Program Announced for Foundation’s Ninth Annual Meeting
Activities to be at St. Charles, St. Louis, and Wood River

An exciting, interesting, and diversified program for the Foundation’s Ninth Annual meeting, August 14-17, 1977, with headquarters in St. Charles, Missouri (see map on page 11), has been announced.

Foundation President Decker and Missouri Lieutenant Governor William C. Phelps are acting as co-chairmen for the annual meeting, and will continue to meet with a planning committee made up of individuals from the Lewis and Clark Society of America, Inc., Wood River, Illinois, the St. Charles County Historical Society, and the Missouri State Lewis and Clark Trail Committee. Lieutenant Governor Phelps serves as chairman of the Missouri committee.

As the tentative program reveals, there will be active participation by the National Park Service and Superintendant Robert S. Chandler of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, in St. Louis, and by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Colonel Leon McKinney of the St. Louis District of the Corps, who will provide the vessel for the cruise on the Missouri River.

Foundation members and readers of We Proceeded On will find included in the envelope with this issue the “Advance Notice and Registration” brochure which details the “Tentative Program of Events” for the Ninth Annual Meeting. The other folders describe places which will be visited on the riverboat and charter bus tours.

The highlight on Monday, August 15th, will be a cruise down the Missouri River from historic St. Charles (Missouri) to Lewis and Clark State Park (Illinois) at the confluence of the Missouri with the Mississippi River.

Tuesday, August 16th, will feature a charter bus trip to the Gateway Arch and the Museum of Westward Expansion. Since the opening of the museum last July (1976), Lewis and Clark enthusiasts have eagerly awaited the opportunity for a visit to this unique National Park Service installation at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial.

On Wednesday, August 17th, in addition to the Ninth Annual Banquet, Dr. David Kenney’s address (see page 3), and the Achievement Awards presentations, registrants and guests will enjoy guided tours of historic St. Charles (see story page 10) and the Missouri Botanical Gardens in Towergate Park, St. Louis.

Other speakers listed on the tentative program will include: President Clarence Decker, Monday luncheon; Sherry Fisher, who served as the first chairman of the Congressional Lewis and Clark Trail Commission, 1964-1969, and currently Executive Director of the ("Ding") Darling Foundation, Tuesday evening; and Dr. Mary McDonald, History Department, Washington University (St. Louis), Wednesday luncheon.

Dr. Edward Kozicky, Director of Conservation, Olin Corporation, Winch­ester-Western Division, will briefly address registrants at the Monday evening cookout at the Camp Dubois (Lewis and Clark State Park) site.

Noted pianist Russ David will provide entertaining dinner music, followed by selections for dancing at the Wednesday evening annual banquet.

The foregoing is only a brief synopsis of events. For the complete program schedule please refer to the “Advance Notice” brochure included with the distribution of this issue of We Proceeded On.

1. For additional information about the Darling Foundation see WPO, Vol. 2, No. 4, p. 3, “President’s Message,” and Fn. 1.
President's Message

Dear Foundation friends:

As noted in the cover story of this issue of We Proceeded On, the program for the Ninth Annual Meeting is essentially complete, and has all the earmarks of another great session. I am pleased to report, that in addition to the program outlined, a unique highlight of the St. Charles meeting, and a major milestone in our Foundation's development, will be the unveiling of a bronze miniature of Meriwether Lewis and the Expedition's dog, Schnann. The creative work of world-famous Montana sculptor, Bob Scriver, this magnificent piece was authorized at the Eighth Annual Meeting in Great Falls, Montana, August 1976. It is anticipated that 150 of the miniatures will be cast, with Foundation members enjoying first rights of purchase. This delightful artwork, commemorating the deeds of Captain Lewis and the Newfoundland dog, will be on display and available for ordering at the Ninth Annual Meeting.

The concept for this art work was suggested by Past President Wilbur Werner, Cut Bank, Montana, as a revenue producing project for the Foundation. Member Jack Lepley, Fort Benton, Montana, who played a vital role in the development of the Montana Lewis and Clark Memorial at Fort Benton during the Bicentennial year (also the work of sculptor Bob Scriver), is working closely with Wilbur on this Foundation project. Considerable costs are involved for the design, production, and promotion of this bronze miniature. Past President Werner and Montana Foundation Director E. E. "Boo" MacGilvra have advanced the substantial initial funding, which will be reimbursed to them from Foundation sales of the bronzes. They are to be highly commended for this outstanding contribution to our organization.

Your Missouri and Illinois hosts cordially invite each of you, your families and friends, to join us in the enjoyment of the wholesome, rewarding experiences and fine associations always attendant with our annual assemblies.

Clarence H. Decker, President
Dr. David Kenney
To Address Foundation
At Annual Meeting

The Director, Illinois Department of Conservation, Dr. David Kenney, will address members and guests at the Foundation's Ninth Annual Banquet, August 17th, at St. Charles, Missouri.

On leave of absence from his post as Professor of Political Science (1968- ), Southern Illinois University, he has been serving in his present capacity since February 1977. Kenney is well known as an outdoorsman, an avid hunter and fisherman, and for his longstanding interest in the natural resources of Illinois.

A life-long resident of Carbondale, Illinois, his interest in the history and heritage of his home state develops from his forebears: Michael Harmon, an early southern Illinois pioneer, who settled in Randolph County in 1814; and John Craig, a homesteader in Perry County in 1862.

The subject of his address is to be announced.

Montana Organization
Reports Activities In Quarterly Publication

The Vol. 1, No. 4, issue of A Squall of Wind, the publication of the Valley County Lewis & Clark Trail Society, Glasgow, Montana, reports on the society's liaison with the Department of the Army Corps of Engineers concerning the interpretive sign to be erected at Fort Peck later this spring. An announcement of the Society's April 21, 1977 quarterly meeting also appears in this issue.

