

Of Special Interest

- From The Trail
- Fort Clatsop Rebuilt
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- Chapter Elections



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From The Trail Williston, North Dakota August 2006 by Nan Kaeser

Bang! Pierre Cruzatte's rifle went off. "Damn you! You shot me!" yelled Meriwether Lewis. The two had been creeping through the bushes "hunting" elk, when Cruzatte, a.k.a Dan Slosberg, spotted a brown hide. However, the hide was being worn by Lewis, a.k.a Bryant Boswell, who then clapped his hands to his rear. When he took his hands away, his seat was a deep red.



Nan Kaeser

Left to right: Bryant Boswell, Orvella Anderson, and Sid Stoffels at the Williston re-enactment.

Amid the crowd watching stood Orvie, snapping photos. I had enticed her to join me in Lewis and Clark State Park, North Dakota. It was her second day here with me and she was having a ball. She met my friends among the re-enactors, including CALCTHF members Sid Stoffels and Dan Slosberg. She learned about the medicines the captains used to treat the

Important Information Included With This Issue

- Auburn Event Flyer
- Ballot for Chapter Officers and Board Members
- Fund Raiser Flyer
- New Membership Cards

Fort Clatsop Rebuilt by Robert Allison, Jr.

In January 2007, I had the opportunity to visit the rebuilt Fort Clatsop near Astoria, Oregon. The rebuilt fort was officially dedicated on December 9, 2006. As with the first replica, it was built to the exact specifications and dimensions taken from the rough plan that Clark had sketched on the cover of his elk-skin journal in 1805.

My uncle, who lives in Oregon, sent me a copy of a December 8, 2006 Salem newspaper, the *Statesman Journal*, which had several articles about the reconstructed fort. Those articles and my personal knowledge from having visited the site a number of times over the years form the basis for this article.¹

According to the *Statesman Journal*, the new fort is a "rustic replica" and "more realistic than the previous fort built on the site." In addition, the "National Park Service historians are confident that it's closer in design to the fort that Lewis and Clark built in 1805 than the one that burned down a year ago."

When I was there in January, the reconstructed fort was mostly but not totally completed. "The new fort was built with

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20-foot logs. The result is that the front and back walls jut out the width of a log in the middle span, where the sections are cribbed together."

That architectural feature bothered me as it didn't seem to match Clark's drawing of straight walls. The day I was there Park Service workers were still finishing the cabin interiors. They were building a log and board storage loft in one of the enlisted men's cabins. The log chimneys still hadn't been built on the cabin roofs and the log walls of the fort had not yet been caulked so daylight was still showing through the cracks.

The first replica was built in 1955 and stood for 50 years before burning to the ground during the night of October 3, 2005. Ironically, that replica likely lasted longer than Lewis and Clark's original fort.

Because Lewis and Clark were short on both supplies and trade goods for their parties' return trip, they left absolutely nothing behind when they left the fort (other than the paper posted on the fort wall telling of their amazing transcontinental trip). The weather in the area is very damp and the ground has been disturbed a lot since the 1800s. As a result of these factors, there was nothing left to help modern re-constructors in the 1950's determine the exact footprint of the original fort. Archeological excavations have revealed little.

According to Chip Jenkins, superintendent of the new Lewis and Clark National Historic Park, the location of the first replica was "established by the historical society based on the first-person recollection of the daughter of the original homesteaders" who "remembered the moldering pile of logs" covered with blackberry vines, that everyone referred to as "Lewis's Fort", and that her father burned "because it was in his way of farming." This was in 1841 or 1842 - only 37 years after Lewis and Clark had built the fort.²



Cover of Clark's 1805 elk-skin journal with sketch of Fort Clatsop



Raising the flag at the dedication ceremony for the rebuilt Fort Clatsop



Firing of flintlock muskets at the dedication ceremony



The rebuilt Fort Clatsop

Photo credits.

*Top: Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, Missouri;
Middle Two: The Daily Astorian;
Bottom: the Statesman Journal.*

Even though the reconstructed fort may not be on the exact footprint of the original, it is close. According to Jenkins, the "fort of today is pretty doggone close to where the first fort was constructed".

