

## ***Idaho Chapter Newsletter - July 1997***

### **LEWIS AND CLARK EXPERIENCE JULY 26 and 27**

Big Lewis and Clark events are occurring in Orofino, Lewiston and Clarkston this month with the building of canoes, the floating of those canoes, the July 27th event and the Ken Burns movie premiere. Enclosed is a brochure outlining the activities along with ticket prices and telephone numbers. You won't want to miss this one! Proceeds from this event will go to the area Lewis and Clark bicentennial committee educational programs.

### **LCTHF ANNUAL MEETING IN STEVENSON, WA**

The annual meeting gets under way at the Skamania Lodge in Stevenson from July 27 through the 30th. On the final evening, the Idaho Chapter will once again host a small reception prior to the awards banquet. All Idaho Chapter members and friends are invited to come by and share your thoughts about Chapter events and business. Please plan to stop by and see old friends. The location will be announced during the annual meeting. The Chapter will also be selling T-shirts at the reception on the first day. We now have three new colors and some sweatshirts so come by and support the Idaho Chapter.

### **IDAHO PUBLIC TV WILL PRODUCE LEWIS & CLARK TRAIL DOCUMENTARY**

With filming beginning this month and in September, Idaho Public TV is producing a documentary of the trail entitled "Echoes of a Bitter Crossing". It will explore the Corps' most difficult passage through western Montana and northern Idaho. The program will explore what has changed and what has remained intact after nearly two hundred years of civilization. Bruce Reichert is the producer for the program. No date has been set for the program but attempts will be made to announce it later in this newsletter.

### **KEN THOMASMA'S NEW BOOK *THE TRUTH ABOUT SACAJAWEA* AVAILABLE**

Ken Thomsma, who's interests in the Lemhi Shoshoni is well known, has written a new book entitled *The Truth About Sacajawea*. The book is a beautifully illustrated hardcover book is available through Grandview Publishing in Jackson, Wyoming (1-800-525-7344). This book has been approved by Sacajawea's descendants. According to Grandview Publishing, no other book in print tells exactly what is known about this amazing teenage Shoshoni mother. Ken documents her actual contributions to the expedition. Also included is a statement by Sacajawea's descendants telling their unique view of her and her place in American history. Profits from sales go to establish the Sacajawea Cultural Interpretive Center planned for the original Lemhi homeland.



# Lewis & Clark: One giant step for mankind

■ Filmmaker Ken Burns says 1803 expedition more important than moon landing

By **SETH PRESTON**  
OF THE TRIBUNE

Acclaimed filmmaker Ken Burns says in U.S. history, the arduous Lewis-Clark expedition into the wilds of the West is "even more important than the moon landing in its significance."

That is why he will premiere portions of a new, four-hour documentary about the expedition during the planned Lewis & Clark Experience extravaganza July 27

in Clarkston, Burns said Tuesday.

Burns' film — "Lewis and Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery" — is a cornerstone of the event, an observance of the 1803-1806 trip into the Western frontier, and especially of the expedition's journey through the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley in 1805 and 1806. The Lewis & Clark Experience was detailed during a news conference at the event's 20-acre site off Port Drive across from the Quality Inn.

The site will feature a stage play on

President Thomas Jefferson's commissioning of Meriwether Lewis to lead the Corps of Discovery to explore lands obtained in the Louisiana Purchase. Also planned are an Indian village and educational programs designed to show modern-day people how their descendants lived and ate nearly 200 years ago.

"You'll be able to *taste* 1805, as well as *see* 1805," primary event organizer Steve Leroy said of the planned meals of salmon and berries.

Tickets to the screened-off site will

cost \$20 for adults who want a meal, and \$16 for those who don't. The cost for children 12 and younger will be \$16 with a meal and \$12 without one.

The observance actually will begin July 26, when dugout canoes made by local individuals and groups will launch from the Lewis-Clark expedition's Canoe Camp site at Orofino for a journey down the Clearwater River. The canoes will reach the Clarkston site on the evening of July 27.

Leroy — a Lewiston native who has

See **Giant**, Page 4A

worked in similar roles for Democratic presidents, government agencies and McDonald's corporate headquarters — stressed the event's educational aspects. He said this is a time to look at and understand the region's heritage.

