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Lewis & Clark

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Lewis and Clark
at Seaside

By
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FORERUNNERS of empire, Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark hold a unique place in American history and an even more unique place in the history of the Pacific Northwest. The Lewis and Clark Expedition was the first official United States exploring expedition; perhaps the most important.

The party were the first American citizens to cross the continent, the first to travel down the Snake and lower Columbia rivers, the first to construct a building in Oregon, the first to visit Seaside—although in the less pleasant season—where a patrol made salt while the main party kept to winter quarters at Fort Clatsop. They were the first Americans to dwell in the only part of the American domain that was never the possession of another power. Spain, Russia and Great Britain contested for its ownership, but the Oregon Country came direct to the United States from the Indian inhabitants. The expedition of Lewis and Clark contributed to that end, and helped to add to the United States an area about half as large as that of the original thirteen states, the first American land on Pacific shores.

Many books, large and small, by historians and novelists, have been published on the Expedition, including—a century after their trip—the original journals of Captains Lewis and Clark. In those books the Expedition is viewed in the course of our national history, which then still centered on the Atlantic seaboard. In them the events at Seaside and Fort Clatsop receive but brief treatment, although here was their goal, and, although their journey was only half completed, here they were at their farthest point.

This booklet is not about the Expedition. It is about Lewis and Clark at Seaside and Fort Clatsop, and it views the Expedition in a setting of four hundred years of international exploration and struggle for New World empires.

“GREAT JOY in camp we are in *view of the Ocian*
 This great Pacific Ocean which we been so long anxious
 to See. and the roeing or noise made by the waves braking on
 the rocky Shores (as I suppose) may be heard distictly . . .” So
 wrote Captain Clark in his journal (and in his unhampered spell-
 ing) on November 7, 1805, eighteen months after their start and
 when, geographers tell us, the group were still fifteen miles from
 the sea on their voyage down the Columbia.

For several days they were stopped on the Washington side
 of the river by “high swells,” by seas that “roled and tossed,”
 by weather all “wet and disagreeable.” Captain Lewis explored
 about Cape Disappointment; the others hunted game and tried
 to make themselves comfortable, and in turn visited the ocean
 beaches north of the river’s mouth.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition were the first white men
 to reach the mouth of the Columbia River overland from east of
 the Continental Divide. But they were not the first to note its
 presence or to sail its broad and salty estuary. More than two
 hundred years before them, Francis Drake, then a pirate and not
 yet a Sir, although not reaching the river, had named the coast
 New Albion; thus, since Albion is the old name for England, there
 was a New England on the Pacific Coast before there was one
 on Atlantic shores. Thirty years before the Americans, Bruno
 Heceta, a Spanish sea-captain, noted the river, naming the north
 cape San Roque and the south cape Cabo Prondose. It was John
 Meares, the first British navigator to attempt to enter the river,
 who gave Cape Disappointment its name—he concluded in 1788
 that the mighty river of the west did not exist and, in addition
 to naming the cape to express his feelings, added another name
 by calling the river’s mouth Deception Bay.

Nor were Spain and Great Britain the only powers whose
 sea-captains, exploring for national benefit or fur-trading for
 personal profit, were on the coast. Russians, led by the Dane,
 Vitus Bering, who reached the North American continent in
 1741, were slowly moving down the coast from their Russian
 American posts in modern Alaska. And a British fur-trader, Alex-
 ander Mackenzie, had made his way across the continent, in
 what is now Canada, a decade before Lewis and Clark started
 on their journey; and he, also, was seeking the river of the west.

That the Americans were on what was, even then, an
 American river, was, it may be admitted, largely luck.

Robert Gray was the captain of an American fur-trading vessel. He had been off the Northwest Coast in 1788 and 1789 and, by sailing back to Boston around Africa, was the first to carry the American flag around the world. In 1792 he was again off the coast, in Yankee manner pushing his ship into bays and rivers that might offer good trading. It was the chance of commerce that led him into the Columbia on May 11, 1792, to make the river's official discovery. That act gave the United States a claim to the Columbia's drainage basin, to the Pacific Northwest. Gray, however, paid but an eight day visit to the region, a ship-visit, a tourist's visit, where Lewis and Clark walked on the land and explored and stayed a while.



