

PORTLAND ORTHOPEDIC CLINIC
3025 NO. VANCOUVER AVENUE
PORTLAND, OREGON 97227
February 10, 1971

To all Officers and Directors of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation:

This is sort of a newsletter from me to you! Since you honored me by election as president of our organization, I have had many letters and suggestions from almost all of you, and many inquiries from all over the United States from interested people who have heard about our Foundation. I have answered all these letters, soliciting and exchanging ideas. Our Oregon committee has met monthly, discussing ideas, formulating projects and generating a lot of enthusiasm. I have spent several hours going over our extensive constitution (and) by-laws. I remember that at the St. Louis meeting we discussed several ideas about the alteration of our Foundation, and I understand that more things were discussed at the Bismarck meeting.

As you know, the planned meeting for Sioux City was called off because of weather. Very earnestly, I think perhaps this also had the advantage that it will give us time to do some committee work so that when we meet again we can accomplish some definite things.

I am listing below some suggestions which, have been made by various ones of us who have met and personally discussed them, and also some which have come by correspondence from individuals I have never had the privilege of meeting personally, and because of some earnest awareness on my part that if we are going to become a vital national foundation, certain alterations and goals in our structure must be made. For your consideration I am listing them below, and I am also making a couple committee appointments which will need to deal with these subjects. According to our constitution and by-laws, reference committees should work up any ideas based on these suggestions, and then they will have to go to the committee on constitution and by-laws for presentation at our annual meeting.

This leads into a consideration of our next annual meeting, or a preliminary meeting. I have written to Ed Ruisch asking him if he thinks Sioux City will want to invite us again at a later time in the spring or summer. I also have a letter from Vice-president MacGilvra indicating that Montana expects to invite us for a meeting this year. We will need to decide how many meetings we will want to try to have. Frankly, I think it will be necessary for us to conduct a lot of our business by correspondence, because at this early date of formation there is no expense money for travel and this can become quite onerous to many individuals, and lead to a very poor attendance and ineffective work at our meetings.

The following are some of the ideas which I think we should consider in the alteration of our structure if we are to become more effective:

1. The Foundation should become national in scope, rather than confined to the eleven states bordering the Lewis and Clark trail. The Lewis and Clark saga has been designated as a national epic, and it is. It may always fall to the Western states to evince the greatest interest in the organization, but there should be no exclusions. We must remember that the Lewis and

Clark expedition really started at President Jefferson's desk, and Lewis' trip down the Ohio is really a part of the expedition. As per the decision at the Bismarck meeting, Gus Budde has written to many eminent Lewis and Clark historians around the United States, as well as government officials, to elicit their interest on an advisory committee and has had nothing but enthusiastic positive response. This means not only enthusiasm to keep our Foundation active, but undoubtedly a lot of tangible help and balanced direction will come from such men. There should be a wide-open membership.

To this end, I think we should delete the word "Trail" from the Foundation name. Our attention to the trail, and all its commercial attributes, should not be slighted in the least; but there should be a balanced incentive and effort for research and scholarship and historical documentation. This will bring interest from related foundations, and we will be in a better position to request financial assistance from various sources in the whole country if our emphasis is more than tourism along the trail.

2. Related to the above: I think that our Board of Directors (or trustees or governors or whatever name) should be expanded to not more than 50 members, with it not being required that the total number be in force at all times. It could be required in the constitution and by-laws that one member should represent each of the eleven Western states bordering on the trail. This would give an opportunity for scholars, government officials, and other organizations with related interests to be represented on our Board of Directors. It could be provided that the Board of Directors of 50 members would be elected by the national membership at large from nominees developed by a nominating committee. The Board of Directors then could elect from its body an executive committee; the executive committee should consist of the officers and a certain other number of individuals. The executive committee's function would then be to carry out the procedures and policies established by the larger body: the Board of Directors.

3. Other standing committees should be provided by the constitution and by-laws; suggestions: a) A scholarship and awards committee; b) A finance committee with subcommittees to include current expenses and endowments (the treasurer, who would expend the monies, should be on these committees); c) I doubt that an advisory committee would be necessary if suggestions 1 and 2 were activated; d) A trail committee (with duties similar to those established by the expired federal commission plus such other items as trying to restore the original or attached duplicate names, used by Lewis and Clark on certain locations); e) Public information (publicity); f) A program committee (many of the Lewis and Clark articles which are appearing could be given on a national program before publication); g) Projects committee (looking for new ideas, allocation of priority--for instance, putting our present "oomph" behind the effort to save Beaverhead Rock and the Missouri River Breaks); h) An editor and editorial committee (see item 7). I am sure that the membership can think of many other standing committees that might be provided in the constitution and by-laws. Special and ad hoc committees could be created by the Board of Directors.

