

Philadelphia Chapter Publicity – January 1, 2005

It seems that after every presentation I make, the question asked time after time is, “What got you involved with Lewis and Clark?” The answer is always the same but it’s usually in a much more abbreviated form than you’ll read here today.

1952 In about 1952, after having married Rosanna (Rose) in 1943 and being blessed with a son before Hiroshima and two sons afterward, and after having organized an Explorer Scout Post in 1946, and having had a hand in 1948 founding a Lutheran Day School in Philadelphia, I read a book titled *TWO CAPTAINS WEST – An Historical Tour of the Lewis and Clark Trail*. Authored by Albert and Jane Salisbury with drawings by Carter Lucas, it recounted their experiences following the Lewis and Clark Trail, which they illustrated with one hundred and sixty photographs, much as the explorers saw it in 1804. It impressed me deeply and fascinated Rose as she related it to our three sons.

Over the next few months, all five of us talked about the chances of camping as a family in ever-widening circles centered on our home in Mayfair, Philadelphia. A few of the questions discussed included: Why camp? (Because it was inexpensive and we all had experience.) How would we cook? (With charcoal on our portable wire grills.) What would we cook? (Rose’s wonderful recipes of wholesome foods, just as at home.) What would we see? (We would select a goal each year and sites to and from it to visit.) Would we really be compatible jumbled together in the car and on various strange campsites for two and three weeks at a time? (Not knowing, we chose to make a dry run.)

1953 Tents not being in our inventory, we borrowed two Mountaineer-type pup tents from Troop 155. Excess WW II, US Army (GI.) issue, they were reversible, green on one side (summer) and white on the other (snow). That six day, 750-mile exploratory trip took us to western PA and MD, and proved that we could do what we planned, and for two weeks at a time. But we also learned quickly that pup tents were unsatisfactory (at pee call time in the morning, for example, three anxious boys could not negotiate the small circular front exit in a timely and decorous fashion). Nor could they, aged nine, five and two, handle getting dressed on their knees.

After Rose volunteered to sew up two new tents for us, we searched for suitable material. A few trips into town turned up a bolt of ideal cloth. Woven to Admiral Richard C. Byrd’s specifications for his trip to Antarctica in 1928, it had lain all this time in the warehouse where we had discovered it merely because someone had carelessly spilled a trail of tar across it. Rejected and inexpensive but ideal for our needs, it was lightweight balloon cloth. At home, we easily chipped the tar from it and then found it to be almost waterproof without any treatment.

Our search for a good design in our Boy Scout literature disclosed the Explorer Tent. Featuring a six foot high ridge almost three foot long held aloft by an adjustable iron pole (plenty high for comfortable dressing), its footprint on the turf was a capacious 7’-2” long by 8’-7” wide. A jaunty overhang pulled taut from the ridgepole shielded two door flaps, which could be rolled up for excellent ventilation or tied together for sleeping. After measuring and cutting our cloth, Rose took up her sewing location for the next few months in the living room at her portable Singer where she simultaneously watched Senator Joseph McCarthy’s anti-communist hearings on our new black and white television set.

When the last stitch was needed, what a thrill it was to set two up on the front lawn for the first time! Each weighed only two pounds, folded into a neat 18” x 18” x 4” high mound and took about five minutes to set up. We exclaimed over every feature: how much room there was inside, what a distinctive

shape it made, how the mosquito netting above the doors was a thoughtful plus, what a pleasant glow the sun made shining into it, and what a wonderful mother/wife had fashioned it!

1954 That summer of 1954 to Mt Desert Island National Park, Maine, was the first of many annual two and then three-week-long excursions: 1955 to Virginia; 1956 to Ohio, Indiana, Illinois; 1957 to Quebec, Canada; 1958 to Great Smokies National Park. By this time, we had painted our “phonetic trademark” (a lively Mule kicking a colorful “e”) on the right panel of each tent with a map of the US on the left panel. As we camped in a state, we painted it in a different color, outlined it in black India ink and located each campsite with a black dot. Eventually, each of the contiguous 48 states and eight Canadian provinces were so identified.

