THE LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.
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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.

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President's Message
by Clyde G. "Sid" Huggins

I am truly honored to be elected your president for 1996-97 and I pledge to proceed on in the footsteps of those who have served our foundation. To Bob Gatten, immediate past president, for his two years of service I say on behalf of the foundation a resounding well done and a dram for all hands.

The past year was a most eventful one. First we appointed an executive director, then lost him but, without skipping a heartbeat, our secretary and longtime foundation member Barbara Kubik took over the position as interim executive director. Our membership is most fortunate to have so many capable and dedicated persons who willingly contribute. I am pleased to report that the board of directors removed the word interim and she is now our executive director. Simultaneously, Ann P. Johnston was elected to the position of secretary. They bring expert credentials to these positions.

Another significant event took place in early June 1996. This was the two-day coroner's jury hearing in Hohenwald, Lewis Country, Tennessee. The outcome was to permit the exhumation and examination of the remains of Meriwether Lewis at his burial site. The stipulation was made that all procedures must take place at the burial site and that his remains must be restored to the original burial site. Since the burial site is a national park, the National Park Service has the final word on exhumation. The proceedings of the hearing were transcribed and luckily I was able to acquire a copy (some 550 pages) for the foundation archives.

The 28th Annual Meeting of the foundation August 4-8, 1996 in Sioux City, Iowa was a most pleasant one. Strode and Bev Hinds were our hosts and they lived up to their reputation; well organized meetings, good food, good fellowship, excellent facilities, well planned and organized bus trips to various Lewis and Clark campsites. To me the most impressive was the burial place for Sergeant Floyd—an

From the Editor's Desk

These are exciting times along the trail these days! Good things are happening. It is one of those times in life when it is a joy just to get up in the morning and see what the new day holds.

Excuse me if I seem to be getting carried away, but there is reason for all this euphoria. I can drive out towards Giant Springs and see progress every day on the new interpretive center/foundation headquarters. I can think back to the day last August when we had the groundbreaking and a mayfly attack. Swarms of the little buggers were clustering on everybody and one could easily envision the Corps of Discovery and their battle with the mosquitoes and other winged demons.

Steve Ambrose and I visited and he told me how grateful he was for WPO. He said he wouldn't have been able to write "Undaunted Courage" without WPO and my help. He said he had been searching for a way to express his gratitude. He then told me what he had in mind and it was a mind boggler.

Even as I write this column, a team of foundation experts is working on a way to implement his proposal. You will be hearing more details in the February WPO.

"Undaunted Courage" continues to stay on the non-fiction best seller list. During a recent visit to Fort Clatsop to give a speech, Steve mentioned that over 400,000 copies have been sold. One way to look at that is that there are 400,000 potential members for the foundation. He also said it was "dumb luck to be the first out there with the book that caught the imagination of the American people."

Here is some less exciting news. Your old editor finally has an answering machine for his telephone and it works most of the time. As soon as he can figure out how to get them going he will have a fax and e-mail. Stay tuned on that one.

The dig at Fort Clatsop made the news. The Bicen-

ON THE COVER—Beacon Rock will be one of the sights to see at the 1997 Annual Meeting.

Photo courtesy Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center, Ruth and Emory Strong Collection.
Riled-up Blackfeet: Did Meriwether Lewis Do It?

by Arlen J. Large

"Peace and Friendship" said the medal hung on the neck of a Piegan Blackfoot named something like Side Hill Calf. U.S. Army Captain Meriwether Lewis had bestowed the medal on this "chief" the day before, but now the man lay dead at Lewis's feet, knifed in the heart.

The captain ordered his three American companions to mount up and scramble away from the ravine of Two Medicine River, lest they be caught by any of the Piegan's vengeful tribesmen. Lewis said he "left the medal about the neck of the dead man that they might be informed who we were."

Right there is the basic raw material for a historical controversy still dogging the Lewis and Clark expedition to the Pacific. In 1806 a four-man expedition detachment led by Lewis had a fight with eight Blackfeet on the Montana plains just east of modern Glacier National Park. One Indian was stabbed to death and another was shot, probably fatally. This brief affray, say some writers, led to decades of attacks on Americans trying to enter Blackfoot territory. Lewis's rash decision to leave a token of American identity on the killing field taunted that tribe into a vendetta of enduring revenge.

Behold a simplistic myth, reply...
other historians. By itself the Two Medicine fight wasn't to blame. What really riled up the Blackfeet was fear that the Americans would supply guns to their traditional enemies. The resulting war on intruders was a modern-sounding “national security” response centrally ordered by a council of feathered Henry Kissingers.

Still other analysts offer other opinions in many shades, including the view that the Blackfeet were just naturally mean to everybody.

Whatever the reason, important consequences flowed from the Blackfoot war during the opening decades of the 19th century. For the warriors it prolonged something their old free life of hunting and raiding. For white trappers it brought terrifying years of robbery and death. The heavy casualties forced St. Louis fur companies to avoid the upper Missouri River beaver grounds in Montana until conditions started changing in the 1830s.

This forbidden territory covered part of the transcontinental route pioneered by Lewis and Clark in 1805 and 1806. Blackfoot hostility prevented any quick follow-up journeys through this area by later travelers, diverting them south to safer paths. If cobwebs grew on the northerly Lewis and Clark corridor, Lewis himself—by one interpretation—was to blame.

Today an inquiring expedition student can find plenty of expert speculation on the aftermath of the fight at Two Medicine River. Real reasons, though, are obscured by a fog of illiteracy all around. The Indians left no written record of the incident, or of their reaction to it. Not the world’s greatest diarists, either, were the unlettered American trappers who became the target of Blackfoot wrath. Some sketchy tribal memories were passed on to white writers later in the 19th century, but these second- and third-hand accounts lack a helpful immediacy.

What follows is a survey of the available fight record, plus a compilation of opinions offered by various strong-minded historians. From it the reader may see again how history, like life itself, combines many strands that twist and change with the passage of time.

The Blackfeet

In about 1750 white fur traders in Canada first made contact with a loose grouping of hunter-warrior nomads composed of three branches: the northern Blackfoot (who also gave their name to the whole group), the Blood and the Piegan. These Algonkian-speakers ranged across a broad swath of grassland, big as three Pennsylvanias, just east of the Rockies. The Piegan (pronounced Pay-gan) also roamed southward across the present U.S. border into Montana. They made up the biggest branch and had the most contact with white traders, compared with their reclusive northern relatives.

Is it “Blackfoot” or Blackfeet?” English-speakers wander all over the lot, as the quotations below will demonstrate. Purists usually apply “Blackfoot” to the Canadian branch, and it often serves as a general modifying adjective, as in Blackfoot Confederacy or Blackfoot territory. Otherwise, actual usage tends to favor whichever word sounds better in the sentence at hand.

The Fight

Lewis wrote the only eyewitness version of the encounter between his detachment and eight Piegan tribesmen on July 26 and 27, 1806. The expedition was heading home after spending the previous winter at the Pacific. On horseback Lewis was tracing the northerly reach of the Marias River, a tributary of the Missouri, accompanied by civilian interpreter George Drouillard and privates Reubin and Joseph Field. Co-captain William Clark was exploring separately on the Yellowstone River to the south.

On July 26 the snowy peaks of the Rockies lined the western horizon as Lewis rode along a treeless plain cut by a southern branch of the Marias known later as Two Medicine River. The captain suddenly spotted about 30 horses on a rise about a mile away. With his spyglass he saw that about half the horses were saddled, and that “several” Indians were nearby. It was, he wrote in his journal, “a very unpleasant sight.”

Lewis counted eight Indians but only two of them carried guns—not, perhaps, a first-rank outfit. Everyone dismounted and shook hands. Lewis was skeptical when the natives claimed their group included three chiefs, but he gave a peace medal to one and a flag and handkerchief to the other two. The wary strangers made a joint camp on the bank of Two Medicine River.

With Drouillard as a hand-talking interpreter, Lewis smoked and swapped information until late that night with the pipe-loving Blackfeet. Those Indians already knew about white people; one was traveling with a nearby band, and the whole tribe did business at a trading post up in modern Alberta. “From these traders,” Lewis reported, “they obtain arm amunition spirituous liquor blankets & in exchange for wolves and some beaver skins.”

Lewis told the natives he had just come from the western ocean. He had seen “a great many nations” west of the Rockies, “all of whom I had invited to come and trade with me on the rivers on this side of the mountains.” He urged his new pipe partners to round up their tribal leaders and bring them to the Marias-Missouri junction. He
hoped the tribe would become customers for trade goods “when the establishment is made at the entrance of this river.”

Lewis went to bed, leaving Reubin Field on guard. Field was still awake at dawn on the 27th but his gun was lying on the ground beside his sleeping brother. Side Hill Calf—still wearing his peace medal—grabbed the guns of both Reubin and Joseph, while two other natives seized the rifles of Lewis and Drouillard. The Field brothers ran down Side Hill Calf and Reubin stabbed him in the heart. Drouillard wrestled his gun away from the second thief, and at pistol-point Lewis recovered his own rifle from the third. Lewis’s men wanted to shoot this robber, but the captain said no, “as the Indian did not appear to wish to kill us.” The Blackfeet then tried to drive off the horse herd. The Americans gave chase and Lewis shot one of them in the stomach. The wounded man fired back but, said Lewis, “he overshot me, being bearheaded I felt the wind of his bullet very distinctly.”

The surviving Indians got away with some horses, but the Americans captured four mounts and raced for the mouth of the Marias. This was the man killed, I suppose, by Fields. Afterwards the Indians ran off some of the horses of the white men. The name of the first man killed was Side Hill Calf, or Calf Standing on a Side Hill.4

Grinnell added that Wolf Calf “must have been a young boy at the time” of the fight. Partly for that reason, however, Wolf Calf’s authority as a direct eyewitness has been challenged by Helen West, a historian at the Museum of the Plains Indian on the Blackfeet Reservation in Browning, Montana. Lewis’s journal said nothing about the presence of a child warrior, she noted, and besides, Wolf Calf located the fight at the wrong place.

“One would suppose it more likely that he was relating a version of the fight heard from his contemporaries, since the incident was undoubtedly well known,” said West.5 That wouldn’t discredit the story itself; pretty clearly it was still part of tribal lore at the end of the 19th century.