For those of you who have visited the first replica, you will remember that it was built of uniformly milled logs - sawed off neatly at the ends and treated with a greenish colored copper chromate wood preservative. Unlike the original, it was also built on a concrete foundation. That was likely why it stood in good condition for 50 years whereas the original was a "mouldering pile of logs" in less than 37 years.

Historians have determined that Lewis and Clark likely had only one small saw with them when they reached the Pacific. The trees were most likely felled with axes. Accordingly, the ends of the logs of the current replica are hand hewn. It's possible that Lewis and Clark didn't take time to peel the bark off of the logs. In both replicas, the logs were peeled. If a wood preservative was used on the logs of the rebuilt fort, it is a much more natural appearing brown color than the greenish preservative used on the first replica.

Lewis and Clark built their fort in about two weeks with from 12 to 31 men (all hands) working on it with relatively primitive hand tools. They borrowed planks for some of the roofing and flooring from abandoned Clatsop lodges on the Columbia as well as split their own. Volunteers and Park Service crews using chain saws and power tools took 12 months to complete the replica. Much of the work was done at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds. In all, 667 people volunteered to work on the new fort. That comparison (two weeks and 12 to 31 men versus one year and 667 people) points out how, in Jenkins words, "ragged the original fort might have looked."

The Park Service needed a structure

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that would last for another 50 years or longer so they had to make some compromises in authenticity. For instance, it has a concrete foundation, peeled logs, a state-of-the-art electronic fire surveillance system, fire retardant buffers between the fireplaces and the wooden-plank floor boards and was built in a less rugged fashion than the original. According to Pete Field, manager of the re-building project, "We tried to make the current replica slightly irregular, but not so much it causes maintenance issues. And we didn't want the ends sticking out a lot because we didn't want it to look like a ladder to a kid, who might crawl up it."

The Salem newspaper articles also pointed out how Jenkins turned a disastrous situation (the original replica burning down on his watch) into a very positive outcome. Using the same community involvement approach as he used in the building of the Fort to Sea Trail, Mr. Jenkins rallied the local communities' support and participation in the rebuilding effort. As mentioned above, over 600 people participated who now have a sense of ownership in the National Park.

The Statesman Journal also interviewed Terry O'Casey of Seaside, Oregon, who summed up nicely the importance of historic sites such as Fort Clatsop, "I believe it is important to have national shrines like this to recreate the adventurous spirit of the early Americans, the willingness to work as a team, the willingness to take phenomenal risks, the willingness to endure hardships together to achieve a goal. Places like this allow us to reflect and recapture that early American spirit." The 1,500 acre National Park containing the reconstructed fort now draws 260,000 visitors per year.

Robert Allison, Jr.

Robert Allison, Jr. is a regular contributor to Golden Notes. Robert lives in South Lake Tahoe, CA.

¹ All quotations in this article are from the December 8, 2006 issue of the Salem, Oregon, Statesman Journal, p. 1A and pp. 4A-5A.

² This account of how long the remnants of the original fort lasted and how its site was located is at variance with information contained in Moulton which states that "Remnants of the fort ... were still visible into the early 1870s and it was relocated through archaeological excavations." (Moulton, Vol. 6, page 115, footnote 7.)

President's Notes

Included with this issue of *Golden Notes* you will find several items that I'd like everyone to pay special attention to.

First, your new membership card is included. If you find we have made an error in any of the information contained there, please contact Mary Ann Kvenvolden at (650) 328-0414. Also, you will find a flyer which contains the latest information about our Chapter event in Auburn this month and details on the location. Please note that the date is now 21 April (5-7 PM). You will also find that you have another chance to own a Pendleton Peace and Freedom blanket. These blankets have been donated to our Chapter by the Foundation, are of very high quality, and could likely become a collectors item in the years to come because of the limited number made.

Finally, you will find a ballot for electing new Board members. I want to thank Nan, Bob, and Nelson for agreeing to offer their services and also to Keith and Mary Ann for agreeing to run for another term. We did not receive any other volunteers but, as you will notice from the ballot, a space has been provided for write-ins.

Ken



Some useful information about the confluence area if you are planning a visit.