1955 An idiosyncratic approach to saving mementoes from our trips began in 1955. It was then that we decided to take advantage of the professionalism of photographers such as Curt Teich in Boston. He published post cards of countless excellent outdoor and indoor views, each with white space for a message, of subjects and angles and details and close-ups we would never see, and at a reasonable price. We collected them – and then designed a book to solve the problem of how to preserve them efficiently. That we did by mounting them with tape in a staggered fashion on each page. Every view could be flipped to read its caption while the white page underneath could also accept personal observations and comments. Named *TravLog*, we had it copyrighted and printed, advertised and sold, pampered and produced under the trade name of Vacations Unlimited.

All these excursions preceded what we had decided was to be their culmination: tent camping the entire Lewis and Clark Trail from St. Louis, MO to Fort Clatsop, OR. My vacation period did not allow four weeks until 1971. By that time, our three sons, who were the impetus of this ambitious program over sixteen years, were too mature to join Rose and me. It fell then to our eight year old daughter to go in their stead. This would be a major, major undertaking but we vowed to duplicate as much as we could those early explorers’ experiences.

1971 To begin with, for example, we obtained maps of every National Forest through which we might drive, selected our route from fifteen state road maps, decided at which tourist sites we would enjoy spending time, made up daily menus, purchased initial supplies, and visited experts (as Lewis did mentors in Philadelphia during May-June 1803) in the fields of botany and writing. Fortuitously, we discovered that the plants Lewis and Clark had collected about 169 years earlier were here in the city. We visited with Ernie Schuyler, now Curator Emeritus of the Lewis and Clark Herbarium at the Academy of Natural Sciences, for an hour that spring where he showed us those priceless dried and mounted specimens. A few days later, we turned the pages of two or three original Journals written by Lewis and/or Clark after Murphy Smith brought them out from the vault at the American Philosophical Society and spread them out on a table. Mind you! No one paid any attention to Lewis and Clark in 1971! Obviously, our interest and questioning concentration impressed these caretakers immensely.

Transportation presented challenging problems; our vehicle was the ubiquitous Volkswagen “Bug”. Undaunted by its small size, we removed the rear seat completely and transformed one half into a cozy nest for eight year old Linda and the other half into additional storage space. We strapped on our roof rack, which with the front luggage compartment provided adequate storage, and took only one Explorer tent. Large food stores, now more common, allowed us to stop more often. We emulated the explorers by collecting plants and preserving them in a press kept under the passenger’s seat, by keeping a daily written diary, by recording sights and impressions electronically, by making a record of new (western) birds for our Life List, by rewarding the first passenger to sight a new mammal, by

backpacking in the Bitterroot Mountains and being turned back by large snow fields with torrents of water rushing beneath, and by being dazzled by the brightness of the countless stars as we fantasized that the members of the Corps of Discovery hid behind every dark tree bole. Altogether a life-changing adventure!

1976 We self-published and began to sell a book this year based on our trip in 1971 titled *Historical Signboards on the Lewis and Clark Trail*. After our return that year, we realized we had missed countless sites because there was no book listing them or how to reach them. On the other hand, *HSLCT* depicts, describes and locates 140 signboards on thirteen detailed maps keyed to one master map of the entire trail. In 1988, we published a *Supplement* adding 78 more signboards.

1977 We attended our first Annual Meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) held in St. Charles, MO. Organized in 1969, it stimulates public appreciation of the Expedition, it Keeps the Story via its quarterly publication *We Proceeded On*, it Stewards the Trail by its cooperation with the National Park Service, and its Legacy is to pass on this heritage to future generations. We joined it in 1974, the first year its quarterly magazine began.

1982 The 14th Annual Meeting of the LCTHF, the first one held east of the Mississippi River, opened in Philadelphia, PA. It featured original journals (18) by the explorers conserved at the American Philosophical Society's Library Hall in addition to the plants they collected and now preserved (126) at the Academy of Natural Sciences.

1991 The 23rd Annual Meeting was held at Vancouver, WA. Our work provided us with more free time so this was the first of continuous attendance through 2003. At one point in Vancouver, Rose convinced me to ignore the primary injunction urged on every US Army GI – do not volunteer! Her argument was simple – if you're in it, yaw gotta do something. So she volunteered me to be Pennsylvania Chairman, (in Bob Doerk's) Lewis and Clark Trail Committee.