It also is a chance to "teach children the value of discovery, whether it be around their block or around their world," he said.

Such historical, educational projects are hallmarks for Burns, who has achieved national prominence for a series of detailed documentaries ranging from "The Civil War" to "Baseball," a celebration of the national pastime.

In a conference call Tuesday during a break from making another film in New York, Burns said he chose the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley for the premiere because "you guys are ground zero."

"These twin cities, to me, symbolize their journey," he said.

Burns said that as yet he isn't sure what form the premiere will take. It probably will feature clips from the documentary, interspersed with a presentation by Burns and coproducer Dayton Duncan, an acclaimed history author. He estimated the program would take an hour to 90 minutes.

Whatever the case, Burns said he is excited.

"I think we've done not only one of the best, but one of the most beautiful films we've ever done," Burns said.

That's because the two-part film, which will air on PBS in November, relies on live cinematography rather than archival photos as in other Burns films. Still, he noted, finding the

type of pristine conditions encountered by Lewis and Clark proved difficult at times because of encroachment by power lines and other modern developments.

"Instead of buffalo, we found cattle kind of lowing peacefully," Burns said.

The Lewis & Clark Experience is being backed by individuals and civic and business groups throughout the region. Many of them attended Tuesday's conference on a mowed patch at the event site as trucks from Port of Clarkston-based businesses rumbled past.

Gale Thompson, a Washington state tourism official, pledged her department's commitment to helping with future local Lewis-Clark bicentennial observances.

Lewis & Clark Experience organizers also are working with the Nez Perce Tribe to determine how tribal members will participate. Leroy stressed the nature of any involvement will be the tribe's decision, but noted the Nez Perce role is key to the event and to history.

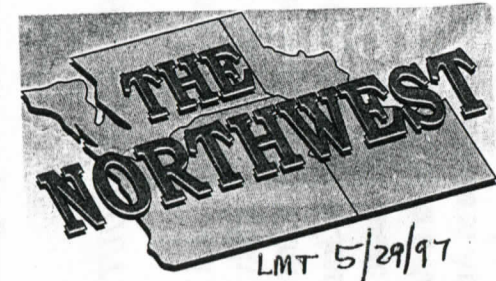
Tribal member Allen V. Pinkham, a member of the National Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Council, said the July 27 event will give the tribe an opportunity to relate its view of history and the Corps of Discovery's expedition.

"There was no discovery (of this region). There was already somebody here when they got here — the Nee-Mee-Poo, the Nez Perce," Pinkham said.

Clarkston Chamber of Commerce President Ron Krueger said chamber members are "proud and very excited" to be involved in the Lewis & Clark Experience.

The event could bring national attention to the valley, he noted.

Krueger said he hopes visitors will leave with "a special place in their hearts for Clarkston, Wash., and Lewiston, Idaho."



## ■ BLM may accommodate Lemhi Tribe's wish for a home

BOISE — The U.S. Bureau of Land Management may be able to solve the Shoshoni Lemhi Tribe's wish for a home near Salmon.

The tribe wants to leave the Fort Hall Reservation near Pocatello and start a new one with a model Lemhi village and a Sacajawea Interpretive Center on aboriginal lands.

They need a site that does not conflict with other uses and the BLM may have a solution.

"It's a possibility," BLM area manager Dave Krosting said Tuesday following a meeting with the Lemhi County commissioners.

"The tribe may only need 1,000 acres or less, and in that case, we could probably find some land that would have very little

conflict with other uses. We'd look at any practical proposal to help these people because they're very deserving of it."

The Lemhis were moved from their ancestral home in the Lemhi Valley to Fort Hall in 1907. The government considered them part of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, but they dispute that.

Sacajawea, a Lemhi guide for the Lewis and Clark expedition, was born near the community of Tendoy. Tendoy is named after a Lemhi chief. The valley is sacred to the tribe.

Re-establishing some form of the reservation that vanished in 1907 is critical to the Lemhis' plans.

"The commissioners were concerned about gambling, which the tribe's leaders don't want," Lemhi supporter Ken Thomasma said.

Associated Press



Event gives folks a chance to ...

# Paddle their own canoes

■ Area residents will be crafting canoes and sailing them down river in July

By **SETH PRESTON**  
OF THE TRIBUNE

Dugout canoes hand-crafted from logs by area residents will journey down the Clearwater River July 26 and 27 as a key part of the Lewis & Clark Expedition.