A fine feature story, contributed by member and Director Myrtle Burke, titled: "The Last Wolf", details the buffalo/wolf scenes common to the northeast Montana region in past years. As the editor's note states:

"Myrtle Burke was one who had moved into the Timber Creek area early enough to witness the ways of the wolves. She, therefore, has a unique appreciation of some of the scenes viewed by the Lewis and Clark party as they passed through this area in May of 1805. Aside from this privilege, there remains another parallel — while the Lewis and Clark party were the first whites to have seen wolves in this area, the Burkes, 115 years later, were among the last to see the wolves."

Illustrations (sketches) by William D. Berry and extensive annotations by editor Saindon accompany the article.

The Valley County society is an entity or chapter of the national Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.

Updating Lewis & Clark In Recent Periodicals

PASSAGES, THE MAGAZINE OF NORTHWEST ORIENT AIRLINES (distributed in the seat pockets on their airline flights), in the April 1977 issue, features an article about western artist, John Clymer. An artist who has specialized in portraying historical canvases of the old west, Clymer, on occasion, has featured incidents related to the Lewis and Clark Expedition. In this issue, included among the color plates, is a reproduction of his painting titled "Salt Makers", which depicts members of the exploring party busy with the sea water salt distilling process at "Salt Works" camp on the Oregon coast at a location authentically identified within the present city of Seaside, Oregon. Color plates illustrating the article are indicated to be from: John Clymer: Rendezvous with the Frontier West, Walt Reed, Forward by Harold McCracken, Northland Press, Flagstaff, Arizona, 1976, 141pp., $40.00, and are used by permission of the publisher.

Foundation Director, George Teweny, Seattle, WA, a well known book seller specializing in rare and scholarly books, with a special emphasis on Western Americana, advises the editor that the Northland Press volume reproduces four paintings by artist Clymer which relate to the Lewis and Clark Expedition and to the exploring party's John Colter. In addition to the "Salt Makers", described above, these are:

1. Referred to in much of today's literature as the "Lewis and Clark Salt Cairn."
2. See also, WPO, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 11-12.

"Sacajawea (sic) at the Big Water", an oil which shows the Indian woman at the Pacific seashore, presumably in the locale of the mouth of Ecola (Whale) Creek near today's Cannon Beach, Oregon.

"The Lewis Crossing", an oil which illustrates the exploring party making their way through the snow as they traversed the rugged Bitterroot Mountains along the Lolo Trail in present Idaho.

"John Colter Visits the Crows 1807", an oil depicting the expedition's John Colter, a year after the expedition returned, as a fur trapper, cautiously approaching a Crow Indian camp, rifle raised in a sign of peace.

Anecdotes -- From The Journals And Literature About the Expedition

(Lewis's journal, April 7, 1806, documents the attributes of his men.) "Every individual of the party in good health and excellent spirits, zealously attached to the enterprise and anxious to proceed... With such men every thing to hope and little to fear."

(Clark's journal, April 8, 1806, evaluates John Shields.) "John Shields cut out my rifle & brought hir to shoot very well. The party owes much to the injunity of this man, by whom their guns are repaired when they get out of order - which is very often."

(Lewis's journal, November 16, 1803, discourses concerning the value of "Scannon" his Newfoundland dog.) "... one of the Shawness a respectable looking Indian offered me three beaverskins for my dog with which he appeared very much pleased, the dog was of the newfoundland breed, one that I prized much for his docility and generally for my journey, and of course there was no bargain, I had given 208 for this dog myself."

Dr. Roy Milton Chatters received his Ph.D. in wood technology in 1941 from the University of Michigan. This followed a BA degree in 1935 from Hope College, Holland, Michigan, in chemistry, biology, and German, and a MS degree at the University of Michigan in 1936. Post-Doctoral studies followed during 1932-33 at the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies. His professional experience is long and varied. From 1938-1941 he was Assistant Professor of Biology, Washington College, Chestertown, Maryland, and from 1944-45 he held the same title at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio. He was Associate Professor of Botany and Plant Pathology at Oklahoma A & M College from 1946-1957. Dr. Chatters' great career in Radiation Physics, in the field of Radioisotopes began in 1950 at Oklahoma A & M College and at Oklahoma State University, where he remained until 1957. From 1957-1960 he was a Technical Engineer, Aircraft Nuclear Propulsion Department, with the General Electric Co. In 1961, he became Associate Nuclear Engineer and Head, Radioisotopes and Radiation Laboratory and Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, at Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, and followed this in 1954, as Nuclear Engineer and head of the same laboratories until his retirement in 1972. Dr. Chatters' academic honors are from the University of Michigan in 1937-38, and in 1965, he was elected a Fellow of the Oklahoma Academy of Sciences. Beginning in 1955 he has been listed in American Men of Science. His prolific contribution to the literature of his several sciences has resulted in thirty-six publications from 1938 through 1969. His special interest was in the application of nuclear techniques in pulp and paper industry process control.

Since his retirement, his community services have been along historical lines and western americana. He is co-founder of the Whitman County, Washington Historical Society, and has served this organization as its treasurer and president. More recently he has been actively engaged in the society's development of a newspaper and printing museum, which opened September 18, 1976, at Palouse, Washington, and he serves as the museum's director. His longtime interest in the great exploration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition has resulted in his accumulation of a vast library and a collection of memorabilia on the subject. He has served since 1960 on the (Governor's) Washington State Lewis and Clark Trail Committee. In June 1974, he delivered the principal address at the dedication ceremonies for the George Drouillard marker at the Washington Parks and Recreation Commission's Lyons Ferry State Park at the confluence of the Palouse (Lewis and Clark's "Drewes") River and the Snake River. (See, WPO, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 19.) In August 1974, he presented a paper concerning Meriwether Lewis' airgun at the annual meeting of the Foundation at Seaside, Oregon. Over the years he has made a detailed study of the guns of the Expedition, and most specifically Captain Lewis' airgun. (See also, story in WPO, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 9-10.)

