THE LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

Incorporated 1969 under Missouri General Not-For-Profit Corporation Act IRS Exemption Certificate No. 501(C)(3)—Identification No. 51-0187775

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ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The purpose of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc., is to stimulate public interest in matters related to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the contributions to American history made by the Expedition members, and events of time and place concerning the Expedition which are of historical record to our nation. The Foundation recognizes the value of tour-oriented programs, and supports activities which enhance the enjoyment and understanding of the Lewis and Clark story. The scope of the activities of the Foundation is broad and diverse, and includes involvement in a variety of programs, such as, but not limited to, research, publishing, promotion, and education.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES*

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*Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. is a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation: 501(C)(3). IRS Identification no. 51-0187775. Individual membership dues are non-tax deductible. The portion of premium dues over $30 is tax deductible.
President's Message
by Clyde G. "Sid" Huggins

The 29th Annual Meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation begins on Sunday, July 27 and ends on Wednesday evening, July 30 with the annual banquet. A post meeting trip on Thursday, July 31 to Mt. St. Helens and a second trip on Friday, August 1 to Ft. Clatsop are scheduled. By the time you read this you should already have made your reservations at Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, Washington, or other sites in the area, and completed your application forms. Call 1-800-221-7117, toll-free, if needed.

This will be a full week for your board of directors and various committee chairpersons. The board of directors has a full agenda scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, July 26-27. The Planning and Development Committee, under the leadership of Cynthia Orlando, has scheduled a board retreat for directors, former presidents and committee chairs. The retreat is scheduled to embark on a long range planning effort, including a.) our headquarters office in the new Interpretive Center in Great Falls, b.) collaborative association with the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council, c.) evolution and role for a full time executive director in late 1998, d.) long-range planning for the 21st century and e.) mechanisms for funding the foundation beyond that generated by annual dues. All these are of tremendous importance and all of the above mentioned members are encouraged to attend and participate. Several years ago the board and interested members were encouraged to participate in a fund-raising event, each giving $1,000. It is interesting to note that 37 members gave the above sum. Thus, the founding of the Fellows Fund.

Recently a committee of board members and officers of the foundation developed a written agreement and understanding between the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and the United States Forest Service/Lewis and Clark National Forest (President's Message continued on page 31)

From the Editor's Desk

Things just keep happening zip, zip, zip along the trail, and your old editor is happy to report them.

The grand opening of the new Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center at Washburn, North Dakota is set for June 6, 7 and 8 if they can dig a tunnel through the mountains of snow they have there so that people can get to the center. That is, if the floods don’t wash the center away before June. Just kidding, Dave Borlaug. Dave is chairman of the board for the new center. More information on the center can be found in this issue of WPO.

Big news for the still-under-construction Great Falls Interpretive Center/National Headquarters. Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan have just this morning (April 1) signed a contract to do a 15-18 minute audiovisual production for the new center to be shown, obviously, in the new center’s new theater. The orientation film will focus on three major areas: a chronological overview of the outgoing and return journey; the cultural diversity of Indian tribes living on the western lands; the changing face of the landscape from St. Charles, Missouri to the Pacific Ocean. The new theater will seat 1,558 visitors.

One of the things the Portage Route Chapter does in Great Falls, Montana every March is have a breakfast for Bill Sherman. Bill, a past president of the foundation, is a long time supporter of Lewis and Clark activities in Montana and elsewhere. He sits on the board of the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls. The C.M. Russell Auction of Original Western Art is held annually in March in Great Falls and Bill comes for the auction from his home in Portland, so we have a party for him.

This year at the breakfast it was announced that the library in the under-construction Interpretive Center/National Headquarters in Great Falls will be named the “William P. Sherman Archives Library” in Bill’s honor. He later told a reporter, “I’m honored, to say the least. I’m not sure why they picked me, but I thank them.”

(Producer's Note continued on page 31)
Bernard DeVoto and His "Struggle of Empires"

Editor's Note: This is the first of three articles Jim Large wrote for WPO before his untimely death.

by Arlen J. Large

Countless students of the Lewis and Clark Expedition owe their enthusiasm to the same first awakening: Bernard DeVoto's one-volume condensation of the trip's tales of western adventure.

DeVoto's *The Journals of Lewis and Clark* was first published in 1953 and is still in print today. As the introductory guide for many readers, DeVoto did much to color popular impressions of the expedition. Along with John Bakeless's solid 1947 profile of the explorers, DeVoto's work served as a bridge between publication of the verbatim expedition journals in 1904-1905 and Donald Jackson's fresh scholarship of the 1960s and 1970s.

DeVoto died in 1955 at the age of 58. He was a strong-minded polemicist who might stretch a point for dramatic effect, whether writing western history, battling wilderness-spoiling dams or scoffing equally at campus leftists of the 1930s and Washington Redhunters of the 1950s. His friend Wallace Stegner, another western author, offered readers this advice in an introduction to one of DeVoto's books: "Learn to discount him 10 to 20 percent for showmanship, indignation and the inevitable warping power of his gift for language, and there remained one of the sanest, most acute, most rooted-in-the-ground observ-

ers of American life that we have had." 1

Stegner also wrote a full-length 1974 DeVoto biography, *The Uneasy Chair*, starting with this soundbite summary: "I have tried to recreate Benny DeVoto as he was—flawed, brilliant, provocative, outrageous, running scared all his life, often wrong, often spectacularly right, always stimulating, sometimes infuriating, and never, never dull." 2

DeVoto turned to the history of the American West relatively late in his career after struggling as a

Bernard DeVoto (1897-1955)
Photograph Archives, Utah State Historical Society

MAY 1997
novelist. The Utah native then produced a triumphant trilogy of books that started in historical time with *The Course of Empire*, covering the European exploration of North America. *Across the Wide Missouri* dealt with the ensuing Rocky Mountain fur trade, and the later American emigration to Oregon and California was chronicled in *The Year of Decision—1846*.

In writing them, however, DeVoto worked backward through time: the emigration sagas in *The Year of Decision* were published first, in 1942, *Wide Missouri* came next in 1947, and *The Course of Empire*’s exploration adventures—climaxd by the Lewis and Clark Expedition—closed out the time-reversed trilogy in 1952. The separately published 1953 *Journals of Lewis and Clark* was a sort of encore, a bonus from DeVoto’s research for the trilogy.

It helps to recognize that these four historical works came from the typewriter at a time spanning World War II and its tense aftermath, an era when actions of national governments dominated people’s lives to an extraordinary degree. That gave a pronounced mid-20th century warp to the author’s treatment of events occurring long before.

Americans who had become accustomed to seeing wartime newsreels of political leaders plotting heavy strategy could be excused for projecting that process back into history. If something happened, a far-sighted statesman behind a government desk must have planned it that way. When writing the Lewis and Clark story, that’s how DeVoto regarded the eventual federal acquisition of Oregon in 1846: Thomas Jefferson must have had that outcome in mind when planning the expedition in 1805.

Sovereignty over Oregon “was certainly the most urgent of Jefferson’s purposes” in launching Lewis and Clark, DeVoto said in his long 1953 introduction to the condensed journals. That wasn’t just a throwaway line to jazz up an already-good story. DeVoto asserted it repeatedly and aggressively, though the record shows Jefferson was more interested in the federal absorption of Cuba than any grab for the Pacific Northwest. As the 19th century opened, in fact, no national government—whether in Washington, London, Madrid or St. Petersburg—showed much interest in clamping absolute sovereignty over that remote patch of the planet.

Few Lewis and Clark students—novices or veterans—would quarrel with DeVoto’s introductory praise of the expedition as “unequaled in American history and hardly surpassed in the history of exploration anywhere.” but newcomers who initially accepted his march-of-empire fanfares may want to take their 20 percent discount and reexamine that part of the story.

Bernard DeVoto was born on January 11, 1897, to a Catholic father and Mormon mother in Ogden, Utah. Bookish in high school, he took a newspaper job that helped account for a compensatory “pose of worldly toughness,” according to biographer Stegner. He enrolled at the University of Utah in 1914, but felt stifled by Mormon puritanism (“Civilized life does not exist in Utah,” DeVoto wrote later) and quit after a year to become a literature student at Harvard.

With America’s entry into World War I in 1917 he left school to enlist in the army. To him the European conflict was “a spiritual war.” He was commissioned a lieutenant in 1918, but the war ended before he could get an overseas assignment. In fact during his whole life DeVoto never left the United States, except for some short trips to Canada.

He returned to Harvard and graduated in 1920. He then took a job teaching English at Northwestern University, where he married one of his students. Upon the breakthrough sale of a short story to Harper’s magazine, DeVoto left Northwestern in 1927 and moved back to a Cambridge home near the Harvard campus to try life as a professional writer. He made Mark Twain one of his literary specialties and scored big with publication in 1932 of *Mark Twain’s America*.

DeVoto published a series of novels that achieved only modest success. But by 1935 he had become such an established literary figure that Harper’s magazine recruited him to take over its prestigious monthly opinion column called The Easy Chair. In 1936 he moved to New York for a two-year stint as editor of the Saturday Review of Literature. The Harper’s column and the Saturday Review job, said biographer Stegner, “gave him power such as no other editor in the country possessed.”

For a holiday issue of the Saturday Review in December, 1936, DeVoto wrote a charming account of the two Christmases spent by Lewis and Clark in modern North Dakota and Oregon. In this early essay he showed himself already hooked on the Pacific adventure, calling it “the most successfully managed expedition in the history of exploration.” DeVoto also was collecting material needed for his first plunge into western history. The book would focus on the emigrants, missionaries, soldiers and politicians who sparked the American expansion to Oregon and California in the 1840s.

Though *Year of Decision* appeared in 1942, most of it had been written before America’s entry into World War II. DeVoto still showed a certain cheery irrever-
ence toward the pretentions of government officeholders. Reversing a previous indifference, American and British politicians in the 1840s were huffing over rival claims to the Pacific Northwest—legal niceties made moot by an impromptu migration of farmers from the United States. That influx, said the author, "made Oregon American soil no matter what might be said in Congress or Downing Street."

Like most history writers DeVoto favored the exciting times associated with "strong" presidents, a label he put on James K. Polk. But the author hinted at the "irrelevance of Mr. Polk's war" against Mexico in the 1846-1847 acquisition of California. In fact DeVoto gave a respectful amount of space to the anti-war arguments of Horace Greeley, Charles Sumner and Congressman Abraham Lincoln, while savaging John Charles Fremont as "a blunderer on a truly dangerous scale" for his military adventures in California. DeVoto attributed a sparkling quote to mountain man Jim Clyman, commenting on the revolving-door overthrow of a series of Mexican governors of California. In what could characterize any new government, revolutionary or otherwise, Clyman observed that a change merely meant that "the revenue has fallen into other hands."

