



# Westward Barriers

Monthly Newsletter of the Travelers' Rest Chapter  
of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

PO Box 447 – Lolo, MT 59847 [www.travelersrestchapter.org](http://www.travelersrestchapter.org) [ScottSproull@gmail.com](mailto:ScottSproull@gmail.com)

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**Keepers of the Travelers' Rest Story – Stewards of the Lolo Trail**

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**The Meeting:** Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m. – Lolo Community Center

**The Program:** The Literature of Lewis & Clark

**The Speaker:** Dr. Harry Fritz - Author, Historian, Man of Wit & Whim

Dr. Harry Fritz is Professor Emeritus of History in the Department of History at The University of Montana in Missoula. After obtaining his B.A. from Dartmouth College he attended The University of Montana and Washington University in St. Louis for his M.A. and Ph.D. respectively.

Professor Fritz has taught courses in early American history, American military history, and Montana history. He was named University of Montana's Teacher of the Year in 1972 and 1999 and the Carnegie Foundation's Montana Professor of the Year in 2004. He has written and lectured widely on the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Harry is the author of *The Lewis and Clark Expedition* (Greenwood 2004), *Montana: Land of Contrast* (1984, 2001). He is also the co-editor of *Montana and the West* (1984), *The Montana Heritage* (1992), and *The Montana Legacy* (2002). In 1985 and 1987, he served in the Montana House of Representatives, which was followed by service in the Montana Senate in 1991 and 1993.

One student remarked that Harry Fritz had the training, experience and unique ability to expound on... *"the best stories you will ever hear, about historical events in Montana, and how each of them relates to a bar nearby"*. ☺

**\* This Interview with Dr. Fritz was conducted by Idaho Public Television**

### **How important was this Expedition?**

Lewis and Clark are important historically. They provided the first written accounts of this entirely new territory, the entire Pacific Northwest. Their immediate impact was not as great as we might think, because their journals were not published for about eight years after they got back; and that was only about 20 to 25% of what they had written down. It comes off as purely a geographic expedition.

Omitted was the scientific information. Those weren't even published until the twentieth century. Ironically, the reputation of Lewis and Clark is higher today than it has ever been. Lewis and Clark have a reputation as natural scientists and ethnologists that they never enjoyed in the nineteenth century.

That excitement is still present. It draws Americans back in time to what they believe was a better era, when giants still strode the land and determined the course of American history.

Lewis and Clark have been described as the "writingest" explorers in American history. When Americans get beyond the videos and movies and biographies and encounter their writings, they can't help but fall in love with William Clark, who was a terrible speller and who spelled the word 'Sioux' twenty seven different ways, twenty seven incorrect ways. But you can make out what he says. Andrew Jackson once said he didn't have much respect for a man who could think of only one way to spell a word. He loved William Clark.

### **What are some key decisions that Lewis and Clark made?**

One of the key decisions, if not the key decision was to take an Indian woman, Sacagawea, from the Mandan villages into the West. She was far more important than her husband. A decision of equal importance involves another Indian person, Old Toby, a Shoshone Indian. They put the whole fate of the expedition into the hands of one old Indian man who showed them the route that everybody else said he didn't know what he was talking about... Toby showed them the Lolo pass and route over the Bitterroot Mountains.

### **What is the importance of the Rocky Mountains to the Lewis & Clark story?**

In actuality, the river travel is the least significant portion of the journey. Crossing the Rocky Mountains is the heart and soul of the expedition. It is the key of the trip. They believed the Rockies resembled the Appalachians in the eastern half, [which is] a single chain of mountains. They had no idea [that] the Rockies are not a single chain of mountains, [with] more than a hundred named mountain ranges in Montana and northern Idaho alone... [and] two hundred fifty to 300 miles wide. The key is getting through the Rockies.

They are literally lost in the Rocky Mountains. Lewis and Clark crossed the Bitterroot Mountains three different times. Their journey was not a straightforward expedition.

They spent one solid month in Great Falls, Montana, from the middle of June to the middle of July. Then once you leave Great Falls, on the Missouri River you are not traveling west; you are traveling south. You are getting further away from the Pacific Coast as you go. Three Forks, Montana, in late July, the Beaverhead River... they are going further and further out of their way to finding the Columbia.

Most people thought the expedition had been lost in the West. Lewis told Jefferson that when he got to the Great Falls, he was going to send back four men in a boat. When he got there he figured he needed every man, so he did not send men back in a boat. Jefferson was expecting a messenger, but none came.

