

January 1999 Newsletter
WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER
LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION



Washington State Chapter Meeting

Date: Saturday, February 27, 1999

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Washington State Historical Society (Mezzanine Level)
1911 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma

Come Join Us for a Great Program:

Ralph Rudeen

Member of Governor's Committee

Ralph is well-known nationally and throughout the state as one of the Foundation's leaders

&

Mike Venso

Lewiston Morning Tribune photojournalist

Report on "Rediscovering Lewis and Clark" Project

Traveling from Cape Disappointment to St. Louis by U.S. navy vessel, tug/barge, jet boat,
logging truck, horseback, foot, mountain bike, canoe, and powerboat
to discover the perspective of the people who live along the trail today.

Business Meeting and Election of 1999 Chapter Officers

Driving directions: From I-5 (both northbound and southbound), take exit #133 which becomes Hwy 705.

Turn right to South 21st Street; turn right onto Pacific Avenue and then turn right into the parking lot.



First Winter on the Trail: 1805 Journal Entries

contributed by Charles Blair

The Corps of Discovery, scarcely a platoon by modern U. S. Army organizational standards, endured two winters in the unknown interior of what become America during their 28-month expedition of 1804-1806. The winter of 1804-05 was spent in the midst of what may have been the largest concentration of Native Americans in the northern Great Plains at that time. The Corps protected itself from bitter winds, plunging temperatures and blowing snows in eight sparse rooms (quarters and storage) built of cottonwood, hardly the size of two mobile homes today. They named their structure "Fort Mandan" in recognition of the most prominent Indian tribe in the vicinity. Forty-five discoverers wintered at Fort Mandan, near today's new North Dakota Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center at Washburn. The reconstructed Fort Mandan is convenient to the new Center.

The Corps arrived at the five villages of the Mandans, Minitaris (Hidatsa) and Amahamis on October 26, 1804, after traveling about 1,600 miles from their Camp Wood departure. As estimated by Captain Lewis, 4,400 Indians lived in five villages—a greater population than that in frontier St. Louis at the time. Beginning November 2, Fort Mandan was built on the east bank of the Missouri, about six miles south of the mouth of the Knife River. The Corps lived in these quarters for five months but only spent three days on the return trip 22 months later, when they found Fort Mandan had been destroyed by a prairie fire. All totaled, the Corps spent 212 days in what is now North Dakota, its longest stay in any trail state.

The journals of Sergeant Patrick Gass tell of the beginnings of Fort Mandan. *"Friday 2nd. Captain Lewis, myself and some of the men, went up to the first village of the Mandans, who gave us some corn. Captain Clarke and the rest of our party, having dropt half a mile lower down the river, began to clear a place for a camp and fort. We pitched our tents and laid the foundation for one line of huts." "... On the 19th the hunters came up with the periogue loaded with the meat of about thirty deer, eleven elk and some buffalo. In the cold weather we moved into the huts, though not finished. From the 20th to the 27th we had fine pleasant weather, and on the evening of the latter finished the roofs of our huts. These were made of puncheons split out of cotton wood and then hewed. The cotton wood resembles the lombardy poplar, and is a soft light wood. The largest trees are in thickness about eighteen inches in diameter. On the night of the 27th the snow fell seven inches deep, and the 28th was stormy."*

Gary Moulton, in the Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, wrote that, "On the 22nd, Clark counseled an Indian who nearly murdered his wife because she slept with (Sergeant John) Ordway. Eight days earlier, when the first confrontation between the couple occurred, the wife had fled to (Toussaint) Charbonneau's squaws (one of who was Sacagawea) near the fort. When she returned home, her furious husband beat her; she then went back to the fort with three stab wounds. Clark also spoke to Ordway, prohibited the Corps from touching the woman, and assured the husband that no one would knowingly sleep with an Indian woman whom they knew to be anyone's wife. Ordway does not mention the episode in his journal."

On November 11, Fort Mandan was visited by two Indian women from one of the Minitari villages. One was Sacagawea, a 16 or 17-year old pregnant Shoshoni who was one of two "wives" of Toussaint Charbonneau, a 44-year old French Canadian who had been active on the Upper Missouri since at least 1793. When Charbonneau joined the Corps as an interpreter, he became the oldest member of the expedition. On February 11, 1805, Sacagawea gave birth to her first child, Jean Baptiste (Pomp). Stephen Ambrose reminds us that Sacagawea has the distinction of being the only Native American, the only woman, the only mother and the only teenager to accompany the Corps on their Voyage of Discovery.