Applications are now available for groups and businesses interested in sponsoring and fashioning canoes for the river voyage, event organizer Steve Leroy said Tuesday.

Canoists will depart the Orofino area July 26, stay overnight at Myrtle Beach and arrive at Clarkston the next day.

The landing will be part of a day-long observance of the 1803-1806 journey made by Meriwether Lewis, William

Clark and the Corps of Discovery through Western lands obtained in the Louisiana Purchase.

The event also will feature the world premiere of portions of a new, four-hour Ken Burns documentary on the Lewis-Clark expedition, which will be televised on PBS in November. Burns has gained national fame for making similar historical documentaries. The premiere and other activities are planned at a 20-acre site across from the Quality Inn off Port Drive.

The deadline for applications for canoes is next Wednesday. As many as 50 applications will be granted and groups or businesses will be required to pay \$500 to \$1,000 per canoe.

Event planners will review applications and decide June 12 who will qualify to participate.

Application forms are available at local chambers of com-

merce. Information is available by calling the Lewis & Clark Experience office at (509) 758-0386.

Leroy said applicants must show a desire to take part in the canoe event with "educational and historical spirit." They also must be willing to dedicate themselves to crafting the canoes in a fashion similar to those used during the Lewis-Clark expedition.

"People who want to do this are going to have to be dedicated. It's going to take many, many hours," he said. "It's very doable, but it's not if you're not dedicated to the task."

Each canoe will be made from a 16- to 20-foot log and will carry three or four adults. Common work sites will be set up at Locomotive Park in Lewiston and Fairgrounds Park in Orofino. Those canoes will launch from Pink House Hole near Orofino.

Five other canoes, built by event organizers and representing the original contingent used during the expedition, will launch upriver from Canoe Camp, where expedition members are believed to have built their vessels in 1805.

Leroy said event organizers will help groups with canoe-building training, equipment and materi-

als. "We will be able to teach you anything you need to know about digging out a dugout canoe."

With that in mind, he recruited John Allen of Warrenton, Ore., to oversee canoe work. Allen is completing a 33-foot-long dugout canoe at the Fort Clatsop National Memorial through a contract with the National Park Service. Last Thursday, Allen visited Canoe Camp to talk about the project.

"Sounds pretty exciting. Sounds like an adventure of epic proportions," he said of the canoe program.

Leroy outlined program details Tuesday at Lewis-Clark State College. He said sponsorship costs easily could be spread among members of large groups.

"I don't think the fees are going to scare anyone away," he said.

Idaho Treasurer Lydia Justice Edwards, on the LCSC campus for a regional meeting of groups and individuals working on observances for the bicentennial of the Lewis-Clark expedition, joined Leroy during his announcement. Like Leroy, she stressed the opportunity the Lewis & Clark Expedition will provide for educating children about history.

"That's the most exciting thing we can do," she said.

From 5A

■ **Nez Perce culture is topic of weekly programs**

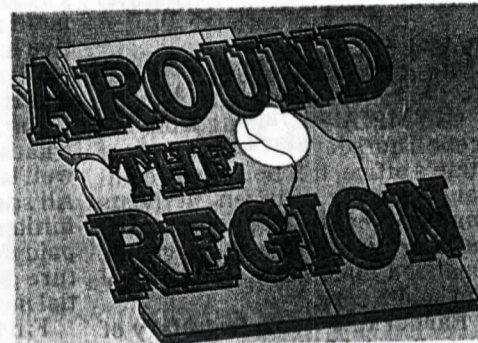
**KAMIAH** — Programs on the history and culture of the Nez Perce people will be presented at 7 p.m. each Thursday through August at the Heart of the Monster site in east Kamiah.

The programs will start at 7 p.m., except Aug. 21 and 28, when they will begin at 6:30 p.m.

A National Park Service ranger will present the 30-minute programs. Topics will include Nez Perce legends, the Nez Perce and Lewis & Clark and the Nez Perce War of 1877.

Participants are asked to bring something to sit on. More information on the programs is available from the White Bird and Upper Clearwater unit manager Otis Halfmoon at (208) 983-2034.