The Not-So-Enigmatic Lewis and Clark Airgun

By Roy M. Chatters

In 1973, I wrote a piece' on my long search for the airgun carried by Lewis and Clark on the expedition to the Pacific coast and back. This report was followed up by a presentation at the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation at Seaside, Oregon, in August 1974. At the time the above reports were made, the weapon was truly an enigma to me - not so any anymore.

Several days after returning home from the Seaside meeting, I received a lengthy letter from a gun collector, Henry Stewart, Jr. of Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, offering to review my first report' and to give me his thoughts on the Lewis and Clark airgun. I sent him a copy of the paper which he examined, after which he wrote me a detailed analysis.

As Stewart has been a gun collector for over fifty years and has many pneumatic weapons in his large collection, his remarks carry a great deal of weight. In his second letter, he said that contrary to my statements on the subject, "... people, even important ones, were not aware of the gun and its potential... the air gun was a novel weapon and the fact that it would shoot well along side the Kentucky rifle was recognized only because of the exploits such as Lewis and Clark usage. It is an expensive item requiring considerable labor to put in firing condition (pump up to 600-600 psi) and no more suitable for troops than the Kentucky rifle. The musket and mass firing [•] not accurate sniping [•] was still the order of the day. We are only now discovering the air gun."

Farther on, Stewart comments on the airgun in the Smithsonian Institution collection which Charter Harrison had made available and designated as the Lewis and Clark airgun. "The Smithsonian arm is an undated American piece that an educated guess would place at 1830-1840. Not the Lewis air gun."" Originally, Harrison had suggested a Lukens airgun as the expedition's pneumatic weapon, but changed his mind in favor of the above 1830-1840 weapon. In our early correspondence, Stewart suggested that we ultimately find that the Lewis and Clark airgun would prove to be a product of Lukens, even though he was known more as an horologist than a gunsmith. Stewart also noted he knew of an Isaiah Lukens estate-listing which recorded an airgun made for the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

As a result of a series of physical misadventures in the Stewart family, no check was made on the estate-listing for some time. My good friend, Paul Cutright (author, historian, and student of the Expedition) of Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, offered to go to the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia to search out the item in question. Stewart readily accepted the copies of the catalogue listings (shown on page 5) which Cutright provided him. Because of the great interest that catalogue item 95 has for Lewis and Clark historians, Dr. Cutright requested Stewart's approval for me to publish this important find. Stewart stated that he was reporting on this matter at a meeting of the American Society of Arms Collectors in the Fall of 1976, and planned to publish a report afterward. He did agree that an article on the valuable find should be published.

A reproduction of a photograph of Isaiah Lukens' airgun. From Air Guns, by Eldon G. Wolff, Milwaukee Public Museum Publications in History, 1958, p. 190
by him for gun collectors, and by me for Lewis and Clark buffs. Professional courtesy dictated that he should publish first.

Henry Stewart's report on the January 4, 1847 auction catalogue and "Item 95, 1 large do [Air Gun] made for, and used by Messrs. Lewis and Clark in their exploring expeditions. A great curiosity", appeared in the February 1977 issue of the Monthly Bugle wherein Stewart says in part:

Suffice to say that the key mystery solved was the 170-year old riddle of the Lewis and Clark air rifle that appeared nineteen separate times in the Expedition Journal and then disappeared from the face of the earth to all intents and purposes as it traveled from St. Louis to Washington, D.C., in late Fall 1806 along with other items from the expedition, entrusted to Lt. Peters. From 1806 until revealed at the meeting of the American Society of Arms Collectors, Valley Forge, PA, in October 1976, the origin of this air rifle, its fate, and the gun, country of origin, how did it get on board the expedition, its ultimate fate after its journey came to an end in St. Louis, in the fall of 1806. Lots of clues, lots of suppositions, but no trace of the arm after it left St. Louis in the care of Lt. Peters. Suffer again a concentration of research. Lukens was a friend of Peale, who opened a Natural History Museum in Independence Hall, where Peale, besides the bones of the mastodon, had skeletons of many animals, Indian artifacts, etc. It was my guess that the skeletal remains shipped back from St. Louis to Washington, had come to Philadelphia by courtesy of Jefferson to Peale rather than Monticello. Supplies and arms for the expedition had been obtained from Philadelphia's Schuykill Arsenal and Harpers Ferry Armory. The latter, under the superintendency of Joseph Perkin, was designing the Harpers Ferry rifle and thinking about the Harpers Ferry pistol, but could only supply muskets and blunderbusses, no air guns. Since there was no record of purchase, someone in Philadelphia must have given or lent the air gun. What was it like? Judging by Indian reaction it had the same appearance as a flintlock rifle, no ball reservoir, and it fired a number of times on each pump-up. Again, a guess made it a butt reservoir air rifle that looked like a flintlock. So, with luck, I found a small booklet in the Franklin Institute library, clock section, covering the sale of the effects of Isaiah Lukens estate, on January 4, 1847... Item 95 was "1 large air gun made for and used by Messrs. Lewis and Clark in their exploring expeditions". So, at Valley Forge for the American Society of Arms Collectors, and here, I presented the evidence that Isaiah Lukens made, loaned, and had returned via Lt. Peters, the famous air rifle.