Some 2007 Dates to Remember

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|---|--|
| 📍 Chapter Event: | 21 April (5-7 PM)
Auburn, CA Library |
| 📍 LCTHF Annual Meeting: | 5-7 August
Charlottesville, VA |
| 📍 Chapter Event: | October (tentative)
San Luis Rey Mission
Oceanside, CA |
| 📍 Photo Exhibition "Lewis & Clark Revisited: A Trail in Modern Day" | 3 March to 2 June
Hayward Area
Historical Society
22701 Main Street
Hayward, CA
(7 Oct-2 Dec in Corona, CA) |

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On the Trail (continued from page 1)

expedition members and natives. She learned of the different clothing the corps members wore. Everyone who met Orvie liked her immediately. Her enthusiasm and enjoyment were so evident! Bryant Boswell dressed her in his self-made replica of Lewis' ermine-otter cape. She learned about some of the plants the expedition recorded for science. She and I watched Dan Slosberg's musical performance (twice) as Cruzatte and we also met two of Dan's children who were traveling with him. We attended (in the rain) Bryant's presentation on the experiences of the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles up to this time during the three and one half year bicentennial commemoration.



Betty Kleusner

Re-enactment of the famous shooting of Lewis by Cruzatte.
Top: Lewis (left) (a.k.a. Bryant Boswell) and Pierre Cruzatte
(a.k.a. Dan Slosberg) "hunting" for elk.
Middle: Cruzatte's shot. Bottom: Lewis is shot.

At the time of the reenactment of the famous shooting, Cruzatte's shot was the signal for the start of the Annual Williston 8K Butt Run. Of course Orvie knew half the people entered in the race. The park is just outside her hometown of Williston.

Orvie is a non-stop woman, interested in what ever is going on and is a tireless volunteer who is always helping out her friends, relatives and neighbors. She seldom sits still. During the occasional hours she is at



Nan Kaeser (right) and her friend Orvella Anderson
(Thomas A. Kvanme | Williston Herald)

home, she is either running upstairs or running downstairs into the basement. Orvella Anderson is 84 years old.

It was because of her two days per week volunteering in the hospital in Williston that we met while I was recuperating there four years earlier.¹ We have been friends ever since. Of the three times I have visited Williston while following The Trail, this was the second time I had been to her home.

Well, after this last visit, she became a Lewis and Clark enthusiast (and even joined our Chapter!). She had such a good time during those two days we spent among the re-enactors - she wanted to see everything and meet everyone! In the other days of my visit with her she showed me all over western North Dakota. We stopped at many scenic and historical places of interest. I enjoyed the beauty of the rolling farmland, the blue sky and the incredibly white, fluffy clouds.

As I was leaving to continue following the return trail to St. Louis, Missouri, she called after me, "Be sure and give each of my new friends a big hug for me when you see them."

Nan

Nan Kaeser is a regular contributor to Golden Notes. Nan lives in Sierra Madre, CA.

¹ Editor's Note: Orvie and Nan met in 2002 while Nan was recuperating in Williston's Mercy Medical Center after she incurred a life threatening injury when a bison attacked her while she was hiking in the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Because of this incident, Nan is know affectionately in Williston as "Buffalo Nan".

**Fort Union Trading Post
Gem of the Upper Missouri**

**Part 1
“The Trade House”**

by Ken Jutzi

Background

On April 26, 1805, struggling against strong winds and a cold rising current, a small flotilla of six dugout canoes and two large pirogues arrived at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers. The flotilla was William Clark and most of the Corps of Discovery.¹

Lewis, who had decided to walk onshore the previous day to examine the area and to take celestial measurements for locating the mouth of the Yellowstone, joined the party that evening. Lewis writes that he "found them all in good health, and much pleased at having arrived at this long wished for spot, and in order to add in some measure to the general pleasure which seemed to pervade our little community, we ordered a dram to be issued to each person; this soon produced the fiddle, and they spent the evening with much hilarity, singing & dancing, and seemed as perfectly to forget their past toils, as they appeared regardless of those to come."²



Fort Union on the Missouri by Karl Bodmer (1833)