Friday, July 4, 1997





# Filmmaker ready for his own trek West

LEWISTON TRIBUNE

■ Dayton Duncan preparing documentary on Lewis and Clark for July 27 premiere

By SETH PRESTON  
OF THE TRIBUNE

7/8/97

These days, Dayton Duncan toils in a New York City sound studio, far from his rural New Hampshire home and even farther from his desire.

At day's end, he wades through the Big Apple's "hubhub" to his temporary living quarters. The next morning, he returns to the studio for more work on a new documentary, "Lewis and Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery." The film tracks the route explorers traversed from 1803 to 1806 through wild Western lands America obtained in the Louisiana Purchase.

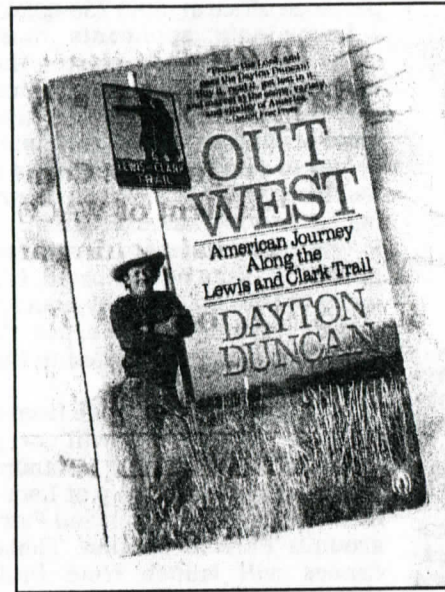
The four-hour film expands on the expedition as described in "The West," an epic documentary developed by Duncan and acclaimed filmmaker Ken Burns. It also dovetails with Duncan's book, "Out West," which documents his own travels

along the Lewis and Clark Trail.

"It's been a passion, almost bordering on obsession, in terms of doing the film but also in telling the story," Duncan said this week in a telephone interview.

Soon, he and Burns will share that passion — and the world premiere of portions of their new film — with area residents and visitors during the Lewis & Clark Experience.

The July 27 event is set for a 20-acre site in Clarkston on Port Drive near the Quality Inn. Other scheduled activities include an Indian village, historical plays and the type of meal Corps of Discovery members may have eaten — salmon, wild berries and



Hampshire. I was born and raised in Iowa. But to me, I need to get out to the West, where I can expand my lungs," he said.

beans.

On July 26, the event officially will begin with the launch of a few dozen dugout canoes made by area individuals and groups. The canoes leave Orofino and travel the Clearwater River to Myrtle Beach for an overnight stay, then arrive at the Clarkston site the next day.

Duncan said he is excited to return to the Lewiston-Clarkston region, which he visited several times while working on his book and the films with Burns.

"I live in New

But it is more than that. It is the passion for sharing what he calls one of the most significant experiences in U.S. history — one that is "beyond belief, almost."

Tales of the Lewis and Clark Expedition abound with enough drama and detail to appeal to almost anyone, he said. They were the first U.S. citizens to venture into the unexplored Western region, they documented their dealings with Native American tribes, they tracked the animals and vegetation of the land and they plunged headlong into a place where they had no idea what waited beyond the next rise.

Duncan said the expedition also is a remarkable example of friendship between leaders Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, and of diverse peoples working together for a common goal.

"Before the word 'multicultural' had ever been uttered, they were it," he said, noting the entourage included a black slave and the Indian woman Sacajawea.

They were given equal votes among

See **Filmmaker**, Page 6A

expedition members — something the rest of the nation spent the entire 19th century trying to deal with, and actually still struggles with today, he said.

"When working at their best, they represented the best of the promise of America. And part of that promise is there's always something better over the next horizon."

Duncan laments that more people don't seem to understand or care about history. They don't realize it explains who they are as people, and how this nation came to be.

"I think that for a lot of people, their view of history is it's something they had to memorize in junior high or high school. ... It's just a dry, dead topic."

But Duncan sees it as much more. "History is not just memorizing the order of the presidents or important dates. It's how we remember things."

It's about individuals making decisions that affect themselves, others around them and perhaps the course of a nation, he added.

Again, it's that kind of passion that first connected him with Burns, who also made the acclaimed documentaries "The Civil War" and "Baseball." They forged a friendship and a close working relationship.

