards; the other told him, Because there was a hole on the other side. (16)

The Irishman, the Englishman's fall guy, was the butt of a great many stories in the jesters, but any national or ethnic representative would have served equally well for a "switch." At least three of the expedition's personnel were of Irish parentage, and perhaps Patrick Gass, William Bratton or George Shannon reminded someone of an old groaner such as...

Never did an Irishman utter a better bull, than did an honest John; who being asked by a friend "Has your sister got a son or a daughter?" answered, "Upon my soul, I do not know whether I am an uncle or an aunt." (83)

The quintessential Irish character-type was Teague, the "hero" in humorist Hugh Henry Brackenridge's satire on the excesses of democracy, Modern Chivalry, which was published serially between 1792 and 1805. The guileless immigrant even made his way into Feast of Merriment in a four-line verse entitled "Teague's Request of the Executioner," a recollection of which might have saved the consciences of those soldiers ordered by court martials, early in the journey, to carry out the floggings of their comrades. (1)

Do tie the rope below my arms, my dear,

Says Teague to Ketch, as he was on the wreck,

Because, d'ye see, it makes me feel so queer

As I'm so very ticklish round the neck. (10)

There are, of course, a number of entertaining malapropisms scattered among Clark's notorious misspellings, and the attentive and discriminating reader of his journals will stumble upon them with delight. (13) If his wondrously varied orthography merely reflects a fickle ear for phonics, then he was no doubt unaware that his "wrighting" would entertain anyone. Thus, perhaps such feeble wit as the pun went by him unnoticed.

Still, one wonders. As a Virginian he naturally used run and creek interchangeably, but it is possible that he deliberately used the former as both a noun and a verb when he named a small stream in North Dakota "Frasure's Run," perhaps to record that as the place where Private Robert Frazer had to shoot a bison several times before bringing it down. (14)

Similarly, an "extensive and an open leaf plain...near the river bank" would be called a "bottom." Along the Columbia, near the mouth of the Cowitz River, on March 16, 1806, Clark strolled through "an elegant bottom on the South Side" opposite an island he named for his younger sister, Fanny. In his journal entry for that date he wrote, "This bottom we also Call fannys bottom," but on his map he inscribed "Fanny's Valley." (15)

With or without "spirits" to mellow tongues, toasts comprised both a type of "polite conversation" and a kind of ritual humor in 18th-century America. At the grand dinner and ball held on September 25, 1806, two days after the expedition's return to St. Louis, a total of at least eighteen toasts were raised, unanimously reflecting patriotic pride coupled with sincere admiration and respect for the men of the Corps of Discovery, and for their leaders. There was not a hint of humor. (16)

On the trail, however, the mood would have been different. Raising their cups to "Health of body, peace of mind, a clean shirt, and a guinea," the men may have snorted over its inherent ironies. Their occasional liaisons with Indian women may have called forth "May we kiss whom we please, and please whom we kiss," to which someone might have responded adroitly with the warning, "May the evening's diversion bear the morning's reflection." A less judgmental man might have
topped the exchange with a corny conundrum: "Why is a pretty woman like an oat cake? Because she is often toasted."

When they traded their setting-poles and cordelles for horses and improvised saddles, and especially on the August day in 1805 when Lewis bought a fine mule from a Shoshone, one of the men could have asked another, "Why is your saddle like a mule?" and volunteered the retort, "Because it is between a horse and an ass." They might occasionally have made light of the threat of Indian hostilities by raising the cup to "Short shoes and long corns to the enemies of America!" or reflected on the home-front economy, so far as they remembered it, with "May the miser grow poor, and the benevolent rich."17

More widely read than the jester was the almanac, which had shared with the Holy Bible a place as an essential book in the American home ever since An Almanac Calculated for New England was issued at Cambridge for the year 1639. By the end of the eighteenth century, dozens of almanacs were being published annually in the U.S.—over 600 in the 1790s alone—some as far west as Lexington, Kentucky, and many selling more than 100,000 copies per issue.

The almanac functioned as a meteorological bureau, astrological forecaster, medical reference, and agricultural advisor. Typically, each of the monthly calendar pages was headed by a bit of sentimental, humorous, or inspirational verse; maxims, proverbs and aphorisms also served as fillers and teasers. Following the calendar came a page or two of entertaining anecdotes, usually taken from some other printed source.18

The oldest continuously published periodical in the U.S., with a current (1996) annual circulation of several million copies, is the Farmer's Almanac, first published by Robert Bailey Thomas in 1792. Of full-blown jokes or humorous anecdotes there were seldom more than a dozen in any issue of an almanac—not much entertainment for a whole twelve months. On the other hand, Thomas's issue for 1794 contained an especially intriguing item reprinted from a London newspaper. Astronomer William Herschel, it was said, had "reduced to a certainty, the opinion that the moon is inhabited." He had discovered land and water, and distinguished between the green and barren mountainous spots. "Within these few days he has distinguished a large edifice, apparently of greater magnitude than St. Paul's; and he is confident of shortly being able to give an account of the inhabitants."19 The odds are that this juicy item quickly became common wisdom, and that some of the moons that shone on the expedition drew tides of serious conjecture as well as hilarious repartee from among the men.

One of the most famous almanacs was Poor Richard's, published very profitably by Benjamin Franklin, under the pseudonym of Richard Saunders, from 1735 until 1758. His series was a rich repository of aphorisms which were liberally quoted in copy-cat publications such as Carey's Franklin Almanac, Franklin's Legacy, Poor Richard Improved, Poor Richard Revived, and Poor Will's Almanack, all appearing in 1801. Such enduring renown suggests that at least a few of the men in the Corps of Discovery might have been able to repeat some of Franklin's maxims at appropriate moments.

Poor Richard Saunders, the model for the cracker-barrel Yankee yarn-spinner and his pithy, piteous cousin, the Yankee peddler, was soon to become a central, symbolic character in American humor.20 Sometimes called Jonathan, he was a shrewd, multi-purpose, serio-comic figure—now a hero, now a dupe. Feast of Merriment opens with a long account of a Yankee who outwits a Scotch bully. Clark was certainly familiar with the image. He remarked that Drouillard and the three other men who accompanied him on his visit with Chief Broken Arm of the Nez Perce on June 6, 1806, had "obtained a good store of roots and bread in exchange for a number of little notions, using the Yankee phrase, with which their own ingenuity had principally furnished them."

It is not necessary to suggest that any of the men actually carried along almanacs, or any such books as Feast of Merriment, much less ever read them, for the comedian's art is an oral art. Timing is everything, and the timing is in the telling. Some, perhaps all, of the jokes in the jesters had been in circulation, in one version or another, for who-knows-how-many generations. Word gets around.

