

IDAHO CHAPTER

Newsletter

JUNE, 1999

WALLA WALLA HOSTS L & C DAYS JUNE 5 - 6

The Fort Walla Walla Museum, 755 Myra Road, hosts a public event including military encampments, drills, skirmishes and an honor guard. There will be exhibits on Lewis and Clark, Fort Walla Walla and military items. This is the second time for this event.

There will also be a Kids camp on June 24. This will be a hands-on experience for kids from 4th to 6th grades.

For more information, contact the museum at 509/525-7703. Email address is:

fortw2@bmi.net

The events will occur from 10 AM to 5 PM both days.

REDISCOVERING LEWIS & CLARK CONTINUES

Mike Venso's photographic skills continue to be on display throughout Idaho. On **June 1**, a 7 PM lecture at the Salmon Valley Center, 200 Main, will kick off a four week run in **Salmon**. (On exhibit until June 25th). The exhibit comes to **Lewiston** beginning with a lecture on **August 12** at the Lewis-Clark Center for Arts & History, 415 Main St. at 5 PM. This exhibit runs through Sept. 11.

Catch a great exhibit and a great slide show during Mike's lecture.

LEWIS & CLARK IN THE LAND OF THE NEZ PERCE—A WORKSHOP

An annual workshop and rendezvous will be held **June 10 - 12 in Lewiston** at Lewis-Clark State College. The workshop will

examine the trail focusing on the 1806 return trip from Clarkston, WA to Kamiah. The location of several campsites and sections of the trail are disputed by historians.

The goals of the workshop are to provide an overview of the experiences of the expedition in the land of the Nez Perce (NeeMePoo) people with emphasis on the image and view of the Nez Perce and, secondly, to provide a forum for scholars to discuss the actual route and location of campsites used by the expedition.

For more information or to register, contact: Dr. Darrel Hammon at LCSC, 500 8th Ave., Lewiston, ID 83501 or 208/799-2282 or email at: dhammon@lcsc.edu

IT'S NOT TOO LATE: LOLO TRAIL COMMENTS DUE IN JUNE

The Clearwater National Forest is still taking comments on the proposed strategy for the Lolo Trail during the Bicentennial. (Refer to the last newsletter for more information.) To submit comments or for more information, contact:

Linda Fee, Bicentennial Coordinator
Kooskia Ranger Station

Rt. 1, Box 398

Kooskia, ID 83539

Or: 208/926-4274 or email:

lfee/r1_clearwater@fs.fed.us

TAKE THE BUS TO NORTH DAKOTA

Anyone interested in joining Lewis and Clark buffs in traveling to North Dakota may want to join the Portage Route chapter. They have chartered a bus which will depart Great Falls on July 31 with an overnight stop near Fort Union. The bus returns on August 5. Secure parking is available to anyone driving to Great Falls. Contact Susan Colvin, 287 McIver Road, Great Falls, MT 59404, 406-727-7469 by June 18 to secure a reservation. A deposit of \$25 will hold a seat for you.

LYDIA ENJOYING ANOTHER TRAIL

Lydia Justice Edwards, Chapter member and former Idaho State Treasurer and legislator, is fulfilling a goal not usually associated with a politician. Instead of "running" for office; she is "hiking" the Appalachian Trail, aiming to complete the 2,160 mile trek this summer.

On March 7, Lydia began her journey at Springer Mountain, Georgia. By March 30, she had reached Fontana Dam, North Carolina after hiking 170 miles and reported that the other hikers had dubbed her the "Tooth Fairy" due to the fact that she provides treats and bag balm for the hikers' blisters! Lydia, whose ancestor accompanied Lewis and Clark on their journey, has been faithfully recording items from the Lewis and Clark journals (at least what happened to them in 1805) in the shelter journals along the trail. She signs them, of course, "Sacagawea"! It has caused some interest among the other hikers. Lydia does have an interest in Sacagawea and served on the U.S. Treasury selection committee which recently placed a likeness of an Indian woman on the new dollar coin due out next year. Lydia also provided many school programs about Sacagawea during the past few years.

