

Washington State Chapter, LCTHF

Worthy of Notice

January 2004 Newsletter

Vol. 5, Issue 1

Tim Underwood, Editor

-- Dedicated to the Memory of Pam Anderson --



President's Message

This time of year we find ourselves emulating our hibernating heroes as they spent the winter in the Pacific Northwest. The inclement weather and long, dark nights force us to the protection of our dwellings and give us time to think about the ending year's accomplishments and anticipate the upcoming year's activities. Even with our daily accomplishments for a comfortable living and our preparations for the holiday season, we have time to reflect on the past and to plan for the future. Unlike our champion journalists, most of us do not take time to commit our thoughts to writing (except for the occasional abbreviated Christmas newsletter). Perhaps if we would record our thoughts we could have reference material to review and help guide us in our future endeavors. While at Fort Clatsop, Lewis and Clark were inspired to plan for their 1806 explorations after evaluating their 1805 accomplishments and realizing that the completion of their mission was dependent upon further efforts in their exploration of North America.

Our chapter had several accomplishments in the past year but there will be many more challenges in the upcoming year before the bicentennial observance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in the Pacific Northwest. I am grateful for the officers and board members of my administration that have volunteered their time and efforts to help our organization strive toward the accomplishment of our mission statement's admonishments. Chapter members have also stepped forward in various committee capacities and offered their services to support the education, research, development and preservation of the Lewis and Clark experience. With the foundation work completed, the chapter now has the responsibility to complete the construction and present a viable finished project – participation in the LCTHF 2005 annual meeting in Portland. There will also be many other activities for our chapter's involvement in the Pacific Northwest bicentennial observance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition that will be dependent on this groundwork. It has been very rewarding for me to be president of our organization during this formative period. Next year's officers, board members, committee members, and chapter members will now be challenged to complete our objectives. Their goals will determine and shape the future of our organization plus encourage the accomplishments of its individual members. I'm looking forward to personally continuing in our organization's efforts.

The chapter's 2004 annual business meeting at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma will center on the direction of our organization's focus for the upcoming year's activities. Martin Snoey and Larry McClure will give presentations on their efforts that have resulted in the groundwork necessary for our anticipated participation in the Pacific Northwest bicentennial observance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The speaker for the meeting will be David Nicandri, director of the Washington State Historical Society. This year's raffle will feature several donations from our membership that contribute to the financial support of our organization and generate a special interest for collectors of Lewis and Clark memorabilia. As usual, Program Chairman, Murray Hayes, will pique our interests in future chapter meetings along The Trail. Membership participation in this meeting is always significant and I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at this important gathering.

Thank you again for your participation in our organization during my tenure as President and I look forward to working with you in the future of our Chapter, Foundation, and the presentation of the Lewis and Clark story, not only for the Pacific Northwest, but the nation.

See you along The Trail,
Doc Wesselius

Annual Business Meeting, Washington State Chapter, LCTHF
February 7, 2004 at 10:00 AM on the Mezzanine level
Washington State Historical Society Museum, 1911 Pacific Ave., Tacoma, WA

The 2004 annual business meeting being held at the Washington State Historical Museum is most appropriate since the featured speaker this year is David Nicandri, Director of the Society's Museum. Mr. Nicandri will present his illustrated program "What Did Lewis and Clark Know About the Columbia River, and When Did They Know It?" based on his extensive research for his forthcoming book entitled Lewis and Clark on the Snake and Columbia Rivers: An Environmental History. This presentation has been well received previously and should be no less so this time.

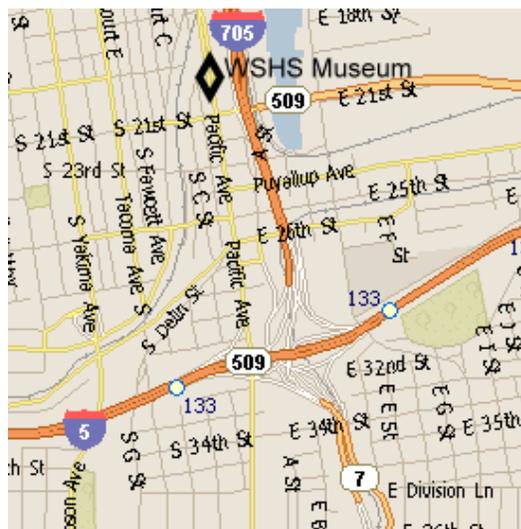
Prior to Nicandri's program, we will hold the business meeting that will include election of officers, committee reports, reports from other Lewis and Clark groups and any other matters of interest. We will also have our raffle, which will include a copy of Dr. Gary Moulton's newest book, the single-volume condensation of his famous series; Keith Hay's new book on the Water Trail of the Columbia; Rex Ziak's book "In Full View" (Very Good! ED,) and more from Pam Anderson's collection.