Duncan worked as a consultant on the two aforementioned films. He was the co-writer and consulting producer on "The West," and wrote the "Lewis and Clark" film, which he is co-producing with Burns. Next they plan a biography of famed American writer Mark Twain.

Duncan has written six books, most tied to historical events. His newest, "Lewis and Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery," will be released this fall at about the same time the like-named documentary debuts on

PBS.

But those attending the Lewis & Clark Experience will be the first to see portions of the documentary, which was filmed throughout the region by Duncan, Burns and their crew.

Duncan said he and Burns jumped out at the opportunity when it was suggested by organizers of the Lewis & Clark Experience and of future events tied to the Corps of Discovery's bicentennial.

It helped that the primary event organizer for the Lewis & Clark Experience is Lewiston native Steve Leroy, Duncan's friend from their less-than-glorious days as staff members for failed Democratic presidential candidates.

Duncan was deputy press secretary for former Vice President Walter Mondale's 1984 presidential bid, and press secretary for former Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis' 1988 failed attempt.

Duncan said he and Burns already were scheduled to show the film at a Lewis and Clark Trail historical group meeting in Washington and at a television critics' conference in Los Angeles. They will stop here first.

He said there is "something great" about showing the film first in the two cities named after the Corps of Discovery's leaders.

This area, because of the friendship extended by Nez Perce tribal members, also represents what began as a good relationship between non-Indians and Indians, Duncan said. Only later did that relationship turn sour.

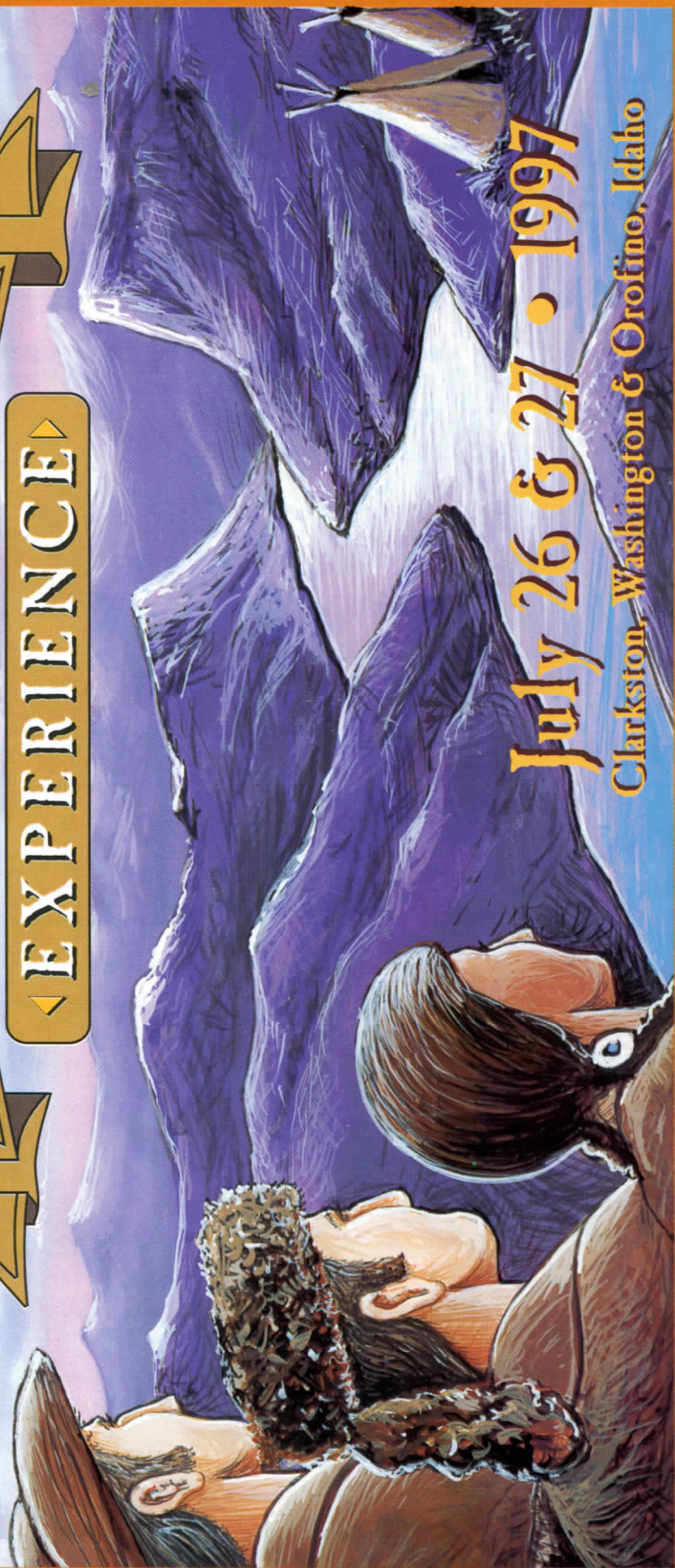
He said the tale of the expedition shows Americans can pull together to face hardships and help each other, even now during a time when it seems the United States is fracturing into different groups.