While Henry Stewart owns a number of Lukens' airguns, he does not feel that he has the Lewis and Clark Expedition weapon, nor does he know where it is, according to a recent conversation he had with Dr. Cutright.

Conclusion:
One can safely say that the airgun carried by the Lewis and Clark Expedition was manufactured for Lewis by Isaiah Lukens, horologist and gunmaker.

(Continued page 6)
Smith of Philadelphia, that it left St. Louis, upon the return of the exploring party, in 1806 in the care of one Lt. Peters [or Peter], that it was returned to its maker and was subsequently offered at auction with other personal effects of Lewis Lukens in 1847. If sold, we do not know who the purchaser was, nor of the gun's present whereabouts. What is known is that it was a pneumatic rifle which was much like a Kentucky rifle in appearance and fire power. It was these characteristics of similarity and performance with known firearms, yet without their smoke and loud sound, which the Indians found to be "... perfectly incomprehensible that they immediately denominated it the great medicine." The Statement made by Captain Lewis in his journal for August 17, 1805 (Thwaites Vol. 3, page 363).

Acknowledgements:
I am deeply indebted to Dr. Paul Cuitright, who for more than ten years has encouraged me in my search for the airgun, its origin and characteristics, and goaded me into publishing my findings. To Craddock Goins, Curator of Weapons at Smithsonian Institution, for directing me away from the Harrison airgun, to Henry Stewart, Jr. for his generosity in permitting me to draw on his extensive knowledge of weapons and weapons literature, and to Mrs. Beryl Jorstad for typing this manuscript - my sincere gratitude.

Citations:

Editor's note: In Dr. Chatters' article, in the material quoted from Henry Stewart, there is mention of nineteen references in the expedition's journals which document the airgun. In almost every instance the armament is detailed as a curiosity to the Indians, and in no case is there an entry which describes the airgun as finding application in their hunting activities.

Shortly after the airgun was acquired by Captain Lewis, and on the day he left Pittsburgh, the captain's journal alludes to an incident involving the weapon on August 30, 1803. He writes:

"Arrived at Bruno's Island [on the Ohio River] 3 miles below halft a few minutes. went on shore and being invited on by some of the gentlemen present to try my airgun which I had purchased brought it on shore, I charged it and fired myself seven times fifty yards with pretty good success; after which a Mr. Blance Cenas being unacquainted with the management of the gun suffered her to discharge herself accen[ted]ly[,] the ball passed through the hat of a woman about 40 yards distant cutting her temple about the diameter of the ball; she fell instantly and the blood gushing from her temple we were all in the greatest consternation[,] suppos[ed] she was dead by [but] in a minute she revived to our excep[se]ssable satisfaction, and by examination we found the wound by no means mortal or even dangerous; ..." Quaife (Editor), The Journals of Captain Meriwether Lewis and Sergeant John Ordway ..., The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1916, p. 31.

As evidence that the armament was subjected to some use, in Private Whitehouse's journal for June 10, 1805, there is a reference to the airgun needing repairs:

"The black Smiths fixed up the bellows & made a main spring to Capt. [Lewis's] air gun, as the one belonging to it got broke." Thwaites (Editor), Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition ..., Dodd Mead & Co., N.Y., 1904, Vol. 7, p. 98.

On the same date, Lewis' discourse concerning this incident is as follows:

"[John] Shields renewed the main-spring of my air-gun we have been much indebted to the ingenuity of this man on many occasions; without having served any regular apprenticeship to any trade, he makes his own tools principally and works extremely well ... and in this way has been extremely serviceable to us ..." Thwaites, ibid., Vol. 2, p. 139.

Funding Problem Slos Initial Development Of Montana's Missouri Wild & Scenic Rivers System


The first step has been taken to resolve a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) funding problem for the Missouri River management plan. And that's good news for Montanans.

The problem received attention last month when Edwin Zaidlick, Montana BLM director, pointed out that he has not received enough funds to do an adequate job on a management plan for a 149 mile section of the Missouri River. Congress added the section to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System last October.

The legislation adding the Missouri to the system gives BLM, under the Department of the Interior, one year to develop a management plan. It then will be submitted to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior for approval.

Senator Lee Metcalf, D-Montana, is now working to solve the BLM funding problem. Last week he requested supplemental funding for the BLM in a letter to Senator Byrd, D-West Virginia, chairman of the appropriations subcommittee on Interior and related agencies.

Metcalf's letter details the funding history of the plan: "The BLM upon approval of the Act (last October), immediately submitted a request for fiscal year 1977 supplemental funding in the amount of some $225,000 and approval to hire eight additional employees to carry out their wide-ranging responsibilities under the Act.

"The Office of Management and Budget, under the previous Administration, denied the bulk of the request and allowed only $100,000 and three permanent positions. This is far short of the actual funding and manpower requirements needed to do a satisfactory job ..."

Metcalf asks that Byrd add funding to total $225,000 and the eight permanent positions and that "this money be increased in fiscal year 1978 by an equal amount."
Washington State Committee Meets

The Washington (State) Lewis and Clark Trail Committee held its quarterly meeting on March 5, 1977. The meeting followed a no-host luncheon at the Crossing Restaurant, Vancouver, Washington. Jack Ritter made the local arrangements.

The speaker following the luncheon was Ruth Strong, Skamania, Washington, and her presentation was titled: "Flowers and Plants Discovered by the Lewis and Clark Expedition". Emory Strong's camera and photographic technique, as usual, provided superbly beautiful colored slides of the plants and flowers which enhanced Ruth's dissertation.