Lydia reported that she was so happy to be on this trek. "I love the woods, the spring buds, the birds' song, the magic of these mountains."

On May 15, after hiking an additional 290 more miles, she had reached Damascus, Virginia. Her spirits still high, she stated, "I am well and enjoying the spring in Appalachia. So many rare sights such as exquisite flowers and sunsets. I miss you all. I hope to be in Maine in August but my heart will be in North Dakota at Bismarck."

Lydia is proving that retirement is not idle time and that politicians can change their pace from "running" to "hiking".

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: JULY 17

The Idaho Chapter on July 17 will join the Oregon and Washington Chapters and the Washington Governor's committee in hosting a public lecture by Gary Moulton, editor of the most recent and thorough edition of the Lewis and Clark journals. The chapters will also join in a session prior to the evening event to discuss bicentennial activities.

The event will be at the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center near Stevenson in the Columbia Gorge, one of the highlights of the 1997 annual meeting of the LCTHF.

Dr. Moulton's lecture begins at 7 PM in the auditorium of the Center. Additional information will be upcoming in the next newsletter.

CALENDAR

June 1 – Salmon – Mike Venso lecture
June 1 – 25, Salmon – Venso exhibit
June 5 – 6, Walla Walla – L & C Days
July 17, Stevenson, WA – Gary Moulton lecture, Idaho Chapter meeting
Aug. 1 – 4, Bismarck, ND – LCTHF annual meeting
Aug. 4, Bismarck, Idaho Chapter reception.
Aug. 12, Lewiston – Venso lecture
Aug. 12 – Sep. 11 – Venso exhibit
Sept. 4-6, Idaho Chapter Lolo Trail campout
Sept. 18, Dayton, WA – Joint meeting with Washington Chapter at Lewis & Clark State Park.

Givens to attend White House unveiling

■ *Coeur d'Alene* SR 4-28-99
Jeanne Givens, a member of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and longtime Native American activist, will attend a White House ceremony on Tuesday for the unveiling of the new Sacajawea silver dollar.

Givens is one of about 100 guests invited to join in the ceremony with Hillary Rodham Clinton. Givens said she received the invitation because of her involvement with the Institute of American Indian Arts.

Studying the past, learning from the land

■ Kamiah students spend two days at Musselshell Meadows

By REBECCA BOONE
OF THE TRIBUNE

MUSSELHELL MEADOWS — Almost 200 years ago, when an act of kindness saved the lives of lost travelers, the relationship between Lewis and Clark and the Nez Perce people began with good will and respect.

Last week, that spirit was rekindled as more than 50 eighth-graders from Kamiah Middle School attended the Lewis and Clark/Nez Perce Outdoor Workshop at Musselshell Meadows, about 15 miles east of Weippe.

The students learned about the adventures of Lewis and Clark, Nez Perce culture and teamwork during the 2½-day camping trip.

"It's a true educational experience in a setting that is outside the classroom," Dan Davis, a U.S. Forest Service wildlife biologist said. "It adds the emotion to the learning experience — the taste, the

smell, the feel."

Tastes and smells were everywhere as students learned old techniques for surviving in the wilderness. They attended presentations on how Nez Perce Indians gathered and prepared roots, berries and flowers.

"I loved the root presentation because I learned all about the camas root, and we got to eat some kouse root and have mint tea," said Angela Yeakey, 14.

Kevin Stallsmith, 14, was also impressed by the bounty of the wilderness. "There's a lot of stuff you can eat out here," he said. "It's everywhere."

Each student made journal entries in the style of Lewis and Clark during the trip.

"Today we went Southeast across a bridge and into a thick forest," Yeakey wrote. "We found about 12 different flowers. ... One I remember is a lady's slipper. We didn't pick it because it's so rare."

"I saw a raven and looked at what a woodpecker does to get an ant meal."

