

Idaho Chapter NEWSLETTER

September, 1999

Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation



LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION PLANNED

The Idaho Chapter will host a reception in Boise on January 24, 2000 from 5 to 7 PM. This will be a chance for the chapter to let the legislators know about the Lewis and Clark Trail in Idaho as well as the activities planned for the bicentennial. Plan to attend this get-together and share your Lewis and Clark knowledge with your legislators.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 MEETING, DAYTON, WASHINGTON

The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Washington Chapter at Lewis and Clark Trails State Park on Highway 12 between Dayton and Waitsburg, Washington. Park Ranger Gary Lentz will be our host.

At noon, we will gather for a potluck lunch. The kitchen shelter has a wood grill and running water. We will need our own wood.

Afterwards, there will be a tour of campsites for the 1806 return trip. George Touchette will conduct this. We will go from Bolles to Patit Creek that will take a couple of hours to go along this route.

Gary will also have his camp set up and will offer fry bread, meat, corn and other food items that will be available for exchange. In other words, bring something along to barter! Gary will also talk about medical aspects of the expedition.

Thanks to Washington Chapter members Cheryl Essary and Muff Donohue for making the arrangements for this meeting. It should be another fun time with both chapters in attendance. Let's keep up this new tradition of both chapters meeting together along the border and enjoying each other's company in the study of the Lewis and Clark Trail.

Tentative plans are to have chapter members Mike Venso and Julie Fanselow give short presentations on their experiences retracing the trail. Mike has an excellent slide show and also prepared a tabloid on the Expedition that was distributed to schoolchildren in Idaho. Julie has written several guide books including ones for the Oregon Trail and the Lewis and Clark Trail.

ELECTION TIME

Your president, Steve Lee, will be retiring as president of the chapter at the next meeting. We will conduct an election for officers and board members at the September 18 meeting. If you are interested in serving in some position, please contact Steve at (509) 229-3870; by email at sglee@mail.wsu.edu or at PO Box 2264, Lewiston, ID 83501. Steve will no longer be president but will remain active in the chapter.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS...

The Missouri River Voyage of Recovery conference will be held November 8 and 9 in St. Charles, MO. Hosted by American Rivers, the goal is to revitalize the Missouri River for the bicentennial. For more information: 1-877-4RIVERS or www.americanrivers.org

See the Lewis and Clark Trail by bicycle.
Visit the website at: www.kcnet.com/~rex

proceeding on through a beautiful Country

Pride takes elbow

■ Volunteers put in a weekend of work to polish Lolo Motorway area

By ERIC BARKER
OF THE TRIBUNE

ROCKY RIDGE LAKE — Wilbur Schenk scattered a handful of grass seed on an old path that rings the lake here.

Schenk, from Eugene, Ore., joined about 50 other volunteers for the annual Take Pride in the Clearwater work weekend Saturday in an effort to spruce up the campground that sits just off the Lolo Motorway.

He heard about the weekend and how much fun it is from a friend while wintering in Arizona and joined the crew this year to check it out for himself.

"I think it's great," he said. "I always wondered how these campgrounds came to be here and now I know."

Schenk, who is retired, said he'll be back next year.

"I got to keep busy," he said. "If you don't keep busy you'll dry up."

Take Pride in the Clearwater was born 13 years ago from a nationwide program called Take Pride in America.

"I always wondered how these campgrounds came to be here and now I know."

Wilburg Schenk,
volunteer

The local version mixes a love of the outdoors with volunteerism, and has outlived its federal counterpart. For years outdoor enthusiasts have gathered each summer to help maintain the recreation facilities on the forest.

North Fork District Ranger Doug Gober said when funding for the federal program died, interest was strong among local volunteers so they and forest

administrators kept the program alive.

The Clearwater forest helps fund the work with recreation dollars. Volunteers are fed two meals, dinner on Saturday and breakfast Sunday, in exchange for lending a little elbow grease.

In recent years the workday has concentrated on the historic Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark Trails that run adjacent to the 500 Road, known as the Lolo Motorway. Use on that road is expected to escalate as the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition approaches.

Although Lewis and Clark never visited Rocky Ridge Lake, they passed nearby. And despite the lack of a visit by the explorers, the stop will be a popular one for those who travel the 500 Road. It has one of the only toilets on the historic backcountry byway.

Volunteers installed a new log toilet at the site Saturday. They also worked in intermittent rain showers and fog to carve out a handful of campsites at the lake. In the past, the small campground did not have well-defined campsites, according to Gober, and campers parked their vehicles where ever they could.

MONDAY

August 16, 1999

grease

LEWISTON
MORNING
TRIBUNE

The volunteer work crew ringed the campsites with large boulders to discourage campers from trampling new spots. They also worked to erase some of the ghost trails around the lake by seeding and placing rocks in the unofficial pathways worn by campers and anglers. The many trails were replaced by one main trail. The crew also erected new picnic tables, and fire rings will be added to the campsites.

The annual Clearwater work weekend usually takes place in mid-July but at that time this year the road and campground were still inundated with five feet of snow.