It would be fun to know which of the men possessed the liveliest sense of humor—who was the natural comedian, the wisecrack artist, the master of drollery, the irrepressible clown, the ring-leader of jollity. Who was always ready with a zippy one-liner? Who had the most infectious laugh? Who was the sourpuss whose stony visage made a funny story all the funnier? What did the Frenchmen think of the Americans' humor, and vice versa? What did the Indians laugh at—besides, in one instance, the sight of these foreigners dining on dogmeat—and what did the explorers think when they did, if they didn't get mad?21 Regretably, we're not privileged to know these things. We do know, though, that the well-springs of humor are deep and deathless. As a well-known
inside yuk goes, if Adam were to return to earth today, the only thing he would recognize would be the jokes.

—FOOTNOTES—

1See Edmund Bergler, M.D., Laughter and the Sense of Humor (New York: Intercontinental Medical Book Corporation, 1956), Chapter 1.
4Milo Quaife, ed., The Journals of Captain Meriwether Lewis and Sergeant John Ordway (1916; reprint, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1965), 293. The incident is recounted in Moulton Vol. 6: 181. See also Moulton, Atlas of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press), map no. 84.
5December 8, 1804. Moulton Vol. 3: 255.
8Moulton 8:172.
11Feast, 67. The same joke appeared in Funny Stories, verbatim. Hereafter, all quotations from Feast will be cited parenthetically in the text.
12During the winter of 1803-4 at Camp Dubois, and en route from there to the Mandan villages, several of the men were court-martialed and flogged for drunkenness or various derelictions of duty. Moses Reed was tried and flogged for desertion, and discharged, on August 18, 1804. Private John Newman was flogged and “discarded from the permanent party” for “mutinous expression” on October 15, 1804. There were no further punishable incidents.
14See Arlen Large, “All in the Family: The In-House Honorifics of Lewis and Clark,” Names, Vol. 42, No. 4 (December 1994), p. 271. See Quaife, Journals, p. 167. The map is No. 47 in Moulton’s Atlas. “Charbonno” is one of at least fifteen different spellings of the interpreter’s name (none correct) that Clark thought up.
15Moulton, 7:17; Atlas map 81.
17All these toasts are found in Feast, p. 117.
18Almanacs devoted primarily to humor only began to appear with The American Comic Almanac of 1831, which was followed by many imitators, culminating first in Davy Crockett’s Almanac of Wild Sports of the West and Life in the Backwoods, which lasted from 1835 until 1856.
19George Lyman Kittredge, The Old Farmer and His Almanac (Boston: William Ware and Company, 1904), 251-61.
20It is generally accepted that “Yankee” originated as “Jan Kees,” or “John Cheese,” among New Amsterdam-Dutch settlers as a pejorative nickname for the Anglo-Americans living over in Connecticut. The British used it as a label of ridicule for all rebellious colonials, and the satirical song “Yankee Doodle” lampooned the relative clumsiness of the American militia. Perversely, the rebels took pride in the name. See Cecil D. Eby, “Yankee Humor,” in Louis D. Rubin, Jr., ed., The Comic Imagination in American Literature (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1973), 77-78. See also Margaret S. Ernst, In A Word (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1939), 251, for a slightly different etymology.
21May 5, 1806. A Chippunish (Nez Perce) Indian derisively threw a live puppy onto Lewis’s plate. Lewis threw it back in the offender’s face.

About the author...

Joseph A. Mussulman, a professor emeritus at the University of Montana, is the author of several books on music history, biography and appreciation. He also has written and directed multimedia and audio interpretive programs about various national parks and historic sites. Dr. Mussulman is planning an interactive multimedia CD-ROM series on Lewis and Clark.

Archaeological Projects May Pinpoint Locations at Fort Clatsop

There are currently three archaeological-related projects that are being conducted at Fort Clatsop National Memorial. The first is the preparation of a cultural base map of the principal historic areas within the park. This base map will include detailed elevation and contour intervals; and locations of the trenches that were excavated by NPS archaeologists in 1948, 1956, 1957 and 1961; currently exposed historical and archaeological material; present structures; historic structures no longer in existence; present and historic roadways; areas of previous disturbances and fill-dirt; and current walkways and park utilities. This base map and the accompanying data will be incorporated into the park’s Geographic Information System. This map will be a tremendous aid in park management activities and proposed research projects.

The second related project consists of historic research into two to three homesites that existed within the park in the mid to late 1800s. The people who occupied these homes were not only important to the local and regional history, but the placement of these homes and the owner’s testimony were instrumental in the Oregon Historical Society finding the location of the site of the original Fort Clatsop in 1899. This historical information will be valuable not only to park

(Fort Clatsop continued on page 31)
28th Annual Meeting Update

SIoux City, Iowa

by V. Strode Hinds, General Chairman

The dates of August 4-7 are slightly misleading since the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council will convene its meeting on Friday, August 2 and something will be going on through the week to the post-meeting trip on Thursday, August 8. The following schedule lists any changes that have been made up until this time.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 1996—
The National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council will meet at the Sioux City Hilton Hotel

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1996—
The Foundation’s Board of Directors will meet at 8:00 a.m. and through the day in Conference Room #3 on the 2nd floor of the Hilton.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 1996—
The Board will continue its deliberations at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room #3. General registration at the Hilton in Salons A & B will begin at 10:00 a.m. and continue through the day until 6:00 p.m. Beginning at 1:30 p.m. the Kensington Room on the 12th floor of the Hilton will be open for artists, authors and displays. All registrants are invited to visit these displays. A reception buffet for all registrants as well as vendors will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Cambridge Room on the 12th floor across the hall from the Kensington display area. It will be possible to attend a Northern League baseball game at Lewis and Clark Park on Sunday evening featuring the Sioux City Explorers vs. the Superior Dukes of Duluth, Minnesota.

Please let me know if you would like a ticket. This will also be a great evening to contact old friends and make new ones with the first time attendees.

MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 1996—
Will begin with a breakfast on your own. This will be convenient at the first floor eating area of the hotel. The general business meeting will be in Rooms #1 & #2 on the main floor of the Sioux City Convention Center which is across the street from the hotel. After a short break, papers will be presented, one in the morning and two in the afternoon. Titles and presenters are:

My Life with William Clark, by James P. Ronda

Notes on the Geology and Ecology of the Missouri River Valley by W. Raymond Wood

From Particulars to Generals (and Captains, Too) by Gary E. Moulton

Enough time will be allowed for questions and discussion. Lunch will be served at the Convention Center in rooms #6-#10 on the second floor. The evening will be left open for such things as committee meetings and chapter meetings.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1996

Begins with a breakfast on your own. We will board buses shortly after 8:00 a.m. at the Convention Center. The tour includes stops at Blackbird Overview, Ft. Atkinson State Park, Wilson Island State Park, Desoto Wildlife Refuge and the Steamboat Bertrand Museum, and Lewis and Clark State Park. Here we will be able to get photos and get aboard the keelboat. We will also have a picnic supper followed by the dedication of an informational sign at the park, as a part of a series of signs along the Missouri River. This will involve the Foundation, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the National Park Service.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1996—

Begin with a buffet breakfast at the Hilton Hotel, second floor banquet area and then to the buses for visits to the Floyd Monument, the motor vessel Sergeant Floyd, and the Lewis and Clark hik­ ing trail, War Eagle monument and the Loess Hills Nature Center. We will return to the hotel for lunch followed by a general business meeting and by meetings of the board of directors. Those with time available can visit areas of interest in downtown Sioux City. The day will be completed with the Awards and Recognition Banquet at the second floor of the Convention Center at 6:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1996—

A post-meeting tour after breakfast on your own. The tour will be to areas on the Missouri up­ stream from Sioux City: Spirit Mound, Gavins Point Dam and Calumet Bluffs, Niobrara State Park, Ponca State Park and Cotton Wood Cove Park. Box lunch and refreshments will be onboard.

(Meeting continued on page 18)
While trying to locate the 1804 position of the Missouri River from Onawa, Iowa to Ponca, Nebraska, the maps in Moulton's Vol. 1 Atlas were used as a primary information source. In order to cover the distance, it was necessary to trace several sheets and then match them together. Once this had been done, the Missouri River just below the area of Floyd's Bluff took on a strange direction. This ended with the Floyd River, Willow Creek and the Big Sioux River running toward the east and the Missouri River tracking almost north. See Fig. 1.

Several trials indicated that the problem was between Floyd's Bluff and the Sioux City Bend. The daily courses given in Thwaites and Moulton showed an error in this area that turned the river about 80 degrees to the east. The error was on the chart 16. Clark-Maximilian sheet #5. See Fig. 2 for an approximate correction. The problem seems to have been made when the map was copied, from one of the Clark originals, for Maximilian by Clark's nephew, Benjamin O'Fallon, or someone under his direction. There is no evidence on the map that Maximilian attempted to make any corrections. The error is not noted in Maximilian's journals by Thwaites. We should recall that the charts were used by Maximilian for information purposes. Navigation up the Missouri on the Steamboat Yellowstone in

MEETING—
Cont. from p. 17

Regarding registration: The full registration fee includes all of the items, Sunday through Wednesday, just described except the breakfasts on Monday and Tuesday and the August 8th post-meeting tour. The individual fees are for partial registrations only. If you have returned the registration forms and wish to see a ballgame, please contact me, otherwise put a note on the forms when they are returned. The blue registration forms sent to you in WPO regarding the River Boat Inn and the BW City Centre need correction. You should have received this corrected form by this time. It will specify that it is a correction. If you have any concerns, please contact me at:

V.S. Hinds
3121 Grandview Blvd.
Sioux City, IA 51104-3933
(712) 252-2364

Combined charts #16, #17
Clark Maximilian Sheets 5&6
route August 13-26, 1804

FIG. 1
1833 was under the direction of Capt. Bennett. Other evidence that this correction is close to the source can be seen when the new position is compared to Clark's map used in the 1814 publication of the Journals. The map produced in 1839 by Nicollet shows a pattern which is very similar to this correction. This map also shows how much the river has wandered, although it may have changed from this pattern several times in those intervening years of 1833 to 1839. The ability of the Missouri River to shift around in the wide river bottom valley is now limited to an area of wild and scenic river above Ponca, Nebraska and below Yankton, South Dakota. Farmers plant crops very close to the river in this area and suffer loss of these crops on a regular basis. The results are requests to the Corps of Engineers for more bank control and a less natural stream.

The challenges of navigation for Lewis and Clark continue today along the Missouri. Sandbars and snags seem to appear out of nowhere and are gone again about the time they are recognized and noted. The soft bed of the Missouri is still present under the water in the Iowa-Nebraska stretch to complicate what man thinks he can change.

George Fitch wrote in 1907 "Scientists tell us that the Missouri’s peculiarities are due to the loose alluvial soil through which it flows. A soil so soluble that the least flint of the current will dig a hole into the bank which in time widens into a bay, then a horseshoe curve and finally a loop thirty miles around. Now the loops of the Missouri are about as fixed and immobile as a two year old colt." So we can see that the Missouri continues upon its way with little attention to man and his structures. The Missouri River is to be appreciated, respected and even loved. Just don’t try to completely understand or correct this very independent mass of moving water.

-Footnotes-
2 Ibid. Vol. 1, map 15, Clark-Maximilian sheet #5
5 Moulton, Atlas Vol. 1, Introduction, page 7
6 Reuben Gold Thwaites, ed., Early Western Travels 1748-1846, Part 1 of Maximilian, Combined charts #16, #17 Clark Maximilian Sheets 5&6 route August 13-26, 1804

About the author...
V. Strode Hinds is the general chairman of the foundation’s 28th Annual Meeting. He is a past president of the foundation.
by Jay Rasmussen

Nearly 200 years after their epic journey, Lewis and Clark are still blazing new trails; this time on the information superhighway, better known as the Internet. There are a blossoming number of Internet sites containing information concerning Lewis and Clark as well as other members of the Corps of Discovery that will be of interest to students, history buffs and members of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. As with any large set of Lewis and Clark data, one can find valuable, well-presented information as well as outright misinformation.

Much of the information on the Internet is supplied in textual form, but many sites offer graphics (containing facsimiles of maps, paintings and engravings as well as photographs of places and objects) and even sound clips. A number of sites are hosted by museums, television stations, on-line magazines and even the United States Post Office (regarding their Sacagawea stamp). You can also find book reviews and ordering information. Below is a recent list of sites:

1800-1830
http://www.csusb.edu/veclibtxt/wn-indian/naco/1800-1830.html

A Roster of the Lewis & Clark Expedition
http://www.mrble.com/jnorth/patientlewisclark.htm

American Explorers—Lewis & Clark
http://www.islandnet.com/abibotmaplewis/gllt.html

Bibliography: science—Undaunted Courage
http://www.monterey.org/Masters/Bibliography/science.html

Book—Before Lewis and Clark: Documents Illustrating the History of the Missouri, 1785-1804
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http://bingen.cs.cdsu.edu/plecereck/giantsprings.html

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http://soundprint.brainwyne.american.edu/soundprint/more_info/lc_time_clark.html

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http://www.uky.edu/departments/education/core/lessons/lc1/lc1lewis.html

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http://www.trinity.edu/departments/education/core/lessons/lc2/lc2lewiscare.html

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http://www.montana.com/chsclc_prop.html

(Superhighway continued on page 30)
by Joyce A. McDonough

There are times when we feel inadequate for a particular task, and we look with envy to someone else's talents. When we experience a breath-taking vista, we might wish that our snapshots and verbal commentary were better able to capture the vivid and majestic scenery we can see so clearly. So we buy a postcard and scrawl, "Wish you were here." Why do we wish that person were beside us? For two reasons, it seems. At a later date, we may feel inadequate to recapture the initial awe we experienced, and secondly, we want to share the beauty firsthand with someone we know would appreciate it.