The kids slept in tepees and immersed themselves in the culture of 200 years ago. In learning about the

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Learning

From 1A

past, they began to plan for the future.

"The bicentennial of Lewis and Clark is coming up," Kara Johnson, 14, said, "and there will be a lot of people coming through here littering and they might ruin it. We need to be careful with this land."

Johnson and her friend took the learning one step further, she said. "We went and dug up some camas root ourselves, but it wasn't ripe yet."

Many of the parents, teachers and volunteers who helped on the trip hoped it would have a lasting effect on reducing racial tensions in the Kamiah area.

"What has happened in the past has happened," said Otis Halfmoon, from the Nez Perce National Historical Park. "The ground, the trees, the mosquitoes that eat us, for that it doesn't matter if our skin is brown or white. The young kids have to work together."

Fred Mercer, KMS principal, said the workshop was a positive experience for the community as well as the kids. "It's the old thing where it's right under your nose and you don't notice. This is just as educational for the Nez Perce kids as the white kids, and it builds camaraderie for the class."

Amy Woods, the organizer of the outing, was sick and unable to attend. "She worked so hard to get this all together, applied for all the grants, and organized everything. For her to

"For a lot of kids, this is the first time they've even been out in the woods camping. Even after growing up and living in Kamiah, most of the kids don't have a clue about Nez Perce culture."

Leah York, teacher at Kamiah Middle School

come down sick, it makes me feel ill," Davis said.

Still, volunteers, parents and community leaders pulled the event off without a hitch. Butch Welch brought 18 Dutch ovens and cooked for the kids as well as helping on hikes. "I enjoyed helping. To see those kids down on their knees examining a glacier lily, that's pretty incredible," he said.

"When you bring them to the scenery, it finally connects for them," Davis said. "I'd hate to be an eighth-grader in New York trying to learn about Lewis and Clark. What would make it real?"

"For a lot of kids, this is the first time they've even been out in the woods camping,"

said Leah York, a KMS teacher who took over the event after Woods fell ill. "Even after growing up and living in Kamiah, most of the kids don't have a clue about Nez Perce culture."

The kids learned about early weaponry and hunting gear, how tepees are made, beadwork, horses and Nez Perce music in addition to Lewis and Clark.

The event was possible through a grant from the Idaho Humanities program.

"It really creates a sense of community involvement and civility," Davis said. "I hope they can look around and see that when they were in the eighth grade, a lot of people poured out their time and money, and gave an educational experience that they've never had before."

Tom Keefe cooked for the students during the campout, and his daughter, Josephine, attended.

"I think it's a message to a lot of the adults in Kamiah. These kids live in a really unique place and the relationship between Nez Perce and non-Indians should be cherished. There's been too much discord," Keefe said.

"To have these kids working together, it will heal some of the miscommunications between parents in the area. When the bicentennial occurs and people come through here, this area's best ambassadors will be from Kamiah Middle School."

LEWISTON TRIBUNE - May 24, 1999

Two tribes renew old ties

■ Nez Perce, Lemhi Shoshone exchange gifts

By SANDRA L. LEE
OF THE TRIBUNE

LMT
3-7-99

Some were calling the meeting and gift exchange between two Lemhi Shoshone Indians and two Nez Perce "historic" Saturday.

It was at the least a happy occasion, marked by jokes, praise and a renewal of promises of friendship.

Ties between the two tribes go back even to a time when the Nez Perce defended the Lemhi Shoshone against other friends, the Crow, said Otis Halfmoon, a Nez Perce from Lapwai.

But a map she saw Saturday showing the Nez Perce claiming territory as far south as Leadore had to be straightened out first, Rose Ann Abrahamson, a Lemhi Shoshone from Fort Hall, said to laughter from about 150 who attended the closing session of "Passages '99: Getting Under Way" at the Red Lion Hotel.

