

Worthy of Notice

November 2005 Newsletter
Vol. 6, Issue 5
Tim Underwood, Editor

"Commemorating the Bicentennial"



President's Message

In the parlance of 1805, these are truly **"shining times."** As I write this from the confluence of the "T'semenicum and N'chi Wana Rivers," the Corps of Discovery is all around. Two hundred years ago to the very day Sgt. Gass sat on this spot and wrote, **"This was also a fine day and we remained here till after 12 o'clock."** The previous two days had been spent drying clothing, repairing canoes, compiling a Sokulk vocabulary and generally enjoying the fine weather and good company of the local folks. Now, two hundred years later, the men of Corps II were doing the exact same things. It was my privilege to camp with them and conduct the re-created activities of the original Corps for nearly 11,000 people, including over 700 Boy Scouts and another 1,000 local school children. Sitting around a smoky campfire next to the confluence of the Snake and Columbia Rivers with 50 youngsters at a time was a treat in itself but when we offered them a taste of some beef drying over the fire (we told them it was dog and only a few refused it) and a small piece of boiled root (sweet potato posing as wapato) the look on their faces was priceless. They indeed had a "taste" of the Expedition.

After the evening colors were retired we men of the second Corps sit around the campfire by ourselves. We were graced with a nearly full moon each evening and as it rose over the waters of the Snake River, we would light our candles and catch up on our journals. The wind blew, the geese honked, and the fire crackled. At a little after 5:00 O'clock AM on the morning of the 17th, I was making the rounds of the camp for security (yep, even in re-enactments the sergeant has the duty). I was surprised to see a partial eclipse of the full moon hanging low over the Columbia River as Sgt. Gass described it, **"...Country all round is level, rich and beautiful...."**

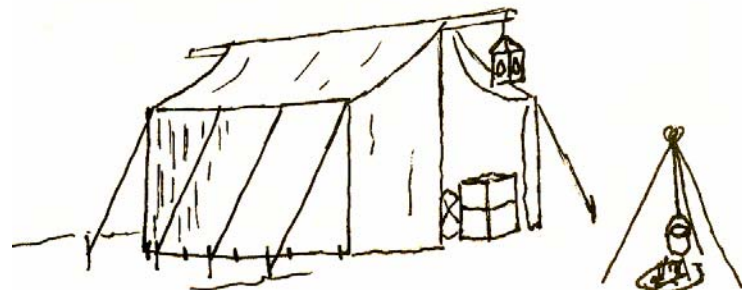
On Sunday, October 16, we had our Chapter meeting at the very point of land where Capt. Clark had set up his "Point of View" to determine the distances across the Snake and Columbia Rivers. We sat on the grass, enjoyed the beautiful day and conducted our meeting. This was a joyous moment for all who attended. Our separate journeys had brought us to this place and time to celebrate our common interests. Of course, a few sips of apple pie probably didn't detract from the moment either.

These are special times for all of us. The story of the Corps, its people, its hardships, and its accomplishments are near and dear for everyone. For me this story is alive every year but we humans have a tendency to make a fuss when the numbers come up even, such as 200. This is the year to make that fuss and get out there and find the **"shining times."**

Nika ticky kahkwa nanitch konaways tillicums kopa Hyas Boson Men's oahut.

(I hope to see all of you along the trail).

Gary



At the Confluence: Lewis and Clark Reach the Columbia River

The sun rose in a beautiful red glow over the mouth of the Snake River. On the point of land at the confluence of the Snake River and the “Mighty” Columbia River stood a cabin tent, several smaller lean-to tents and other assorted shelters, each with a fire lazily blazing in front for warmth. Some of the men rousing out had heavy blanket coats – called capotes, French for hood – on to ward off the morning chill from the breeze. Others just wrapped their blankets tighter around them while waiting for the coffee to boil and the meat to fry. A new day has dawned on The Trail.

The day also began with a barrage of gunfire across the river in one of the many backwater sloughs where ducks and geese had spent the night. Breakfast!

But then, a train whistle blew, a tug and barge passed by headed downriver toward Portland and the nearby camp of some 700+ Boy Scouts began creating their low-grade roar. Here we are, back to the future again. (But the shooting across the river was real. It was hunting season.)