1992 Little was known about Lewis and Clark in Philadelphia except that Lewis visited five mentors in 1803 (four in the city and one in Lancaster, PA) and that he had purchased 3,500 pounds of supplies and equipment while here. We decided to research the mentor angles, to find if any of the businesses still operated and if the buildings in which they sold their wares still stood. We wrote a short account of our plans and submitted it to the news media. Happily, Ron Avery of the Philadelphia Daily News wrote a generous piece for his column, Poor Ronald's Almanac. We then used copies of it to alert the CEO's of organizations holding Lewis and Clark-related items that we would welcome an opportunity to meet with them. Further, after obtaining names and addresses of LCTHF members in PA, NJ and DE, we invited some to join us at informational meetings.

1993 The first of such meetings was held in the office of John Iskrant. Nine attended – Jane Billian, Blair Both (DE), Jack and Marjorie Heckelman, Beth Carroll-Horrocks, Margaret Matinez (DE), Frank and Rose Muhly, and John Iskrant.

Meetings with artifact holders succeeded spectacularly. All but one of ten responded in a positive and enthusiastic manner. The hope was to plant seeds of cooperation among everyone so that a broad, citywide, all-encompassing, and exciting observation of the bicentennial centered on Philadelphia in 2003 would happen.

Frank & Rose (F&R) researched twenty-eight 1803 Philadelphia merchants who supplied 3,500 lbs of supplies and equipment to Meriwether Lewis (ML) to see if any were still in business. They also

researched sites from which those wares were obtained in 1803 to see if any buildings still stood. In both cases, the answer was “none”.

F&R presented an abbreviated slide show, from their family’s 1971 tent camping trip on the trail, to Berwyn Middle School, PA students (150).

1994 More preliminary meetings attracted more new attendees – Bob Weigand, Katy Hineline, Spence and Ruth Overholser, RoseMarie DeCoste (NJ), Elizabeth Solomon, Bob Peck, George and Doreen Faust, Jennifer Hubbard, Margaret Walker, Lorraine Rittman (NJ), Bob and Kathy Weir, Walt and Jean Jones, Paul Shaver, and Ruth Backer (NJ).

1995 In August, newcomers Bob and Mary Skold, Thomas and Tina Thoburn, Mary Jane Whelan (NYC), and Nancy Davis attended the Annual Meeting in Charlottesville, VA where a group meeting happened.

On October 12, the Philadelphia Chapter (Chapter), Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF), officially organized at a dinner meeting in Lancaster after visiting the home of Andrew Ellicott, one of ML’s five mentors. Newcomers to that special event included Everett and Helen Morrow, Marion Rowan, and Pat Roussel.

1996 Nancy Davis made a presentation on Andrew Ellicott at a chapter meeting in Christ Church House.

At the Annual Meeting in Sioux City, IA, the Chapter first learned that it was selected by the LCTHF Site Selection Committee to host the foundation in Philadelphia in 2003.

After the Chapter approved *The Grand Design for 2003* as well as *Brainstorming 2003*, its plans and hopes looking forward to the bicentennial years, Marion Rowan presented a talk on Dr. Paul Cutright, author of *Contributions of Philadelphia to Lewis and Clark History*.

After finding from Robin Williams, a noted documentarian, who and where the expedition’s keelboat was constructed, Frank (we) authored a memoir postulating that Lewis’s keelboat was constructed in Elizabeth, PA. Reviewed by others in LCTHF, the mostly favorable response encouraged him to revise it for distribution on a wider scale in 1998 and 2003.

F&R visited with Albert Walker and his wife, Sue, at their home in Elizabeth, PA. His great-great-grandfather, Major John Walker, built ocean-going vessels there beginning in 1801. His shipyard, therefore, was more than capable enough to construct a keelboat for ML.

1997 Dr. Ron Loge, Dillon, MT, illustrated his talk on Medicine at the American Philosophical Society’s Library.

Ernie Schuyler, curator of the Lewis and Clark Herbarium at the Academy of Natural Sciences, led a field trip there to see some of the 126 preserved plants collected by the explorers.

At a Chapter meeting, Charles Sacavage portrayed ML with some of his collected material.

At another Chapter meeting, we used 115 slides to illustrate FM’s talk on Lewis and Clark’s activities in Philadelphia.

Ron Laycock, a board member of LCTHF, spoke to the Chapter on Women Related to the Expedition.

