

Idaho Chapter Newsletter

May 1994



1994 Plans Solidified

Plans have finally been set for Chapter meetings in 1994. Our first get-together will occur on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 4. Once again, we will participate with the BLM-Salmon District folks. The tentative plans are to place new trail signs (the new low profile Carsonite trail signs) and in some cases, remove the old signage. There will also be a presentation on the Lewis and Clark Expedition. A Chapter meeting either before or after the Trails Day event will be conducted.

The Chapter will gather in northern Idaho on October 8 and 9. Tentative plans are to meet in Orofino. We are hoping to have Jeff Fee of the Clearwater National Forest give a demonstration on making a cedar log canoe and Chuck Raddon giving an overview on the Lolo Trail system. A field trip is planned with the possibility of an overnight stay in Kamiah (camping or motels). Watch for further details.

The Chapter also plans to gather in Lewiston for the dedication of the LCSC Centennial Plaza statues.

Contrary to the enclosed article on this subject, it is not expected to be completed until sometime this fall.

1994 Dates:

- June 4 - National Trails Day, Salmon
- July 23 - Take Pride in America project, Lolo Trail
- July 31 - Aug. 3 - National Meeting, Missoula, Montana
- Aug. 4-5 - post convention trips: Salmon area and Lolo Trail (7/29 & 8/4)
- Oct. 8-9 - Fall meeting: Orofino & Kamiah area
- TBA - Dedication of statues, LCSC, Lewiston

Idaho Archaeology Week

Last month, Idaho celebrated Idaho Archaeology Week around the theme of "Saving Pieces of the Past". Several members were again involved with making presentations this year including Ken Swanson, Priscilla Wegars and Chuck Raddon. Of interest to Lewis and Clark members was the inclusion of Jefferson Peace Medal on the colorful poster commemorating Archaeology Week.

Members in the News

Lydia Justice Edwards, Idaho's state treasurer, filed for re-election in March. She is

unopposed in both the May primary and the general election.

Dr. Lee Vickers and Deanna Vickers will be leaving Idaho at the end of June as Lee assumes the presidency of Francis Marian College in South Carolina. Congratulations! L.C.S.C., Lewiston and the state will miss the many contributions the Vickers have made.

Bob Boston retired from the Clearwater National Forest.

NPS VIDEO AVAILABLE

The National Park Service recently issued a video tape (21 minutes) about the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. It was produced jointly by NPS and the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. It is a great resource for use in educational curricula or for anyone interested in the trail. The NPS has graciously donated a copy to the Idaho Chapter and is available as a loaner. It will also be shown at a future Chapter meeting. (Contact Steve Lee if you would like to borrow this video.)

QUILT RAFFLE

The Chapter is still selling raffle tickets for the beautiful Lewis and Clark quilt. If you are interested in selling or buying tickets, please contact Steve Lee or Penny Raddon in Orofino (project chair). Help us place Lewis and Clark videos in Idaho schools.

LOLO TRAIL CORRIDOR UPDATE

by Jim Fazio
(Jim Fazio has been keeping

watch on this issue and sent out a notice last fall. The following are some excerpts from that information)

At the meeting last fall, the forest supervisor distributed a letter which stopped work on the EIS for the proposed road reconstruction and recreation developments. Instead, these issues and others involving the trail corridor (or trail system) will be taken up as part of the Clearwater Forest Plan update. Notice of intent for that is tentatively scheduled for January, 1995.

Jim feels that the reasons for stopping the EIS included (1) concern over proposed improvements, especially to Road 500; (2) Nez Perce Tribal interest in protection of the area (during a survey, much more evidence of camps and sacred sites were found than expected); (3) virtually no data exists about current use or preferences of recreationists now using the area.

In the meantime, the management of the area will continue under the 1985 guidelines for the trail area. It was unclear just what this means since even the Forest Service people said that those guidelines and subsequent attempts to improve them are unsatisfactory.

We will keep the membership posted on this as there are further developments.

Newsletter

The next edition of the newsletter will be published in June. Articles and news items are most welcome. Submit to Steve Lee, Box 96, Boise, ID 83701 or phone (208) 336-5066.

Following in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark over the treacherous Nee-Me-Poo Trail along the wild Lochsa River ▼ by Cynthia Hunter

Time Travel



CYNTHIA HUNTER

TRAIL MIX:

Rock cairns and the soaring peaks of the Craggs still mark the trail of the historic expedition.

