

Worthy of Notice

Washington State Chapter, LCTHF, Inc.
www.wa-lcthf.org

April 2007 Newsletter
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Tim Underwood, Editor
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President's Message:

As we begin a new year (and a new administration) we leave the bicentennial behind; all the hoopla, the heightened enthusiasm, the frustrations in some cases, but we are not leaving The Story of the Corps of Discovery! In fact, we are moving ahead with renewed vigor to further assure that the work that has been accomplished is not lost, and to continue the task of better-educating the public to the correct story.

On the first point, we need to continue our efforts to identify and preserve The Trail lest it be lost permanently, as so much of it already has been. Though many sites have been saved, there are many that have not. These sites are in jeopardy of being lost because of non-interested landowners. This is even the case within Washington State. These landowners need to be approached and convinced to consider saving these important historical sites.

Regarding the latter point, much printed material still tender little space to this most important American expedition. Likewise, little space and incorrect information still permeates the text books in our schools. This type of apocrypha is hard to dispel, but must be addressed constantly for change to occur.

It has also been noted that people in many *non* - Lewis and Clark areas of the country were barely aware that there was a bicentennial. This, despite the involvement of the Federal Government!

The mission set for the chapter in the near future seems pretty clear; we must maintain what we have accomplished to date, and continue to exert our efforts for the preservation of The Lewis and Clark story. This task has already been started by the Washington State Historical Society through their cataloging program in which they are compiling a list of LC sites within the state. We need to help perpetuate this project and encourage others to do likewise. Together, we can make a difference. (If you are aware of any sites that might be associated with the Corps of Discovery, please contact me so we can have the site listed.)

I would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to the members who felt confident enough in my abilities to elect me to the post of President. I shall try to carry our chapter through this difficult time ("lull") where so many have run their course of enthusiasm for The Story. I don't see any big changes in the over-all operations of the chapter. We will continue to hold our annual business meeting in Tacoma in February and at least two field meetings somewhere along The Trail so members can see locations and sites as we have in the past. Likewise, the programs will continue to present information LC topics and related information for the enjoyment and education of members. Should any of you have suggestions about appropriate locations or topics that you would like to be considered, please contact me or our Program Chair, Doc Wesselius.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events as we "proceed on" into the third century!

Regards,
Tim Underwood

Annual Business Meeting, Tacoma

The annual Chapter Business Meeting was held Saturday February 3, 2007 at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma. About 40 members were present for the meeting. President Gary Lenz was unable to make the meeting, which was conducted by Vice President Tim Underwood.

Steve Lee made an announcement about the 9th Annual Lewis & Clark Symposium entitled "Lewis & Clark Among the Nez Perce" which will be held June 21-22 at Lewis & Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho. Keynote Speaker will be Mr. David Nicandri, Director of the Washington State Historical Society Museum in Tacoma. There will also be a variety of other presentations, and a field trip to the Whitebird Hill battle site. These symposia have always been very popular, and we are encouraged to attend. (See page 3 for contact information.)

Kathryn Wang of the Washington State Library provided copies of their recently updated list of A Lewis and Clark Expedition and Bibliography '100 books, 200 years'

Elections were held, and the results are:

President – Tim Underwood

Vice President – Jill Dykeman

Treasurer - Rennie Kubik

Secretary and Membership – Robert Heacock

All of the Board members have been retained from last year.

The Treasurers Report was provided by Rennie Kubik. The beginning balance for 2006 was \$4,005.04. Expenses for 2006 totaled \$1,008.14 while Income was \$1,976.11. The year-ending balance was \$4,973.01.

Membership renewals to date total about 40. (Please send your renewal forms in if you haven't done so.)

Our guest speaker was Chapter member Tom Laidlaw of Vancouver, Washington who entertained us with his presentation of "The Fur Trade after Lewis and Clark." The story covers three decades, and centers on John Jacob Astor and the Pacific Fur Company. It also included several other parties including Capt. Robert Grey, Alexander MacKenzie, Simon Fraser, David Thompson, Thomas Jefferson, Charles McKenzie, Francois Antone LaRoche, Nickolai Rezenov, Pierre Dorian, Manuel Lisa, Toussiant Charbonneau, The Northwest Company and The Hudson Bay Company. One figure of the time noted that the town of Astoria was the result of "the release of the bow by Lewis and Clark." The story ends with the May 2, 1843 meeting at Champoeg, (Oregon, near St. Paul) where by a 52 to 50 vote, a provisional government was set up that eventually became the Oregon Territory.

