

Washington State Chapter, LCTHF

Worthy of Notice

April Newsletter 2001

Vol. 2, Issue 2



Besides the name change, another obvious change has occurred in the Chapter newsletter. Our hopes and prayers are with Pam Andersen for a swift recovery; for the sake of her health and the return to her exemplary chores as newsletter editor. In the interim, the newsletter will be published, on a makeshift basis, to keep the membership informed on past and future meetings of the Chapter.

In the past, Pam has produced a superb newsletter with many articles pertaining to Lewis and Clark that she had received from the membership. Presently, the publication will be produced on a temporary basis by a compiler that had English 101 forty years ago. In the future, The Chapter desperately needs someone to step forward and volunteer to assist Pam in the publication of our quarterly newsletter.

Keep the information flowing to Pam's office; it will aid in her rehabilitation and can be utilized in future newsletters. With a little practice and more time to prepare, hopefully, the newsletter will approach the standards that Pam has set for our Chapter. Please step forward and offer your services and expertise if you can support the Chapter and fill the void that we are experiencing. Temporary Compiler, - "Doc" Wesselius

President's Message

A big thank you for your vote of confidence in choosing me to serve as your new chapter president. I have some big shoes to fill, those of our first president, Don Payne, and our second, Murray Hayes. They got us off to a great start and I hope to continue in their tradition of leadership that encourages input from the membership.

Since I have never been president of anything in my life, I need all the help I can get! I'm anxious to hear any and all suggestions for projects, meeting places, speakers, newsletter ideas, and whatever else your fertile imaginations can invent. If there is something you think we are doing wrong or badly, please speak up! No one is going to be insulted. We want to make this chapter inclusive of everyone, not just a select few.

Living in Eastern Washington I am lucky to be within less than an hour's drive of both the Columbia and Snake rivers. I often go for weekend of both rivers, read from the journals, and find inspiration. Though the rivers are much changed since our heroes shot the rapids, the landmarks are still visible. Eastern Washington is also home to the overland return route of the Corps in 1806. Much research, mapping, and marking has been done on this route by chapter members in southeastern Washington, including Steve Plucker, Gary Lentz, and Walt Gary. Lewis and Clark's route through our state is not just the Columbia Gorge, as some would have you think. If we are going to be a "state" chapter, we have to recognize that the entire state is part of the trail.

You can view some of these lesser known sites at our May 19th Chapter meeting in Kennewick. Details are in this issue of the newsletter. If you do nothing else while you are here on the "dry" side, go to the Wallula Gap at sunset and prepare to have your breath taken away. This is the place where the grandeur of sky, rock, and water can transport you back 200 years.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions. Than you!

WA St Chapter - LCTHF, President

Cheryl Essary

PS - "chiawana" in my e-mail address is the Wanapum Indian name for the Columbia River.

May 19, 2001, Meeting Information

This is the one you have been waiting for! Jerry Igo is presenting his floral display lecture for our meeting on the western banks of the Columbia River. There has been considerable interest among the membership to have a program on the flowers of the Pacific Northwest that were encountered by the Corps of Discovery. The Oregon and Idaho chapters have been invited to attend the meeting because of the interest on this topic and because of Jerry's notoriety on the subject. You will have a hands on opportunity to learn about the flowers and then try to identify them in their natural environment.

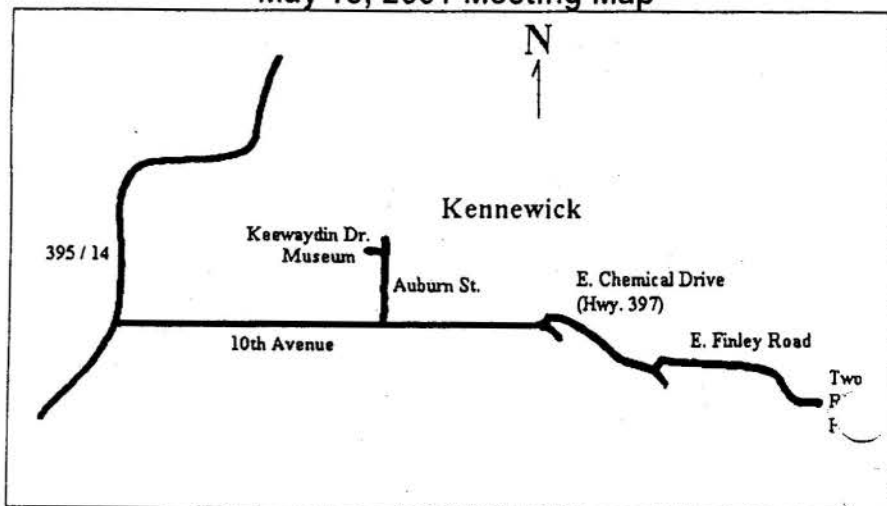
The spring meeting of the Washington State Chapter - LCTHF will be held at the East Benton County Museum in Kennewick on May 19th. The meeting will start at the museum at 10 AM and then move to the Two Rivers County Park for a potluck lunch. After sharing and enjoying of each other's food and friendship a field trip is planned for the afternoon. Barb Kubik, LCTHF President and noted historian of the local, will guide us to the vicinity of the Yellepit campsite of Lewis and Clark on the western shore of the Columbia River. This is a campsite that most scholars of the Corps of Discovery have not visited!