The scene was the weekend campout at Sacajawea State Park at the mouth of the Snake River during the weekend of October 14 – 17, 2005. This is the same time 200 years hence from the days when the Corps of Discovery descended the Snake River and landed at the point of the confluence on October 16, 1805. Re-enactors from the local area as well as many others from the St. Louis area were camped here to commemorate the historical moment. Farther up the beach was a large encampment of Mountain Men who were hawking their wares, that is, “trading,” to any and all who wandered past. During the ensuing day, there were an estimated 4000 – 5000 people who visited the encampments to see the sights, “barter” for goods and to see the enactors make their presentations. Many were thrilled at the “point” camp to see Capt. Meriwether Lewis (our own Glen Allison), Sgt. Gass (our own Gary Lentz) and Pvt. Whitehouse (new member John Orthman), and the “kittle” with wapato (sweet potato substituted) and meat drying by the fire. (This was, of course, dog meat! Saturday’s menu was “Slab-of-Lab” and Sunday featured “Poodle–n-Noodles.” At least that is what we were telling anyone who asked!)

Also on display in the camps were newly made dugouts that the Corps of Volunteers of St. Charles had made at Canoe Camp earlier in October so they could float down the Clearwater and Snake Rivers to the Columbia on the same dates that corresponded with the Expedition’s journey. There were displays of the trade – and traded – articles that the Corps would have had, some of their camp accoutrements and several different firearms. Perhaps the “biggest” was Gary’s blunderbuss that was shot several times during the day. Other enactors had replicas of similar rifles and muskets carried by the Corps, but you hardly heard their report compared to “the buss.” With 200 grains of type B black powder, you not only hear it, you **feel** it as well. It was a great conversation piece!

The demonstration of how the captains used the Octant and how they calculated their latitude from the readings drew a lot of interest and questions, as did the chronometer used in the process. (See Kumtux Wawa in the January 2002 edition of WON for a better explanation.) There were several of us there to help with explanations of the items on display or anything else about the expedition.

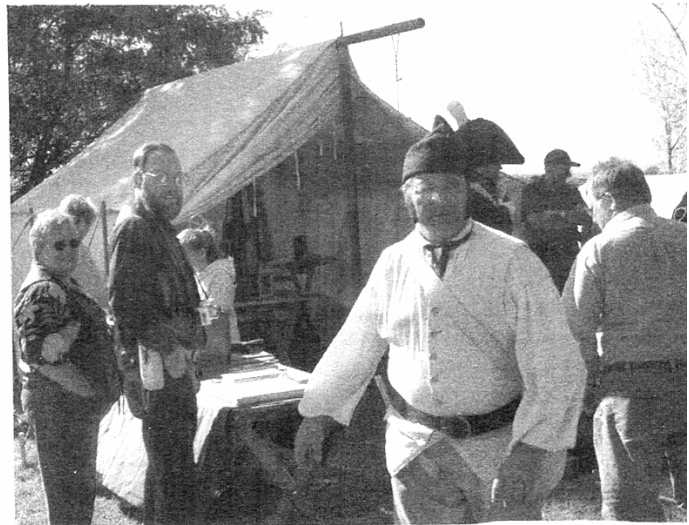
Not far from the re-enactor’s camps, on the east side of the park, is a replica of a Wanapum village, complete with tule-mat lodges, a sweat lodge, fish-drying racks and two of their famous shovel-nosed canoes. This was an excellent opportunity for visitors to see how a local native tribe lived in the early 1800’s and ask questions of the tribal members on hand. Though excellent with their watercraft, several of them had a little trouble in the river when a tug and 3 barges went by –fully loaded! The wake was more than what they were used to.

Just upriver from the confluence, at Kennewick’s Columbia Park, the National Park Service’s Corps II traveling exhibit was set up for the 4-day commemoration. There were many folks who split time at both venues during the weekend, taking advantage of the available bus shuttle between the parks and/or the jet boat that ferried passengers along the river between the two.

A full slate of speakers presented the local history – and pre-history, i.e. the Palous River Marmes digs and Kennewick Man – as well as more contemporary talks, e.g. the Native Tribes, literature of the Corps, York and Medicine. There were apparently a few heated discussions throughout the event; Native Americans upset with white ideas, but then Native Tribe vs. Native Tribe, as well, over certain issues. It seemed that no one would get along, yet, all left with a better appreciation of the struggles on all sides to get to the facts and cut the **friction!**

In all, at least for many of us, it was a wonderful weekend; a chance to be a part of history, but at the same time, a chance to further understand – and learn from – the problems that have resulted from, or because of, the greatest expedition in U.S. history.

When you attend Destination: the Pacific on November 11 – 14, 2005, plan on visiting the Corps II exhibit in Long Beach. (See page 5 of the September issue, WON.) While taking in the rest of the festivities, keep in mind that you are taking part in history again.



