

IDAHO CHAPTER - March 1998

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.

LEWIS AND CLARK ON TV

A special one hour edition of Idaho Public Television's *Outdoor Idaho* will follow the Lewis and Clark Expedition's route through Idaho. It was filmed last summer at events in the Lewiston and Salmon areas as well as other places along the trail. The program airs **THURSDAY, MARCH 12 at 8 PM (Mountain Time) and 7 PM (Pacific Time)**. The program will repeat on **SUNDAY** at 7 PM and 6 PM. Idaho Public Television describes the program as the re-tracing of the journey through Idaho with a modern day group of explorers. Also check out IPTV's web site for more information: (www.idptv.state.id.us).

GOVERNOR BATT WANTS PROTECTION OF IDAHO LEWIS & CLARK SITE

Governor Philip E. Batt, in his "state of the state" speech on January 12, announced his support of protecting the Glade Creek campsite along the Lolo Trail in northcentral Idaho. Governor Batt stated: "My administration has endeavored to make other investments in our great out-of-doors, as well...With our tight budgets, we couldn't afford it. But more importantly, we couldn't afford not to, so we found a way. We couldn't risk seeing these facilities [Cascade, Walcott, Big Eddy] lost from the public domain forever. And, in anticipation of the 200th anniversary of Lewis and Clark's incredible expedition, I'm working with Plum Creek Timber Company in order to obtain a showpiece state park on the Lolo Trail, which is one of the best preserved original campsites of the Lewis and Clark party."



In February, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, in opening remarks at a lecture in Moscow, related her delight in visiting northern Idaho for the first time. She mentioned seeing the Clearwater River and it being on the Lewis and Clark trail. It seems a lot of people are interested in Lewis and Clark as the bicentennial approaches.

UPCOMING IDAHO CHAPTER MEETINGS

Mark your calendars for some exciting upcoming meetings of the Idaho Chapter. On May 30, the chapter will have a joint meeting with the newly organized Washington Chapter in the Lewiston and Clarkston area. The Chapter will also meet during the Foundation's annual meeting in Great Falls the last part of June. On August 1, a chapter event will recognize William Clark's birthday. Mark your calendars for the first weekend in September (Labor Day weekend) as the Chapter will once again host a camp-out along the Lolo Trail. A meeting in the Salmon area is also planned. Details will be forthcoming in future editions of the newsletter but mark these dates on your calendar now!

LEWIS AND CLARK 1998 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 12 & March 15 - OUTDOOR IDAHO, 8PM/7PM

April 26-28 - Natl. L & C Bicentennial Council Planning Workshop, Bismarck, ND

May 30 - Chapter meeting in Lewiston

June 28-July 2 - Annual Foundation Meeting, Great Falls, MT

July 4 - Grand opening of Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, Great Falls

August 1 - Chapter event, Clark's Birthday

September 5-7 - Chapter Camp-out, Lolo Trail

TBA - Chapter event in Salmon

Friday, October 24, 1997

For Lewis-Clark details, Gass book can't miss

"The Journals of Patrick Gass"

edited and
annotated
by Carol Lynn
MacGregor
Mountain Press
Publishing,
Missoula, Mont.
Price: \$20 paperback
No. pages: 384
Reviewed by
Mike Venso

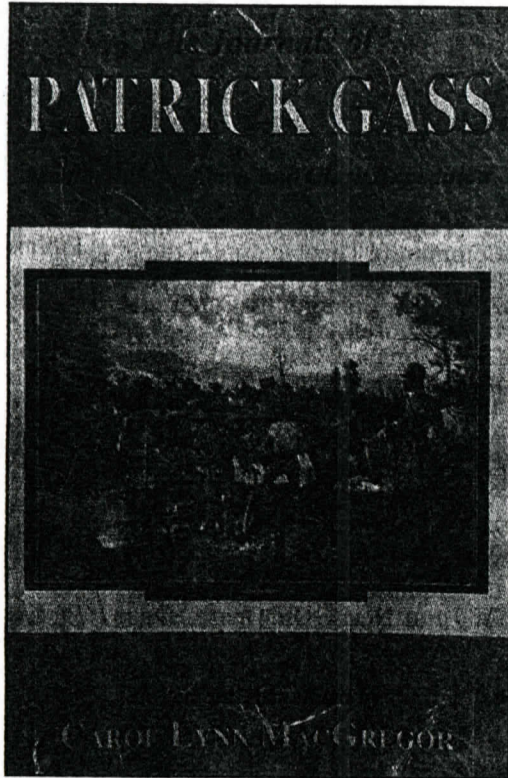
If you are a serious Lewis and Clark scholar, an armchair historian or just looking for an adventure story to curl up with this fall, the "Journals of Patrick Gass" is well worth its price.