Lewis and Clark were no different in their desire to convey to President Jefferson and others the magnitude and majesty of the newly-acquired Louisiana Territory. They had undertaken a trip that today's outdoorsman can never duplicate. Literally, they were seeing America first. As they tell us in their journals, they saw landscapes and objects "which [had] from the commencement of time been concealed from the view of civilized man..."

One such vista was the Great Falls of the Missouri which filled Lewis with "pleasure and astonishment." On Thursday, June 13, 1805 Meriwether Lewis related in his journal that "my ears were saluted with the agreeable sound of a fall of water and advancing a little further I saw the spray arise above the plain like a collum of smoke..."\(^3\)

If Lewis' entry is read in its entirety, a fairly accurate description of what he viewed emerges. He wrote of water flowing "with incredible swiftness" and breaking "into a perfect white foam which assumes a thousand forms in a moment sometimes flying up in jets of sparkling foam..."\(^4\)

Although he continued to describe the majesty of the falls, he later reflected that "after writhing this imperfect description I again viewed the falls and was so much disgusted with the imperfect idea which it conveyed of the scene that I determined to draw my pen across it and begin again..."\(^5\)

While in this state of dissatisfaction with his creative ability, Lewis wished for the pencil of Salvator Rosa or the pen of James Thomson, "that I might be enabled to give to the enlightened world some just idea of this truly magnificent and sublimely grand object." Lewis felt pressured to describe a natural wonder that few people had ever seen. He regretted his own inadequacy to capture the wild beauty of the falls on paper, and so alluded to the talents of others. By invoking Rosa and Thomson, Lewis actually added to his description for most of his contemporaries. For today's reader of the journals, however, Rosa and Thomson have lost their recognition factor. Now it must be asked, "Who were these men? Would they have been able to do justice to the raw beauty of the falls as Lewis seemed to assume?"

Rosa and Thomson were European creative geniuses. One spoke through charcoal, line and form; the other painted with words. In the 1750's a theory of the Sublime was formulated by the British philosopher Edmund Burke. He advanced the idea that the Sublime terrifies and intimidates, while Beauty attracts and reassures. In Nature the Sublime would include terrifying, remote landscapes with sharp contrasts or sudden variations, and uncontrolled boundaries. These qualities were aspects of Rosa and Thomson's works. Although Rosa preceded Burke, he nonetheless, helped establish the tenets of the Sublime theory through his picturesque art. The picturesque movement in art changed the distaste for uncouth things in nature into an appreciation of the fearful joy in natural objects. In Italian Landscape in 18th Century England Elizabeth Manwaring quotes Frank Jewett Mather from his History of Italian Painting, as follows, "The real discoverer of the picturesque, the first enthusiast for the savage aspects of nature, was Salvator Rosa. Salvator Rosa was in fashion for one hundred fifty years after his death in 1673." Of all the European landscape painters popular through the early 1800's, Englishmen of culture appreciated Salvator Rosa most. It seemed Rosa could capture both the horror and dignity of Nature. He could sketch the fantastic wilderness and romantic beauty so often coupled in Nature. It is said that Rosa felt passionately the awe, horror, might and vastness of Nature and the littleness of man; the thrill of the wild and untamable.\(^6\) It is highly likely that Thomas Jefferson's secretary, Meriwether Lewis, would be familiar with the style of Salvator

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\(^2\) "The Great Falls of the Missouri," Lewis's journal entry, June 13, 1805.

\(^3\) "which [had] from the commencement of time been concealed from the view of civilized man..."


\(^6\) "The real discoverer of the picturesque, the first enthusiast for the savage aspects of nature, was Salvator Rosa."
Rosa. Is it any wonder then, that Lewis would have chosen this expressive Italian to paint the Great Falls picture that he could not?

And what of Thomson? Lewis was not the first or only one to link the names of Salvator Rosa and James Thomson. Many texts speak of the picturesque movements in the sister arts of painting and writing, and couple the names of Rosa and Thomson. While Rosa sketched with “dashing pencil,” Thomson captured Nature with his pen. Thomson was known as a picturesque poet who enabled readers to visualize a picture after the manner of Rosa. Alexander Pope said of Thomson that he gave glimpses of the pastoral world and they were sufficient because they afforded “an image of the golden age, that mythical time set in an eternal spring when man lived in harmony within society and with the natural environment.” Those sentiments surely ring of Jefferson’s philosophy and he likely had Thomson’s works in his personal library.

James Thomson was born in Scotland in 1700, the son of a Scottish minister. James intended to continue his father’s ministry, but left the Divinity School of Edinburgh without taking a degree when a sermon he wrote was strongly criticized. He was reprimanded for language too imaginative. He was urged to use plain, intelligible language for a country congregation. Changing his mind about his calling, he went to London in 1725, and in 1726 wrote “Winter,” the first in a series of poems called Seasons. Thomson’s work met with unanimous applause and over the next three years he created poetic word pictures of the other three seasons. This excerpt is from the Preface to Seasons and from the specific poem “Winter.” We hear Thomson proclaim Nature as a worthy subject and then see his ability to capture the powerful essence of winter.
I know no subject more elevating, more amusing; more ready to awake the poetical enthusiasm, the philosophical reflection, and the moral sentiment, than the works of nature. Where can we meet with such variety, such beauty, such magnificence? All that enlarges and transports the soul! What more inspiring than a calm, wide survey of them? In every dress nature is greatly charming—whether she puts on the crimson robes of the morning, the strong effulgence of noon, the sober suit of the evening, or the deep sables of blackness and tempest! How gay looks the spring! how glorious the summer! how pleasing the autumn! and how venerable the winter!—But there is no thinking of these things without breaking out into poetry; which is, by-the-by, a plain and undeniable argument of their superior excellence.

For this reason the best, both ancient, and modern, poets have been passionately fond of retirement, and solitude. The wild romantic country was their delight. And they seem never to have been more happy, than when, lost in unfreqented fields, far from the little busy world, they were at leisure, to meditate, and sing the works of nature.

from WINTER
[Hardships and Benevolence]
The keener tempests come; and, fuming dun
From all the livid east or piercing north,
Thick clouds ascend, in whose capacious womb
A vapory deluge lies, to snow congealed.
Heavy they roll their fleecy world along.