The field trip will provide an opportunity to study the flora of the Kennewick area; translated to mean "grassy place" from the local Native American language. Many unique species of plants are found in this semiarid region and Jerry can provide many interesting insights into their usage in the Indian culture of the nineteenth century.

Mark your calendar for the spring meeting of the WA St Chapter - LCTHF, then pack your picnic lunch fixings and join us in the Tri-cities for a very informative meeting. Bring along the map and directions that are provided for your adventurous spirit and visit an interesting place seldom visited on the Lewis and Clark Trail in the state of Washington.

May 19, 2001 Meeting Map

"Doc" Wesseliuss - Program Chairman



Map of Kennewick area showing the Museum and the Park.

Driving Instruction to May 19th Meeting

From I-84 near Hermiston, Oregon, take I-82 north. Take the 395/14 exit to Kennewick. You will cross the Columbia River on the blue bridge. Follow US Route 395 to its intersection with 10th Avenue. There is a Fred Myer on one corner and a Jack-In-The-Box on another corner. Turn east onto 10th Avenue, away from the Fred Myer towards the Jack-In-The-Box. Follow 10th Avenue to Auburn Street. Turn left (north) and then left again onto Keenwaydin Drive. The East Benton County Historical Society Museum is situated by the park on the left.

From I-90 take State Route 26, after crossing the Columbia River, to Othello, WA. Past Othello take State Route 17 south to US Route 395 and follow to Pasco. Follow US Route 395 through Pasco and cross the Columbia to Kennewick. Follow US Route 395 to its intersection with 10th Avenue. There is a Fred Myer on one corner and a Jack-In-The-Box on another corner. Turn east onto 10th Avenue, away from the Fred Myer towards the Jack-In-The-Box. Follow 10th Avenue to Auburn Street. Turn left (north) and then left again onto Keenwaydin Drive. The East Benton County Historical Society Museum is situated by the park on the left.

From East Benton County Historical Society Museum there will be plenty of people to follow to Two Rivers Park. Head back down Keewaydin Drive, towards the way you came to the museum. Make a right (south) onto Auburn Street and go back to the intersection with 10th Avenue. Now make a left (east) onto 10th Avenue. Follow 10th Avenue to the junction with Chemical Drive (also marked Hwy 397). You will pass Sundowns Racetrack and the County Fairgrounds. At Hwy 397 turn right and follow it to Finley Road and turn left. Follow Finley Road (east) until you see the sign on the left for Two Rivers Park. Make a hard left into park.

Field Notes

For more information on Lewis and Clark events check out our website that links to LCTHF. From there you can link up to other chapters and organizations that are involved with the bicentennial observance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.
www.lcarchive.org/wa_lcthf.html

The new "Lewis & Clark on the Columbia River" brochure/map has been published by the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial in Oregon (LCBO). The Chapter assisted LCBO in this project and got credits on the publication. Copies of the brochure/map will be available for those at the May meeting. Up to date information on "The Trail" in this Pacific Northwest publication.

Jerry Igo reports that on April 14, 1806, Lewis collected Balsamorhiza (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*) along the Columbia River. He possibly found the plant in Klickitat Count opposite The Dalles, or where they stayed at Rock Fort. On this date Clark reports he "met several parties of women and boys in search of herbs and roots to subsist on. Many of them had parcels of the stems of the sunflower."

Jerry says that at the May meeting in Kennewick we will look at nearly a hundred botanical specimens that the Corps collected along the Columbia River.

WSU Press should have Martin Plamondon's "Lewis and Clark Trail Maps - A Cartographic Reconstruction, Volume II" in print just in time for the annual LCTHF meeting in Pierre, SD.