Submitted by
Robert Heacock

Special Note: Hubbard Collection

The chapter recently purchased the book collection of the late Harry Hubbard of Seattle. Harry was a former chapter member and founder of the bicentennial council in 19991. The collection includes a complete first edition set of Gary Moulton's edition of the Lewis and Clark Journals, a copy of Dr. Eldon Chuinard's "Only One Man Died," David Lavender's "The Way to the Western Sea" and Martin Plamondon's "Lewis and Clark Trail Maps, Volume 1." All are in mint condition and are excellent works for the LC enthusiast. The intention is to auction these volumes to the membership at the next business meeting in Tacoma next February. The Moulton set will be sold as a set and not individually.

Keep this in mind for next February. A complete list will be published in the November '06 and January '07 WON for you to peruse. Final arrangements for the dispersal of these books will be printed at that time also.

Take this opportunity to add to your own collection of great LC material and support the chapter at the same time.

Washington State Chapter Spring Meeting

(Note: The following is the information from Rob Heacock concerning the chapter Spring meeting to be held in the Pasco area. Note that we will meet first at the Franklin County History Museum in the morning. (Take the E. Lewis St exit off US 12/ I-182 and follow west to 4th. Turn right and find the museum.) We will then move to Sacajawea State Park for lunch and trip information. Please note that there are no food facilities at the park so you will need to bring a sack lunch or find something as you leave Pasco on the way to the park. Also, you should bring water for the hikes. The weather *should* be nice, but plan on anything [everything!])

“Long Bad Rapid”

The Chapter Spring meeting will be held Saturday May 5, 2007 in Eastern Washington. We will start with the Chapter meeting to be held at 10:00 AM at the Franklin County History Museum, located at 305 North 4th Avenue in Pasco. We will also have a tour of the museum, and all are welcome. Lunch will be at Sacajawea State Park and we will leave there at 1:00 PM for the October 14, 1805 campsite at Pine Tree Rapids and Burr Canyon. After traveling down Devils Canyon, an aptly named Ice Age Flood feature, we will meet at Windust Park at 2:00 PM and go from there to view the campsite and an ‘Indian Cave’ possibly mentioned on Clark’s map, and also Lewis’ viewpoint from where he observed the Blue Mountains.

Sunday we will meet at 9:00 AM at Levy Park, 12 miles from Pasco, then travel to Big Flat Habitat Management Unit (HMU) and walk to view the October 15, 1805 camp site at the head of Fishhook Rapids.

Both walks will be on abandoned railroads beds within the Columbia Plateau Trail State Park system. Other sites to see in the area will be Columbia River Exhibition of History, Science and Technology (C.R.E.H.S.T.) 95 Lee Blvd in Richland (with our own Connie Estep as curator) and the Lewis and Clark Trail Interpretive Outlook at Bateman Island among others.

Camping is available at Corps of Engineers facilities Hood Park, Charbonneau Park, and Fishhook Park and undeveloped camping is at Big Flat HMU and Devils Bench. Reservations can be made by calling 877-444-6777. Nearby hotels include Best Western in Pasco 509-543-7722 Pasco Red Lion 509-547-0701 or the Clover Island Inn in Kennewick 509-586-0541.

Lewis and Clark Symposium: Lewis and Clark Among the Nez Perce

June 21-22, 2007 Lewis and Clark State College, Lewiston, Idaho

The 9th annual Lewis and Clark symposium will be held the week of June 21st this year at the college in Lewiston, Idaho. As in the past, there will be regional and national speakers along with cultural demonstrations, re-enactments of the period, a motor coach field trip to the Whitebird Battlefield and guided walking trips, a book-signing and a traditional Nez Perce and early American dinner.

The keynote speaker this year will be Washington State Historical Society Museum Director and author, David Nicandri. There will also be performances by Blackfoot singer/songwriter, lecturer and storyteller Jack Gladstone and by Rod Quist.

For information, you can contact the LCSC Continuing Education & Community Events office at 208-792-2447 or 800-394-4189, or by e-mail at www.lcsc.edu/symposium. Early-bird full registration is \$145 if paid by April 30th. After that date, full registration will be \$170. Your registration includes dinner and the performances.

Comments from members who have attended over the years have all been positive. Everyone has had a good time and learned a great deal. Plan on a long weekend and take in the symposium. Register soon!

Anniversary? Yes! But a Celebration?

