The purpose of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the contributions to American history made by the Expedition members, and events of time and place concerning the expedition which are of historical import to our nation. The Foundation recognizes the value of tourist-oriented programs, and supports activities which do 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 panels in which, in the judgment of the directors, are of historical and contemporary interest, and contribute to understanding the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The members of the National Foundation are intended to complement and supplement those of state and local Lewis and Clark interest groups. The Foundation may appropriately recognize and honor individuals or groups for acts of distinction, achievement in the broad field of Lewis and Clark history, research, writing, or deeds which promote the general purpose and scope of activities of the Foundation. Membership in the organization remains a broad spectrum of Lewis and Clark enthusiasts including federal, state, and local government officials, historians, scholars and others of wide-ranging interest in the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Officers of the Board are elected from the membership. The annual meeting of the Foundation is traditionally held during August, the month of both Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. The meeting place is rotated among the states, and officers generally are arranged to visit sites in the area of the annual meeting which have historical associations with the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

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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In this issue—

Page 4—
A Grand Tower
The Mississippi Tower Rock
Ann Rogers

Page 8—
“One Remarkable Lady”
An Interview with Blanche Schroer
Marie Webster Weisbrod

Page 11—
Impressions of an Evening at the White House and an Invitation for the President

Page 13—
From the Mouth of the Marias to the Gates of the Mountains
Phil Schrader

Page 21—
“Roll on Columbia”—
A Postscript
Martin Plamondon II
As the bicentennial of the exploration undertaken by the Corps of Discovery draws ever closer, the groundswell of interest continues to build. Among activities being considered, or underway, are movies, a "National Geographic Special" based upon Stephen Ambrose's Undaunted Courage, a "trail ride" along the trail, east to west, picture books (of the trail as it was-so far as can now be depicted and at least one book of trail sites as they appear today), publicity by state tourism bureaus, tours by travel agencies (and at least one tour to familiarize travel agents with the trail), newspaper and magazine articles, improved signage along the trail and a plethora of other trail-related activity. This increased awareness of the trail, its importance and the approaching bicentennial of the expedition have led to increased interest in the LCTHF, Inc., and our membership continues to grow.

As indicated in the preceding "President's Message" (Nov., 1997 issue of WPO), note should be made that the 1998 annual meeting of the founda-

The White House was calling, and, on the evening of November 10th, a number of foundation members traveled to Washington, D.C. to spend an evening with President Bill Clinton. The occasion was the showing of highlights from Ken Burns' Lewis and Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery." I've asked some of those who attended to give us their impressions of the event.

Dale Gorman, the president of Fund, Inc. (the fund raising board for the Great Falls Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center/foundation headquarters) hand carried an invitation to President Clinton to be the main speaker at the grand opening of the center next July 4th. He will also tell you of some other really interesting guests he has invited to be at the grand opening. Dale's comments and others' thoughts about the evening at the White House start on page 11.

Speaking of the interpretive center, Jane Weber, the center director, invited several groups involved with the center to take a tour of the building in early December. What they saw was an absolutely breathtaking creation. The attention to detail in the center from major displays to the color of the walls and carpets is designed to put you right back with Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery. The exhibit builders, for example, hauled in dirt from North Dakota to cover a replica of a Mandan Indian earth lodge. I don't suppose the dirt in North Dakota looks too much different from the dirt in Montana, but they want absolute authenticity in their exhibits. The grasses used are native to the central Montana area. Even the prickly pear that so tormented expedition members has genuine prickly pear spines laboriously hand placed on the rubber replicas.

As general public interest increases in the expedition, so does the interest of those who strive to more

(From the Editor's Desk continued on page 31)
A GRAND TOWER

THE MISSISSIPPI'S TOWER ROCK

by Ann Rogers

Lewis and Clark knew it as the Grand Tower; today it is called Tower Rock. Since white explorers first saw the landmark more than 300 years ago, it has had at least four other names.

The limestone formation stands in the Mississippi River about 100 miles south of St. Louis and 28 river miles north of Cape Girardeau. The town of Grand Tower, Illinois, is directly across the river. The nearest Missouri town is Wittenberg, in Perry County.

Lewis and Clark reached the tower on November 25, 1803, during their 23-day journey up the Mississippi from the Ohio to the expedition's winter camp near the confluence with the Missouri.

The Cape Girardeau entry in Lewis' journal recounts an enjoyable evening with the commandant, Louis Lorimier, and his hospitable family. For the next few days, Lewis turned his attention to the landscape, especially the cliffs "rising perpendicularly from the water's edge" on the west, or Missouri, side of the river.

His journal provides a detailed description:

The rock which compose these cliffs is a singular one tho' not uncommon to this country. It is a Limestone principally, but imbeded in this stone there are detached pieces of a stone resembling flint of yellowish brown colour which appear at some former period to have been worn smothe and assume different shapes and sizes as the pebbles of running streams usually do tho' now firmly united and forming a portion of the solid mass of this rock-many parts of the rock has also a considerable portion of grit or sand in it's composition tho' I was informed at Capt Jeradeau where the same rock appears, that it makes very good lime.1

The following day, with the boats about two miles above the Apple River, Lewis wrote: "Arrived at the Grand Tower a little before sunset, passed above it and came too on the Lard. shore for the night. A discription of this place will be given in my journal to­­morrow." He then set about the exploration needed to fulfill his promise.

He noticed on the west side, about 25 feet up, "a small cavern."

He found the rock to be "limestone & the same quality of the cliffs heretofore dissect." With the remaining light that November afternoon, Lewis scaled the tower and, at the southeast corner, dropped a cord to measure the height, which he recorded as 92 feet. He also used this vantage point to take some bearings.

The waters he saw surrounding the rock posed no unusual threat, but he knew that under other conditions they were treacherous. Writing in his journal the next day, he noted that when the river was high, a second and narrower channel forced its way between the tower and the west bank before rejoining the main channel in "an immense and dangerous whirlpool." If any boats dared to approach, "the counter.
current...would instantly dash them to atoms and the whirlpool would as quickly take them to the bottom."

The navigational hazards presented by the tower helped to make it the subject of numerous legends. Lewis had picked up some of the lore, for he wrote: “This seems among the watermen of the Mississippi to be what the tropics or Equinoxial line is with regard to the Sailors; those who have never passed it before are always compelled to pay or furnish some spirits to drink or be ducked.”

Of the Grand Tower’s relation to hills on both sides of the river, he observed: “All appear once to have formed a part of the range of hills which cross the Mississippi at this place, and which in the course of time have been broken down by the river.”

While Lewis made his reconnaissance and recorded his findings, Clark drew two maps showing the tower and surrounding features. Both maps are reproduced in the *Atlas of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, edited by Gary E. Moulton.

On one, drawn on the reverse of his memorandum listing crew and supplies, the tower appears almost heart-shaped; on the other it is represented by a square. Both maps use a circle to indicate a nearby mound “in the form of a sugarloaf.” (Lewis climbed that formation, too, and enjoyed what he called “a most beautifull and commanding view.”)

On the second map, Clark numbered and described 10 features, beginning with “the Grand Tower in the Mississippi.”

Along with the geographic features and their identifications, Clark included a sketch of the keelboat on both maps, to mark the expedition’s campsite on the
west side of the river, just above the tower.

The sketches show the boat as having two masts, each with a yard. A flag flies from a staff mounted on the windowed cabin at the boat's stern.

These sketches are far less familiar than the pair of drawings Clark made at Camp Dubois as the vessel was being modified for its journey up the Missouri. Those give a deck plan showing the placement of oars and a profile showing the boat with a single mast.

But the tiny sketches on the Grand Tower maps are Clark’s earliest representations of the keelboat in which he, other members of the Corps of Discovery, and their cargo would travel 1,600 miles up the Missouri to the Mandans.

Two days beyond the Grand Tower, Clark was given command of the keelboat, pirogues, and men while Lewis went overland to find more recruits, obtain supplies, and make additional preparations.

Lewis also turned over to Clark the duty of journal-keeping and apparently did not resume making regular entries until April, 1805. Tower Rock is the last landmark Lewis’ journal describes east of the Mandan villages.

More than a century before Lewis and Clark saw Tower Rock, it was described by Jesuit missionaries. In 1673, Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet traveled down the Mississippi and, a day or two before reaching the Ohio, “passed a place dreaded by the Indians, because they think that there is a manitou there, that is, a demon who devours all who pass.”

Marquette’s narrative explains that he found this “devil” to be a small bay where the river’s swirling current was “hurled back...and checked by a neighboring island,” resulting in a “furious combat of the waters” and a “great roaring,” which struck terror in the Indians.

Twenty-five years later, John Francis Buisson De St. Cosme, along with two fellow Jesuits, made a difficult ascent of a rock believed to be the Grand Tower. In a letter to the Bishop of Quebec, he wrote of the formation and their visit to its summit:

> A rock making the river turn back very abruptly and narrowing the channel forms a kind of whirlpool...Fourteen Miami were once lost there, which has rendered the spot fearful among the Indians, so that they are accustomed to make some sacrifices to this rock when they pass: On it we planted a beautiful cross, singing the Vexilla Regis, and our people fired three volleys of musketry.5

Their placement of a cross gave the tower two other names—the Rock of St. Cosme and La Roche de la Croix.

Seven years after Clark sketched the Corps of Discovery’s keelboat at the tower, John James Audubon ascended an ice-jammed Mississippi aboard a keelboat “propelled by pushing with long poles against the ice, or the bottom, whenever it could be touched.” Audubon wrote of the additional threat posed by the tower: “Our cordelles were used to force a passage at this dangerous spot; and our men, clinging to the rock as well they could, looked as if each movement would plunge them into the abyss.”6

With the boat stopped for the night just above the tower, the naturalist listened to the “continual howling of the wolves” on the wooded Illinois hills “opposite to this rock.”

An account of Major S.H. Long’s 1819 expedition to the Rocky Mountains provides another view: “The Grand Tower, from its form and situation, strongly suggests the idea of a work of art. It is not impossible that a bridge may be constructed here, for which this rock shall serve as a pier.”7

(The tower never became a bridge pier, but on February 24, 1871, President Grant signed an executive order declaring the rock “reserved for public purposes, as recommended by the Secretary of the Interior.”8)

In March 1833, Swiss artist Karl Bodmer and his patron, Prince Maximilian of Wied, passed the formation as they-like Lewis and Clark-traveled up the Mississippi as a sort of a trip to an ascent of the Missouri.

Their American journey was, in part, influenced by Biddle’s edition of the Lewis and Clark Journals; and Maximilian would meet with Clark in St. Louis and receive copies of his maps of the lower Missouri.9

Maximilian described the Mississippi’s Grand Tower as “an isolated, cylindrical rock...which we reached when it was splendidly illuminated by the setting sun.” Its summit, he added, was “crowned with red cedars.”10

Those trees were seen by Edmund Fagg in 1856 as “a shaggy crown of rifted cedars, rocking in every blast that sweeps the stream, whose turbid current boils, and chafes, and rages at the obstruction below.”11

Probably the river’s best-known chronicler is Mark Twain, who wrote of his experiences as a cub-pilot in Life on the Mississippi. In that 1883 narrative, Twain called the tower “a piece of nature’s fanciful handiwork” and “one of the most picturesque features of the scenery of that region.”