Future Chapter Meetings

August 5-8, 2001

"Encounters on the Prairie" - Pierre, South Dakota

33rd Annual Meeting of LCTHF

Pierre Convention & Tourism Bureau

PO Box 548, Pierre, SD 57501

September 15, 2001

Fort Vancouver, WA

Speakers - Tom Laidlaw & Glen Kirkpatrick

Tours of the fort will be available on Friday and Saturday night for candlelight presentation of 1845.

February 2002

Tacoma, WA

Washington State Historical Society

Annual Chapter business meeting

Corner of Discovery: Profiles of Our Members

Sharlene and Ted Nelson of Federal Way began to pursue the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1879. At the time they lived in Longview, owned a boat and sailed the Columbia River. During the time, they wrote their first book, *Cruising the Columbia and Snake Rivers*. To add "color" to the book's navigation information, they wrote about the river's history including the Lewis and Clark story. The Nelsons felt boaters cruising by a Lewis and Clark campsite or place described in the journals would gain a sense of what it was like when the Corps of Discovery was there. Since this first book, the Nelsons have written two more books about the Columbia and Snake rivers, the most recent, *Exploring the Columbia-Snake River Inland Waterway: By River and By Road*.

They have been members of the LCTHF since 1981 and joined the Washington State Chapter at the first meeting in Stevenson, WA. Being boater, their favorite part of the trail is the lower part of the Columbia River below Longview. It is the least disturbed of the expedition's Columbia-Snake river route. And, from a boat you can pick out the vicinity of the November 7, 1805, camp where Clark wrote, "Ocan in view! O! The joy."

Book Review

From Sea to Shining Sea, by James Alexander Throm, was published almost twenty years ago but is a very good historical fiction for students of Lewis and Clark. Although over half of the novel is concerned with the history of the Clark family, it provides some interesting review of the events leading up to the epic transcontinental exploration. The saga of the Clark family is very interesting and provides the insight necessary to understand the personal drive behind William Clark and his exploration for the federal government. Jim has taken from historical record and created a compelling portrait of one of America's famous families.

Jim, a familiar face at the annual LCTHF meetings, has become an active member in the national organization. His recent publication, *Sign Talker*, is about George Drouillard, the half-breed civilian interpreter and hunter for the Corps of Discovery (book review in WPO August 2000). "Doc" Wesselius

Book Review

Suicide or Murder by Vardis Fisher, Swallow Publishing, Denver, 1962.

We know that Lewis died at Grinder's Stand on the Natchez Trace. Today, nobody can prove how Lewis died because of poor or lost testimony, records, and evidence. That has not prevented historians from forming opinions about how he died, by murder or by suicide.

Fisher quotes contemporary documents in his book and lets us draw our own conclusions. He discusses Lewis' sanity, evidence of what happened at Grinder's Stand, testimony of those who were there, what Lewis' companions did after his death, including what happened to his personal property, and traditional ideas of how Lewis died.

Although I'd read the book years ago, I found it fascinating to learn some of Fisher's points, such as the following. Major Neely, an Indian agent who happened to be traveling with Lewis until the morning of his death, wrote a letter to Jefferson to inform him of Lewis' demise. He seems to have initiated the rumor of Lewis' derangement (something remarked upon only after his death). Also included in the book are Mrs. Grinders's three versions of what happened that night. These stories of Lewis' last night do not make sense and sound like bungled murder.

Margaret Nelson

Columbia, The Magazine of Northwest History, Spring 2001 issue published by the Washington State Historical Society has two articles about Lewis and Clark. Dayton Duncan's address, *The Vote: "Station Camp," Washington*, was originally delivered on July 4, 2000, at Fort Columbia. Doc Wesselius' four part series, *A Lasting Legacy*, is about the Lewis and Clark place names in the Pacific Northwest.

Washington State Chapter - LCTHF

Meeting Minutes - Feb. 10, 2001

Washington State Historical Society - Tacoma

President Murray Hayes called the meeting to order at 10 AM at The Washington State Historical Society. A hearty welcome was given to the membership and an introduction of the new officers and board member was given. Cheryl Essary begins her term as President, stepping up from the Vice-president's position. Richard Vigessa moves into the VP's chair and Muff Donohue steps in as a new board member. Pam Andersen resigns as the Secretary and continues as the Newsletter Editor. Don Popejoy takes over as Secretary and continues as Membership Chair. Dick Klein begins his term as the Chapter's new Treasurer.