BY NOVEMBER 24 LEWIS and Clark were ready to "examine The other side [of the Columbia] if good hunter to winter there, as salt is an objt . . ." Two days later they crossed to the south side, the Oregon side, of the river, there to make their winter camp.

Several considerations prompted their move. Sacajawea, the Indian woman who had accompanied them and was thus probably the first woman to make the trans-continental trip, was "in favor of a place where there is plenty of Potas"—or the edible root of the wapato, which was baked like a potato. The Chinook Indians on the north bank had set their prices "so high that it would take ten times as much to purchase their roots & Dried fish as we have in our possession, including our Small remains of Merchandize and Cloths &. This certainly induces every individual of the party to make diligent enquiries of the natives [for] the part of the country in which Wild animals are most plenty . . ." Convenience for salt-making, the wishes of the one woman of the party, the greater abundance of game, the apparent mildness of the climate, easy approach to any vessel that put into the Columbia "from which we might purchase a fresh Supply of Indian trinkets to purchase provisions on our return home . . . induces us to . . . Cross the river to examine the opposite Side . . ."

On November 26 Lewis and Clark crossed the river and

began to explore for a site for their winter camp. They noted that the seashore was "covered with butifull pebble of various colour"

For some days the men were unwell on their diet of dried fish, and suffered "from rain and hail with intervals of fair weather . . ." But Captain Clark "observed rose bushes different Species of pine, a Species of ash, alder, a Species of Crab Loral. and lofty pine many of which are 10 & 12 feet through and mare than 200 feet high" while Captain Lewis noted the characteristics of our Squirrels, blackberries, cranberries, crab apple and madrona.

And where are the trees of which this was written? "A calm Cloudy morning, a moderate rain the great part of the night, Capt. Lewis Branded a tree with his name Date & I marked my name the Day & year on a alder tree, the party all Cut the first letters of their names on different trees in the bottom" Do any of them still stand?

In the same entry Captain Clark again complains of the high prices asked by the natives for their produce, and mentions that one Indian refused all offers and "demanded '*ti-a-co-mo-shack*' which is *Chief beads* and the most common blue beads, but few of which we have at this time."

Tyee-kamosuk, as the words are generally spelled, is Chinook Jargon, a trade language developed among the natives of the coast and rivers, who spoke many different tribal tongues. The Jargon was used from present Alaska to California by the Indians long before the white men came. The early settlers here could all talk it and did, not only to communicate with the natives, but among themselves. A few old-timers can still wawa, or speak, it. Some words were until recently generally understood and often used: a tillikum is a friend, kumtux is to understand, a tyee is a chief or important man, cultus is bad.

The designations for citizens of white nations reveals who most of those visitors were. A King Chautsh man—King George: the Indians had difficulty pronouncing the letter "r"—was a Briton, who began to come in numbers during the reign of George III. That Americans were Boston men would indicate that most of our seamen were from that port. All other white men were Dutchmen.

The Chinook Jargon is the only such native American trade language that has been preserved. Books have been written in

it and parts of the Scripture have been translated into it.

On December 5 Captain Lewis, who had been several days seeking a winter site, returned to the temporary camp with news "he thinks that a Sufficient number of Elk may be prcured convenient to a Situation on a Small river which falls into a Small bay a Short distance below"

Two days later the party "Set out to the place Capt. Lewis had viewed and thought well Situated for winter quarters" The bay Captain Clark called "Meriwethers Bay the Christian name of Capt. Lewis who no doubt was the 1st white man who ever surveyed this Bay . . . [It] is about 4 miles across deep and receves 2 rivers the *Kil-how-a-nah-kle* and the *Ne tul* and Several Small Creeks."