The success of Year of Decision encouraged DeVoto to look for another western history topic. "The joy I'm eyeing is Lewis and Clark," he said in an April 1944 letter to his historian friend, Henry Steele Commager. Calling himself "too damn dumb" to know details of the Louisiana Purchase and other matters of expedition background, he said he needed "to shorten the learning process" with Commager's help.

But there was an interruption. A wealthy Missouri woman wanted to publish her collection of more than a hundred scenes of Rocky Mountain fur trappers painted in 1837 by Alfred Jacob Miller, a Baltimore artist. Houghton Mifflin, the Boston publishing company, hired DeVoto to write captions for Miller's watercolors. Researching the captions ignited DeVoto's interest in the fur trade's evolution between 1832 and 1838, and he soon expanded his assignment into writing a full-length book, *Across the Wide Missouri*.

Here was color aplenty for a colorful writer. William Drummond Stewart, a Scottish baronet, had taken artist Miller on an 1837 tour of the West, hooking up with such boisterous mountain men as Jim Bridger, Tom Fitzpatrick and Kit Carson. At that year's Green River rendezvous the artist captured Bridger parading around in a suit of armor brought to him by Stewart. The 1837 rendezvous was one of several such wild conclaves vividly described by DeVoto, for whom the trappers came to symbolize a romantic, vanished West.

In contrast to the mountain men, the Indians in DeVoto's story came off badly as "savages" who were "contemptible" and "dumb." The Cambridge author wanted it understood that, as a born westerner, he stood apart from the squishy sentimental views of Indians held by the eastern intellectuals around him. DeVoto told of an 1832 clash between some trappers and Indians in modern Idaho. A lone war chief carrying a medicine pipe as a pledge of truce rode out to meet the trappers. Two men from the trapper's party trotted up to the chief, grabbed his truce pipe and shot him. That horrified an eastern tenderfoot traveling with the trappers but, said tough-guy DeVoto, "it was the right way to treat Blackfeet."

*Wide Missouri* was written during the final turmoil of World War II. Then in his 40s, DeVoto observed the entire war as a civilian. Perhaps inevitably, the long years of global conflict among governments colored the author's view of the 19th century. DeVoto implied that William Drummond Stewart, the Scottish adventurer, came to the West as a British spy "on the King's business." Benjamin L.E. de Bonneville interrupted a U.S. Army career in 1832 to trade for furs, but DeVoto thought he "may" have been a federal agent controlled by the Secretary of War. The author sprinkled the book with the Pentagonish jargon of modern geopolitics. Bonneville's trading post in Wyoming's Green River valley sat at the "strategic center" of the mountains; it could "cover" any American move into Oregon or "block" any British expedition eastward; it "held" the approaches to the South Pass across the Continental Divide. Lonely Fort Bonneville never had to do any of these things, but DeVoto made it sound as important as Gibraltar.

A year after its publication *Across the Wide Missouri* won the 1948 Pulitzer Prize for history. By then DeVoto was already working on his interrupted Lewis and Clark narrative, preparing for it with a tour of the expedition route with his wife and two sons in the family Buick. That western trip turned him into a fighting conservationist who for the rest of his life used his Easy Chair columns to lambaste dam builders, livestock grazers and timber companies.

In 1947 DeVoto found himself partially scooped by *Lewis & Clark, Partners in Discovery*, written by Harvard colleague John Bakeless. DeVoto wrote a warm, good-natured review for the New York Herald Tribune, praising Bakeless's work as the definitive biography of the captains: "He has made his
way into the ultimate forgotten attic and into the ultimate locked chest there." In a brief critical passage, however, DeVoto said Bakeless "does not see the expedition in its historical context," and "either disregards or underestimates important historical energies" surrounding the adventure. There wasn't enough, said the reviewer, about "the struggle of empires." \(^8\)

That was a tip-off to DeVoto's evolving ambitions for his own book. He now wanted it to encompass all the great European explorations of North America leading up to a Lewis and Clark climax. DeVoto tediously researched the travels of Alexander Mackenzie, Robert Gray, Pierre de la Verendrye, Robert de la Salle, Pierre Radisson, Francisco de Coronado, Christopher Columbus—all the way back, he joked to a friend, "to the last withdrawal of the ice cap."

So a book he said "was supposed to be about Sacajawea" grew into *The Course of Empire*, published in 1952. A narrative of the 1804-1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition was saved for the last section. DeVoto by now was a true expedition expert. His account of the trip itself is almost error-free, graced with his usual touch of poetry. "The Great Plains roll a series of vast groundswells toward the mountains and break up in a spray of buttes," was his picture of the country seen by Lewis on the Marias River in 1806.

But the author wanted more than just a pretty travelogue. He hoped to fit the Lewis and Clark exploration into that broader context of "historical energies" and "struggle of empires" which he believed other historians had overlooked. "The dispatch of the Lewis and Clark expedition was an act of imperial policy," DeVoto declared, the beginning of an overland "imperial race" with Britain to the mouth of the Columbia River. \(^9\)

DeVoto wrote his book at a time when memories of World War II were still fresh. The Korean War had begun in 1950, formalizing a Cold War of global scale. He made his exploration story seem more relevant by flavoring it with 20th century governmental wartime terms that readers would be familiar with. Iroquois warriors became "commandos," whose enemies attacked them in "birchbark troop-carryers." Some younger readers today might be a little puzzled by such receding terms as "G-2 stuff."

DeVoto was fully aware of the obstacles standing athwart his interpretation of Jefferson's motives. He acknowledged in a back-of-the-book footnote: "As my text turns to a study of the Lewis and Clark expedition, the reader must be notified that impressive authority dissenters in part from my reading of its imperial purposes." \(^10\)

Particularly, he knew he had to deal with Jefferson's so-what attitude toward the chance that the American West might break from federal jurisdiction into one or more new sovereign governments. Barely a month after getting word the Louisiana treaty had been signed in Paris, Jefferson in 1803 mused about the future wishes of trans-Mississippi emigrants in a letter to Kentucky Senator John Breckinridge:

"...if they see their interest in separation, why should we take side with our Atlantic rather than our Mississippi descendants. It is the elder and the younger son differing. God bless them both, and keep them in union, if it be for their good, but separate them, if it be better." \(^11\)

That didn't sound like a sea-to-sea empire builder who had just sent Meriwether Lewis out to nail down an exclusive federal claim to Oregon. DeVoto manfully printed the quote as something Jefferson "could believe and say," but then sought to discount it. "Though he may sometimes have thought that the nation could not permanently fill its continental system," said the author with his own emphasis, "he acted as if, manifestly, it could have no other destiny."

What DeVoto needed—but could not find—was a snappy Presidential quote spelling out an early 19th century imperial design on the Oregon country. Not that Jefferson was too fastidious to consider taking new lands. Having broken the Constitutional ice with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, he later relished the idea of an "extensive empire" that would include both Cuba and Canada. Less than two months after leaving office in 1809, Jefferson wrote approvingly of "receiving Cuba into our Union."

He went on: "We should then have only to include the north in our Confederacy, which would be of course in the first war, and we should have such an empire for liberty as she has never surveyed since the creation." He then added a peculiar Jeffersonian twist to his idealized empire:

"Cuba can be defended by us without a navy, and this develops the principle which ought to limit our views. Nothing should ever be accepted which would require a navy to defend it." \(^12\)

The contemporary record stubbornly insists that the Lewis and Clark trip was exactly what Jefferson said it was: a geographical search for a river route across the West, a trade mission to the Western Indians, a scientific reconnaissance of plant and animal life.

If Jefferson wanted to boast that his explorers had extended federal sovereignty to the Pacific coast, a perfect occasion would have been his message to Congress in December, 1806. The president had
just received Lewis's letter reporting his safe return to St. Louis from the Pacific. Couldn't Jefferson even hint to Congress—which had paid for the trip—that the project had put a U.S. government stamp on Oregon, now or someday? He did not. His agents had "learnt the character of the country, of it's commerce and inhabitants," blandly reported the president, with no word about national sovereignty anywhere along the entire route.¹³

DeVoto didn't refer to that missed opportunity, nor did he report on a conversation Jefferson had at about the same time with Senator William Plumer of New Hampshire. Based on Lewis's homecoming report, Jefferson told Plumer he hoped "some enterprising merchantile Americans" would start trading for furs at the Columbia's mouth. (Jefferson later gave John Jacob Astor active encouragement to do just that.) But Plumer reported the president "added that he doubted whether it would be prudent for the government of the United States to attempt such a project" because of its "considerable expense."¹⁴ Similarly, the British government was ignoring Alexander Mackenzie's 1801 plea for the King to build Pacific Northwest forts supporting the ambitions of Montreal's fur tycoons.

Eastern North America, plus Caribbean islands rich in sugar and rum, was at that time still a traditional chessboard for rival governments. Not yet so attractive to the world's major powers was the wild and foggy Pacific Northwest, where a thin sea otter trade with the China market was the only commercial lure. Governments then seemed to look on the region just as today's officeholders regard Antarctica—not worth much effort for the barren prize of a slice of exclusive sovereignty. In fact, the current Antarctic treaty setting aside all national claims is a perfect echo of the tolerant deals by which governments in Jefferson's day avoided costly Pacific Northwest conflicts. Everyone's fur trading ships were free to stop at Nootka Sound on Vancouver Island after functionaries of Britain and Spain agreed in 1790 to forego exclusive ownership. In 1818 British and American government lawyers shelved their rival claims to Oregon and agreed to "joint occupancy," a cheap hands-off arrangement that lasted until sovereignty was divided for good at the 49th parallel in 1846.

Did the Lewis and Clark Expedition then have nothing to do with the eventual federal acquisition of Oregon? It did, but the connection was once removed from the direct link DeVoto tried so hard to establish in his post-World War II writings. The returning explorers instigated the Rocky Mountain fur trade with their reports of western beaver. During the next three decades American fur entrepreneurs learned every mountain byway, including wagon routes for hauling their trade goods from St. Louis. Those wagon routes in the 1840s became highways for emigrant farmers, whose mass settlement in Oregon jumped ahead of any decisive government involvement, as DeVoto himself had outlined so persuasively in The Year of Decision. The postwar DeVoto wanted to give the agents of Jefferson's government instant credit for Oregon, without trying to square that with what he had written a decade before.

The Course of Empire was published to good reviews in the fall of 1952. DeVoto just then was a conspicuous supporter of Adlai Stevenson's presidential candidacy. Always a more-or-less Democrat, DeVoto thought Stevenson would better protect the West's natural wonders than Dwight Eisenhower's business-oriented Republicans. DeVoto's political writings in the Easy Chair and elsewhere drew attacks from Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy and other Red-hunters of the time. Congressman Carroll Kearns of Pennsylvania made a list of "the activities of Bernard DeVoto which speak for themselves," such as being favorably quoted in the Communist Daily Worker.¹⁵ It was rich irony for one who had scorned Reds during the campus literary wars of the 1930s. DeVoto was just as pugnacious now. "The most dangerous subversives operating in the United States today are in Congress," he told Easy Chair readers.