Because of the postponement, fewer volunteers showed up this year but about 50 were able to make the work day. Three generations of the

Roach family from Kamiah have attended most of the Take Pride in the Clearwater work days. Saturday, Harry Roach, his son, Dean and wife, Shirley, and their sons, Kevin, 18, and Craig, 14, worked at the lake.

"It's just kind of a family tradition," said Harry Roach.

Gordon Hawkins Jr. of Kamiah has been to every Take Pride in the Clearwater weekend and is a proud member of the Camp Creek Bunch, a group of friends who like to camp, recreate and volunteer together.

"That's the hardest-working bunch of people that volunteer," he said.

While the volunteers worked, Norm Steadman, who is Weippe mayor, and a Clearwater National Forest employee, slaved away under yellow rain tarps at the group's camp along the 500 Road, preparing dinner for the work crew. He planned dinner for 90 and spent part of the day desperately recruiting passers-by to help eat all the food.

"You boys are going to stay and eat some horse meat, aren't you," Steadman joked as he prepared steaks for the hungry workers.

He says the meat, beef steak, is a young colt, not some old stray like the Lewis and Clark expedition shot and ate when it passed near by in 1805, cold, hungry and lost.



Sakakawea



Sakakawea, a Shoshone Indian girl, lived with the Hidatsa people in an earthlodge village on the Knife River in North Dakota. She married a French trader named Toussaint Charbonneau. They traveled with the Lewis and Clark Expedition as interpreters and guides. Sakakawea carried her child on the long journey to the Pacific Ocean. A bronze statue on the North Dakota capitol grounds is a tribute to Sakakawea and her son, Jean Baptiste.

From a photograph in the collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota of the statue by sculptor Leonard Crunelle.

Prince tells story of famous baby

■ 'Pomp'
Charbonneau's life
detailed near
where he was born

LAUREN DONOVAN
Bismarck Tribune

FORT MANDAN — A German prince stood near the banks of the shining Missouri River to tell what became of the famous baby boy born to Sakakawea in an earthlodge not far upstream.

Humorous and charming, Prince Hans von Sachsen-Altenburg, now owner of an archaeology company in Dallas, captivated 500 members of the national Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation with details of the life of John Baptiste Charbonneau.

He spoke at an outdoor lecture Tuesday at Fort Mandan near Washburn as part of the foundation's annual meeting in Bismarck this week. For just a few endearing moments during his scholarly talk, he wrapped himself in a purple, ermine-trimmed robe he said he found in some old family boxes.

"Pomp," as the baby was nicknamed in 1805 by explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, is more than the four sentences he's usually reduced to by historians, he said.

"He was a visible sign of peace, a psychological human shield," said Sachsen-Altenburg of the presence of the tiny dark head in Sakakawea's cradle board as she and the Corps of Discovery searched for a water passage to the Pacific Ocean. "He was a unique child since the moment of his birth."

The risk that the baby would die was enormous. Pomp lived 61 years, eventually succumbing to mountain fever in Oregon.

He was a man of education, fluent in several languages. He lived in great castles in Germany and toured Europe with a distant cousin of Sachsen-Altenburg's, Duke Paul of Wuerttemberg, Germany.

The duke sought out Pomp, just 18 then, on a journey to America and tutored and traveled with the man he referred to as "The Little Savage" until returning with him to his homeland six years later.

"When Pomp came back, he was



By MIKE McCLEARY of the Tribune

German Prince **Hans von Sachsen-Altenburg** gestures to a map of Jean Baptiste Charbonneau travels across the world during his entertaining, fact-filled presentation to an overflowing crowd gathered at Fort Mandan west of Washburn.

no longer the same person. The United States did not accept half-breeds. He was a white man in his heart," said Sachsen-Altenburg. He could, as it's recorded, stand up at campfire near the Green River in Wyoming and declaim Shakespeare in perfect English.

Though there is no record that Pomp had any memories of the journey that made him such an instant celebrity in Germany, he had the blood of an explorer in his veins.

"From his father he acquired a certain laidbackness. From his mother, an ability to discern, to distinguish," he said.

Pomp was a fur trapper, trader, gold prospector and in his most important work, head scout for an army brigade that opened the West from the Rio Grande River to California.

It is there, on a vast stretch of an arid trail that ends at the welcome green verge of California, that Sachsen-Altenburg feels closest to

the spirit of the man he has researched nearly full-time for the last 10 years.

"He knew he had made it. It must have been how Sakakawea felt when she begged William Clark to let her see the Pacific Ocean, when she said, 'I've come all this way with you guys, let me see, too,'" he said. "I wish there were more parallels."

Sachsen-Altenburg's fascination with Pomp Charbonneau started in 1989, when the fall of the Berlin Wall gave him access to family archives and Duke Paul's journals.

"Until then, I had never head of Lewis and Clark, or Sakakawea, or Pomp. I was blissfully ignorant, but what I learned forced me to follow every lead," he said.

He figures he's accumulated 300,000 air miles alone following those leads. His work is funded by old family money and income from the two books he's written, one about Duke Paul and Charbonneau.

"It's amazing how much material is available if you keep looking," he said. He owns what he believes is a

drawing done by Duke Paul of Pomp, showing a handsome man with dark hair and an oval European face.