The tower has been pictured by artists using a variety of mediums. Scenes along the Mississippi were presented during the 1840s in a unique art form known as the panorama, which “required an
audience to sit for two or three hours while hundreds of yards of colorful canvas were slowly unwound from one cylinder and wound onto another." The artists who traveled the Mississippi sketched river scenes and then transferred their work to the canvases invariably included Tower Rock among their subjects.

Nineteenth century histories of the river were illustrated with engravings based on drawings of Tower Rock by Alfred Waud, who made three trips along the Mississippi between 1866 and 1872.

The Jake Wells mural in the Kent Library of Southeast Missouri State University at Cape Girardeau shows the tower with a cross on its summit, while a black-robed Marquette walks in the foreground with Joliet at this side.

Missouri artist Gary R. Lucy used the landmark as background for his 1995 painting "Mississippi River Flatboatmen: Navigating Past Tower Rock, 1831." He chose the tower, he said, because this natural reference point on the river appears in virtually all the literature about the Mississippi.

For Karl Bodmer, the tower was not background but a forceful subject. It dominates the scene, looming above a passing steamboat and the flatboats at the rock's base. The nearly frontal view and steeply angled top heighten the effect.

Lewis and Clark would no doubt recognize Tower Rock from a photograph. But the camera does not offer the best image. Nor is the tower seen best from today's river, where natural reference points have lost much of their former significance. We need the vision of the artist.

The tower is the place where combatant currents boiled and roared, where a manitou destroyed and wolves howled, where priests raised a cross and countered terrors with a Latin hymn, where Clark mapped the river and sketched the keelboat, where Lewis stood at the summit and remembered rituals.

The dramatic portrait by Karl Bodmer makes visible the Grand Tower of history, legend, and the imagination.

—FOOTNOTES—

\[Footnotes here\]

About the author...

Foundation member Ann Rogers received her Ph.D. from St. Louis University and taught for 12 years, most recently at Maryville University. The expanded version of her book Lewis and Clark in Missouri was reviewed in WPO August 1994.
My introduction to Blanche Schroer took place in a Wyoming public library-not in person but in print: “Lander author says Sacajawea isn’t buried in Fort Cemetery.” The words headlining the Lander Journal sparked my curiosity since I had, an hour before, visited the supposed grave site. As a Lewis and Clark history buff, I had read the two volume Biddle edition of their journals and couldn’t equate the Native American heroine with Wyoming. Little did I know that I would discover another heroine: a debunker of myths, a crusader for truth in history.

I was traveling south following the Continental Divide from Canada to Mexico, researching western women writers, when I made the detour through Fort Washakie-guided by spurious information in the AAA Tour Book. Driving on to Lander, I asked the librarian for details about Sacajawea in Wyoming and was directed to the vertical files. The contents of numerous newspaper and magazine articles regarding the “controversy” led to six years of correspondence and a visit with Blanche Schroer.

The diminutive bundle of energy invited me into her study/office/workroom; three walls lined with western history books (including a complete set of the Expedition Journals), shelves and tables laden with carefully labeled boxes of file folders (reference materials, letters and interview notes), and, on her desk, a typewriter. When I asked if she had been researching Sacajawea for a long time, she quipped, “Is sixty years long enough? And-let’s get one thing straight. Her name is not Sacajawea but Sacagawea,” giving the name a different pronunciation from the one generally used. I realized, then, that this was one remarkable lady.

**Weisbrod:** Before I ask why your dedication, tell me about your background-your childhood and education.

**Schroer:** I was born in 1907 in eastern Iowa, the second of six, four girls and two boys. Our father was Dudley Moore, a horse-and-buggy doctor until 1917 when he joined the Indian department. As an Indian service physician and hospital administrator, he moved his family from the Ute Reservation in Colorado to the Winnebago Sioux in Nebraska and, finally, in 1929, to the Shoshone Reservation in Wyoming. I married Frederick Schroer, a high school teacher and businessman, and we had one son. While living on the reservation, and in Lander when quarters weren’t available at the Fort, I worked as bookkeeper for Matt McGuire, proprietor of the Post Trading Company.

**Weisbrod:** So-growing up on Indian reservations, you have personal knowledge and an understanding of Native Americans?

**Schroer:** Yes, and empathy for. But minimal formal education. Because of illness, I was kept out of school twice, each time for half a school year, and I skipped eighth grade. This adds up to ten years of schooling before graduating as valedictorian. I then attended Wayne College for a year and thereafter, entered that select college of self-education, limited to those who are so interested in so many things they become fanatical readers. I believe too much formal education may stifle creativity and, having no professors to ape, I was forced to do everything my way. I have been blessed-or cursed-with an intensely curious mind-and curiosity is what set me off on the Sacagawea search.

**Weisbrod:** As members of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and readers of *We Proceeded On* know, the myth of Sacagawea’s longevity and death in 1884 at Fort Washakie was instigated by Grace Hebard of the University of Wyoming. But what, other than curiosity, set you off?

**Schroer:** I began my investigation into Sacagawea’s death and burial site solely to prove allegations that Sacagawea, as an old woman, came to the Shoshone Wind River Reservation and died there. I soon found this could not possibly be true. My first interview was in 1929 when I talked to an ancient Shoshone who had known Hebard and the
woman named Porivo whose grave was identified as Sacagawea's. He said, "Hebard eeshump," his word for liar. Hebard's book, Sacagawea, published in 1933, was responsible for spreading the myth—although Hebard herself said that Porivo was never called Sacajawea or any name close to it. There was no evidence that Porivo claimed to be the heroine. I felt it was deplorable to falsely bestow on an admirable woman of history the completely different personality and character of a less admirable woman. After publication of the book and before all the facts related to Sacagawea surfaced, those who did only superficial research might understandably advance Porivo as a possible candidate for the heroine. But they were dishonest in failing to retract their claim when more information became available.

Weisbrod: Your research, then, and those of other scholars, rejects Hebard's "claim to fame?"

Schroer: Totally. The place of Sacagawea's burial is not questionable—nor the date of her death. Irrefutable documents prove she died at Fort Manuel Lisa, now in South Dakota, when she was about 25 years old. Hebard's defenders have failed, within the scope of almost 200 years, to unearth one single document suggesting that Sacagawea lived after 1812. And a close friend of Hebard's wrote, that in 1936 as the author lay dying, she gasped, "If I live bit longer, I may find some proof."

Weisbrod: I'll not ask about the irrefutable documents and evidence of Grace Hebard's duplicity, since you will cover these aspects in your book. Did you ever meet Hebard?

Schroer: Yes, I met her during one of her late visits to Fort Washakie—it didn't seem important to me at the time. Matt McGuire asked me to type something for her but I can't be certain what it was. I do remember the clerks talked about her giving sacks of groceries to the testifiers.

Weisbrod: Testifiers?

Schroer: Shoshones and descendants of Porivo who would testify that the old woman Reverend Roberts buried in 1894 might have been Sacagawea. (Blanche paused, then with a wry smile, continued.) Those interviews were conducted 45 years after the event—and who wouldn't want a famous heroine for an ancestor?

Weisbrod: And the result was the elaborate granite monument in the Fort Washakie Cemetery. How did that come about?

Schroer: That monument was erected by the Wyoming Chapter of the DAR to replace the chipped stone marking the grave of the Shoshone woman. Before the dedication in 1963, I begged the DAR to examine my copies of the documents proving Sacagawea died in 1812. The daughters flatly refused, hugging their myth and deifying the wrong woman. During the ceremony, one representative said, "Whether Sacagawea is buried here or not, she was a Shoshone Indian and was born in Wyoming. She was picked up by Lewis and Clark and dropped off here when they returned." Even Wyoming school children know that during Sacagawea's time, late 1700 to early 1800, the home camps of the Eastern Shoshones were in Montana and Idaho and Fort Washakie did not exist until 65 years after the return of the expedition.

Weisbrod: I noted the monument is flanked by two other markers, claimed as sons of Sacagawea; Bazil died in 1886 and Baptiste Charbonneau, papoose of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, died in 1865.

Schroer: That charade has been exploded by Irving W. Anderson, past president of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, through his diligent research into the life of Baptiste, born to Sacagawea in 1805. Anderson has been my mentor and we share a driving force—to promote truth in history—to show the difference between documented proof and hearsay. The myth of Sacagawea's death and burial in Wyoming stands out above other historical blunders in early American history because of its long run. Based on lack of knowledge, it continues for the same reason. Its promoters are under no obligation to read the more than one million words of the original journals, the archival documents of the period or to engage in intensive research. Yet they do have a moral obligation to refrain from stealing a celebrated woman's identity.

Weisbrod: Once a myth is implanted in public minds, it is difficult to root it out.

Schroer: Especially when it's perpetuated by more falsehoods. For example, in 1980, the Wyoming State Journal stated blantly, "Lewis and Clark came up the Yellowstone River in 1806. Came into Wind River Valley. They were guided by Sacagawea." The truth is: no such trip was mentioned in the journals. Lewis wasn't with Clark on the return trip via the Yellowstone, the Big Horn River was not navigable, the trip to Wind River Valley and back would have been over 500 miles. Sacagawea could not have acted as guide—she had never been there. And that's another myth that lives on: Sacagawea as "guide" for the explorers. Interpreter, yes—guide, no.

Weisbrod: As recently as 1994, Travel Holiday ran an article, "The Sacagawea Mystery—Where Did She Vanish?" The author made no attempt to answer the question, yet such intriguing titles do sell. I can imagine that with all of your published articles denouncing the
fake historians and publicity seekers, you have not been popular in Wyoming.

Schroer: Yes, there have been detractors. It has been said that the employees of the Lander Pioneer Museum were told not to mention my name when visitors asked who could give them further information about Sacagawea. Suggestions have been made to the Shoshones that they organize a rumble against me—even to the extent that South Dakota was paying me to push their state as Sacagawea's burial place. What rubbish! Marie, it is important to me that I do not come across as disliking the Shoshones. I still have many friends among them, yet I'm a bit nervous about the possible reaction of a few radicals. I have been vilified in print and personally, especially when I forestalled government funds to finance a pageant about Wyoming's Sacagawea to be written and directed by a New York playwright. Since the National Register of Historic Places recognized Fort Manuel as the place Sacagawea died on December 26, 1812, I convinced him that accepting government funding would be fraudulent. Even so, this year the July 4th parade featured a local Sacagawea and the announcer said she lived in Wyoming. Lander is a jewel of a city placed in a setting of unique beauty. What a shame, that through one woman's irresponsible writing and a kindly missionary's decision to turn his wish into a belief over sixty years ago, Lander has gained a reputation for falsifying national history to stimulate the tourist trade.