In a 1910 study, anthropologist Clark Wissler agreed. Speaking in the academic plural, Wissler wrote: “We have heard the details of this from Peigan now living and find the narratives not only consistent with themselves, but with the account of Lewis.”6

However, Wissler and Wheeler didn’t deal with another third-hand Indian version of the fight that departs considerably from this consensus. Lieutenant James H. Bradley was an infantry officer stationed at Fort Benton, Montana, after the Civil War. He collected numerous yarns from local residents including Alexander Culbertson, an American Fur Company trader who had married an Indian woman during his long tenure on the southern edge of the Blackfoot country. Reported Bradley:

“When Major Culbertson came among the Blackfeet in 1833 he found that the Piegan still had a tradition of the killing of one of their number by Capt. Lewis in 1806. The name of the murdered Peigan was O-nie-strucks-lumy (He-that-looks-at-the-calf). According to the Indian account, Capt. Lewis had gone into camp on the Marias unfurling his flag according to custom. In the evening a number of Piegan came into the camp and were kindly received, but during the night a part of the Indians ran off with some of Capt. Lewis’s horses, when the rest were detained by him as hostages. The next morning one of the
hostages, watching an opportunity, seized a horse, mounted him and dashed away, when he was fired upon by a soldier and killed."

However different in detail, all the stories agree that the Indians who met Lewis tried to steal something, and at least one of them paid the price for it.

**Afterward**

Word of the Two Medicine fight spread across the lightly-peopled plains to Rocky Mountain House, the North West Company's trading post on the Saskatchewan River in Alberta. There, the legendary David Thompson—explorer, astronomer, trader—was trying to move southwest across the mountains to open a trading post among the Kutenai on the upper Columbia River. Thompson had been blocked by Piegan chiefs who correctly feared he would sell guns to these old enemies. In 1807 that blockade vanished, and Thompson thought he knew why.

"The murder of two Peagan Indians by Captain Lewis of the United States, drew the Peagans to the Missouri to revenge their deaths; and thus gave me an opportunity to cross the Mountains by the defiles of the Saskatchewan River," Thompson reported.

Perhaps some Piegan leaders wrongly understood from the fight's survivors that Lewis had already established a trading post at the Marias-Missouri junction, and went there to close it down. In any case some Blackfoot warriors patrolling south of their usual territory got into a fight with a party of Crows in 1808. Conspicuous in the Crow ranks was a white man who turned out to be John Colter. This Lewis and Clark expedition veteran was traveling with the Crows on a trade-promotion assignment from Manuel Lisa, who in late 1807 had established a new trading post where the Bighorn River joins the Yellowstone. Lisa was the first St. Louis merchant seeking to exploit the Pacific explorers' reports of abundant beaver in the West.

During the next three years Blackfoot attackers repeatedly hit Lisa's agents trying to penetrate...
effectively sealed off a long stretch and went back to a safer home near St. Louis. The Blackfeet had effectively sealed off a long stretch of the upper Missouri that was part of "the most practicable rute which does exist" across the continent. As Lewis boasted on arrival home in 1806.

In 1811 John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company built a new Pacific trading post at the mouth of the Columbia River and sent a 60-man party overland from St. Louis to reinforce it. Wilson Price Hunt, the leader, originally planned to retrace exactly the Lewis and Clark route. Barely out of St. Louis Hunt met Colter, who is said to have warned the travelers about Blackfoot dangers on the upper Missouri. Later Hunt hired three other trappers who had been driven out of the Three Forks country the year before and claimed to know a safer, more southerly route across the Rockies. Hunt continued up the Missouri until he reached the Arikara villages in modern South Dakota. There he bought horses and headed straight west, entirely shunning the Lewis and Clark trail until he got to the Columbia River.

That set the pattern for future travelers for the next two decades. Americans who dared to return to Blackfoot country continued to die. In 1821 a trapping party led by Michael Immell was cut to pieces, its furs stolen. The following year more trappers were killed near the Missouri's great falls. The stolen furs and other goods seized by Blackfoot raiders began showing up in quantity at the North West Company trading posts in Canada. Writing from Rocky Mountain House on the Saskatchewan, trader Alexander Henry gave this grisly account of one attack by Bloods roaming on the Missouri River in Montana:

"From the description the Bloods gave of the dress and behavior of one whom they murdered, he must have been an officer or trader; they said he killed two Bloods before he fell. This exasperated them, and I have reason to suppose they butchered him in a horrible manner and then ate him partly raw and partly broiled. They said his skin was exceedingly white and tattooed from the hips to the feet."8

Why?

Many non-Indian authorities have tried to explain why the Blackfeet were so tough on trappers early in the 19th century. Here is a sample range of views: Lewis did it. In his 1836 book Astoria, Washington Irving reported what John Colter told the Astorians hoping in 1811 to retrace the Lewis and Clark route to the Pacific: "He had many particulars to give them concerning the Blackfeet Indians, a restless and predatory tribe, who had conceived an impicable hostility to the white men, in consequence of one of their warriors having been killed by Captain Lewis, while attempting to steal horses."9

Colter did it. In an 1819 report on the fur trade, an Army major signing himself Thomas Biddle described John Colter's first fight with the Blackfeet while traveling with the Crows as Manuel Lisa's agent. "He distinguished himself very much in the combat," said Biddle, "and the Blackfeet were defeated, having plainly observed a white man fighting in the ranks of their enemy." Biddle mentioned a second scrape between Colter and the Blackfeet and concluded: "Thus originated the hostility which has prevented American traders from penetrating the fur country of the Missouri."

Biddle specifically exonerated Lewis. The Blackfeet, he said, "were so convinced of the propriety of his [Lewis's] conduct in the encounter which took place between him and a party of their people, in which two of them were killed, that they did not consider it as cause of war or hostility on their part." The circumstances of Biddle's report suggest he may have been reflecting the views of Lewis on this matter.10

Lewis and Colter did it. "The death of two Piegan at the hands of the Lewis party certainly began the enmity, if cause were needed, of the Blackfeet; the exploits of Colter in the next four years certainly solidified that hostility," judged Joel Overholser in his 1987 history of Fort Benton.11

Trappers did it. British companies in Canada were primarily traders selling merchandise to natives who supplied pelts and horses in exchange. In contrast, Lisa's men entering Montana wanted to trap furs themselves for shipment to St. Louis. The Indians resented them as poachers. "The point was a basic factor causing animosity among the tribes of the high plains, most notably the Blackfeet," said David Lavender in his 1975 book, The Rockies.12

Testimony on this general attitude came from Meriwether Lewis himself in an 1807 post-expedition essay on the fur trade. Indians who've been selling furs to traders "feel excessive chagrin" when white trappers clean out the local animal population, said Lewis, adding: "The Indians, although well disposed to maintain a peace on
any other terms, I am convinced will never yield on this point.¹⁴

In a respected 1979 study of the fur trade, David Wishart wrote that “Blackfoot-American relations were jaundiced from their inception” by the Two Medicine fight, but he also said the attempt by Lisa's trappers to build a fort at the Missouri's Three Forks was “a direct affront” to the natives.¹⁵ It was Blackfoot gun control. Any link between the Two Medicine fight casualties and later Blackfoot hostility is a “myth,” asserted James Ronda in his 1984 book, Lewis and Clark Among the Indians, and “the myth continues to be repeated in popular accounts of the expedition as well as in an occasional serious study.”

Ronda argued that Side Hill Calf’s party focused on “the geopolitical bombshell” dropped by Lewis in his pipe-smoking chat the night before the fight. These young roughnecks (minus their leader) presumably transmitted to higher tribal councils Lewis’s announcement that Americans planned to sell guns to an alliance of Nez Perce, Shoshones and other Blackfoot enemies. “In the face of a massive assault on their plains empire,” said Ronda, “Blackfeet warriors hardly had time to think of avenging Side Hill Calf and his unfortunate companion.”¹⁶

Roy Appleman in his 1975 National Park Service account of the expedition pointed both to a hatred of Colter and other trappers.

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Blackfoot country as depicted on William Clark's 1814 map of the Pacific expedition's route. A square dot has been added to show the 1806 site of Captain Lewis's fight with eight Piegans on "Battle" River, now named Two Medicine River. A round dot marks an 1810 trapper's fort at the Missouri's Three Forks. Clark himself labeled "Manuel's Fort" built in 1807 by Manuel Lisa at the Yellowstone-Bighorn junction. The North West Company's Rocky Mountain House is off the map's northern edge.
Across the Wide Missouri

The Blackfeet were just mean. The problem was the "character" of the Blackfeet, not offenses by Americans said Bernard DeVoto in *Across the Wide Missouri* in 1947. These tough-guy tribesmen, he said, "not only found murder the cheapest form of trade relations but enjoyed it beyond most Indians. They were no more hostile to Americans than they were to the Flatheads, the Snakes, the Crows, and nearly everyone else." A confirming clue: Canadian traders prudently diluted whiskey for their Blackfoot customers, famed as violent drunks, with twice as much water as for the Crees and Assiniboines.

Several reasons evolved over time. The Two Medicine fight with Lewis "was the first cause of the prolonged Blackfoot Indian hostility toward Americans," said John Ewers in a 1968 book, *Indian Life on the Upper Missouri.* In 1941 Ewers became the first curator of the Plains Indian Museum on the Blackfeet reservation in Montana. His "first cause" formula allows for the evolution of other causes later.

Blackfoot leaders in Canada had been trying to keep guns out of the hands of their enemies for years before Lewis and Clark reached Montana. Their monopoly on weapons from the British posts in Alberta was already breaking down, however, as Crow middlemen got guns from the Mandans on the Missouri and traded them to Flatheads and Shoshones in the mountains. The threat of even more guns reaching their enemies from Americans doubtless was one early motive for the Blackfoot raids, but there were other reasons as well.

Like profitable robbery. These proud horse Indians were buffalo hunters, not cut out for squishing through the cold mud of a beaver pond. Only a few Piegan bands ever became trappers for white trade goods; the rest disdained such work. It better fit their self-image to stage patriotic raids on Americans trapping on the southern border of Blackfoot territory, and steal their furs. "Valuable beaver pelts were carried northward as booty by the Blackfoot raiders, and the Canadian trading forts were also the armories from which Blackfoot warriors obtained their firearms and ammunition," said Ewers.

The mix of cultural and economic motives changed as the years went by, eventually allowing Americans into the forbidden lands. By the 1830s beaver were less valuable for anybody to trap, as silk hats became more fashionable back East and in Europe. And St. Louis companies at last saw the wisdom of building new posts on the Missouri at the Yellowstone (1828) and Marias (1831) junctions to trade with the plains Indians in the passive Canadian manner.

It succeeded because buffalo skins had displaced beaver as the main item of trade. That exactly suited many Blackfeet, Assinaws and Assiniboines, weakened militarily by smallpox but glad to run buffalo in the old way for the white man's goods. The American traders used barges on the Missouri to send the heavy skins to St. Louis, which beat the Canadian lake-and-portage canoe routes unsuited to bulky cargoes.

So life goes on. The fights with longknives Lewis and Colter became winter lodge stories told by Piegan grandfather, while a younger uncle could boast of trading a dead trapper's pelts for British powder and whiskey. The tales rang equally true for seekers of people's motives, then and now.