And the sky saddens with the gathered storm.
Through the hushed air the whitening shower descends,
At first thin wavering, till at last the flakes
Fall broad and wide and fast, dimming the day
With a continual flow. The cherished fields
Put on their winter robe of purest white;
‘Tis brightness all, save where the new snow melts
Along the mazy current; low the woods
Bow their hoar head; and ere the languid sun
Faint from the west emits his evening ray,
Earth’s universal face, deep-hid and chill,
Is one wild dazzling waste, that buries wide
The works of man. Drooping, the laborer-ox
Stands covered o’er with snow, and then demands
The fruit of all his toil. The fowls of heaven,
Tamed by the cruel season, crowd around
The winnowing store, and claim the little boon
Which Providence assigns them. One alone,
The redbreast, sacred to the household gods,
Wisely regardful of th’ embroiling sky,
In joyless fields and thorny thickets leaves
His shivering mates, and pays to trusted man
His annual visit: half-afraid, he first
Against the window beats; then brisk alights
On the warm hearth; then, hopping o’er the floor,
Eyes all the smiling family askance,
And pecks, and starts, and wonders where he is,
Till, more familiar grown, the table-crumbs
Attract his slender feet. The foodless wilds
Pour forth their brown inhabitants.
The hare,
Though timorous of heart and hard beset
By death in various forms—dark snares, and dogs,
And more unpitying men,—the garden seeks,
Urged on by fearless want. The bleating kind
Eye the black heaven, and next the glistening earth,
With looks of dumb despair; then, sad dispersed,
Dig for the withered herb through heaps of snow.
Now, shepherds, to your helpless charge be kind:
Baffle the raging year, and fill their pens
With food at will; lodge them below the storm,
And watch them strict, for from the bellowing east,
In this dire season, oft the whirlwind’s wing
Sweeps up the burthen of whole wintry plains
At one wide waft. and o’er the hills
The bleating kind
Hid in the hollow of two neighboring hills,
The billowy tempest whelms. till, upward urged,
The valley to a shining mountain swells,
Tipped with a wreath high-curling in the sky.
As thus the snows arise, and foul and fierce
All Winter drives along the darkened air.
The word pictures created by Thomson were reminiscent of the pastoral works painted by Salvator Rosa. Both men appreciated Nature, her beauty and fury. Both artists were well-known and accepted by educated critics and enlightened audiences.

It is not surprising, therefore, that Meriwether Lewis should have wished for the talents of these two artists when he perceived himself incapable of capturing the magnificence of the Great Falls. His allusion to these two particular artists, coupled with his own descriptive account, enable us to share in the thrill he experienced when he viewed the Great Falls almost two hundred years ago. Not having the sophisticated photographic equipment available today, and having very little time to linger at the site, Lewis, nonetheless, leaves us with an indelible image of the wild Missouri at the Great Falls. The words and references he used in his journal entry on June 13, 1805 are, for us, a picture postcard from Montana wistfully inscribed, “Wish you were here.”

-Footnotes-

2. Ibid, p. 147
3. Ibid, p. 148
4. Ibid, p. 149
5. Ibid

7. Ibid, p. 197

8. Artwork by Salvator Rosa, as reproduced with permission in Elizabeth Manwaring’s Italian Landscape in 18th Century England

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Annual Grants Program Now Coordinated with National Park Service

As approved last year by the board of directors, the foundation’s annual grant program will now be coordinated with the National Park Service’s Cost Share Challenge Program. This means that requests for funding assistance sent to either organization will be reviewed at the same time and be considered for funding from both sources. It also means that requests submitted to the foundation will be due later in the year to coincide with the federal fiscal year that begins October 1.

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation reviews grant requests through its Monetary Grants Committee chaired by Dr. James R. Fazio. The amount of awards depends on funds available at the time of the annual meeting. In recent years, grants have ranged from $200 to $5,000. The purpose of the foundation’s grant program is to “stimulate and increase public knowledge” about the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Proposals are accepted from individuals or organizations, with preference given in the following order when all other factors are equal: (1) scholarly research and publication, (2) research and text-writing for road markers and interpretive signs, (3) construction or restoration projects, (4) actual sign purchase and installation, (5) youth projects and contests, and (6) creative or performing arts projects.

The National Park Service Challenge Cost Share (CCS) program provides funds to non-federal organizations to enhance protection and interpretation along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Unlike the foundation’s monetary grants, the Park Service program provides funds on a matching basis. The match may be in dollars, materials, equipment or volunteer time. CCS projects generally range from $2,500 to $15,000 and depend on available funding. Examples of projects funded in the past include: (1) production/installation of interpretive signs, (2) protection of cultural or natural resources associated with trail sites or segments, (3) maintenance/renovation of trail sites or segments, (4) museum exhibits or other interpretive media at trail sites, (5) production/distribution of pertinent printed, computer or visual materials, (6) research or archaeology, and (7) development of recreational trails recognized as part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

To obtain an application for either organization’s assistance program, write to: Barbara Kubik, Executive Director, Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, 1712 S. Perry Court, Kennewick, WA 99337. During this transitional year of jointly managing the grant programs, there is no specific deadline for returning completed applications. However, for maximum consideration, it is suggested that applications be returned by September 1, 1996. Funding decisions will be completed by both organizations by December 1996.

About the author...

Joyce A McDonough, a public school teacher, lives in Brockton, Massachusetts with her husband John and their three sons. They encouraged her to participate in Professor Robert Carriker’s 1991 NEH Summer Seminar on Lewis and Clark. That rewarding experience led directly to her interest in researching the journals.

MAY 1996
Some historians claim it was Thomas Jefferson who brought waffles to this country, according to L.M. Boyd’s Trivia column.

“Undaunted Courage” Receiving Major Attention

Stephen Ambrose’s recently released book on Meriwether Lewis, “Undaunted Courage”, has captured the imagination of America according to those who sell books in this country. It had become the sixth best selling non fiction book in the country by March 23rd. The book, with the “whopping subtitle” of “Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson and the Opening of the American West,” is “a remarkable and even inspiring story that can’t be retold too often,” a Parade magazine reviewer wrote.

The reviewer for the Washington Post said, “This is a fine and important book, intelligently conceived and splendidly written. It explains how the continental nation was made, flushes out human beings who did the making and reminds us of the magnificent things that government can do when it does have a vision.”

Chet Orloff, the executive director of the Oregon Historical Society, wrote in the Portland Oregonian, “Although no history can capture perfectly the past, and only a few seem to bring the reader’s imagination even close to the past, ‘Undaunted Courage’ nearly puts us inside Lewis’ tent. We’re there while he talks over the day’s events with his fellow captain and men; of sighting the new plants and wildlife, of meetings with the Mandans, of canoeing the Columbia, of the heart-pounding escape from the Blackfeet.”

The Oregonian review also notes in its “Bottom Line” that, “This newest ‘installment’ to the immense literature on Lewis and Clark adds in quality, not just quantity. A leading American historian has taken on a topic that is his passion with the result an evocatively rich retelling of one of our nation’s great stories. A fine book to learn about—or learn more about—America’s greatest explorers.”