New Year's Day 1805 at Fort Mandan was ushered in by the discharge of two cannons. *"Capt. Lewis gave each a glass of good old whiskey & another was given by Capt. Clark."* (From the journal of Patrick Gass) On January 7, Mandan Chief Big White gave Captain Clark a sketch of the country as far as the high mountains. Sergeant Ordway's journal notes that *"our hunters killed a wolf today which they eat."* On January 10, Captain Clark records, *"40 below 0, a boy 13 came to the fort with frozen feet."* The boy had his toes removed by Captain Lewis on the 27th. Several journal entries in late January and February note that the Corps' blacksmiths were kept busy making war axes to be traded to the Indians for corn. Clark said *"... this is the only means by which we procure corn from them."* On March 25, Clark reports, *"... ice broke up in the evening nearly taking off with our new canoes."*

On April 7, 1805, the keelboat and eleven Corpsman commanded by Corporal Richard Warfington embarked downriver with boxes containing a rich variety of specimens for President Thomas Jefferson, including four living magpies. Later that same day, the 33 remaining members of the Corps continued the westering voyage in six newly carved cottonwood canoes and the two pirogues. There is a reproduction of a cottonwood dugout canoe at the Washburn Center. Captain Lewis journalized the departure from Fort Mandan: *"We were now about to penetrate a country 2000 miles in width, the foot of civilized man has never trodden."*

We Extend a Warm Welcome to the New Oregon Chapter

The chapter was organized on September 19, 1998, boasting 47 charter members. Elected officers: President - Keith Hay; Vice President - Bob Holcomb; Secretary - Jay Rasmussen; Treasurer - Linda O'Connor; Board Members - Doug Erikson, Paul Nolte, John Montague, Don Eppenbach and Richard Hohnbaum. We look forward to a joint meeting with the Oregon chapter during the sternwheeler cruise on April 25.

Follow the Trail in Style: Sign Up for Sternwheeler Brunch Cruise

A two-hour voyage on the Columbia River aboard the sternwheeler *Columbia Gorge* on Sunday, April 25. Chapter members & their families sail from the Port of Longview Dock at 11:30 a.m.; enjoy brunch while viewing present-day Washington and Oregon from the same vantage point as our erstwhile Corps members in 1805-06. The ship is a triple-decker replica of the paddlewheel-driven boats of the late 19th century & was designed after the great riverboat, the *Bailey Gatzert*. A chapter meeting will also be held in Longview & the newly formed Oregon Chapter is invited to join us. Adult tickets - \$29.95; children's tickets - \$19.95.

Mail your reservation request accompanied with your check for payment in full to:
Don Payne, 32237 3rd Avenue SW, Federal Way, WA 98023.

Please specify the number of adult tickets and children's tickets you are ordering.

Your reservations must be received by February 22.

(If we meet the provisions of our contract with the sternwheeler company, we may be able to accept further reservations at our chapter meeting on February 27.)

Membership Renewals Now Due

As most of you know, our chapter was formed in November 1997; during 1998, we have grown to 100+ members! Now that we are "up and running," the chapter is formulating plans to fulfill our purpose as stated in the Bylaws: "... to stimulate interest in matters relating to the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1803-1806" and "... to seek out and identify Lewis and Clark Expedition-related sites and monitor the condition of interpretive facilities in it's geographic area." We are beginning efforts to determine worthwhile interpretive and educational projects which we can develop & implement. Your continued membership is vital to supporting these goals. 1999 Washington State Chapter membership renewals are due now. Please complete the membership renewal form you recently received and mail it with your check to the address shown on the form before January 30. Join us as we proceed on—thank you!

Report on September 26 Meetings in Pasco

Chapter Meeting: 18 members & 9 guests assembled at the Franklin County Historical Society Museum. Nominating Committee will present 1999 slate of nominated officers in the Winter Newsletter (see pgs. 9 and 10); election to be held at the February 27 chapter meeting in Tacoma (provision for absentee ballots). Members were encouraged to convey concerns about proposed state parks closures to the Parks Commission, Governor & local legislators. Steve Wang, Washington State Parks Interpretive Services, presented a program of park needs along the Trail & ways the chapter may choose to be involved in meeting those needs. Barb Kubik, VP of LCTHF, reviewed the history of Sacajawea State Park & shared information about securing funds for projects. The Spokane Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution expressed interest in helping place markers along the route. Field trip to Sacajawea State Park.

Board Meeting: Don Payne, Don Popejoy & Rennie Kubik volunteered to serve as Nominating Committee. Board asked member Steve Lee to contact Columbia County to ascertain their interest in working with the chapter to preserve one of only two known remaining old Lewis and Clark highway markers. Board members will attend upcoming community workshops for Washington's Lewis and Clark Interpretive and Tourism Plan. The Board agreed to send a letter to Washington State Parks Commission indicating the chapter's concerns with proposed closings of some state parks, particularly Sacajawea State Park and Lewis and Clark Trail State Parks.