It is actually two books. The first half is a reprint of the original journals of Patrick Gass, a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The second half is the first publication of Gass' account book for several years of his post-expedition life.

The account book provides scholars with some very valuable information, but casual readers will find a few tidbits worth browsing for as well.

How many of you knew, for example, that in 1829, you could get three mackerel for 25 cents or a gallon of whiskey for 37½ cents?

For those who want a different perspective on an often-told tale, Gass' journals are hard to put down.



Gass, was one of 33 members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition that explored the western half of what is now the United States in 1804-1806. He was also one of seven journalists among the Corps of Discovery, as the explorers are called.

The journals of the two captains, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, are the most widely recognized. However, sergeants Charles Floyd, John Ordway and Patrick

Gass, as well as privates Joseph Whitehouse and Robert Frazier also penned their version of the expedition.

Sgt. Floyd's journal is rather short as he died of natural causes in August 1804, just four months into the two and a half year journey. His successor to the post of sergeant was Patrick Gass, as elected by the men of the expedition (Oddly, Gass doesn't even mention this fact in his own journal).

The original journals of Lewis, Clark, Ordway, Whitehouse and Floyd all survived and have been published numerous times. Frazier's journal has never been found and Gass' original manuscript has disappeared as well. It is believed to have last been in the hands of David McKeehan who published Gass' journal in 1807, the first report of the expedition. It has since been republished with variances in content.

Boise State University adjunct professor and Idaho rancher Carol Lynn MacGregor has taken the Gass journals to a new level with this edition. By reprinting the original 1807 version with McKeehan's footnotes, she provides an accessible version of this fascinating American story. But the real gem in this edition is MacGregor's hefty collection of superb end notes.

Readers will likely find themselves, like I did, with two bookmarks, continuously flipping back and forth between the journal and the end notes. This may sound cumbersome, but MacGregor's well-researched end notes are well worth reading, as Gass' simple and succinct style at times begs for more information. She



Carol Lynn
MacGregor

skillfully draws upon the other five published journals to clarify and supplement Gass' entries. For those who don't want to risk carpal tunnel syndrome, the journal entries themselves will keep your interest.

Gass' version of this grand story of exploration and discovery is the layman's view without the burdensome logistical and naturalistic information that some of the other journals provide.

Stories like an evening spent flushing prairies' dogs out of their underground tunnels with buckets of water or the excitement of discovering that a pelican's mouth can hold five gallons of water are sprinkled throughout the daily entries.

Equally as fun, for this reader anyway, was the various ways used to spell words such as "mockersons" and "musketoes."

My favorite part of the whole book is "Appendix B" which is a table of hunters and the game they hunted.

The editor has painstakingly compiled a virtual daily list of what the Corps of Discovery had for dinner and who shot it. It's quite entertaining and thought-provoking to discover that some days the 33 members of the expedition survived on the daily take of one duck or nothing at all. Contrast that with the day they feasted on seven buffalo and one grizzly bear.

If you have never read about the Lewis and Clark Expedition, this may not be the best book for you. However, if you know the story and are at all remotely interested in learning more, this book will satisfy your hunger, capture your interest and send you to the library looking for more.

Venso is a Tribune photojournalist.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION TO BE COMMEMORATED

The approaching bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1803-1806 has inspired the Oregon Historical Society, the National Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Council, the University of Portland, and neighborhood groups to support the placement of special road signs commemorating the Expedition's journey up the Willamette River.