It was indeed fitting that the Corps of Discovery enjoyed themselves that evening as they were now on the edge of their maps and about to engage uncharted territory. They were also much impressed with the area. All of the journalists write about the natural beauty as well as the abundant wildlife they encountered. Private Joseph Whitehouse described it as a “handsome point”³; Sergeant John Ordway a “handsom bottom” with “beautiful country in every direction”⁴; and Sergeant Patrick Gass “the most beautiful rich plains I ever beheld”⁵. Lewis writes that “the whol face of the country was covered with herds of Buffaloe, Elk & Antelopes ... the buffaloe Elk and Antelope are so gentle that we pass near them while feeding, without apearing to excite any alarm among them.”⁶ Clark indicates that there were “beaver at every bend”⁷. The Captains also recognized that the confluence area would be an ideal place for a military or trading fort and both write many words describing why.⁸

Upon returning to St. Louis seventeen months later, Lewis continued to extoll the virtues of the confluence. In his September 21, 1806 letter to Jefferson he writes "We examined the country minutely" at the confluence “and found it possessed of every natural advantage necessary for an establishment, it's position in a geographical point of view has destined it for one of the most important establishments both as it regards the fur trade and the government of the natives in that quarter of the continent.”⁹

It did not take long for others to follow. As the corps were returning down-river, they encountered more than a hundred fur traders heading up river. Even one of their own, John Colter, decided he would rather go back west and join the fur trade than return to St. Louis.¹⁰ Two years later, John Jacob Astor began to assemble his North American fur trading empire and in 1828, Kenneth McKenzie, now running Astor’s Upper Missouri Outfit, sees the need for a fort at the confluence and begins the construction of Fort Union.¹¹

Located on the upper Missouri River on the present-day Montana-North Dakota border, Fort Union was the nineteenth century's most important and longest-surviving fur trading post. At this post, American Indians and people of many races created a system of community law that sustained a remote frontier society. Scientists, artists, researchers, and missionaries were frequent visitors. Fort Union affected

U.S. relations with Great Britain, whose powerful Hudson's Bay Company competed for furs on the upper Missouri, and with the Blackfeet, Crow, Cree, and other Indian tribes.¹² Fort Union was in operation for almost four decades, from 1828 to 1867.

Today a part of this “remote frontier society” has been reconstructed and preserved as the Fort Union National Historic Site. I had heard about the site but never had the opportunity to visit it myself until last July when I was “in the area” attending the Bicentennial Signature Event *Clark on the Yellowstone* held in Billings, Montana. I spent a full day touring the site and visiting the nearby confluence interpretative center. I so enjoyed my experience and the rich history so well exhibited there that I decided to write a series of articles to share my experience with others.

When the National Park Service acquired the property in 1966, grass covered the entire site. Four low ridges form-

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ing a near square indicated the line of the palisades and two mounds at the northeast and southwest corners the location of the stone bastions. Two other mounds within the enclosure marked the powder magazine and the bourgeois (manager's) house.

The National Park Service excavated the stone foundations of the palisades, the main house and its kitchen, the Indian reception building, and the main gate, and has tested for most other buildings. During this process, it uncovered artifacts relating to life at the fort - eating utensils, beer bottles, buttons, metal parts of trapping gear and harnesses, china, pottery, and glass.

Between 1985 and 1991 the Park Service reconstructed portions of the old trading post, including the walls, stone bastions, Indian Trade House, and Bourgeois House. The surrounding lands are also being controlled to provide an authentic mid-19th century setting.¹³

This article focuses on the Trade House and is the first of a four part series on Fort Union. Most of the information in this article, and those which will follow, has been obtained from information sheets provided by the National Park Service.¹⁴

Trade House Construction

The Trade House consists of three rooms: The Reception Room, the Trade Shop, and the Clerk's Office. As the Trade House would be the center of the trading process, it was important to have it operational as soon as possible. It is perhaps for this reason that the trade house differs in style of construction from the rest of the fort. The rough-hewn logs and the sod roof most definitely stand out from the rest of the fort. Since the house was so well suited to its role, it retained the same basic configuration for the majority of the 39 years of the post's existence.

The Reception Room was the first room entered and was easily the most important of the three rooms. It was in the Reception Room where Indian chiefs met with the traders to discuss the terms of the trade, where stories were told, and small feasts were held. The room was sparsely furnished, with only one bench for sitting, but decorated with many curios from both cultures.