The five of us tie our horses a short distance from the lip of the ridge, just beyond the rock cairn. Seated in the tall summer grasses of North Idaho, blades between our teeth, we contemplate the words of explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, who stopped in this very spot on their return journey from the Pacific Ocean in June 1806. It was here at "The Smoking Place" that their Nez Perce guides halted by a sacred rock cairn to share a pipe and pray for a safe journey.

Against the backdrop of the spiny Bitterroots and Lolo Pass to the east, Clark wrote in his journal: "...we were entirely surrounded by those mountains from which to no-one unacquainted with them it would have seemed impossible ever to have escaped; in short without the assistance of our guides I doubt much whether we who had once passed them could find our way."

Such remoteness seems as pervasive today as it was to Lewis and Clark almost 200 years ago. The trail Lewis and Clark followed, known as the Nee-Me-Poo Trail, was used by Native American tribes for centuries as a route to bison hunting grounds to the east and salmon-filled rivers to the west. Today, many portions of the trail are still intact. By horse, mountain bike, foot, or car, you can rediscover the campsites and see up close the 7,000-foot ridgelines explored by Lewis and Clark.

Our outfitter-led trip begins along the banks of the Lochsa River near the Idaho and Montana border. Lochsa translates to "rough water,"

and the Shoshone guide of Lewis and Clark knew it was better to climb the steep ridgelines rather than attempt to cross the cliffs and gorges of the narrow river drainage on horseback.

But in late afternoon on this summer day, the Lochsa seems to flow by dreamily. Triple O outfitter Barb Opdahl greets our motley crew of would-be adventurers with keys to cabins at the Lochsa Lodge just as her husband, Harlan, our guide for the week, saunters toward us.

From beneath his cowboy hat and gray beard, he describes last week's trip on the trail. "Just so proud of my little mule—didn't even kick me once!" As he walks on past us, Barb chimes in in hurried

explanation, "He's just so proud of her."

A throwback to a generation of mountain men and explorers, Harlan once led trips for the Smithsonian Institution. He now retraces Lewis and Clark's trail with the precision of someone in the original party. He thrives on taking his bold black Appaloosa, Kidd, into overgrown stretches of trail and across fallen trees, and has been known to ride six hours in the dark to find a lost coffee mug. With Harlan's passion for historic detail and knowledge of the vast wilderness where the trail lies, it doesn't take long to feel swept back into the history that led to the opening of the Pacific Northwest.

We set out on the first leg of our journey as sunlight streams through the mist hovering above the Lochsa. Harlan's rambling blue Suburban takes us to the site where Lewis and Clark camped along the river on their westbound journey in September 1805. Situated just across from the Powell Ranger Station on U.S. Highway 12, the site was named Colt Killed Creek for obvious reasons. The 33-member party camped here after traveling 17 miles over Lolo Pass, mistakenly following the trail to the river.

Realizing their error, they climbed back toward the ridgelines. The 80-mile ridge route is paralleled by a primitive, 14-foot-wide dirt road known as the Lolo Motorway, built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. On the empty motorway, we pass through forests of subalpine fir, spruce, and lodgepole pine, glimpsing a series of blue ridges that fade into the distant summer haze. High mountain meadows red with Indian paintbrush and white with pearly everlasting line the unpaved route.

We hear Barb on the radio some 35 miles away. She's asking about the horses for tomorrow's ride. But it's hours and miles of trail before we reach her, the horses, and Dave and Dan, the wranglers, for that evening's meal of spaghetti and meatballs. Our hearty meals are far from the sobering journal accounts that Clark noted: "Made supe [sic] with snow and ate remains of the colt."

Already, Harlan has shown us the worn ruts of the Bird-Truax Wagon Road, built in the 1860s and used by Chief Joseph when fleeing the cavalry. And we've studied a grove of dead lodgepole pines, rediscovered in 1993, that still have ax marks where Chief Joseph's starving tribe was believed to have peeled away the bark to

reach the cambian beneath during their flight.

With the exception of a few dirt roads and fire lookouts, civilization has yet to creep into this wilderness, home to the elusive elk that keep us up after midnight by barking like dogs in the nearby woods, then graze beside our bedrolls at dawn while we catch up on lost sleep; the bull moose that runs past Barb's table at our second night's camp; the deer we watch from around evening campfires; and the black bears we never see but dream about unmercifully after dark.

We know the bears are drawn by the abundant huckleberry bushes along the trail. From the saddle, we pluck berries. Mabel, a savvy mutt owned by one of the wranglers, gets the hang of it and short-changes the supply we gather for Barb's pie that night.