---FOOTNOTES---
2Several writers have called the eight Blackfeet a war party. Elliott Coues, in a footnote to his edition of Nicholas Biddle's expedition narrative, asserted instead that "these Indians were a hunting party" with several spare horses saddled to replace mounts fatigued from running buffalo. *History of the Expedition Under the Command of Lewis and Clark.* (Francis P. Harper, New York, 1895) Vol. 3, pp. 1098-9, n. 4.
11Thomas Biddle to Colonel Henry Atkinson, October 29, 1819, American State Papers. (Gales & Seaton, Washington, 1834) Indian Affairs, Vol. 2, pp. 201-2. Biddle's report was datelined "Camp Missouri" in the neighborhood of Lewis and Clark's Council Bluffs, Nebraska. He seems to have been the "Major Biddle" temporarily assigned there in 1819 to Major Stephen Long's team of western explorers, though historians dispute whether this officer's first name was John or Thomas. Easterner Biddle may have made himself an instant fur trade expert.
from a few weeks' "personal observation" among the eastern plains Indians and "from persons acquainted with the more remote tribes." That description would fit Manuel Lisa, who often entertained Major Long's staff at a nearby trading post in the fall of 1819.

8) Oscar Lewis, The Effects of White Contact upon Blackfoot Culture with Special Reference to the Role of the Fur Trade. (Columbia University, New York, 1942) p. 21.
10) Lewis, White Contact, p. 28.

"THE TRAIL"
New Video Now Available

by James R. Fazio
Past Foundation President

THE TRAIL: Lewis & Clark Expedition 1803-1806 by Robin Williams, 1277 S. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, CA 92651.

This is the first of at least three major videos being produced in the advent of the expedition's bicentennial. It is also the first one approved by The National Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Council and it carries that endorsement right on the front of its attractive cassette cover.

Robin Williams is a film maker who does virtually all his own research, writing, shooting and editing. He travels the world gathering his material, then during the winter follows the lecture circuit providing live narration of his productions. He has done this with topics ranging from "Paul's Journeys According to Scripture" to "Lindbergh's Flight to Paris." In what may be his last major production before retiring, he took up the trail of Lewis and Clark in the summer of 1994.

Williams' pursuit of the journey begins at Monticello. He lingers there, obviously fascinated with Jefferson and his foresight. He also pays due tribute to the Virginia roots of the explorers themselves, re-visiting many of the sites (and more) foundation members enjoyed during the wonderful Charlottesville annual meeting in 1995. Next, Harpers Ferry, then the Pittsburgh area and one of the surprises in this video. Williams discovered descendants of Lewis' boatmakers and shows us the launch site—not in Pittsburgh, but up the Monongahela River at Elizabeth, Pennsylvania.

The rest of the video is more familiar to most of us, virtually a litany of treasured places from Camp Dubois to the saltworks on the Pacific. Williams' strength is in the beauty captured in his filming. Armchair historians will find a fault here and there with the content, but any factual errors are not significant enough to detract from this portrayal of the story. It is also totally authentic, so when you see trees blocking 'the road,' you can be sure it is on the actual tread of the trail in the Bitterroots, not just a site convenient to the producers.

Williams masterfully handles the return trip by weaving its major points of interest into the story as he proceeds westward with his camera. But like all who try covering the adventure, he found time only for a frustratingly brief glimpse at most points of interest—like two minutes on the Lolo Trail after three days of filming! Perhaps one result, however, is that viewer interest stays high from start to finish, and it creates the desirable effect of "wanting more" when the story ends.

Foundation members coast to coast helped make this video and are generously acknowledged in the credits at the end. Williams even provides the foundation's mailing address for those wanting to satisfy their awakened interest in Lewis and Clark history.

The suggested retail price for this 88-minute video is $29.95. Discounts are available for large purchases. As a service to members who would like a single copy, I have purchased a quantity and will make them available through my wife's store at $24.95 p.d. If interested, contact Woodland Gifts, 310 N. Main St., Moscow, ID 83843 (208) 882-4767.

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.
THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE:
A Place of Time and Wonder

by Martin Plamondon

I have spent all of my 50 years living within a 15 minute drive of one of the world’s great gorges. The Columbia River Gorge is a breathtaking land, born out of some of the greatest geologic events in the history of the earth. The 29th Annual Meeting (1997) of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation will take place in the heart of that tremendous gorge. As a part of this meeting, you will have a unique opportunity to soak in the grandeur and the spectacle of this magnificent creation. In preparation for your visit, allow me to share with you some of the interesting features of this amazing place.

Lewis and Clark were all business as they passed across the land of North America. As a part of their instructions from President Thomas Jefferson, they were looking for the wealth found in the fur trade, in minerals and in agriculture, to sustain the new nation. To their eyes, there was very little of that kind of wealth in the Columbia Gorge. However, even our explorers were impressed with what they saw here, and intrigued by what they suspected had gone before.

The Columbia Gorge began long ago, when the Columbia Plateau of northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington was a great basin. Over the eons, hundreds, perhaps thousands, of floods of lava welled up through cracks in the land and flowed across the basin, slowly filling it in with basalt, one of the densest and hardest rocks on the planet. Some of these flows were hundreds of feet thick, while others, as fluid as water, were just inches deep. As the ramparts of lava cooled and hardened on both sides of the river, they pressed in upon the ancient Columbia River. The river had to constantly fight to maintain the semblance of a passage to the ocean. Once, the gorge could have been a very narrow, deep canyon of basalt, with the mighty river crashing its way through the Cascade Mountain Range.

Cold came upon the land as the great ice sheets of several ice ages moved down from the North. The slow-moving rivers of ice collided with the north end of the Bitterroot Mountains, forming a dam of ice. Lake Missoula, one of the greatest lakes ever formed, did so many times behind successive glacial ice dams. Each time an ice dam failed, the lake emptied out across eastern Washington, forming the “Channeled Scablands” that stand out starkly as they snake across the gently rolling loess-covered country of eastern Washington. Each release of the great ancient lake waters created walls of water, some more than a thousand feet high, that ripped across the land and through the gorge, tearing away at the hardened lava until the gorge was many miles wide and two to three thousand feet deep.

For me, personally, the gorge begins at Wallula Gap, where the mighty Columbia River turns west to make its run for the sea. Here, massive ramparts of solid gray basalt stand at each side of the river and the river enters the first of a long area of tall cliffs cut from the high, wind-swept plateaus on either side.

Four mighty dams now divide the river’s course through the Columbia Gorge into slow-moving, navigable “lakes.” You will have the opportunity to visit these quiet waters and to reflect on the changes to the river since 1805.

Celilo Falls, one of the greatest fresh-water fishing areas, lies buried in the reservoir created by The Dalles Dam. At Celilo Falls, the Columbia River once formed chutes and channels down through the hardened lava. Floods of water coursed down these chutes, harassing and battering the millions of salmon searching a way through the torrents to their upriver spawning grounds. Intent on reaching their spawning grounds, the salmon became prey to the Sahaptin- and Chinookan-speaking Native Americans who built precarious platforms of driftwood out over the raging, rushing river. They took the salmon with large nets on...
the ends of long poles, dipping into crystal clear water 20 feet deep and drawing in fish weighing 60 or 70 pounds. Clark recorded the "...great numbers of Stacks of pounded Salmon [butifully] neatly preserved in the following manner, i.e. after Suffiently Dried it is pounded between two Stones fine, and put into a species of basket neatly made of grass and rushes of better than two feet long and one foot Diamiter...lined with the Skin of Salmon..." He estimated each basket weighed 90 to 100 pounds, and added that "Great quantities...are Sold to the whites people who visit the mouth of this river as well as to the natives below." The falls are gone now. We have to be content with the tales of fading memories, of black and white photographs, the occasional home movie, our imaginations and the words of William Clark to recall the sight, "...waters is divided into sev­eral narrow channels which pass through a hard black rock forming Islands of rocks..." As the expedition portaged Celilo Falls on October 23, Clark continued "...I then decended through a narrow chanell of about 150 yards wide forming a kind of half circle in it course of a mile to a pitch of 8 feet in which the chanell is divided by 2 large rocks..."

Beyond the now quiet waters of Celilo Falls lay Clark's Long and Short Narrows. The river is dammed here too, and the reservo­ir hides the historic spectacle of this great river as it once poured its fury through two narrow defiles. From Clark's detailed reports we realize our explorers must have been shaken to their very souls as they contemplated taking their dugout canoes 2½ miles through "...water...agitated in a most Shock­ing manner boils Swell & whorl pools..."

On October 30th, the expedition camped on a small island near the north shore of the Columbia River, not far from present-day Stevenson, Washington. On October 31, Captain William Clark wrote of the "Great Shute" (the Cascades of the Columbia, now inundated by Bonneville Dam): "...This Great Shute or falls is about 1/2 a mile with the water of this great river Compressed within the Space of 150 paces in which there is great numbers of both large and Small rocks, water passing with great velocity forming & boiling...with a fall about 20 feet, below it widens to about 200 paces and current gentle for a Short distance."

At Washington State's Horsethief Lake State Park, you will have an opportunity to visit Indian petroglyphs carved into basalt cliffs above the river. By far the most spectacular and moving petroglyph is Tsagaglalal, "She Who Watches." Archaeologists tell us that all meaning of these images is lost. At the same time they share their thoughts about what the images of people, mountain sheep, lizards, stars and circles might have meant. The Indian elders know differently, and if they trust you, they will share some fascinating history about their meanings. It will be a rare opportunity to view these great rock etchings, as recent vandalism has caused the state to close this rock art to the general public.

Friends of Lewis and Clark will have an opportunity to visit Maryhill Museum, high on a cliff overlooking the Columbia River and the small community of Maryhill, Washington. This massive stone castle was built by the Pacific Northwest's great highway advocate, Samuel Hill, for his bride, Mary Hill-Hill, who wanted no part of this lonely, desolate country. Hill placed his amazing collections of fine art, personal memorabilia and artifacts from the Rumanian royal family in his castle. Over the years, the collections have been expanded to include Pacific Northwest art, Native American tools, art and clothing and additional collections from Hill's work to build the Peace Arch, to establish a utopian community of farmers along the north shore of the river and to create a network of well-made concrete highways through the Columbia Gorge.

As one travels west, the gorge becomes a land of scattered oak, then pine, then vast forests of fir, hemlock and Western Red Cedar. Common in the time of Lewis and Clark were Douglas Firs 12 feet or more in diameter and pressing 300 feet in height. Wrote Clark on October 29, "The Countryside on each side begin to be thicker timbered with Pine and low white Oak...the Chief...gave us to eate Filberts nuts, & the berries of Sackecomme... Those people gave us, High bush cram berries..."