Crews installed the signs between the St. John's Bridge and North Portland's Overlook neighborhood beginning the first week of April, in recognition of the 191st anniversary of Captain William Clark's trip up the Willamette from April 2-3, 1806. Clark and Meriwether Lewis led the Corps of Discovery President Jefferson sent west in 1803. The brown-and-white signs are identical to the Lewis and Clark Trail road markers along Interstate 84 and Highway 30, which show how the Expedition paralleled the Columbia River that those highways follow.

OHS executive director Chet Orloff sees the signs as correcting a misconception: "While the public generally associates Lewis and Clark with the Columbia River, members of the Expedition also explored the lower Willamette River to near the present-day

University of Portland overlooking the river." Orloff also chairs the National Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Council, which is planning activities across the country to commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of the Corps' opening of the American West.

Leaders from the University Park Neighborhood Association (UPNA) secured a \$1,050 grant from the North Portland Enhancement Committee to place the markers along Willamette and Portland boulevards and Greeley Avenue. "The importance of Captain William Clark's exploration of the lower Willamette River shows how Portland had an earlier, Euro-American historical presence than almost any other part of our state," UPNA board member Mark Kirchmeier says.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition left their winter camp near Astoria on March 23, 1806, for the return journey. A few days later, Clark learned of the major river entering the south side of the Columbia, the Multnomah (Willamette). He and approximately seven companions spent April 2 and 3 exploring up the Willamette. On that trip, Clark became the first Euro-American to view a snow-capped mountain to the south-

east, which he named—after his president—Mount Jefferson.

The first of the six Lewis and Clark Trail signs is located on Willamette Boulevard in front of the University of Portland campus, which is also home to a ten-foot-high bronze monument to members of the Expedition. Additional signs are to be found on City of Portland and Oregon Department of Transportation right of ways on roads paralleling the Willamette River. One of the markers will be placed at North Richmond and Ivanhoe near the Salazar's Hall building, one of the few—and perhaps the only—remaining buildings from the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition. The structure was moved from its original northwest Portland site.

Portland city commissioner Jim Francesconi, who oversees the Parks Bureau, asked the Bureau to assist with the placement of a sign near Columbia Park on Willamette Boulevard, saying that "while housing stock, good schools, and safe streets are indispensable resources for our city—history is a crucial resource, too, and the Lewis and Clark Expedition's connection to Portland deserves to be better known."

OREGON HISTORY MAGAZINE

11

V. 40 N. 4 JUNE-JULY 1997

Page D2 Tuesday, October 21, 1997

SPOKESMAN-REVIEW



Loose talk

■ Virginia lawyer, architect, farmer and statesman **Thomas Jefferson** (1743-1826), ranked 10th most important person of the millennium by Life magazine, giving Britain ye olde brushoff: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal...."



People

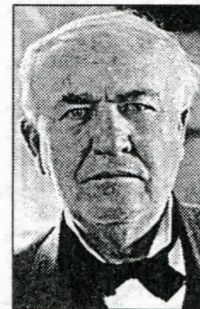
Carolus Linnaeus beat Cher for No. 100 spot

Still more than two years to go, but already Life magazine has picked the 100 most important people of the millennium.

We can imagine the indignation of Seinfeld character George Costanza and others of his ilk. ("Howdah those clowns at Life know I won't do something REALLY important before the year 2000?" he'll protest.)

If George does happen to accomplish something even remotely significant — say, discovering the cure for compulsive lying — we're confident Life can knock out another special issue. Until then, these official results will stand:

Thomas Edison (1847-1931) takes top honors, according to Life. "Because of him, the millennium will end in a wash of bright light rather than in torchlit darkness as it began."



Thomas Edison

Idaho's historian emeritus can only say thank you

The joke at last week's dedication of Idaho's new archives building was that Dr. Merle Wells' memory would be downloaded if the state ever got enough computer space.

In naming the building for Wells, the state was making history of sorts. State buildings tend to be named after elected officials or administrators. Wells is a historian. His knowledge of Idaho and Western history surpasses that of some libraries. Encyclopedias call him when they need information.

"He knows the broad sweep of history, and he knows the minute brush strokes," said Judy Austin, publications coordinator for the state Historical Society. "No one will ever know as much about our history as he does."