The planning session for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial drew more than 200 people from around the Northwest, said Lorraine Hingston Roach of Grangeville, one of the organizers. A repeat is planned next year.

Halfmoon presented Abrahamson and her sister, Rozina George, both great-great-great-great nieces of Sacajawea, with paintings of wolves.

Abrahamson in turn gave the Nez Perce a buckle with a bighorn sheep beaded by a Lemhi Shoshone woman to be used in fund-raising for the bicentennial. The buckle is in remembrance of a man Lewis and Clark called Toby, she said. Oral history says Toby was a member of the Sheep Eater band whose family, named High Eagle, still lives on the Fort Hall Reservation, Abrahamson said.

One hundred years ago, during the first centennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Indians didn't have the opportunity to share their history, she said, and thanked the symposium organizers for recognizing their contributions.

Sacagawea's identity is controversial again

LEWISTON TRIBUNE
Associated Press and Tribune

5-8-99

NEW TOWN, N.D. — Three Affiliated Tribes officials researching Sacagawea as the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition approaches are questioning historians' assertion that the Indian guide was a member of the Shoshone tribe.

"It's always been in our tribe the premise that she was really Hidatsa," said Marilyn Hudson, administrator of the Three Tribes Museum on the Fort Berthold Reservation.

Historians have a different view — that Sacagawea was a 12-year-old Shoshone girl captured in Montana by the Hidatsa living in earth lodge villages on the Knife River in North Dakota.

Sacagawea was at Knife River before accompanying explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to the Pacific nearly 200 years ago.

Historical accounts also say Sacagawea had a brother who was a Shoshone chief, and that he was instrumental to the expedition's success by providing the explorers with horses near the headwaters of the Missouri River.

The original journals of Lewis and Clark record that Sacajawea, as the Lemhi Shoshone call her, told the explorers of being captured by the Hidatsa, who later sold or traded her to the French trapper Charbonneau, Rozina George of Fort Hall said Friday in a telephone interview with the Lewiston Tribune.

George and her sister Rose Ann Abrahamson of Fort Hall say they are direct descendants of Sacajawea's brother, also a Lemhi Shoshone, making them great-

great-great-great nieces of Sacajawea.

They are "sickened" by the attempts of others to claim Sacajawea and also by their own exclusion from the White House unveiling of the new commemorative coin, George said.

The Hidatsa tribe traveled great distances, and members likely knew members of other tribes, Hudson said.

"Look at the Indian kinship," she said.

"Her brother may not be her (real) brother, or he could be her adopted brother."

The Hidatsa Chief Bull's Eye said in a 1920s newspaper story that Sacagawea was his maternal grandmother, Hudson said.

Some Hidatsa, she said, believe that Sacagawea lived in a village near present-day Lake Sakakawea that was attacked and destroyed by the Shoshone, who captured a number of Hidatsa children, including Sacagawea.

The different spellings of her name shows the different beliefs about her heritage.

"Sacagawea" is a Hidatsa name meaning "bird woman," Hudson said. "Sacajawea" is a Shoshone word meaning "boat launcher" or "boat pusher."

Members of 23 Midwest tribes meeting in New Town through Saturday to help plan the nation's bicentennial observance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition are discussing Sacagawea's heritage.

But they say the mystery likely never will be solved.

"We think people should do their own research and draw their own conclusions of who she is," Hudson said.

"Get ready for the new history of the West," said Clay Jenkinson, a scholar and impersonator who portrays Thomas Jefferson, the president who sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on their legendary expedition.

The story will be told this time from an aspect other than the "Eurocentric, exalted Boy Scouts" view that has held for almost 200 years, he told the predominantly white crowd.

The expedition itself was multicultural, with Irish, Scots, Black and Indian, he said.

People need to acquaint themselves with the old journals to

prepare for the visitors who will come, Jenkinson said.

They might also prepare a

guide for those who will come, explaining the need to be sensitive to the land and to the native people.