Meeting attendees will enter a land of waterfalls in a concentration second only to Yosemite National Park. By late July, some of the falls will have winnowed to wisps blowing away in the wind. Other falls will continue strong, but the visitor will have to imagine what they look like in spring flood or when the Arctic winds of the winter gorge have turned them into walls of ice. Just east of 600 foot high Multnomah Falls, on the south side of the Columbia River, is Onenta Gorge, a narrow crack in the wall of the Columbia Gorge running deep into the forested slope. Onenta Gorge harbors places within itself where the sun's light never shines and yet plants grow. Many of these plants growing within this narrow defile grow nowhere else on earth.

If you wish, you may climb Beacon Rock, the second highest monolith in the world. Only the Rock of Gibraltar is higher. The trail to the top is a fine one, but there is
no guard rail, and the winds can blow strong at the top of Beacon Rock. The views of the gorge are unparalleled.

East of Beacon Rock one can explore the great runout landslide that took much of Table Mountain and created the Cascades of the Columbia. Lewis and Clark understood that this slide formed a lake and created the Columbia. I have seen it in warm summer days, in the driving rain storms of fall and winter and when quiet snow was falling, covering the land. I have seen the gorge encased in ice, and I have lived with her through nights with the fullest of moons reflected in the waters of a peaceful river. I have observed her during nights, dark and overcast, when the only light was the headlights of cars, locomotives and triple trailer rigs and the twinkling starboard and port lights of the barges and the tugs. I have sat on the edge of a cliff and marveled at the ever-changing show of light.

Yes! I have fallen in love with this magnificent place.

I urge you to come and see it for yourself next July.

—FOOTNOTES—


4 Ibid., 323, 327.

5 Ibid., 328-329.

6 Ibid., 363.


9 Moulton, 351-355. Moulton identifies the “Filibert nuts” as the hazel nut, filbert or beaked hazel, the “Sackcomme berries” as those of the bearberry or kinnikinnick bush, and notes the high-bush cranberry is restricted to the Columbia Gorge.

10 Ibid., 355-356.

About the author...

Foundation member Martin Plamondon is chairman of the Washington State Governor’s Lewis and Clark Trail Committee.
Historic Marker Certified in South Dakota

POLLOCK, SOUTH DAKOTA—The National Park Service on June 24, 1996 certified a historical marker near Pollock, along Highway 1804 in northcentral South Dakota, as an official nonfederal site on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Richard N. Williams, manager, Lewis and Clark National Historical Trail for the National Park Service said, "This Lewis and Clark marker is one of a series of interpretive signs in South Dakota. We are working with the State Tourism Department and other organizations interested in Lewis and Clark to develop a map and brochure of all the Lewis and Clark Trail sites in South Dakota."

This historic marker details Lewis and Clark’s expedition through northcentral South Dakota. The marker makes note of two incidents that took place near here.

Clark’s Stone Idol Creek is known locally as Spring Creek and is currently interrupted by Pocasse Causeway (South Dakota Highway 1804).

The historic marker is located approximately three-quarters of a mile north of Pollock on South Dakota Highway 1804 on the east side of the north causeway separating Lake Pocasse and Lake Oahe and is managed by the South Dakota Department of Transportation.

**Lewis and Clark Historic Marker text (front)**

**LEWIS AND CLARK AND THE LEGEND OF STONE IDOL CREEK**

On their epic exploratory expedition Meriwether Lewis & William Clark stopped near here and noted two stones resembling human figures, and a third like a dog. Capt. Clark writes on Oct. 13, 1804 “…a Creek on the S.S. [starboard] 18 miles above the Ricaras I call Stone Idol Creek, this Creek heads in a small lake at no great distance, near what there is a Stone to which the Indians ascribe a great virtue…” Known as “Pond River” in accounts by Sgts. Patrick Gass & John Ordway, this creek flowed 3 Mi. S.E. of here through what was known prior to Oahe flooding as “The Lakes.” Stone Idol Creek noted by Capt. Clark is currently interrupted by Pocasse Causeway.

On the banks of this creek stood the stones that inspired Arikara legend and Clark’s name for the creek. Clark writes of the legend in his notebook journal—“those people have a curious Tr[adition of those Stones, one was a man in Love, one a Girl whose parents would not let (them) marry, the Dog went to morn with them (and) all turned to Stone gradually... Those people fed on grapes until they turned (to stone), & the woman has a bunch of grapes yet in her hand.” When passing by these stones, the Arikara paid reverence and made votive offerings.

**Lewis and Clark Historic Marker text (back)**

**LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION MEET THE ARIKARA**

Oct. 8, 1804. Capt. Clark prepared camp as Capt. Lewis and interpreter Joseph Gravelines, a trader residing among Arikara tribes, visited the first and lower of 3 Arikara villages located on an island 18 Mi. S.W. of this location. It was the expedition’s first contact with the Arikara Indians. The next day was cold and windy as the 3 Arikara village chiefs entered Lewis & Clark’s camp to make arrangements for a formal council.

Oct. 10, 1804. At approximately 1 o’clock Chief Kahawissassa, Chief Pocasse, and Chief Piaheto assembled under an awning near the Expedition’s boat. Lewis & Clark delivered a speech and gave them clothes and flags. After formal council, an air gun was fired, astonishing the Chiefs. Hands were shaken in a friendly manner, and the Chiefs returned to their villages.

Oct. 13, 1804. The expedition halted west of this location for 2 hours to administer the court martial of Pvt. John Newman, for “mutinous expressions.” He was sentenced 75 lashes and disbanded from the party. The party then proceeded on and made camp for the last time in South Dakota between the former townsites of LaGrace (3.5 Mi.SW) and Vanderbilt (5.5 Mi.W).

**Lewis and Clark Fellow Donors**

Ginny Sichta used funds given in memory of Cliff to purchase two Lewis and Clark Fellow gifts: one in loving memory of Cliff, the other for herself.

Katherine Alderman made a gift to the Lewis and Clark Fellow Fund in loving memory of Donald.

A third-time donor to the Lewis and Clark Fellow Fund wishes to remain anonymous.
The Traveling Seminar:

Following Lewis and Clark ON THE UPPER MISSOURI RIVER

by Robert C. Carriker
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Americans feel comfortable with their historical past. News analysts and business reporters frequently splice their commentary with references to earlier, similar events. So do ordinary persons. Historians tell us, for example, that a whole generation of nineteenth century Americans remembered in intimate detail exactly where they were and what they were doing on the day they learned about the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. A high percentage of persons over the age of 40 can do the same for the day John F. Kennedy died. At other times the events that are chiseled into our memory come not from moments that stopped the world, but from dynamic personal experiences.

So it is with me. As another fall turns into another winter, I cannot help but reminisce about the wonderful Missouri River excursion I took in July of 1995 with 15 other Lewis and Clark enthusiasts. The number of letters that have passed between myself and my traveling companions during the past 15 months assures me that they remember that summer adventure with as much passion and pleasure as I do. For most of the people who joined me on the West Wind, Missouri River Outfitters' 18 passenger pontoon boat, the 88 mile journey we took together is an unforgettable experience.

In at least two ways the trip of 1995 is considered a "once-in-a-lifetime" event by the people who took the trip. First of all, everyone on this charter trip earned their way aboard by being selected as a participant in a Lewis and Clark seminar sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Since 1985 Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington has offered four seminars on the Corps of Northwest Discovery, using as a text the 1,364 pages of Elliott Coues's 1893 edition of Nicholas Biddle's History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.1 According to program guidelines, seminar participants must be school teachers at any level from first through twelfth grades in a public, private, or parochial school. Selection is competitive because each of the 15 teachers receive a stipend of several thousand dollars to defray their transportation and living expenses. All in all, 663 persons have applied for the four seminars and the teachers who joined the 1995 NEH Semmer Seminar for School Teachers comprised 15 of only 60 persons ever chosen. Attending an NEH seminar is an honor highly coveted by many teachers. Second, while the stream flow of the Missouri River in the summer of 1995 did not statistically qualify as a "once-in-a-lifetime" occurrence, many Montanans with a lifetime association with the river believe that the current in July ran at a rate that had not been equaled in at least 40 years. It was almost like life on the river before the dams went in, they said.

To prepare for the trip, seminar members spent the first three weeks of July reading and discussing thirty-odd chapters in Coues's three-volume work.2 Typically, sessions at the university lasted three hours, but no one felt like he or she was back in the old classroom grind again because every chapter offered a new adventure to vicariously share with Lewis and Clark. Questions challenged presenters—an acceptable and encouraged practice in seminars—and debates of fact and interpretation made each morning a banquet of ideas. Participants, who came to Spokane from a dozen states, all but two of them located east of the Mississippi River, used the afternoons to annotate two poster sized maps, one of the Missouri River drainage basin, and the other of the Columbia River. This is not an unimportant exercise because NEH seminars welcome teachers in all fields of the curriculum and some of them need to orient themselves to the route of Lewis and Clark. My seminars, for example, have included both elementary and secondary school teachers with special abilities in English literature, psychology, comparative religions, even woodworking, as well as geography and history. By the time the seminar's two 15-passenger vans left Gonzaga University on July 21, the group eagerly looked forward to viewing first-hand the territory Lewis and Clark had written about in their journals.

When Larry Cook and I first talked in September of 1994 about using his company, Missouri River Outfitters, for the seminar field trip, we thought we would float between Coal Banks Landing and Judith Landing, a distance of about...
The winter of 1994-95 changed our minds. A succession of winter storms swept across western Montana during the first months of 1995 and deposited a huge snowpack on the upper Missouri region. The spring runoff was monumental. Even in the third week of July, the river flowed bank full and possessed flood-like characteristics. Water craft floated downstream, Larry told me, at twice the speed normal for the middle of summer. Under the circumstances, we decided to double the distance for the seminar's trip. Thus the seminar embarked upon an 88 mile odyssey, though still staying on the schedule of three days and two nights that had been previously approved by NEH officialdom.

Shortly after breakfast on Saturday, July 22, the seminar participants assembled at the dock in Fort Benton, Montana, to help Larry, his wife, Bonnie, and his colleague, Dave Parchen, stow gear in Bonnie's motorboat. After Bonnie shoved off, the seminar seated itself in the West Wind, a covered barge with open sides. Comfortable bench seats line the railing and it is an ideal way for groups such as ours to converse while observing the passing scenery.