*** Update on Proposed Parks Closures ***

Gov. Gary Locke has agreed to send to the Legislature a budget plan that would exempt the state parks system from across-the-board cuts and prospective closures. Although the 42 state parks on the proposed closure list will remain open, improvements will be few and operations would be bare-bones. Chapter members are encouraged to contact their legislators to address long-term funding commitment to ensure parks stay open.

Kudos, Announcements, Opportunities

Ruth Hubbard (wife of the late Harry Hubbard) would like to share hotel room expenses with another woman during the Annual Foundation meeting in Bismarck this summer. Contact her at 206-285-0939.

Our Chapter extends fervent appreciation to outgoing Chapter President **Don Payne**. Don's leadership has been integral to our organizational efforts and growth this past year. We won't be losing his expertise however; Don is already hard at work learning the who/when/what/where/why/how of finding grants and funding opportunities to allow us to develop projects. Thanks, Don!

Volunteer Opportunity: Bicentennial Council 1999 Annual Planning Workshop, in Vancouver, WA. On Friday, April 23, five busses will take workshop participants to and from Fort Clatsop via the Washington side of the river. Exec. Director Michelle Bussard is looking to the Oregon and Washington chapters for 10 volunteers (two per bus) to serve as interpreter/guides. Compensation for meals or reduced registration cost can be provided for volunteers attending the workshop. Contact Jay Rasmussen at 503-640-9493 (or jayr@protocol.com) for more information.

Don Popejoy is doing research on the **buffalo jump site on the cliffs overlooking Camp Disappointment** near the Cutbank River in Montana. If anyone has any information about this site, please contact Don at dpocalc1@aol.com or PO Box 9021, Spokane, WA 99209-9021.

Conference Opportunity: The Clearwater-Snake Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee will host a conference on the topic of "Which way did they go?" with the Lewiston to Kamiah area chosen for study this year. Conference dates are June 10, 11 & 12 (Thursday night dinner, Friday academic discussion/debate, and Saturday field trips). Probable conference site is Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston. They are asking experts and novices to join in. For more information, contact Chuck Raddon, 160 Highland Ct. Orofino, ID 83544; (208)476-3123; craddon@clearwater.net.

A big thank you to **Rennie and Barb Kubik** for organizing a great meeting in Pasco.

Doc Wesselius would like to obtain a print of Charlie Russell's pen & ink of "Lewis and Clark Reach Shoshone Camp, Sacagawea Meets Her Brother (aka The L&C Exp)". Contact him at (360)736-6106.

The **1999 Annual Foundation Meeting** will be July 31 - August 4 in Bismarck and Mandan, North Dakota. More information available in the current and future issues of *We Proceeded On*.

"Early Pictures of the Falls: A Lewis and Clark Portrait in Time", a volume of 19 early photos (before the dams were built) of all five of the Great Falls of the Missouri paired with journal entries and comments—a valuable addition to your library or a beautiful gift. To order a copy, send your \$16 check payable to the Portage Route Chapter (includes shipping and handling) to: Early Pictures of the Falls, Portage Route Chapter, P O Box 2424, Great Falls, MT 59403-2424.

A copy of our **chapter bylaws** can be obtained by contacting Dee Roché-Coons, 2703 8th Avenue, Clarkston, WA 99403, or Pam Andersen, 2374 Crestline Blvd NW, Olympia, WA 98502.

Member Survey Results

The following input was provided by a small number of respondents to our May survey.

What are your primary goals for the Chapter?

- Extend information/education to communities (7)
- Develop/share opportunities for education w/schools (6)
- Sharing knowledge/interests w/other members (6)
- Supporting activities to mark and/or maintain the trail in Washington (7)

Would you serve on a committee or provide other assistance?

- Program Committee for quarterly meetings (1)
- Awards/Recognition Committee (1)
- Suggestions for speakers or other program ideas (0)
- Outreach to gain new members (4)
- Speaker for community events (3)
- Fund raising for Chapter projects/activities (2)
- Contribute info/articles for the newsletter (4)
- Contribute to our Internet Web Page (0)
- Photographer (1)
- Other (2)



Corner of Discovery: Profiles of Our Members

prepared by Cheryl Essary

A column featuring Chapter members and their comments concerning their interest in the Lewis and Clark Expedition.
Look for more member profiles in coming issues!