He is nationally renowned, but doesn't act like it. Few would guess that the unassuming man pedaling a pink bicycle with a basket through Connector traffic is Idaho's historian emeritus, a professor with credentials in six college departments and author

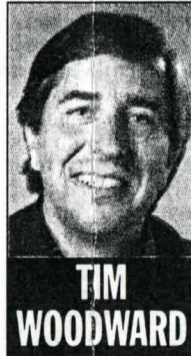
of enough definitive books and articles to fill an eight-page bibliography.

The \$3 million Merle W. Wells building is being built near the Old State Penitentiary. In June, it will become the repository of Idaho's official documents.

Sounds dull? It isn't. "It's wonderful stuff," Austin said. "The manuscripts can be anything from company records to Oregon Trail diaries. ... The archives are records of government, from city files to letters to the governor during the Depression. We have some council minutes with a big corner eaten away. The meeting was on ways to control rats in City Hall."

The building's name originated with Gov. Phil Batt, who praised Wells for "devoting his life to the preservation and illumination of our state's past."

Wells' relationship with the past is



almost chummy. He discusses historical figures as if he knew them. But you have to wonder, when listening to his tales of long ago, whether all that knowledge could be turned in a different direction.

Can the man who knows more than anyone about Idaho's past illuminate its future?

"What we learn in history is it reflects the knowledge and attitudes of the time," he said. "These things are always changing, so we can't foresee."

That said, he agreed to make some educated guesses. To wit:

Historically, Idaho's remoteness and lack of coal or oil for heavy industry limited its growth. High-tech products will allow the state to narrow the population gap with Oregon and Washington. More ethnic diversity is likely.

New technologies could make cars

obsolete, in the same way the automobile revolutionized transportation a century ago.

Boise will remain the capital and largest city, "assuming we preserve the state. People could decide they don't need states anymore."

Idaho is likely to remain Republican, "but who knows? Maybe in 10 years, we won't even have political parties."

But we will have an archives building. At its dedication, Wells surprised everyone by saying the best speech he could make was just to say thank you.

"Everybody knew how much it meant when he didn't have anything to say," Historical Society Director Steve Guerber said. "Usually administrators get these honors. It's nice to see one go to a worker bee."

At 78, Wells works every day. When his building opens for business, the last vehicle to leave will be a pink bicycle.

Tim Woodward's column appears Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Comments, suggestions: 377-6409.

Lewiston Morning Tribune,

Nov. 7, 1998



■ Pierce couple head to the White House

PIERCE — Barb and Harlan Opdahl of Pierce will be shaking hands with President Bill Clinton in a couple of days.

The Pierce outfitters have been invited to the White House to meet President Clinton Monday as part of a special screening of the PBS program, "Lewis & Clark, The Journey of the Corps of Discovery."

The Opdahls have offered horseback trips along the Lewis & Clark Trail in the Clearwater National Forest for 12 years.

Filmmakers Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan traveled with the Opdahls prior to and during the filming of their documentary, which aired Tuesday and Wednesday night on PBS.

Duncan called and invited the Opdahls to join the film

crew and others who helped guide the film project for the White House screening and reception.

When Barb inquired about the proper dress for such an occasion, a White House aide suggested "regular business attire."

Apparently the aide didn't know their business is on horseback in the mountains.

Harlan is going to wear his usual Levis and a sports jacket.

"I'll probably wear a skirt and a Western blouse," said Barb.

"It's something I guess I'll remember for a long time," she added.

LMT / Saturday, January 10, 1998

■ Scenic route renamed in honor of Lewis and Clark Bicentennial

Travelers will now have the chance to retrace the steps of the Lewis and Clark expedition on the newly designated Idaho Northwest Passage Scenic Byways, formerly known as Clearwater Canyons.

Idaho Transportation Department crews will erect the new signs starting Monday along the 90-mile route, which passes through the winding Clearwater River Valley from the junction of U.S. 95 and U.S. 12 near Spalding.

The scenic byway continues south on Idaho 13 at Kooskia, following the South Fork of the Clearwater River west to the Camas Prairie near Grangeville.