The Trade Shop was a room used to show fur company wares. It stocked more than 200 different items ranging from metal knives to tin cups to brass rings. Items of the Trade Shop generally fell into one of two categories: labor-saving and ornamental.

The Clerk's Office was located in the third room of the Trade House. This room was used by clerks to track the paper work involved in running the fort, such as inventories of trade goods. Also, the room was occasionally used

as a meeting place between the bourgeois and important Indian chiefs.

Trade Negotiations

When a band of Indians (usually Assiniboine but also Crow, Cree and Blackfeet) arrived to trade, the chief and his head men were usually brought into the Reception Room to meet with a trader, one or two engages (laborers), and, if necessary, an interpreter. Upon their arrival the Indians found a fire blazing in the huge fireplace and coffee and buffalo stew or corn mush boiling in large kettles. After everyone was seated, bowls of steaming food were distributed, along with cups of sweetened coffee.

After the meal, pipes were brought forth, with the trader offering tobacco so that everyone could fill his pipe bowl. After the smoke, the trader stood and made a speech. In his remarks the trader emphasized a central theme: friendship and peace. The chief had probably been bringing his band to Fort Union for years, and he and the trader may have become good friends. The men of the fort commonly married Indian women, so they may have even



been related. When the trader finished his speech the chief spoke in his turn, repeating many of the same things that the trader had said. He also told how his people survived the winter, and described any recent hardships.

Gifts changed hands after the speech making. The trader might give the chief some black powder, coffee, sugar, tobacco, beads, or maybe even a musket. In exchange, the chief might present the trader with a bow and arrows in a skin quiver, a rawhide parfleche (storage bag), or a beaded and quilled pipe bag.

Finally, the two men got down to the matter of trade negotiation. To do so before this moment would have been rude. At a sign or word from the chief, one of his followers spread out a buffalo robe and some other furs for the trader to examine. These were represented as typical of the type and quality of furs brought to Fort Union. The trader examined the furs, especially the buffalo robe, with great diligence, paying careful attention to the quality of fur and tanning.

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While the trader examined the skins, the chief and his men talked about the furs. They told the trader how the men had scouted many long days for the herds of buffalo, how they lost good ponies in the hunt, or how the women worked tirelessly to skin the animals and tan the hides.

Trade Goods

After the trader examined the skins, he ordered an engage to retrieve a few items from the Trade Shop. These would be some of the newest items to arrive on the summer steamboats. As the chief and his men examined the goods, the trader praised them. He might brag that the new wool blankets were much better than those of the previous year, or assure the Indians that the bottom of the tin cup would not falloff after steaming hot coffee was poured into it. Once both parties had examined each other's wares,



serious negotiations began. The chief conferred with his men, asking them what they thought of the new trade goods. The trader, in turn, conferred with the clerks.

When this was concluded, the trader and the shrewdest negotiator among the Indians, who may or may not have been the chief, began dickering over the value of the skins and goods. This process could last for hours.

Once everyone was pleased with the values set on the robes and trade goods, the trade began. The chief and his men traded first, acquiring all that they desired before returning to camp. There, the chief announced to everyone that trading could now commence. On this news, the people made their way to the fort to trade. The band then visited old friends and family in the fort, feasted and relaxed.

After a week or so, the entire band, having acquired all they needed or wanted, broke camp one morning and moved off through the breaks. After a few parting salutations, the band disappeared until next year.

The Trade House Today

Just as the Trade House of old was Fort Union's focal point, today's Trade House is the center of the modern Historic Site. The Trade House is the only building at Fort Union completely refurbished to the appearance of 1851, thanks largely to the sketches and the journal of Rudolph Kurz, a Swiss artist in the employ of the American Fur Company from 1851-1852. Also, the Trade House is fully restocked, based on the inventories of 1851. It thus appears today much as it did in the mid-nineteenth century.

Next (Part 2): "The Assiniboine"



Fort Union National Historic Site
(as viewed from Bodmer's Lookout)



Left to right: Reception Room; entrance to the Trade Shop with cultural curios hanging on the walls; inside the Trade Shop with the gracious NPS re-enactor who made me feel so welcome.