Only slightly jokingly, he warned that sport utility vehicles give people a false sense of security and their ability to conquer the back roads of the Northwest. "And they are coming."

Many will never have driven a dirt road and they will get stuck on Lemhi Pass, he said.

Many will have a fascination with the Indian people they will encounter, but a low comfort level. There will be more sensitivity from the Indians than from the visitors, he predicted, suggesting a guide to Indian traditions to avoid misunderstandings.

Lewis & Clark Route from the Columbia River to the Clearwater River in May 1806

This map shows the route of April 30 to May 5, 1806. It passed through some of the most fertile agricultural land seen in the entire expedition west of Fort Mandan. The route is not well posted with historical markers but is very accessible by road if you know the route. My map marks of the route are deduced from the Thwaites and Moulton editions of the Journals as near as I could determine, and are, of course, probably not exact. The distance from the Columbia to Lewiston is almost the same as by the direct route via U.S. 12 even though it departs slightly from the route I show on this map, notably between Touchet, Washington and Waitsburg and between Dayton and Pomeroy. Lewis and Clark had the benefit of some Indian guides for part of this distance.

Following the meeting on April 27-28, with a large gathering of Indians led by Chief Yellepit, on the west side of the Columbia opposite the mouth of the Walla Walla river, the party crossed the Columbia on April 29th. By 11 AM they had completed the crossing. Being delayed by this crossing and upon the advice of their Indian guides who said it was too late in the day to proceed east and reach water before nightfall, they camped about one mile up the Walla Walla River near an interesting fish weir. This indicates they did not plan to follow east along the Walla Walla River for if they had there would not have been a water scarcity. This supports the belief that they followed an Indian trail somewhat north of the Walla Walla River until they intercepted the Touchet at a point between the present hamlet of Touchet and Eureka, Washington. So, on April 30th they set out from their campsite near the Wallulah Wildlife Habitat Area across the sage-covered plain to the Touchet River. This route was the Nez Perce Overland Trail.

While we can not follow that route by car, we can follow US 12 from this Habitat Area along the Walla Walla River to the village of Touchet, then leave that river and proceed up the Touchet River by way of a county road (marked Touchet N), to the approximate place where they camped on the 30th (10 miles south of Eureka). Eureka is not right on WA 124, but about a half mile to the north of it.