"And in the story of Lewis and Clark, many people can find common ground."

Tuesday, July 8, 1997



# LEWIS & CLARK EXPERIENCE



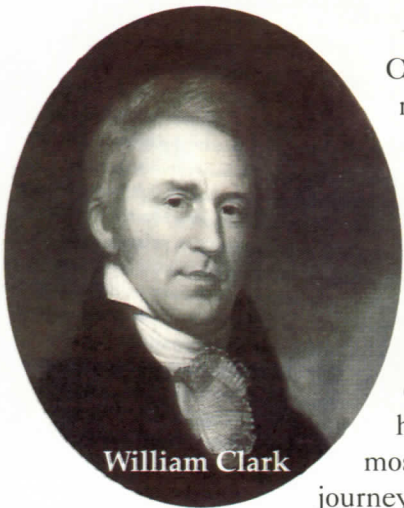
July 26 & 27 • 1997

Clarkston, Washington & Orofino, Idaho



# THE CORPS OF

# DISCOVERY



William Clark

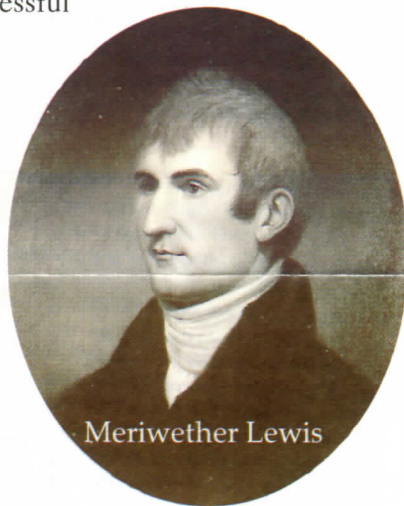
**In 1804** when co-commanders Meriwether Lewis & William Clark set off from St. Louis with an expeditionary force of thirty-two men, the single greatest expanse of territory in what was to become the United States was still a terrifying blank as deep and empty as outer space. This courageous group called themselves the Corps of Discovery.

**To the Nez Perce** people and their tribal neighbors, of course, the places we now call Idaho, Washington, and Oregon were “home.” Without the cooperation of these native inhabitants, every member of the expeditionary force would almost certainly have perished, and what became not only the most momentous but also the most successful

journey of exploration and discovery in

American history would have become a national

tragedy. Instead, the unprecedented success of the Lewis and Clark Expedition set the imagination of the American people on fire and for the first time helped them feel the full sweep and immensity of the continent on which they lived.



Meriwether Lewis

**From September 26** to October 7, 1805, The Corps of Discovery camped on the southern shore of the Clearwater River not far from the present-day town of Orofino, Idaho. Here the party left their horses with the Nez Perce Indians and spent thirteen critical days and over 300 hours fully engaged in the purposeful activity of building dugout canoes. These were the craft that would carry the Corps and their supplies down the Clearwater, Snake, and Columbia Rivers all the way to their principal goal, the “great Pacific Ocean which we’ve been so long anxious to see.”

**The purpose** of the 1997 Lewis & Clark Experience is to rekindle that fire, to remind us that the challenges of a New World are still with us, that our past is not some single event or some inert thing that lies dead and buried beneath our feet. On the contrary, our history is alive, as visible as the currents in the Snake and Clearwater Rivers where the events of the 1997 Lewis & Clark Experience will take place in various forms along the lines of a living museum.