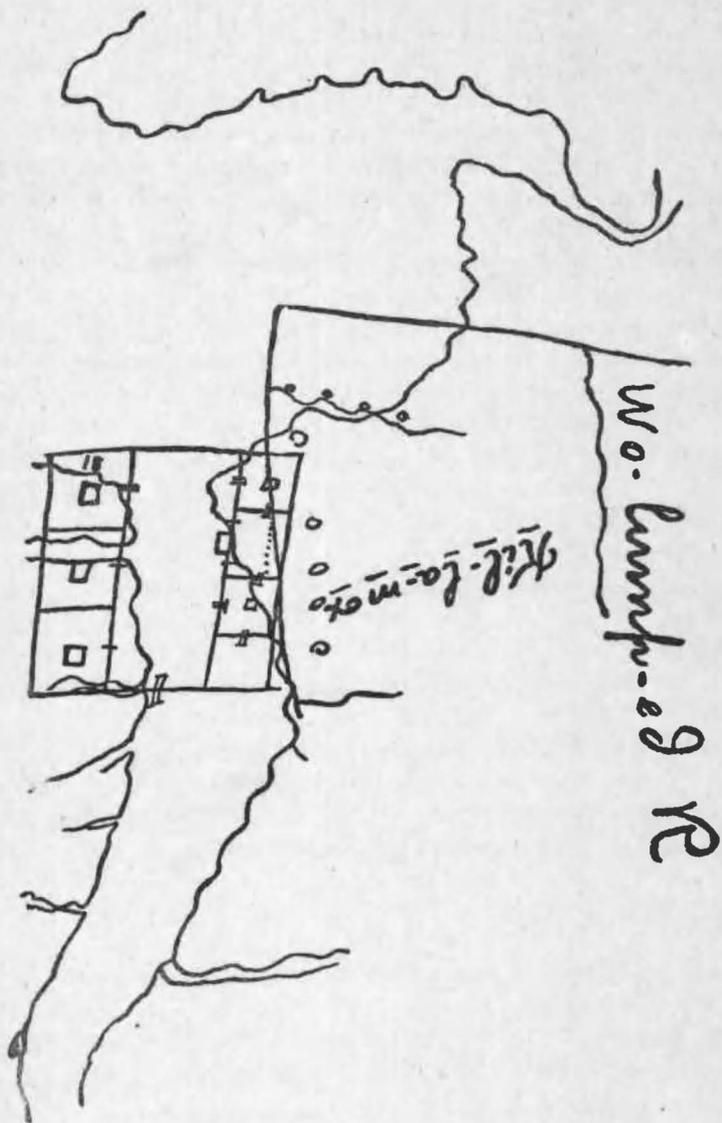
Those names do not remain. Like many another geographic feature of this most "purely" American territory, two of them have British names supplied by a British officer; in this case by Lt. W. R. Broughton of Capt. George Vancouver's staff, who in 1792 named the bay Young's Bay after Sir George Young of the royal navy, and "Kilhowanahkle River" after the same admiral. The Netul, on which Fort Clatsop was located, has become Lewis and Clark River.

The plan of Fort Clatsop, as the winter camp was named after the natives of the vicinity, was sketched by Captain Clark as is shown opposite.

The exact site of the camp was determined by the Oregon Historical Society at the turn of this century, and the grounds are now a public park in the possession of the Society.

Six years after the expedition other Americans and representatives of an American company were in this same locality, only six miles away establishing a post whose name has come down to this day. The agents of the Pacific Fur Company, of which John Jacob Astor was the promotor and financier, sailed into the Columbia in 1811 and on a site now in the heart of Astoria erected their post of that name. Those men were fur-traders. They were concerned only with making a profit from their trade. They, apparently, did not know of the camp of Lewis and Clark, selecting their own almost haphazardly.

Astor's plans were world-wide in scope and might, had they succeeded, have brought to the United States all the Pacific Coast north of Mexico. The War of 1812 put an end to his business and to his plans, and might have been a serious set-back



to American claims in this region. The United States was unable to defend Astoria, the tiny trading post, which was seized by the British as a prize of war. However, the Treaty of Ghent provided that places taken by either power should be returned to the original owner, so in 1818 Astoria was legally returned to the United States— when there were no Americans living here to reside in or to operate the post.

Thus, another American claim was added to those of Robert Gray, discoverer of the river, and of Captains Lewis and Clark, explorers of the interior, for the possession of at least part of the Pacific Northwest.

Yet it would be nearly thirty years after Lewis and Clark left Seaside and Fort Clatsop, and more than twenty years after Astoria passed into British possession, before any other Americans would come to the Pacific Northwest intending to stay. Forty years would pass before the Columbia River country became United States territory. Although the region was open to settlement by either the British or Americans during most of the period, its effectual occupation was by the British fur-trading companies, the North West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company.

The beaver brought the white men here—one of the objects of the Lewis and Clark Expedition was to determine if the fur-trade could be carried on in the Oregon Country by overland routes. The beaver brought about the discovery of South Pass in Wyoming, the gateway of the Oregon Trail—one of the Astor party found the pass when making his way back to "the States" after the post had gone to the British. The importance of the beaver in our history is indicated by its use in the State Flag, and by Oregon's popular designation as the Beaver State.