Celilo Falls, OR. (AP) – March 10th was an anniversary date, but not one that had much celebration. Fifty years ago, March 10, 1957, the flood gates closed and began the impound of water behind The Dalles Dam. This was also the day the local tribes just dropped their gear - all of it; dip nets, nets scaffolds, everything! In six hours, the falls were gone.

For over 10,000 years – and maybe many more – natives along the Columbia have thrived on the salmon fighting their way upriver over the falls to spawning streams. This same locale was also the site of a native “bazaar” that drew native tribes from all over the west and Alaska to trade, visit, gamble and catch up on news of other areas and tribes. Items such as buffalo, obsidian, shells, meat, furs and slaves were bought and sold along with the local salmon.

Later, as Europeans began calling on the Pacific Northwest coast more frequently, items such as copper and brass, blankets and knives were added to the fare. But the salmon was king!

It was tons of drying salmon that impressed the Corps of Discovery as they worked their way down through the area – around the falls, down the long and short narrows to slack water below Mill Creek and Rock Fort Camp. In all likelihood, they were probably the first white men to see the falls and all of the salmon. Being hungry, the Corps tried to purchase quantities of the dried fish – though cautiously remembering their discomfort at Weippe! – but the prices were very high. Celilo custom called for providing visiting tribes with the salmon they needed, “but the expedition wasn’t tribal and the Celilos were no fools.” Clark wrote – grumbling, no doubt – “They ask high prices for what the[y] Sell and Say that the white people give great prices for everything.” (The tourist industry was born!)

Clark also spent time describing the falls and adjacent rapids as “foaming and boiling in a most horrible manner.”

This all began to change in the 1830s. As gold seekers and waves of settlers moved in, the local tribes were forced out of their tributary valleys. Celilo became their new home. Then, in 1855, treaties put the natives on reservations well away from their customary fishing, hunting and gathering sites. However, they did keep their rights to fish at their “usual and accustomed” places. Thus, the falls remained “an Indian place.” Problem? How to get to their “usual and accustomed places?” The whites who took the former native lands blocked access to fishing sites. Even though access was guaranteed by the treaties, it was illy defined, thus no access in the usual manner to their usual sites.

By the mid-1800s, canning had begun to take a tremendous toll on the number of salmon they could – and did – process. Because of the canneries’ “appetite,” more efficient techniques for catching salmon were implemented; the infamous fish traps and fish wheels, both of which have been outlawed. Coupled with these fishing techniques were pollution and destruction of the spawning habitat in the side canyons that further depleted future stocks. (From as many as 16 million in 1804, the run has shrunk to approximately 1 million in 2006.) But, the dams were the major factor to these losses.

Until the 1930s, native tribes managed to fish the Columbia with reasonable success. Then came Bonneville Dam in 1933. After World War II, the United States was plunging head-long into a Cold War that precipitated a “progress and patriotism” mindset. Add to this the Bonneville Power Administrations’ campaign for “abundant, cheap electricity” and that the falls were a “nuisance to river commerce,” and the “handwriting was on the wall!” All the while there was bad blood between the natives and the white landowners over fishing access. Using the old adage from the Great Plains, get rid of the food supply – the buffalo in this case – and get rid of the Indians, many non-Indian fishermen supported construction: i.e. get rid of the fish, get rid of the Indian.

And so, the falls disappeared!

Today the loss is still plainly painful to many of the local tribal peoples. TO 70-year-old Jay Minthorn of the Umatilla Confederated Tribes, it was “one of the biggest funerals that I ever attended.” He was 20 at the time. Others will not even talk about it; only slam the door in your face. Minthorn remembers one Umatilla member, Wesley Tyus, who said he would never eat fish or salmon again. He never did.

There has been some talk lately about dropping the reservoir level some 40 feet, thus exposing the falls again, even if briefly. But Charles Hudson of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish commission states that “... there is an opinion the ‘Don’t bring them back only to take them away again.’ That pain should not be felt by others,”

In the end, the falls are gone; a way of life is gone. We have all lost!

(Edited from an AP article of March 5, 2007 by Joseph Frazer. WON, 2007.)

Contacting Your Officers and Board Members

The following is the list of new officers and board members for 2007.

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Board Member: Martin

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Washington State Chapter Website: <http://wa-lcthf.org>

Mullan Military Days Conference, May 5-7, 2007 in Spokane, WA

On May 5-7, 2007, there will be a Mullan Military Road conference at the Corbin Senior Center in Spokane, WA. The conference will include presentations from two of our chapter members, Lethene Parks and Tom Laidlaw on Saturday, a car-caravan trip along the Mullan Road on Sunday and an optional field trip on Monday after the morning session concludes.