**Local citizens** will re-enact a part of the historic journey, which changed the fate of our nation, by building and launching replica dugouts from Canoe Camp: President Jefferson’s Corps of Discovery will once again be waterborne. Watching the process of recreating the canoes from raw logs to finished dugout canoes will itself create a unique educational experience for those who witness the operations and those who accept the challenge. After the launch, the 1997 Corps of Discovery will set up camp the first night on the south bank of the Clearwater River near Myrtle. The campsite is a short distance from where the Corps of Discovery camped 192 years ago.



MIKE VENSO





MIKE VENSO

**The next morning** The Corps will break camp and travel downstream to Clarkston, Washington, where they will land their craft near the site of the old Nez Perce village at the confluence of the Clearwater and Snake Rivers. Ticket holders to the educational park will also be able to time travel back through two centuries to an Indian village on the site of a twenty acre educational park. Here, ticket holders will also receive a one ounce replica of the Jefferson Peace Medal and share the Lewis & Clark Experience.



**Digging Your Own Dugout.** The Clearwater and the Snake Rivers will be filled with history as dugout canoes float from Orofino, Idaho, to Clarkston, Washington. The canoes, dug out of pine using the same design as Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery, will be constructed from Idaho timber over the summer at building sites in Lewiston and Orofino and feature the work of community based business leaders and historical groups members. The flotilla will challenge the same rapids as did the Corps and will face many of the same challenges of canoes of primitive construction in the rough river environment they faced. All those in attendance at the event will indeed have a close up view of the Lewis and Clark river experience.

**The Trading Experience.** To enhance the education of those attending the event, money will not be exchanged *within the event site*; instead, trading beads and ribbons will be made available through area merchants or just outside of the event site for bartering with native craftsmen in the event. Ribbons and beads will come in \$1.00 and \$5.00 denominations and can be combined when trading for items.



MIKE VENSO

**The Experience Environment.** As you walk through the entry into the Lewis and Clark educational park, you will be stepping back into 1805 and literally joining the Corps of Discovery. You will leave the modern world behind you and join the Tribal members around their camp as they go through their daily activities. You will eat the same meal prepared in much the same manner as the Corps of Discovery. You and those with you will truly share in the "Lewis and Clark Experience".

**Lewis and Clark Education.** The education stage will be filled with experts talking about the history of the Corps, their many discoveries, and the challenges they faced as they made their way across the uncharted West. Nationally known performer Clay Jenkinson will portray President Thomas