Lyle and Joan Soule of Silverdale have been hooked on Lewis and Clark since March of 1997, when they were exiled from their grandson's birthday party. Fort Canby was suggested as a diversion for the day and has turned out to be a diversion for a lifetime. Soon after their visit to Fort Canby's Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, they picked up books by Dayton Duncan and Stephen Ambrose. Then, of course, the natural thing to do was join the LCTHF! It is the day-to-day struggle that most intrigues the Soules about the Corps of Discovery. Their favorite expedition-related book (so far) is Undaunted Courage, and they have just acquired the Coues journals. Joan chose George Shannon as her favorite member of the expedition; Lyle does not have a favorite. Since joining the foundation, they have traveled the trail between Lewiston and Astoria and across Lolo Pass to Great Falls. They have been faithful attendees at every meeting of the Washington state chapter.

James Meredith of Roche Harbor credits the Dutch oven with piquing his interest in Lewis and Clark. The challenge of cooking in the rain in a Dutch oven gave him an appreciation for the culinary exploits of the Corps of Discovery. He later met a member of the Governor's Lewis and Clark advisory committee who had written a Dutch oven cookbook which made reference to our heroes. A member of the LCTHF since 1984, Jim has driven the trail from Washington state to St. Louis on several occasions. He says (quite rightly) that an interest in Lewis and Clark leads to other facets of western history, including the fur trade, soldiering, and the Oregon Trail. He is collecting Moulton's journals and cites the Thwaites journals and Olin Wheeler as choice reading material. Jim chose two members of the expedition as his favorites: Joseph Whitehouse and John Ordway. Whitehouse he names for his feats of leather working (think of all those elk-skin moccasins made at Fort Clatsop!) and Ordway because he kept the most complete journal of all the men on the expedition.

Patricia Huntsman of Olympia has impressive connections: her mother, Vi Forrest of Walla Walla, has been a Lewis and Clark since the 1950s. Her brother's father-in-law was E. G. Chuinard, author of Only One Man Died. Yet it's only been in the last five or six years that she has become a "fan" in her own right. Her busy life as a medical social worker doesn't leave much time for the Corps of Discovery, but she hopes to have a chance soon to join the rest of us in this pursuit. Patricia's experience as a docent at the Burke Museum in Seattle sparked an interest in Native American history. Accordingly, she'd like to learn more about Lewis and Clark's interactions with the Indians they met, particularly the winter spent with the Mandans. She wouldn't go so far as to say she has a favorite member of the expedition, but Seaman is of special interest to Patricia. She loves dogs and intends to review all the men's journals to read their references to Lewis's beloved Newfoundland.

George and Dorothy Eisentrout of Olympia had a typical reaction to Stephen Ambrose's Undaunted Courage. After they read the book, they joined the LCTHF. Since then, George has spoken to organizations like Kiwanis and teachers' groups about the Corps of Discovery. In addition to the Ambrose best-seller, the Eisentrouts count Only One Man Died and Lewis and Clark Among the Indians as other books they enjoyed. Their latest find is National Geographic's Voyage of Discovery. Captain William Clark is one of George's favorite men of the Corps, but he has a special affinity for Pierre Cruzatte. A fiddler himself, George understands the dedication of Cruzatte, who packed a fiddle all the way to the Pacific and back. George, a woodcarver, is recruiting fellow artisans in a project to carve the flora and fauna noted by Lewis and Clark. Each item would be individually carved and a public display held, most likely in conjunction with the Bicentennial.

New Lewis and Clark Book Available

Six authors have produced *Lewis & Clark in the Bitterroot*, a new book about the Expedition's treacherous crossing.

New Members

The following Lewis and Clark enthusiasts recently joined the Washington chapter—we welcome you!

Bill & Jacquelyne Arends
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Baxter
Joyce C. Bolerjack
Victor & Nancy Bolon
Jennell E. Branson
Jack & Patricia Fletcher

Joyce Badgley Hunsaker
Leota L. King
James Payne
Tania Machnicki
Richard & Jeannette Pingrey

Carole Simon-Smolinski
Bill & Norma Wattum
Lynn & Eileen Webber
David & Wendy Welch
Jim & Angie Wood



The Mystery of She Who Watches by Don Popejoy

This article was inspired by Leota King when she asked me why Lewis and Clark, on their journey down the Columbia River, never mentioned seeing Tsagiglalal, better known as She Who Watches.