In the afternoon, Larry McClure, our national meeting chairman, and Doc Wesselius will hold a session on the meeting planning for all interested persons. Explanations of what has already been planned and ideas of what has yet to be planned will be given. If you have any interest in the meeting and are planning on attending, why not be a part of it? Please plan to attend and see just how you can help.

Driving Directions: From I-5, both North and South, take exit #133 onto Hwy 705. This will take you past the Tacoma Dome. Shortly past the dome, exit RIGHT off of 705 onto WA 509 – the

stoplights, as you will need to turn left onto 21st St. (This is somewhat confusing, as 21st and Hwy 509 are the same at this point.) As you turn left onto 21st, pull all the way to the RIGHT so you can turn RIGHT onto Pacific Ave. Once on Pacific, proceed approximately 600' and turn right into the parking area of the museum. If the upper lot is full, there is a lower lot on the opposite side of the building that has access, via elevator, to the mezzanine level.

See you there!



William Clark, Master Graffitiist by Tom Laidlaw

One of the best and most precisely known Lewis & Clark landmarks is the signature of William Clark on Pompey's Pillar near Billings, Montana. Historians have said this is the only concrete evidence left of the trip. But this is only one of thirteen different places Clark left his signature on the land! There may be more, but so far I have found only these thirteen, while I have been looking for some pattern or reasoning to the placement and frequency of the signatures. Several are in response to existing markings. In some cases they seem to signify the end of a particular side trip. Many are copied in nature from Alexander MacKenzie, whose cross-continent trek through Canada in 1793 in part motivated the expedition. Since 9 of the 13 are west of the Mandans, it seems obvious that Clark is claiming the land.

This article originally had eleven instances, but I recently found the August 1987 WPO article, ***They Left Their Mark*** by Bob Saindon, which is more extensive and showed me two more absolutely documented locations, as well as two additional signatures at one location I already had. There were also several suppositions. But the author of that article also missed the first two, which I do have. I will talk more about Saindon's article and suppositions below, but for now I want to list only the absolutely documented markings noted within the journals. I think, between Saindon and myself, that this is now a complete list. References are to Moulton, unless noted.

1.) May 23, 1804 near the Femme Osage River. *"Stopped one hour where there was many people assembled to see us. Halted at an indented part of a rock which jutted over the water, called by the French The Tavern, which is a cave 40 yds. Long with the river 4 feet deep & about 20 feet high. This is a place the Indians & French pay homage to. Many names are wrote up on the rock, mine among others."* (2, 246) The way he phrases this statement it almost seems as if he had put his name on the rock previous to this visit. Does anyone know if he was here before?

2.) July 12, 1804 near the mouth of the Nemaha River. Clark went up the Nemaha River, found some Indian burial mounds and a beautiful view of the river. On his way back he wrote: *"On a sandstone bluff about ¼ mile from its mouth on the lower side I observed some Indian marks, went to the rock which jutted over the water and marked my name & the day of the month & year."* (2, 370) I wonder if it would be possible to find this one, since it was on a rock with other markings. He says he marked his name, but not that he carved or engraved it. Has anyone looked for this one?

3.) June 5, 1805 near Fort Benton, MT. (using today's names). Clark was investigating the Missouri River upstream of the Marias to determine which was the proper river to take. His first course took him up on a ridge dividing the Missouri from the Teton River, which joins the Marias close to the disputed confluence. He says the Missouri and Teton were separated by only 100 yards. He continued on another 13 miles, plus 11 the following day. When he had satisfied himself that this was the true Missouri, he hiked 20 miles over to the small river, came down it and camped for the night. He writes: *"Some beaver, antelope, mule deer & wolves & one bear on this little river. Marked my name in a tree N. side near the ridge where the little river breaks through."* (4, 259) This break in the ridge can easily be seen just a little west of Fort Benton, MT on Hwy. 87. Has anyone looked for the tree? Clark does not talk about any other markings so I assume it was his name alone on that tree. It seems like at least a semi-significant place where today's Teton River breaks through a long ridge. I read it sort of as an exclamation point to his exploration.

4.) June 17, 1805 at the Great Falls. *"In descending the cliff to take the height of the fall was near slipping into the water, at which place I must have been sucked under in an instant, and with difficulty and great risk I ascended again, and descended the cliff lower down (but few places can be descended to the river) and took the height with as much accuracy as possible with a spirit level, etc. dined at a fine spring 200 yards below the pitch near which place 4 cotton willows grew. On one of them I marked my name and the date, and the height of the falls."* (4, 304) Reading through his extensive survey of the river and the heights of all the falls, I think he was signing his work as an artist would. There were no other markings to prompt him; but then again I don't think he really needed any prompting. He wanted to let people know he was there, and also to let any readers of the tree know that he also had been able to take an accurate measurement of the falls.