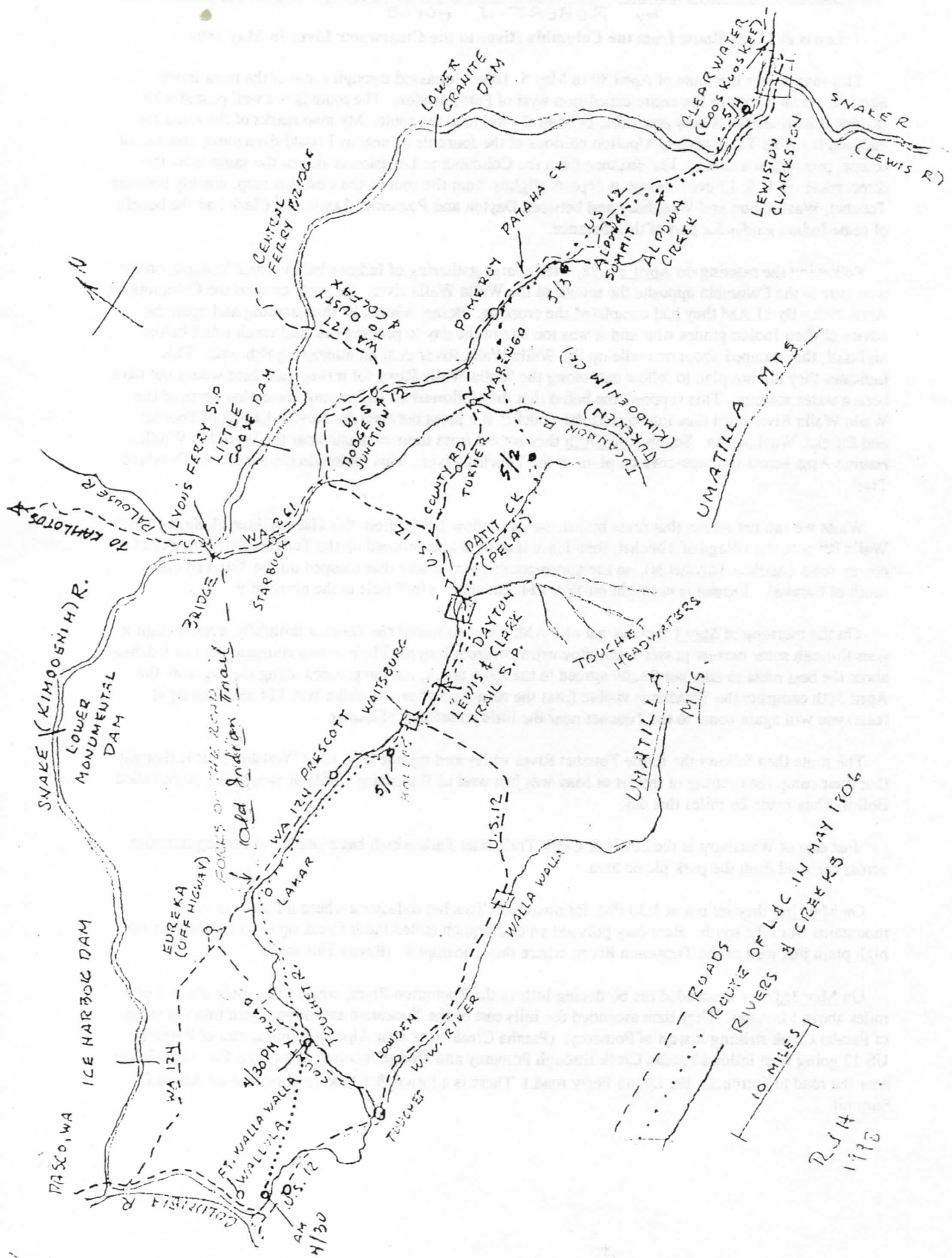
On the morning of May 1 they set out at 7 AM. They followed the Touchet faithfully, even though it goes through some narrow passes south (downstream) from Lamar. Their Indian companions had a debate about the best route to take but finally agreed to the route taken. As you proceed along the highway the April 30th campsite the Touchet is visible from the road, and after you strike WA 124 and turn right (east) you will again come to the Touchet near the little crossroads of Lamar.

The route then follows the fertile Touchet River valley and rejoins U.S. 12 at Waitsburg. It is thought that their camp the evening of the 1st of May was just west of Waitsburg a mile or two, at the place called Bolles. They made 26 miles this day.

Just east of Waitsburg is the Lewis & Clark Trail State Park which has a small, interesting museum across the road from the park picnic area.

On May 2nd they set out at 1:30 PM, following the Touchet to Dayton where it flows out of the mountains from the south. Here they pursued an east branch called Pattit Creek up to its headwaters on a high plain just west of the Tucannon River, where they encamped. (Ronan Hill road).

On May 3rd they descended the bordering hills to the Tucannon River, crossed that river about 2 or 3 miles above Marengo. They then ascended the hills east of the Tucannon and down again into the valley of Pataha Creek striking it west of Pomeroy. (Pataha Creek rises near Alpowa Summit east of Pomeroy. US 12 going west follows Pataha Creek through Pomeroy and Dodge Junction to join the Tucannon River near the road to Starbuck., the Lyon's Ferry road.) There is a Lewis & Clark Trail marker on Alpowa Summit.