Lewis and Clark came to the Wishram-Wasco village on the 22nd of October 1805 near today's Horsethief Lake State Park. There they saw the Great Falls of the Columbia about which they had heard so much, which is now known as Celilo Falls. The captains decided to portage

some 1200 feet around the falls; this portage would prove to be just as difficult as any of the others! Once the portage was completed, there were many miles of rapids to negotiate involving three more exhausting days. The supplies and papers of the captains and anything of value were taken around the north side of the falls, helped by horses which the Wishrams had loaned to the Corps to carry the heavy boxes and crates. That is as far as the Wishrams' generosity went as they spent the day of the 22nd cheering and jeering the grueling struggle of the men, which took most of the day! The canoe portage was on the Oregon side of the river, close to the present boat landing at Celilo Park. The canoes were dragged for about 500 yards over the rocks and sand and put into the water, where they were left to float down the rapids. The morning of the 23rd presented the challenge of the Short Narrows and then the Long Narrows, which together ran about five and half miles. The Short Narrows was only 60 yards wide, while the Long Narrows stretched as much as 200 yards from shoreline to shoreline! These two treacherous rapids were just above The Dalles Dam and are separated by Brown's Island with the Short Narrows on the east side of the island. To put these sites in perspective (see map), Brown's Island is now in Lake Celilo, and Avery, Washington is just to the NE. The Long Narrows rushed past Horsethief Lake "in a most shocking manner. . ." wrote Clark. The two captains planned how to advance through the two narrows rather than take the time and energy to portage around them, as time was becoming more of a concern for the Corps in regard to winter quarters. Clark wrote in his journal on the night of the 22nd, "I deturmined to pass through this place not withstanding the horrid appearance of this agitated gut Swelling, boiling and whorling in every direction." That night was enjoyed by all as Cruzatte played his violin with gusto and the Wishrams spent the night with the Corps, eagerly waiting for tomorrow's great event—shooting the rapids! This surely would bring more laughter for the Wishrams and certainly would spell disaster for these crazy white men; after all, even the Indians who had lived here for thousands of years never considered such an act of folly!

The morning of the 24th dawned bright and clear. Adventure was in the air! The captains placed the men strategically along the shoreline to throw ropes to the canoeists if needed, and those who could not swim carried

guns and the captains' journals safely around the rapids. The Wishrams lined the cliffs and shoreline and watched in amazement as, one by one, the four canoes came through the rapids with very little trouble. Only the third canoe filled with water but made it to shore with no loss. I'm sure to the disappointment of the Indians. The captains, tired and weary and not wanting to tempt Fate, decided to reload the canoes, dry out the supplies that had gotten wet and then to get a good night's sleep. This is the night the Corps camped at the Wishram village at Horsethief Lake—the point being that they were so tired, they had no desire to do any "sight seeing," a not uncommon situation that all tourists go through in their travels!

On the morning of the 25th, the Corps of Discovery managed the remaining rapids and proceeded on down the Columbia to a naturally fortified place they called Rock Fort, which is now located in the city of The Dalles, Oregon. They camped there from the night of the 25th through the 27th; knowing that time was of the essence, they still needed the time to rest up and repair minor damage to the canoes and to themselves.

Now, with this brief account of the Corps' travel through this area, what does She Who Watches have to do with this article? I thought you would never ask! Horsethief Lake State Park was once the site of a large Wishram village. If you have ever been to HTLSP, you can visualize this with me. And if you have never been there, it will be easy to follow along with us. As you come off Highway 14 (the L & C highway on the Washington side), turn south into the park heading towards the Columbia. You will see off to your left an RV/camping area which was built over the ancient Wishram burial site! The high rocky point to your left over by the treed area, which is now for swimming and picnicking, etc., is Horsethief Butte, where at one time the Columbia River plunged over the cliffs into a basin which is now Horsethief Lake. On and around this butte are Indian paintings, pit houses and burial sites. Look carefully as what is left is hard to find and the climbing can be "eventful"! The parking lot just to the north of the railroad tracks was the site of the Wishram village mentioned by Clark in his journal.