Schroer: You have asked me not to play up your publications too much since it was never your goal to become a professional writer. However, as a freelance myself, I'm most impressed by the quantity and quality of your work. The articles I've read in history journals are succinct and authentic. Your critiques of books about Sacagawea written by far less knowledgeable authors hold no punches when you are confronted by inaccurate statements. Irving Anderson wrote that you are without peer in your research and knowledge. So, Blanche, how goes your book?

Schroer: Because of family obligations, my book has moved so slowly, I refer to it as "The Turtle." Experienced writers have advised me to research less and write more but my countless interviews and the reference papers I've accumulated, persuaded me that the Wind River claims were incongruous in time and place with expedition journals. Realizing the importance of presenting the facts in book form, even though I must tread on sacred myths, I've made radical changes in my lifestyle so more time can be devoted to serious writing. After all, I am 90 and best get on with the project.

The twinkle in her eye and tilt of head belied her final statement. With the stamina and intelligence of a far younger woman, Blanche Schroer will complete her project and I look forward to purchasing an autographed first edition copy.

About the author...
Foundation member Marie Webster Weisbroad is a retired art ed. and history teacher and a free-lance writer.

FOUNDATION AWARDS NOMINATIONS DUE

It is time to make nominations for foundation awards. These include the Award of Meritorious Achievement which is for outstanding contributions in bringing to this nation a greater awareness and appreciation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition; the Distinguished Service Award which is for outstanding contributions toward furthering the purpose and objectives of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.; the Appreciation Award given in recognition for gracious support (deed, word, or funds) given to the foundation in its endeavor to preserve and perpetuate the lasting historical worth of the 1804-1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition; and the Youth Achievement Award which is in recognition of a person or group of persons under the age of 21 who have increased knowledge of the Lewis and Clark Expedition through outstanding compo-

(Continued on page 30)
Impressions of
An Evening at the White House and
An Invitation for the President

Editor's Note: Three people who attended the preview of Ken Burns' documentary on the Lewis and Clark Expedition at the White House jotted down their views on the evening for WPO. Three people, each with a different impression of the time spent in Washington, D.C.

by Dale Gorman, president
Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center Fund, Inc.

A big step in the planning for the grand opening of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls took place November 10 when President Clinton was personally invited to be the keynote speaker. Thanks to Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan, I was included on the invitees list for the presidential showing of "Lewis & Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery" and invited to the White House. At the reception, following the video, I met Mr. Clinton and briefly visited about the plans underway for July 4, 1998 and let him know of our dream to get him to Great Falls. I also left him a written invitation. He showed me where he had already written the date down at the invitation of Stephen Ambrose. Later, Dayton shared with me that he and Ken had also asked the president to come to Great Falls on July 4.

Many people are working with us to get President Clinton to Great Falls. Retired Montana Congressman Pat Williams had the grand opening date placed on the president's appointment calendar. Montana Senator Max Baucus hand-carried an invitation to the White House and the five U.S. congressmen from Oregon have jointly signed an invitation asking Mr. Clinton to join us on July 4, 1998. While In Washington I was able to meet with one of the president's aides to discuss an information package pertaining to the private/public partnership efforts underway in Great Falls to build the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center.

We will continue to seek opportunities to make the president aware of our interest in having him as a guest speaker for the center's dedication and grand opening, but will also pursue another highly visible speaker. If by chance more than one person accepts our invitation we will make room for both on the program. We have also invited the ambassadors of England, France and Spain to be our guests during the grand opening. I met a number of very supportive people who wished the Great Falls people success in their efforts with the president.

During the evening at the White House, the president spent nearly two hours in the State Dining Room talking about Lewis and Clark to the guests. There were Lewis and Clark displays, paintings and skins, etc. in the Entrance Hall. We also went downstairs to a room where Jefferson had his collection of books on the West. The East Room was where a two room lean-to was built for Meriwether Lewis to live in and where, as Ken Burns pointed out, "Meriwether Lewis got down on the floor with Thomas Jefferson and spread out the maps from his journey."

by James M. Peterson, president
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.

The weather was pleasant. We were able to take a cab to within about a block of the White House. We entered by the East Gate with a minimum of delay. The "gatekeepers" made a careful check of our photo IDs and did scrutinize us quickly and efficiently.

We proceeded to the Entrance Hall where the guests mingled for 20-30 minutes. On display were some artifacts dispatched to President Jefferson by Captains Lewis and Clark. (Some were the actual articles, others representative of what were presented to the president.) My estimate is that some 150-200 people were there, most all of whom were significantly involved in helping make the documentary, as I understand it. A small "combo" played music of the expedition's period.

A screening of the highlights of the documentary was held in the East Room, two screens having been placed strategically so viewing was good for all. The East Room is where Captain Lewis lived while serving as President Jefferson's secretary and where he and the president examined Captain Clark's maps. Ken Burns served as master of ceremonies. President Clinton arrived shortly after we were seated and was warmly received. (Hillary was in Russia at this time.) He spoke briefly from a low platform. The screening proceeded promptly and was obviously pleasing to the viewers. Thereafter, President Clinton stood and spoke briefly from his front-row position. He is
indeed an articulate and effective speaker. He then suggested we proceed to the State Dining Room where tables of excellent hors d'oeuvres were provided.

The president joined the group here, mingling freely. I spoke with him briefly, identifying myself as president of the foundation and thanking him for the invitation and for his interest in Lewis and Clark and his support of the efforts to study and commemorate their journey. He was friendly and gracious.

During the same two hours or so spent in the dining room, I spoke with a variety of people ranging from Stephen Ambrose to the musician who wrote the background music (Ashokan Farewell) for Ken Burns' "Civil War" documentary. I visited with the two photographers I'd had with me on the river for nearly a week when they were filming in the Vermillion, South Dakota area. Dayton Duncan and I visited a bit too. Quite a variety of people were there and an air of informality prevailed.

Open to us were the Entrance Hall, the East Room, Cross Hall, the Red Room, and the State Dining Room. As one would expect, the decor was impressive. One of the security people told me that it was unusual for the president to stay so long with a group or to mingle so freely.

In total, we were at the White House about four hours. Upon leaving we were given a CD and a copy of Duncan and Burns' book, "Lewis & Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery."

This was a most pleasant and thoroughly enjoyable experience.

by David Borlaug, president-elect
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.

Getting invited to the White House for this occasion was pretty incredible itself, however, it was doubly enjoyable for me since it allowed me the opportunity to spend some quality time visiting Washington, D.C. for the first time.

I took advantage of the opportunity fairly well, hitting most of the major memorials; Smithsonian, Archives Building to see the Declaration of Independence, etc. (and where, standing in line directly behind me, turned out to be friends from Bismarck, the state chancellor of higher education and his wife).

A real highlight was visiting both the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials. In fact, Cindy Orlando and I were still in town to take in the Veterans Day program at The Wall, which was a very special event. It was the 15th anniversary of the dedication of the memorial. Among other notables in attendance was singer Emmylou Harris, who performed.

The event at the White House was exhilarating. I think that all of us who were there, courtesy of Ken and Dayton, expected to be somewhat intimidated by it all. However, it turned into one of the most relaxing, enjoyable evenings of my life. The president was very relaxed, affable, and willing to visit with us when we approached him.

Walking from the East Room to the West Room, and the spaces in between, all of us were struck by being surrounded by history. The Moultons and I, for example, sat in the parlor and discussed affairs of state among some of the most famous pieces of art known to American citizens.

Getting to meet a few celebrities, and many other notables in attendance, was frosting on the cake.

At the end of the long evening I turned to Cindy, Jim Peterson and Gerard Baker (superintendent, Little Bighorn National Battlefield) and said, "We really should do this more often."

With the bicentennial years approaching, who knows?

(White House continued on page 31)
by Phil Scriven

The prairies of central Montana held a key to the success of the Corps of Discovery's journey to the Pacific. Find the great falls of the Missouri and find the best water route to the coast. These same prairies presented the captains with their first great decision; which was the true Missouri? The time the expedition spent traversing from the mouth of the Marias to the Gates of the Mountains was a unique chapter in the journals of the corps. They saw unimaginable abundance of game, added several new species to known science, successfully determined the answer to their first great decision, and firmly proved the devotion of the men to the two captains. They spent six weeks in the area, more than in any other area of their journey except for winter quarters. Those attending the annual meeting will have the opportunity to get a close look at much of the area covered by the expedition, during the summer of 1805 as they traversed this vast prairie and portaged the falls. Tours will look at many places described in the journals.

The Mouth of the Marias

Most of us are familiar with the decision made by Captains Lewis and Clark at the mouth of the Marias River. Their accurate determination of which river was actually the Missouri enabled the expedition to press on with the journey to the Pacific without the costly retracing of steps caused by taking the wrong route. It has been said that the wrong decision here would certainly have spelled failure for the Corps of Discovery, causing them to abandon all efforts to reach the ocean and head back downriver.

Although this area was of no special importance to the nomadic tribes who wandered the area in the days before Lewis and Clark it has always been for the white man starting with the Corps of Discovery. A look at the Montana map shows that bands of Indians may follow the Missouri River across eastern Montana from the Yellowstone toward the middle of the state, but the river makes a bend north just beyond the Judith River. They would probably have left the river there in favor of a shorter overland route to the rich hunting grounds at the great falls of the Missouri. Thus they would bypass the mouth of the Marias.

The area was extremely important to the Corps of Discovery. Similarly, it soon became very important to the fur traders who followed the expedition.

The American Fur Company entered the race to develop the fur business early on. As the fur frontier moved farther up the Missouri the company determined to establish their own treaty with the Blackfeet. By 1829 Jacob Berger was in Blackfeet country where Captain Lewis had his run in with the Blackfeet. Berger and his small party wintered with the Piegan Blackfeet. The following spring a group of about 100 Blackfeet accompanied him to Fort Union where Kenneth McKenzie negotiated a trade agreement. In the fall of 1831 James Kipp led a party of 25 men and a keelboat up the Missouri to the mouth of the Marias and built a trading fort, Fort Piegan, near the Lewis and Clark camp of 1805. The fort was immediately a grand success. However in early 1832 another branch of Blackfeet, the Bloods, attacked the fort and burned it to the ground.

This was the first attempt by Americans to establish a permanent presence in this part of Montana. However short lived it was Fort Piegan did show that it could be done.

Alexander Culbertson built Fort Lewis a little farther upstream from present day Fort Benton. Because of its bad location he moved it across the river the following spring. Father Point recorded the date of the move in his personal journal as May 19, 1847, however Culbertson reported it as 1846. The fort was rebuilt using adobe and named Fort Benton during a ceremony on Christmas night 1850. This fort immediately became successful in addition to becoming permanent.

There had been other small, temporary trading forts along the Missouri between the mouth of the Marias and Fort Lewis. They didn't last long nor were they of much significance beyond maintaining a presence in the fur country. Over a span of 40 years the area, 11 miles by modern road or 25 river miles,
went from obscurity to a permanent settlement deep in the unknown territory Mr. Jefferson had dared to purchase and explore.