We designed the first chapter patch (insignia, emblem) in the country, served as Program Advisor for Ken Burns movie *The Journey of the Corps of Discovery*, his eight-hour account of the expedition shown on PBS-TV, and was elected for a three-year term to LCTHF’s Board of Directors.

1998 The Chapter began planning for 2003 Annual Meeting of LCTHF with election of co-chairman, Nancy Davis and Frank Muhly.

Beth Carroll-Horrocks made an illustrated presentation on her duties, curator, Journals at APS. We conducted the first Site Walk to 29 Lewis and Clark-related places in Old City.

The Chapter served in many volunteer capacities at the Academy of Natural Sciences' major exhibit centered on Lewis and Clark plants obtained where they grew. Attendance at this annual event, The Philadelphia Flower Show, attracts exhibitors and more than 300,000 attendees from countries all over the world.

We suggested to the Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, that he consider installing an exhibit centered on the iron frame ML had made there in 1803. That culminated in a major permanent exhibit in a room dedicated March 28-30, 2003 and it included two replicas of the iron frame.

Charles Sacavage made a presentation on The Guns of the Expedition.

We were requested to serve on a committee organized by College of Physicians (Dr. Dorothy Lansing) to make plans for a symposium "Only One Man Died" for 2003. Over the years, the plan finally became a major exhibit with related lectures, which opened to the public in 2003. (This same committee evolved by 2002 into a form, chaired by Dr. D. James Baker, Academy of Natural Sciences, most resembling the goals we had hoped for in 1991.)

1999 Joel Fry, Curator of plants at Bartram's Gardens, spoke at a Chapter meeting.

Marion Rowan arranged the first Bus Tour to more distant related sites: Bartram's Garden, Woodlands, Stenton, and Andalusia.

The Chapter proposed that a Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) historical marker commemorating Andrew Ellicott be erected in Lancaster, PA. He mentored Lewis for three weeks in 1803. The marker was the first dedicated by the Chapter. Tom Davis, Spence Overholser and Nancy Davis spearheaded the project.

2000 Tom Davis, Fort Washington, PA, and Frank Muhly, were elected for three-year terms to LCTHF's Board of Directors.

The Chapter dedicated a PHMC historical marker erected at 4th and Locust Streets to commemorate Caspar Wistar. He mentored Lewis on anatomy and paleontology. The sign's absence did not prevent the guests gathered for the ceremony from celebrating with champagne. The sign finally appeared in place on March 1, 2001!

Anne Mackintosh designed and put up the Chapter's web site with grant money she obtained. She updates it often, takes photos to enliven it, adds links as they seem useful, and her efforts produce many hits every month on www.lewisandclarkphila.org

The Chapter applied for and was granted 501(c) 3 status as a non-profit entity.

2001 Pennsylvania Heritage magazine published an eight-page article, *Firm Foundations in Philadelphia: the Lewis and Clark Expedition's Ties to Pennsylvania*, written by Frank Muhly

The Chapter redesigned and published Paul R. Cutright bulletin titled, *Contributions of Philadelphia to Lewis and Clark History*. Tom Davis, Nancy Davis, Charles and Trudy Reed, and F&R shepherded it while many members underwrote its finances. Two new maps, *Status of Lewis and Clark Sites in Philadelphia-1803* and *Status of Lewis and Clark Sites in Philadelphia-1807 to 1814*, both of which we designed, were inserted.

We conceived, designed, wrote text, took or obtained illustrations, obtained funds via National Park Service Challenge Cost Share grant, and published (20,000 copies) on behalf of the Chapter the brochure/map titled, *The Eastern Legacy of Lewis and Clark*

PHMC proposed to the Chapter that it pursue six additional historical markers – Lewis, Clark, Barton, Patterson, Schuylkill Arsenal, and A Typical Merchant. Frank and John Iskrant agreed to write grant applications to PHMC and NPS, and to shepherd all to each's dedication. After receiving our

applications, PHMC approved Lewis, rejected Clark and A Typical Merchant applications, and requested we rewrite the other three.

2002 We conceived, designed, etc. and published (20,000 copies) on behalf of the Chapter a second brochure/map titled, *Lewis and Clark in Historic Philadelphia*.