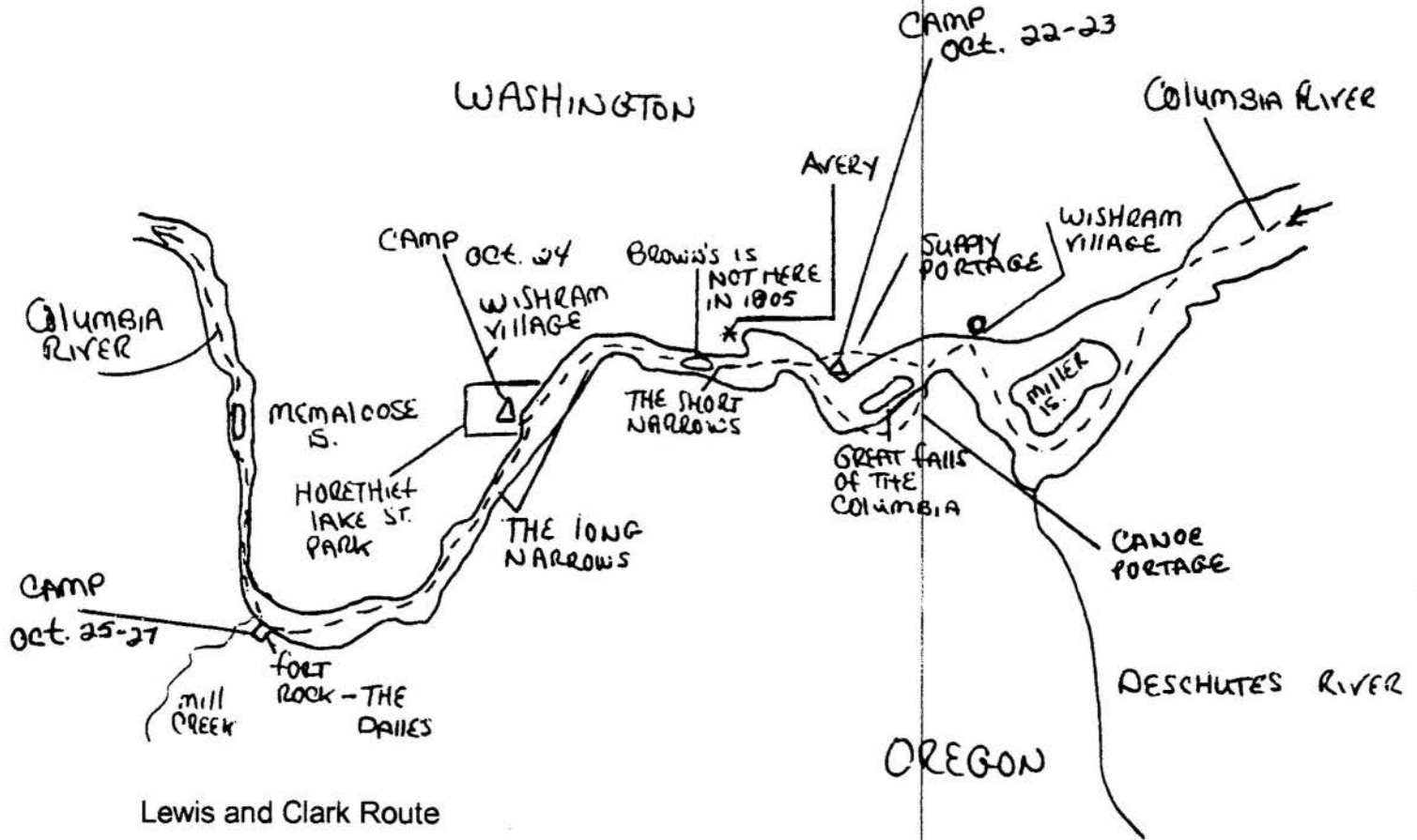
Now remember to keep this in your mind or draw a map on a piece of paper. This site and another directly across the river are 10,000 to 12,000 years old and are among the oldest continuously occupied village sites in the world, AND they stretch several miles to the east and west along this part of the Columbia! Okay, you are still in the parking lot area; follow a one and a half mile trail that winds around basalt rock cliffs which has been worn smooth by generations of travelers. Several pictographs still can be seen on the rocks, faded now but nevertheless still breathtaking. At the end of this trail (which is now a guided tour offered on Friday and Saturday only from April through October (call Ranger Rick at 509-767-1159) is Tsagiglalal, pronounced Tsagig lalal. She Who Watches towers above you, easily within reach, but her menacing grin challenges you to touch her! She is one of four guardians along the lower Columbia and all have "striking, grinning faces with concentric, almond-shaped eyes and eyebrows curving down to form a flared nose. The mouth is stretched wide in an exaggerated grin showing tongue and teeth."

She Who Watches is ageless. No one seems to know how long she has overlooked these ancient burial grounds which are on both sides of the river, nor does anyone know who carved (a petroglyph) and painted (a pictograph) her. The Wishrams say She has always been here and has always represented a death guardian spirit. Two hundred years ago, She was bright and colorful and could be seen from across the Columbia. Now if you know where to look, you can barely see her even with powerful binoculars. Now She is faint and weary from her centuries of watching and guarding.