Sacagawea’s Heroic Aura Still Shines

Idaho

Wyoming author Ken Thomasma says Sacagawea’s popularity has remained strong because she’s so politically correct. He researched her life while writing a series of stories about Indian children. Her life represents motherhood, exploration and cooperation.

Thomasma says much misinformation has been printed about Sacagawea. He notes that she served more as an interpreter than a guide. Still she was indispensable.

“Lewis and Clark marveled at her ability to find food everywhere,” Thomasma says. “Sacagawea knew every berry, every root and every stem of every plant that was good to eat.”

Thomasma’s book “Naya Nuki” is the story of a young Indian girl who was captured in southwestern Montana along with Sacagawea. Naya Nuki eventually escaped and returned to the Shoshone tribe in Idaho’s Lemhi Valley. The friends were reunited when the Lewis and Clark expedition reached the valley.

Thomasma was in the Lemhi Valley area to meet with Lemhi leaders about building the Sacagawea National Historic Museum near Tendoy.

Rigby Recognized by L&CTHF

Idaho

J. Wilmer Rigby, a retired Salmon (Idaho) pharmacist and Lewis and Clark historian, was recently presented with the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation’s “Award of Meritorious Achievement.” Idaho Chapter President Steve Lee made the presentation. Other Idahoans who are past award winners are Marcus Ware of Lewiston and the late Ralph Space of Orofino.

Rigby has long been interested in Lewis and Clark and has studied the explorer’s journals extensively. He has personally walked and photographed the trail in Lemhi County. He has assisted local land managers in the siting of the actual route and helped with the preparation of an interpretive brochure on the trail for the Lemhi area. He has also generously given his time in sharing his knowledge of Lewis,
Clark and the expedition with many students in the area.

The award was first given in 1972.

—Recorder Herald (Salmon)

Make the celebration befitting Lewis and Clark's journey

Oregon

Saying the Lewis and Clark Expedition was an unprecedented adventure, J.W. Forrester, retired editor of The Daily Astorian, voiced a call to action for Oregonians to help salute the bicentennial of the expedition. He says Fort Clatsop, where the members of the expedition encamped in the winter of 1805-06, will attract international attention.

Forrester noted that the Lewis and Clark Exposition celebrated in Portland in 1905-06 to mark the 100th anniversary of the expedition was a historical turning point in the growth of the city. “Historians conclude that the exposition marked the coming of age of Portland” as a major city.

The historical significance of Astoria as the oldest settlement in the western United States is widely recognized. “We were reminded during the recent bicentennial observance of Capt. Robert Gray’s arrival in the Columbia River that, but for that event, the Lower Columbia area would have been Great Britain’s possession.”

“Planning at Fort Clatsop is in the hands of its superintendent, Cynthia Orlando. She is fully capable of administering all the fort’s facilities it will be called upon to provide,” he writes. And at the state-wide level, he cites the ability of Chet Orloff, the executive director of the Oregon Historical Society to bring together the people and resources essential to properly celebrate “this magnificent event.”

Forrester concludes by saying, “In all ways possible and appropriate, we will want to express our gratitude for all the expedition bestowed for us.”

—The Daily Astorian

After the Expedition

A Washington, D.C. based writer, Gina Mangieri, has written an extensive article on the question of whether suicide or murder was the cause of Meriwether Lewis’s death.

“Two scientists who want to dig up the truth say they need to dig up Lewis to do so,” Mangieri reports and then quotes everybody from Steven Ambrose to Anne Barnes and Marcia Staigmiller.

All are in opposition to the dig. Ambrose, the Pulitzer prize winning author, whose latest book is about Meriwether Lewis (see page 26) says, “Let the man rest. There is nothing we can prove.” Barnes, a cousin of Lewis through his mother’s descendants, says, “I don’t see any sense in digging him up. I see no reason at all to solve this question.” Staigmiller, a past president of the Portage Route Chapter comments that, “these questions were unanswered in the time that Lewis died because that society didn’t have our same dogged curiosity. Now, I think, we tear down some of our heroes unnecessarily...it won’t make any difference to the success or failure of the expedition if we answer every nagging detail of Lewis’s death.”

Dr. James Starrs, forensic pathologist at George Washington University, leads the group that wants to exhume the body to find “the truth.” He is supported by Lewis’s niece, Jane Lewis Henley, who says a dig may solve the mystery that has diverted attention from Lewis’s achievements.

Reimert Ravenholt, a Seattle epidemiologist, supports a theory that syphilis, not depression over finances, drove Lewis to suicide and wants to check the body to verify this theory. He is supported by Dr. James Adovasio, director of Pennsylvania’s Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute, who says syphilis can be detected long after a corpse is interred.

The National Park Service will have the final say on whether or not the grave will be opened.

“We see no purpose in resurrecting his body to prove how he died,” says Sara Amy Leach, chief of interpretation and visitor services at the park in Tennessee where Lewis is buried. “We would not alter our appreciation of Lewis’s contribution to American history. We should focus on what he accomplished in his lifetime.”

The last word comes from Anne Barnes who says, “If you solved everything, life wouldn’t be as interesting. And if they prove he was murdered, we can’t go digging up the people who did it, so we won’t solve why it was done anyway.”

—Great Falls (MT) Tribune

CLASSIFIEDS

PIONEERING LINGUISTS—Elijah Criswell—out of print. Don’t let the name fool you—an excellent account of the natural history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Xerox copy, S22, pp. Headwaters Chapter, Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Box 577, Bozeman, MT 59715.

ONLY ONE MAN DIED—pb Dr. Chuinard. All about the medical situations on the Lewis & Clark Trail. S19, pp. Don Nell, Box 577, Bozeman, MT 59715.

A Review By Robert K. Doerk

There have been many reviews of this latest offering in the growing Lewis and Clark literature...and deservedly so. The reviews I have seen have been positive and it was selected as the History Book Club Editor's choice for January 1996.

If you have not read this book to date, do so! It not only adds "flesh" to that most elusive of expedition members, but provides a backdrop for a part of our heritage that Lewis and Clark buffs take very seriously and devote a considerable amount of time studying. This book will become a classic within our literature and I will spend the rest of this review explaining why I think so.

Thomas Macaulay (1800-1859) remains one of my favorite historians. He was biased, opinionated, sometimes his "photographic" memory got the facts wrong but he was read, is worth reading, and once you start reading him, it is difficult to put the book down. It has been said he never wrote a boring sentence. The connection with Steve Ambrose's book is that it, too, is very readable, gripping in the narrative sense, the product of a good writer. Why? Because Steve Ambrose is a wordsmith who knows how to write. This is his 28th book indicating experience and durability. But it is more than that; this book flows because Steve mastered the English language and took the advice of one of his college professors to heart! The professor encouraged him to re-read all of Shakespeare, not for content, but to see how the bard used his verbs. In his own words, Steve Ambrose said this was the best advice he ever received. It shows...read this book for its excellent expression of the English language, let alone what it relates.

