

**OREGON STATE CHAPTER
LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE
FOUNDATION**

NOVEMBER- 1998



President's Corner

The birth of our new chapter on September 19, at Fort Clatsop marked a new beginning and opened an array of opportunities to explore. It was well attended with a wide geographical representation of interested and talented people. For me, it was an inspiring occasion and I feel privileged and honored to serve as your president.

Our new board of directors and officers are aggressively structuring the foundation for a strong statewide chapter devoted to meeting our members varied interests in the Corps of Discovery throughout the bicentennial years and beyond. These building blocks include fine-tuning our by-laws; developing a membership program and brochure to attract new members; designing our chapter meetings to reflect a wide variety of programs and speakers that will be fascinating as well as fun, and last but certainly not least, is the creation of this newsletter. Thanks to Dick Hohnbaum, our new and able editor, the newsletter will be an invaluable tool to keep members informed and involved.

I returned last week from Washington D.C. and learned that despite the turmoil and mid-term elections, substantive Lewis and Clark Bicentennial

NEW OREGON CHAPTER ~ ~ ~ FORMED ~ ~ ~

On Saturday, September 19th, the first general membership meeting of the Oregon Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation was called to order by Keith Hay. The meeting was held in the Netul River Room at the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center and was attended by 35 people from all over Oregon; as far south as Ashland, as far east as Irrigon, from the Willamette Valley area and from Portland. At present the Oregon Chapter has 46 enrolled members.

The by-laws for the proposed chapter were presented. A vote of the members present was taken to adopt the proposed bylaws as written. Some possible future changes and clarifications were mentioned. The vote passed unanimously and the bylaws were duly adopted.

The Officers and the Board of Directors were introduced. Officers: President Keith Hay, Newbery; Vice-president Bob Holcomb, Corvallis; Secretary, Jay Rasmussen, Hillsboro;
continued inside

President's Message continued...

steps are being taken in the nations' capitol. Ten federal agencies (including Interior, Commerce, Defense, Agriculture etc..) signed an interagency agreement to cooperate in implementing and sponsoring Lewis and Clark Bicentennial activities. Steve Ambrose attended the signing ceremonies which included the display of an original map carried by the captains.

A Congressional Lewis and Clark Caucus has been formed by legislators representing states along the trail. Rep Elizabeth Furse, represents Oregon. The Smithsonian is planning a special scientific Lewis and Clark exhibit as well as the National Museum of American Indians. The National Park Service will launch a traveling Lewis and Clark Bicentennial program (2003-2007) called "Corps of Discovery: 200 Years to the Future". Local programs will include partnerships with public and private parties.

Thank you all for your confidence in our team effort to make this chapter one of the very best.

Keith Hay
President

NEW CHAPTER FORMED continued...

Treasurer, Linda O'Connor, Hillsboro.
Board of Directors: Doug Erickson, Portland; Paul Nolte, Ashland; John Montague, Portland; Don Eppenbach, Irrigon; Dick Hohnbaum, Keizer.

Moulton Atlas Reprint

If you missed your chance at owning the out-of-print Volume 1 Atlas of the Moulton edition of the Lewis & Clark Journals, listen up! Through an agreement with the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, the University of Nebraska Press will be issuing a reprint of the Atlas. These books should be available for sale early in 1999. You can contact the University of Nebraska Press at (800) 755-1105 or at <http://nebraskapress.unl.edu/>

Your Help Is Needed

Michelle Bussard, the Executive Director of the National Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Council has requested the help of 10 volunteers from the ranks of the Oregon and Washington Chapters to act as host/guide/interpreters in conjunction with the Council's Fourth Annual National Planning Workshop to be held April 21 - 24, 1999 at the Doubletree Inn at the Quay in Vancouver, WA. On Friday April 23 the Workshop attendees will board a group of five busses to travel to Fort Clatsop National Memorial along the northern bank of the Columbia River. Michelle would like two host/guide/interpreters per bus. If you would like to help and welcome these participants to our local area, please contact your Chapter president and Michelle Bussard at:

Michelle Bussard
Executive Director
National Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Council
1101 Officers Row, US Grant House
Vancouver, WA 98661

(888) 999-1803

Notable Quote (submitted by member Irving Anderson):

On December 29, 1805 Clark, in trading with Indians for wapato roots, gave a "few red beads, small pieces of brass wire and an old check."