In April, invaluable publicity resulted from an illustrated article in color by Philadelphia Inquirer, Sunday Edition, written by reporter Michael Vitez and photographed by Tom Gralish, about sites in the city and the Chapter's plans.

We proposed to the CEOs of both the Academy of Natural Sciences and the American Philosophical Society that they apply for recognition from the National Park Service as Certified Sites. That honor was granted to both groups in 2003 as well as to the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

On October 1, the Chapter lost a good friend and invaluable supporter when Dr. Ted Carter, Librarian at APS, died.

2003 The Chapter arranged for a site at Valley Forge National Historical Park to accommodate the Corps of Discovery II. This touring exhibit, mounted by the National Park Service, included telling the expedition's story in an 18-wheel trailer and provided a large circus tent for presenting lectures, slide presentations, local craft demonstrations, and technical discussions related to the saga. Open free to the public, thousands attended during its two weeks run.

The Chapter hosted countrywide LCTHF Annual Meeting at Loews's Hotel in Philadelphia – 400 attended. It provided a diverse program over four days that included special speakers, 16 papers presented by experts in their fields, eight hours of trolley tours to 35 sites related to Lewis and Clark, and a three day Kids Kamp for 25 children.

The Chapter dedicated a PHMC historical marker commemorating Meriwether Lewis at the Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th and Benjamin Franklin Parkway. It is here that the 227 plants collected by ML are preserved as the Lewis and Clark Herbarium.

We conceived, designed, etc. and published (3,000 copies) on behalf of the Chapter a third brochure/map titled, *Walk in the Footprints of Lewis and Clark in Philadelphia*.

LCTHF board of directors reiterated its action in 2001, which put it squarely behind the concept that the legacy it wanted to leave for the future was the extension of the LCNHT eastward.

Richard Prestholdt, chapter member, joined the crew of the keelboat, reproduced and operated by the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, as a volunteer re-enactor. The vessel commemorates the 200th anniversary of the first such craft plying the waters of the upper Missouri River.

The Chapter is among proponents urging Congress to extend the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail so that nine additional states (Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee) and DC are included.

2004 The Chapter dedicated a PHMC historical marker commemorating the Schuylkill Arsenal, Grays Ferry and Washington Avenues. It was here that the 3,500 lbs of supplies and equipment purchased from city merchants were gathered and eventually shipped off by Conestoga wagon to Pittsburgh, PA.

Chapter members volunteered as guides for "Lewis and Clark: The National Bicentennial Exhibition" at the Academy of Natural Sciences from November 2004 to March 2005. Mounted by the Missouri Historical Society, it displayed almost every artifact connected with the expedition and told the story of the expedition via personal audiotapes.

The Chapter dedicated a PHMC historical marker commemorating Robert Patterson, 9th Street south of Market. A mathematician, he mentored Lewis in determining latitude and longitude.

The Chapter dedicated a PHMC historical marker commemorating Benjamin S. Barton, 712 Arch Street, site of his former home. Barton mentored Lewis in botany, how to mount plants and loaned him a book on Louisiana that Lewis returned to him in 1807.

The Philadelphia Chapter invites you to contact it via its web site (www.lewisandclarkphila.org), and/or FM the writer, via e-mail (fmuhly@juno.com), to determine the best method of “proceeding on” in the words and spirit of Lewis and Clark. The greatest number of people should be made aware of what’s been done already as well as what’s planned for the future to observe the Lewis and Clark bicentennial. High on the Chapter’s list is to enlarge The Trail eastward so that it becomes the truly sea-to-sea attraction Jefferson envisioned in 1803 – and which was stressed by the early officers of the LCTHF after its founding in 1969.

In addition, historical markers could be erected to memorialize William Clark (Bradford and Inskip, Publishers), The 28 Merchants, Mahlon Dickerson, William Hamilton (Woodlands), George Logan (Stenton), Charles Willson Peale (3rd and Lombard sts.), St. Memin, Pennsylvania Hospital (BB, BR and CW), St. Peter’s Church (Osage orange trees), and others.

The Chapter is also intent in seeing that all qualified locations in Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland be recognized by the National Park Service as CERTIFIED SITES, as three in Philadelphia have been so designated already, the Academy of Natural Sciences, American Philosophical Society and College of Physicians Philadelphia

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