The route was renamed in honor of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.

It's unfair to measure historical events by today's standards,
Stephen S. Rosenfeld writes.

Jefferson had flaws, but also had a vision

By Stephen S. Rosenfeld
 Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In his wonderful book on the Lewis and Clark expedition, "Undaunted Courage," Stephen Ambrose finds an instructive place for the Indians for whom the achievement of Thomas Jefferson's nation-building dream was a catastrophe.

No revisionist, Ambrose unapologetically embraces the mission's drama and glory. Not for him to convert a historical expedition into a contemporary American guilt trip. No sentimentalist, he understands that nations are made by the force of arms, men and ideas, that there are winners and losers. But he is not so chauvinistic as to ignore the impact of the white men's deeds on a hopelessly overmatched and outgunned Indian presence.

I single out the matter not only because Jefferson's triggering of the American "mad rush west," as Ambrose calls it, is a fascinating case study in the possibilities and perils of historical judgment. Works of popular culture always are being measured against the ostensibly higher standards of "history," and Ambrose's book is exactly the sort of history against which the popular culture needs to be held.

Lewis and Clark in their voyage of 1804-06 depended on Indian good will and generally treated Indians accordingly. But this did not keep the party from stealing a canoe from a group that had aided them, a particular betrayal that leads Ambrose to second a colleague's judgment that "(t)he essential honesty that distinguished Lewis and Clark from explorers like Hernando DeSoto and Francisco Pizarro had been tarnished."

In fact, the expedition's true impact went far beyond theft of a canoe. Accept President Jefferson as the "Great Chief," Capt. Meriwether Lewis, his chosen man, told the Indians he encountered. "lest by one false step you should bring upon your nation the displeasure of your great father, who could consume you as the fire consumes the grass of the plains." This was the word. Everything else followed.

Ambrose writes: "Hypocrisy ran through (Jefferson's) Indian policy, as it did through the

policies of his predecessors and successors. Join us or get out of the way, the Americans said to the Indians, but in fact the Indians could do neither. By pushing them ever west, the Americans made it impossible for the Indians to become civilized as they meant the term, and it turned out there was almost no place where the Indians would be out of the way of the onrushing pioneers."

How could "the greatest champion of human rights in American history" steal land from Indians? Ambrose asks. Jefferson and his contemporaries "would not have regarded the question as valid. In their view, Indian ideas about land ownership were a lot of foolishness. A band of Sauks rode twice a year through a territory as big as an eastern state and claimed it as their own. That land could support thousands of farms, tens of thousands of settlers.

"Anyway, no matter how much compassion Jefferson felt toward the Indians, however badly he wanted law and order and bureaucratic regularity on the frontier, on (the land) question the people, not the government, ruled. Americans had but one Indian policy — get out of the way or get killed — and it was non-negotiable. The only thing that separated Jefferson from the settlers was that he wanted to buy the Indians out rather than drive them out. But that too was more rhetoric than reality."

Some may wonder if Ambrose is not dodging the issue of Jefferson's responsibility by positing a popular force so strong that it swept the will of a scrupled government aside. I am not up to a judgment on the historical merits. But it does not take more than a glance around our contemporary world to see that when the central authority is not only weak but equivocal and the people are determined and able, the latter take decisions on their own and force governments to come along.

The "cynical" (Ambrose's word) Indian policy that Jefferson introduced without serious non-Indian resistance could not be imagined in our own time.

But it is glib to apply retrospectively the standards of a modern day with a higher claim to public virtue.

Even in retrospect, moreover, those who would fault the Jefferson policy come under a symbolic burden not to avail themselves of the fruits of the policy they deplore. This is absurd. It is not possible to live in America without enjoying the immense benefits that Jefferson brought by reaching out to make the United States a continental country.

His vision is the worthier of respect for being the product not of a cardboard saint but of a principled but flawed politician navigating his way through the rapids of American politics.

What is left is a requirement of regard and solicitude for the Indians' losses, not just in the honest writing of history but in the fair treatment of their descendants — the latter a task that remains to be completed.

■ Stephen S. Rosenfeld writes for the Washington Post.