Above: Sgt. Gass with Capt. Lewis in the background

Left: The campfire with the “kettle” and the “dog” meat

(WON, 2005)

Washington State Chapter, LCTHF, Inc Meeting October 16th, 2005

The fall chapter meeting was held in conjunction with the Heritage Days Encampment at Sacajawea State Park, in Pasco. We “formed a camp at the point” between “Lewis’ River and The Great River of the West.” About 20 members were in attendance including Sgt. Gass, Pvt. Whitehouse and Pvt. Shannon.

Most importantly, Barb Kubik gave us an update on the events at Ft. Clatsop (see page 4.) and what the most recent plans were.

All members were encouraged to attend the Destination: The Pacific Signature event on the coast in November.

A project proposal was put forth to obtain a series of survey maps circa 1861 for the Washington and Oregon areas. After a discussion, approval was given for Rob Heacock to acquire the set in digital form from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the use of our members in their research. The cost will be approximately \$600. We will offer the Oregon Chapter the chance to share in the project. The idea is to have all the maps available on a CD for all members for a minimal cost. The example Rob shared with us was very concise and detailed, and would be an excellent source of information from before the dams, etc.

(Submitted by Rob Heacock, Sect., WA St. Chap. Edited for WON, 2005)

Icon Destroyed: Fort Clatsop in Ruins!



Astoria, OR – On Monday evening of October 3, 2005, the western-most icon of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Fort Clatsop, was all but destroyed by a fire. First reported at 10:15 PM as a “bright glow south of Youngs Bay,” the 50-year-old replica was fully engulfed when the first fire crews finally arrived on that foggy evening. (This turned out to be just the northern section, or the “men’s quarters.”) Though a pickup was seen leaving the park by the first crew to arrive, authorities are no longer pursuing it as being of a suspicious nature.

On Tuesday morning, Federal agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Oregon State Police, the Oregon State Fire Marshall and several local agencies began a thorough investigation into the possible cause(s) of the fire. Trained dogs were used to search for evidence of “gas, or other accelerants.” After they had “meticulously gone through the entire scene,” nothing was found. Current thought leans toward a “non-accelerant,” such as newspaper or kindling, which would not necessarily be noticed. However, all the evidence that was found has been sent to the federal crime lab in Washington, D.C.

The investigation pinpointed the second (middle) room of the enlisted men’s quarters as the starting point, in the general area of the fire hearth.

There were two “silver linings” in this episode, however. The first is the opportunity for archaeologists to make a thorough study of the area to try to locate the exact “footprint” of the original fort, which they began doing on October 26th. The replica was close, but not exactly on THE spot. This will give researchers a chance to study the area more in-depth without the replica buildings and tourists.

After the archaeological work is completed, the fort will be reconstructed using the newly-gained information and, hopefully, a new footprint, i.e. the outline of the original fort in the ground. Since the fire, there has been a tremendous outpouring of sympathy, offers of help, money and supplies. In fact, there are still a few of the members of the 1955 work team around who have offered their services in the rebuilding effort. It is hoped that the reconstruction will be completed in between 3 weeks, the time it took the Corps to build the original fort, and 18 months, the time it took to construct the replica in 1955. We all hope it will be closer to the 3 weeks once they get started.

The other silver lining – perhaps best called a “blessing in disguise,” was the removal just days before the fire of the artifacts and other items normally kept in the fort during the tourist season. Park personnel had packed up these priceless items and the replica items and put them in storage the week before the fire. The only casualty was a “copy” of a map that was used in the Captain’s quarters, not an original.

In all, the replica was an excellent teaching tool. Now, we have the opportunity to learn more, then begin anew.

NOTE: The park and fort site will be open during Destination: The Pacific. Visitors are encouraged to go see the park to watch the archaeologists at work on the fort site.

(Edited for WON from the *Daily Astorian*, Oct. 7, 2005, and other sources. WON, 2005)

Lewis and Clark Presentations, by Sgt. Patrick Gass

Recently, a preservice teacher in the Tri-Cities contacted Doc. Wesselius in reference to field trips and speakers in the area. Doc relayed the request to Gary Lentz, who responded by sending his website with a note that anyone interested could access his site and obtain information about the programs he presents. I have either seen or been a part of several of his presentations and they are VERY informative, well researched and enjoyable. (Not necessarily for the one being “bled” in the *Medicines of L&C* though.)

Anyone interested in having Gary make a presentation for a school, group or meeting may contact his site at: www.itswoots.com.

Destination: The Pacific – OUR Signature Event!