CAPTAIN CLARK wrote under heading of "Sunday 8th December 1805 Fort Clatsop," "that having fixed on this Situation as the best Calculated for our Winter quarters I determined to go as direct a Course at I could to the Sea Coast which we could

Captain Clark's plan of Fort Clatsop, superimposed on a drawing of a river. The men lived in the log houses that formed two sides of the enclosure. There was a gate at each end of the parade ground.

here roar and appeared to be no great distance from us, my principal object to look out a place to make salt"

Before making that move they had noted that "Mt. St. Helians [Helens] Can be Seen from the Mouth of this [the Columbia] river . . .," that there were large numbers of "Swan Brant Ducks & Gulls in this great bend which is crowded with low islands covered with weeds grass &c and overflowed every flood tide . . ." Earlier Captain Clark had remarked that a large portion of the Indians had been destroyed by "Small pox or some other [disease] which these people were not acquainted with." A few days later he described the native burial customs:

"The Chinooks *Cath lah mah* & others in this neighborhood bury their dead in their canoes. for this purpose 4 pieces of Split timber are Set erect on end, and sunk a few feet in the ground, each brace having their flat Sides opposite to each other and sufficiently far asunder to admit the width of the Canoe in which the dead are to be deposited . . ., in which the body is laid after being Carefully roled in a robe of Some dressed Skins . . . from their depositing Various articles with their dead [they] believe in a State of future ixistance."

With five men Captain Clark started for the coast, taking a southwesterly direction, following a dividing ridge through lofty pines and over much fallen timber. They waded up to their knees in fording creeks and swamps. One stream was sixty yards wide; to cross it they constructed a raft. The major event, on which the day ended, was the "discovery" of a large "gange of Elk in the open lands, and we prosued them through verry bad Slashes [swamps] and small ponds about 3 miles, killed one and camped on a spot Scercely large enough to lie Clear of the Water. . . . We made a camp [tent] of the Elk skin to keep off the rain which continued to fall, the Small Knob on which we camped did not afford a Sufficiency of dry wood for our fire, we collected what dry wood we could and what Sticks we could Cut down with the Tomahawks, which made us a tolerable fire."

Throughout the night it rained and all were wet when morning came. Sending two men to continue the elk hunt, Captain Clark and the others made for the coast. They had gone but a short distance when they met three Indians "loaded with fresh Salmon which they had Gigid in the creek." By signs the natives indicated that their village was near by on the coast, and invited the white men to it. The group proceeded, using a small canoe

hidden in a creek, and which the Indians carried from stream to stream.

Soon they reached the village, which consisted of four lodges. The lodges were a combination basement and walled construction, the walls and roof of split planks being built over a basement dug about four feet into the ground. A ladder led down into the house. Fires were burning in the center of the room. Beds were bunks around the walls, two and one-half feet above the floor and covered with mats. Under the bunks baskets, mats and utensils were stored.

The natives treated the white men with "extrodeanary friendship, one man attached himself to me as Soon as I entered the hut, Spread down new mats for me to Set on, gave me fish berries rutes &c on Small neet platters of rushes to eate . . . all the Men of the other houses came and Smoked with me. Those people appeared much Neeter in their diat than Indians are Comonly, and frequently wash their faces and hands . . ." Captain Clark thought the food pleasant. However, in his opinion of the "neetness" of his hosts he was somewhat in error, as his closing entry of December 9 reveals: ". . . when I was Disposed to go to Sleep the man who had been most attentive named *Cus-ka. lah* produced 2 new mats and Spred them near the fire, and derected his wife to go to his bead which was the Signal for all to retire which they did emediately. I had not been long on my mats before I was attacked most Violently by the flees and they kept up a close Siege dureing the night. . . ."

The next morning Captain Clark rose very early and explored the seashore, picking up several curious shells and amusing himself for about an hour. On his return "one of the Indians pointed to a flock of Brant Sitting in the creek at Short distance below and requested me to Shute one, I walked down with my small rifle and killed two at about 40 yds distance . . ." The natives were much impressed, and could not understand, as they said, that kind of musket.