5.) Aug. 24, 1805 along the Salmon River. After being shown the difficulties of the Salmon River by his Shoshone guide, Clark turned back and wrote: *“Set out very early this morning on my return. Passed down the creek (e.g. Berry). At the mouth marked my name on a pine tree, proceeded on to the bottom above the creek & Breakfast on berries & delayed 1 hour, then proceed on up the river by the same rout we descended to the place I left my party.”* (5, 162) Clark seems to be marking a place where he had turned back from his exploration, and his is the only marking present. Here he also wrote a letter to Lewis recommending that the party obtain at least one horse for each man and to attempt the mountains with Old Toby as a guide. In his journal for the day he also looks at two other possibilities:

1. *Split the party with some of them attempting the Salmon while the others crossed the mountains on horses, the two parties coming together occasionally.*
2. *Split the party and let one group go back down the Jefferson, gather provisions and attempt the route along the Medicine (Sun) River.*

Neither of these is being seriously considered, but merely represents Clark's reasoning process. Moulton's note on this states: *“They had not known of the Sun River route, which Lewis would follow on his return trip in 1806, until they discussed the geography of the region with the Shoshones. Having set this last plan down on paper, Clark obviously found it unacceptable, probably because of the cost in time and wide separation of the parties, and crossed it out.”* (5, 164)

6.) Nov. 18, 1805 at “the Anchorage” on Haley's Bay. Here begins the greatest concentration of signatures within a small area and short time, 4 signings in a radius of ten miles and 18 days. On his land trek to Cape Disappointment (with Ordway, Pryor, J. & R. Fields, Shannon, Bratton, Colter, Wisner, LaBieche, Charbonneau, & York) Clark found a tree Lewis had branded on his earlier trek to the Cape. *“This appears to be a very good harbor for large ships. Here I found Capt. Lewis name on a tree. I also engraved my name & by land, the day of the month and year, as also several of the men.”* (6, 66) He doesn't say which of the men, but apparently he encouraged them to sign also. Adding the “by land” was perhaps to differentiate from possible signatures of sailors. It is also the form used by Alexander MacKenzie in 1793. We don't know how many of the men signed or if there was more than one tree used, but the point seems to be to leave evidence of the whole group reaching this point by land. After reaching the “*main ocean*” across a low neck of land, Clark climbed a high separate hill, took observations and then descended and camped along the beach on the north side of what is today called Mackenzie Head.

7.) Nov. 19, 1805 on Long Beach, WA. *“After...breakfast I proceeded on through rugged country of high hills and steep hollers on a ... direct line to the commencement of a sandy coast which extended ... from the top of the hill above the sand shore to a point of high land distant near 20 miles. This point I have taken the liberty of calling after my particular friend Lewis.... I proceeded on the sandy coast 4 miles and marked my name on a small pine, the day of the month & year, etc. and returned to the foot of the hill, from which place I intended to strike across to the bay.”* (6, 70) This signature is at the farthest north any member of the party reached on the Pacific Ocean. (See article on “Clark's Tree,” page 7.)

8.) Nov. 22, 1805 at Station Camp. *“A calm cloudy morning, a moderate rain the greater part of the last night. Capt. Lewis branded a tree with his name, date, etc. I marked my name, the day & year on an alder tree. The party all cut the first letters of their names on different trees in the bottom.”* (6, 81) The decision to cross the river had not yet been made but they knew they would not be staying here for the winter, and they wanted to claim the land in a big way. One wonders if Charbonneau & Sacagawea carved their names also, or if someone did it for them. This eighth signing was not in response to any other markings like the first couple, but it marked an end of exploration in a way, because it was as far as they got with canoes. Yet there remains a curious sidelight about this — on Nov. 20, after crossing today's Chinook River while returning from his trek up to Long Beach, Clark wrote: *“I proceeded on up the beach and was overtaken by three Indians. One of them gave me some wapato and some dried sturgeon. I employed those Indians to take up one of our canoes which had been left by the first party that came down.”* (6, 72) That would have been Colter, Willard, and Shannon on Nov. 13. So it looks like at least one canoe got around Chinook Point and down near today's Chinook River, 5 or 6 miles further downstream from Station Camp.

9.) Dec. 3, 1805 on the West Side of Point William (Tongue Point). After being trapped at Station Camp for nine days, the party finally went back upstream and camped at Pillar Rock on Nov. 25. On the 26th they crossed the river at a narrower and calmer point, camped at an Indian Village near today's John Day River, and made it around Tongue Point on the 27th. Here the wind and waves delayed them another 10 days. On the 29th Lewis takes 5 men in the Indian canoe and goes looking for an "eligible location" for their winter camp. Clark stays behind and pretty soon he is getting anxious for Lewis. They are all wet and disagreeable, and morale is low. Clark writes: *"The men sent after an elk yesterday returned with an elk which revived the spirits of my men very much. I am unwell and cannot eat the flesh. O! how disagreeable my situation, a plenty of meat and incapable of eating any."* (6, 106) It is easy to picture him as whining with this statement, and maybe he is, just a little, but I think he was just fighting depression with humor. And the signing is meant to encourage himself and remind himself of his accomplishment and that of the Corps of Discovery. It is also the most complete description of his signature – *"I marked my name & the day of the month and year on a large pine tree on this peninsula and 'Capt. William Clark, December 3rd, 1805. By land from the U. States in 1804 & 1805."* (6, 107) This is a classic example of territory-claiming postings.