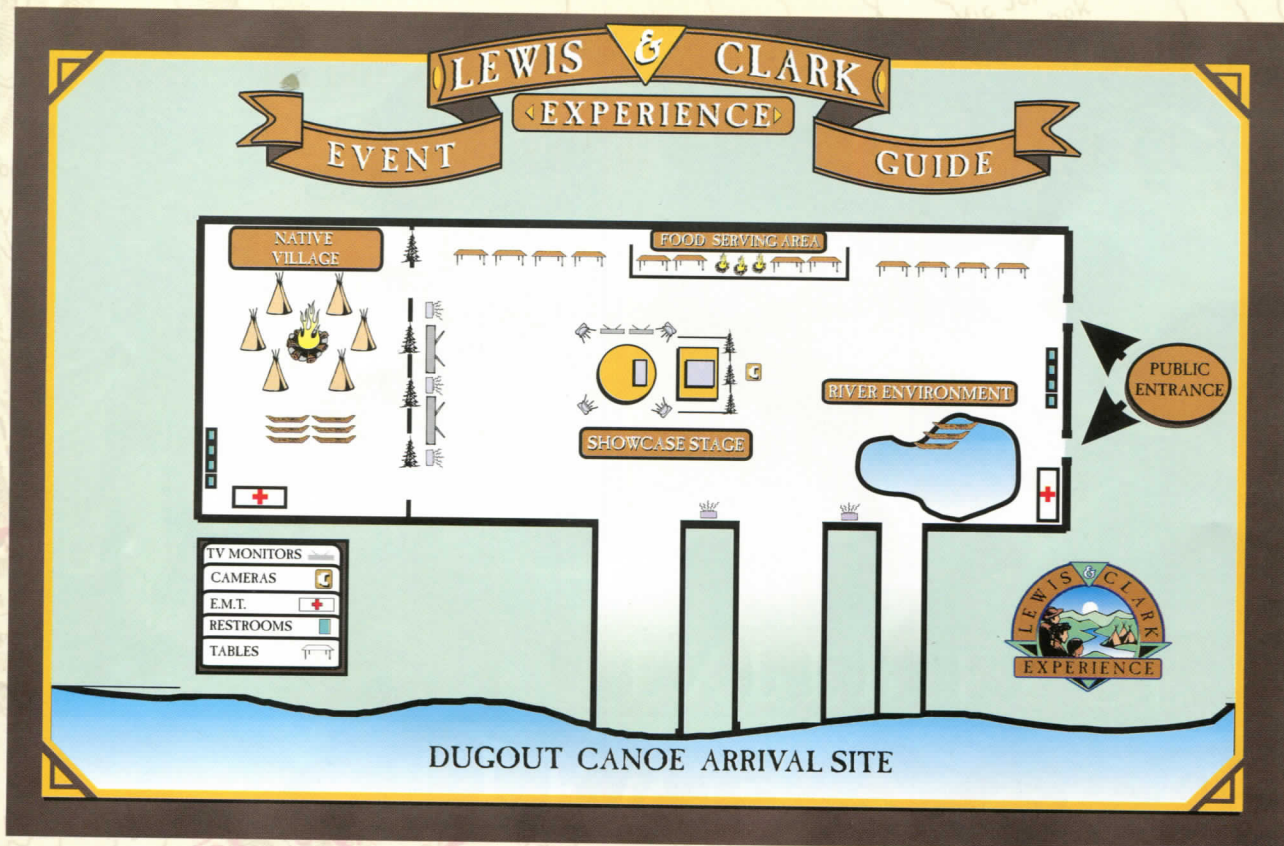
Jefferson and Meriwether Lewis, while others will showcase the languages and the environment during the 1805 time period.

**Ken Burns' Movie.** One of the highlights for everyone attending the Lewis and Clark Experience will be the premiere of the Ken Burns- Dayton Duncan produced film "Lewis and Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery." The Public Broadcast System (PBS) will nationally televise the movie in early November. But those who participate in the Lewis-Clark Experience will see parts of the film months before the rest of the world. Mr. Burns and Mr. Duncan will be in attendance. They will talk about their experiences in shooting, writing and editing the movie and will highlight what they themselves learned. All of those in attendance will be given a trip through the movie making process and through history. In their own words they offer thoughts about the Lewis & Clark Experience.

*"We're excited about taking part in the festivities of the Lewis and Clark Experience...it promises to be both fun and educational. We're looking forward to premiering segments of our film for the people of the Lewiston-Clarkston region." - Ken Burns*

*"Of all the dramatic and historically significant moments of the expedition's epic journey, few stand out more than the encounter with the Nez Perce Indians, without whose generosity and assistance the expedition could never have succeeded." - Dayton Duncan*





## Schedule of Events & Costs

*Saturday July 26, 1997*

*Orofino, Idaho - Canoe Camp*

Opening ceremonies 10:00 a.m.

Canoe Launch 11:00 a.m.

Canoe arrival at the Myrtle overnight campsite approx 5:00 p.m.

*Sunday July 27, 1997*

*Clarkston, Washington - Event Site*

Gates open 11:00 a.m.

Program activities begin 12:00 noon

Salmon, beans & wild berry meal 12:00 - 6:00 p.m.

President Thomas Jefferson & Meriwether Lewis Stage Play 1:00 & 4:00 p.m.

Native trading, Educational program & Native village 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Canoe arrival from Orofino 5:00 p.m.

Ken Burns presentation & movie premiere 8:00 -10:00 p.m.

### *Event Costs*

Adult with meal \$20.00 - without meal \$16.00

Child (12 and under) with meal \$16.00 - without meal \$12.00

Family pass (2 adults, 3 children) \$75.00 with meal only

**EVENT TICKETS: 509 758-0386 or 1 888 758-0386**

**or Contact your local Chamber of Commerce**

The Lewis & Clark Experience  
recognizes the  
support & contributions of  
*The National Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Council*  
and its many members.



Proceeds from this event  
will go to area  
*Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Committees*  
for future educational programs.