Everyone carried with them a copy of the relevant portions of the captains' journals for the Fort Benton to Judith Landing stretch of the Missouri River. About five miles out from Fort Benton Dave Parchen pointed out Clark's campsites for June 12, 1805; then he explained how to relate the 1805 journal entries of Lewis and Clark with historical landmarks. Look backward, he advised. When the Corps of Northwest Discovery first traveled upstream on this section of the upper Missouri River, in May and June of 1805, their point of view looked from east to west. The West Wind, however, floated with the current, west to east, so for a person to see the same things Lewis, Clark, and Sergeants John Ordway and Patrick Gass saw and recorded in 1805, they should read the daily entries in the journals in reverse order and look backward from the barge. If, however, a person preferred for his point of view the modest journal entries of Lewis, Ordway, and Gass for July of 1806, then he need only look straight ahead.

Twenty-two miles below Fort Benton our party reached the confluence of the Marias and Missouri rivers. Because both rivers have changed course considerably during the passage of nearly two centuries, it takes both imagination and perseverance to locate what may have been the expedition campsites of June 2, and June 3 through 12, 1805. Seeking the site where Meriwether Lewis and his exhausted crew had the “unspeakable satisfaction” to meet up with the canoes of Sergeant John Ordway on July 28, 1806, and subsequently unearth the red pirogue, buried since June 18, 1805, requires even more contemplation. So many possibilities suggested themselves that our group stayed in the vicinity through lunch.

Breezeless, blue skies provided near-perfect conditions for taking pictures as we passed the Crow Coulee campsite used by Lewis's party on July 28, 1806. Around the next bend in the river, at Boggs Island, where the explorers camped on June 1, 1805, Larry Cook unloaded three canoes the barge had been towing and set free six of our more adventurous scholars. For the first 38 miles on the river the seminar had stayed together on the barge; now we were a flotilla of four vessels. The "Charbonneaus," as we called the canoeists in mock reference to the man Lewis thought to be the expedition's most timid sailor, had only to canoe about nine miles in
order to reach our camp for the evening, but their experience set the tone for the next two days: paddling the swift flowing Missouri River is fun. One of the men assumed the responsibility for scheduling the switch-overs in the canoes and he did such an excellent job that each of the 13 persons who wanted to paddle a stretch of the river got the opportunity to do so.

By the time the seminar disembarked from the barge at four in the afternoon our campsite already bristled with blue and white tents. How come? Because after lunch Bonnie Cook and Dave Parchen sped ahead in the motorboat and beat the slower moving barge and canoes to the location. This arrangement had many advantages, the principal one being that upon reaching shore everyone was free to explore the hills behind the camp on foot. It did not take long for an advance party to find several sets of ancient tipi rings. One of them yielded a trade bead. Archaeologists, who are supposed to know about such things, have examined the depth of the soil around the rings and they estimate the site to be approximately 800 years old. Suitably inspired, seminar members now prospected all of the bluffs within shouting distance of the camp looking for similar evidences of the past.

Bonnie Cook provided our traveling seminar with a hearty supper that evening. After the meal, but before the sun set, most everyone took time to write an entry in their journal. This was yet another way for the seminar to become one with the past. Billowing columns of smoke from a wood fire helped thwart the clusters of mosquitoes that buzzed about, but nothing could lessen the dread in some people about having to visit the pit toilet on the outskirts of camp. Suffice it to say that the relatively cool weather we enjoyed was still warm enough to make the contents ripe. The electric chair must have looked more inviting. Somewhere around ten o'clock people began to slip away from the campfire and retire for the evening. For some in our group this was their first night in a tent and sleeping bag.

On Sunday, July 23, the canoeists took to the river earlier than the barge so that they could take their time paddling through the spectacular gorge known as the White Rocks section and still be at Eagle Creek at approximately the same time as the faster moving West Wind. And they were. The object of our rendezvous was to climb the Eye of the Needle, a viewpoint at the top of a sandstone cliff.

At one exceptionally steep point it is necessary to use a rope, and at two other places most people accepted a helping hand, but even so every person in our expedition made it to the top. Exhilaration! The Missouri River and its landmarks spread out before us in an eagle’s eye view. LaBarge Rock, next to us, stood out like a thumb; directly across the river the expedition’s campsite for May 31, 1805 unfolded in plain view. Adjacent to that is the Grand Natural Walls. Patrick Gass thought them “200 feet high and not more than eight feet thick. They seem as if built by the hand of man, and are so numerous that they appear like the ruins of an ancient city.” Lewis agreed, seeing in the perpendicular bluffs “a thousand grotesque figures, which with the help of a little imagination and an oblique view at a distance, are made to represent elgant ranges of lofty freestone [easily quarried stone] buildings.” Stretching the limits of our eyesight we agreed with Clark’s assessment that the Missouri River at this location (but not from this overlook, because no one from the expedition is believed to have climbed to the top of the Eye of the Needle) “exhibit a most romantic appearance.”

After switching teams in the canoes, the frail craft pushed off with orders to pass by Eagle Rock and Citadel Rock and reunite with the barge at the Hole in the Wall, eight miles farther downstream. Larry Cook urged the reassembled group to make an assessment of their physical abilities because, he cautioned, the trail to the top of the Hole in the Wall is strenuous and narrow. The trade-off is that the view from the summit is spectacular. Having been forewarned, 11 of us, including Larry, proceeded onward and upward under fair skies and mid-80 degree temperatures.

The scramble to the top of the Hole in the Wall is similar to that of Eye of the Needle in the sense that a wrist-to-wrist helping hand can be reassuring now and then. The two overlooks are also alike in that the reward for both climbs is an unforgettable panoramic view of the Missouri River. No one who has achieved both viewpoints on the same day will ever wonder why Montana is called Big Sky Country by outsiders and the Last Best Place by natives. And, yes, some people did sit in the hole in the Hole in the Wall.

Cathedral Rock is accessible from the Hole in the Wall and Larry Cook spontaneously added a tour of that landmark to our itinerary. The backside of Cathedral Rock is steep, slippery, and scary. Scaling it earns a person a rest, but not on this day. Three hundred feet above the river the view of the meandering Missouri River filled our eyes, but our new height advantage also presented a less welcome sight. In the distance, where the flat lands above the bluffs meet the horizon, the clouds of a thunderstorm rumbled. At first the dark rimmed puffs of white appeared to be too far away to be of consequence to us, but in a few moments wind
began to rake the cliff on which we stood and rolling thunder announced the intention of the approaching clouds to spit rain at us. Everyone needed to get off the rimrock, Larry warned, or cascades of water would wash us down to the river with a lot of other debris. Wind gusts and droplets urged us on as we hurried back to the waiting water craft. The storm caught us at the shoreline, clustered for about an hour, then it passed down the river and blue skies reappeared.

Meantime, our Sunday night campsite rose in a triangle formed by the Pinnacles, Steamboat Rock, and Dark Butte. Bonnie and Dave Parchen once again had set up camp before our arrival. Once again, too, the seminar was free to explore the surrounding countryside. Time out for supper, then most people went back to follow a stream or seek solitude. It was on this evening that I experienced my most memorable event of the tour, that single moment by which I will best remember the 1995 seminar and its perfect field trip.

In fading twilight three of us climbed as high as we could get in the white sandstone cliffs that rose abruptly behind the campsite. As the sun lowered itself gently into the horizon we could see the light of the campfire glow an ever brighter orange in the fading light. For no particular reason we sat down. It wasn’t as if we were fatigued from the walk or needed the rest, rather we just wanted to halt and enjoy the moment. A stillness seemed to cover the land as surely as the approaching darkness.

Windless serenity lulled us into a feeling of complete peaceful reflection. Below us we could hear faint conversations, but none of us chose to talk to each other. Someone said, “Listen, you can hear for 30 miles in any direction,” but that was all. It was true; it didn’t need audible confirmation. So there we sat for over an hour, just listening, until darkness completely covered the landscape and only the light of stars lit our way back to camp.

The canoeists got away on Monday morning about 8 o’clock, but the barge delayed for two hours to dry the tents and pack up. The artists in our group found the soft morning light irresistible and practiced their talent. Some people talked about hiking around a bend in the river to see the expedition’s camp of May 30, 1805. I had another plan.

Viewed from the river, Steamboat Rock looks unapproachably distant. Larry Cook, however, said it wasn’t at all and he pointed out the trail. In two hours I managed to half walk and half jog to the base of that storied landmark and still return before our scheduled departure. The route is pretty much straight uphill and several miles in length, but I cannot imagine a better complement to a slow-moving float on the Missouri River than a fast-paced hike. Besides, I share a birth month and day with Meriwether Lewis, and didn’t he like to walk alone on shore during much of his own journey on the Missouri River?

The final 18½ miles of the river, from the campsite beneath Dark Butte to Judith Landing, does not match the spectacular scenery of the White Cliffs or Stone Walls sections of the Missouri that our group enjoyed on previous days. Yet, it contains just as many notable historic sites. Here are the expedition campsites of May 30, 29 and 28, 1805. And the Slaughter River “buffalo jump” site which Lewis painstakingly—and erroneously—described in his journal.

Taking out of the river at Judith Landing meant saying farewell to Larry Cook and his crew. Thanks to their expert assistance the 1995 NEH seminar lived a portion of the journals written by Lewis and Clark, narrated by Nicholas Biddle, and edited by Elliott Coues. Our brief foray into the wilderness covered only a minuscule part of the route blazed by the Lewis and Clark Expedition, but as a case study it demonstrated to the seminar the magnitude of the larger body of work. It was an unforgettable experience.

—FOOTNOTES—

1 The authoritative editions of the original journals by Reuben Gold Thwaites and Gary E. Moulton do not lend themselves to the seminar experience for a variety of reasons, including, but not limited to length, cost, and readability. The original journals are used in the seminar, but not as the principal text.
Lewis and Clark at Jefferson City, Missouri

by W. Raymond Wood
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Lewis and Clark passed the future site of Jefferson City, Missouri, on Monday, June 4, 1804. On that "fair day" they sent out three hunters, and the mast of their keelboat was later "broke by the boat running under a tree" near the mouth of Cedar Creek—an event that Clark in his entries blamed on no one, but that Sgt. John Ordway admitted in his journal was a consequence of his "Steering the Boat near the shore."

This is the day that L. Edward Fisher chose to commemorate in his painting, "Lewis and Clark, 1804," and in a centennial view, "Jefferson City, 1904." The two paintings were unveiled for their first public display on March 27, 1994, by Missouri Secretary of State Roy Blunt; Missouri Banking Association President Norman J. Tice; its former president, Larry Rost; and Mr. Fisher. The paintings are the first in a series of three historical river scenes commissioned as part of the Missouri Banking Association's efforts to commemorate its 1990 centennial.

The paintings were dedicated at a public ceremony in the atrium of the Missouri State Information Building in Jefferson City, a few blocks west of the capitol building, where they will remain on permanent display. The newly constructed State Information Building houses the Missouri State Archives and the Missouri State Library, part of the Office of the Secretary of State. The paintings are on display "where literally thousands of Missourians...will see them every year,” Blunt said in his remarks at the unveiling.