¹ Duncan, Dayton, *Scenes of Visionary Enchantment*, University of Nebraska Press, 2004, p. 63.

² Moulton, Vol. 4, p. 70.

³ Moulton, Vol. 11, p. 139.

⁴ Moulton, Vol. 9, pp. 138-139.

⁵ Moulton, Vol. 10, p. 83.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 67.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 75.

⁸ Moulton, Vol. 4, p. 74 (Clark); p. 77 (Lewis); and p. 80 (footnote 1).

⁹ Jackson, Donald, ed., *Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and Related Documents, 1783-1854*, Vol. 1, p. 318.

¹⁰ Duncan, Dayton, *Scenes of Visionary Enchantment*, University of Nebraska Press, 2004, p. 70.

¹¹ Thompson, Erwin N., *Fort Union Trading Post, Fur Trade Empire on the Upper Missouri*, Fort Union Association, Williston, North Dakota, 2003, pp. 1-13. *The record is not entirely clear as to when the construction of Fort Union actually began. It does indicate, however, that Prince Maximilian, an important visitor to Fort Union in 1833, learned from McKenzie that construction began in the autumn of 1828 (Thompson, p. 11). Prince Maximilian was of course accompanied by the famous artist Karl Bodmer and the Prince's visit was part of his well known 1832-1833 journey across North America. The National Park Service also uses 1828 as the year when construction began in their official map and guide for the Fort Union National Historic Site.*

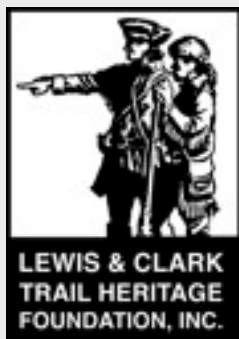
¹² Barbour, Barton H., *Fort Union and the Upper Missouri Fur Trade*, University of Oklahoma Press (Norman), 2001. (back cover)

¹³ *Fort Union National Historic Site brochure*, National Park Service, 2003.

¹⁴ *Most of the information in this article about the Trade House was obtained from the National Park Service's information sheet entitled Fort Union's Trade House, Fort Union National Historic Site, Williston, ND (no date)*

About Our Organization

The California Chapter is a non-profit organization. We are dedicated to stimulating public appreciation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's contributions to America's heritage. We actively support education, research, development, and preservation of the Lewis and Clark experience, and we seek ways to support trail stewardship. We also have fun! To learn more please visit us at: <http://web.mac.com/calcthf>.



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Keepers of the Story
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Golden Notes is published on a semi-annual (January and July) or quarterly (January, April, July and October) basis depending upon the availability of funding to cover our printing and mailing costs.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send them to CALCTHF, c/o Golden Notes Editor, P.O. Box 1767, Camarillo, CA 93011-1767, or email to calcthf@roadrunner.com.

Newsletter Editor
 Ken Jutzi

CALCTHF	
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All new CALCTHF memberships include a copy of the booklet A Charbonneau Family Portrait by Irving W. Anderson. This booklet contains historically accurate biographical sketches of Sacagawea, Jean Baptiste "Pomp", and Toussaint Charbonneau.

CALCTHF memberships also include a subscription to Golden Notes, which will be published at least twice a year. Patron Level members receive their copy of Golden Notes in color. Memberships of more than \$10 are tax deductible.

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* Full time student (to age 21)

PLEASE NOTE

To help everyone remember when their Chapter membership is due for renewal, that information now appears on everyone's mailing label. In addition, included with this issue of *Golden Notes* is your Chapter membership card (sample opposite). It also contains the expiration date of your membership.

To renew your membership, please review the membership options listed above and send your check or money order to Keith Kvenvolden at the above address prior to your expiration date. This really helps us avoid the effort and cost of sending out reminder notices. For those of you who have already done this - Thank You!

If you believe your information is incorrect, please contact Mary Ann Kvenvolden at: (650) 328-0414.



Sample of New Membership Cards

For Sale
Lewis and Clark Prints

by
 Charles Russell, David Wright,
 John Clymer, and others

To view them, and the details associated with purchase, see the **Galleries Page** of our website located at:

<http://web.mac.com/calcthf>

25% of the selling price will be donated to our chapter

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\$913.73