So how did Lewis and Clark miss her on their west-bound journey? IF they saw her, they did not write about She Who Watches in the journals or field notes, and as we all know they wrote about everything! I have never read or heard any other explanation for why they didn't see Tsagiglalal. My theory is: First, the Wishrams would not have told anyone, least of all strangers, about where their burial grounds were or about their burial customs and practices. Secondly, Lewis and Clark were too preoccupied with the five-mile rapids known as the Long Narrows to do much surveillance of the area. Although the weather was clear and rain did not hamper their view, they didn't have time to wander as they had to get through the rapids as soon as they could. The morning of the 24th was "a fine morning" and "the morning fore after a beautifull night." They set out at 9 am for the rest of the journey through the rapids and, as there was nothing weather wise to obscure their visibility, I

believe that they didn't see She Who Watches because they were riding through the Narrows on water that "was agitated in a most shocking manner...we passed with great risque It being impossible to make a portage of the canoes, about two miles lower passed a verry Bad place." They were past Tasgiglal in a flash, missing one of the most magnificent sites along the Columbia River! Since Lewis and Clark's time, after the passage of almost two hundred years, Tsagiglal still watches—a silent testimony to a vanished people!

So, now the question is: Why didn't the Corps discover She on their east-bound trip? Now that's another story!



Lewis and Clark Route
 October 22, 1805 - October 27, 1805
 Westbound

More 1999 Meetings -Mark Your Calendars Now!

April 25: Cascade Sternwheeler brunch cruise with Oregon Chapter on the Columbia River (11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.) from Longview. See sign-up info on page 3 of this newsletter.

Week of July 31-August 4 (the Foundation's Annual Meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota): chapter meeting.

September 18: 2nd joint meeting with Idaho Chapter at Lewis and Clark Trail State Park between Dayton & Waitsburg in eastern Washington. Potluck picnic & tour of the 1806 return route area. Participate in Bruce Mansion Days in Waitsburg. Details in the spring newsletter.

1998 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS			
President:	Don Payne	(253)838-5906	Directors: Murray Hayes (360)428-1848
Vice President:	Lee Edtl	(360)577-0485	Nicholas Kirkmire (360)352-5656
Secretary:	Pam Andersen	(360)943-3979	Rennie Kubik (509)735-6141

1999 Election of Officers

The Nominating Committee (Don Payne, Don Popejoy and Rennie Kubik) offers the following proposed slate of officers for 1999: President - Murray Hayes; Vice President - Cheryl Essary; Secretary - Pam Andersen; Treasurer - Dee Roché-Coons; Board of Directors: Lee Edtl, Rennie Kubik, Lyle Soule, and Al (Doc) Wesselius. Members may also nominate other persons for any office, if they wish. The election will be held on Saturday, February 27, during the chapter meeting in Tacoma. Members who wish to vote but cannot attend the meeting may complete and mail the absentee ballot on page 10 before February 18.

← ↖ ↑ ↗ → Labor Day Excursion to the Lolo Trail ← ↙ ↓ ↘ →

by Murray Hayes

Over the past several years, the Idaho Chapter has scheduled Lewis and Clark Labor Day explorations focused on the Lolo Trail. 1998's exploration was a visit to the heart of the Lolo Trail basing the group out of Harlan and Barb Opdahl's Triple O Outfitters base camp. Getting there was half the challenge: I'm afraid of heights—cliffhanging roads scare me spitless! Following Steve Lee and Sue Hattois up Forest Service Road 107 from Highway 12 along the Lochsa River, we climbed nearly 3000 feet in about five miles. Reaching the top of Saddle Camp Road, we traveled on about four miles to our base camp. A cliffhanging trip by anyone's definition—but by focusing on the bumper of the Jeep ahead, I arrived with my nerves intact.

After Barb Opdahl welcomed us to camp and assigned us to our tents, we shared a picnic supper of fruit, cheese and wine that would be the last meal we would prepare for ourselves during the outing. Barb and her crew would feed us in the tradition of the loggers, hunters and explorers that have used this camp over the years; the food was great! That evening, we enjoyed the campfire, met the other "Clarkis" as they arrived and talked of the adventure ahead. That evening's camaraderie would have made the Campfire Girls or Boy Scouts jealous, with a humorous punctuation when Sue Hattois pulled out the Hershey bars for the S'Mores and found that we would need straws to use the melted chocolate!

Over the next two days, we traveled about 25 miles of the 500 Road that parallels and—in part—overlays the central part of the Lolo Trail. The 500 Road, named the Lolo Motorway Adventure Road by the USFS, is a primitive single lane road with turnouts and is rocky and steep in places. We chose to car pool to stimulate discussion among passengers and to reduce congestion on the road and at the limited parking areas. Our guides were Charles Raddon, who spent the last ten years of his Forest Service career as a recreational specialist on the Lolo Trail, and Charles Knowles, a university professor who mapped geology of the Clearwater Mountains. The friendly arguments and repartee of these two *bona fide* experts on the routes of the Corps of Discovery over the Lolo Trail gave life to the words from the journals.

