Phil Scriver Explore the Big Sky Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Signature Event Event Papers

Inclusive Dates:
1999-2006

Name and Location of Repository:
William P. Sherman Library and Archives Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Great Falls, MT

Collection Processed by:
Dick Smith, 2007

Finding aid prepared by:

Collection Number:
AR 013

Name of Creator:
Phil Scriver

Extent:
1.5 linear feet.

Historical Note:
From 1999 through 2006 Phil was a member, then chairman, of the Upper Missouri Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission (a regional group comprised of Cascade and Choteau Counties); board member of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Association; board then a regular member of the Portage Route Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. (LCTHF); co-chairman of the Lewis and Clark Honor Guard Signature Event Committee (participating in 25 of the 33 days of the Honor Guard’s historical re-enactments during the signature event); a member of the Explore the Big Sky planning group (serving on the finance committee and the events committee).

Phil has been actively involved in Lewis and Clark since 1972 and a member of LCTHF since 1975. He also chaired/co-chaired the Great Falls annual four-day Lewis and Clark Festival, headed by the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Association, for four years, an event that started in 1989 and still continues today. Phil, a relative of Montana artist Bob Scriver, headed up two projects that commissioned Bob to create outdoor bronze statues of Lewis and Clark – Explorers at the Marias in Fort Benton, Montana and Explorers at the Portage in Great Falls, Montana. Both were large budget, multi-year projects.
In the late 1990s, Phil was actively involved in three of the four different Lewis and Clark organizations in Great Falls. Jane Weber, director of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center and board member of the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council sent an e-mail to Phil (which he attributes to his diverse background of involvement) suggesting a proposal be submitted to the National Council to host a “signature event” in Great Falls during the bicentennial. Phil mulled the idea over for six months but never responded to that e-mail. He received another e-mail from Jane reiterating the suggestion of a signature event in Great Falls. A brief meeting between Jane and Phil resulted in Phil developing a proposal using Jane’s basic outline of what the National Council wanted.

Phil drew on his Festival Chair experience and historical knowledge to develop a project he named “Discovering the Big Sky.” The project would cover a period of 33 days during June and early July of 2005 corresponding to the dates the expedition was in the Choteau/Cascade County area in 1805. Phil’s knowledge of the local groups made it clear to him that no single organization or group existed to host the signature event. A new entity would need to be established for the express purpose of staging the event then “go away” when it was completed. However, a document needed to be prepared and an acceptable proposal first needed to be submitted to the National Council.

Phil took on the challenge and drafted the proposal. Next an informal steering committee came together to review the proposal and establish the working group that would stage the event, once National Council approval came. Phil invited representatives from various groups he had worked with to put together the Lewis and Clark Festival. The National Council approved Phil’s proposal and the working group established. With its work done, the steering committee dissolved. As the working group came together new events were added to the initial proposal and the name was changed to “Explore the Big Sky.”

**Scope and Content:**
These files contain the papers Phil accumulated while planning for and participating in the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial from 1999 through 2006. They show his involvement in local, regional and state Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committees/Commissions as well as his focus on the signature event held in Cascade and Choteau Counties of Montana.

**Arrangement:**
Phil’s papers are arranged in three series. Series one is material on Phil’s involvement with various Bicentennial Committees: Montana Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee, Upper Missouri Bicentennial Commission and the local Bicentennial Commission. Series two is material about the Discovering the Big Sky Lewis and Clark Bicentennial signature event which became the Explore the Big Sky Lewis and Clark Bicentennial signature event.
Subject Terms:
Discovering Big Sky Country
Explore Big Sky Country
Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Signature Event
Lewis and Clark Honor Guard
Montana Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee
Upper Missouri Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission

Accession Information:

Acquisition Source:
Phil Scriver delivered the papers to the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation office in Great Falls, Montana.

Access Restrictions:
The collection is open for use.

Use Restrictions:
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Preferred Citation:
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Phil Scriver *Explore the Big Sky* Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Signature Event Papers, 1999 – 2006
AR 013

**Box Listing:**
Box 1:
Series 1: Bicentennial Committees/Commissions
   Sub-Series 1: Montana Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee
   Folder 1: Application and form to serve
       Grant Applications and proposals
       Newsletters
       Case Study
       Correspondence
   Sub-Series 2: Upper Missouri Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial Commission
       Folder 2: Meetings, agendas and packets
       Folder 3: Current Month
       Folder 4: Correspondence, meetings, grant applications
       Folder 5: Committee Projects
   Sub-Series 3: Great Falls Area Bicentennial Commission
       Folder 6: Local Bicentennial Commission

Series 2: Discovering the Big Sky/Explore the Big Sky Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Signature Event
   Sub-series 1: Discovering the Big Sky Signature Event
       Folder 7: Original Application
       Folder 8: Correspondence
       Folder 9: Miscellaneous
       Folder 10: Discovery Council
       Folder 11: Events Committee
       Honor Guard Re-Enactment
       Folder 12: Finance Committee
   Sub-series 2: Exploring the Big Sky Signature Event
       Folder 13: Lewis and Clark Honor Guard Planning Vol. 1
       Folder 14: Lewis and Clark Honor Guard Planning Vol. 2
       Folder 15: Lewis and Clark Honor Guard Planning Vol. 3