10.) July 14, 1806 near Bozeman, MT (West side of Bozeman Pass). On July 14 Clark noted in his "Course and Distance" record: *"Marked my [name] W.C. July 14th 1806. with powder on a cotton tree at the river [present East Gallatin]."* (Thwaites 5, 263) The initials also appear on Clark's field map. The exact location of this marking has not been determined for sure, but a tentative study places it somewhere near the East Gallatin River, a mile or so north of the Bozeman, MT fair grounds. (WPO, Aug. 1987, 19)

11.) July 15, 1806 near Livingston, MT (East side of Bozeman Pass). Clark wrote: *"2 miles [north] on a direct course from the gap of the mountain to a few cotton trees under the bank and on the West or Larboard Side of the river & on a small channel, I marked my name with red paint and the day of the month & year [July 15, 1806] also the distance and course of the portage on one of the cotton trees."* (Thwaites 5, 267) (WPO, Aug. 1987, 19) This marking is reinforced on map 106 by the note: "W.C. on tree July 15, 1806"

12.) July 25, 1806 at Pompey's Pillar. This time, as in several other places, he is reacting to graffiti already in place. He has been on the Yellowstone River in a dugout catamaran for two days and, well I'll let him tell it — *"I...arrived at a remarkable rock situated in an extensive bottom on the starboard side of the river and 250 paces from it. This rock I ascended and from its top had a most extensive view in every direction. This rock, which I shall call Pompey's Tower is 200 feet high and 400 paces in circumference.... The Indians have made 2 piles of stones on the top of this tower. The natives have ingraved on the face of this rock the figures of animals, etc. near which I marked my name and the day of the month and year."* (8, 225)

13.) July 27, 1806 at the Yellowstone – Big Horn confluence. Just a day later Clark camped at the junction of the Big Horn River, and on the morning of July 27 he begins his journal with: *"I marked my name with red paint on a cotton tree near my camp, and set out at an early hour and proceeded on very well."* (8, 237) This is actually a **triple** because, as Saindon points out, on **map 110**, Clark wrote: *"Marked my name on 3 trees with paint"* This signature is at a very important river junction, which later became the site of the fur trading post Fort Manuel of Manuel Lisa's Missouri Fur Company. Clark, himself became a partner in that company and John Colter was trapping out of here when he had his famous escape from the Blackfeet Indians.

In addition to these absolutely documented instances of signing the land, Bob Saindon also pointed to several times Clark's initials appear on his maps, without being supported by journal entries. This often indicates a marking, but it is not absolute or consistent. The first of these occurs just a little short of Great Falls on **June 15, 1805** where there appears on the **map 54** the lone initials: **W.C.** and **R.F.** There is no journal entry to support this as a definite signing, but I believe, as does Saindon, that it does indicate that Clark and Reuben Field signed their names on the rock tower Clark noted at this point. I believe this one because there is no other reason to put initials alone on the map.

The next possibility is up on **Lemhi Pass**, a very logical place to mark. On **map 67** there are two locations marked "**W.C. camp**". Saindon thinks these might indicate signatures because of the initials, but I don't think so. This is an area where there were several camps and I think Clark was simply differentiating between his camp and the main camp. Still, the possibility exists. Another possibility is on **map 91**, at today's Wallacut river: **W.C. camped 19th November**. I think that one, again, is differentiating his camp from others, and yet on the same map he notes the campsite of Nov. 18th simply: Camped 18th Nov. 1805, without his initials.

So now we have:

- **15** absolutely documented Clark signatures in **13 different places**, supported by definite journal entries.
- **1** probable supported by initials only, along with R.F. for Reuben Field.
- **3** possible supported by initials and other words suggesting he was differentiating his camp from others.

As far as Lewis is concerned, he appears to have signed only two trees, just for the sake of signing them – at the Haley's Bay anchorage (6, 66 and Map 91) and at Station Camp (6, 81). At the anchorage we don't know if it was a brand or carving for Clark just says he found Lewis's name on a tree. The branding iron could be supposed, I guess, but this was a walking journey so he may have been traveling light. At Station Camp it was definitely a brand. There was of course, the branding of trees at Maria's River. This, however, was not a claim on the land or a personal marking, but meant to keep the Indians away from the boat. As Ordway writes on June 10, 1805: "*We halled out our largest pirogue in the middle of an Island in the North fork opposite the point, and made her fast between some trees, & branded several trees to prevent the Savages from disturbing hir.*" (9, 165)

Another class of markings mentioned by Saindon is from outside observers. One was discovered by a Henry Osterman in the 1930s. It was in the White Cliffs area across from the camp of May 31, 1805. (WPO, 8 / 87, 12)

A second was purportedly by Lewis at the canoe camp above Great Falls. Saindon apparently saw this one for himself. (WPO, 8 / 87, 15)