"I think where he fit in was nowhere," he said.

Sachsen-Altenburg will sign his two published books — one entitled Duke Paul of Wuerttemberg On the Missouri Frontier — at 7 p.m. Thursday at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Bismarck.

One Lewis and Clark foundation member, Bill Anderson of Bend, Ore., said hearing Sachsen-Altenburg helped satisfy his craving to know what happened to members of the Corps of Discovery when the journey was over.

"It's interesting to get details of Pomp's life, where he died and his travels," he said.

Sachsen-Altenburg has a mission for Anderson and others.

"Like mother like son. It's up to you to extend recognition to what was one little baby who continued the proud tradition of expanding the country until the very end," he said.

Guide to Highway 12 corridor is revised

LMT 8-20-99

KOOSKIA — The 1999 revised version of "Clearwater Country! The Traveler's Historical and Recreational Guide, Lewiston, Idaho — Missoula, Montana," is now available.

Sales of the original edition of the book, which focuses on the U.S. Highway 12 corridor, topped 10,000, according to a news release from the publisher, Mountain Meadow Press near Kooskia.

The new edition delves in greater depth into the Lewis and Clark Expedition's route and campsites, provides fuller infor-

mation about the area's flora and fauna and introduces readers to several trails suitable for day hikes along the Selway and Lochsa rivers.

In addition, a new chapter, entitled "Side Trips," guides travelers off the U.S. 12 route to the Lewiston Hill scenic viewpoint; Spalding and Lapwai; the fish hatcheries, dam and lake near Orofino; to Weippe and Pierce, Grangeville, Elk City and Dixie and along the Selway River Road.

The book also includes informational background chapters on the

early Nez Perces, Lewis and Clark, the missionary period, the gold rush, Clearwater County outlaws and the Nez Perce War of 1877.

The authors, longtime central Idaho residents Borg Hendrickson and Linwood Laughy, designed the book to help residents and visitors learn about and more deeply enjoy the places and history of the region.

The book is available at area bookstores and from the publisher at P.O. Box 447, Kooskia, Idaho 83539.

Friday, August 6, 1999

LEWISTON MORNING TRIBUNE

Obituaries

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NORTHWEST

Next task will be 'Getting It Done'

■ Lewis-Clark Bicentennial groups are already gearing up for another symposium in March

By **NATHAN ALFORD**
OF THE TRIBUNE

MOSCOW — Preparation for the Lewis-Clark Bicentennial has changed its tone from the March symposium title of "Getting Under Way" to "Getting It Done."

More than 20 regional volunteers from area businesses and grass-roots organizations met Thursday morning in Moscow to share established and tentative plans for the Lewis-Clark Bicentennial with the Clearwater-Snake Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee.

"Now it's time to ask how to do it, roll up our sleeves and get it done," said Lorraine Roach, committee president. The first symposium in March, "Passages '99: Getting Under Way," was very successful, said Roach.

The next symposium, "Passages 2000: Getting It Done," is scheduled for March 1-

3, 2000, at the Red Lion Hotel in Lewiston. The Clearwater National Forest and the Idaho Travel Council have contributed \$5,000 each to next year's symposium, Roach said, and more contributions are needed.

The goal of the committee, a non-profit corporation, is to coordinate and plan preparations of the five north-central Idaho counties and Asotin County for the Lewis-Clark Bicentennial from 2003 to 2006.

John Mock, recently appointed marketing director of the Hells Canyon Visitor Association, complimented the Lewiston and Clarkston chambers of commerce for coming together and developing a strategic plan.

"The community is working together in a constructive manner to promote our area," said Mock.

Realizing Lewis and Clark did not travel through Latah County, Eldonna Gossett, executive director of Moscow Chamber of

Commerce, believes involvement would be a positive way to extend the Northwest image.

"Moscow is a gateway city and we want to contribute," said Gossett. "Now it is a matter of figuring out what we can do best."

A number of critical health care issues must be addressed, Roach said. The ability of smaller communities to provide necessary health care for the potential influx of visitors to the area is a concern.

"Hopefully there will be no major need," Roach said. "But it is important to think about that whole side of the bicentennial celebration."

Rural health grants are available that would provide assistance to smaller communities and hospitals in obtaining necessary equipment, EMTs and staff training.

Allen V. Pinkham Sr., a member of the Nez Perce Lewis-Clark Bicentennial Committee, attended the National Lewis-Clark Bicentennial Council Board meeting.

A national logo for Lewis-Clark has finally been developed, Pinkham said. Indian representations are included in the red and blue circular design.

"Business owners may purchase the use of the logo and be included in a national business directory," Pinkham said.

Research by the National Park Service and other federal and state agencies has begun to determine the necessary amount of federal funding, and visitor surveys of individual states are expected.

Estimates of the numbers of travelers who may go through the region range from 1 million to 4 million.

However, Roach believes there is no real basis for the numbers. The research firm hired at the national level should give more information, said Roach.

"There is not a real clear picture on a national level. They need some guidance from a regional level," said Roach.

"It is sort of a chicken-and-egg thing between the federal, state and grass-roots levels."