It is one of the most interesting, and often puzzling things about the Lewis and Clark Expedition, even to historians, to note how modern the equipment was. Many items in their inventory did not come into general use for another fifty years. Captain Clark's rifle was one such, as were the air-rifle strong enough to kill game, and friction matches.

After attempting, with limited success, to make some pur-

chases of his hosts, Captain Clark started on the return trip to Fort Clatsop. He was accompanied part way, and ferried across the streams, by Cuskalah. Reaching the winter camp he found Captain Lewis and all the men busy cutting down trees for the camp buildings.



THE NEXT several days were spent in building Fort Clatsop. By Devenber 14 the logs for the cabins had been cut and raised. Men were put to splitting cedar logs for roofing, the explorers being "glad to find the timber splits butifully, and of any width." On the twenty-fourth the whole party were moving into their "huts."

Then came the first celebration of Christmas day by Americans in Oregon, a day Captain Clark described: ". . . at day light this morning were we[re] awoke by the discharge of fire arm[s] of all our party & a Selute, Shouts and a Song which the whole party joined in under our windows [those of Captains Lewis and Clark], after which they retired to their rooms were cheerful all the morning. after brackfast we divided our Tobacco which amounted to 12 carrots one half of which we gave to the men of the party who used tobacco, and to those who doe not use it we made a present of a handkerchief . . . all the party Sungly fixed in their huts . . .

"We would have Spent this day the nativity of Chirst in feasting, had we any thing either to raise our Sperits or even gratify our appetites, our Diner Concisted of pore Elk, so much Spoiled that we eate it thru' mear necessity. Some Spoiled pounded fish and a fiew roots." Another member of the party noted that they were without salt to season even the tainted meat. The accident of the spoiled meat is explained as "owing to warmth & the repeeted rains, which cause the meet to tante before we can get it from the woods . . ."

Now, however, they had a meat house, and hunting parties were continuously in the woods. The meat was smoked, and

Photograph of the page in Captain Clark's journal in which he tells of the Expedition's Christmas "celebration."

Christmas

Wednesday 25th December 1805 76

at day light this morning we were aroused by the discharge of the fire arms of all our party on a salute, shouts and a song which the whole party joined in under our windows, after which they retired to their rooms were cheerful all the morning after breakfast we divided our tobacco which amounted to 12 cents one half of which we gave to the men of the party who use tobacco, and to those who do not use it we make a present of a handkerchief. The Indians leave us in the evening all the party being by fire in their huts. I received a present of Capt L. of a few horses their drawers and socks, a pair of moccasins of white horse, a small Indian basket of guttherub, two dozen white waggles bark of the Indian women, a few black roots of the Indians before their departure. Drayton informs me that he saw a Snake pass over the fourth to day. This day proved showery wet and disagreeable.

We would have spent this day the method of Christ in fasting, had we any thing better to raise our spirits or even gratify our appetites, our Dinner consisted of four Eld. so much spoiled that we eat it three meals made up of some spoiled powdered fish and
 Lewis 1805

diet was somewhat improved. The ailing men improved under the better living conditions. Indians were frequent visitors, bringing foodstuffs and peltries, for which the Americans traded without satisfying success—the natives were sharp bargainers and asked double or treble the value of everything they "have to sell, and never take less than the full value of any thing . . ."

Coboway, one of the most famous Clatsop chiefs, some of whose descendants are living today, visited the fort. To him the Americans gave one of the medals they brought with them to honor friendly natives and to be patent evidence of their presence here. A dozen or so of these medals have been preserved, and infrequently another turns up. Probably next to the gold "Beaver" coins they are the most sought after tokens of Oregon history. No doubt some will yet be found.



"THIS MORNING [December 28] . . . Derected . . . Jos. Fields, Bratton, Gibson to proceed to the Ocean at some convenient place form a Camp and Commence making Salt with 5 of the largest Kittles, and Willard and Wiser to assist them in carrying the Kittles to the Sea Coast. all the other men to be employed about putting up pickets & making the gates of the fort . . ."