A third was on Beaverhead Rock, attested to by a man name August Mailey, whose father blasted the marking off of the rock to create an irrigation ditch. (WPO, 8 / 87, 15)

Another thing that Saindon brings out in his article is the instruction given to John Evans when he attempted the same exploration in 1796, on behalf of the Spanish. Evans was told by his boss, James Mackay, to mark the land at significant places. He even dictated the style. Evans' mission only reached the Mandans, so there were no markings, but it is known that Mackay actually visited Clark at Camp Dubois on Jan. 10, 1804 (2, 154), and may have furnished him with Evan's maps. He might have suggested to Clark that he mark his trail. (WPO, 8 / 87, 11)

So what does this all mean? I believe Clark was much more attuned to the need to claim the land by leaving signatures than was Lewis. I have already noted that several of the signatures were in what I am calling the classic format. "*Capt. William Clark, December 3rd, 1805. By land from the U. States in 1804 & 1805.*" But I also believe some of the other signings, especially when he was responding to existing markings, reveal a deep personal need for William Clark to let the world know he was there. This very human quality really endears me to William Clark. It moves him from the ideal superhero to an ordinary guy in extraordinary circumstances. And his mastery of those circumstances, in turn, does make him a superhero, along with the other 32 members of the Corps of Volunteers for Northwestern Discovery.

Note: During the field trip over "The Forgotten Trail" last fall, our own Steve Plucker related that two different family members, independently and at different times, told him about a tree in the area that had been marked by Clark. The search continues. If you find any others, please let me know at either:

360-695-4824

or

tomlaidlaw@uswest.net

Thanks, Tom.

“Pining Away...the story of a bronzed tree”

By Gary Lentz

After a long journey of its own down the Snake and Columbia Rivers to the port of Ilwaco, a life-sized bronze replica of a wind-blown pine was erected amongst the grass covered sand dunes next to William Clark’s “Western Ocean”. It is located about one mile north of the main intersection in Long Beach, Washington. Drive north from the town center and take the beach access trail near The Breakers Inn. You will see the inspiring piece of sculpture silhouetted against the panorama of the Pacific Ocean’s boundless sky.

The tree began as an idea in the creative mind of Rex Ziak and grew much like its live counterpart over 200 years ago. The teamwork of those people involved in Long Beach, from the mayor to the public works folks, all contributed to a spectacular and lasting memorial of a very special point in our American History. The tree is securely rooted not only in the sand and grasses of the ocean shores, but in the community as well. There is no doubt it will become rooted in the hearts of those who will come to see it over the next few years of the bicentennial.

The dedication of the tree was accomplished during the recent, “Ocean in View!” weekend in Long Beach, Washington. The four days were filled with speakers, events, and community activities related to Lewis & Clark. This year, Hassan Davis portrayed York in a moving performance. Dr. David Peck, the author of, “Or Perish in the Attempt” about the medical activities of the Corps, presented a slide program on ailments and treatments used in early America. On Saturday, November 8, the weather cooperated for the hike up the beach to dedicate the tree, done under partly sunny skies with *no rain!* Volunteers from Fort Clatsop, including superintendent Chip Jenkins, as well as Ron Craig portraying York, Craig Rockwell portraying Capt. Clark, Gary Lentz portraying Sgt. Ordway (Sgt. Gass didn’t make the original trip up the beach), and Terri Purcell, representing Sacagawea, carrying Jill Harding’s 5 month old son, Elias Harding-Coe, who did a great job of playing Jean Baptiste Charbonneau. There was even a large black Newfoundland dog named Dolly portraying Seaman.

The mile-long trek began at the Discovery Trail head near the beach access just west of the Long Beach City Hall. The trail is paved and winds through the dunes past interesting interpretive points. Dave Nicandri, director of the Washington State Historical Society, accompanied the Corps as they marched over the trail with Capt. Clark leading the way. At selected points along the journey north Mr. Nicandri would have the procession halt and he would offer short vignettes about the history that was being re-created. The crowd of people who followed the Corps that day would often trail off into the distance behind them for over 100 yards. A short portion of the trail remains to be paved and the final trek for the men of the Corps, who were all wearing moccasins, was over sharp gravel. Grumbling from the ranks about that portion of the trail being like the portage around the Great Falls of the Missouri were heard trailing off into the wind. Nevertheless, they proceeded on.

The truncated tree could be seen from various vantage points along the trail as it danced in and out amongst the sand dunes. Finally, near the same spot as they had reached nearly two centuries before, the Corps gathered around the bronze tree. Other members of the trek dispersed around the replica pine at the northern-most point the Corps had reached on the Long Beach Peninsula. Capt. Clark symbolically scratched his name and inscription dating to November 19, 1805, into the east-facing trunk of the tree. His name would face west as long as the tree would stand.

A prayer was offered by John Parker of the Nez Perce Tribe and, after the drumming drifted along the ocean shore, there were speeches by Long Beach mayor Dale Jacobson, artist Stanley Wanlass, Washington State Historical Society Director Dave Nicandri, author Rex Ziak, and event organizer Carolyn Glen.