But there are other reasons to read this volume. Steve Ambrose is passionate about Meriwether Lewis. He cares about him, has reflected about him for over 20 years, and you sense that he wants to get to know Meriwether as intimately as he can, to get to the essence of the man. He is the main character. This is not a book about Thomas Jefferson or William Clark but rather about Meriwether Lewis. To tell his story, the backdrop is necessary, hence the subtitle. Any historical figure needs to stand within the context of his times and Ambrose does this in such a way that he earns the right to provide interesting detail about Lewis, to surmise what he might be thinking, to make it believable. You feel you know Lewis in a way never approached before. And all of this is based on sound historical research and by interpretation of the facts by an experienced historian and biographer.

This book is successful because it is borne of experience on the author's part, not just his extensive study and field work connected with the expedition but his study of leadership and human nature in relation to a lifetime study of World War II, its leaders and soldiers. There is no perfection in this world and if there was, it would not make for interesting history or biography. We must have heroes but they need to be portrayed in the human dimension with their flaws and foibles as well as their virtues. When all is said and done, Ambrose can say with Shakespeare "There was a Man." This is certainly my assessment of Lewis after reading this book.

Lewis's life plays out in three distinct parts: his life up to his selection to lead the expedition, the planning and execution of the expedition itself, and the aftermath. Hindsight is 20/20 and we wish, with Ambrose, that Jefferson would have promoted Lewis, provided him with a desk and several scribes, and told him to get those journals published. But would he thrive behind one desk and not another? We will never know, in fact can't know, but the speculation is thought provoking.

I am grateful that Meriwether Lewis did what he did, instilling in future generations the concept of seizing the moment, doing what is important, and that length of life is not the true mark. That Jefferson recognized the positive abilities of Lewis and gave him a chance; that through the written record Lewis did leave, his descriptive language, power of observation, and thought processes came through for the benefit of all of us. And I am grateful that Steve Ambrose wrote this book, giving us Lewis with warts
and all but with the conviction that if you were private Windsor in early June 1805, amongst the cliffs of the Marias, you too would say, “God, God, Captain, what shall I do?” (page 232) with confidence that Meriwether Lewis would have the answer and the courage and ability to carry it off.

Bob Doerk is a past president of the foundation and chairman of the National Lewis and Clark Trail Coordination Committee.


A Review by Martin Erickson

Freelance writer Eleanor J. Hall found a wonderful way to fill her spare time while she and her husband served as campground hosts at Headwaters State Park near Three Forks, Montana during the summer of 1994. She wrote a book on the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Spending the summer at a Lewis and Clark commemorative site was surely an inspiration for her as she wrote. Five years as a front line ranger, historian and writer for the National Park Service at the Gateway Arch in St. Louis got her interested in researching and writing about the expedition. She did her research at the University of Montana and Montana State University.

Hall’s book is written for middle school students, but it is an excellent primer for all who are interested in Lewis and Clark. It is the kind of book you might want to give to your children or grandchildren to pique their interest in the expedition.

The book is divided into an introduction and eight easy to read chapters ranging from “An Idea Becomes Reality” to “Outcomes” which details what happened to key members of the expedition after they came back. It includes a chart on important dates on the expedition at the beginning and notes, a listing of further recommended reading, a bibliography (“Additional Works Consulted”) with short summaries of the books and articles and an index. Sidebars in the text add to the knowledge gained and enjoyment in reading the book. The sidebars are quotes from books written by Thwaites, Jackson, Moulton, Churnard and other authorities about incidents (Those Ferocious Grizzly Bears) and people (York) who made the journey.

In a cover letter to the reviewer, Eleanor Hall noted that, “In their world history series, the publishers of Lucent Books stress the use of quotations from primary sources and secondary sources of recognized scholars. Therefore, flights of fancy or imagined conversations are not used in this book (as I found was done in so much of the juvenile literature on Lewis and Clark). Both sides of the most controversial matters, i.e., Captain Lewis’ death and the subsequent life and death of Sacagawea, are presented, but emphasis is placed on evidence that can be documented.”

“The Lewis and Clark Expedition” is an excellent introduction to the most famous expedition in our country’s history and a fun read for even the most jaded L&C buff.

FLOATING MONTANA’S HISTORIC MISSOURI RIVER

The Heritage Institute is offering a week long five credit class July 7-13 titled “Floating Montana’s Historic Missouri River.”

Montana’s Missouri River has played an important role in the exploration and settling of the West. This class will examine several periods of the history of the Missouri River: its significance to American Indians, the exploration by Lewis and Clark, the fur trade era, the steamboat era, the Montana gold rush and the homesteading of Montana. Today, largely unchanged by man, the river has been designated by Congress as the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River, a national treasure. Many of the river’s historic sites are still intact, including Lewis and Clark campsites, old homesteads, steamboat landings, and native American habitation sites; these will provide an experiential basis for the class’s study of the river’s history. The only way to access most of the historic sites is by boat; thus participants will use canoes (or sea kayaks) to float 149 miles of river, over a six day period, visiting scores of significant historic sites along the way. The assembly point will be Fort Benton, Montana, known as the “birthplace of Montana,” where the class will begin by visiting the Museum of the Upper Missouri, and important historic sites. On day two the class will leave Fort Benton in canoes beginning a six day wilderness float. Each night will be spent camping along the river. The class format will include a daily lecture and visiting historic sites while traveling downriver.

In addition to its historical resources, the Missouri provides exceptional opportunities to study the geology and ecology of the river corridor. The geology will be exposed as the class floats through the rugged Missouri River Breaks, the spectacular White Cliffs, and the highly eroded badlands. Diverse and numerous populations of both mammals and birds provide continuous wildlife viewing opportunities along the entire floating route.