The afternoon's business meeting involved both old and new committee business, and concerned correspondence, public speaking engagements, and a report by Ralph Rudeen relating the progress being made on the interpretive center at Sacagawea State Park, at the confluence of the Snake and Columbia Rivers, Pasco, Washington.

Jack Ritter was appointed to serve as the Washington co-chairman along with Rod Williams of the Oregon committee, for the Fifth Annual Oregon-Washington Lewis & Clark Symposium in October 1977. A Nominating Committee was named for the purpose of presenting a slate of officers to be elected at the committee's June 4, 1977 meeting. Chairman Twaney also appointed a "Goals Committee" to study and recommend future directions and activities for the State Committee.

The national Foundation was represented at the meeting by Second Vice President Marcus Ware of Lewiston, Idaho; E. G. "Frenchy" Chuinard and Bob Lange, both of Portland, Oregon. Foundation members, Theodore H. Little of Clarkston, Washington accompanied Mr. Ware.

Photo-Murals by Muench

At NPS St. Louis Museum Reproduced In Publication

The impressively beautiful color photography rendered by David Muench for the 16" X 300" photo-murals at the Museum of Westward Expansion, at the National Park Service's Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis has now been reproduced in a publication.

Titled Lewis and Clark: Voyage of Discovery (edited by Gweneth Den-Dooven; book design by K. C. Den-Dooven), the 64 page, 9" X 12" volume with full page color plates, together with an excellent text and journal excerpt picture captions by Dan Murphy, will enhance every Lewis and Clark enthusiast's library.

Murphy's text is imaginative and as pleasingly descriptive as the photographs. His reflective impressions concerning Independence Day 1805, are representative of this:

"Back in Washington there were fancy-dress balls that night. Perhaps President Jefferson stepped out onto a balcony between dances and looked into the darkness. If he did, his thoughts must have crossed like a silent nightbird across the young nation, passed above the small candlelit clusters that were Cincinnati and St. Louis, and soared over two thousand miles of dark river to the camp fire where Cruzatte played his fiddle and those whose feet were not too sore from cactus spines danced. It was the remotest outpost of empire."

This publication may be ordered from: K. C. Publications, P.O. Box 14883, Las Vegas, Nevada 89114. Remit $3.00, bound with paper cover; $7.95, cloth cover; add $.50 postage.

New Virginia Foundation

To Preserve Birthplace of Meriwether Lewis

In a recent letter to Director E. G. Chuinard, M.D., Michael P. Gleason, Charlottesville, Virginia, describes Lewis and Clark activities in Virginia.

At a meeting held March 14th in Charlottesville a group met to organize the "Locust Hill Foundation", formed to encourage the preservation of Locust Hill, the Albemarle County, Virginia, birthplace of Meriwether Lewis. In his letter to Dr. Chuinard, Mr. Gleason writes:

"Another purpose of the Foundation is to stimulate interest and awareness of the historic contributions of [Virginians] Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, and others associated with the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The Foundation also proposes to encourage the formation of a Virginia chapter of 1. Foundation members who attended the Seventh Annual Meeting of the Foundation at Bismarck, North Dakota, in August 1975, will recall that Mr. Gleason was the speaker at the Annual Banquet. See WPO, Vol. 1, No. 3, p. 3, and photograph on page 6. Gleason has recently served as Coordinator of the Western Region Bicentennial Commission of Virginia.

your Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation."

Gleason will serve as president of the new organization, with historian Donald Jackson as vice president; Lindsay G. Dorrier, an attorney and member of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, will act as secretary; and Francis H. Fife, a vice president and trust officer of the Virginia National Bank and former mayor of Charlottesville will serve as treasurer.

Oregon L. & C.

Group Meets

The Oregon Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation held its first 1977 quarterly meeting on March 30th, at Beaver Hall, Oregon Historical Center, in Portland.

Two fine papers prepared and presented by Malcolm S. Buffum and Richard G. Rust comprised the evening's program.

Mr. Buffum's paper, "The Expedition Heads Back - March 1806", detailed the preparations leading up to the Expedition's departure, 171 years ago, from Fort Clatsop (on March 23, 1806), and the first phase of the return journey through April 9, 1806, when the exploring party passed Beacon Rock on the Columbia River some 30 miles upstream from present Portland, Oregon. Special mention was made of the party's discovery and naming of Mount Jefferson (10,495') and Captain Clark's reconnaissance of the lower reaches of the Multnomah (today's Willamette) River.

Mr. Rust's dissertation was titled: "Dr. Elliot Coues: A Litterateur of the Lewis and Clark Expedition". At the December 1976 quarterly meeting, Dick Rust presented an interesting paper on Nicholas Biddle and his 1814 narrative based on the journals of the Expedition. This second paper reviewed Dr. Coues' life as an outstanding ornithologist, military doctor, scientist, writer/editor, and particularly his tremendously valuable 1893 rewrite and annotation of the Biddle edition, as well as his other literary contributions concerning Trans-Mississippi west explorations.

The Oregon Foundation, an entity sponsored by the Governor's Oregon Lewis and Clark Trail Committee, is an affiliate organization of the Oregon Historical Society, and maintains an annual membership of 50 to 75. The Foundation's quarterly publication Historical Anecdotes is edited by John H. Stoefl.
A Medical Mystery at Fort Clatsop

By E. G. Chuinard, M.D.

Scheduled to be published later this year by the Arthur H. Clark Co., is Dr. "Frenchy" Chuinard's full length volume Only One Man Died: The Medical Aspects of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. A resident of Portland, Oregon, chairman of the Oregon Lewis and Clark Trail Committee, and a director and past president of the national Foundation, "Frenchy" is a frequent contributor to We Proceeded On and to other historical and medical publications throughout the country. Hopefully, his contribution which follows may evoke additional research from Lewis and Clark enthusiasts, and in the end untangle the mystery of Dr. Scott's pills!