See Moulton Vol. 6, Pg. 144 or Thwaites Vol. 3, Pg. 294

A Message From Your Chapter Secretary

A Message From Your Chapter Secretary

Welcome to the Oregon Chapter and your first Chapter Newsletter! We have a good solid start with 47 registered members and a dedicated group of directors and officers. As expected, things are already starting to heat up concerning preparations for the upcoming bicentennial commemoration and there are a number of projects underway that you and your chapter need to consider how we may best support these efforts. For example, Dr. Gary Moulton, editor of the Lewis & Clark journals, is planning on spending a number of weeks next summer at Fort Clatsop National Memorial preparing a single volume edition of the Lewis & Clark journals. He will also deliver three speeches you won't want to miss. Our chapter has been requested by the National Park Service to help support this effort. In addition, we have been invited to support and partake in the Moving Marker commemoration. The Moving Marker is a nationwide program to commemorate the day-by-day movement of the Lewis & Clark Expedition from conception in Washington DC to the Pacific Ocean and back to St. Louis. This historical journey, organized by Kampgrounds of America, will be marked by the movement of 1803 style American flags following in the footsteps of the Corps of Discovery. There is also an initiative by the Conservation Fund to protect Lewis & Clark sites in Oregon.

I plan on trying to increase our chapter membership by demonstrating what a solid active group we have going and inviting other Oregon resident members of the national Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation to join us. As we firm up plans for future meetings and produce our first newsletter the excitement grows.

If you have Internet access, be sure and visit our home page (http://www.vpds.wsu.edu/LCExpedition/Resources/or_lcthf.html) for up-to-date information.

-- Jay Rasmussen

L&C—Q&A

"L&C—Q&A" will be a feature (department?) of this (quarterly? Bi-monthly?) newsletter. Members are encouraged to submit questions of general interest concerning Lewis & Clark's expedition. The editor and staff will endeavor to furnish succinct answers. If none of us know the answer, we will call upon the broad array of "experts" in the national organization, or perhaps, call upon our readers to supply answers.

Since this is the first issue of the newsletter, we are supplying both the questions and the answers this time. Please send us your questions so that we may share tidbits of information with our members.

Q. Just exactly what were the "Peace Medals" that L&C gave to certain Indians?
A. Lewis and Clark were following an established tradition of the Spanish, French, and British traders and explorers in giving gifts and silver medallions to the most important chiefs that they hoped to impress. Inventory lists show that there were medals of five sizes. The larger medals were given to the more important chiefs. The three largest were of President Jefferson (see illustration).

The three Jefferson medals were struck on thin sheets of silver and formed into hollow-core discs. The diameters were 105 mm (4-1/8 in.), 75 mm (3 in.) and 55 mm (2-3/16 in.). There were three of the first size, thirteen of the second size, and sixteen of the third size.

All other U.S. peace medals, and later restrikes of the Jefferson medal, were solid silver or bronze.

The fourth size medals were left over from George Washington's administration. They arrived from the mint in England after the end of Washington's term. Lewis and Clark had 55 of this size. There were three variations of these medals. All had an image of Washington on one side, and the other side had either a scene of a man sowing grain, domestic animals, or women spinning and weaving. Sometimes the journals mention the specific scene that is being given out.

It is not known for certain about the medals of the fifth size. In the journals is mentioned the giving a U.S. silver dollar as a gift. Some historians think that this fifth, and smallest, medal may have been U.S. silver dollars with a ring for a ribbon.

Q. Why was no physician included in the expedition?

A. No one knows for certain, but some educated guesses are 1. At first, only fifteen men were to go on the trip, so the group was too small for the luxury of a physician. 2. Lewis and Clark knew about as much about frontier trauma, herbal medicines, and internal ailments as did the average "doctor" of the time. 3. It would be difficult to find a physician with the stamina, strength, physical conditioning, and temperament as was required of the members of the Corps of Discovery.

The results proved that this was the right decision. Modern physicians feel that the only man who died, would have died regardless of whether he had been on a keel boat on the Missouri River or in the best Philadelphia hospital. It is believed he died of acute appendicitis, which was untreatable at that period of time. Lewis and Clark successfully administered to all of the men's ailments, including a serious bullet wound to Lewis' buttocks.

Q. Did the expedition really cost only the \$2500, as first requested by Jefferson?

A. Modern historians place the cost of the expedition at over \$38,000. That is \$38,000 in 1806, not an adjustment to our period.

Q. What was the average age of the men?

A. Most of the men were 25—30 years old. George Shannon was the youngest at age 19 at the start, and John Shields was the oldest at about 35 years.

Q. Is it true that the members of the expedition ate dogs?

A. Yes. Clark wrote on October 23, 1805, when they were near Celilo Falls, "We purchased 8 small dogs for the party to eat. The natives not being fond of selling their good fish, compels us to make use of Dog meat for food, the flesh of which the most of the party have become fond of from the habits of using it."

Q. Was York, Clark's black servant, allowed to use the firearms (contrary to slave laws of the period)?

A. Yes, on November 16, 1805, Clark writes, "my servent, York, killed 2 geese and 8 white, black and speckle brants." There are several references in the journals to York hunting big game with a rifle, and Clark mentions that York's gun was damaged when a Buffalo rampaged through their camp.