Both paintings were commissioned by and donated to the state of Missouri by the Missouri Banking Association. The views are the same; it is the year that changes. The view is to the southwest, with the site of the first Missouri state capitol slightly to the left of center from a point on the north bank of the river. Jefferson Landing—today a State Historic Site—is on the river's edge below the capitol building directly in line with the viewer's line of sight.

Prominent landmarks depicted in the painting that one may still visit today include the Union Hotel and what is now known as the Lohman Building, the latter structure erected by James A. Crump in 1839, and that helped establish this area as the city's principal river landing. The Pacific Railroad was completed to Jefferson City in 1855, and the first train arrived the next year. The railroad was built along the shoreline, and markedly increased traffic at the landing. Jefferson Landing and the adjoining capitol complex is well worth a visit.

Editor's Note: Bob Carrick will be directing his fifth National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for School Teachers on the Lewis and Clark Expedition during the month of July 1997. Interested teachers should contact him at Gonzaga University before March 1, 1997.
for the historically-minded: the State Capitol, the State Museum, the Executive (governor’s) Mansion, the Cole County Historical Society, and other attractions are in the immediate vicinity. Lewis and Clark buffs should admire the heroic-sized bronze statue of Thomas Jefferson, on the capitol steps facing the downtown area of his namesake city, and visit the bronzes of Lewis and Clark in the halls of the capitol building.

Fisher will paint the same scene in the year 2004, and it, too, will be donated to the state and added to the collection. The Missouri Banking Association commissioned the three paintings as part of its 1990 centennial celebration. The boats and scenery in the first painting, and the boats and buildings in the second painting are as historically accurate as Fisher can make them. "I'm a combination historian-archaeologist," the St. Louis artist says, "but, rather than write about it, I paint it." Among Fisher's other projects is a mural-size painting of the famous race on the Mississippi River from New Orleans to St. Louis between the rival steamboats, the Natchez and the Robert E. Lee, showing the end of the race at the St. Louis riverfront.

Fisher has painted all his life (he sold his first painting at the age of 15). "I always had an interest in river boats, but in the '50s, '60s and '70s people weren't interested." It was not until the 1980s, he continues, that people became interested in inland river shipping. For many years he worked for the Wabash Railroad and painted when he could, but today he paints full-time in his St. Louis studio. "This is a great town. The history of St. Louis is fascinating because for so many years it was the last outpost of civilization."

There probably is no better place in Jefferson City for these paintings to be displayed, for the Missouri State Archives will by its nature draw historically oriented individuals to its resources. While you're there, be sure to visit Jefferson Landing and absorb some of Missouri's later historical landmarks.

—FOOTNOTES—
The Other Woman of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

by Bob Moore

Long before Sacagawea entered the picture, there was another woman who was an official member of the Corps of Discovery. In the midst of researching an article for We Proceeded On, I recently stumbled upon an item of interest in the Camp DuBois-period field notes of William Clark. It appears that the Corps of Discovery had a "camp follower" or laundress before they set out for the far west on May 14, 1804. Two brief mentions by Clark in January 1804 mention an unnamed woman who came "forward wishing to wash and doe Such things as may be necessary for the Detachments!"

This was not unusual in the armies of the time. For years, European armies were followed by droves of women and children. In George Washington's Continental Army, large numbers of women bobbed down army movements and were a constant headache to their commander. Washington knew that if he banished the women, however, many of his soldiers would go home with them. A significant number of these women could be characterized as refugees, while others could not manage their farms without their husbands. And so they became camp followers. For the most part these women were married to soldiers in the ranks (and would be drummed out of camp if branded a "loose woman"). Some were paid in food (a woman received 1/2 of a soldier's daily ration) for services rendered, which included cooking and laundering. Long after the revolution, a select few of these camp followers applied for and received pensions from the U.S. Government for their services during the war. Camp followers also accompanied the early western armies. For instance, in Sword of the Republic, Francis Paul Prucha notes that nearly 200 women and children accompanied Arthur St. Clair's ill-fated expedition against the Ohio Indians in 1791 "many of whom were killed or captured."

By the time the woman mentioned in Clark's field notes offered her services to the Corps of Discovery, a March 16, 1802 law was in effect which allowed women to accompany detachments of the army as laundresses by a ratio of four washerwomen to each one hundred men. Since there were roughly 25 men in Camp Dubois, one laundress would seem to fit the bill perfectly here. In addition, the captain of each company had the right to appoint washerwomen. The women were provided with quarters, fuel, one daily ration, and the services of the post surgeon. Laundresses served at the captain's pleasure and were subject to military discipline. A laundress was the only woman who received any legal recognition within the military hierarchy. What indication do we have that the laundress mentioned in January 1 became an official member of the Corps of Discovery? In another January field note, Clark ordered "those men who had fought got Drunk & neglected Duty to go and build a hut for a Wo[man] who promises to wash & sow &c". Not only was the woman living in camp, but she was provided with her own hut, built as a disciplinary action for some of the rowdy members of the expedition. Further, Clark added that "I Spoke to the men on the Subject of my order," his capitalization of the word "Subject," perhaps inferring that he spoke not on the infractions of the rules which had led to the punishment, but rather on how he expected his unruly volunteers to treat the woman in their midst.

No other identifiable mention of the laundress is made in the remainder of Clark's sparse field notes of early 1804. However, on April 15, about a month before the departure of the expedition for the West, Clark noted that he "Settled with Mrs Cane for all to this day & paid 12/c". Although there is no specific reason to suspect a connection between this entry and those from January, so few women are mentioned in the journal that one could speculate that Mrs. Cane was the name of the laundress. Further research might reveal the identity of a Mrs. Cane in one of the local Illinois communities. Perhaps a researcher may also someday find a pension claim from a woman who said that she was once a member of the Corps of Discovery!

---FOOTNOTES---
2 Francis Paul Prucha, Sword of the Republic:
Book Review


A review by Martin Erickson

Attendees at the 1994 annual meeting in Missoula, Montana, will vividly remember the time spent at the Big Hole Battlefield National Monument. It was the site of a major battle in 1877 between the fleeing non-treaty Nez Perce Indians and the U.S. Army. The Nez Perce who fought that day were descendants of the Nez Perce who were a great help to Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery both on the outward journey in 1805 and the return journey in 1806. They were major contributors to the success of the expedition.

The Nez Perce were for many years well disposed toward the first of the whites who came westward and were active participants in the fur trade with both the British and Americans. In 1831, four Nez Perce journeyed to St. Louis to visit with William Clark.

The Walla Walla Treaty of 1855 recognized the sovereignty of the Nez Perce over some 7 million acres of land in the Pacific Northwest. It also took 7 million acres away from the tribe. A second treaty in 1863 was disputed by many of the tribal leaders who had signed the 1855 treaty. It took significant amounts of prime land away from the Nez Perce and opened the heart of their land to white settlement. The end result of broken treaties and unkept promises was the Nez Perce War of 1877 which ended in defeat on a gray and cold day on the wind-swept prairie of northern Montana. The survivors were imprisoned and then sent to reservations in Kansas and Oklahoma before finally being allowed to return to the Pacific Northwest.

In 1903, Lucullus Virgil McWhorter sold his Ohio farm and headed west to Yakima, Washington, with his wife and three children, to fulfill a lifelong dream to “meet the Indians.” He spent most of the rest of his life preserving the history and fighting for the rights of the Nez Perce Indians.

An archaeologist, writer and rancher, he first assisted the Yakama Indians in their fight against the Jones Bill of 1906 which would have taken away most of the land of the Yakamas in exchange for irrigation rights. The bill eventually died in committee. Survivors of the Nez Perce War of 1877 were still alive, and one of them, Yellow Wolf, became a life-long friend and “brother” of McWhorter. He gave him the Nez Perce name Heme Ka-Wan or Old Wolf. Talking to Yellow Wolf and other surviving warriors, McWhorter over a period of years was able to piece together the history of the tribe, particularly the war of 1877.

He fought with the bureaus of Washington, D.C. and in the Pacific Northwest over the land rights of the Nez Perce. He made some gains but lost more battles than he won.

The results of his research efforts over more than three decades resulted in two classic western histories Yellow Wolf (1940) and Hear Me, My Chiefs! (1952).

Steven Ross Evans, a professor of history at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho has written a book about Lucullus Virgil McWhorter that noted Nez Perce historian Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., calls, “a gem of a book—in many ways one of the most informed on Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce Indians ever written—rich in its humanity, filled with the struggle and sadness of patriots and genuine heroes, and inspiring in its central tale of a wonderful man who did as much as anyone else—and perhaps more—to bring about realistic writing on American Indian history.”

For those who have an interest in what happened to one of the Indian tribes who were part of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, this is an excellent book to pick up. For those who have an interest in general in American history and how it was shaped, this book will fill in another piece of the puzzle.
Construction of a Lewis and Clark display near Fort Peck Dam, in northeastern Montana, will be completed this fall. A parking lot and overlook are being prepared along with a kiosk that explains the expedition’s activities in the area in 1805 and 1806.

Wild and Scenic Exploration

Michael and Pat Gallagher from Colorado Springs, Colorado, took a canoe trip on the wild and scenic upper Missouri River and the article they wrote about their trip through the White Cliffs area made the front page of the travel section of the Tucson, Arizona, Sunday paper.

Missouri River Canoe Company’s owner Don Sorenson guided them from Vergelle, Montana (population 3) to Judith Landing (population 0).

They noted that the river was running at a steady 8 mph, too hard to paddle against, during the spring runoff when they took their trip. They also recorded that the wild and scenic river should be called “mellow and scenic.” Traveling at a leisurely 15 miles per day, they took advantage of the numerous side hikes and paused to “really” see the wildlife and natural formations they were passing. Interspersing their narrative with quotes from the journals, they examined Indian teepee rings, spotted eagles, climbed to the top of the cliffs to see the “Eye of the Needle” and were lulled to sleep by the sound of the river.

They climbed to the “Hole in the Wall” and watched a thunderstorm approaching across the plains. “With a hundred or more miles of visibility from the cliffs, we had plenty of time” to climb up and down the cliffs before the thunderstorm reached them. At “The Wall,” they “felt it historically apt to think of it as ‘The Arch,’ since our camp was shadowed by two giant cottonwoods whose trunks bent together in a nearly exact replica of the arch in St. Louis.”

“...for now, a remarkable 190 years after Lewis and Clark saw this river, it’s still possible to travel in time on the upper Missouri.”

---Arizona Daily Star
Tucson, AZ

Radar Scans Fort Clatsop’s Past 7/26/96

“Archaeologists at Fort Clatsop National Memorial are digging into the past without moving so much as a shovelful of dirt.”