Mouth of the Columbia River – The only Signature Event to be held on the west coast, Destination: The Pacific, is your chance to be involved in the official commemoration of the Lewis and Clark bicentennial. Scheduled to coincide with the “Ocian In View” program that is normally presented at this time of year, there are **nine** core programs included on this year’s venue that will span the mouth of the Columbia River, and range from Long Beach south to Cannon Beach. There will be a wide range of activities available that will emphasize the region’s bounty while commemorating the tremendous hardships endured, and the friendships made as the Corps of Discovery accomplished their goal and spent the winter of 1805-1806 on the Pacific coast.

As part of the over-all festivities, learn about the newest national park additions, the sites of Dismal Nitch, Station Camp, the Jefferson Memorial area, the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, Ft Clatsop (See page 4 for information.), the Fort-to-Sea Trail, Ecola Beach State Park, and the Salt Works that comprise the Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Parks. You will see where the new Station Camp unit will be on the Washington side of the river. You will be able to hike the newest unit, the Fort-to-Sea Trail as part of its dedication ceremony on Monday, November 14th. And, as has been the case for the past several years, there is the wonderful speaker’s series of “Ocian In View.”

Here is a synopsis of the activities taking place, and their times and locations.

Opening Ceremony

Friday, November 11th at 10 AM. Fort Stevens Historic Area Parade Grounds, Hammond, OR

Festival of the Pacific: Lewis and Clark Remembered

Friday – Sunday, November 11-13th from 10 AM to 6 PM. Clatsop County Fairgrounds, 92937 Walluski Loop Rd., Astoria, OR.

“Ocian In View”

Friday – Monday, November 11-14th. Various venues will be used. Some of the presentations are free, and the rest of the programs cost \$10. Some of the presentations will be repeated.

Consider the Columbia

Sunday, November 13th, 8 AM. A procession across the Astoria – Meglar Bridge. Registration required.

Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years To The Future

This National Park Service Traveling Exhibit will be at two locations on the coast in November. November 7-15th at the Long Beach City Center, Long Beach, WA
November 19-22nd at the Convention Center, Seaside, OR

Merry to the Fiddle

Musical performances; Friday, November 11th at 8 PM and Sunday, November 13th at 2 PM. Both take place at the Liberty Theater, 1203 Commercial St., Astoria, OR

Fort-To-Sea Trail Dedication

Monday, November 14th at 8 AM. Hike from Ft. Clatsop to Sunset Beach along the new trail for a noon dedication ceremony on the beach.

Re-enactors at the Pacific

On Monday, November 7th, the Discovery Expedition from St. Charles, MO is setting up camp at Chinook County Park in Chinook, WA

Commemoration of the Vote at the Pacific

Thursday, November 24th from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Chinook County Park, Chinook, WA

(NOTE: There is a slight possibility of a small ceremony at the new Station Camp site since the agreement reached by all parties involved in the site. Should this be the case, it would take place on Tuesday, November 15th at the site, time TBA. Be sure to check the website for any details, or check the Visitor's Information Center when you arrive on the coast.)

Again, this year, there is a great lineup of speakers for the Ocian In View series. They include several PNW speakers and many from across the country, speakers such as Amy Mosset (Sacagawea), Hassan Davis (York), Dr. Daniel Botkin (The Natural History of L&C), Peyton "Bud" Clark (as his ancestor, Capt. William Clark) and Dr. Gary Moulton. From the PNW, Dr. Robert Carriker of Gonzaga Univ. and Dr. William Lang of Portland State Univ. will be involved in presentations, as well as Joe Scovell, Tribal Chairman of the Clatsop – Nespelam Confederated Tribes and, of course, Rex Ziak. The subjects of their presentations will be as varied as their fields of expertise.

And don't forget the special musical program at the Hilltop Auditorium on Saturday and Sunday evenings at 7 PM. Native songs, dances and stories will be presented backed by photo images of the Lewis and Clark Trail from the Mandan villages across the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific. This program was specially adapted for this event. It should be very interesting.

Another "new" item on the docket this year are boat tours along the Columbia River lasting 2 hours and viewing and discussing sites along the river that most of us will not see flying down the road at 55 mph. Join us for a very different view of the end of the trail – literally! – viewed as the Corps did 200 years ago, from water level!

For more information on these programs, refer to the September WON, pages 5-7, the "official" Souvenir Commemorative Guide, the DTP website at www.destinationthepacific.com or call the DTP information desk at 503-861-4403.

Hope to see you at the beach!

(Edited for WON, 2005)

Food for Thought!

One of the many things I like to learn at these campouts and gatherings is what different kinds of foods show up. This year was no different as Gary Lentz had a neat little "biscuit" that could very easily have been made in the "U. States" in 1803. Though a little bland, they were, nonetheless, very tasty and nutritious. With a good cup of camp coffee or tea, they make a good start to the day. With bacon and eggs, they are even better! I hope you will like them as we did and use them for your outings as well.