Almost as soon as Fort Lewis was built a new fur trade era was launched. The immense herds of buffalo were soon being slaughtered for their hides. A wagon road was carved across the prairies from Fort Union in 1851. The beaver era in central Montana gave way to buffalo hides as road building grew providing a means for transporting them back to "the States." These were soon replaced by steamboats up the Missouri from St. Louis to Fort Benton, which became the head of navigation on the river.

Supplies to outfit an empire were moving up the Missouri on steamboats then overland on the wagon roads to all parts of Montana and southwestern Canada. Merchants in Fort Benton were handling hundreds of thousands of tons of goods and reaping the financial rewards. Competition was keen and risks were high, but so was the profit. The mouth of the Marias River once again became a focal point, threatening to drastically change the situation.

Ophir

Although steamboats were arriving at the Fort Benton levee, the 'season' was terribly short. The design of the boats, in addition to several rocky shoals in the river limited the water traffic to high water times, April through June. During the low water periods freight was usually off-loaded at the mouth of the Marias then freighted overland to Fort Benton for further delivery.

James Moore brought his boat upriver, but had to lay over the winter of 1864 at the Marias. Here he conceived the plan for a new town that would replace Fort Benton as the head of navigation. By February 1865 a group of prominent miners had formed a stock company and received a legislative charter for the new town of Ophir. The new company hired N.W. Burris as their field manager. He laid out 400 lots for 300 cabins and by late May several of the cabins had already been built. But a band of Bloods attacked a woodcutting party and killed them. This ambush was in retribution for an earlier incident when trappers attacked and killed several Bloods for stealing their horses.

The 'massacre' of the woodcutters at Ophir included field manager Burris thus ending all dreams of a new town. The Indian scare spread rapidly with a great outcry to punish the Indians and make the area safe again. The territorial governor left Montana on business and the outcry was ignored. The Marias' last attempt at fame died and Fort Benton resumed its role of destination point for the upriver traffic. The cabins that had been built and other cut logs were used by steamboats for firewood.

Nothing remains of this once widely promoted attempt at city building.

Several other attempts were made by others to divert the lucrative freighting business away from Fort Benton, but for various reasons they all ended in failure. With the redesign of the steamboat to enable it to navigate shallower water Fort Benton flourished until the coming of the railroads. During the 'steamboat days' on the upper Missouri which lasted from 1859 to 1890, nearly 75 percent of all the freight to the northwest unloaded on the Fort Benton levee. When Jim Hill brought his railroad lines through the country he did what many others before him had tried to do and failed. River freighting could not compete with the railroads so Fort Benton slipped out of prominence changing to an agricultural center for the area and county seat of Chouteau County; one of the nine counties created in the new territory.

Fort Benton

Fort Benton is a small town with a huge history. It is a must see for any traveler to central Montana who has an interest in history. A look at Fort Benton's history is a look at the history of a developing region of the continent. It has its roots in Lewis and Clark but its
continued development shows the next steps in developing a territory that the expedition gave to the nation.

Local advertising calls Fort Benton 'the birthplace of Montana' because it is the oldest continuously inhabited town in the state. It traces its birth to 1846 when Fort Lewis was first built. That fort was named in honor of Captain Meriwether Lewis. Two years later it was moved to present day Fort Benton, but was not renamed until 1850. The new name was in honor of Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri. Other names in the city's history read like a who's who of the fur trade; Chouteau, Baker, Conrad, Power.

The first stop the traveler makes is at a scenic overlook on the hill to the east of town. Interpretive signage gives a snapshot look at Fort Benton and talks briefly about the Whoop Up Trail and the Mullan Road. Other stops include St. Paul's Episcopal Church, which is on the national register of historic places. The church building was completed in 1879 making it the oldest church in Fort Benton and the oldest Episcopal church in Montana.

Two blocks away is the Chouteau County Courthouse. It was completed with a "laying the last block" party on July 4, 1884 making it the second oldest courthouse still in use in the state. James Willard Schultz described the activity he observed when the Fort Benton fire department attempted to save the original courthouse from being destroyed by fire in 1883. (It burned to the ground and the current one was completed the following year.)

"The department had just got their new pumper, had practiced for endless hours, and the men were itching to put it to use. Everyone soon realized the fire was out of control in spite of commands to pump faster. So they repaired to Keno Bill's saloon to quench their thirst and let 'er burn. Some comments were made that it was strange how the building caught fire, but decided some records naturally had to be destroyed to keep certain fellers out of a heap of trouble."

Also included on the tour of Fort Benton is the Museum of the Upper Missouri with its many dioramas of steamboating and early settlers. There is an early day homesteader cabin display as well as an early day saloon. Another museum to see is the Agriculture Museum of the Northern Great Plains. Featured in this facility are several acres of ag equipment and an early day town.

The featured attraction in the museum is the Hornaday buffalo collection on loan from the Smithsonian. These six buffalo were collected in 1886 from the last of the wild herds between the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers; the same area as the last buffalo hunt of the Blackfeet before they were forced onto the reservation. The lead bull in the group was the model for several coins, the seal for the Department of Interior and the National Park Service. The Department of Interior also maintains a visitor center for the Upper Missouri giving many details of the river. The 149 mile section of river between Fort Benton and the Fred Robinson Bridge is designated as a wild and scenic river.

Every visitor needs to reserve some time to wander through the Old Fort Park, located on the site of the original fort. Some parts of the original adobe walls still exist. Many interpretive signs are in place to take the traveler back in time to the glory days when the fort was the hub of commerce. The fort is being rebuilt to look like it would have in 1850. So far the trade store and storehouse building have been rebuilt.

In 1965 Fort Benton was designated a national historic landmark for its role in national expansion. Historic sites dot the four block length of what was once the Fort Benton levee. Take a leisurely stroll through this area stopping to read the interpretive signs along the way.

**Three State Parks**

A stop in Great Falls is a chance

(Parks continued on page 19)
New Lewis and Clark signs (right) pointed the way to the annual meeting in the Columbia Gorge scenic area. The opening night reception at the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center (left) introduced us to area history.

"Lucy Marks" got us into the right humor at the opening session (left). Barb Kubik (right) told us about rock art, including pictographs, at Horse Thief Lake State Park.
The Sidenquist and Olsen families from Washington represent four generations and descendants of Alexander Willard (above left). They are David (12) and Debbie Sidenquist (34) and Tom (60) and Allee Olsen (86). The Sozzi children from Idaho (above right) visited the skipper aboard the sternwheeler Columbia Gorge.

Young and old (above, left) enjoyed the picnics at the meeting. A motley crew (right) traveled in the past on board the sternwheeler Columbia Gorge, and all saw the ancient rock paintings (left) such as Tsagaglalal at Horse Thief Lake State Park.
Steve Ambrose and Roy Toyama visited at a reception (above). Gary Lentz tended the Touchet Valley Fur Company display (below).

Author Dayton Duncan and film maker Ken Burns explained things to Dee Coons as Darold Jenkins looked on.

New foundation officers (above) are (l to r) Cindy Orlando, vice president; Ludd Trozpek, secretary; Jerry Garret, treasurer; Dave Borlaug, president-elect; Jim Peterson, president.

Some days made your tongue hang out as this participant in the seminar "My Dog Seaman" demonstrates.
for three distinctly different opportunities to enjoy nature while at the same time learn more about local history. Three state parks are located at or very near the city. Each area was key to what we now know as Great Falls.

On the northeast edge of the city is Giant Springs State Park. The giant springs were ‘discovered’ by Captain Clark during the 1805 portage around the falls. The springs are a certified site on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Also included in the park is the Roe River. At 210 feet long it is in the Guinness Book of Records as the world’s shortest river. Heritage State Park, a part of Giant Springs State Park, is the site for the encampment established during the annual Lewis and Clark Festival.

A 12 mile drive brings the visitor to Ulm Pishkun State Park. This pishkun, the largest one in North America, had three distinct eras of impact on the Great Falls area. During the prehorse days several Indian tribes used it for their food gathering. Being unable to effectively kill the large beasts any other way, they simply drove them over the cliff’s edge to their death. Between 1889 and 1905 the sandstone cliffs were quarried with the rock being used in Great Falls and Helena for building purposes. Then during the 1930s and 1940s the area was the site of commercial bone mining. The bone that was mined was used for cattle supplement and for fertilizer.

This park is currently the subject of great excitement and activity. It has grown in size from its original 170 acres to now be near 2840 acres. When archaeological field work revealed the more extensive size of the pishkun the acres were added to preserve the entire site and to provide room for a visitors center due for completion in 1999.

The third state park is located 30 miles southeast in the foothills of the Belt Mountains, a branch of the Rockies. Sluice Boxes State Park gets its name from the limestone cliffs that squeeze Belt Creek into a 1.5 mile narrow gorge with chutes and drops that resemble the sluice boxes used by early day miners. This is the third largest of the state parks covering 1500 acres and 14 miles long. Belt Creek runs the length of it.

The park is primitive and a naturalist’s paradise. Almost any plant that grows east of the Continental Divide can be found here. Miners looking for gold, silver, lead and coal built a narrow gauge railroad through this area. Evidence of the railroad can be seen today. The original bed is the trail through the park. There are places where stone masons built walls into the limestone cliffs with such precision that no mortar was needed still stand today.

Ages ago, the ghost town Albright is in the park. Two of the 30 foot smelter smokestacks, several buildings and foundations and some of the flumes built to bring water to run the sawmill all can be found at Albright.

Great Falls

The Great Falls area is very rich in Lewis and Clark history because the expedition spent a month in the area portaging around the falls. Their history includes six certified sites on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. These sites are the Great Falls, Rainbow and Crooked Falls Overlook, Sulphur Springs, Giant Springs, West Bank Park (where the grizzly chased Captain / Lewis into the river), and the Explorers at the Portage statue by Bob Scrivan.

The expedition had several campsites in the area including Upper and Lower Portage Camps (Lower Portage Camp is the site of an ongoing archaeological dig to scientifically prove the expedition’s exact location), Canoe Camp and Willow Run Camp on the portage. While in Great Falls be sure to see other attractions such as the C.M. Russell Museum, Cascade County Historical Museum, Mehmke Steam Museum, and a number of outdoor statues around town. Gibson Park houses a Statue of Liberty, John Mullan obelisk, and the founder of Great Falls-Paris Gibson. Two statues of Charlie Russell and a statue of Christopher Columbus can be discovered elsewhere in the city. Fort Mountain

Called “Rattler Butte” by the Blackfeet, then named “Fort Mountain” by Captain Lewis, this unique butte some 20 miles southwest of Great Falls has been known as Square Butte for the last century. This butte lies close by the Old North Trail, a migration route of those early day travelers who crossed from Asia to Alaska and points farther south during the Ice Ages 11,000 years ago. Square Butte was probably a navigational landmark in those early times.