Maybe the author's zeal to paint Lewis and Clark as sea-to-sea jingoes was partly a reflexive defense against slurs on his patriotism. He continued that hard imperial line in his introduction to the 1953 condensed expedition journals, alerting readers to Jefferson's "undeclared purposes" for the trip. Beyond the introduction, DeVoto made an expert selection of passages from Reuben Gold Thwaites's 1904-1905 edition of the expedition journals. He skipped many dull days of the party's long encampments and focused on the best action scenes. Besides the captains' notes he called also on the diaries of John Ordway, Patrick Gass, Joseph Whitehouse and Charles Floyd.

DeVoto also dipped into Nicholas Biddle's 1814 narrative of the expedition, especially where Biddle had juicier details than the official journals. He instinctively chose, for example, Biddle's dramatic description of the reunion between Sacagawea and her Shoshoni brother on August 17, 1805, instead of either captain's ho-hum journal account. DeVoto made that smart choice before he or anyone
realized that Biddle got his gripping story straight from eyewitness Clark in his 1810 post-expedition interview with the captain. Biddle's notes of that interview weren't published by Donald Jackson until 1962.

Publication of the condensed journals in 1953 left DeVoto at loose ends. He continued his Easy Chair columns, spoke on the lecture circuit and made another western tour. In April 1954 he addressed the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. The topic at that hallowed repository of the Lewis and Clark manuscript journals was DeVoto's undocumented theory of the explorers' imperial seizure of Oregon. "What I have to say is largely inferential and conjectural," he told the savants before repeating his previously published arguments.

"Jefferson intended to secure Oregon to American sovereignty by promoting trade in it."10

On November 13, 1955, DeVoto appeared on a New York television broadcast about the West. A heart attack struck without warning after the show and he did not survive. The next spring a friend spilled DeVoto's ashes from a light plane flying near the Powell Ranger Station on the Lochsa River in Idaho, country trod by Jefferson's men in 1805. It was the author's final footnote to the Lewis and Clark story.

FOOTNOTES—
5DeVoto, The Course of Empire, pp. 411, 424.
6Ibid., p. 608, n. 25.
12Bernard DeVoto, "An Inference Regarding the Expedition of Lewis and Clark,"

The late Arlen J. Large was a former foundation president, a frequent contributor to WPO and a retired science correspondent for the Wall Street Journal.

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE

This award has been presented annually since 1983 to persons under the age of 21 who have increased their knowledge of the Lewis and Clark Expedition through outstanding composition, art, drama, photography, site preservation and enhancement, or other significant contributions.

Nominations may be made to the chair of the Young Adults Committee. Recipients receive a framed certificate, recognition at the foundation's annual meeting, in We Proceeded On and other benefits.

If you know of an individual or group who should be considered for this award, you are invited to submit a written nomination to:

William Jenkins
Young Adults Committee Chair
7719 E. Vernon Ave.
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

Please include any supporting materials (a project summary, photographs, descriptions, etc.), any recognition the project has received (prizes, awards, special display), the name of the individual or group, their address, phone number and the person submitting the nomination.

Please make nominations prior to June 15, 1997.

Winner(s) will be announced prior to the 1997 Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.'s annual meeting in Stevenson, Washington, July 27-30.
by Martin Erickson

A dream that became a reality became a pile of ashes for Glen Bishop on a winter evening in St. Charles, Missouri. On January 31 an electrical fire gutted the warehouse where he stored his replica of the keelboat Lewis and Clark sailed up the Missouri River. Inside, in addition to the keelboat, were the supplies, truck and tools for two family businesses and the frame of a flat-bottomed pirogue Bishop was building.

Damage was estimated at $500,000 to $600,000.

The 72-year old Bishop had spent 12 years planning, building and refining the keelboat, starting with the idea in 1983 when a naval architect’s drawings of the plan for a keelboat were tracked down at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. He started building the boat in 1984 when he put together a 55-inch scale model to make sure he was reading the plans properly. In 1986 he commenced bending ribs in his art glass shop in St. Charles. Using white oak and American ingenuity, he made the ribs pliable by steaming them over a tea kettle rigged to a hose. He put the tea kettle on a hot plate and duct-taped the spout to a plastic drain pipe covering. He inserted 14-foot strips of wood into the plastic covering and steamed the wood until it was soft enough to curve.

Like Noah, Bishop, in 1987, began constructing the keelboat in the yard at his home. A newspaper columnist in St. Louis, Bill McClellan, wrote that, “There were times, especially during the Great Flood 1993, when Bishop, with his white beard, must have resembled Noah pouting away as the rains fell and the water rose.”

The completed, but not yet river-worthy boat, was transported by trailer to Washington, D.C. in 1987 to participate in the national Independence Day Parade celebrating the 500th anniversary of Columbus’s discovery of the New World. Then it was back to St. Charles for coating and finishing to make the keelboat water-worthy.

1994 saw the boat take its maiden journey on the Mississippi River and in 1995 it debuted in St. Charles at the commemoration of Lewis and Clark’s return from their journey on September 22, 1806. After installing an inboard engine, Bishop and his crew of modern day Corps of Discovery volunteers headed upriver on May 20 for a 900-mile round trip journey from St. Charles to St. Joseph, Missouri. The trip was dubbed the Lewis and Clark Discovery Expedition 1996 and it stopped at 23 Missouri River communities.

The keelboat’s adventure attracted national attention, including broadcasts on National Public Radio’s Talk of the Nation, ABC’s Prime Time Live, and Monitor Radio. The keelboat was also filmed for productions by documentary producer Ken Burns, Turner Films and the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Just four days before the fire, Bishop had received the “Wake Up” award at the Missouri Governor’s Conference on Tourism for his efforts to promote tourism in Missouri.

Undaunted Courage author Stephen Ambrose has supported Bishop’s efforts with more than $1,000 in contributions since visiting the keelboat in St. Charles in April 1996. At that time he called Bishop’s work “a triumph.” He also suggested that the keelboat might belong in the film version of his book.

Back in St. Charles it was put in the warehouse for refurbishing. In December, Bishop and Dave Hibbler began to bend ribs to frame the white pirogue. Then came the fire.

Those who attended the 1993 annual meeting journeyed to St. Charles to see the not yet finished keelboat and many felt a sense of understanding of the conditions on the expedition when they stood on its deck. It felt like the real thing.

Jim Denny, historian with the Missouri Division of State Parks said, “If someone in 1804 had seen the keelboat in St. Charles, or along the Missouri River, and then saw Glen’s replica return two years later, they wouldn’t likely distinguish between the two...until they saw the 250 horsepower engine or the maritime two-way radio.

“Lewis and Clark would have traded their boat for Glen’s in a nanosecond,” Denny added.

“Glen’s boat was safer and sturdier, for one thing, because Glen used modern construction techniques and had access to better materials.”
A non-profit organization, Lewis and Clark Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, Inc., helped Bishop organize last summer's expedition. The group was arranging an itinerary for the keelboat to visit two dozen towns between Louisville, Kentucky and St. Charles, Missouri next summer.

Bishop plans to rebuild the keelboat, a 39-foot pirogue and also build a 41-foot canoe boat. He estimates rebuilding the keelboat will take three years. He has plenty of volunteer help, but what he needs is some financial assistance. Discovery Expedition of St. Charles has established a fund to help Bishop rebuild. Send your contributions to:

Discovery Expedition of St. Charles
c/o St. Charles Convention and Visitors Bureau
230 South Main Street
St. Charles, MO 63301

On the Lewis & Clark Trail...

4th of July 1804 and 1996

by Frank Fogler

1804

Over the mountains and on to the sea! Little did Lewis and Clark know, in July 1804, that such romantic adventures would be theirs in 1805. Much has been recalled about their journey from the Mandan village to the Pacific Ocean. Little has been written about river landmarks and activities of the crew during the first ten days of July, 1804. At that time, however boring it may seem now, each day to them must have been an exciting adventure. At the beginning of only the third month of their exploration up the lower Missouri, every bend of the river exposed a new panorama of the unknown wilderness.

They would be unaware that, from July 1st to July 7th, they were traveling through one of the narrowest flood plains of the Missouri River, averaging less than four miles wide. Geologists have since determined that it was also the newest flood plain of the river, having changed course from an ancient channel that ran east from the present site of St. Joseph, Missouri and was diverted to the south after the last Ice Age. In this segment of the river they would also encounter the most sandbars and diverse channels. Downstream from the mouth of the Platte River to today's Kansas City, the Missouri became a braided stream. The Platte poured out tons of sand, gravel and dirt, causing sometimes as many as five channels separated by sandbars and islands. Some of the channels were not navigable.

On July 3rd the explorers had gone around Cow Island, near the present site of Iatan, Missouri, close to the eastern bluffs. Here they passed a large pond full of beaver and wild fowl. (Iatan Pond exists today.) They were forced to go
southwest around the island 2 1/4 miles to near the western bluffs. Here they saw a deserted trapper’s cabin and a very fat white horse, which they captured. This was at the present site of historic Port William, where Little Walnut Creek enters the river. Confronted by sandbars, they chose a channel back northeast for 3 1/2 miles, where they camped the night of July 3rd at a bend near the eastern bluffs. That channel remains today as Bean Lake.

On Wednesday, July 4th, they ushered in the day with a shot from the swivel cannon on the bow of the keelboat. Proceeding northwest only one mile, they encountered a bayou leading from a large lake, causing them to turn southwest for 3 miles, bringing them again to the western bluffs. What remains of that 3 mile channel is now called Little Bean Wildlife Marsh. The large lake, later mentioned by Clark as Gosling Lake, is known today as Sugar Lake; the site of Missouri’s Lewis and Clark State Park.

Now headed north along a small prairie at the foot of the western bluffs, they paused on the larboard side “to refresh our selves & Jos. Fields got bit by a snake.” Little Owl Creek enters here and the men perhaps enjoyed a drink of clear water. The small prairie, now bottom farm land, has been referred to as Joe Field’s Snake Prairie. After Lewis doctored the snake bite, they found an excellent channel which followed the western bluffs northwest for 6 miles at 40 degrees, bringing them to the present site of Atchison, Kansas. Here Clark wrote “Passed a Creek 12 yds wide on L.S. coming out of an extensive prairie reaching within 200 yards of the river, as this Creek has no name, and this being the 4th of July the day of the independence of the US. call it 4th of July 1804 Creek.” William Clark.