For five days and 65 miles on horseback, Harlan leads us across stretches of trail seemingly forgotten since the explorers came through. We read journal excerpts and marvel at how little has changed.

At one overlook we rest our horses near a brook where endangered pink monkeyflowers grow. We stand above a meadow that stretches down the mountain toward the Lochsa Drainage far below. Across the ridge tops, we can just make out the jagged Crags Mountains above the Selway River. Clark's entry here at Greensward Camp could have been ours: "...much to the satisfaction of ourselves and the comfort of the horses we arrived at the desired spot and encamped on the steep side of mountain convenient to a good spring. Here we found an abundance of good grass for our horses."

The days pass too quickly, filled with Harlan's endless trail stories. One day we climb to Spirit Revival Ridge, where Lewis and Clark first saw the plains to the west near present-day Grangeville, Idaho, marking the end of the treacherous mountain crossing. We ride past the monolithic rock cairns of Chimney Butte and pick wild strawberries. On another afternoon we tie our horses and hike a half mile through fallen trees to the remote Jerusalem Artichokes Camp and wonder how young Sacajawea coped alone with three dozen mountain men. We ride quickly past Horse Steak Meadows, glad our mounts can't understand Harlan's description of what took place here. On our last trail day, we weave through the same old growth of cedar, fir,

weekends

and spruce that Lewis and Clark would have seen, noting the clusters of white mushrooms shaped like peace pipes described in the journals.

Such moments are what Alaskan Patsy Ewing and others will remember about the trail. A nonrider and young mother of two who had left her husband and children for the week, she summed up the trail in this way: "The less maintained it was the more I enjoyed it. It was more like what Lewis and Clark experienced." As we scrambled through brush on horseback, Ewing joked, "I doubt they had anyone ahead of them grooming the trails for them."

For information on the trail or motorway, contact the Clearwater National Forest office (208-476-4541). For outfitter-led trips, call the Pierce, Idaho-based Triple O (208-464-2349), which leads six-day horse (\$850) and mountain-bike (\$1,100) outings, or Lewis and Clark Trail Adventures (406-728-7609) in Missoula, Montana, which leads three-day mountain-bike trips (\$299).

Pacific Northwest

IDAHO CHAPTER
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.

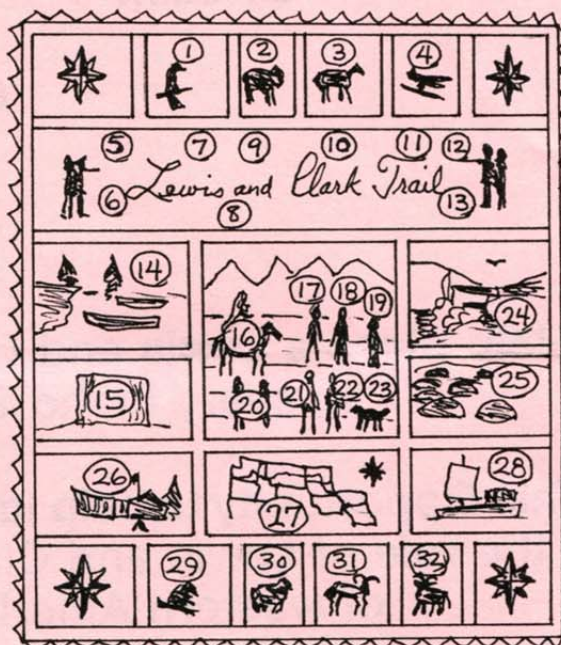
QUILT

Proceeds from the raffle of this quilt will be used to place a Lewis and Clark video tape in every school district in Idaho



Guide to the Lewis and Clark items found on the quilt

- 1 - Lewis's Woodcracker
- 2 - Buffalo
- 3 - Mule Deer
- 4 - Clark's Nutcracker
- 5 - Bitterroot
- 6 - Salmonberry
- 7 - Lewis's Monkey Flower
- 8 - Salmon
- 9 - Camas
- 10 - Clarkia
- 11 - Large Headed Clover
- 12 - Oregon Grape Holly
- 13 - Salal
- 14 - Canoe Camp (Idaho)
- 15 - Pompey's Pillar (Montana)
- 16 - Indian Chief
- 17 - Meriwether Lewis
- 18 - William Clark
- 19 - Sacagawea
- 20 - Indian Women
- 21 - Expedition member
- 22 - York
- 23 - Seaman
- 24 - Great Falls of the Missouri River (Montana)
- 25 - Mandan Village (North Dakota)
- 26 - Fort Clatsop (Oregon)
- 27 - Map of the Lewis and Clark Expedition with the dates of the Expedition: May 14, 1804 - September 23, 1806
- 28 - Keelboat
- 29 - Black-Tailed Prairie Dog
- 30 - Grizzly Bear
- 31 - Bighorn Sheep
- 32 - Elk