Officers, Chair, & Other Reports:

Program Chair - "Doc" Wesselius reported on future meetings in 2001 and requested information on sites and speakers for meetings in 2002. He also reported that Fort Clatsop will have another Christmas party this year, last year's Tri-state gathering was a huge success.

Treasurer - Rennie Kubik gave the treasurer's report and wishes the new treasurer, Dick Klein, good luck.

Membership Chair - Don Popejoy reported that the Chapter now has 214 members. He also showed the membership Steve Plucker's map (which won an award from the WSHS) of Lewis and Clark in Walla Walla County. He presented a set of the maps to the Past President, Murray

Hayes. Steve also donated ten of his Lewis and Clark onion bags for sale as a fund raiser. All ten were sold a \$5 and the Chapter netted \$41.80 . A thank you card was sent to Steve.

Shirt Sales Chair - Don Payne reported that shirt sales are brisk. Order yours now for Pierre - order form included in newsletter.

Roger Wendlick told the Chapter about the change in the Washogual, WA, campsite for the bicentennial. The campsite at Cottonwood Beach was determined as the actual site for the Corps because it is opposite the Sandy River in Oregon.

Murry Hayes announced the new name of the Chapter newsletter: "Worthy of Notice" won by a good margin and was submitted by Chuck Blair. He won a book donated by Cheryl Essary.

George Eisentrout talked about the Washington Wood Carvers project for the bicentennial observance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Al Nelson talked briefly about the issue of Lewis' death - suicide or murder?

"Doc" Wesselius introduced the two speakers, Rex Ziak and Barbra Kubik. Rex talked about "Consumer and Contributor", mistakes made by eastern authors in the early publications on the Lewis and Clark Expedition and how they are handed down to today's documentation. "History repeats itself because historians repeat each other", Rex reported. As an example, he demonstrated how the Sockeye Salmon, reported by Lewis and Clark as "Red Char", were actually either Bull Trout or Dolly Varden. His research on determining the true identity of the fish bought by the Corps on the Columbia River pointed out how authors have misidentified the species. Migration patterns of the Sockeye Salmon do not place them in the river at the time of the Expedition's stay on the West Coast.

Barb Kubik, LCTHF President, gave a talk on the Foundation's welfare. The LCTHF has 3,079 members of which there are 87 in Idaho, 166 in Oregon, and 214 in Washington. There are 30 active chapters, 10 of which are in Montana. She reported that the book "In Search of York" by Jim Holnburg was going to be reprinted. Barb also discussed the research center at Great Fall, Montana and how the Foundation was working on a land exchange to save Pompey's Pillar from the construction of a nearby grain silo. The 106th Congress passed House Bill 361 which gave William Clark his rank as Captain, also York and Sacagawea honorary ranks of Sergeant. The National Park Service, stewards of "The Trail", has organized "Corps of Discovery II - 200 Years to the Future" for the many challenges ahead in the bicentennial observance.

Submitted by Don Popejoy - Chapter Secretary

WA St Chapter - Board Meeting

February 10, 2001

Murray Hayes was presented a gift certificate to Barnes & Nobel from the board and officers, in appreciation for his service as President of the Chapter for the past two years.

Chapter brochures were discussed and it was suggested that the Membership Chair, Don Popejoy, contact Cheryl and Pam and get more brochures printed.

Steve and Jean Hoedl requested the formation of an Education Committee. Moved and seconded that they be co-chair of the new committee and present future plans at next meeting.

Don Payne was assigned the duty of arrangements for a booth at the annual meeting in Pierre.

Murry Hayes volunteered to work on the Private Land Survey for the L&C Trail in WA.

Washington State Chapter LCTHF

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Logo Shirt Order Form

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Polo Shirt (white) \$15.00 each Available in Adult sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL
Quantity of each size ordered: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ \$ _____

Sweatshirt (gray) \$20.00 each Available in Adult sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL
Quantity of each size ordered: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ \$ _____

T-Shirt (gray) \$12.00 each Available in Adult sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL and Children's sizes S, M
Quantity of each size ordered: Adult: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ \$ _____
Children: S ___ M ___ \$ _____

Shipping costs are \$5.00 per shirt. Number of shirts ___ x \$5.00 each = \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Order must be received before August 15. Make checks payable to WA Chapter, LCTHF.
Mail this form and your check to: Don Payne, 32237 3rd Ave SW, Federal Way, WA 98023
Please allow up to 4 weeks for delivery.

MAIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO:
WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
P. O. Box 9021
Spokane, WA 99209-9021

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

\$10.00 per year (Jan-Dec) 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.



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