Crawdad's Keepsake Biscuits

½ qt milk 1 Tbsp white sugar ½ tsp Crème of Tartar ¾ cup melted butter ¾ tsp sea salt
1 cup dried cranberries 1 cup roasted salted sunflower seeds 1 cup chopped English walnuts
1 cup dried currants 1 cup dried apricots 6 cups white flour

Preheat the oven to 360 degrees F. Combine all of the ingredients until it is well-mixed. Roll out the dough into a ¼ inch "slab." With a glass or tin can, cut out round biscuits and place on a greased baking sheet. (A round cookie cutter or small donut cutter – without the donut hole part! - will also work.) Place the sheet in the hot oven and bake for about 30 minutes. DO NOT let the tops get brown! You may have to keep an eye on them toward the end of the 30 minutes.

When they are done, remove them from the oven and let them cool before removing from the baking sheet, then finish cooling them on a rack. When they are completely cool, stack eight biscuits on edge side-by-side and roll up tightly in aluminum foil. Store them in the freezer until you are ready for your next trip. Be sure to mark the date on them.

When you do head out, remove the biscuits from the foil and re-wrap them in greased or waxed paper. Keep them out of the sun until you are ready to eat. They are nice heated over a campfire. Enjoy!

Membership Renewal for 2006

Another year has gone by and it is November again! We have seen some very interesting events occur this past year, most good, but then, one a disaster. The annual Foundation meeting in Portland this past August was a great success from all indications. Many of you spent many hours, indeed, days volunteering your time to make it a success. For that we thank you so much. It was a great learning experience, if nothing else. And learn we did. There is still one more big event this year; Destination: The Pacific. Plan on attending this great event to help commemorate the only bicentennial event on the west coast, even without Ft. Clatsop as we knew it.

It is also time to think about your membership renewal for 2006. While a few of you have already made you renewals, most of us are not and need to consider sending our \$15 check to Rob so that we are good for next year. Unlike most chapters in the LCTHF, our dues are not broken down into different categories of membership. We have a single amount that is good for any individual, family or organization. We have done this to encourage as many people who are interested in the Lewis and Clark story to join the chapter. Again, that is just \$15! Per registration!!

Send your checks to Rob using the form below as soon as you can, and please mark them 2006 dues.

Thanks.

(NOTE: If you are not sure of your status, contact Rob for clarification. He can be reached at 509-924-4020 or by e-mail at heacock1@mindspring.com.)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

*Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

*E-mail _____

**Optional – will be included with membership roster*

Chapter Membership

\$15.00 per year (Jan – Dec) for any person, family, firm, association or corporation.

Please make checks payable to:

Washington State Chapter LCTHF, Inc.

Mail to: Rob Heacock, Membership Chair

13908 E. 27th Ct

Veradale, WA 99037

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

Please mark if address has changed.

NOTE: If you have recently renewed your membership, thank you. Please disregard this notice.

The above dues are for the Washington State Chapter only. Bylaws recommend that Chapter members be current members of the National Foundation. Annual dues are: Individual, \$40 per year; Family, \$55 per year. Membership includes the quarterly magazine *We Proceeded On*. Send Foundation dues to: Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 3434, Great Falls, MT 59403

Future Events for the Washington State Chapter

November 11-15, 2005 – Mouth of the Columbia River – The **only** Signature event on the west coast will include the “Ocian In View” program this year. Many activities are planned and a large crowd is expected. Plan early to attend this eventful weekend. Tickets are still available for many events, but don’t delay. Order now! Refer to the inserts in the September WON.

November 2005 – March 2006 – Mouth of the Columbia River – The “Wintering Over” is a separate local program that celebrates the wintering over of the Corps at Ft. Clatsop and the surrounding environs during the winter of 1805-05. (See the September WON for information.)

February 4, 2006 – Tacoma, WA – The annual business meeting of the Washington State Chapter will be held at the Washington State Historical Society Museum in Tacoma, WA. The program is still being resolved at this writing.

April 28-30, 2006 – Plucker Meadows, Touchet Valley – This is the April 30, 1806 campsite of the Corps on its return route across SE Washington. A Nineteenth Century re-enactors camp will be along side modern-day campers to participate in this historic event. Contact Steve Plucker at 509-394-2831 or at pif@bmi.net.

WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
128 Galaxie Road
Chehalis, WA 98532

November 2005 Newsletter



The mission of the LCTHF is to stimulate appreciation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's contribution to America's heritage and to support education, research, development and preservation of the Lewis and Clark experience.