Captain Lewis recognized Fort Mountain when he passed over the Continental Divide via Lewis and Clark Pass on the expedition’s return from the Pacific in July of 1806 while he was still 50 miles away. Even today many area residents get the feeling of “being home” when they sight Square Butte. Charlie Russell was very fond of this butte and put it in at least 12 of his paintings. Fort Mountain in geological terms is called a “laccolith.” It was formed some 50 million years ago when molten lava squirted between layers of softer sedimentary rock (this area was a large lake or sea originally). As the lava cooled it swelled, pushing the rock and earth hundreds of feet into the air. Over millions of years the sedimentary rock eroded away leaving the exposed lava. The base of the lava rock is “shonkinite.” It differs from basalt because it has potassium in it. Radiating from the butte are long dikes of lava rock. These are the conduits the lava ran down to (Fort Mountain continued on page 31)
In the author's last article in *We Proceeded On* (November 1996) he discussed the Columbia River Gorge. He discussed how the outpourings of lava upon the Columbia Plateau had contributed to the formation of its ramparts, how the great Missoula floods tore the hard basalt rock from the walls of the gorge, how the great runout slide had dammed the river and left in its passing the Cascades of the Columbia. The article discussed a few of the special places within the gorge, the lesser, yet unique side gorge of Oenonta, and the sunken forest that intrigued Lewis and Clark. Those attending the 29th annual meeting had the privilege of spending several days in one of the most beautiful river gorges in the world. Through their memories of this gorge will always run the quiet Columbia River, more a lake today, than the mighty, turbulent river of years gone by. It is hard to look at this river and understand what we have done to it. The destruction of the wilderness of this great river has given us who live in the Northwest a great bounty in our high standard of living. Yet we have paid an awful price for that bounty. Many today are saying that price was too high.

The original song of Washington state is “Roll on Columbia” written by the late Woody Guthrie Sr. There is a good reason for the selection of this song. The Columbia drains three-quarters of the state. It is the heart and soul of the state of Washington.

Anyone who has studied Lewis and Clark knows that the Columbia River is the Great River. In 1792, Captain Robert Gray became the first non-Indian to realize he had found the river. Jefferson directed that the Corps of Volunteers for Northwest Discovery (Lewis and Clark Expedition) was to ascend the Missouri, cross whatever divide there might be, and find the westward flowing waters that must drain into the Columbia.

Looking at the Columbia River today it is hard for people to understand that it is a mere ghost of the river it once was. Statistically the Columbia is an “also ran” among the great rivers of the world yet it is one of the most powerful of rivers. Thirteen mighty dams harness the rapid fall of the Columbia from an elevation of 2,700 feet through its length of 1,214 miles. It is the third longest river in North America. Together with the many dams on the tributaries of this river the Columbia River system produces one-third of the hydropower of the United States. It has given the Pacific Northwest a high standard of living and the jobs from many electric intensive industries. The dams have created an important inland waterway. But again, at what price?

The Columbia River drains a compact block of a drainage basin and seems intent on visiting nearly every corner of that basin on its way to the sea. The headwaters of the Columbia River are in southeastern British Columbia near a place called Canal Flats. It flows north west 190 miles picking up water from the great ice fields of the Canadian Rockies. The river passes through Mica Dam and turns back on itself to the south/southeast some 270 miles to the Canadian/United States border, passing through Hugh Keenleyside Dam. Fifty miles north of the border the Kootenai River enters the Columbia.

The Kootenai is a considerable river running south when it passes Canal Flats on its way to Libby Dam in Montana. Like the Columbia the Kootenai turns back on itself before returning to Canada by way of the Idaho panhandle. It crosses the border and runs northwest to its confluence with the Columbia.

At the border the Columbia is joined by the Pend Oreille (pronounced pond'-o-ray). Though far from the Lewis and Clark Trail, there is a link here. On July 3, 1806, Lewis took his small group of men up the Bitterroot River (they had called it the Flathead, Sept. 9, 1805) a few miles to a crossing of the river it joined. Lewis named this river Clarks Fork. His party proceeded to raft their equipment across this rushing stream, soaking the time piece and scientific instruments in the process. The Clark Fork drains northwest around the north end of the Bitterroot Mountains to Lake Pend Oreille which is connected to the Columbia by the Pend Oreille River. It is the ancient Clark Fork which was dammed so many times by the south moving
glaciers of the great ice ages. Again and again water, accumulated over hundreds of years, suddenly released across the Columbia Plateau to tear at the walls of the Columbia River Gorge on its way to the sea.

The Columbia continues south from the international border passing the drowned site of Kettle Falls. Lewis speculated upon the existence of such a falls in his journal entry for September 9, 1805. "...the stream appears navigable, but from the circumstance of their being no sammon in it I believe that there must be a considerable fall in it below."

The Columbia meets the Spokane River and turns west along the northern edge of the Columbia Plateau headed for Grand Coulee Dam. It was here at the site of the dam that the glaciers of the Ice Age once forced the river south to cut the Grand Coulee from the hard basalt and dive over the awesome falls (Dry Falls) to the south, once as large as 40 Niagars.

Grand Coulee Dam is awesome against an awesome landscape. It provides electricity as well as irrigation water for the orchards and crop lands of central Washington.

The river continues west to Chief Joseph Dam. It is a lonely place where this dam is thrown across the mighty river. More a feeling than a sound, the mighty generators cause the very air to tremble and yet there is only the sound of the restless wind playing in the curing dry grass on the hillsides. In this stretch the Sanpoil and Okanogan Rivers find their way to the Columbia from the land of Chief Joseph's exile.

The river turns south along the western limit of the Columbia Basin. During the next 150 miles the river passes through the generator of the Wells, Rocky Reach, Rock Island, Wanapum, and Priest Rapids Dams. Major tributaries include the Stehekin, the Entiat, and the Wenatchee Rivers. The river continues its journey with hardly a notice. No longer confined by the dams, the river runs free for nearly 60 miles making a great bend around the Hanford Atomic Energy Site collecting the Yakima River (Tapetett, October 17, 1805) at the tri-cities of Hanford, Kennewick, and Pasco just above its meeting with the Snake River.

Here again we find the story of Lewis and Clark. The Snake (Kimooenim to the Indians) is the river Clark named for Lewis (August 21, 1805). The Snake River rises above Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and runs through southern Idaho to the Oregon border where it enters Hells Canyon, headed north to Washington state and its confluence with the Columbia. The Snake is harnessed by several dams along the way.

The expedition reached this confluence October 16, 1805, where they were met by the chiefs and people of the Yakama Nation (official tribal spelling). "...after we built our fires of what wood we could collect, & get from the Indians, the chief brought down all his men singing and dancing as they came, formed a ring and danced for some time around us...."

The Columbia River continues southeast a short distance picking up the waters of the Walla Walla River before turning southwest to enter the formidable ramparts of the Wallula Gap. From here the river runs west and southwest 300 miles to the city of Vancouver, Washington. It begins this run through barren hills where little more than grass grows. This grass is special (Lewis and Clark journal entries April 25, 1806). "...it astonished me to see the order of their horses at this season of the year when I knew that they had wintered on the drygrass of the plains..." The grass cures in its standing position and provides nutrition for the animals that graze on it all winter. No wonder they call this land the Horse Heaven Hills.

As the river continues west it passes from one reservoir to the next running through the McNary, John Day, Dalles and Bonneville Dams. Lewis and Clark reported natives living all along the northern banks of the river subsisting on roots and the abundant salmon. They were the many bands of the Upper Chinook and they controlled the river deciding who fished the turbulent waters, who could trade for the salmon, and who could pass up or down the river.

There are many major rivers that drain into the Columbia from both sides along this stretch. From the Oregon side come the Umatail, the John Day (River de Page, October 21, 1805), the Deschutes (Towannahooks, October 22, 1805), the Hood River (River Labiche, October 29, 1805), and the Sandy (Quicksand, November 3, 1805), the White Salmon (Canoe Creek, October 29, 1805), Little White Salmon, the Wind (New Timbered River, later renamed Crusats River, October 30, 1805), and the Washougal (Seal River, November 3, 1805).

Much has been lost along this stretch of the river since the construction of the large dams. Celilo Falls (October 22, 1805), the Short Narrows (October 24, 1805), the Long Narrows and the Big Eddy (October 25, 1805). The once mighty Cascades of the Columbia (October 30, 1805) are now drowned behind Bonneville Dam.

One can taste the majestic violence of this wild river from the writings of our explorers. "...here I beheld an emerce body of water compressed in a narrow channel of about 200 yds in width, forning over rocks maney of which presented their tops above the water...." (Clark, Oct. 22, 1805)

"...and confined the river in a narrow channel of about 45 yards.

(Columbia continued on page 28)
Question: How many plants and animals did Lewis and Clark name on their 1803-1806 trip west?

Answer: At least 412. Make that name and rename. Many already were identified in the local tongue.

—L.M. Boyd's Trivia column
Great Falls (MT) Tribune

'Lewis and Clark' Plays White House

President Clinton hosted a special event at the White House on the evening of November 10 for the showing of "Lewis & Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery." Ken Burns, the producer, narrated 55 minutes of highlights from the PBS series.

The reception for more than 190 invited guests included the musicians who played in the film, historian Stephen Ambrose, actors Adam Arkin (the voice of Meriwether Lewis), Sam Waterston (the voice of Thomas Jefferson) and Matthew Broderick (Sgt. John Ordway). Foundation members in attendance included Jim Peterson (foundation president), Dave Borlaug (president-elect), Cindy Orlando (vice president), Barb and Harland Opdahl, Larry and Bonnie Cook and their 13-year-old daughter Kyle, Moira Ambrose, Dayton and Dianne Duncan, Dr. Edward Carter II (American Philosophical Society), Gary and Faye Moulton and Jim and Jean Ronda. Dale Gorman, president of Fund, Inc., the money raising board for the new Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, was also in attendance.

Clinton called the members of the expedition the forbears of those who created the international space station and scientists studying the mysteries of human genetics and researching global climate change. The president also noted the approaching millennium, saying the United States will welcome the next century "by highlighting American creativity and innovation and our insatiable desire to explore, as we are doing here tonight."

He also paid special homage to the cooperation Burns' film portrayed.

"In this town especially, we could all stand to remember that we could all be a little more noble, a little more full of energy, a little more charitable, a little more humble," he said.

—Washington Post
Great Falls (MT) Tribune

Duty Bound: Scouts Clean up Lewis and Clark Site

More than a dozen members of a Boy Scout troop from Edwardsville, Illinois, along with six adult troop leaders battled mosquitoes, mud and rocky cliffs to the shore of the Mississippi River to clean up the Lewis and Clark State Historic Site where the expedition spent the winter of 1803-04.

Often referred to as Site #1, it overlooks the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and marks the physical starting point for the Corps of Discovery's expedition to the Pacific Ocean and back.

Dedicated in 1981, the park has had its problems over the years with floods and vandalism. But, Scoutmaster Bill Dust said his troop intended to change that. "We had another project lined up, but when we saw the article [in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch] about the park being such a mess, everyone said, 'Why not do it?' I brought 60 trashbags, and I hope to fill them all."