Inscription on monument at bridge entrance (above). Creek restored to the original name given it by William Clark in 1804. Bridge over 4th of July 1804 Creek (left). New bridge dedicated July 4, 1996 connecting a main highway to county museum and visitor’s center housed in former Santa Fe Depot. Mound at riverfront, Atchison, Kansas (bottom). The mound Meriwether Lewis ascended to get a better view of the extensive prairie to the west. The Robert Berger family home now sits atop the mound. The following is an excerpt from Clark’s logbook:

“Passed a Creek 12 yds wide on L.S. coming out of an extensive prairie reaching within 200 yards of the river, as this Creek has no name, and this being the 4th of July the day of the independence of the US. call it 4th of July 1804 Creek. We dined on corn Capt. Lewis walked on shore above this Creek and discovered a high mound from the top of which he had an extensive view. 3 paths
concentering at the mound.” Less than 200 yards north of this creek is a high mound or limestone cliff, beginning another range of the western bluffs. Today, on top of the mound is the home of the Robert Berger family. Older members of that family recall three caves at the southwest foot of the mound, where many Indian artifacts were found. These are the caves Amelia Earhart said she played in as a child. (Her birthplace is the fourth house north of the Berger home.) In the 1920s the caves were filled and covered over for fear of mishaps to children. On the riverfront at Atchison, near this mound, one can surely walk in the footsteps of Meriwether Lewis. The 4th of July 1804 Creek was the first of two creeks they named that day.

After their lunch of corn the explorers proceeded on, northeast for nearly five miles where, in the words of Clark, “We came to and camped in the lower edge of a Plain where the 2nd old Kanzas village formerly stood above the mouth of a Creek 30 yds wide this Creek we call Creek Independence as we approached this place the Prairie had a most bountiful appearance.” They closed the day by a discharge from the bow piece and an extra gill of whiskey. The 4th of July campsite was one mile southwest of what would be the future site of old Doniphan, Kansas.

On July 5th they passed through bad bars, the boat turning twice on the quicksand. These same bars claimed six steamboats in the 1950s. Later that day Clark noted the large quantity of wild grapes and berries along the banks. The men surely ate much of the fresh fruit, suggesting the possibility that berry seeds could have eventually caused bowel problems or appendicitis, leading to the death of Sgt. Floyd. Campsite on July 5th was on a river bend less than one mile west of the present village of Halls, Missouri. Remains of that channel were later known as Singleton Lake, seen today as a dry bed or slough.

July 6th they passed “Reevey’s Prairie” and took what Clark called a “Grand Detour” and by Sgt. Ordway “The Grand Bend,” to near the eastern bluffs. Finding a channel back to the western bluffs, they camped at a creek Ordway called Whippoorwill Creek. These landmarks remain today.

On July 7th they passed “St. Michel’s Prairie,” the present site of St. Joseph, Missouri, on the starboard side, and made camp that night, one mile north, near the eastern bluffs.

1996

July 4th, 1996, was observed at Atchison, Kansas with the arrival of an authentic reproduction of the Lewis and Clark boat, the Discovery. The keelboat, 12 years in construction by Glen Bishop, of St. Charles, Missouri, came to shore near the mound where the original explorers landed in 1804. The 1996 trip was sponsored by private contributions and grants from the St. Charles Visitor’s Bureau and Missouri Division of Tourism. Bishop, who portrays the part of William Clark, left St. Charles on May 19th, with a crew dressed in authentic costumes portraying various members of the 1804 crew. The keelboat was powered by a concealed inboard marine engine. Stopping at 23 communities, visitors had the opportunity to come aboard the boat, where members of the crew told of the original voyage.

Being at Atchison was significant for the crew, as this was the site of the first 4th of July observed by Americans in the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase territory. The 1996 crew participated in all the celebration events taking place in the city, including changing of the name of White Clay Creek to its original name, 4th of July 1804 Creek, as it had been named by William Clark. The crew had a fife and drum trio which helped dedicate a new bridge over the stream. The pedestrian bridge connects highway #59 with the Atchison Visitor’s Center and Museum. Off-road parking is provided at the entrance to the bridge, where an historical monument has been erected. The fife and drum trio received a rousing ovation as they marched into Amelia Earhart Stadium, bearing the 15 star flag, preceding the fireworks display the night of the 4th. All America will get to see this keelboat and crew as they have been filmed by Ken Burns for a documentary to be aired in 1997.

1999

The National Convention of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation will be held at Fort Leavenworth in 1999. Many of the landmarks described in the preceding writings will be available to view on bus trips now being planned. Some sites, not accessible by bus, will be on the agenda as rustic trips, weather permitting. A map of the 804 channels used by Lewis and Clark, overlaying a modern map of the river, will be available for the tours.

SOURCES FOR TEXT

William Clark’s logs of mileage and compass readings in Thwaites’ Original Journal of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, Volume I. Using a protractor and a magnetic compass deviation of 8 degrees east (suggested by area cartographers), combined with my knowledge of the terrain, I recreated their route. My chart confirms Clark’s logs to be surprisingly accurate, agreeing with known landmarks.

Foundation member Frank Fogler of Atchison, Kansas, is a retired professional photographer. He has spent 50 years exploring the Missouri River Valley from Leavenworth, Kansas to St. Joseph, Missouri.
Highlights of Ken Burns’s Lewis and Clark Film to Be Shown at Annual Meeting

Editor’s Note: Ken Burns will be the speaker at the Wednesday, July 30 banquet at the foundation’s 29th annual meeting at Stevenson, Washington.

Florentine Films is completing a four-hour film national broadcast over the Public Broadcasting System recounting the dramatic and historically significant story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition: Lewis & Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery.

The film’s producer and director is Ken Burns, the award-winning documentary filmmaker whose previous works include Brooklyn Bridge, The Statue of Liberty, and the widely acclaimed series, The Civil War and Baseball, which attracted the largest national audiences in PBS history. He was executive producer of the recent PBS series, The West.

The film is being written and co-produced by Dayton Duncan. He was the consulting producer and co-writer of The West, has been a consultant on previous films of Burns’ and is also the author of six books, including Out West: An American Journey, in which he retraced the Lewis and Clark Expedition’s route. It was a finalist for the Spur Award from the Western Writers of America and was a Book-of-the-Month Club alternate selection.

The nation’s pre-eminent Lewis and Clark scholars, as well as noted historians and writers, have served as consultants. They include Stephen E. Ambrose, Gary E. Moulton, John Logan Allen, James P. Ronda and William Least Heat-Moon.

The film is in the final stages of editing and will be completed in time for broadcast in either late October or early November of 1997, when it will be aired in two segments. At the same time, a richly illustrated companion book, written by Duncan, will be released by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.

To convey both a chronological understanding of the expedition’s epic journey and a vibrant sense of immediacy, the film will combine a strong third-person narration (read by Hal Holbrook) with off-camera readings (by actors such as Sam Waterston, Adam Arkin and Matthew Broderick) from the journals kept by Lewis and Clark and several of the other men. The journals, filled with mundane and extraordinary details of each day’s occurrences, have been called “among the glories of American history, classics in the vast literature of discovery and exploration.”

Contemporary newspaper accounts, government documents, letters, and oral-tradition stories from various Indian tribes will round out the narration. To provide historical context and interpretation, on-camera interviews of scholars, writers and Native Americans will be interspersed throughout the film.

The vast, varied and breathtaking land that the expedition traversed and inventoried will, in itself, become a major character: rolling woodlands, treeless prairies, seemingly endless mountains, dormant volcanoes, dense Pacific forests, and the two mighty rivers.

Ken Burns (left) and Dayton Duncan hold the 15-star flag they carried with them while shooting footage for their Lewis and Clark film. They are pictured at Stonewall Creek in the White Cliffs area of Montana.
flowing through them-the Missouri and the Columbia.

Through the use of stunning cinematography that is one of our trademarks, we intend for our audience to discover and experience the majesty and diversity of the western terrain, just as Lewis and Clark did. This will be juxtaposed visually with another of our trademarks: careful use of archival material such as paintings, maps and drawings and pages from the journals themselves.

In the film we will meet not only the two famous captains and the remarkable president who conceived their expedition, but also the other members of the Corps of Discovery: young army men from Kentucky and New Hampshire, French-Canadian boatmen, an African-American slave, and a Shoshone woman named Sacagawea, hired as an interpreter, who brought along her infant son.

We will also encounter the numerous Native American tribes who learned from the captains that they now had a new “great father” far to the east: the Lakota and Arikara, Mandan and Hidatsa, Shoshone and Nez Percé, the Walla Walla, Chinook and Clatsop. These peoples and their customs, we will learn through Lewis and Clark’s descriptions, were as varied as the landscape they inhabited.

And we will come to appreciate the expedition’s multiple tasks and accomplishments—explorers, for Lewis and Clark Expedition and the early settlers. In 1995, the Washington Museum Association presented the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center with its prestigious Special Achievement Award in acknowledgment of the “special achievement in the creation of the...Center which stands as a symbol of quality for all museums in Washington state; serves as a significant example of a successful project accomplished on the community level; and sets high levels of standards...”

The Lewis and Clark Expedition passed the mouth of Rock Creek on October 30, 1805, and again on April 13, 1806, camping just below the mouth of Rock Creek, at the head of the Cascades. Clark described Rock Creek as “...a large creek on the Stad. Side in the mouth of which is an Island...” adding that “...The Countary [is] thickly Covered with timber, Such as Spruc, Pine, Cedar, Oake Cotton &c. &c.”

On April 12th, both Lewis and Clark wrote of the lush green springtime landscape, listing the shrubs and trees they saw around Rock Creek. Lewis’s list included “…Cottonwood, sweet willow, broad leafed ash, a species of maple, the purple haw, a small species of

Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center

The Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center sits high on the basalt cliffs overlooking the spectacular Columbia River Gorge near Rock Creek. The 23,000 square foot, $10.5 million interpretive center is the result of 20 years of dreaming, planning and working, and a creative blend of financial backing from private sponsors, Skamania County and the State of Washington.

The exhibit designer was the world renowned Jean Jacques Andre of British Columbia. J.J., as he is called by people in Skamania County, designed a facility that captures the grandeur of the Columbia River Gorge. Inside, J.J.’s floor plan captures the intimacy of daily life on the river for the Chinookan-speaking Wishram Indians, for explorers like the Lewis and Clark Expedition and for the early settlers. In 1995, the Washington Museum Association presented the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center with its prestigious Special Achievement Award in acknowledgment of the “special achievement in the creation of the...Center which stands as a symbol of quality for all museums in Washington state; serves as a significant example of a successful project accomplished on the community level; and sets high levels of standards...”
cherry; purple currant, goosberry, red willow, vining and white burry honeysuckle, huckle burry, sacacommis, two speccies of mountain holley, & common ash." Clark called Lewis's "purple haw" a "white thorn" for its lush white blossoms. It is the Black Hawthorn (Crataegus douglasii) and can still be seen in bloom in April around the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center.

The story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition has been called a meeting of and a blending of prehistory, natural history and history. It is that same fine blending of the prehistory, natural history and history of the Columbia River Gorge that attracted 47,000 visitors to the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center in the first seven months the center was open.