For more information, contact The Heritage Institute at 1-800-445-1305 or call the instructor at (206) 952-9020 (evenings).
(SUPERHIGHWAY Cont. from page 21)

Lewis and Clark in the Pacific Northwest

Lewis and Clark Trail
http://www.psu.edu/epaw/mewicw/trap.html

Lewis and Clark: Frontiersman Physicians in the Pacific Northwest
http://hermes. halib. washington.edu/hfl/greends/94/95/jan95.htm

Lewis and Clark’s Portage
http://bregen.cs.csbsju.edu/djdecker/Lewis/lewisclark.html

Lewis-Clark Valley
http://www.indians.org/wesleymandan.html

Map Exhibit Announcement
http://pan.k12.va.us/Arch|P|plSocStudies/announcet.html

Meriwether Lewis
http://www.cq.ubn.m.u/a/sms/lewis.htm

Missouri Historical Society
http://www.ast.com/nm/sc-1ewsl棣_1ewsl棣_home.html

Nez Perce/Nee-me-poo Home Page
http://www.uidaho.edu/poind9313/nnepoo.html

Sacagawea
http://www.csl.edu/glouthern/am-indian/nachapter_2001_020102005.txt

Sacagawea Speaker: Sara Edlin-Marlowe
http://www.sourl1e/astM/Catalog/Speakers/Sara/Edlin-Marlowe.html

Sacagawea: Guide To The Guides

Sakajawea
http://www.kenp.org/9boisesakajawee.html

Sergeant Floyd Monument
http://www.southern.com/col/lers/o/floydm/1n

St. Charles, the Oldest City on the Missouri River
http://www.sccom/mischar1.htm

St. Louis Museums
http://iil.cirt.pedu/llouislouismuseums.html

The Coultor Gang Genealogy Connection
http://www.europa.com/kncafp/

Thomas Jefferson—Autobiography
http://hypermall.com/9triam/jefferson/autobiography.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 1.1 Phase 1: 08/30/03 - 09/24/04
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewlcki/Section1/Phase1/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 1.2 Phase 2: 09/25/04 - 06/07/05
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section2/Phase2/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 1.3: Phase 3: 06/08/05 - 08/20/05
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section3/Phase3/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 1.4: Phase 4a: 08/21/05 - 11/07/05
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section4a/Phase4a/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 1.5: Phase X: 11/08/05 - 03/22/06
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section5/Phase5/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 1.6: Phase 4b: 03/23/06 - 04/24/06
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section4b/Phase4b/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 1.7: Phase 5: 04/25/06 - 09/26/06
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section5/Phase5/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 2.1: Phase 1: 08/30/03 - 09/24/04
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section2/Phase1/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 2.2: Phase 2: 09/25/04 - 06/07/05
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section2/Phase2/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 2.3: Phase 3: 06/08/05 - 08/20/05
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section3/Phase3/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 2.4: Phase 4a: 08/21/05 - 11/07/05
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section4a/Phase4b/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 2.5: Phase X: 11/08/05 - 03/22/06
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section5/Phase5/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 2.6: Phase 4b: 03/23/06 - 04/24/06
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section4b/Phase4b/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 2.7: Phase 5: 04/25/06 - 09/26/06
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section5/Phase5/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 3.1: Phase 1: 08/30/03 - 09/24/04
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section3/Phase1/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 3.2: Phase 2: 09/25/04 - 06/07/05
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section3/Phase2/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 3.3: Phase 3: 06/08/05 - 08/20/05
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section3/Phase3/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 3.4: Phase 4a: 08/21/05 - 11/07/05
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section4a/Phase4b/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 3.5: Phase X: 11/08/05 - 03/22/06
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section5/Phase5/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 3.6: Phase 4b: 03/23/06 - 04/24/06
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section4b/Phase4b/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 3.7: Phase 5: 04/25/06 - 09/26/06
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section5/Phase5/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 4.1: Phase 1: 08/30/03 - 09/24/04
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section4/Phase1/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 4.2: Phase 2: 09/25/04 - 06/07/05
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section4/Phase2/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 4.3: Phase 3: 06/08/05 - 08/20/05
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section4/Phase3/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 4.4: Phase 4a: 08/21/05 - 11/07/05
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section4a/Phase4b/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 4.5: Phase X: 11/08/05 - 03/22/06
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section5/Phase5/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 4.6: Phase 4b: 03/23/06 - 04/24/06
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section4b/Phase4b/Phase.html

UKY: Lewis & Clark: Section 4.7: Phase 5: 04/25/06 - 09/26/06
http://www.uky.edu/eng/003/MSClewClk/Section5/Phase5/Phase.html

Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and The Opening Of The American West
http://www.ingrambook.com/TITLEWAVE/PRODUCT_INFO/TITLEA N18645.html

US History Standards: Chapter 5 - Era 4
http://www.arcnet.uc.edu/uchs/us5/era4.htm

Virginia Discovery Museum—Lewis and Clark
http://www.comet.net/ndvm/HITMLLewisclrk.htm

Welcome to Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
http://fas.cirt.pedu/llouis/louismrn.html

William Clark
http://fermi.clas.virginia.edu/-msk5/williamclrk.htm

William Clark Map: Library of Congress Special Collection #143
http://lilweb.loc.gov/lapl/143.htm

Wolves: Lewis and Clark
http://www.izzeстьюark.com/YellowstoneFlewrW.htm

Woman Spirit—Sacajawea—Shoshoni
http://www.powersource.com/powersource/gallery/womanspiritshoshoni.html

Foundation member Jay Rasmussen can be reached at 1190 N.E. Birchen Lane, Hillsboro, OR 97124, (503) 640-9493.

MAY 1996

30 WE PROCEEDED ON
planned interpretive center in Great Falls. The plans for the center include space for the foundation's office and archives and the board will officially vote on the matter this year. The past presidents' council is also considering the steps necessary to change the position of executive director from part time to full time.

The National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council, a separate non-profit corporation established as a spin-off of the foundation to plan the Bicentennial of the Expedition, met for three days in early April at the Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Washington. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a planning workshop for the bicentennial for representatives of state and local governments, tourist bureaus, historical societies, and Native American nations along the expedition's route as well as representatives of federal agencies with responsibility for the trail. This meeting was the first such national gathering to plan and coordinate events during the bicentennial years. We have been exceedingly fortunate to have the fine leadership of Harry Hubbard as president of the council; his untiring efforts have brought us very far in the last few years.

I am pleased to announce that the National Park Service has been able to extend its funding for the work of the foundation, especially that of the executive director, for another year under the existing cooperative agreement. Dick Williams, manager of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, has been instrumental in making this possible. Furthermore, the foundation will continue to work with the NPS in administering the Challenge Cost Share grants provided by the NPS to various groups for Lewis and Clark projects.

The Partnership for the National Trails System met in Washington, D.C. in March to promote matters of interest to all long-distance scenic and historic trails. Second Vice President Sid Huggins represented the foundation at the meeting.

I urge you to respond without delay to the invitation of the folks in Sioux City to attend the 1996 annual meeting of the foundation. Strode Hinds and his committee have planned a marvelous meeting; it represents the first time since 1980 that the foundation will have met in that area. If you need registration material, contact Strode Hinds at 28th Annual Meeting, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 1804, Sioux City, IA 51102-1804. I hope to see you in Sioux City!
Pvt. Joseph Whitehouse
Thursday 20th Sept [1804]

...at 2 oC we proceeded on passed a long range of bluffs on N.S. of a dark colour. out of those and others of the same kind is where the Missourie Gets its muddy colour for this Earth melts like Sugar...