



## **In the Footsteps of Lewis and Clark, Sept. 6 – 23, 2009**

### **Daily Journal**

**By Amy Bernd**

Note: This journal was begun on Day 5, Sept. 10, after **Amy Bernd** took on the job of reporting the previous day's mileage. This is a statistic I like to have, but usually do not have time to keep up with myself. So Amy took on the job and reported not only the mileage, but a short rundown of the day. It was very popular and another facet of our journey that paralleled the Corps of Discovery. Thanks, Amy **Tom Laidlaw, Historian**

#### **Day 5, Thursday Sept. 10, Council Bluffs, IA to Yankton, SD – 194 miles, total 762**

On a beautiful sunny day with a gentle breeze, with good driver Marv on our ever faithful keel-bus, we stopped first at the Lewis & Clark Park in Onawa, IA to experience the keelboat. We all fit on and Butch the Keelboat Man taught us that going downstream you sail and row—upstream you do whatever it takes to get upstream, mainly poling and cordelling (towing with a long rope). The cannon blowing were fun.

Next we viewed Sgt. Charles Floyd's monument, an obelisk dedicated to "all pilgrims who go ahead of others in service to their country. At the Family Recreation Center at Sioux City, IA Bev Hinds taught us all about the medicines used on the L&C Expedition. We then went to the Sioux City Interpretive Center and saw beautiful murals of the expedition. One was of the capture of the deserter, Moses Reed.

Then we crossed the Missouri to travel in Nebraska for awhile, and re-crossed into Vermilion, SD and historic Spirit Mound, where we planted our flag after a 20 minute walk up, then boarded the bus for the Best Western.

Three cheers for good driver Marv, knowledgeable and entertaining Historian, Tom and kind and caring Group Leader, Grace.

#### **Day 6, Friday Sept 11, Yankton, SD to Pierre, SD – 269 miles, total 1031**

At 7:50 a.m. we departed the Best Western Kelly Inn in Yankton on a very overcast day. As we approached our 9:30 rest stop at the Fort Randall Casino a light rain was briefly felt. We re-boarded our keelbus and crossed the Missouri River on the Fort Randall Dam, which produces electricity. We drove around the historic Fort Randall Chapel. As we crossed back over the dam we headed north on route 50 proceeding on our way to Chamberlain. (I noted a weather coincidence in our Guidebook to the L&C Trail. On page 50 it reports: "Sept 11, 1804 – It was raining hard as the expedition's boats made halting progress as they approached today's Snake Creek Recreation Area west of Platte, SD. Which spot we were approaching on Sept. 11, 2009)

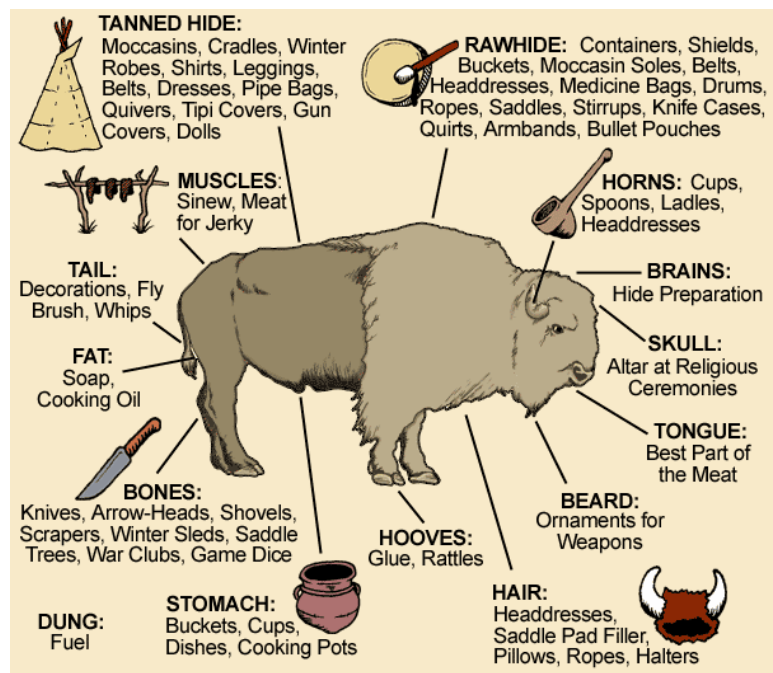
By 11:30 we reached our first Chamberlain destination, an award winning L&C exhibit in a highway rest area affording breathtaking views of the sprawling Missouri River. Our weather thankfully cleared and the sun shone. Historian Tom brought out the flag for a group picture with the Missouri River in the background. We then proceeded on to nearby St. Joseph Indian School and Akta-Lakota Museum. Dixie Thompson gave a brief orientation of the residential school which is serving Indian children from poverty stricken communities. 30% are from Crow Creek Reservation and 30% from Shannon County-Pine Ridge Reservation. Classes are 12 students max, grades 1-6. With a teacher and an aide they work on reading

and math to reach each child's grade level. The school is funded with private donations. We were given a guided tour of the Akta-Lakota Museum and many of us made purchases.

At 1:45 we proceeded to Pierre, SD observing the very scenic and unusual omega shaped Big Bend the Missouri River makes at the Crow Creek and Lower Brule Indian Reservations. Capt. Clark noted the distance across the neck was only 2000 yards while the water journey was about 30 miles. He detached some men to hunt on land while the boats made their way around the bend. Our weather stayed sunny with fluffy white clouds, so we enjoyed this interesting river bend's scenery. Renee spotted the first buffalo and we were excited to see these amazing animals.

At the Akta-Lakota Museum I picked up a Visual Chart of the uses made of the Buffalo. The stomach was used to carry and store water, every part of the meat was eaten and many ornaments and functional items were made of body parts and hair.

Approaching Pierre, at present day Fort Pierre the expedition had its first meeting with the powerful Teton Sioux. A tense confrontation ensued, but violence was avoided by the diplomacy of Chief Black Buffalo. We stopped to view the historic markers at this site and Tom brought our flag and captured this experience with a group photo. Our next stop was the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center, an eye-catching building designed and built right into the ground. It is equal in size to two football fields. Our guide was very informative and fun and the exhibits helped us learn much SD history.



Our long and interesting day began to wind down as we drove a short distance to the Kings Inn Motel. After unpacking we met at 7 pm for dinner. Most ordered Buffalo Stew, others ordered chicken. After dinner Grace made a sad announcement. We learned that our heretofore faithful keelbus had a fatal brake problem. And also our excellent driver, Marv, must remain with the bus while it is repaired. Hopefully he will be able to meet us in Helena. A new bus will come from Gillette, WY, with Gary Ferguson driving and we will move on to Mandan tomorrow as planned.

## Day 7, Saturday Sept. 12, Pierre, SD to Mandan, ND – 248 miles, total 1279

7:45 am

Our day began in the King's Inn parking lot unloading our bus with the broken brake and loading our new bus with our new driver, Gary. With many helping hands we were on our way at 8:45 am. Waving goodbye to Marv, who will stay on the original bus until the repair is made, we headed north on Rt. 83 with an overcast sky.

Dick Gelford, a geologist on this trip gave us an explanation of why the Missouri River is at its location. On the SD map he pointed out the group of lakes in the northeast corner of SD, an Eskars, or big pile-up of ice from the Glacial Period. The Eskars show movement of granite in that area – the Great Plains – which is flat.

We crossed the Missouri River on the Mobridge.

Our 10:30 rest stop was at Grand River Casino on the Standing Rock Reservation. We stopped near by to view Sitting Bull's grave and monument. He is facing the Missouri River that he loved. We then walked to Sakakawea's monument. (Some noticed a small prairie rattlesnake on the road.)

Historian Tom told us stories about mountain men Hugh Glass and Jedediah Smith. Tom said the best book about mountain men is A Majority of Scoundrels by Don Berry.

After crossing the state line into North Dakota, we saw Sitting Bull's original grave and monument before his grave was robbed and he was moved to South Dakota.

At 12:45 we had a Bountiful Buffet at Prairie Knights Casino on the Standing Rock Reservation. We then proceeded to Fort Abraham Lincoln. First Sgt. Johnson, 7<sup>th</sup> Calvary, was our guide through Gen. Custer's home. He has been employed by the Abe Lincoln Park Foundation, which restored this park

Custer's home is 3500 sq. ft.. The second floor has an unofficial "officer's club" with a pool table and card table. In one room there is a stuffed buffalo head shot by Custer in 1868. And a grizzly bear which he shot in 1874. In 1876 Custer, aged 36, died at the Battle of Little Big Horn. He had ordered the Cheyenne, Sioux and Arapaho Indians to move back to their reservations. Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse and Chief Gull refused.

Our next stop at 4:30 was the Lewis & Clark Riverboat Cruise on the lovely, peaceful Missouri River. (Our weather was beautiful so we really enjoyed the boat ride.) As we navigated the river we could imagine the Corp of Discovery experiencing this river, even though they had immense challenges as they overcame obstacles moving upstream.

In the 1860's a riverboat captain could earn \$1000/mo., with no taxes. Soon railroads brought competition and salaries dropped to \$125/mo.

The Missouri is the longest river in the US. Fish found in it include Wall Eye, Perch, Sturgeon, Northern Pike and the river boat is just used 3 months when the weather is warm.

We arrived at our hotel by 6:30 pm Dinner was at seven and we enjoyed a quiet, peaceful, restful evening.

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### **Day 8, Sunday, Sept. 13, Mandan, ND to Medora, ND – 225 miles, total 1504**

This was an early-start day departing at 7:30 am to visit the North Dakota Heritage Center. It was well worth the early effort as the exhibits were organized in historical sequence and clearly labeled.

In 1999, Tyler Lyson, a high school sophomore, discovered Dakota – a Duck Bill Dinosaur – which is currently on exhibit in Japan

Oil is a great asset to the North Dakota economy. The Legislature approved an 8-million expansion to the Heritage Center. The center has been collecting objects since 1895' the present center opened in 1981. There is no admission charge. They have many visits from student and schools.

We would have liked another hour there, but we pressed on with our busy day, driving on to the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center at Washburn, ND. Jeff Carlson was our very helpful guide and followed us through the center to answer our questions. We saw the dugout canoe.

Lewis & Clark learned much from the Mandan Indians. From this point west the Captains began exploring new territory for which they had little prior information.

A wonderful exhibit of Prince Maximilian, the German explorer who came in the 1830s to study the Indians. He published a journal of his years in the US with illustrations by a Swiss artist, Karl Bodmer, whose images of Indians include ritual dances, landscapes familiar to the Plains tribes. His work is detailed, haunting and breathtaking. The colors Bodmer used are alternately subtle and vivid. Looking at his illustrations, you gain knowledge about costume, weaponry, body decoration and other matters related to the Indians.

At 11:05 we rushed on to our next stop, Fort Mandan. Historian Tom brought our flag. We raised it on the Fort flagpole and sang the Star Spangled Banner. Our guide, Alexis said it took 800 to 1,000 cottonwood trees to build Fort Mandan. She described the Fort rooms: blacksmith shop, guard's room, interpreter's room (Sakakawea, Charboneau, and York (?). Jean Baptiste (Sakakawea's son) who was born Feb. 11, 1805). Next the Captains' room, storerooms and private/enlisted men's rooms (8-9 to a room).

We finished our visit with a nice picnic on the Fort grounds. Weather was perfect, sunny and breezy. Then we each gave our Indian names recorded by Beverly. On the bus we watched a video on Buffalo Bird woman, a Hidatsa.

At 12:30 we departed for the Knife River Villages. We walked to the river to oversee the evidence of where the earth lodges had been built. Then Ranger Ella Matheson gave us a detailed presentation of the role Indian men and women carried out. Men did 24/7 protection of the village. Women made major contributions completing, building and decorating the lodges. Bedposts were secured to the ground so as not to move. The Medicine Religious Shrine was used only by the Indian responsible for the spiritual rites. They brought their horses into the lodges to keep them safe. Their crops were sunflowers, beans, corn, and squash. The garden tools were made with the shoulder bone of the buffalo attached to a handle; white-tail antlers were used to dig. They raised enough food to trade for flint, mirrors, cloth, pots and pans, alcohol

In 1839 a smallpox epidemic hit the village. In six months two of ten lived. More problems followed. In 1851 the US government wanted the Treaty of Fort Laramie signed. Indians were promised land and provisions for 50 years. Railroads then allowed the 1852 Homestead Act by President Lincoln and the 1880's DAWES Allotment Act gave 160 acres, designed to separate the Indians. Of course, they did not have tools to such land – no water wells, no money for wagons or horses. Then they were forced into sending their children to boarding schools, causing social and family disruption. And in 1934 the Indian Reorganization Act was meant to teach *Indians to govern themselves*. In the 1950's the Missouri River was dammed causing immense emotional trauma to the Indians. Tribal leaders wept. And so the litany of broken promises and broken treaties totally demoralized the American Indian culture.

Currently Ranger Ella sees hope among the Indians at recent Pow Wows. They are seeking to reconnect with their Indian tribe cultures and languages and to better their lives.

We departed the village, setting our watches to Mountain Time while driving to Painted Canyon Scenic Overlook in the ND Badlands, On the way Dick, our geologist, contributed the basics of celestial navigation, using the sextant, which measures angles. He explained longitude and latitude. He related that Andrew Ellicot, one of the foremost surveyors in the US, helped Lewis with measuring location of all places explored.

On our way, Tom pointed out the interesting geese sculpture along I-94 (at exit 72) Painted Canyon Scenic Overlook was a spectacular panorama. Clouds dimmed some of the canyon; however, light broke

through the clouds and created a moving-life changing scene. Wind was very strong at the observation deck.

Our day ended with dinner at the Chuckwagon Buffet. We are staying at the Badlands Motel, with a little local color of locomotive sounds coming through Medora periodically.

This area is in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I read that he came to North Dakota after his first wife's death and his mother's death occurred on the same day. He was devastated and he found fulfillment in the "strenuous life" that he lived in North Dakota. I have seen his sayings carved in the great lobby of the NY Museum of Natural History. He was the reason that great institution was founded, and he made many contributions to it. In the Dakota Territory he became alarmed by the damage that was being done to the land and its wildlife. He witnessed the destruction of some big game species. Conservation increasingly became one of Roosevelt's major concerns.

He pursued this interest in natural history by establishing the US Forest Service by signing the 1906 Antiquities Act, which proclaimed 18 National Monuments. He got congressional approval for the establishment of 5 National Parks and 51 Wildlife Refuges and set aside land as National Forests.

Douglas Brinkley, the historian, has just published Teddy's biography, Wilderness Warrior, which details all of TR's conservation work. I saw the author, Brinkley, interviewed for one hour on C-Span. He feels this is his best work and he spent several years completing it.

### **Day 9, Monday Sept. 14, Medora, ND to Billings, MT 287 Miles, total 1791**

After our Chuckwagon breakfast in Medora we boarded our bus and drove by a beautiful large piece of petrified wood being used as a large outdoor flower planter. Dick Gelfond gave us a brief explanation of the interesting petrifying process to produce this lovely art piece.

Our first rest stop was in Glendive, MT. Our driver followed the Yellowstone River, which was the route Capt. Wm. Clark and his crew followed on their return journey from July 15 to August 6, 1806. Lewis and Clark's plan to separate at Traveler's Rest on the return trip to explore the Yellowstone Country was a bold, risky plan. Clark took 49 horses, 19 men, Sacagawea, Pomp, and York overland from the Three Forks to the Yellowstone River. They finally found cottonwood trees to build two narrow canoes and lashed them together like a catamaran.

Four men were dispatched to bring the horses by land back to the Mandan villages. One night while they slept the Crow Indians silently made off with half the horses "as a toll for passing this way." The next day the remaining horses were also gone, so they built bull boats and followed Clark on the river a few days later. During this time the expedition was split 5 ways.

We enjoyed a sack lunch with a beautiful view overlooking the Yellowstone River, and then had a surprise Dairy Queen stop for dessert at Forsyth, MT.

Our afternoon stop was at Pompey's Pillar. Ranger Jeff Sherman gave us an orientation to this site. We then climbed the perpendicular sandstone tower that juts 127 feet above the Yellowstone. Clark carved his name and date on it and recorded the fact in his journal. At the top we had a group picture taken with our flag.

We then rode 26 more miles to our hotel in Billings, the Best Western Clock Tower Inn. On the bus this afternoon we enjoyed the Harry Truman video. Our hotel is very comfortable. Dinner was delicious lasagna. After dinner professor Keith Edgerton told the story of Clark and the Yellowstone with an interesting and short PowerPoint presentation.

I will close with a Teddy Roosevelt quote: "The joy of living is his who has the heart to demand it."

**Day 10, Tuesday September 15, 2009, MT to Helena, MT - 250 miles – 2041 total**

We enjoyed a tasty breakfast at Stella's kitchen and bakery. From the colorful outdoor mural to the friendly, good service in this inviting coffee shop we Felt a special touch to start our day. I personally rated the Clock Tower Inn the most comfortable of all our Motels so far with inviting, quality room decor and friendly front desk personnel, and how about those large, cool TVs. On the way we spotted the Yellowstone River until Livingston where the River turned south. At our Bozeman rest stop we read interesting storyboards about the Lewis and Clark journey. We learned that Ted Turner's buffalo ranches in the Bozeman area the Gallatin mountain range was very scenic as we drove. Soon we arrived at the headwaters of the Missouri River. On our three-quarter mile walk to view the three forks of the Missouri from our high viewing location, Tom pointed out the Madison River on the left, Jefferson to the right and then the confluence point where they join to form the Missouri River. We ate our lunch in a beautiful shady picnic area at the end of our walk. Driving on to Helena the state capitol came into view. We checked into Jorgenson Inn and Suites at 4 PM with time to rest, shower or shop nearby. Our turkey/ham dinner hit the spot at 6 PM George Dean our presenter gave us a short Montana story using his Montana Power Point (a flipchart held together with clamps and duct tape.) a humorous and informative talk on Montana history. He said Butte is the most fascinating town ever. It was once the richest place in Montana but a tough town. He then showed a beautiful video narrated by David Alt, the geologist, and others who shared animal history and scenic beauty.

**Day 11, Wednesday, September 16, 2009 – Helena, MT to Great Falls, MT, 125 miles, 2166 total**

George Dean our step on guide gave a commentary at the amazing Montana state capital or the people's House. In 1902 the cost to build the sandstone capital was \$540,000 the two wings added 1909 to 1912 are made of granite. Two years ago in 2007 renovation cost \$29 million we noted that only the Senate is furnished with comfortable La-Z-Boy executive chairs The Charles Russell oil on canvas titled Lewis and Clark meeting Indians at Ross's Hole 140" x 296" in the House chamber is considered Russell's masterpiece the Indians are in the foreground, major subject with Lewis and Clark Sacajawea and pomp at the right. Throughout this art enhanced building we were spellbound by the bronze historic Montanans such as Janet Rankin and Mike and Maureen Mansfield and Wilbur Fisk Sanders. George gave us the history of the Anaconda Copper company the largest copper company in the world, and pays fewer taxes than anyone. The Copper Kings included William A. Clarke.

A centrally placed the grand stairway in the capital holds the greatest amount of concentrated decoration in all the capitals of the country. I wonder of any other state can be just tasteful artistic building, After the capitol we walked next door to the Montana Historical Society. This wonderful museum had an excellent Native American exhibit, Charles Russell exhibit and a temporary exhibit of Plateau Indians beaded bags. They were rich in subject content and expert beadwork. Big Medicine an extremely rare occurrence one in every 5 million births, white bison, sacred to the Plains Indians is permanently preserved as a treasured state treasure at the Montana Historical Society on view on the second floor. We then boarded our bus to the gates of the mountains boat ride. This gave us a great appreciation of this long limestone Canyon separated by the Missouri River, perhaps 1000 feet high. Now and then we spotted Eagles We saw a picnic site at the base of the Canyon heard the story of the Hilger's ranch house being carried off when the Hauser Dam broke in 1907. And the story of Wagner Dodge, the foreman who was the only survivor of the August 5, 1949 fire at Mann Gulch. He burned as fuel to prevent fire spreading; others would not follow him so they burned. The book **Young Men and Fire** was published on the 60th anniversary about this tragedy and the Wagner Dodge technique for fire containment was followed ever since. We Had a sack lunch at the picnic shelter along with hungry flies and bees. We then drove north on Route 15 toward First People's Buffalo jump. Along the way we passed through volcanic ash rocks 60 million years old. George said there are no foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Meriwether Lewis had noted you come out of

the mountains right to the plains. The first People's Buffalo jump was an excellent site to see how they led Buffalo over the cliff to provide for their tribes food and buffalo skins. The site ranger gave us a clear explanation of his ancient Indian tradition. We checked in at the Town House Motel in Great Falls, MT.

**Day 12, Thursday, September 17, 2009 Great Falls Montana -- 38 miles – 2204 total**

Our first stop today was the upper portage camp at white bear Island overlook. George Dean gave us a wonder for brochure and map outlining the old portage. We saw the iron boat and Lewis conceived. We next drove to the Charles Russell Museum for lunch in the Au-Wau-Cous room. This was our best sandwich lunch so far and the room was full of art displays. Shirley Rothwell an Art history specialist toward us through this wonderful museum. The life-size Indian on a Horse killing a permanently preserved buffalo was stunning. Shirley pointed out how Russell's technique improved over time; how he learned to bring more light into his paintings. I love his illustrated letters. You may purchase a book of these through their website [www.CMRussell.org](http://www.CMRussell.org). Our last stop for the day was at the Ryan dam and the Great Falls. Thankfully there was water flowing over the dam and the falls... not The not the rushing water Lewis and Clark saw but enough to give us a sense of their experience. We also saw the high canyon rock they saw that challenged them in engineering the portage route. I saw an article in the Spring 2009 guide to Great Falls about a book on sale titled Great Falls Memories a pictorial history book about the Great Falls. It is \$39.95 on sale at the Tribune the history museum or online at [GreatFalls.pictorialbook.com](http://GreatFalls.pictorialbook.com).

**Day 13, Friday, September 18, 2009 Great Falls, MT – Missoula, MT – 180 miles, total 2384**

George Dean gave a commentary today on the Missouri River for waterfalls we saw the Great Falls yesterday, described by Lewis as "Sublimely Grande." Today we proceeded to Crooked Falls, Horseshoe Falls, Rainbow Falls, submerged Colter Falls, and Black Eagle Falls. The whole drop is 400 feet -- the reason for 5 hydroelectric dams. We then stopped at the beautiful giant Springs State Park. The sound of the Springs water rushing over the rocks was exciting to hear -- imagine what Lewis and Clark heard with the Missouri Falls before the dams.

Our visit to the Great Falls interpretive site was special: a Ken Burns film on the L&C journey and one Missouri portage. A diorama of the crew hauling the heavy loaded canoe up a steep hill was awesome. Many exhibits kept us fascinated. We were treated with great Chimi-Changas at lunch by Donny Johnson and his Clark and Louis Catering Co...

We boarded the bus for Lincoln, Montana on route 200. At 2 PM we reached the Continental Divide at Rogers Pass. This is a grizzly bear country! In Lincoln we said goodbye to George Dean and we were treated at the Hi-Country Trading Post with a ceiling display of gorgeous preserved elk. Deer. Wolves and much other mountain wildlife.

We reached Ruby's Inn by 5 PM in Missoula. After dinner we were treated to an interesting presentation: Lewis and Clark as Naturalists...

**Day 14, Saturday, September 19, 2009, Missoula, Mt. -- Lewiston ID - 225 miles, total 2609**

On the bus, Tom showed us an amazing DVD titled The Great Ice Age Floods describing catastrophic transformation of the West. I never could have imagined such an occurrence.

Our first stop today was Travelers' Rest State Park. Loren, the Park Mgr. explained the long history of this rest stop located at the confluence of Lolo Creek and the Bitterroot River. He then took us on a short walk and began to explain the physical evidence that L & C's group camped here. Thanks to a Missoula archeologist, Dan Hall, who took measurements and suggested further study, to metal detectors locating a pewter button like soldiers used in L & C's time, to magnetometers finding

evidence of fires in this location, and finally evidence of a latrine with a layer of grey organic matter (we can all guess what that means) plus mercury (evidence of Dr. Rush's Thunderbolts) The National Park Service moved their site (first time ever) to this location which opened in 2002.

Ritchie, our Step On Guide, re-enacting Capt. William Clark, was very informative and humorous. We saw Fort Fizzle where the US Army tried unsuccessfully to barricade the Nez Perce.

We drove on to the Lolo Hot Springs where Capt. Clark had soaked in warm water. Further on, we walked into a mountain trail a short distance up the mountain at an angle. If one were to go STRAIGHT UP, it would challenge the fittest athlete!

We then walked through Packer Meadows a short distance to Glade Creek, which joins Crooked Creek, then Lochsa River, eventually flowing into the great Columbia River. We stopped at Lolo Pass. And we saw where Bernard DeVoto's ashes were scattered - in a Cedar Grove--a beautiful Fir and Spruce tree shaded walk to the clear splashing creek.

Our lunch was a delicious soup and sandwich plate in the attractive Lochsa Log Cabin Lodge. With the steep, powerful and awesomely beautiful Bitterroot Mountains surrounding us, we drove on, following the beautiful, wild and scenic Lochsa River for hours. We were slowed down due to road work, so we did not stop at the Canoe Camp, but drove on to the Nez Perce Museum for 30mins. Shortly afterward

we reached Lewiston, ID and our hotel, the Red Lion Inn. They were waiting for us. We could tell it would be a comfortable evening and night. Dinner was FIRST CLASS!! Our after dinner Presenter was EXCELLENT!! He was Aaron Miles, Natural Resources Mgr. for the Nez Perce. He gave us history of his tribe and what is being done to save the salmon industry hurt by the Columbia River dams-

### **Day 15, Sunday, September 20, 2009, Lewiston ID -- The Dalles, OR- 288 miles, 2897 total.**

We enjoyed a wonderful breakfast at the Red Lion Inn. Then, proceeded on the road to Sacagawea State Park at the confluence of the Snake and Columbia rivers. On the way, Tom described the high rock formations beside Highway route 12 as basalt or hardened lava. It can take many shapes such as the Devils Tower in Wyoming. At Dayton, WA we stopped for a photo op of Lewis and Clark's campsite of May 2, 1806 the local historians have made steel silhouettes of each L&C. crew member including Sacagawea and Pomp. We drove on and stopped for a picnic lunch as planned at 11:30. It was a beautiful sunny day.

Tom reenacted Peter Skene Ogden, who was a fur trader born in Québec and moved to Montréal. He started with the American Fur Company owned by John Jacob Astor, but he would eventually work for the other companies Northwest Company and Hudson's Bay Company. In 1818 the Northwest company bought out the American fur Company so Peter was sent to Vancouver and trapped every beaver out of the snake River country said the Americans would not come in.

Tom pointed out there are pumps in the Columbia River to irrigate nearby farms on the bluff. At 12:45 we spotted Boat and Hat Rocks. On our way to Maryhill we drove by a raging car fire Firefighters were there but they did not stop us. Marv drove us safely by and we arrived at Maryhill Museum of Art, built by Sam Hill for his wife Mary. It holds a wide range of art including Native American art, chess sets, Rodin sculptures, paintings, furniture, and fashion. Sam Hill also built a Stonehenge-like monument in memory of the human sacrifices of World War I. At 2:50 PM we spotted Mount Hood through a mist.

Tom said Celilo Falls has always been a great fishing area for the Indians. Tom read from Clark's journal he described how the Indians pounded salmon and put it into baskets. The Dalles was the great mart of the

Columbia. The name of The Dalles comes from the French meaning paving stones. Grace read us some facts of the Dalles. The Enron relationship caused many layoffs here. Portland is 83 miles away. We reached the Shiloh Inn and left for the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center very informative Museum in the Dalles. We had a delicious buffet.

**Day 16, Monday, September 21, 2009, the Dalles, OR. -- Astoria, OR, 237 miles – 3134 total**

by 8 A.m. we were driving on I-84 heading toward I-205 near Portland beside the Columbia River on a beautiful sunny day. We passed the Cascade Locks and the Bridge of the Gods overhead. Indians sell salmon here. We saw Bonneville Dam and Beacon Rock beyond.

We saw Horsetail Falls and ten minutes later stopped at Multnomah Falls and walked closer to see this gorgeous, powerful, tall waterfall. We spotted Vista House on a hilltop, the Crown Jewel of the Historic Columbia River Highway, built in 1913-1919. We picked up our lunches and Tom's costume at Troutdale, OR.

In the Fort Vancouver Area Lewis and Clark stopped to get Wapato from the local Indians. They described how an Indian woman goes into the swamp up to her neck in water to loosen the root of this plant. They will stay for long hours, even in winter.

Tom gave us a history of attempts to find the mouth of the rumored Great River of the West.

1. Aug. 17, 1775 Bruno Heceta of Spain was at the mouth of the river but did not go in because he did not have enough well men to raise the anchor once he let it down.
2. July 6, 1788, Britisher John Meares, with the Spanish chart in hand, asserted there was no river because a line of breakers stretched totally across its opening. The northern promontory obtained the name Cape Disappointment.
3. April 27, 1792, George Vancouver of England saw "river-colored water", but did not think the opening worthy of further attention.
4. May 11, Boston merchant Robert Gray entered the river, traded with the Indians and named the river after his ship, the Columbia Rediviva. Columbia's River.

Tom read from Clark's journal about the many times he said they were "wet and disagreeable" at the mouth of the river from Nov. 5, 1805 to March 23, 1806. They were stuck for many days at "Cape Swells", "Dismal Nitch" and Station Camp.

We viewed the Jetties created to control the flow of the Columbia River. Over 100 acres was created by the jetties in less than 30 years. (Sand which is cast out by the speeded up river is redeposited by ocean currents on the landward side of the jetties.)

We proceeded on to our comfortable Holiday Inn Express hotel bordering the beautiful Columbia River, what a marvelous view. After a wonderful dinner we enjoyed Tom's wonderful portrayal of William Cannon, an early pioneer who came on behalf of John Jacob Astor to establish the Pacific Fur Company at the mouth of the river in response to Lewis and Clarks reports to Jefferson.

**Day 17, Tuesday, September 22, 2009, Astoria, OR -- Portland, OR, 112 miles, 3246 total.**

On our last day of travel we began with a great Holiday Express breakfast on the patio overlooking the magnificent Columbia River. A colorful Norwegian Pearl Cruise ship sailed by under the Astoria bridge. The colorful pearls painted on the ship reminded me of our "Indian Beads" compensation from Tom for our good deeds. The Astoria-Megler bridge stretches 4.1 miles from Astoria to Point Ellice, Washington.

Our first visit today was the striking Astoria Column atop Coxcomb Hill, one of the most potent symbols of American presence in the Pacific Northwest. It draws on the imagery of classical Rome, stories of

Native Americans and early Euro-American adventurers at the mouth of the Columbia, technology of the 20th century, and the talents of a remarkable artist, Attilio Pusterla. Those of us that climbed the 164 steps had the fun of sailing our balsa gliders into the sky and watching them float to earth. The views of the Pacific, the Columbia and the mountains were breathtaking!

We proceeded on to Fort Clatsop National Memorial. L&C selected this site for a food supply (roadside sign: "Elk next 2 1/2 miles!"), enough wood, and high ground away from the tide. We raised our flag, Tom wearing his Fort Clatsop hat, and all singing the Star Spangled Banner. On the camp site, we saw huge Western Red Cedar and Sitka Spruce trees. This Fort was rebuilt in record time after a fire in 2005, possibly from a demonstration fire, not properly extinguished. The L&C expedition members spent nearly the first two months of 1806 boiling sea water in 5 large kettles to make 3 to 4 bushels of salt. Later Tom showed us his video made in 2002 on his visit to Seaside, with reenactors making salt in the same manner that Lewis and Clark did 204 years ago.

We had a great lunch at the Silver Salmon Restaurant, then re-boarded our bus for the trip to Portland. On the way Tom said an Astoria Channel pilot must memorize the Astoria Channel. On the internet, I read that Channel Pilot George Flavel dominated bar pilotage and Astoria commerce. For a long time he was the town's most prominent citizen. Because of the possibility for extreme weather and sea conditions on the bar, the licensing standards for Columbia River Bar Pilots are the highest in the nation.

After checking in at the comfortable Clarion Hotel, A delicious dinner was catered by Nancy Romero and we had Reflections of our journey. Some of our group sang a funny parody of Clementine, making fun of the new name of Elderhostel - Exploritas. Kate read her clever poem about our memorable journey!

Tom, Grace, Marv, and Ned entertained us with a humorous skit.

After all reflections, Tom, in keeping with the re-creation of the Lewis and Clark expedition, gave everyone the same discharges that Lewis gave to the members of his party.

This was a wonderful journey; hard to believe it is over, BUT THE MEMORIES WILL LAST A LIFETIME!!!!

Respectfully submitted,  
**Amy Bernd**