Andrew Keller, 17, has been a scout since he was six. He said scooping up fishing line, old boots, cigarette butts, bottles and paper cups didn't bother him at all. "This is pretty cool. I'm not doing this for any reason except to help the environment. I want to do what I can."

—St. Louis (MO) Post Dispatch

Updating History: Lewis and Clark Boat Motorized

Glen Bishop is on the water again. The St. Charles, Missouri, builder of Lewis and Clark boats finished his replica of one of the expedition's pirogues, put a 50 horsepower motor on it and took it on its maiden voyage from a dock on the Mississippi River north of St. Charles to Frontier Park on the Missouri River in St. Charles. On board, in addition to 12 people, was Lady, Bishop's massive black dog, which served as a replica for Seaman, the expedition's Newfoundland.

"It's faster than the other one," Bishop said. The other one was a replica of Lewis and Clark's 55-foot keelboat which was destroyed by an electrical fire at a warehouse in early 1997. The pirogue is a 39-foot, flat-bottomed, canoe-shaped boat made of Missouri
white oak and Walnut.

Bishop is planning to rebuild the keelboat which will be used for the bicentennial of the expedition in 2003-2006.

—St. Louis Post Dispatch

BLM Considering Fort Benton Visitor Center

The Bureau of Land Management is weighing plans for a new $1.8 million visitor center in Fort Benton. The center would be part of the agency's efforts to work on projects related to the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Tentative plans call for a 7,500 square-foot center, substantially smaller than an $18 million, 36,000 square-foot center proposed by the agency about five years ago.

—I could put together a whole issue of WPO filled with nothing but newspaper and magazine articles about Ken Burns' documentary film on Lewis and Clark and "Undaunted Courage," the Steve Ambrose book on Meriwether Lewis, but I don't think I will do that. I will mention that at the preview showing of the Burns film, the Portage Route Chapter's Honor Guard netted about $8,000 after expenses to help cover costs of their annual festival. I imagine most of the communities along the trail that viewed the film probably made similar amounts of money. One wonderful result of the State of Montana's $150,000 underwrite of the film is that Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan have donated 300 copies of the documentary to Montana schools.

Tracking Historic Plants

Wayne Phillips has a unique way of introducing audiences to Meriwether Lewis the botanist. The long-time ecologist, range conservationist and forester with the U.S. Forest Service tells them about Lewis getting shot "in his backside" by one of his own men while elk hunting on the return trip to St. Louis.

"Lewis was shot in the loins and in so much pain he couldn't sit down," Phillips says. The next day he rejoined William Clark. Before turning over the journal-writing duties to Clark for the rest of the trip, he wrote one last entry. It was a detailed two-page description of the pin cherry.

Most people think of Lewis and Clark as great explorers. Phillips, the president of the Montana Native Plant Society, sees their expedition as a voyage of botanical discovery. The expedition's journals mention 260 plants in 67 families, ranging from lichens to the gigantic pines of the Pacific Northwest. More than 70 of the plants were new to science at the time.

Sporadically, for the last five years, Phillips has been collecting all of the plant specimens mentioned in the journals. He has gotten less than half way to his goal.

He plans to turn over his collection of plant specimens to the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls. At the interpretive center, landscaping will form a living link to the past. Native plant species will surround the center. Most of the plants were grown from seed collected at the site by Phillips and others.

"Genetically, some of these plants are the same ones Lewis and Clark saw when they came through here," Phillips says.

Weber Has Ambitious Goals for New Interpretive Center

Jane Weber is balancing short-, mid- and long-term goals as director of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center/foundation headquarters in Great Falls, Montana. These goals range from getting the building up and running with a good staff to planning for a slam bang grand opening July 4th to offering a wide variety of programs to sustain interest in the center for years to come.

Although Weber has learned a great deal about Lewis and Clark in the nine years she has been working on the center, she insists she is "no scholar" on the explorers. To make sure she gets the details right on the text, art and reproduced objects in the exhibits she has sent review copies of the different texts and materials to experts around Montana and the nation on different facets of Lewis and Clark and the Indian tribes and geography they encountered.

Besides making sure the building and exhibits are done right, Weber is dealing with many short-term administrative goals.

They include hiring a qualified staff, "creating a strong framework of relations" between the Forest Service and volunteer Lewis and Clark groups and completing a business plan.

Of most interest to the public may be the fees charged.

Traditionally, the Forest Service doesn't charge building entry fees, but the interpretive center and some other new buildings got the okay to set trial fees to help pay for maintenance and operations.

"We're researching what fees are charged in comparable public and private facilities," Weber says. "We want the fee to be well within what the market will bear."

Long-term Weber hopes to make the interpretive center self-sustaining.

"We want to generate enough visitors to continue to maintain the building and operate high quality interpretive programs without subsidies," she says.
"I'd like to see between 300,000 and 500,000 people come every year. Weber admits that goal is ambitious. "We will give people a reason to return-fresh and new things to see and do," Weber promises.

Some Scholars, Descendants Push Murder Theory in Lewis' Death
The effort to get the National Park Service to allow the opening of the grave of Meriwether Lewis has heated up again as a group of scientists, scholars and Lewis descendants met with NPS officials at the southeast regional office of the Park Service on December 16.

Calling it one of history's most tantalizing riddles, Los Angeles Times reporter J.R. Moehringer says the dispute over whether Lewis committed suicide or was murdered pits two innate perceptions of the American hero (inevitably flawed or irreproachably perfect?) and two deeply held views of America's infancy.

If our first post-Revolutionary celebrity-a national icon who seemed destined for the White House-fell victim to an assassin, rather than depression, then historians may have to recalibrate their original carbon dating of the loss of American innocence.

No longer his own shame, the death of Lewis would be tacked onto the ever growing list of America's collective shames.

Also, Moehringer speculates, if Lewis had been murdered then everyone with a sinister, unorthodox slant on the deaths of John F. Kennedy or Abraham Lincoln or Vince Foster could gain new credibility.

Finally, for the 160 Lewis descendants asking that the remains be exhumed, the dispute is about nothing less than peace of mind, about laying a cherished ancestor to rest.

A sidebar to the article noted that the grave had been dug up 150 years ago. A committee named by the Tennessee legislature wanted to make sure Lewis was truly there in the grave at Grinder's Stand on the Natchez Trace and decided the only way to do so was to dig.

In their report, the committee concluded Lewis probably "died by the hands of an assassin." They left no explanation for this assertion, which maddens and inspires James E. Stairs, forensic scientist at George Washington University and the leader of the crusade to exhume Lewis.

"I want to give voice to Meriwether Lewis," Stairs says, "through his bones." The Park Service turned down his request.

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The Nez Perce Indians and the Opening of the Northwest, by Alvin M. Josephey, Jr., Houghton Mifflin, New York, 1997. 736 pages, illustrations, photos, maps, discussion notes, soft cover, $18.00

A Review by Martin Erickson
The Lewis and Clark Expedition had just struggled across the rugged, snow-covered Bitterroot Mountains on the journey westward in September 1805 when William Clark and his hunters, who were in advance of the main body, met the Nez Perce Indians. On September 20, 1805, about three miles south of the present town of Weippe, Idaho, Clark recorded the entrance of the first known white men, weary, bedraggled, and starving, into the Nez Perces homeland.

The Chopunnish or Pierced Nosed Indians as the expedition members called them, had lived in this central Idaho, southeastern Washington and northwestern Oregon country for perhaps 10,000 years before Lewis and Clark arrived, but the peaceful valleys and rugged mountain area they called home was to be theirs for less than 80 more years before they were driven out by the ever-increasing white men who came from the East.

Alvin Josephey, Jr. tells their story in his engrossing book which was first published in hardcover in 1965. Since that time, because of mounting publishing costs, that large original edition was permitted to go out of print. A severely abridged edition that compressed or eliminated portions of the original text and dropped many of the historical footnotes as well as the illustrations was published. Also dropped was a lengthy section of the discussion notes that
provided detailed information pertaining to explorations, the fur trade, the missionary period and other aspects of the early history of the American Northwest and the Nez Perce Indians. Now, the complete and original version is once again available.

The history of the Nez Perces and their relationship with the white man is truly a case of truth stranger than fiction. The period of 72 years between the time Lewis and Clark first met them until they were driven from their homeland is filled with greed, anger, misunderstandings, frustration, betrayal, deceit and bloodshed on both the white and the Indian side.

Josephy, at the start of Chapter 2 in his book, “Fur Trade Embroilments,” sets the stage for the tragedy when he notes: “The three decades after the departure of Lewis and Clark from the Northwest were important ones for the Nez Perkes. It was the period when the fur trade of the white men swirled around the tribe, when the Nez Perces became armed and enriched with manufactured goods, and when they reached a new position of power and influence, while at the same time becoming enmeshed in forces that would ultimately crush them.”

The forces were the fur traders, the missionaries, the miners, the traders, the military, the settlers, the government and the Nez Perces themselves. The missionaries from Jason Lee to Marcus Whitman and Henry Spaulding were the cause of a split in the tribes that made up the Nez Perces. The split between the Christian Indians and the non-Christian Indians has lasted to this day. The Whitman massacre was a direct result of the high-handed arrogance of the missionaries and their lack of understanding of the way of the Indian.

From that point on the handwriting was on the wall for the Nez Perces. Their lives became filled with constant pressure from the white man. There were broken treaties, broken promises and constant pressure as they were squeezed into a smaller and smaller living area. The Nez Perce leaders wanted to believe the white leaders’ words, but their actions undercut their words. In frustration and anger the Nez Perces struck back and the whites retaliated.

Finally, the pressures were so great that they fled from their homeland and started a 1700-mile journey through Idaho, Wyoming and Montana with the army pursuing them. They defeated the army in battle after battle until on a cold and gray October day in northcentral Montana when Chief Joseph, with a dignity none of the white pursuers were capable of mustering said, “I will fight no more.”

The story of that running battle with the army is known to every school child but the story behind the story is the one that Josephy tells in great depth. If you have the slightest interest in history, this book is for you. To me it read like a novel. It is a story of courage and conscience that I couldn’t put down.

Alfred Josephy, Jr. is a pre-eminent authority and historian of the American West. He is the immediate past president of the Western History Association, the founding chairman of the board of the Smithsonian Institute’s Museum of the American Indian, and the 1995 recipient of the Wallace Stegner Award.


**A Review by Barb Kubik**

*Courageous Colter and Companions* is an obvious “labor of love” by Lillian Ruth Colter-Frick, John Colter’s great-great-great granddaughter. Colter-Frick began her work in 1954 when she wrote to the Minnesota Historical Society seeking information about John Colter, a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

In the four decades between that first letter and *Courageous Colter*, Colter-Frick has traveled many miles along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and retraced Colter’s steps along the eastern slopes of the Rockies. She visited historical societies, court houses and museums across the nation and talked with countless genealogists and descendants to learn all she can about this remarkable member of the expedition. Her biography of John Colter and his companions is a reflection of the depth of her hard work and her dedicated research.

The strength of Colter-Frick’s biography is in the reprinting of countless rare legal documents, court records and letters by, about and for John Colter. Researchers and expedition aficionados alike will appreciate the author’s inclusion of these transcribed records. The book’s other strengths are the author’s pride in her great-great-great grandfather and his accomplishments and her personalized approach to the story of John Colter and his “companions.”

Colter-Frick’s bibliography is extensive and detailed, but her format is awkward to use. Her publisher should have made sure the format for this important part of the book was one of the standard formats used by all scholarly works. Researchers will be pleased with the 1,120 endnotes found in *Courageous Colter* and the 80-page index.

Ruth Colter-Frick’s biography, *Courageous Colter and Companions*, fills in a gap in our shelf of biographies of one of the expedition’s most important
Recreating the Missouri River
A Fitting Salute to Lewis and Clark

by Hugh Ambrose
from the November 2, 1997 Great Falls Tribune

When Lewis and Clark came up the Missouri River in 1804, they bore witness to some of nature’s greatest scenes. Immense herds of buffalo, elk and antelope were seen “feeding in one common and boundless pasture.” Deer were as plentiful as “hogs about a farm” and, Clark wrote, left more tracks than chickens in a barnyard.

On July 4, Lewis and Clark hosted the first celebration of American independence west of the Mississippi River among “copes of trees spreading their lofty branches” over pools, springs and brooks. “Groops of Shrubs covered with the most delicious froot is to be seen in every direction.”

In August, Lewis described a blanket of white coming down the Missouri—a flock of white pelicans 500 yards wide and seven miles long. His journals recorded dozens of species previously unknown to science, ranging from the least tern to the prairie dog.

Sadly, most of what Lewis and Clark saw, we cannot. Nearly 200 years after their voyage of discovery, Lewis and Clark would hardly recognize the Missouri River. Today, white pelicans are rarely seen on the lower Missouri, and the least tern is considered endangered by state and federal experts. The campsite where Lewis and Clark celebrated the first Independence Day west of the Mississippi is now a cultivated field, farmed to the river’s edge.

As the nation prepares to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lewis and Clark’s voyage of discovery, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to restore the Missouri River and revitalize the economic health of riverside communities. While we cannot restore the river Lewis and Clark knew, we can repair much of it. We can create a Missouri River Lewis and Clark would recognize.

As cities and farms developed along the original highway west, federal dams and channels were constructed to support commercial navigation and reduce flooding. Though these public works projects created much-needed jobs during the depression, they also dramatically altered the nation’s longest river, eliminating the natural meanders and oxbows that once supported one of the world’s most bountiful natural resources. River engineers reduced the average width of the river by two-thirds, replacing the Big Muddy’s meandering, braided channels with a shorter, “stabilized” navigation canal.

Nearly all of the river’s islands and sandbars were lost. Even along the last wild remnants of the Missouri in Montana, cottonwood seedlings and other important streamside habitats for wildlife are trampled by uncontrolled grazing. As these critical nurseries for wildlife were lost, one-fifth of the species native to the Missouri have joined the growing ranks of endangered and threatened species.

(Recreating the Missouri continued on page 30)

COLTER
Cont. from p. 25

enlisted men, John Colter. The biographical sketches about Colter’s companions on the expedition and in the Missouri River fur trade are informative and reflective in their connection to Colter.

If I were to fault the book, it would be in the lack of maps related to Colter’s travels throughout the West. The records of Colter’s travels in present-day northwestern Wyoming, the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone National Park remain unclear and confusing. It would be helpful to hear how a member of Colter’s own family has unraveled the tangled trail.

Colter-Frick includes a number of lengthy legal documents and court records filled with complex early 19th-century legal phrases unfamiliar to many readers. Some readers may wonder at the purpose of some of these documents, such as the “bond” transcribed on pages 148-150, signed by Daniel Richardson, John Murrow and James Brown.

Courageous Colter and Companions will add to any reader’s understanding of and appreciation of the role of the enlisted men in the expedition. Colter’s story is a reflection of the story of many of the men of the expedition—of their land warrants, their marriages and their lives after the Lewis and Clark Expedition returned to St. Louis in 1806.
Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center Reaches 20,000 Visitors at the End of November

The Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in Washburn, North Dakota has exceeded 20,000 visitors since opening the first of June. The actual count was 21,057 at the end of November.

“We have had visitors from all 50 states, 11 Canadian Provinces and 29 countries. It has been a very exciting first season,” said Christie Friese, director of the center. Foreign visitors came from all over, some as far as China and Japan, most from Germany.

The center had the pleasure of hosting a premier showing of “Lewis & Clark, Corps of Discovery,” a PBS special by director Ken Burns. Burns and authors Stephen Ambrose and Dayton Duncan were at the center October 20 to celebrate Fort Mandan’s 25th year. They were also in Bismarck that evening for the sneak preview and a book signing.

David Borlaug, chairman of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Foundation, expects visitation to Lewis and Clark sites across the nation should continue to grow as the bicentennial approaches in 2003. “With the opening of the Lewis & Clark Center in Great Falls, Montana next summer, even more visitors will be passing through North Dakota following the trail.”

The Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center is open daily 9-5 p.m., featuring a gift shop with the largest selection of Lewis & Clark books and gifts in the region. The center is located at the corner of Hwy. 83 and 200A. “It is exciting to be a North Dakota tourist attraction and be open all year,” Friese exclaimed.

Currently on display in the Bergquist Art Gallery of the center is a small art collection of the late Henry Lorentzen, a Washburn artist. Also the children from Washburn Elementary did a project in art interpretation translating Clark’s journal entry for Christmas day 1804 into pictures. The younger children made historic ornaments for the Christmas tree at the center.

For more information contact Director Christie Friese at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, Box 607, Washburn, ND 58577, 701-462-8535.

North Dakota Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Foundation

One of the great milestones in our nation’s history played out in North Dakota-the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1803-1806.

The North Dakota Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Foundation, a 501 (x) (3) non-profit organization, was formed to guarantee that our special place in history is remembered and showcased for the world to see.

With that in mind, the foundation embarked on an ambitious "charter membership" campaign to raise the beginning operational funding. Between June 1996 and July 1997, the foundation has raised $300,000.

To ensure our ability to showcase the incredible story of Lewis and Clark, the North Dakota Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Foundation is launching its first annual campaign. We invite you to join in support of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery Campaign. With your help and contributions the center will continue to educate and inform the public on the accomplishments of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Your contributions will help fund educators’ guides, school tour programs, art exhibits and continued capital improvements. Visitors will come with curiosity and questions...and carry away a clearer, more complete understanding of the expedition.

Become a member of the foundation. It is only with the help of our membership that we can continue telling the story. We encourage you to join our campaign today and support our vital work. You can play a critical role in our continued success. Your contribution can be made in one payment, quarterly or semiannually.

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The North Dakota Lewis & Clark Foundation will keep track of all your gifts between now and the year 2003. All donors whose gifts total $2,003 in annual membership gifts will become Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery members.

Please join us in an exciting partnership that promotes an appreciation for North Dakota’s rich history.

North Dakota Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Foundation
P.O. Box 607 • Highway 83 and 200A • Washburn, ND 58577
701-462-8535
this continued for about 1/4 of a mile & widened to about 200 yards, in those narrows the water was agitated in a most shocking manner boils swells & whirlpools, we passed with great risque..." (Clark, Oct. 24, 1805) "The first pitch of this falls is 20 feet perpendicular, then passing thro' a narrow channel for 1 mile to a rapid of about 8 feet fall below which the water has no perceptable fall but very rapid..." (Clark, Oct. 24, 1805) "...here a tremendous black rock Presented itself high and Steep appearing to choke up the river; nor could I See where the water passed further than the current was drawn with great velocity to the Lard Side of this rock at which place I heard a great roaring... The whole of the Current of this great river must at all Stages pass thro' this narrow channel of 45 yards wide." (Clark, Oct. 24, 1805) "...3 miles thro' a narrow swift bad channel from 50 to 100 yards wide, of swells whirls & bad places a very bad place at 1 mile, a rock in the middle at 2 miles to a rock, above a Deep bason..." (Clark, Oct. 25, 1805).

This stretch of the river begins as a dry land of grass and ends in rich evergreen forests in the Columbia River Gorge. For most of this run the river travels deep in the earth between the high cliffs it has carved over time. The river leaves Bonneville Dam free again, but as it passes Beacon Rock (Clark, October 31, 1805), it begins to show the effect of the tides. The river leaves the gorge and crosses the Willamette Valley to where it is joined by the Willamette River near Vancouver, Washington. This is the river (Multnomah) which eluded Clark in 1805 (see Clark, April 2, 1806).

The Columbia now turns and runs some 40 miles north collecting the Lewis River (Cathlapotle, November 5, 1805), named for a local pioneer and not our intrepid explorer. Here it was that Clark recorded with some detail the only known Chinook river village to have survived abandonment, flooding, and the pursuit of pot hunters. The Columbia collects the Cowlitz River (Cow liskee, Clark, November 6, 1805), water that has come from the glaciers on the eastern slopes of Mt. Rainier. It turns west, headed finally for the sea. The river is over a mile wide here and expands to 16 miles just short of the mouth, 50 miles away. As our explorers reached this point (Harrington Point) and looked west across this wide embayment of the river, they saw what they had come for: "Great joy in camp we are in view of the Ocean...." (November 8, 1805).

The Columbia River has an average annual discharge of 180,000,000 acre feet. In a wet year with heavy snowfall that figure can grow by four or five fold. Enough water can be pumped from a river of that size to literally irrigate empires. Crops absorb much of the water and more still evaporates. However, large amounts of this water eventually run off the land and return to the river. Despite recent improvements by our farmers, the runoff carries top soil, insecticides and fertilizer residue into the river. Logging, development, runoff from streets and parking lots, sewage treatment plants, storm drains, etc. all add to the problem. If the Columbia were free to sluice these materials from its bed, it might be a different picture, but as it is the material stagnates behind the dams. The sediments fall out, filling the reservoirs with polluted mud laden with poisons and heavy metals. The chemicals and organic material that have run off the land build up in the reservoirs feeding the green algae and other microscopic growth. The calm waters are warmed by the sunshine and their passage through turbines. This warmer water increases the growth of the green soup.

In his journal entry for October 17, 1805, Clark, on the waters of the Columbia and headed north to view the confluence of the Yakima River, observed, "The Waters of this river is Clear, and a Salmon may be Seen at the deabth of 15 or 20 feet." The Columbia has always been a rock cutting river. Until the advent of agriculture it did not carry a burden of dirt like the Missouri or the Mississippi. Its waters were crystal clear as Clark attests. They were cold and swift allowing the Salmon an inviting and healthful passage to their clean, gravel spawning beds in the many tributaries of the Columbia.