That is the way reporter Catherine Hawley described the beginning of a major effort to find the exact location of the fort that Corps of Discovery members built in 1805 to winter at the western end of their journey.

Using computer and radar technology to look for buried clues helps them decide where to excavate when they begin digging. They don’t expect to find anything big. They will be looking for things as small as pollen or seeds left from a meal.

A private consultant brought a wheel barrel full of ground penetrating radar equipment including a computer and a printer attached by cable to an antenna that “looks like some kind of heavy duty carpet cleaner.” This equipment indicates places where objects as small as 2 or 5 inches across may be underground. It also shows firepits. The corner of a homestead built in the mid 1800’s has also been located. It will help to find the site of the original fort as two homesteaders of long ago had described how close their houses were to the rotting logs left from the original fort.

Peering Into the Past 8/29/96

Archaeologist Ken Karsmizki of Lower Portage Camp digging fame is on the scene at Fort Clatsop dreaming “of standing in the exact place where Meriwether Lewis and William Clark once stood...” according to reporter Catherine Hawley.

“To be able to bend down and say that dark corner is the outline of the rotting logs of the fort, the outline of one of those structures, that’s what I dream about,” she quotes Karsmizki as saying in late August as he arrived at Fort Clatsop to dig for clues. They are digging, photographing and mapping an area a few feet from the corner of the replica of the fort.

They are searching for one of the few physical signs left along the trail from St. Louis to Seaside, Oregon. The journals of the expedition describe hun-
dreds of campsites used during the journey, but with the exception of Clark's signature on Pompey's Pillar in southern Montana, few traces of the expedition have been found.

Karsmizki believes there must be something left where the 33 expedition members spent 120 days in the winter 1805-06. "There've got to be some pits somewhere," he says. He points out that modern tools and techniques give today's researchers a great advantage in searching for ancient ruins.

"If we don't look, we're not going to find it," Karsmizki says. "We have everything at our disposal to find it."

Leave Lewis Alone

An editorial in The Oregonian newspaper said the National Park Service is right in refusing to exhume the famous explorer. The editorial went on to say that James E. Starrs, the forensic scientist at George Washington University who wants to try and determine whether Lewis was murdered or committed suicide, should let him lie in peace.

Stephen Ambrose, the biographer of Lewis, was quoted in a recent interview as saying, "There was no question about suicide for the first 50 years after his death. Then people found it unacceptable that Lewis killed himself. These stories began to circulate that he had been murdered by a bunch of brigands."

The editorial said the National Park Service should stick to the refusal for exhumation "lest our honored explorer become just another bunch of bones for scientists to mull and mall."

Kids Learn Ropes of 19th Century Life at Lewis and Clark Camp

Justin Sakalis has tasted venison jerky and munch on dried corn. He knows how to make his own candles, write with a quill and paint a war shield. In one day he has learned most of the skills necessary to survive in the 19th century—and that he prefers living in the present day.

Justin, 11, was one of more than 160 elementary and middle school students who received a taste of wilderness life as participants in the Lewis and Clark Children's Day Camp. It is held in conjunction with the Lewis and Clark Festival in Great Falls each June.

The participants learned to read maps, make candles, set snares, weave fishnets, and fire clay beads, among other activities. They also spent time quizzing members of the Lewis and Clark encampment about daily life in the 19th century.

The response to the camp was "overwhelming," according to Ann Goldhahn, the workshop organizer.

"We turned away as many kids as we accepted."

At an outdoor survival workshop, Tyler Hessler, 7, frowned as he looped two strands of cord in a complicated pattern. "This is kind of hard," he said. But he said if he had been born in the 19th century, "I could probably make it."

Group Wants Help Preserving Lewis & Clark Trail Historic Site

An article in a South Dakota newspaper detailed the post annual meeting trip of some 40 members of the foundation as they journeyed to Spirit Mound north of Vermillion, South Dakota. Saying that "modern explorers may assist a drive to preserve" the site visited by the expedition in 1804, it noted that some local residents have been raising money for 10 years.

Spirit Mound is surrounded by farmland with a cattle feeding operation on its east slope. When Lewis and Clark passed through the area in 1804, area Indians told them the hill was inhabited by 18 inch tall devils with huge heads who protected the buffalo by shooting arrows at hunters. When they hiked to Spirit Mound they did not find any devils.

Larry Monfore, founder of the Spirit Mound Trust, wants to buy the 320 acres surrounding Spirit Mound and turn it into a park. The Vermillion-based group has applied for federal grants and is trying to raise private funds to reach the $300,000 purchase price.

Theater Brings Lewis and Clark Guide to Life to Retell Rugged Trek

Jeanne Eder, a Sioux Indian, recently portrayed Sacagawea in a historical theater presentation at North Idaho College. She was a featured performer for "Journey Through Time: Conversations with the World's Great Women and Men."

With long, flowing black hair and white buckskins she shared her experience of the Lewis and Clark Expedition with an audience of nearly one thousand.

She told the audience, "If it wasn't for me they would not have been successful. It was said it would be good to have me along because I was Shoshoni and that Indians we met along the way would know we were not a war party."

Her vast knowledge of botanals kept explorers healthy, according to Jeanne Givens, the writer of the article. Hardship marked their travels, Sacagawea recalled.

"I saw many things," she said. "There are so many mountains and rivers that have names. Yet, I have only one river named after me. And I don't know how many motels."

—The Idaho Statesman
Boise, ID
Undiscovered Diary Found

Minnesota Declared a Lewis and Clark State

by Gerald R. Holcomb

When learned, or for that matter, unlearned folks have gathered to discuss the Lewis and Clark story, those from Minnesota have felt left out in the cold. Until recently, the only associations between the state of Minnesota and the expedition were the placing of statues of the two captains and Sacagawea in the State Capitol Building in 1938 and the finding of Clark's "Field Notes" in a St. Paul attic in 1953.

Those days of frustration for Minnesotans are past. Because of recent findings, the subject of this paper, Minnesotans can now proudly count their state among the Lewis and Clark states, that is, a state in which at least a portion of the Corps of Discovery had a physical presence.

From the Lewis and Clark Journals of February 3, 1805, Clark wrote from Fort Mandan, "our provisions of meat being nerly exorsted I concluded to Decend the River on the Ice & hunt, I Set out with about 16 men 3 horses & 2 Slayes Descended nearly 60 miles..."

The following day, Lewis noted, "This morning fair tho' could the thermometer stood at 18 below Naught, wind from N.W. Capt Clark set out with a hunting party consisting of sixteen of our command and two frenchmen...Capt Clark therefore determin'd to continue his rout down the river even as far as the River bullet (present day Cannonball River) unless he should find a plenty of game nearer...".

Nine days later, on February 13, 1805, Clark wrote, "I returned last night from a hunting party much fatigued, having walked 30 miles on the ice and through of wood land Points in which the Snow was nearly Knee Deep".

Now Captain Clark was a proud man and had every right to be. His exploits to this point are well known. It would have been extremely difficult for this leader of men to tell us that during much of this period of nine days he was hopelessly lost and had wandered into the state of Minnesota. But, indeed, such was the case.

How can we make this claim? By turning to the diary of Trapper "Thorvald" Thorvaldson, an early western Minnesota trapper, his recently discovered diary lay unnoticed for years in the archives of the Minnesota Historical Society. Note carefully his entry of February 8, 1805. "Snowin very hard, As i was settin da otter trap i see tree men comin at me. Uff Da! I tink dey tot i was a native American. One of dem holier 'friend or foe?' I sez 'ya shur! Welcom to MINESOTA' i invited dem into my cabin an we all have a dram of aquavit I offer dem som lutefisk which dey left a lot of on dere plates. Must not hav bin very hungry. The larch man wid a red heart and a face hansom enuf to bee put on a gold coin sed his name was Klark and dat he an his too pals got seperated from 14 odders in a huntin partee D group had lef Fort Mandan on 4 Feb and met up wid an awful blizzerd. Shortlee afer leevin da fort, his compas had froz up it vas so dam colt & he tot he vas goin out but he vas goin eest and ended up heer in MINESOTA."

Febr 9, 1805 "Dey staid all nite. In da morning Mr. Klark sed 'its tirly lfe below zero' i tol him, 'ya cud be worse then.' i fix som Norwegian toost for der brekfas an den dey proceeded on. Ve all had a gud svig of aquavit befor dey lef one for da road dey sed I tol Mr. Klark, 'you yust folla da sun it alwees gos west an youl fin yer way hom an a gud luk on yer yernne too da oshun' Dey forgot too tak wid dem som lefsa sanriches i had maid."

Not much is known about Trapper "Thorvald" Thorvaldson. Born at an early age in Norway, he came first to Canada as a young man, anxious for the life of a mountain man. We know he spent some time in the Mandan/Hidatsa villages as a "tenant trader." However, he did not remain there for long as he took great offense at the constant telling of Norwegian jokes by the other traders and even by the Indians. Settling permanently in Minnesota, he eked out a living by trapping and ice fishing during the winter and by hunting during the short summer season. He did not marry and died of pneumonia during the winter of 1820, having fallen through thin ice into Lake Wobegon.

The above writings of a humble trapper dovetail perfectly with the entries from the Lewis and Clark Journals and document Clark's presence in Minnesota in February 1805. The Minnesota Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, with hand on heart and tongue in cheek, submits that the state of Minnesota can now be classed among those designated as Lewis and Clark states.

—FOOTNOTES—


President Clinton Chooses Lewis and Clark

As part of the 150th anniversary celebration of the Smithsonian Institute, Smithsonian Magazine asked a number of notable Americans what moment from the past they would like to visit. President Bill Clinton responded with the following:

"In August 1805 Meriwether Lewis was climbing a ridge to become the first United States citizen to reach the Continental Divide. That's a moment I wish I could have experienced. Lewis expected a vast plain on the other side, with a river like the Missouri flowing to the sea. Instead there were mountains as far as he could see—and many of them were topped with snow. At that moment, collective contemporary wisdom about the continent's geography went out the window.

"For Lewis it must have been a tremendous shock—his potential triumph suddenly turned into the strong possibility of failure. But he kept going.

"Lewis and Clark's journey is full of examples of refusing to give up. Their expedition embodies the American spirit of pushing forward, of expanding our horizons and taking on new challenges.

"They represent several other remarkable things, too. While there was never any question that the two men were ultimately in charge, in several important moments they involved the rest of the expedition in decision making. When the expedition finally reached the Pacific, for example, they had to decide where to spend the winter, a crucial decision. But the whole expedition voted on the issue, including an African-American slave—six decades before blacks were emancipated and enfranchised. So did an Indian woman, more than a century before Native Americans and women were granted the right to vote.

"Part of the lesson, I think, is that there's nothing Americans can't accomplish when we turn toward a common goal and each person's talents are tapped. That's as true today as when Lewis and Clark crossed the continent."