Meeting attendees will enjoy the exhibits of the lives and work of long-time Lewis and Clark scholars Emory and Ruth Strong and Roy Craft. The center's staff is developing a special exhibit, Pathway Through the Garden, for the foundation's 29th annual meeting. The exhibit will focus on the botanical collections of two well-known Columbia River Gorge botanists, Ruth Strong and Wilhelm Suksdorf, and through their work, the scientific, botanical observations of Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

The Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center will be the site of the foundation's opening reception and a visit from Keith McCoy, as Meriwether Lewis. Meeting attendees wearing their name tags will enjoy unlimited visitation to the center during the annual meeting, which will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

—FOOTNOTES—
1Moulton, Dr. Gary E., editor, The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, Volume 5, July 28-November 1, 1805 (Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 1988), 356. 2Moulton, Volume 7, 112-114

An aerial view of Skamania Lodge and the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center nestled in the forest high above the Columbia River.

The logo for the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center in Stevenson, Washington is the well-known petroglyph/pictograph, Tsagaglalal: "She Who Watches." Tsagaglalal is located on a basalt cliff overlooking the Columbia River from Horsehead Lake State Park in the Columbia River Gorge. Executed in the characteristic 'Columbia River
The Legend of Tsagaglalal

The Leae11d ol Tsaaaalalal style,' with the circled eyes and mouth elements found on many of the area's bone and rock carvings and paintings, Tsagaglalal is considered one of the finest examples of Native American rock images in the United States.

There are several versions of the legend of Tsagaglalal, but the one that was told to the staff of the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center by the Wishram people is:

A woman was chief of all who lived in this region. That was a long time before Coyote came up the river and things, and people were not yet real people. After a time, Coyote, in his travels, came to this place and asked the inhabitants if they were living. well or ill. They sent him to their chief who lived up on the rocks, where she could look down on the village and know what was going on. Coyote climbed up to the house on the rocks and asked, "What kind of living do you give these people? Do you treat them well or are you one of those evil women?"

"I am teaching them to live well and build good houses," she said.

When she expressed her desire to be able to do this forever, Coyote said, "Soon the world will change and women will no longer be chiefs." Being the trickster he was, he changed her into a rock with the command, "You shall stay here and watch over the people and the river forever."

People know that Tsagaglalal sees all things, for whenever they are looking at her, those large eyes are watching them.

On June 14, 1987, Nelson Moses, a spokesman for the Wishram band of the Yakama Nation, dedicated Tsagaglalal's spirit to the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center project. The brief but solemn ceremony in the Yakama language was held in front of Tsagaglalal. The ceremony was based on the old and traditional Washat religion, and granted permission for the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center to use Tsagaglalal's stylized image as the center's logo.

Attendees at the 29th Annual Meeting will have the opportunity to hike along the basalt cliffs at Horsethief Lake State Park during Tuesday's visit to the Park and Maryhill Museum. There they can see Tsagaglalal and other petroglyphs and pictographs.

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Oops!

In the February WPO the editor in advertantly misquoted Foundation Vice President Jim Peterson as saying...

"It was the first time he had heard of Lewis and Clark." That should have read "the Lewis and Clark Foundation." The editor regrets the error.
End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

by Ed Shelden
Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

Imagine selling your home, leaving your friends, packing everything in a 4 by 10 by 2 foot box, taking a six-month journey and walking the whole 2,000 miles!

At the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, visitors step back in time 150 years to those days when “Oregon Fever” swept the country like wild fire. Over 300,000 people crossed this land on the Oregon Trail in search of a dream, in search of a new life, in search of the “land at Eden’s Gate.”

Visitors first enter the Missouri Provisioners Depot. Trail guides dressed in period clothing present the story about the struggles of the times and how pioneers were lured by tales of the bountiful Oregon Territory. Supplies and provisions were carefully selected for the long, arduous journey.

The westward trip is recreated in the Cascade Theater. A 25-minute state-of-the-art mixed media show with surround-sound and special effects provides the backdrop. Family life along the trail comes alive as Esther, James and Lucinda recount the adventures, emotions and stories of their own journeys.

Arrival in Oregon City is the final stop. The Oregon City Gallery features a fine collection of artifacts such as a Barlow Road toll book, clothing, tools and household items. The George Abernethy Store offers a variety of Oregon products and heritage items. Living history interpreters engage visitors in "hands on" demonstrations and exhibits of daily life in pioneer times.

The center site offers several outdoor historic displays. Visitors can enjoy the Heritage Gardens that flourish with authentic heirloom vegetation such as flax, pioneer Cosmos, antique roses, vegetables, fruits and herbs. “Trail guides” describe how early settlers and pioneers planted, cultivated and harvested these plants for cooking, dyeing and home remedies. Also in the gardens are two historic markers acknowledging the End of the Oregon Trail. The Willamette Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a marker in 1917 and Clackamas County Historical Society recognized the western terminus of the trail in 1976.

Special arrangements have been made for Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation 29th Annual Meeting attendees to visit the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at a special group rate. Conference attendees can pick up ticket information at the Conference Registration desk. The End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is located in Oregon City, off I-205 at Exit 10, just 32 miles west and 14 miles south of Skamania Lodge. The center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. You can’t miss the 50-foot-high covered wagons!

The End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, with its distinctive 50-foot high wagon-shaped buildings, opened in June 1995 in Oregon City, the true end of the Oregon Trail. Photo by Gary Poush/ZUMA
Interpretive Center to be Dedicated at Washburn, North Dakota

After years of planning and a year of construction, the $1.5 million North Dakota Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center at Washburn will open June 1, with a grand opening and dedication set for June 6, 7 and 8.

The 5,000 square foot facility is located at the junction of U.S. Highway 83 and ND 200A, just two miles from the reconstructed Fort Mandan, which will also host activities during the grand opening.

Funded by a combination of state and federal grants, the center is operated by the North Dakota Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Foundation, which also now oversees Fort Mandan itself. The fort replica was built 25 years ago by the McLean County Historical Society.

The center’s exhibit area includes 1,100 square feet of displays produced by Deaton Museum Services of Minneapolis, the same firm that is working on the Great Falls, Montana Lewis and Clark project. While an overview of the expedition will be included, special emphasis on the Fort Mandan winter will be the focus of the displays. Of special note is that actual Indian artifacts from virtually all the major tribes Lewis and Clark encountered will be displayed.

Also included in the facility is an art gallery which will feature in its premier showing a special display of Karl Bodmer prints from the Maximillian/Bodmer Expedition series. The 25 prints are all from the Fort Clark portion of the expedition. The collection is on loan to the center from the Joslyn Art Museum of Omaha, through the end of August. Special programs built around the display will be conducted throughout the summer months.

Nationally-known historians will headline a full weekend of activities at the center, which is being dedicated during Washburn’s annual Lewis and Clark Days. Among those scheduled to appear include Clay Jenkinson, fresh from his appearance on Ken Burns’ PBS documentary on the life of Thomas Jefferson, portraying both Jefferson and Meriwether Lewis. The Reno, Nevada-based historian has been portraying both these historic figures for years in humanities programs, and has performed at the White House.

Jenkinson is part of a program Saturday, June 7 that also includes (at WPO press time): Gary Moulton of the University of Nebraska, editor of the Lewis and Clark Journals; Jeanne Eder, Dillon, Montana, portray of Sacagawea; Gerard Baker, superintendent, Little Big Horn Battlefield National Historic Site, speaking on Mandan/Hidatsa culture; Lydia Sage-Chase of New Town, North Dakota, discussing Mandan social practices at the time of the expedition; Ken Woody, ranger from Knife River Villages National Historic Site, Stanton, North Dakota, presenting “teepee etiquette;” and special performances by Keith Bear, nationally recognized Native American Indian flute musician.

In addition, other re-enactors and demonstrators will be on hand throughout the day Saturday.

Other events Saturday include a downtown parade in the morning, followed by a buffalo barbecue at the Interpretive Center at noon. At 2:30 p.m., the formal dedication ceremonies will take place, featuring a number of state and federal officials participating.

Sunday’s events will take place at Fort Mandan, beginning with a morning church service and followed by a noon “expedition fee.” Fur trade-era demonstrations will continue throughout the rest of the afternoon.

On Friday, Ken Karsmizki, curator of historical archaeology, Museum of the Rockies, will present the results of his work thus far on the “search for Fort Mandan.”

A local performing arts group has scheduled a melodrama for later Friday evening. In addition, a variety of Lewis and Clark Days events are planned by the Washburn Jaycees, including a downtown carnival and two dances.

For more information on the grand opening and Lewis and Clark Days in Washburn, contact Kristie Frieze, Director, N.D. Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Foundation, P.O. Box 607, Washburn, ND 58577-0607; telephone 701-462-8535.

Washburn is located 35 miles north of Bismarck on U.S. Highway 83.
KIRSTIE FRIEZE NAMED DIRECTOR OF NORTH DAKOTA LEWIS AND CLARK FOUNDATION

After an extensive search yielding candidates from throughout the state and region, the Washburn-based North Dakota Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Foundation recently hired Kristie M. Frieze of Mandan as its first director.

Frieze will oversee the development of staff and programming for the new North Dakota Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, which opens June 1 at Washburn.

Frieze, a Bismarck State College and University of Minnesota graduate, has been interpretive site manager for the Fort Abraham Lincoln Foundation, Mandan, North Dakota, since 1989. In that capacity she managed the Fort Lincoln site and coordinated programs and events at the home of Colonel Cutter.

“We are very pleased to have attracted the attention of someone with the background Kristie brings to our foundation,” said Foundation Chairman David Borlaug. “Her commitment to quality cultural interpretation and a first-rate visitor experience makes her ideal for this position.”

SEARCH FOR LOST FORT MANDAN UNDERWAY

For nearly 200 years, scholars have felt that Fort Mandan, Lewis and Clark’s winter quarters of 1804-05, was washed away by the meandering Missouri River current, lost forever.

Ken Karsmizki, who has been searching for signs of the Lewis and Clark Expedition at the Great Falls portage site, as well as Fort Clatsop, on behalf of the Museum of the Rockies, will lead an effort to determine once and for all if remains of Fort Mandan are to be found.

That’s according to David Borlaug, chairman of the North Dakota Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Foundation, which is entering into an agreement with the Museum of the Rockies, Montana State University, to undertake the search.

“All this time that virtually everyone has felt that Fort Mandan is not to be found is reason enough to begin a search now,” says Borlaug. “Phase One of the effort will really be a ‘feasibility study’ to determine if indeed it is possible that the fort, or any portion of it, remains outside the grip of the Missouri River. If the evidence is compelling enough, a full scale archaeological project is possible.”

Borlaug continues, “And, if evidence is so strong that the fort is under water, then we at least will have settled this issue, and will have a body of evidence for future scholars to reference. We are very pleased that Ken and the Museum of the Rockies have agreed to undertake this historic search, under our foundation’s sponsorship.”

The Washburn, North Dakota-based foundation is getting ready to open the North Dakota Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center June 1, near the reconstructed Fort Mandan site. A grand opening and dedication has been set for June 6-8. Also, the foundation recently reached an agreement with the McLean County Historical Society, which built the Fort Mandan replica 25 years ago, to assume responsibility for the maintenance and interpretation program at the fort.