On February 28, 1803 President Thomas Jefferson wrote from Washington to Dr. Benjamin Rush2 in Philadelphia to ask his old friend to do him a special favor. Jefferson had no hesitation in confiding to the good doctor the reason for this request. The two of them had been close friends since they worked together as co-patriots in the cause of Independence for the colonies, culminating in Rush adding his signature to that immortal document which Jefferson authored. That Rush was held in high esteem by Jefferson was shown by Rush being the future mediary that healed the long rift between Jefferson and Adams and brought the two old friends together again in years of correspondence, although not in person.

As well as being an active patriot of the colonies, Rush was also the leading colonial physician of his lifetime; and his influence continued for many years after his death because of his enthusiastic teaching and dynamic personality. It was natural, therefore, that it was to Dr. Rush that Jefferson turned for the special help that he was asking in his letter of February 28.

"I wish to mention to you in confidence that I have obtained authority from Congress to undertake the long desired object of exploring the Missouri and whatever river, heading with that, leads into the Western Ocean," Jefferson wrote. He then extolled the virtues of Meriwether Lewis, his private secretary, who was to lead the expedition. Jefferson then came to the point with Rush: "It would be very useful to state to him those objects on which it is most desirable he should bring us information [Jefferson was thinking of Indian health conditions and practices]. For this purpose I ask the favor of you to prepare some notes of such particulars as may occur in his journey and which you think should draw his attention and enquiry. He will be in Philadelphia about 2. or 3. weeks hence and will wait on you".

Rush assured Jefferson that he would "not fail of furnishing him with a number of questions calculated to increase our knowledge of subjects connected with medicine". Rush was very familiar with the diseases and health of the Indians in the colonies, and had lectured and written extensively on the value of many of their health practices. Therefore it was an easy and interesting privilege for him to compile a long list of inquiries and observations for Lewis to record about the new Indian tribes he would meet as the Corps of Discovery progressed westward.

In the army structure in which Lewis and Clark served and were now to command, the commanding officers were responsible for the health of the men under them. James Tilton wrote in 1813 in his ECONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS OF MILITARY HOSPITALS "... upon them (the commanding officers) especially depend the health and comfort of the soldiers; and that the medical staff are only to be regarded as adjutants ..." So Dr. Rush provided Lewis with a list of health rules for the care of the men; these rules might be called the Ten Health Commandments of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. One of these rules showed very definitely the effects of the learning of the white men from Indian health practices. Rush advised that the men of the Corps of Discovery "wear shoes without heels" — by which he meant mocassins; these permitted better circulation of the feet than did the stiff shoes worn by army personnel.

As a part of providing himself with the necessities to take care of the health problems of the expedition, Lewis purchased a list of medical supplies through the Schuylkill arsenal of Philadelphia. In compiling this list it is most probable that Lewis had the advice of Dr. Rush inasmuch as the latter had helped him so extensively with other medical matters. This list contained some drugs which are still in use today as well-recognized effective medicinal agents, such as morphine, quinine, mercury, silver nitrate, etc. About one-third of the total expense of $90.69 was spent for Peruvian bark (quinine), which indicated the extent of malaria along the river valleys.

Dr. Rush was as fervent in his medical ideas as he was in his political ideas. Ashburn, the army historian, wrote of him: "By virtue of his social and professional prominence, his position as teacher and his facile pen, Benjamin Rush had more influence on American medicine and was more potent in the propagation and long perpetuation of medical errors than any man of his day. To him, more than to any other man in America, was due the great vogue of vomits, purgings, especially bleeding, salivation and blistering, which blackened the record of medicine and afflicted the sick almost to the time of the Civil War".

And so, with the influence and teaching of this authoritative medic to whom Jefferson had sent him, and with the responsibility for the health care of his men which devolved upon him as a commanding officer, it followed very naturally that "Doctor Meriwether Lewis", along with his co-commander and "fellow physician," William Clark, would bleed and purge their men all the way to the Pacific and back!

One of the medicines copiously supplied in Lewis' medicine chest was "Doctor Rush's Bilious Pills". Undoubtedly this pill was a combination of calomel and epica, probably containing ten to fifteen grains of each as per the usual potent physics used at the time. From a reading of the Captain's journals it is evident that these bilious pills were used frequently by any officer and occasionally the journalist added the detail that "they operated very well". It is also apparent from the journals that when some man was judged in need of one (or more — the dosage is rarely stated!) of these pills, he usually was assigned to hunting on shore instead of being confined to one of the boats.

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1. The Expedition's winter establishment, December 8, 1805 to March 23, 1806, near present day Astoria, Oregon.
2. 1745-1813.
5. Jackson, Donald, op cit., Letter No. 43, pp. 84-55.
The only other journal recording this is why there is no mention, Dr. Rush's Bilious Pills were in use. But other than identifying the former they operated and on the latter were kept journals. A favorite descriptive phrase of the doctor compound and certainly not to be considered a Dr. Scott's or the pharmaceutical edition, Antiquarian, New York, 1969, Vol. 4, p. 88.

From Philadelphia to St. Louis, including the Rocky Mountains, up and down the Missouri and Columbia Rivers, in residence at Camp Dubois, Fort Mandan and Fort Clatsop, Dr. Rush's Bilious Pills were in constant use for almost all the ills that afflicted the men - except for the mysterious Dr. Scott's pills which were administered on three different occasions by both Captains while the Expedition was at Fort Clatsop. On February 19 Clark recorded: "I gave Bratton 6 of Scott's pills which did not work him". Lewis wrote on February 21, 1806, "...gave Willard and Bratton each a dose of Scott's pills; on the former they operated and on the latter they did not". On this same day Clark forgot to mention Bratton but wrote, "Gave Willard a dose of Scott's pills; they operated very well".