Cartoonist Gary Larson (The Far Side cartoons) said, "My first stop would probably be the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Second: the Gettysburg Address..."

A foundation member called the WPO editor and asked if President Clinton subscribed to the magazine. The answer was no, so he immediately sent a check to put him on the mailing list. The White House will be receiving WPO starting with this issue.

Bob Bergantino details the history of Beaverhead Rock (background) to a group of Lewis and Clark buffs during a Montana all chapters field trip in mid-August.

Photo by Ella Mae Howard

Editor's Note:
Mr. Holcomb is an outstanding member of the foundation. After a thorough review of the facts presented in the article the editor can only say, "Ya, shur!"

NOVEMBER 1996

WE PROCEEDED ON 27
Chapter News

California

The new California chapter reports that Gary Moulton was the guest speaker for a recent chapter meeting. Dr. Moulton spoke about his work as editor of the newest edition of the Lewis and Clark journals. The meeting was attended by 23 of the 81 members and there were 35 non-members present. Three new members joined during the meeting and several others indicated they would join both the foundation and the California chapter. Katherine Alderman presented the chapter with a 15 star American flag purchased by her late husband Donald. Ludd Trozpek then gave a short tribute to Donald Alderman. The meeting was held (appropriately enough) in the Charboneau Room of the Holiday Inn in Auburn, California.

Portage Route Chapter
Great Falls, Montana

Members of the Portage Route chapter opened their September meeting to the public for a preview showing of Robin Williams’ film “The Trail: Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1803-06.” The 88 minute videotape is a beautifully filmed tracing of the expedition from Monticello to the Pacific Ocean with interspersed bits on the return journey.

Idaho

The Idaho Chapter donated $200 toward the Spalding-Allen collection of Nez Perce artifacts which had been on display at the Nez Perce National Historic Park in Idaho until the artifacts were recalled by the Ohio Historical Society. The Nez Perce tribe was successful in collecting enough donations to purchase the collection prior to the recall deadline. The collection will now stay in Idaho.

Traveler’s Rest Chapter
Missoula, Montana

The chapter has now presented its Traveling Trunk Show of replicas of Lewis and Clark equipment to over 2100 people since the first presentation on March 6 of this year. Two more programs were scheduled for area schools in late September.

Recent work on development of a park in Lolo at the Traveler’s Rest site has focused on historical research of the area. An early examination of the infra-red photos taken of the site has revealed some teepee rings. An in-depth study of the photos will be done in the near future.

Lewis and Clark on the
INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY

Jay Rasmussen who compiled the list of Lewis and Clark Internet sites in the May 1996 WPO has made arrangements with Nils Petersen at Washington State University to post the list on the WSU website. This makes the list easier to access since users can now visit each site on the list with a single mouse click. It also makes it easier to keep the list current and gives users a single spot to go to access this information. The list with changes and additions will be maintained at:

http://www.vpds.wsu.edu/wahistcult/rasmussen.html

NOVEMBER 1996
Artist Opposes Digging Up Lewis Grave

Editor’s Note: Foundation member and noted Montana artist Larry Janoff sent the following letter concerning the exhumation of the remains of Meriwether Lewis to Daniel W. Brown at the National Park Service.

Being a student of the Lewis and Clark Expedition for most of my life, I feel compelled to write this letter concerning the recent upsetting events that have occurred on the proposed exhumation of Meriwether Lewis.

I feel that having studied the last night in Lewis’ life for many years, it is without warrant or reason that his grave should be disturbed after all these years. I am appalled that the so-called "experts" can get away with making false and misleading statements in order to benefit possible financial gain from notoriety that a stunt such as this would generate.

On national TV, both NBC and ABC had segments that the forensic expert, Dr. Starrs, tried to justify why the so-called "body" should be exhumed... WHAT BODY? The opportunistic Dr. Starrs should know, if he had done his research, that shortly after Lewis’ first burial, according to testimony at the time, hogs got into the grave and unfortunately consumed much of the body. (From “Suicide Or Murder” by Vardis Fisher.) And much later, in 1848, when the current monument was erected over his grave, what they found, after making sure it was the right spot, was minimal as far as human remains. A few small bones, a couple buttons and an ornament of some kind. That’s all! (From “Suicide Or Murder,” page 191). There was barely enough material to put between two flat stones packed together with clay to rebury. Mr. Starrs would have you believe that there is a complete skeleton with powder burns on the bullet holes in Lewis’ skull and torso.

Furthermore, the firearms expert on the ABC segment demonstrated the firing of a .69 cal. replica of a Charleville flintlock pistol of the kind that Lewis wouldn’t have carried anyway. (This is technical and I won’t elaborate now.) He stated that these pistols are difficult to reload and it’s not reasonable that Lewis shot himself and then tried to reload to finish the job.

I’m sorry, but again, if these experts would concentrate on their research before making statements like that, they would come to different conclusions. Lewis had a brace (two) of pistols on his saddle and had asked his servants to “bring him powder for his pistols” (plural!).

Meriwether Lewis had many reasons to kill himself (he had tried it earlier) and with a shaky mind and hand you could botch the job regardless of how familiar and proficient you are with firearms. I enjoy shooting black powder firearms and have a lot of experience with flintlock rifles and pistols, and believe me, when the priming charge ignites in the flash pan, there is a very good chance you might flinch, especially with the barrel next to your head. It could move inches. Mrs. Grinder’s testimony was that: “he blew part of his forehead away exposing the brain, having not bled much.” The other wound was in the breast, passing downward in the body.

You can visualize Lewis, with a loaded pistol in each hand, and after firing the first shot and finding himself in much pain, pointing the other pistol at his body in hopes of finishing the deed. Unfortunately, even the second shot didn’t do the job, and when his
servant came into the room, Lewis said: "I have done the business my good servant, give me some water." He also said: "So strong, so hard to die."

The majority of serious scholars has found enough evidence to believe it was suicide and not murder. Opening the grave would prove neither and I sincerely hope that the parties involved in seeking the exhumation will reconsider and that the National Park Service will stick by their guns and not allow that beautiful little meadow to be disturbed. We should continue to celebrate Meriwether Lewis' life and great accomplishments and not spoil the actual spot where we can stand and contemplate where this great man rests today.

Geographic Information System Helps Ft. Clatsop

A Geographic Information System (GIS) is a computerized system that enables a user to analyze land-based data and graphically represent this data and analysis visually, by a variety of types of map representations.

Fort Clatsop National Memorial has been working to develop a park-based GIS capability. So far the park has obtained GIS-compatible data on the park's topography, wetlands, soils, roads, land-use parcels, vegetation, list of classified structures, threatened and endangered species sightings and critical habitat, and the location and extent of exotic vegetation species. Future data planned to be incorporated into the park's GIS include more detailed wetland mapping, mammal, vegetation and water quality inventory surveys, hazard tree information and archaeological and historical data.

This information included into a park-based GIS system will enable the park to perform simple to complex analysis in order to aid not only diverse research needs, but also be a valuable tool for park management for daily and situational needs.
School Curriculum Guide Now Available

The Lewis and Clark Middle School Curriculum Guide is now available for sale. The guide sells for $29.95 plus $4.00 for shipping and handling.

The guide was presented at the annual meeting in Iowa and was very well received. It is divided into curriculum units all of which are multi-disciplinary and cross-curricular. The units are human behavior, natural history, Native Americans, visual arts and music, maps, social studies, English, mathematics and general science and life skills.

Requests for the guide should be addressed to: Curriculum Guide Editor, Judith Edwards, 46 Maple Avenue, Glen Cove, NY 11542.

Checks should be made out to: Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

WPO CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified rates in WPO are 50 cents per word for foundation members; 75 cents per word for non-members: $10.00 minimum. The address, city, state and zip count as one word. Payment must accompany all ads.

Deadline for ads is six weeks before the publication month of the scheduled quarterly issue, e.g. March 15 for the May issue.

Please send ads to: Editor, We Proceeded On, 1203 28th Street South, #82, Great Falls, MT 59405.

Ads will be limited to offering sales of services or material related to the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE—
Cont. from p. 3

obelisk which could be seen from the river area and situated on a high hill overlooking the Missouri River to the west. "On a clear day it was almost as if one could see forever."

Our excursions carried us through the surrounding Missouri River flood plain with "corn as high as an elephant's eye and stretching up to the sky." Of course, the soybean fields were just as impressive.

EDITOR’S DESK
Cont. from p. 3

tennial Council quietly goes about the business of determining how to celebrate the greatest journey of exploration this country has ever known. And, on a bluff above the Missouri River in north central Montana, a home for the foundation slowly rises.

Didn't I tell you life was exciting?

WPO DISPLAY ADS

Display advertising must pertain to Lewis and Clark and/or North American history such as books, art or related items for sale, and conferences, workshops or other meetings.

Black and white camera ready advertising only.

Rates are: full page-$500; half page-$250; one third page-$167; one quarter page-$125; one column inch-$16.67

Deadline for ads is six weeks before the publication month of the scheduled quarterly issue, e.g., March 15 for the May issue.

WPO reserves the right to reject any advertising deemed unsuitable.

Advertising or inquiries should be sent to: Editor, We Proceeded On, 1203 28th Street South #82, Great Falls, MT 59405. Telephone: 406-761-4706.

Our trips to the Nebraska and South Dakota sites along the Missouri took us to places such as Blackbird Overview, Ft. Atkinson, DeSoto Wildlife Refuge and Lewis and Clark State Park and a replica of the keelboat along with a dedication of interpretive signs.

The post meeting tour was just as impressive. Up the Missouri to Vermillion, South Dakota and Spirit Mound, to Gavins Point Dam, Niobrara State Park, Ponca State Park and finally back.


A significant event occurred with the report of the bylaws committee and its acceptance. The offices of first and second vice presidents were replaced by president elect and vice president. To these positions James M. Peterson and Raymond L. Breun were respectively elected. Therefore, the executive committee of the board now includes the president, president elect, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

The 29th annual meeting of the foundation is scheduled for July 25-30, 1997 in Stevenson, Washington at the Skamania Lodge. Ed Callahan and Barbara Kubik are the co-chairs for this meeting. This will be an exciting venture and I hope to see you all there.

I plan to use this space to keep our members informed of happenings at all levels of our foundation. I invite you to communicate with and to me for your concerns, activities and other matters of interest to our membership.
Capt. William Clark / October 31st Thursday
1805

...I could not see any rapids below in the extent of my view which was for a long distance down the river, which from the last rapids widened and had every appearance of being effected by the tide I deturmd to return to camp 10 miles distant, a remarkable high detached rock Stands in a bottom on the Star'd Side near the lower point of this Island on the Star'd Side about 800 feet high and 400 paces around, we call the Beaten [Beacon] rock....