Karsmizki will give a public update on his work during the grand opening weekend in Washburn, with a program scheduled for 5:00 p.m. Friday, June 6. He expects to reveal the final results of Phase One at the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation’s annual meeting in Washington later this summer. For further information contact Kristie Frieze, Director, North Dakota Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Foundation, P.O. Box 607, Washburn, ND 59577. Phone 701-462-8535.

WPO CLASSIFIED ADS

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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.

MAY 1997
The Lewis and Clark Expedition arrived at the Mandan-Hidatsa Indian villages on the Upper Missouri River October 25, 1804. They found the Mandan very hospitable and decided to remain at this wintering site until the spring thaw when they would resume their up-river journey. On November 4, William Clark made a simple entry in his journal, “we commence building our Cabins.” These cabins formed part of an enclosure that was christened Fort Mandan in honor of the Indian hosts. As it turned out, Fort Mandan was the center of intertribal trade and this figures into Lewis and Clark’s efforts at diplomacy. Fort Mandan was occupied longer than any of the three winter posts used by the expedition. For more than five months Fort Mandan was the site of considerable activity. The Mandan-Hidatsa villages were a center of intertribal trade and this figures into Lewis and Clark’s efforts at diplomacy. Fort Mandan also afforded the captains the opportunity to spend considerable time expanding their knowledge of upper Missouri River geography by questioning French and English traders from the North West Company and Hudson’s Bay Company as well as securing an abundance of cartographic information from the Indians. The winter of 1804-05 also allowed Lewis and Clark to hone their ethnographic skills as they faithfully reported various aspects of Indian life including trade and customs, while Ordway noted the “homey detail” of games, food and ordinary objects. It has been determined that the activities at Fort Mandan constitute, “the most important event in the early history of the area which is now North Dakota.”

In editing The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, Gary E. Moulton notes that, “Sergeant Gass, who being a carpenter probably had a major part in building the structure, describes Fort Mandan as a roughly triangular stockade, with two converging rows of huts and some sort of bastion in the angle opposite the gate.” Moulton also mentions that other than the fact that “the outer walls were 18 feet high; no other measurements are known.” This lack of architectural details in the journals happens to be the rule rather than the exception. Alan R. Woolworth, who studied the records regarding the fort, stated that, “[t]here are relatively few specific facts known about Fort Mandan, and therefore many questions about it have no certain answers. This unusual situation arose in part because this fort was considered as something commonplace by both its builder-occupants and literate visitors. In that era, log structures, even small forts, were matters for casual observation and not deemed worthy of detailed mention.” Woolworth also notes that, aside from a lack of details regarding the fort’s construction, our knowledge of the site location is only “approximate.”

Research has shown that the locations of all expedition campsites are, at best, approximations. Nevertheless, a number of individuals have confidently claimed that the Missouri River eroded the Fort Mandan away. In 1905, Reuben G. Thwaites, editor of the Lewis and Clark Journals, remarked that “erosion of the river wore away the site of Fort Mandan.” This comment came in the form of a footnote related to the expedition’s August 17, 1806 visit of the site on the trip down river past the Mandan villages and the site of Fort Mandan. The same conviction regarding the fate of the fort was voiced again, in 1948, by Superintendent of the State Historical Society of North Dakota Russell Reid who wrote that “[t]he actual location of the site...has, without a doubt been washed away by the river.” It seems likely that both of these opinions are tied to remarks made by Prince Maximilian when he visited the area in 1833. However, a review of Maximilian’s journal suggests first that he was not certain of Fort Mandan’s location and second, although he entertained the possibility that the river had destroyed the site he did not know that to be the case. Maximilian’s uncertainty is proven by his journal entry stating that,
LEWIS AND CLARK AT THE GREAT FALLS OF THE MISSOURI

The Portage Route Chapter is committed to preserving and publicizing the "Lewis and Clark Story." One of the ways we are doing that is by placing name plaques of each member of the Corps of Discovery Expedition in the walkway around the base of the Explorers at the Portage statue in Overlook Park, Great Falls, Montana.

We are soliciting a sponsor for each name plaque. The wording on the 4"x12" slate plaque will consist of the Expedition member's name, rank and specialty along with the name of the sponsor. Cost for sponsoring a plaque is $500. (This is tax deductible since the Chapter has IRS non-profit status.) There are only 14 plaques remaining and will be sold on a first come basis.

If you wish to have your name go down in history by becoming a sponsor, make your check payable to the Portage Route Chapter and mail to the address below.
For more information call: (406) 761-5453

Expedition Name Plaques • P.O. Box 2424 • Great Falls, MT 59403
they [Lewis and Clark] erected a fort on the north bank of the Missouri, a little above the place where Fort Clarke now stands, but, at present, there is not the smallest trace of that post. The river has since changed its bed in such manner, that the site of that building, which was then at some distance from the shore, is now in the middle of the stream. Such changes in the channel of the Missouri are of very common occurrence, so that all the islands, sand banks, little bends, and points of land formed by them laid down in the special maps, are correct for only a short time. Above the present location of Fort Mandan, a little above the place where Fort Clarke had stood, is now in the fort on the north bank of the Missouri River. The channel nearly four miles from its former bed. This took place in 1806.

Was Fort Mandan in the middle of the river or on the south bank? Maximilian was unsure. He apparently based his assumptions regarding the location on conversations with Toussaint Charbonneau. Charbonneau was a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and had lived near the Mandan villages since he was discharged from his service with the expedition in 1806. Two facts regarding the reliability of Charbonneau should be noted however. Thwaites said that under the best of circumstances, "one has slight respect for Charbonneau's qualities, either mental or moral." And, he continued, "it is to be regretted that Maximilian relied so much upon the testimony of this interpreter." Put simply, Charbonneau was not to be believed. To compound the situation, Charbonneau would have been 75 years old when Maximilian visited the upper Missouri River.

However, the opinion has persisted that Fort Mandan has been lost. When Woolworth completed his study of Fort Mandan in 1988, he said, "[u]nder favorable circumstances, extensive archaeological tests might locate this historic fort, but this possibility is indeed remote because it was accidentally burned after it was abandoned; by the summer of 1806, when the returning expedition visited it, the voracious Missouri River had eaten away most of the site." And as recently as 1996, W. Raymond Wood, noted scholar and expert on the Knife-Heart River region, said that he believed that, "the site had been lost to natural forces."

Both Woolworth and Wood are well respected scholars and archaeologists. Their assessments must be given serious consideration. But, why would Woolworth say that the Missouri had already obliterated the site when the expedition revisited it in 1806? What Clark actually wrote in his journal on August 17, 1806 was that they, "Set out and proceeded to Fort Mandan where I landed and went to view the old works the houses except one in the rear bastion was burnt by accident. Some pickets were Standing in front next to the river." Clark mentions that most of the Fort had been destroyed by fire but clearly does not say that the river had eroded the site or washed Fort Mandan away. Woolworth seems to read more into Clark's journal entry than the explorer actually said.

Woolworth concedes that the impact of the river on the Fort may be over-estimated. He closes his 1988 study by saying that, "[i]t is tempting to speculate that additional historical evidence about Fort Mandan may someday surface. Some of the fort's remains, for example, may yet be revealed by man or by a change in the course of the meandering Missouri River. If such should happen, it would indeed be a miracle." In a recent conversation with Woolworth, he offered his personal belief that, although the river has impacted the site some part of Fort Mandan does remain and can be found using modern technology such as the magnetic survey employed at Lewis and Clark's Lower Portage Camp. Similarly, in a private conversation at the 1996 annual meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Raymond Wood said that he still believes that the Missouri destroyed the site, "but I would love to be proven wrong," and he encouraged the Museum of the Rockies to expand its search to include the Fort Mandan site.

Can Alan Woolworth and Ray Wood be wrong? Both of these scholars have privately said they hope that further research will prove they had miscalculated the impact of the Missouri River on the site. A better question may be, can we take for granted the assumption that they are right and that there is no need to pursue evidence of Fort Mandan? Recent events demonstrate that it may be unwise to endorse such assumptions. Early in the fall of 1996, the national news media reported that, "[a]rcheologists have discovered the remains of the original Jamestown fort built in 1607." This was a startling discovery because as William Kelso, the archaeologist in charge of the project, pointed out, "for 200 years everyone had decided the site of this earliest part of Jamestown had been eroded away by the James River," now we know that appraisal of the site was wrong. The parallels between the cases of the Jamestown fort and Fort Mandan are obvious. We cannot be comfortable with the assumption that those sites which are the cornerstones of American history have been lost. Every effort must be made to test assumptions regarding site location and integ-
rity with the best scholarship and modern technologies.

The Museum of the Rockies at Montana State University is the only institution in the nation to engage in a sustained historical archaeology effort to examine Lewis and Clark Expedition campsites. More than a decade of research has resulted in a methodology which combines a detailed analysis of expedition documents, an intensive analysis of historic cartographic records, and an exhaustive on-the-ground search using geophysical survey and archaeological techniques. The museum will be re-examining the evidence regarding the location of the historic Fort Mandan site and reconsider the possibility that this site has not been destroyed by the meandering Missouri River.

Phase I of the Fort Mandan Historical Archaeology Project will consist of an analysis of the Missouri River valley in the vicinity of the suspected Fort Mandan site. This research will include an examination of the journal entries and a comparison of the major historic maps of this river segment. Historic maps found in the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and the Missouri Historical Society show river channels and depths, river banks, adjacent bluffs, and cultural features such as fort sites and Indian villages. The investigation will pay particular attention to government-sponsored surveys of the river during the 19th and 20th centuries including aerial photography compiled by the ASCS, SCS and the high-altitude photos made available through the EROS Data Center. Aerial photo interpretation techniques will be employed to map the river valleys, historic river channels, and the present channels within the vicinity of the historic Fort Mandan site. The researchers will acquire USGS map data in a digital format that will cover the vicinity of the suspected fort site. Digital USGS maps will serve as the basemap for the cartographic study. Finally, the major historic map sets will be digitized and integrated with the modern cartographic data. The end result of the Phase I study will be a layered composite map showing a computer-corrected view of the river's meanderings and the most accurate placement of the Fort Mandan site, with GPS coordinates. The GPS coordinates will be used in a search of the land records in the local clerk and recorders office to identify current property owners. Both Alan Woolworth and Ray Wood have offered to facilitate this research through access to their personal research files and a review of the findings. The project will be completed prior to the 1997 Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation annual meeting.

**OFFICER NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

The lifeblood of an organization like the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation is its members, particularly those who volunteer their time in leadership positions. Each year it is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to develop a list of candidates for the board of directors. These individuals are selected based on evidence of prior service or dedication, interest in serving, ability to attend the annual meetings, and in most cases, a willingness to eventually be a candidate for vice president, then president. The final list of candidates is then presented to the general membership for voting at the annual meeting.

The Nominating Committee also recommends candidates for secretary, treasurer and vice president. The board of directors then makes the final selection of these officers.