On Saturday, we traveled west along the Motorway to Sherman Peak. We took the short hike to the summit where we raised our 17-star flag, enjoyed the views and had lunch. Here Clark recorded a "*view of an emense Plain and leavel Countrey to the S.W. & West.*" In the afternoon, we returned toward camp stopping at a number of sites including Dry Camp, Green Sward Camp, and Bald Mountain. We hiked up and along the rounded ridge of Bald Mountain where we experienced the braided nature of the "Indian road"; many paths were possible here. In contrast, other parts of the "road" are confined to narrow ridges that define the route. And in places where the "road" hangs on the side hill, it is easy to picture the numerous times the journalists used such expressions as "*road excessively bad.*" Returning to camp, we enjoyed dinner and another campfire discussion with a sing-along; it helps to have a few people who know the words! Reflecting on the day with its hot, dry and dusty weather, it is hard to believe that the Corps of Discovery traveled this route only a little more than a calendar week later in the season through deep snow and winter conditions. "*I have been wet and as cold in every part as I ever was in my life,*" wrote Clark on September 16, 1805.

On Sunday, we traveled east to Indian Post Office—a site named for one interpretation of possible use of the rock cairns found here. These cairns and the "post office" interpretation are not mentioned by any of the Corps

of Discovery journalists. Here we hiked to the bottom of the valley to the north and followed several other trails and surveys that have traversed the area both before and after Lewis and Clark. Leaving Indian Post Office on our return trip, we viewed the Moccasin Peak and Horseshoe Creek alternates for the route of the Corps—which way did they go? After some speculation, we proceeded on We stopped again at The Devil's Chair, in interesting rock formation near the L&C trail but not noted in the journals. Nearby we looked toward Howard Camp where the General stopped in his pursuit of Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce in 1877. And here also we saw the hazards of the 500 Road when we stopped to help some hapless Louisiana tourists stalled with a broken tire on their rented mini-van. After an early dinner, our party traveled by horseback or van/pickup to the trail that visits the Sinque Hole, Indian Graves Meadow (the probable L&C campsite instead of the Sinque Hole) and then on up to the Smoking Place, arriving just at sunset. For sheer beauty, this was the highlight of the trip. There had been many forest fires round about the area, and their smoke in the atmosphere caused the sun to set as a luminous red disk through the haze that lent red-orange light to the entire magnificent panoramic view. We watched, enjoyed and felt reverence and peace at this place; it is easy to understand the sacred position it holds in Nez Perce culture. It was dark by the time we stumbled down the trail and reached the parked cars. And then back to camp for an evening snack and campfire. I actually tried to sing "The Wreck of the old '97"!

On Monday morning (Labor Day), I awakened to my acrophobia of driving down that steep, cliff-hanging road and tried to think of some way to get someone else to drive me down—I even considered asking Barb Opdahl to have one of her crew take my car down! In the end, I decided to leave early and drive slowly. I did so—fearing the worst—but I reached Highway 12 without finding it! So much for acrophobia.

This was a great excursion full of Lewis and Clark history as interpreted by outstanding guides at the actual sites of their travel. Thank you, Charles Knowles and Charles Raddon! The members of the Idaho Chapter provided good company and their planning for the expedition was outstanding. Barb and Harlan Opdahl, Lewis and Clark historians as well as our hosts at Triple O Outfitters, provided fantastic food and a great ambiance in which to enjoy our tour of history. To my colleagues in the Washington Chapter: try it—you'll like it!



ABSENTEE BALLOT

If you cannot attend the February 27 chapter meeting and wish to participate in the election,
 please complete the absentee ballot below and mail it to:
 Don Payne, 32237 3rd Avenue SW, Federal Way, WA 98023
before February 18, 1999.

President: Murray Hayes
 Other _____

Vice President: Cheryl Essary
 Other _____

Secretary: Pam Andersen
 Other _____

Treasurer: Dee Roché-Coons
 Other _____

Board of Directors (four positions):
 Lee Edtl
 Lyle Soule
 Other _____
 Other _____

Rennie Kubik
 Doc Wesselius
 Other _____
 Other _____

WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
2703 8th Avenue
Clarkston, WA 99403-1602

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

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.

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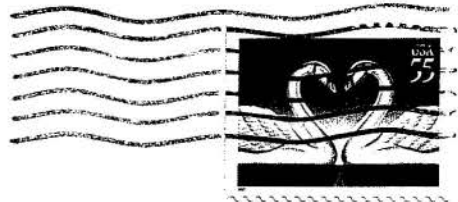
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**Optional—will be included with membership roster*

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