ROADS
 ROUTE OF L&C IN MAY 1706
 RIVERS & CREEKS

10 MILES

RJH
 1992

Incidentally, the Tucannon was called the Tukenen by Thwaites and was called "Ki-moo-e-nim Creek" by Lewis and Clark. Lewis and Clark recognized that the Snake River between Lewiston and the Columbia was the same stream they had called Lewis's River when they first encountered it over in the Lemhi Valley. The Indians called this lower Snake River the "Ki-moo-e-nim". Lewis and Clark called it the "Ki-moo-e-nim River", or Lewis's River. The Tucannon was called "Ki-moo-e-nim Creek" in the Journals. (This has led to some confusion but just remember that the creek is a principal tributary of the river between Lewiston-Clarkston and the Columbia.)

At Dayton's east city limits US 12 crosses the railroad on an overpass and you come to the County Highway Department shop and office on the right, and cross Pattit Creek. There is a road following Pattit Creek for about 1 or 2 miles. On U. S. 12 there is a county road that goes right toward Lewis Peak (not named for Meriwether Lewis) through Turner and comes out at the Tucannon (Tukenen) River crossing at Marengo. This is not a bad road for cars, but for RV's and campers¹ it is very steep as it approaches and leaves its crossing (which is below L & C's crossing). Not good in winter especially. Actually this route is shorter from Dayton to Pomeroy than if you were to follow U.S. 12, which you will note sweeps far north to avoid the grades, but is a bit slower. It gives you a good idea of what the country looked like in L & C's time. By this county route you rejoin U. S. 12 about 4 miles west of Pomeroy, which puts you on Pataha Creek (which is mentioned in the Journals).

The party followed this stream from present day Pomeroy to the west foot of Alpowa Summit where they encamped on the evening of May 3rd. The campsite has an historical marker at a place called "Three Trails Crossing", an old Indian trail junction. Here they were joined by an Indian named "Flint Necklace" a Nez Perce from the Asotin area. He is also known as "Chief Looking Glass" and there is a park in Asotin that bears his name. He had a descendent of the same name who played an important role in the Nez Perce War of 1877. There is a large historical sign on the south side of the highway on the Asotin and Garfield County line that has been a Boy Scout project.

On May 4th they ascended to Alpowa Summit then down Alpowa Creek to the Snake River. Its ascent probably differs from the L & C route a bit, but the descent to the Snake (Kimooenim) is likely the actual route. The highway follows this route fairly well from where the Marengo road joins U. S. 12, all the way to Lewiston-Clarkston.

At the mouth of Alpowa Creek, near Chief Timothy State Park², they crossed to the north side of the Snake and encamped about 3 miles below Clarkston. Lower Granite Dam's pool covers the place where they crossed. The river was much narrower before the dam was built and the pool was filled. There was a small Indian village near the mouth of Alpowa Creek. Flint Necklace, seeing them safely across the river, continued along the south side to his destination near Asotin, Washington a few miles up the Snake from its confluence with the Clearwater (Koos koos kee).

Here, at Alpowa, they met their 1805 Nez Perce guide, Tetoharsky. Ralph Space once told me this was not his proper name. He said the syllables "har-sky" were not correct Nez Perce language. But he did not know the correct spelling of the name. Mrs. Zoa Swayne in her recent book, "Do Them No Harm" says this was the brother of Chief Twisted Hair and his name was "Teh-toh-kan-ahs-kahp".

The next day, May 5th, they passed the confluence of the Snake (Lewis) River and the Clearwater (Kookoskee) River. They had made the 130 miles from the crossing of the Columbia in four days, including some time lost back-tracking to look for strayed horses. This was easy traveling but game was not as plentiful as desired. The country was not wooded most of the way except along stream banks and in coves among the hills.

Footnotes:

1. The Tucannon crossing area can also be reached by camper or RV by following US 12 to the Tucannon, then driving upstream on a county road for two miles.
2. Timothy's daughter married a non-Indian man, John Silcott, and they operated a good fruit ranch. Locally Alpowa and Silcott are the same place. John Silcott operated a ferry that crossed the Clearwater at Lewiston. There is an Interpretative Center at Alpowa and a fine campground.