The back of the quilt is marked: "Made for the Idaho Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation - June 1993 - Bev Davie" (Bev Davie is from Orofino, Idaho)

**LEWIS AND CLARK QUILT
RAFFLE**

DONATIONS

\$1 each

6 for \$5

25 for \$20

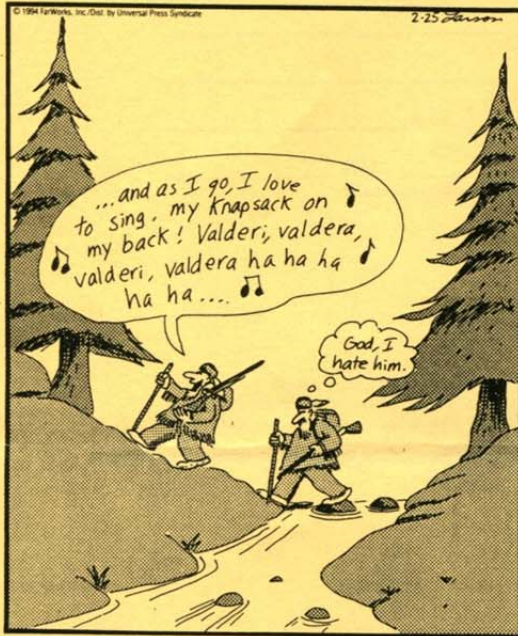
**Help place a Lewis and Clark documentary video
in every Idaho School District.**

**This Opportunity to help Idaho students understand
the role of Lewis and Clark in the development
of western America is offered by**

**Idaho Chapter
Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation**

Feb. 25, 1994
LEWISTON MORNING TRIBUNE

The Far Side



More tension on the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Construction continuing on LCSC Centennial Mall

Work began March 23 on a project that will forever change the heart of the Lewis-Clark State College campus.

Construction crews from Leone & Keeble Inc. of Spokane, Wash., began excavation at the site of the LCSC Centennial Mall's featured statue, a depiction of Nez Perce Tribal Chief Twisted Hair and his son Lawyer meeting with Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

The life-size bronze statue will be installed later this spring in a specially prepared site directly west of James W. Reid Centennial Hall.

Limestone rock, donated by the Nez Perce Tribe from its quarry, will be used to create a large base for the statue. The site will also be landscaped this spring with trees, bushes and other vegetation that has historical significance for the Nez Perce.

Construction crews removed sidewalks and topsoil from the statue site and carved a path in the lawn for a brick-lined walkway that will connect the site with an existing east-west corridor near the library and Meriwether Lewis Hall.

In the weeks ahead, work will continue on the base of the mall's Wall of History that will extend from the statue site west toward what will become the mall's principal pedestrian corridor, now part of Fifth Street.

The history wall will contain artistic depictions of events and

eras that define or influenced the region. The wall will contain individual panels with relief art related to the area's geography, economy, development and peoples.

As crews began excavation of the statue area, site preparation was under way directly east of the College Union Building where an amphitheatre will be built for formal and informal outdoor programs.

Terraced seating will provide more than 500 primary seats and some 250 secondary seats for viewing formal and informal outdoor programs, ranging from concerts and theater productions to classes, readings and other public forums.

The statue setting and amphitheater may be completed or ready for formal dedication as part of this year's commencement activities, May 20, said LCSC President Lee A. Vickers.

"We have anxiously awaited this day and are excited that work has begun on this historic Centennial Mall," Vickers added. "The mall symbolizes the beginning of a new era for Lewis-Clark State College, a transition from our first century into a second that will be equally challenging and rewarding."

Students or their families are invited to join LCSC friends in purchasing bricks for the top of the history wall. For information, call Therese Hightower, assistant to the president, at ext. 2458.

While construction proceeds, students, faculty and staff are strongly encouraged to avoid the area. Because of hazardous conditions, individuals should not cross construction lines and find alternative routes across campus.

A few parking spaces along Fifth Street and near Reid Hall will be inaccessible during construction. Cooperation is appreciated as the center of campus is transformed.

PATHFINDER

Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston, Idaho

No. 28 April 20, 1994