Anyone interested in the Mullan Road can contact Don Popejoy at 509-328-9368 or dpocalc@hotmail.com, or me for the registration form. The cost is \$40 for the conference and includes a packet of information that you pick up at the registration desk. A list of hotels will also be available in the information.

The Corbin Senior Center is located at West 827 Cleveland in Spokane. You can call 509-327-1584 for directions to the center.

Membership Renewal for 2007

Here we are part way through a new year with one meeting behind us already, and another interesting one just ahead. We are looking for this year to just as fun and interesting as past years have been – and more so! The venues are chosen to give members a variety of sites and histories to learn about, our top priority. There is still a great deal to learn about, discuss, see and absorb concerning not only Lewis and Clark, but other key players that were involved in Pacific Northwest history. Likewise, there is much the chapter can do to assure that The Story is kept alive for future generations and not lost to those who would rather revise what history has attained. Keeping the apocrypha from coming to the forefront is much harder than presenting the facts. And we still need to identify parts of The Trail and make sure they are not lost to oblivion again.

As you can see, there is still a great deal to be done. Your help as a member is important. Please take a few minutes to renew your membership with the chapter and, hopefully, the national foundation. Many of you have done so already, and for that we thank you. But most of us need to take care of this small task. The dues have NOT changed; it is still \$15 per year per membership! Not per person, not per family, just per membership. We have done this to encourage more membership in the chapter and the foundation. And please tell a friend who might be interested in The Story that they are very welcome to join in the camaraderie too.

Send your dues to Rob using the form below so you don't miss any activities for 2007.

(NOTE: If you are not sure of your status, contact Rob for clarification. He can be reached at 509-924-4020 or at heacock1@mindspring.com.)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

*Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

*E-mail _____

**Optional – will be included with membership roster*

Chapter Membership

\$15.00 per year (Jan – Dec) for any person, family, firm, association or corporation.

Please make checks payable to:

Washington State Chapter LCTHF, Inc.

Mail to: Rob Heacock, Membership Chair

13908 E. 27th Ct

Veradale, WA 99037

Dues are kept as low as possible to encourage wide membership. In addition, members are encouraged to make supplemental donations to help support the organization.

Please mark if address has changed.

NOTE: If you have recently renewed your membership, thank you. Please disregard this notice.

Future Events for the Washington State Chapter

May 5-6, 2007 – Washington State chapter spring meeting in Pasco, WA. A tour of the Franklin County museum will begin the weekend followed by a lunch at Sacajawea State Park at the mouth of the Snake River. After lunch, the scene changes to the Windust area for the hikes to the October 14th campsite and the Indian caves.

Sunday will be a short trip to Levy Park, the Big Flat Habitat Management Unit and the October 15th campsite.

Join us for more LC adventures in the field! (See page 3 for complete information.)

May 12, 2007 – The Oregon Chapter is hosting Joan Hockaday of Bainbridge Island as she presents a program on the Columbia Gorge Wildflowers of Lewis and Clark at 10:30 Saturday at the Troutdale Historical Society's "Old Barn." After a short lunch break, there will be a guided trip east into the Gorge to the town of Mosier to view the plants and hopefully meet with experts and LC aficionados, Jerry and Mike Igo. This should be a wonderful outing just before Mother's Day.

For more information, contact Larry McClure at larry.mcclure@gmail.com and/or the Troutdale Historical Society for directions to the "Old Barn" at www.troutdalehistoricalsociety.com.

June 9, 2007 – The dedication of the new visitors center interpretive building at Sacajawea State Park will begin at 10:00 on Saturday morning.

July 4, 2007 – There will be presentations at the Nichaqwli village site at the west end of Blue Lake in Troutdale, OR. This is the village where Capt. Clark visited on his way to explore the Multnomah (Willamette) River in April 1806.

November 9-11, 2007 – Ocian In View will continue! The operations have been passed from the Friends of Pacific County to the Ilwaco Heritage Museum so that the event can continue this year. There will be speakers, a dinner, tours and our own Gary Lentz. Watch future WONs for more information.

WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

128 Galaxie Road
Chehalis, WA 98532

April 2007 Newsletter



The mission of the LCTHF is to stimulate appreciation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's contribution to America's heritage and to support education, research, development and preservation of the Lewis and Clark experience.