The tree was baptized using waters from the Snake and Columbia Rivers as well as the Pacific Ocean to symbolically replenish the tree. Red, white and blue, smoking and bursting shells were fired over the ocean and the crowd cheered the drifting American flags they ejected as thundering salutes echoed across the sands.

After dismissal from the detail, the members of the Corps remained briefly for the time capsule review. A time capsule filled with articles and remembrances of the event will be buried near the site for removal in 2103. (Be sure to make your plans now for that event!) As the sun continued its daily trip to the distant edge of sea and sky, the members of the Corps walked back to their starting point on the soft sand of the beach. The modern-day Corps return trek was often delayed by folks who wanted to pet Seaman, ask questions or pose for photos with the intrepid band. For a brief moment the echoes of the Corps of Discovery were heard again on the Long Beach Peninsula.

Next year, be sure to participate in the Ocean in View! weekend and add your voice to theirs.

(Thanks, Gary, for the report. Edited for WON. 2004)

New Trail Assistant Appointed

The Washington State Historical Society has announced the hiring of Chapter-member Lauren Danner as the state's assistant trail coordinator for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.

Currently a member of the Governor's Lewis and Clark Trail Committee, Ms. Danner is a recent graduate of the University of Oregon, where she took a doctorate in communications with significant coursework in Pacific Northwest History, as well. Lauren's principal responsibilities will be working with trail communities identified as venues for the National Park Service's Corps II traveling exhibit and the state's share of interpretive programming for the region's first Signature Event: Destination the Pacific. Event planning for the dedication of the proposed new park at Station Camp rounds out her portfolio.

Lauren's office will be in the State Capital Museum in Olympia, housed within the Society's Heritage Resource Center at 211 W 21st Ave. in Olympia. She can be contacted at 360-586-0219.

Congratulations Lauren!

(From Washington's Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Newsletter, November 2003. Edited for WON. 2004)

Membership Renewal

Each year chapters, organizations, societies, etc., "plead" to members to renew their memberships or risk being dropped from the rolls. Many send a "Last Notice" several times through the year as a reminder. Some even offer incentives if you will "please renew." This is all well and good if the group or organization is big enough to be able to afford this. The reality of it with our chapter is that we cannot afford incentives, nor even the fancy renewal cards and envelopes. Instead, we have chosen to keep our dues as low as possible preferring, instead, to cover the costs of printing and mailing an informative newsletter that far exceeds most all other newsletters in articles, news, and information, while trying to build a small fund for other expenses.

For this reason, we are compelled to mention the renewals in the January and April WON and after that, we drop those who, for whatever reasons, have seen fit not to renew. While this is regrettable, we feel that we cannot afford to "carry" those who will not renew by the end of April.

Please consider these notes and send your renewal check for \$15.00 to Rob Heacock as soon as possible, thereby assuring that all of our members may be kept informed. See the enclosed renewal form – or use the magenta-colored form from the November WON – for all the necessary information.

Thanks.

Kumtux Wawa Questions

Gary Lentz has asked me to mention that if you have any questions concerning Lewis and Clark, or any particular facet of the Corps of Discovery, please contact him and he will be glad to respond with his answer in the WON. Over the years, there have been some very good and interesting questions raised, and there are, no doubt, many more that could be asked. Contact Gary at:

36149 Hwy 12
Dayton, WA 99328

or

509-337-6457

e-mail: <mailto:itswoots@bmi.net>

Martin Plamondon II -- Modern Day William Clark

VANCOUVER, WA – As the Corps of Discovery made its way homeward in 1806, Captain William Clark commented that the Missouri River “looked nothing like it did before!” So, after 200 years, just where *is* the Lewis and Clark Trail? Because of so many changes along the original trail, we would be hard-pressed to know exactly when we were on The Trail. However, we do have help. Thanks to the many efforts of retired map-maker and Vancouver resident Martin Plamondon II, we have two – soon to be three – books of maps that, next to Clark’s originals, will allow those of us interested to get closer to the exact spots than we have been able to previously. When completed, there will be 530 maps that will cover the whole trail. These maps have been likened to Clark’s work in matters of detail, drawing such comments as “real jewels” and “William Clark would love these maps” from Dr. Gary Moulton, among others.

But the maps are not without problems. Plamondon has spent 30 years pouring over old and new maps, coordination grids, old photos taken before the dams, the journals themselves as well as following the trail on foot. He found, as many of us have, that the courses and distances were not always accurate, that Clark was often as much as 40-45% off on his distance estimates. Then too, some of the maps are still missing, thus missing information. Among the problems that needed to be reconciled was the miscalculated distance from the mouth of the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean – by 1000 miles! – and the fact that today’s rivers, mostly the Missouri below the Yellowstone confluence, have changed courses many times and/or have substantially straightened their courses.