# Travelers' Rest Chapter – Membership Information

Please provide the requested information listed below and make your check payable to the Travelers' Rest Chapter:

**Send Payments To: Travelers' Rest Chapter - PO Box 447 - Lolo, MT - 59847**

New Member                       Renewal                       Address Change                      **2011/03**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Scout (Student) \$5                       Private (Individual) \$10                       Platoon (Family) \$15

Interpreter \$25                       Corporal \$50                       Sergeant \$75

Captain \$100                       General \$500                       Jefferson (Lifetime) \$1,000

**\*\*\* Please check your mailing label to determine if it is time for you to RENEW your Membership**



## - BRIGADE "Lolo" CAMP & CLEANUP WEEKEND -

The Travelers' Rest Chapter Brigade (Historical Re-enactors of the Lewis & Clark Era) will gather on Friday, Saturday and Sunday... April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> for Site Cleanup and Trail Maintenance in the area around the Lawrence "Lolo" Rence Grave Site west of the town of Lolo, up Graves Creek. New Members are encouraged to join in the fun, history and comradery. The Brigade Volunteers participate in daytime and overnight encampments, mostly during the summer. For more information, please contact either Scott Cameron (381-0759) or George Knapp (549-4431).

### Lawrence "Lou Lou or Lolo" Rence History

In the summer of 2004, Brigade Members of the Traveler's Rest Chapter (of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation) requested the assistance of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Montana in locating the lost grave of a French Canadian Fur Trapper by the name of Lawrence Rence, so that they could place a commemorative marker and engraved rock at the site.

Lawrence Rence was a mountain man who lived along Grave Creek near the Nez Perce Trail (Lolo Trail) with his Nez Perce Indian wife around 1850. The name "Lawrence" was very difficult for the Nez Perce Indians to pronounce and it typically came out as "Lou Lou or Lo Lo". The creek and town of "Lolo" was originally named "Lou Lou". Lawrence was killed by a grizzly bear in the 1850's and buried by friends near Grave Creek. But the headstone marking his grave was lost sometime after 1939 due to local logging activity.

The challenge of finding Lolo's grave was to carry out the search using noninvasive methods - that is, to investigate without digging, using only aerial photography, radar and other remote sensing methods. Local Archeologist Dan Hall was brought on board and he recommended the use of a magnetometer to help locate magnetic soil disturbances which the digging of a hole or grave would cause. The magnetometer did pinpoint a magnetic anomaly in the area, but there was no way to ground-truth the anomaly without digging, therefore rendering the finding very helpful, but inconclusive. (It was Dan and his high-tech equipment that finally pinpointed the 1805/1806 Lewis & Clark Travelers' Rest Campsite, Campfire Rings and Latrine).

After many hours of research, coordination, site visits, studying the Lolo Trail writings of Ralph Space, eyewitness testimony from Bud Moore, Dan Hall's magnetometer verifications, and finally, specially trained Dogs from The Institute for Canine Forensics, all confirmed the same location of Lolo's grave. On the 4th of July, 2005, a memorial service for Lawrence "Lolo" Rence was held on a ridge overlooking Grave Creek about 16 miles west of Lolo... a town that was named in his honor.

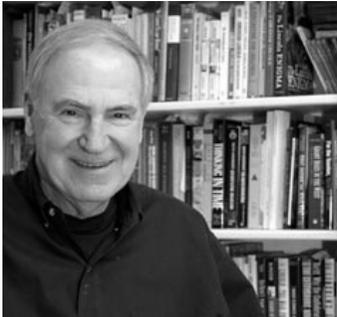
Travelers' Rest Chapter

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Todd Goodrich photo

## Presentation

by UM Professor Emeritus

**Dr. Harry Fritz**

### The Literature of Lewis & Clark

Thursday, March 3rd  
7:00 p.m.  
Lolo Community Center

## Westward Barriers

### From the Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition Edited by Gary Moulton:

[ March 4, 1806 entry by Captain Lewis while at Fort Clatsop Winter Quarters west of today's Astoria, Oregon ]

Not any occurrence today worthy of notice. we live sumptuously on our wappetoe and Sturgeon. the Anchovey is so delicate that they soon become tainted unless pickled or smoked. the natives run a small stick through their gills and hang them in the smoke of their lodges, or kindle a small fire under them for the purpose of drying them. they need no previous preperation of guting &c and will cure in 24 hours. the natives do not appear to be very scrupelous about eating them when a little feated. the fresh sturgeon they keep for many days by immersing it in water. they cook their sturgeon by means of vapor or steam. the process is as follows. a brisk fire is kindled on which a parcel of stones are lad. when the fire birns down and the stones are sufficiently heated, the stones are so arranged as to form a tolerable level surface, the sturgeon which had been previously cut into large fletches is now laid on the hot stones; a parsel of small boughs of bushes is next laid on and a second course of the sturgeon thus repating alternate layers of sturgeon and boughs untill the whole is put on which they design to cook. it is next covered closely with matts and water is poared in such manner as to run in among the hot stones and the vapor arrising being confined by the mats, cooks the fish. the whole process is performed in an hour, and the sturgeon thus cooked is much better than either boiled or roasted.