Committee chairs are appointed by the president, but the Nominating Committee sometimes makes recommendations for these positions, too.

The key to the success of this process is finding out who is interested and then developing a pool of candidates whose service on committees or in other ways is then tracked from year to year. Although the committee is comprised of senior foundation members with contacts throughout the organization, we also must rely on suggestions from members. Most importantly, we welcome inquiries from individuals who may be interested in a particular committee assignment or position on the board.

Last year the committee developed a description of qualifications for each office. If you would like a copy of this, please contact our executive director, Barb Kubik. If you would like your name to be considered this year or in future years, please feel free to send a letter to Jim Fazio, chairman of the Nominating Committee, at 1049 Colt Rd., Moscow, ID 83843.

**NEW L&C WEB SITE OPENED**

A new Lewis and Clark information site is now open at http://www.lewisandclark.org. Board member Ludd Tropek will make a presentation on the new site during the annual meeting at Stevenson, Washington.

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MAY 1997
Relic Found in Snake River Valley

From the Idaho World, Idaho City, Idaho, March 22, 1912

What is considered to be one of the most interesting relics of the pioneer days of the Northwest is now safely encased for exhibition in the rooms of the Historical Society in the capitol annex and Historian John Hailey prizes it very highly. The relic is a stone upon which has been carved "Clark, 1805". The carving is believed to have been done by Clark while on his famous western expedition.

The rock was found on the ranch of M.D. Yeaman, on the south fork of the Snake river near Irwin, Eastern Idaho, a son of Mr. Yeaman picking it up as he was plowing the field. The carving is plain and distinct and the rock, which weighs about two pounds, has the appearance of having been worn away through contact, it is supposed with water, Mr. Hailey is of the opinion the carving was done by Clark, and later the rock was presented to Indians who carried it with them south to the territory in which it was found.

There are many who believe it improbable Clark carved his name in the stone and yet they are unable to offer any theory for how it happened to be so marked. If the rock was carved by Clark in 1805 it is a reminder of the trend of history for over 107 years. Many visitors to the historical society rooms have called particularly to see this rock and are greatly interested in it, for they consider that it is one of the most notable finds made in the State from a historical standpoint.

The rock appears to be of a hard sandstone quality so that the sharp outline of the part carved with easily accomplished and there was every chance of its being preserved. There is no historical record that Clark ever went as far south in Idaho as that section in which the stone was found while exploring the northwest.

(Relic continued on page 30)
An encyclopedia published in 1804 warned people to shield their eyes from a whale oil lamp. According to L.M. Boyd in his newspaper trivia column, some question arose then as to whether human eyes could stand the brightness of the nine-candle-power Argand flame. When we picture the journey of Lewis and Clark we need to keep in mind the differences in perception and understanding between then and now.

Pioneer Trail
Lower Columbia River offers a historic ride

Astoria, Oregon—Sam McKinney piloted his homemade boat through the maze of islands in the lower Columbia River and let his mind wander back nearly 200 years.

“This is the way Lewis and Clark would have seen it when they came through these islands,” he said. “There’s a navigation device out there, but almost everything else is unchanged.”

McKinney, the Lewis and Clark trail coordinator for the Oregon Historical Society’s planned bicentennial celebration of the explorer’s 1804-06 journey, rarely encounters visitors, other than a few sturgeon fishermen, when he explores the islands of the Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge. He is promoting a plan to develop the Lewis and Clark Columbia River Water Trail in time for the bicentennial from 2003 to 2006. Similar water trails have been developed in Washington’s Puget Sound, along the coast of Maine and in Chesapeake Bay.

McKinney is working with Columbia and Clatsop counties and the Oregon Marine Board to develop a system of launch sites and day and overnight parks so that canoes, sea kayaks and shallow-draft motorized boats can retrace the explorer’s final days as they paddled to the Pacific Ocean.

Many of the sites proposed for the water trail are already in operation. Some will need to be upgraded and new ones will need to be built. The goal is to develop a system of parks about 10 miles apart where paddlers can camp from Portland to the Fort Clatsop National Memorial, where Lewis and Clark spent the winter of 1805-06. If the proposed trail is completed, paddlers could use various segments however they choose.

“There would be lots of day trips and weekend camping opportunities,” McKinney said. “Some people may even want to paddle upriver to Portland from Astoria when winds and tides make it easier than going downstream.”

Overnight use is prohibited in the river’s two federal and one Oregon wildlife refuges, but day use is allowed. Many of the river’s islands are so marshy that they don’t lend themselves to exploration on foot anyway.

“This is like traveling in the Netherlands with all the canals,” McKinney said. “It’s a maze of islands, sloughs and channels.”

-Vancouver Historic Reserve Becomes Reality

Nearly a decade after it was proposed, the Vancouver National Historic Reserve is on its way to becoming a reality. The proposed 366-acre reserve in Vancouver, Washington, would commemorate a point reached by explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

It would also protect the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, the Vancouver Barracks and the Pearson Airfield and Museum. One of the oldest airports in the country, Pearson was the landing site of Valeri Chkalov, the “Soviet Lindbergh,” after his 1937 transpolar flight.

-Guidebook Includes Lewis and Clark

The Smithsonian Guides to Natural America (Random House-Smithsonian Books, $19.95 each) in these well-filled, handsomely illustrated paperbacks you’ll look in vain for urban life, whether in big or small cities. What you’ll find instead are national parks, natural preserves, wildlife sanctuaries and scenic wonders in general, all meticulously yet colorfully described. Moreover, the books are designed actually to be used by travelers, whether in cars or on foot, with routes clearly marked out. Recent editions are devoted to Southern New England, The Great Lakes and The Northern Rockies, the latter with more than a few traces of Messrs. Lewis and Clark, including due attention to the areas they traversed and the plants and animals they discovered.

-Herbert Kupferberg
What’s Up This Week-Books

MAY 1997

A review by Martin Erickson

Longtime members of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation remember Emory and Ruth Beacon Strong for their devotion and dedication to the saga of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. They walked the trail. They took notes, collected artifacts and took photographs of everything of interest historically, botanically and archaeologically along the trail, particularly from the Continental Divide to the Pacific Ocean. They had an extensive library and archaeological collection on Lewis and Clark as well as other historical and prehistorical information on the Pacific Northwest.

Ruth was a school teacher with an avocational interest in botany of the native plants of the Pacific Northwest. Emory was an engineer with the Forest Service and the Bonneville Power Administration whose interest in the archaeology and prehistory of the Columbia River region led him to help found the Oregon Archaeological Society.

However, it was the Lewis and Clark saga, in which human prehistory and history meet and blend finds himself hunting for answers for his patients’ various ailments and ills.

In the course of both pursuits, he’s become a student of two stand-in doctors and real life explorers from a century past-Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, who co-captained an 8,000-mile trek up the Missouri River facing extreme weather and encounters with grizzly bears and hostile native tribes while administering primitive medicine that helped all but one of their crew members return home.

“As I see it, they were the first real physicians in Montana,” said Loge, a specialist in internal medicine (and foundation member) in Dillon, Montana. “It was amazing what they managed in a very primitive setting.

“The state of medicine at the time was really just rudimentary first aid and they got away with it. Given all the things that did happen, or could have happened, they really survived well. This was a different group of people. Heartiness was a way of life.”

Editor’s Note: The above article is the beginning and end of a full page illustrated article by reporter Mia Andrews of the Missoulian newspaper (Missoula, Montana). It was reprinted in the Butte paper. Ron Loge presented the lecture at St. Patrick’s Hospital in Missoula as the opening presentation of a new history series, “Charting Montana’s Medical Past,” sponsored by the Institute of Medicine and Humanities. The rest of the article covers the information presented by Loge in the February 1997 WPO.
with natural history, that was of most interest to the couple. *Seeking Western Waters* is the final product in the pursuit of knowledge. Unfortunately, Emory passed away in 1980 and Ruth followed in 1985 before they were able to finish the book. Their friend Herbert K. Beals, a historian of maritime explorations of the Northwest Coast, augmented his posthumous work with more recent, updated research.

Using the Reuben Gold Thwaites edition of the Lewis and Clark journals, they excerpted quotes that focus on the native population the Corps of Discovery came in contact with in their journey from the Rockies to the Pacific Ocean. Day by day quotes from the journal are followed by the Strongs' explanations of everything from the plants and animals to native traditions and rituals and living habits and the difference between a gun and a rifle. Although the major emphasis is on the flora and fauna of the expedition, the artifacts of the natives such as the stone tools they used are also well described and illustrated. Over 200 photographs taken by the Strongs do an excellent job of helping us see what the expedition members say on their epic journey.

The depth of the Strongs' research and the attention they paid to details large and small is well illustrated on pages 196-198. On February 1, 1806, Meriwether Lewis describes the canoes the natives living on the lower Columbia River made and their skill as travelers on the rough water. This is followed by an excerpt from a book by an early Washington settler James G. Swan. Swan, who lived among the Indians on the northern edge of the Olympic Peninsula of Washington from Neah Bay to Port Townsend for 40 years, kept meticulous daily diaries describing his life and the life around him.* In the excerpt, Swan describes how the Indians made their canoes. Following Swan's description of canoe building is a paragraph from an 1811 book by Gabriel Franchère describing the paddles the Indians used. At the top of page 198 is William Clark's sketch of a paddle and beneath it is a photo of "an effigy [paddle] four inches long carved from antler found on the Shito village site."

Having read *Seeking Western Waters*, I can only wish that other researchers/writers would each take a section of the Lewis and Clark Trail and do similar style books until the entire trail is described (see the review below). Perhaps this is not possible because of the Strongs' unique combination of interests and abilities, but it would certainly make the trail come alive for experts and amateurs alike. I noticed in writing this review that my always handy cup of coffee is cold just as it was when I read the book. I held my attention and it will hold yours.

*An excellent book if you are interested in James Swan and a detailed look at life on the northwest coast of Washington from 1850 to 1890 is Winter Brothers: A Season at the Edge of America, Ivan Doig, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1980, soft cover, 246 pages.*


**A review by Robert K. Doerk, Jr.**

There is an exciting development within the field of Lewis and Clark literature. Books are being published on specific segments of the Lewis and Clark Trail. You have seen a number of these books reviewed within the pages of *WPO* over the past several years. I think a new standard has been set by the publication of this book and will share my reasons for saying so.

First, there are the maps, six in number (two sided) in living color with just the right balance between detail and clarity so they are easy to follow, informative, and pinpoint locations. There is an additional charge for these maps but they are well worth the price and this way, several sets can be purchased for a variety of reasons.