4. Provision of president-elect; this would provide training and indoctrination for the new president. Also the immediate past president could be retained on the executive committee.

5. Dues structure. I have already written to Joe Jaeger, and he is busy on this item. I have suggested that we should have an escalating dues structure, perhaps beginning with an annual due of \$1.00 per year for high school students, \$ 5.00 for college students, and graduated to any sum of money which might be given by individuals, corporations, or related foundations.

6. It might be worthwhile to designate the specific day of our annual meeting. For instance, we could alternate the birthdates of Lewis and Clark, both of which come in August. Perhaps the summer month is not the best time for an annual meeting, but this idea would elicit the giving of papers on these individuals at this time, and provide publicity incident to proper observation. I remember that when I was tour historian for one of the Four Winds Tours last year, on August 18 in Montana we had a birthday cake and drank a toast to Meriwether Lewis, and read from his journal the remarks which he made on his birthdate.

7. The establishment of Foundation newsletter, quarterly or semi-annually, to keep our membership informed. Joe Jaeger sent me a copy of the Lincoln Trail newsletter, which is excellently done and interesting. Surely our Foundation could and should do as well.

8. Money is necessary! We need stationary with a proper letterhead, and which from year to year should have our officers and Board of Directors listed. If we are to be a foundation of stature, we cannot be continuously sending out letters on private stationary.

9. The relationship of our national foundation to the states must have a clearer delineation. There should be a national dues structure, but state dues should also be permitted. Or, it should be clearly stated that each state can arrange its financing and conduct its activities in any way which is suitable to and consistent with the national foundation. For instance, here in Oregon there is a possibility that we may receive state sponsorship and financial aid either through the Highway Commission, under the Bureau of Parks, or through correlated activity with the Oregon Historical Society. The Oregon Historical Society has several other agencies affiliated with it, such as the Geographic Names Board. A certain amount of financial support is obtainable thereby, as well as the efficiency of an established functioning organization.

Also in regard to state organizations: At the St. Louis meeting we discussed the advisability that even though the state organizations (which could be called chapters, such as the Missouri chapter, Montana chapter, etc.) should be appointed by the governor of the state as a matter of status. However, it may not be possible to affect this advantage in some states. Therefore, it should be spelled out in our constitution and by-laws that groups of citizens in any state could organize on their own initiative and elect officers, and have a local working constitution and by-laws consistent with that of the national foundation, and be accepted, and be permitted to elect a director to the national board. I know of one state in which this applies most urgently at the time: official state sponsorship is not matching the enthusiasm of many individuals who are eager to have an effective state organization.

I could go on with many other ideas, but I think that there is enough meat in the above for us to chew on for a while. Now, I would like to suggest some committees. As I mentioned, Joe Jaeger is working on the dues structure. I would also like to have Joe and his committee to develop in more detail the idea about how to use the money, such as with scholarships and

grants--not just routine expenses. The treasurer should be on all sub-committees of scholarship and grants.

I would like to ask John Greenslit, and whomever he wishes to help him, to draw up a proposed change in the constitution and by-laws dealing with all of the above suggestions for the altered structure of our organization. Two big jobs indeed! I would like both of you to feel free to call on anyone for help and write back to me for any ideas. I would like to suggest that specific wording be developed, to present to the constitution and by-laws committee. Therefore, I would like to appoint Ed Ruisch to be chairman of the constitution and by-laws committee, with both John Greenslit and Joe Jaeger on it, so as to correlate the above ideas. I would like to urge all of you who get this letter to write your comments to me, or preferably to John or Joe.

I have been greatly impressed with the growing awareness and enthusiasm and interest in the story of Lewis and Clark, and in our new Foundation. I think that the above suggestions, if implemented in some reasonable way, will help create a mechanism whereby our enthusiasm can be effective.

I realize that I am asking three busy men to do a lot of work. I am not loading something onto Boo MacGilvra, because he is doing a big job in Montana in regard to Beaverhead Rock and the Missouri Breaks, and he will be out of the country for a few weeks.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation, personally and on behalf of our Foundation, to Gus Budde--powerhouse, energy and dedication personified! I think he has done more to tie us together and to keep our enthusiasm alive than any other one person. This brings to mind one other suggestion which I think would be good to consider for the future: that from time to time our Foundation give a special award to some outstanding contributor for services within our organization, and some outstanding contributor to the Lewis and Clark cause who is not a member.

Enough! With kindest regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

(signed)

E. G. Chuinard, M.D.
President, Lewis and Clark
Trail Heritage Foundation