The new maps have been meticulously created and include roads and cities along with known campsite locations to help orient the user. The scale is much easier to use, as well, being 1 inch equaling 2000 feet (2 1/2” to the mile) compared to the *6 miles to the inch* that Clark used. This scale allows for much more detail as evidenced by the amount of “character” as a result of the hand drafting and inking that Plamondon has done. (This method of construction also means that each of the 530 maps had to be done three times in order to get all the detail in place.) Though the original intent of the maps was for historians and Lewis and Clark scholars, they have picked up a following from bicentennial enthusiasts. The third and final volume will be released by the WSU Press on May 14, 2004, 200 years to the day from when the Corps of Discovery left their cozy confines at Camp DuBois and “proceeded under a jentle brease up the Missouri.”

We await with great interest. Thanks for your efforts, Martin.

(Edited from and AP article by Joseph B. Frasier, November 2003. WON, 2004)

Officer and Board Member Voting

Another exciting year has come and gone and it is time, once again, to elect officers and board members. This year the whole group has agreed to serve another year in their present capacities. Please look over the list, find the enclosed ballot and complete it. If you will be attending the annual business meeting on Feb. 7th, you can vote then. If you will be unable to attend, please feel free to mail the ballot to Tim Underwood, Editor of WON, 128 Galaxie Road, Chehalis, WA 98532-9018 by Monday, Feb. 2nd. I will carry them to the meeting for inclusion in the voting.

Obviously, we would rather you attended this meeting. However, in either case, please exercise your privilege to vote. Thank you.

The Nominees are:	President: Doc Wesselius	Vice President: Gary Lentz
	Sect./Membrshp: Rob Heacock	Treasurer: Muff Donohue
Board Members:	Connie Estep	Martin Snoey
	Murray Hayes	Don Payne

Along the Trail... Upcoming Events

With the coming of 2004, activities connected with the bicentennial are heating up. Along the national trail, there are seven (7) signature events alone, not to mention the many local events that are or being planned in communities along the way. Of local interest is the Oregon-California Trails Association's national meeting being held in Vancouver, WA in August. Though not exactly a Lewis and Clark association, the theme for this year's convention will feature the Lewis and Clark Expedition as the forerunner of the emigration that followed 40 years later.

The first run of signature events begins with the Three Flags Ceremony in St. Louis on March 12-14, 2004. The final event will be on October 22-31 in Bismarck, ND. Be sure to watch future issues of WON for more information on these and other events.

Oregon – California Trails Association National Convention

Red Lion at the Quay, Vancouver, WA August 11-14, 2004

The theme for this year's convention is "Roll On, Columbia! River Trail of History," and will include the Native American Presence and Culture, Lewis and Clark, the Hudson's Bay Company and the Fur Trade, tying all of them together with the opening of the Oregon Trail. Workshops will span two days with another two days of tours that will include Ft. Clatsop, Station Camp, Ft. Vancouver and The Dalles. Musical entertainment, reenactment programs, a BBQ and a keynote speech by Bill Lang will be included.

Lewis and Clark enthusiasts are asked *and encouraged* to participate as presenters, tour guides, and planners. If you are interested, contact chapter member and OCTA planning Chairman David Welch in Steilacoom at 253-584-0332 or by e-mail at welchdj@attbi.com. This is a good opportunity to share our knowledge with other history buffs.

Signature Event: Three Flags Ceremony

The St. Louis area will be the center of attention in the spring of 2004 with the commemoration of the Corps of Discovery's embarkation on America's epic journey of exploration. On March 14, 2004, the National Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Committee and the National Park Service will host the Three Flags Ceremony to observe the 200th anniversary of the transfer of Louisiana Territory from Spain to France to the United States. Invited guests will include the King of Spain, the President of France, the President of the United States, the governors of all the states created out of the Louisiana Purchase, and the heads of tribal governments whose homelands were affected.

On sites surrounding the grounds of the Gateway Arch, activity areas will feature the cultures of the Louisiana Territory, i.e. French, Spanish, Anglo-American and Osage, through interactive displays relating the legacies of these cultures in America, and highlighting the roles of these cultures in today's world. Musical performances, and possibly, an Air Force fly-over, will precede the ceremony.

For further information, contact:

Dr. Wendell Smith

or

Ms. Elizabeth Sayad

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E-mail: egsayad@artsci.wustl.edu

Website: <http://louisianapurchase.umsl.edu>

You may also check the Signature Event website at:

www.lewisandclarkwa.com/pages/signature_event.html#all

Two more events will occur simultaneously in May, and not too far away from each other. From May 13-16 in Hartford and Wood River, IL, a commemoration of the Expedition's departure from Camp Wood 200 years ago will be held. Then, from May 14-23, just upriver – the Missouri, that is – in St. Charles, MO, the 25th annual Lewis and Clark Heritage Days Festival will commemorate the anniversary of Corps' preparations, retrofitting and departure for the west from this last "civilized" outpost.

Reenactments, the replica keelboat and other watercraft will highlight the event. Public participation is encouraged at both events. Watch for further details in the April WON or check the website on page 10.