The only other journal recordings about Scott's pills occurred on March 3, 1806. Lewis noted: "Lapage is taken sick, gave him a dose of Scott's Pills which did not operate". Clark wrote identical lines. Perhaps the poor "operation" record of Scott's pills is why there is no further reference to their use.

From the Captain's notes, Dr. Scott's pills undoubtedly were used as a cathartic, although of the three different men taking them, only with Willard did they "operate very well" - to use a favorite descriptive phrase of the Captains. But other than identifying them as a cathartic, Dr. Scott's pills remain a mystery. Where did they come from? They are not listed among the drugs which Lewis brought from Philadelphia. It was common for doctors to advertise in the newspapers at that time, but a thorough search of the newspapers of Philadelphia and St. Louis, where Lewis would have had an opportunity to acquire additional medical supplies, failed to produce a Dr. Scott or an advertisement for Scott's Pills. Perhaps some of the men of the Expedition had brought along some pills from his favorite home-town physician-apothecary; but if so, he must have surrendered them to the Captains to administer.

Surely both Captains on different occasions would not have carelessly substituted the name of Scott for Rush; especially this should not happen with Lewis who knew Rush personally. The repetitious use of "Scott's pills" by both Captains on different occasions would seem to make it most probable that they possessed and administered such a pill.

But where did these pills come from? - this pill to be used only at Fort Clatsop, at so remote a place that it could not possibly be procured locally; Lewis and Clark had not met a trading ship from which to obtain supplies. From time to time I ruminated on this "Medical Mystery at Fort Clatsop". And then the thought occurred: if not Philadelphia or St. Louis, where else might Lewis have stopped long enough to have some doctor compound and "sell" Lewis on another physic when he already was well stocked by pills from the colonies' most famous "physicker"?

And then the light came: Pittsburgh, of course! - where Lewis fretted day after day from July 15 until August 30, 1803 while waiting for a casual and imbibing contractor to finish his keelboat, so he could load his supplies and be on his way down the Ohio River. Six weeks in one town was long enough to become acquainted with a Dr. Scott and have him compound some pills, if there was a Dr. Scott in Pittsburgh.

Inquiry promptly produced a Dr. Hugh Scott, who had come to Pittsburgh in 1800 to set up practice as a "physician and apothecary". He had previously served the U.S. Army Command Station at Detroit as a prescriber of drugs, and fraternized with the army personnel in Pittsburgh. He was serving as Postmaster in Pittsburgh in 1803 when Lewis was there.

Lewis had served in the army for several years, and had been detached from the army while serving as paymaster in Detroit, to report to President Jefferson to become his private secretary. I can find no information to indicate that Lewis and Scott may have known each other in Detroit. But whether they were old buddies or not, what could be more natural than for a lonesome, fretful army captain to seek the company of another man who had some attachment to army life, or for the post-master to seek acquaintance with a distinguished visitor to his town? An army captain stranded in Pittsburgh, preparing for an eventful western exploration, and corresponding with the President he had served as a private secretary, would not go unnoticed by the postmaster in this small army post.

Health care of the men to be under Lewis' command would surely be a topic of conversation between the doctor and the commanding officer - and what better contribution to the cause could Dr. Scott make than to provide Lewis with a physic that would surpass all others?

Meriwether Lewis was to mention other physicians he encountered on his keelboat voyage down the Ohio, and in St. Louis. If he did spend the time with Dr. Hugh Scott in Pittsburgh, and it is reasonable to conjecture that he did, it is too bad he did not immortalize him in his journal with some pertinent references. If he had done so, we might know more about what still remains a Medical Mystery at Fort Clatsop.

8. Ibid, Vol. 4, p. 94.

10. The author is indebted to the director and staff of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society, Pittsburgh, for undertaking the research and providing the information about Dr. Scott.
Historic St. Charles Site of Annual Meeting

So that members planning to attend the Foundation's Ninth Annual Meeting will be familiar with the geography of the area, we have provided the map reproduced on page 11. It was at historic St. Charles where the exploring party halted, May 16-21, 1804, after ascending the Missouri river following their departure on May 14th from their Camp DuBois winter establishment near present Wood River, Illinois. Here they awaited the arrival of Captain Lewis, who had been in St. Louis making final arrangements involving the departure of the Expedition.

St. Charles was founded in 1769 by Louis Blanchette, a French-Canadian hunter. Originally called "Les Petites Cotes" ("The Little Hills"), its essential industry was involved with the fur trade. It was the first permanent white settlement on the Missouri River.

The United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service volume titled Lewis and Clark: Historic Places Associated with Their Transcontinental Exploration (1804-1806) provides the following details concerning this historic community:

"The original settlers were primarily French traders, hunters and farmers. The Spaniards, who ruled Louisiana Territory in the period 1762-1804, made little effort to colonize St. Charles or the surrounding area. In 1791 Don Manuel Perz, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Louisiana, gave the city its present name, which is translated from the Spanish.

"Following the assumption of control of Upper Louisiana by the United States in 1804, the year after the Louisiana Purchase, the influence of the town increased. Located near the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, it became an outfitting station for both land and water transportation routes to the West. In addition to its role as a river port, St. Charles was the eastern terminus of the Boonslick Road. Originally blazed to serve the Boone brothers in their salt manufacturing works in Howard County, the road quickly became the route to Arrow Rock, at which point the Boonslick route joined the Santa Fe Trail. In 1821-1826 St. Charles served as the first State capital, on a temporary basis until it moved to its permanent location, Jefferson City.