Today the river is warm, It is thick with green where it is not brown from the top soil of our land. It no longer churns and tears at the bed rock. It lies quietly in a long succession of manmade lakes where there is so little current that the salmon young lose their way in their journey downstream. Runoff from logging and agriculture have buried the once pristine spawning beds in thick layers of mud and polluted ooze.

Once the river ran full of fish three seasons of the year. The great runs of salmon are now a thing of the past. The white water, some of the most spectacular in the world, is gone now. The Indian fishing grounds are gone, the Indian dispersed across the land.

In the Pacific Northwest our rivers are full of dams. While there are those who want to build a dam to harness that last free section of the Columbia River above the tri-cities, there are many more who want to tear dams down. There is (Roll on Columbia continued on page 30)
North Dakota Benefactor Helps Lewis and Clark Center

Before the North Dakota Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center opened its doors in Washburn, North Dakota this past summer, Alvera Bergquist of Bismarck made possible an art gallery in the facility with a gift of $65,000. The first showing in that gallery was a set of prints from the Karl Bodmer collection at the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha. The pieces were all from sketches made at Fort Clark, on the Missouri River, located just a few miles from the center. The Bodmer art was of particular interest to the center, since the prints depicted the same tribes that Lewis and Clark encountered during their winter at Fort Mandan.

After the center opened, it was discovered that one complete set of the 81 Bodmer “reprints” was still available on the market. While the purchase price of nearly $75,000 seemed daunting to the North Dakota Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Foundation, which maintains the center, a quiet effort was conducted to find a donor. Not long into this process, Alvera Bergquist stepped forward again, and with an additional cash gift of $75,000, made possible this incredible addition to the center’s permanent collection. The North Dakota facility is one of four galleries in the world to have purchased one of these complete sets.

Now, throughout the year, visitors will find a portion of that collection on display. Since the gallery cannot accommodate all 81 prints, they are being rotated, on a thematic basis. During the fall season, a series of prints sketched at Fort Union, and into Montana, including the “white cliffs” area, was on display.

Plans are to continue showing the prints, as well as making them available to other, more distant galleries, for display, according to the center’s director, Kristie Frieze.

“Long-term, our goal is to enlarge the size of our gallery, so that all of the prints can be displayed at one time. Until that

(Benefactor continued on page 30)
RECREATING THE MISSOURI
Cont. from p. 26

Many species have fallen to less than 10 percent of their historic population levels. Commercial fisheries which once supported hundreds of jobs have been eliminated and recreation-dependent businesses between Sioux City and St. Louis struggle to survive.

Sadly, riverside communities have gotten little in return. Once expected to carry 20 million tons of cargo annually, barge traffic on the Missouri peaked at 3.3 million tons in 1977 and now carries 1.5 million tons per year. By contrast, barge traffic on the Upper Mississippi River increased from 27 million tons to 93 million tons during the same period.

Today, just one-tenth of one percent of the grain grown in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska is shipped by Missouri River barge. Even though the river is managed primarily to support navigation, businesses which depend upon recreation and tourism produce five times as many economic benefits for riverside communities and, unlike navigation, are expected to grow.

In the next few years, millions of people will retrace Lewis and Clark's steps. Today, we can only imagine what Lewis and Clark saw. But, if we begin now, we can recreate a Missouri River that will attract recreation and tourism, revitalize our urban riverfronts, and improve the quality of life of riverside communities. To restore a handful of places-with deer grazing on the banks, ducks and geese raising their young in backwaters, eddies and twists and turns for canoeists-would be the finest possible tribute to the men of Lewis & Clark Expedition and a priceless gift for our children.

Hugh Ambrose of Helena, is the son of Lewis and Clark historian Stephen Ambrose.

BENEFACTOR
Cont. from p. 29

happens, we will show as many as we can at a time, and make them available for others as well," says Friese.

While the North Dakota Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center has benefited greatly from Bergquist's generosity, her commitment has not ended. In addition to the cash gifts, she has ensured that the foundation is a significant recipient of her estate. Also, she has spent time volunteering at the center, especially working with school children and other groups coming to see the Bodmer Collection. Now retired, she spent her entire career teaching elementary students, and has maintained a lifelong interest in art which all came together for her with these gifts.

For more information on the center in Washburn, contact Kristie Friese, or for information on foundation membership or donations, contact Development Director Dana Bischke, at P.O. Box 607, Washburn, ND 58577; telephone 701-462-8535.

ROLL ON COLUMBIA
Cont. from p. 28

serious discussion of removing dams in the Olympic Peninsula of Washington state and on the White Salmon River in the Columbia River Gorge. A recent commission exploring how to preserve the salmon runs on the Snake River seriously recommended removal of the four dams on the lower Snake River. It is a strange phenomenon to hear people in the Northwest talk of tearing down such massive dams.

Perhaps we have finally come to appreciate the river that Lewis and Clark once traveled.

The Columbia River remains a thing of majestic beauty along its entire length, nowhere more so than in its magnificent gorge through the Cascade Mountains. The river has afforded this author a lifetime of beautiful vistas and peaceful memories. It is a sorrow to reflect that the Columbia is a dying river, suffocating in the stranglehold of progress. That dying is a realization that is only too clear when one walks along its banks or looks into its waters.

It is good to appreciate the remaining beauty of this great river, but it is important to remember that not so long ago she was a wild river with a beauty unimaginable.

AWARDS
Cont. from p. 10

sition, art, drama, photography, site preservation and enhancement, or other significant contributions.

The Distinguished Service Award may only be presented to a member of the foundation.

Nominations should include, in addition to names, sufficient background data to assist the Awards Committee in its selection process and should be sent to: S.E. Knapp, Chairman Awards Committee, 1317 S. Black, Bozeman, MT 59715. Nominations for the Youth Achievement Award will subsequently be forwarded to the chairman of the Young Adults Activity Committee. All nominations must be submitted by April 20, 1998.

CLASSIFIED
LEWIS & CLARK IN THE THREE RIVERS VALLEYS. a compilation of the known diaries of the expedition and more, journey from Dearborn River to Lemhi Pass together with maps showing campsites and current locations. Donald F. Nell and Dr. John E. Taylor, co-authors. $23.40 postpaid. Headwaters Chapter, Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc., Box 577, Bozeman, MT 59715.
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Cont. from p. 3

foundation's annual meeting to stay on for a day or two and enjoy the variety of festival activities planned. Incidentally, the establishment and growth of the festival exemplifies the previously noted burgeoning growth of interest in Lewis & Clark.

Finally, for those interested in an environmentally-oriented look at the Lewis & Clark Expedition, consider reading Daniel B. Botkin's Our Natural History. The Lessons of Lewis & Clark. (Perigee Books, The Berley Publishing Group) I believe you will find it of substantial interest.

EDITOR'S DESK
Cont. from p. 3

clearly define the route followed by those intrepid explorers. A family farm in the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana is in the news now as the site of a major Lewis and Clark site. More on this in May's WPO.

Bookings for float trips through the White Cliffs area of north central Montana are rapidly filling. In a recent telephone conversation guide Larry Cook noted that he is booking for 1999. 1998 is all filled up.

The off-the-beaten path North Dakota Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center has had over 21,000 visitors in the six months since it opened its doors. Sites all along the Lewis & Clark Trail report increased traffic.

Inquiries on foundation membership and requests for information never cease coming in. It is really something else. I, for one, couldn't be more pleased.

FORT MOUNTAIN
Cont. from p. 19

form the butte. The butte itself is nine hundred feet tall.

This butte is one of several of these laccoliths that can be found in this area. This area is one of only a few places on earth this particular geological formation can be found. Shaw Butte (another nearby laccolith) which is actually larger than Square Butte has more sedimentary coverings so it looks smaller. Shaw Butte is still evolving geologically.

Several attempts were made during the early part of the century to either use the land on top of the butte or to use the rock that actually make up the butte, but all efforts ended in failure were vetoed by area residents and land owners. Today it is used for very limited cattle pasture. Because of its nearly vertical hard rock walls Fort Mountain is all but inaccessible. It remains today almost exactly as the Lewis and Clark Expedition saw it 200 years ago.

SUMMARY

The history of Lewis and Clark and later development is preserved in this section of the expedition's journey in several ways. Actual artifacts are on exhibit as well reconstruction of replicas. Art is used to capture in bronze and on canvas how it used to be. Photograpy of then and now records the changes and illustrates how much things have stayed the same.

The section of the river from the mouth of the Marias to the Gates of the Mountains has another unique feature that helps assure its place in history. Thirteen animals and one plant new to science were first identified by the expedition during their travels through this area. The cutthroat trout, identified at the great falls of the Missouri is Montana's state fish while the western meadowlark, first seen south of Great Falls, is the state bird.

Guided tours, living history and interpretive signage are used to help take the visitor back in time to the days of our forefathers as they carved a living out of this harsh, unforgiving land. Risks were great, failure was frequent, but for those who succeeded profits were high.

WHITE HOUSE
Cont. from p. 12

Cindy Orlando, foundation vice president and superintendent of Fort Clatsop National Memorial, provided the picture and this anecdote:

On my way to the airport to go to the nation's capital I received a call on my cell phone saying the White House had requested Fort Clatsop to provide two park rangers in buckskin and to bring living history items for a display during the Ken Burns' evening. The arrangement to get the two rangers and their living history display together and on their way took only 24 hours. Park rangers Curt Johnson and Matt Hensley were the lucky ones who journeyed to Washington, D.C.

They went into the White House in mid-afternoon to set up their living history display and to get changed into buckskins. It took them three hours to get set up. They then greeted guests and explained the living history items.

When the reception was over and everybody had gone from the White House the secret service agents wanted to get the rangers and their display packed up and out so they could relax. Curt and Matt hustled to take down the display but the secret service guys wouldn't let them take the time to change out of their buckskins.

Have you ever tried to get a taxi on Pennsylvania Avenue at 11 o'clock at night dressed in buckskins? They finally did, but not before a surprised panhandler had to think twice about hitting them up for a dollar or two.
Capt. Lewis / Saturday June 8th 1805

I determined to give it a name and in honour of Miss Maria W—d. called it Maria’s River. It is true that the hue of the waters of this turbulent and troubled stream but illy comport with the pure celestial virtues and amiable qualifications of that lovely fair one; but on the other hand it is a noble river; one destined to become in my opinion an object of contention between the two great powers of America and Great Britin with respect to the adjustment of the North westwardly boundary of the former; and that it will become one of the most interesting branches of the Missouri in a commercial point of view, I have but little doubt, as it abounds with amanals of the fur kind, and most probably furnishes a safe and direct communication to that productive country of valuable furs exclusively enjoyed at present by the subjects of his Britanic Majesty; in adition to which it passes through a rich fertile and one of the most beatifully picteresque countries that I ever beheld, through the wide expanse of which, innumerable herds of living amanals are seen, it’s borders garnished with one continued garden of roses, while it’s lofty and open forests, are the habitation of miriads of the feathered tribes who salute the ear of the passing traveler with their wild and simple, yet sw[we]et and cheerfull melody.