William Clark Park at Cottonwood Beach soon to be a reality!

CAMAS, WA – When this issue was last mentioned in the January 2002 WON, it was an idea and dream of a few. Now, thanks to a citizen’s committee and agreeable local Port and County commissioners, the park is now in the design stages. This is backed by \$2.8 million in funding from local and state agencies. The prime developer is the JD White Company, who has developed a master plan that has garnered the support of all the partners involved.

The new park is located in the proximity of the Corps’ March 31-April 6 campsite, known as “Provision Camp,” and was a key location to the further exploration of the Portland – Vancouver area. (Remember, this is the camp from which Captain Clark led a party “back down” the Columbia to the mouth of the “Multnomah” River and explored the river they missed on their outbound trip.) This is also where the rest of the Corps spent 7 days gathering provisions – thus the name – for their eastward trek to the Nez Perce lands.

The park, the only one so far in America that is named for just Captain Clark – most being named for both leaders – is intended as a “combination of recreation, historical interpretation and environmental educational opportunities” according to local historian Roger Daniels. Recreational uses will include day-use and overnight accommodations such as tent sites, RV sites and yurts.

Historical interpretation will involve a recognition plaza built on the dike overlooking the beach and the Columbia River. Though the focus will be on William Clark, other interpretive stories will touch on Early Explorers, Native Americans of the lower Columbia River, the Columbia River itself – past, present and future – and vignettes of local Camas/Washougal area early history and its settlers. Interpretive “stations” will be located along the dike trail boardwalk.

Boardwalks will also direct visitors to the focus of the environmental stories of the local area. Events such as the Ice Age Floods and how the Columbia River Gorge was formed will be presented along with information on the native plants, animals, birds and insects, and how they relate to the present environment. One very important detail will be the removal of invasive non-native plants and their replacement by native riparian plants, such as the Wapato and Slough Sedge.

A special feature of the park will be an area set aside for the portrayal of significant historical events of the area that will include a temporary recreation of a “provision camp,” complete with crude sleeping tents, meat-drying racks, fish-smoking racks, etc. Living history reenactments can also be presented in an informal outdoor classroom, along with lectures by local historians and teachers, for the benefit of students and the community. The park should also be significant enough to attract visitors that will help the local economy.

[It is hoped that this park will be significant “stop” along the bicentennial trail in 2005 when activities move out here to the “West End” of the Trail. The park dedication is tentatively planned to coincide with the national meeting in Portland in August 2005. Ed.]

(Thanks to Roger Daniels for this updated “progress report.” Edited for WON. 2004)

Food (Drink?) for Thought ...

Question: What do you get when you combine 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 15% Syrah and 5% Cabernet Franc?

Answer: A delightful new wine that is just in time for the bicentennial called “**Fort Rock Red.**”

This new, gold medal - winning red table wine is the product of Maryhill Winery and its master vintner, John Haw. Aged in oaken casks, this 2001 vintage was recently introduced as a bold new wine, the blend representing the spirit of the Corps itself. The label is also almost worth the cost of the bottle. The label is an image of Robert Thomas’s “Lewis and Clark at Fort Rock” mural in The Dalles. And it goes very well with poultry and fowl, too! (I tried it! Ed.)

If you would like more information on this wine or the winery itself, you can call the winery at 877-MARYHILL or get on their website at: www.MARYHILLWINERY.COM. *Bon Appetit!*

Future Meetings of the Washington State Chapter – LCTHF

February 7, 2004 – Tacoma, WA – The annual business meeting will be held at the Washington State Historical Society Museum in Tacoma at 10:00 AM on the Mezzanine level (See page 2 for directions.). The meeting will include elections of officers for 2004, committee reports, reports of other L&C groups, plans and other business matters of the Chapter.

Following the business meeting, Museum Director David Nicandri will present an illustrated program “*What Did Lewis and Clark Know About the Columbia River, and When Did They Know It?*” His presentation is based on research for his forthcoming book “*Lewis and Clark on the Snake and Columbia Rivers: An Environmental History.*”

Following lunch, Doc Wesselius and Larry McClure will lead a session on the planning that is taking place for the 2005 National Foundation meeting to be held in Portland in August, 2005. While this is not “required” attendance, it should be if you are at all interested in attending the meeting in Portland, and especially if you would be so kind as to help out in *any* capacity. We do hope you will consider this fantastic opportunity.

Spring/Summer – We plan on a program linking the L&C Expedition to the Fur Trade and early Western settlement that will relate our chapter interests to the OCTA meeting scheduled for Vancouver in August 2004 (See page 10 for information.). Chapter members will present a series of short papers on members of the Expedition who went on to participate in the western fur trade and settlement.

Fall Meeting – We are “investigating” and Jet boat field trip on the Snake River from Richland to Clarkston and/or vice-versa. We have members who have escorted and lectured for Elderhostal and cruise tours on this part of the water route west and we hope to involve them in the program.

For more information, contact:

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WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

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January 2004 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.