**Second, the appendices, four in number, provide useful listings of information important to researchers and those with special interests. The four include the flora and fauna of the area, geographic names applied by Lewis and Clark with those still existing today, campsites along the route, and the bird species encountered along the valley of the Three Rivers. This information is presented in an interesting and easily assimilated manner.**

Third, in addition to the journal entries (more on these later), a chapter from the writings of Olin D. Wheeler is included. Wheeler's two volume classic, published in 1904, was a result of his retracing the trail at the turn of the century to commemorate the centennial of the expedition. He went by horseback, donkey, boat, hiking, carriage, railroad, etc. and carried a camera as well as his notebooks and provides useful information on what he observed compared to what the Corps of Discovery observed, the changes as well as what remained the same. My
hope is that such an undertaking will occur to commemorate the bicentennial!

Fourth, the photographs are first rate, among the best I have ever seen, and many never published before. Their color and clarity are breathtaking and the best possible vantage points were utilized. A real plus!

Finally, there are the journal entries themselves which serve as the heart of the book. The late Bob Betts projected the total number of words in all the journals as 1,125,455 with Lewis and Clark contributing 862,000 words. As the University of Nebraska Press publication of all these journals reveals, it takes many volumes to get them published. By using all the relevant journal entries (keeping duplication to a minimum, Nell and Taylor have demonstrated that by concentrating on one portion of the trail the casual reader as well as the student of the expedition can gain the full flavor, and detail, of the entries without being bogged down. I like the way they break down the chapters, using the first five chapters for Lewis and Clark’s journals (outbound), and separate chapters for Whitehouse and Gass (outbound only since Whitehouse’s return journal, if he kept one, has never been found and Gass went with Lewis from Traveler’s Rest to the Great Falls on the return trip) as well as for Ordway (one each for outbound and return) and for Clark’s return. I much prefer this approach rather than the chronological “side by side” approach which becomes somewhat disjointed and ruins the flavor of each individual journal.

The book has a good index and Patrice Publishing did a quality job with the paperback, fitting easily in your hands and rugged enough to withstand field use. The “Principal Players” and “Preface” suffices but the inevitable errors creep in. Madison replaced Jefferson as president in 1809, not 1810; Jefferson was not a “native American...” either as interpreted now or then. He was born an Englishman; The History of the Lewis & Clark Expedition by Elliott Coues is not a “narrative compilation of all the journals.” But these errors are minor and do not detract from an admirable effort. If you want to know what the expedition was doing in southwestern Montana, and it was considerable, this is the volume for you!

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

**Variation on a Theme by Meriwether Lewis**

September 3. The morning was cold, And the wind from the northwest. We passed at sunrise Three large sand bars, and at the distance Of ten miles reached a small creek About twelve yards wide, coming in from the north Above a white bluff: This creek has the name Of Plum Creek. For its plentiful fruit we name It. Next day, we set out early, a cold Wind again. Near the springs to the north Is a cliff of blue earth we watch the sunrise Walk down. Low willows loaf by the creek We come to climbing. Buffalo are in the distance, And elk. It is difficult to make much distance In the shallow stream. We give a bad name To the island Indians swim to. Night Creek, We say in darkness. We will reach more cold As the month deepens. In the silence, the sunrise Is witness. Side-hinged, the compass north Wheels free. The streams we camp rise north Of us. We wound a large bear. Distance Holds us. It snows a little at sunrise, The day dark. The country that we name Is real, we say to no one, tracking cold Mountains. We look for a wintering creek. A night of bad frost, the creek Frozen, we wake to see the north Sky lined with light, advancing in the cold, Retreating, obscured in the indefinite distance,

To the island Indians swim to. Night Creek, We say in darkness. We will reach more cold As the month deepens. In the silence, the sunrise Is witness. Side-hinged, the compass north Wheels free. The streams we camp rise north Of us. We wound a large bear. Distance Holds us. It snows a little at sunrise, The day dark. The country that we name Is real, we say to no one, tracking cold Mountains. We look for a wintering creek. A night of bad frost, the creek Frozen, we wake to see the north Sky lined with light, advancing in the cold, Retreating, obscured in the indefinite distance,

The whole space filled with what scouts name The northern light. The glittering fades. By sunrise Only pale clouds and wind, the way sunrise Often is here. Hunters, leaving the creek, Kill past any place we have a name For. When the ice breaks, tribes to the north Send parties toward war in the distance We go to. Mornings, no longer cold To speak of, gone north from sunrise, We learn a chief’s name: Old Woman at a Distance; Trail fingers in a creek, primeval cold.

—W. Dale Nelson

Mr. Nelson is a winner of the Poetry Northwest Award and the Pacific Northwest Writer’s Conference Poetry Award as well as other poetry awards. He is a retired Associated Press reporter and editor.
SUMMER SCHOOL ALONG THE TRAIL

Two Weeks As An Expedition Member—July 15-28

The Teton School of Science in Kelly, Wyoming is offering a two week historical and scientific journey along the Lewis and Clark Trail from eastern Montana to the Oregon coast. Fourteen adult travelers will visit expedition sites, take part in authentic 1800s scientific explorations, camp on-site every other night and stay in double-occupancy motels on alternate nights. A typical day along the trail will consist of site-to-site travel, in the field hiking along the trail, scientific and historical explorations using the Lewis and Clark Journals as guidebooks and visits to local museums. Arts, music, food, photography, literature and a constant focus on the impacts of the expedition will help participants to understand and appreciate this monumental journey.

Each participant will receive a copy of Pioneering Naturalists, an edited edition of the journals and Diversity in Society (a teacher curriculum centered around Lewis and Clark). Fee includes lodging, half the meals (in camp and during special Lewis and Clark banquets), instruction both from TSS staff and local history and science experts, transportation, a one-day boat excursion on the Missouri River, the materials listed above and two nights at the Teton Science School. Participants will provide their own camping equipment (sleeping bags, tents, etc.) unless special arrangements are made. The course is designed for both educators and non-educators.

Steve Archibald, an award-winning environmental educator and innovator in the area of natural field studies will lead the expedition. The fee is $1,495. For further information, contact: Teton Science School, P.O. Box 68, Kelly, WY 83011, phone 307-733-4765, Fax 307-739-9388.

PLANNED GIVING

From time to time this space will be used to highlight ways you, as a member of the foundation, can benefit its financial needs if you are so inclined. I promise to keep these inserts to one paragraph and our committee always welcomes your input/initiatives.

I have been asked, "How can I benefit the foundation without taking on an undue financial burden?" My response is relatively simple. Consider increasing the level of membership you currently enjoy. The additional revenue to the foundation goes for direct support of its mission, furthering the knowledge of and interest in the expedition, whether helping underwrite the costs of WPO or assisting with foundation expenses, trail surveys, or responding to numerous inquiries. We can accomplish a lot through this method and get maximum bang for the buck!

Robert K. Doerk, Jr.
Chairman
Planned Giving Committee

RELIC—
Cont. from p. 25

Editor's note: The Idaho State Historical Museum still has the rock. Kate Reed, one of the registrars at the museum, said, "There is some doubt about its authenticity. It is obvious that, if it is authentic, somebody at a later date carved it out to make it sharper." Another item at the museum is a "rusted old axe head" found by W.S. Linton in 1919 at the mouth of the north fork of the Clearwater River near Ahsahka, Idaho. Linton found the axe head while removing a cottonwood stump and speculated it was an expedition item. He also found a 25 cent coin with a date of 18__ on it. The coin is not in the museum.

FLOATING MONTANA'S HISTORIC MISSOURI RIVER

The Heritage Institute, as part of its summer field program, is once again leading a six-day canoe float trip through Montana's Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River, part of the Corps of Discovery's route. The focus of the float will be the history of the upper Missouri, with visits to Lewis and Clark campsites, fur trading post sites, and old homesteads. The beauty and serenity of the upper Missouri make this an experience to be remembered. The expedition will meet in Fort Benton, Montana on July 5, put into the river on the morning of the 6th, and take out on July 11 at James Kipp State Park, traveling a total of 149 miles downriver. This is a wilderness float trip, and floaters are expected to be totally self-contained, providing their own boats, food and gear for the six days. Five college credits, graduate or undergraduate, are available. To receive more information about the float you may contact the instructor at (206) 932-9020, evenings-Pacific time; to register, contact The Heritage Institute at 1-800-445-1305. Cost for the trip will be $340.
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—
Cont. from p. 3

and Lewis and Clark Historic Interpretive Center with regard to the foundation office space in the Interpretive Center. This space, approximately 570 sq. ft., is located on the mezzanine. There will be separate office space behind the library, which will contain archival materials as well as space for many of the Lewis and Clark artifacts that the foundation possesses.

Information recently received from board member Darold Jackson of St. Charles, Missouri, tells of a tragedy suffered by the equipment of the discovery expedition. It seems that a raging warehouse fire completely destroyed their replica of the keelboat, a new white pirogue, other Lewis and Clark memorabilia, along with Glen Bishop's family business supplies. Darold reports that their group displayed "undaunted courage" in their plans and actions for replacement of these valuable items. I understand that fund raising events are ongoing as well as future events to aid in replacing their loss.

I had planned to announce in this issue that a joint executive director had been identified. The search committee of Cynthia Orlando and Ludd Trozpek of the foundation and Dave Nicandrei and Dark Rain Thom of the Bicentennial Council with Barbara Kubik as secretary screened more than 300 applications. Chet Orloff, of the council, and I, along with the Search Committee, interviewed a number of candidates. At this time we do not have a name to submit to the council and foundation boards.

Ron Laycock, chair of the Chapter Formation and Liaison Committee, is to be complimented on his proactive interface with many of our chapters, including those in California, those in states along the trail, and plans to visit the Home Front Chapter in Charlottesville, Virginia, and a visit to Philadelphia and their organization. Ron, your interface with the chapters and potential chapters is most appreciated. I understand that you are currently advising potential groups on the procedure for chapter status. Thank you very much for the many miles you have driven and the many more to come.

Earlier this year the past president's council studied the current responsibilities of the treasurer. They recommend that the treasurer remain as that person responsible to the board who manages the flow of funds within the foundation, such as paying authorized bills, travel support, and all other day to day operations and fiscal controls. However, the council further recommended that a separate position be created whose role is to manage the investments of foundation funds and work with the president and the Planned Giving Committee as well as the Finance Committee to increase the fiscal resources of the foundation. This recommendation will be presented to the board and to the membership at the annual meeting.

The National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council is holding its annual retreat in early May, 1997 in Nebraska City, Nebraska. This is a two-day workshop and retreat for developing plans for the upcoming year. The current president of the council is Chet Orloff.

It is a pleasure to announce that under the current cooperative agreement the National Park Service will be able to extend its funding of the foundation for the next fiscal year. It is a pleasure to recognize the support of Dick Williams of the National Park Service, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and to thank him for his commitment. In addition, we are fortunate to continue to be able to work with the National Park Service in supporting the Challenge Cost Share Grants to various groups for Lewis and Clark projects.

MAY 1997
Joseph Whitehouse / Wednesday 30th Oct. 1805

...one half mile above the falls is a village of about 10 well looking cabbins covred with bark...these Savages were Surprized to See us they Signed to us that they thought that we had rained down out of the clouds...