"Fire and deterioration have already removed from the scene a large number of structures once present in the historic district. About 60 of the approximate 102 that remain are noteworthy and 10 warrant further study to determine their importance. The condition of the extant buildings varies, but a high proportion of those that are exemplary are either being restored or are restorable. The various structures are used for private residences, commercial and industrial purposes, or are publicly owned. Houses closely resembling those in the district are scattered through out the modern city."

"Taken as a whole, the historic district retains the layout of the original town plan and provides an example of town planning and development in the Midwest at the turn of the 19th century. Most of the buildings were erected of handmade brick, quarried limestone, and hewn timber. Similar construction occurred elsewhere in the Midwest, but was frequently supplanted by successive waves of building.

"Besides various interesting structures and features pertinent to later phases of 19th-century history and architectural development, the district contains a large concentration of early 19th-century buildings that are little altered from their original appearance. None of them can be directly associated with the Lewis and Clark Expedition, but possibly some of them were standing when it passed through."

In his journal for May 16, 1804, Captain Clark wrote: "we arrived at St. Charles at 12 o'clock a number Spectators French & Indians flocked to the bank to See the party." He described the "Village" as "about one mile in length, Situated on the North Side of the Missouri at the foot of a hill... This Village Contns [contains] about 100 (frame) houses, the most of them small and indifferent and about 450 inhabitants Chiefly French, those people appear Poor, polite & harmonious." Clark states further that the Missouri River was 750 yards wide at this place.

Back-Issues of WPO

Occasionally we have requests for back issues of our publication. Only a limited number of each issue is printed over and above the quantity required for our membership mailings. Since our printing and mailing costs amount to about $1.40 each copy, back-issues, when available, will be supplied at $1.50 each to Foundation members, and $2.00 each to non-members. Address inquiries to the WPO Business Manager, the Editor, or to the Foundation's Secretary. Addresses are listed in the "Publisher's Plate" on page 2. Your check or money-order should be made out to the Foundation.


Points of Interest related to the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.

D-1 9th Annual Meeting Headquarters - Noah's Ark - St. Charles, Missouri.

C-5 Site of Expedition's "Camp Dubois" - Start of Journey on May 14, 1804.

C/D-6 Lewis and Clark Memorial Park - Overlook for Confluence Missouri and Mississippi Rivers.

F-5 National Park Service - Jefferson National Expansion Memorial - Gateway Arch - Museum of Westward Expansion - The Old Courthouse, historic structure dating from 1840 - The Old Cathedral, historic structure dating from 1831 - Mississippi River Overlooks.

H F-5 U.S. Corps of Army Engineers - Floating Museum - Towboat "Sergeant Charles Floyd".

F/G-4 Missouri Botanical Gardens - Tower Grove Park.

D/E-3 St. Louis Municipal Airport - Lambert Field.
Anecdotes (Con't from page 3)

Lewis and Clark Expedition was not only memorable for the distance traveled and the extent of the wilderness explored, but was epoch-making by reason of the influential map that resulted.

(Clark’s journal, December 1, 1805, describes the Pacific Ocean.) “The emence Seas and waves breake on the rocks & Coasts to the S.W. & N W roars like an emence fall at a distance, and this roaring has continued ever since our arrival in the neighborhood of the Sea Coast which has been 24 days since we arrived in sight of the Great Western; (for I cannot say Pacific) Ocean as I have not seen one pacific day since my arrival in its vicinity, and its waters are forming and petially [perpetually] breake with emence waves on the Sands and rockey coasts, tempestuous and horibble.” (Clark’s spelling at perhaps its worst, and an example of his idiosyncrasies of capitalizing the letter s! It was Seymour Dunbar in his History of Travel in America, when referring to a similar implacable enemy of the dictionary, who said: “The man who helps make an empire may spell as he chooses”. Historian Donald Jackson remarks: “But in the matter of capitalization, one man has utterly bested me. William Clark, a creative speller, is also a versatile capitalizer - especially in handling words beginning with $$. After many attempts to work out a same norm I have retired in confusion.”)

(Gass’ journal, January 5, 1806, enroute from Fort Clatsop to the salt makers camp, details his unpleasant experience in rafting across a creek.) “This was a very wet day. We killed a squirrel and eat it; made a raft to cross the creek; but when it was tried we found it would carry only one person at a time; the man with me was therefore sent over first, who thought he could shove the raft across again; but when he attempted, it only went half way: so that there was one of us on each side and the raft in the middle. I however, notwithstanding the cold, strip and swam to the raft, brought it over and then crossed on it in safety; then we pursued our journey . . .” (From David McKeehan’s paraphrastic version of Gass’ original journal which probably has been lost or destroyed after McKeehan rewrote its contents in 1807. Gass was probably no better skilled as a writer, speller, and punctuator than the other journalists, and the text provided by McKeehan most likely is his literary sophistication of the Gass original.)

Since the Sixth Annual Meeting in 1974, the fifteen star – fifteen bar Foundation President’s flag has been displayed at annual meetings. A gift to the organization from Josephine Love of Astoria, Oregon, the replica of the Expedition’s flag has been transferred from the outgoing to the incoming president at each year’s annual banquet.

Editor’s Note:

We would like to include in each issue of WPO, news items detailing current or forthcoming activities related to the Lewis and Clark Expedition in each of the eleven trail states, or for that matter, any activity anywhere that would be of interest to members and readers. To accomplish this, we must rely on our Directors, their designated reporters, and other Lewis and Clark enthusiasts, to provide us with this information. We would be pleased to hear from you.

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

NINTH ANNUAL MEETING
LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.
NOAH’S ARK – AUGUST 14-17, 1977 – ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI