

January/February 1998 Newsletter
WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER
LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION



Washington State Chapter Meeting

Date: Saturday, February 28, 1998

Time: Noon

Place: Ilwaco Heritage Museum, 115 SE Lake Street, Ilwaco

**“The End of Their Westward Trail:
Lewis and Clark at the Pacific Ocean”
presented by Rex Ziak**

Rex Ziak is a 43-year old, life-long resident of the Lower Columbia. His interest in the 19th century explorers has led to years of study of Lewis and Clark’s travels in this region. Rex was recently appointed to the Governor’s Lewis and Clark Trail Committee, representing Pacific County. His presentation will also offer an opportunity for discussion and questions.

(Note: The meeting will not include food; we suggest you have lunch before the meeting at any of the cafés in the area or brown-bag it.)



Ilwaco Location Presents Opportunity for More Experiences
contributed by Lee Edtl and A. G. “Doc” Wesselius

Clark wrote in his journal, “men appear much satisfied with their trip beholding with astonishment the high waves dashing against the rock and this emence Ocian.” The Lewis and Clark campsite is located in the vicinity of the Astoria-Megler Bridge, on the Washington side of the river near Fort Columbia Historical State Park. Following Mr. Ziak’s presentation (which will include discussion of this site), he will lead a caravan to the campsite. Fort Clatsop, a replica of the Expedition’s 1805-06 winter headquarters, is across the bridge in Oregon; a visit to the Fort will provide you with an extraordinary experience; a caravan can also be organized to this site, if members wish. The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center at Fort Canby State Park is approximately five miles from the Ilwaco Museum. We encourage you to plan a visit while you’re in the area to experience the adventures of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Located high on Cape Disappointment, the Center overlooks the mouth of the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean. For those who would like to experience “the real feel” of the Expedition, there also are four trails of varying length that offer opportunities to explore the forest and headlands. Clark’s route to Long Beach is not complete; however, there is enough of the trail to break out a sweat for even the most avid hiker. (“Doc” Wesselius can provide information to those who are interested.)

Sightseeing in the area includes many places visited by the Expedition and a rich history of Washington. It is only a short drive from Ilwaco to the North Head Lighthouse, Benson Beach and the North Jetty, McKinzie Head, and the Long Beach peninsula. If you have a few extra days, a short drive into Oregon will provide the opportunity to visit more Lewis and Clark sites. Astoria, Seaside and Cannon Beach are easily reached by Highway 101 and provide historical interest plus trails and scenery experienced by the Expedition.

NOTE: For information about overnight accommodations in the Ilwaco/Long Beach area, call the Long Beach Peninsula Visitors Center at 1-800-457-2542. Overnight camping is available at Fort Canby State Park (no reservations are required); contact Washington State Parks & Recreation at 1-800-233-0321 for information.

Enthusiasm Reigns at First Chapter Meeting

On November 22, 1997, 50 Corps of Discovery enthusiasts met in Tacoma for the first meeting of the Washington State Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. It was the culmination of more than three months of work by the steering committee to organize this new group. The membership unanimously approved the proposed bylaws and slate of officers presented. (Copies of the bylaws will be available at the February meeting; the officers for 1998 are listed at the end of this page.) The chapter will host at least four meetings/outings each year and publish a newsletter. Barb Kubik, President of Washington State's Lewis and Clark Trail Committee, reported on the history and relationship of the various national and state Lewis and Clark organizations. Bob Hunt, author of numerous articles for *We Proceeded On* during the past ten years, led a discussion of how to personalize your Expedition research, with additional comments contributed by Dr. Reimert Ravenholt. Many thanks to Dave Nicandri and his staff at the Washington State History Museum for hosting our group.

Number of Charter Members Reaches 77

Many people attending the November 22 meeting joined the chapter that day. In addition, many of you mailed in your dues prior to and after the meeting. As of January 11, we're very pleased to report that our new chapter has 77 members! An elk-skin covered book was donated by "Doc" Wesselius; members in attendance had the opportunity to sign with a quill pen and ink. Names of all members will be entered in the book.

Thank You for Contributions

Two special Washington ladies provided extra support to the steering committee this past fall by donating funds to assist with copying and postage in our outreach efforts to Washington members of the Foundation. We send a very big thank you to **Bev Sweeten and Ilene Marckx**—your support and enthusiasm inspired each of us.

Schedule of 1998 Chapter Meetings

February: Ilwaco
May: Joint Meeting with Idaho Chapter, Lewiston/Clarkston
June/July: Great Falls (during the Foundation's Annual Meeting)
September/October: Walla Walla

The Board of Directors will discuss future meeting topics and possible projects for the chapter during 1998. We welcome your input. If you have suggestions, please contact one of the board members listed below.

1998 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Don Payne	(253)838-5906	Directors:	Murray Hayes	(206)546-3926
Vice President:	Lee Edtl	(360)577-0485		Nicholas Kirkmire	(360)352-5656
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Treasurer:	Dee Roché-Coons	(509)785-9850		A.G. "Doc" Wesselius	(360)736-6106

Choices Abound in Great Falls This Summer

The Foundation's annual meeting will be held in Great Falls, Montana, from June 28 to July 1 and will coincide with the annual Great Falls Lewis & Clark Festival on July 2 & 3 (sponsored by the Portage Route Chapter) and the dedication of the U. S. Forest Service's new Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center on the 4th of July.

The Festival offers many activities. In past years, these have included: an evening walk to Sacagawea Springs (with a view across the Missouri to the mouth of Portage Creek); a driving tour to Cut Bank and overlooks to Camp Disappointment and the Two Medicine Creek fight site (in drier years, the group has been able to get to these sites); another driving tour which closely retraced the route of the portage around the Great Falls of the Missouri; an encampment at Giant Springs Park for a visit with Expedition members; and an easy river rafting adventure on the mighty Missouri itself with a stop at the Lower Portage Camp archaeological dig for a very enjoyable visit with Professor Ken Karsmizki. Yes, all of this within one weekend!

Add to this the many seminars, speakers and tours offered during the Foundation's annual meeting. These meetings are filled with opportunities to meet other Foundation members from throughout the U.S. and participate in some great activities—and the 1998 meeting will continue that tradition. The crowning event for this year's meeting will be the opening of the spectacular new Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, high on the banks of the Missouri. So if you're looking for a way to immerse yourself in Lewis and Clark camaraderie and learning opportunities (and see a beautiful section of America), start making plans now to head to Great Falls. **Note: The February issue of *We Proceeded On* will have more information about these three events.**

Descendants of Corps' Blacksmith Willard Among our Members

The following members of our chapter are direct descendants of Alexander Hamilton Willard, the blacksmith for the Expedition: Allee Olsen, 4th generation; her sons, Terry Olsen, Tom Olsen and George Olsen, 5th generation; Tom's daughter, Debbie Sidenquist, 6th generation; and Debbie's son, David, 7th generation.

Excerpts from Associated Press newspaper article - December 1997

Most Americans know that Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and their Corps of Discovery extended the national vision to the shores of the Pacific Ocean. But geographical boundaries weren't the only ones they pushed. The executive director of the Washington State Historical Society contends they blazed another trail—for democracy—when the 33-member corps voted to decide on which side of the Columbia they'd spend the winter. Sacagawea, an American Indian woman, and York, Clark's black slave, participated in the vote—decades before women or blacks won voting rights.

"I'm convinced that it's one of the most important Lewis and Clark sites in the country," the historical society's Dave Nicandri said. He wants more attention given to the spot he calls "The Independence Hall of the American West." The site, along US Hwy 101 just west of the Astoria-Megler Bridge, now is marked with a modest sign and a rough-cut statue. Nicandri and state parks, transportation and tourism representatives—a coalition dubbed the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Interpretive Infrastructure and Tourism Promotion Committee—began working this fall on plans to improve dozens of sites along the route through Washington by working with communities along the trail, using a mix of public and private contributions. Steve Wang, chief of interpretive services for the state Parks Department, would like to see a one-mile trail built, leading from Fort Canby State Park to Cape Disappointment, where the expedition looked out over the Pacific Ocean. Such a trail would allow people to "walk in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark," Wang said.

Check Out A Lewis and Clark Web Site

Jay Rasmussen, one of our chapter members, has included a report on our November meeting at his Web Site. If you have access to the Internet, check it out at www.vpds.wsu.edu/LCExpedition/Resources/wa_lcthf.html. Thanks, Jay!

WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
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Clarkston, WA 99403-1602

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP
\$10.00 per year for any person,
family, firm, association or
corporation. Please make checks
payable to:
Washington State Chapter LCTHF

Dues are kept as low as possible to
encourage wide membership. In
addition, members are encouraged
to make additional donations to
support the organization.

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

*Phone: (h) _____ (w) _____

*E-mail: _____

**Optional—will be included with membership roster*

Above dues are for Washington State Chapter only. Bylaws state that Chapter members must be current members of the National Foundation. Annual dues are: Individual, \$30 per year; Family, \$40 per year; membership includes the quarterly magazine *We Proceeded On*. Send Foundation dues to: Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, PO Box 3434, Great Falls, MT 59403.

WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER
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