The explorers' journals are full of the daily affairs of the fort. The fleas were a constant torment. The weather was so damp that, although there are occasional references to fair or almost rainless days, a frequent entry runs "rained as usual." (It would be interesting to know if the winter of 1805-6 was more wet than usual.) Much attention was given to food, for they were dependent upon what the area and the Indians could supply. Hunting expeditions were always out to try to provide meat for the return trip. Roots, berries, fish and game were purchased whenever possible from the natives. It wasn't often, however, that it could be recorded they "had a sumptuous supper of Elk Tongues & marrow bones which was truly gratifying." A whale was cast ashore and Captain Lewis was anxious to go to the coast to get some of its oil, but the high winds kept him in camp.

One of the most interesting discussions of food is Captain Lewis' comment: ". . . our party from necessaty having been

obliged to subsist some length of time on dogs have now become extremely fond of their flesh; it is worthy of remark that while we lived principally on the flesh of this animal we were much more healthy strong and more fleshey than we had been since we left the Buffaloe country. for my own part I have become so perfectly reconciled to the dog that I think it an agreeable food and would prefer it vastly to lean Venison or Elk . . ." Captain Clark's journal on this subject reads the same as Captain Lewis', except for the last sentence; this is Captain Clark's opinion: ". . . as for my own part I have not become reconciled to the taste of this animal as yet . . ."

Many of the men were sick or suffered accidents; yet it is one of the notable things about the expedition that only one man died during the entire trip, and he of natural causes and shortly after the journey was begun.

The natives were often and carefully described in their appearance, dress, customs and ways of life. It was observed of the Chinooks that the tribes above the Columbia River "carry on a verry considerable interchange of property with those in this neighbourhood." It was this trade that brought about the growth of the Jargon, most of its words being in the Chinook tongue. Captain Clark states that all native travel was by water, and that there were no roads or paths except portages from one stream to another. Even in the coldest weather, he writes, the natives wore only a piece of fur about their bodies and a short robe, "except a few hats, and beeds about their necks arms and legs." They were small and not handsome, generally speaking, and the women especially. The Chinook women were lewd, but the Clatsop and others appeared diffident and reserved. Captain Clark lists and described seven tribes in the neighborhood.

Captain Lewis writes that "The Clatsops, Chinooks, Killamucks &c. are very loquacious and inquisitive; they possess good memories and have repeated to us the names capacities of the vessels &c of many traders and others who have visited the mouth of this river; they are generally low in stature, proportionably small, reather lighter complected and much more illy formed than the Indians of the Missouri and those of our frontier; they the generally cheerful but never gay. with us their conversation generally turns upon the subjects of trade, smoking, eating or their women

" they do not hold the virtue of their women in high

estimation . . . [and make them] perform every species of domestic drudgery. but in almost every species of this drudgery the men also participate, their women are also compelled to gather roots, and assist them in taking fish, which articles form much the greatest part of their subsistence; notwithstanding the servile manner in which they treat their women they pay much more respect to their judgment and opinions . . . than most Indian nations . . . sometimes [the women] appear to command in a tone of authority . . ."

On New Year's Day the captains were awakened by a discharge of guns under their windows, the "only mark of respect," Captain Lewis wrote, "which we had it in our power to pay this celebrated day. our repast this day tho' better than that of Christmas, consisted principally in the anticipation of the 1st day of January, 1807, when in the bosom of our friends . . . we shall . . . enjoy the repast which the hand of civilization has prepared for us. at present we are content with eating our boiled Elk and wappetoe, and solacing our thirst with our only beverage *pure water* . . ."

Their fortifications being then completed the two captains issued an order on the more exact and uniform discipline of the garrison.

As to the management of the fort, Captain Lewis wrote in the Orderly Book:

"The fort being now completed, the Commanding officers think proper to direct: that the guard shall as usual consist of one Sergeant and three privates, and that the same be regularly relieved each morning at sunrise. The post of the new guard shall be in the room of the Sergeants respectively commanding the same. the centinel shall be posted, both day and night, on the parade in front of the commanding officers quarters; tho' should he at any time think proper to remove himself to any other part of the fort. in order the better to inform himself of the designs or approach of any party of savages, he is not only at liberty, but is hereby required to do so. It shall be the duty of the centinel also to announce the arrival of all parties of Indians to the Sergeant of the Guard, who shall immediately report the same to the Commanding officers.

"The Commanding officers require and charge the Garrison to treat the natives in a friendly manner; nor will they be permitted at any time, to abuse, assault or strike them; unless such

abuse, assault or stroke be first given by the natives. nevertheless it shall be right for any individual, in a peaceable manner, to refuse admittance to, or put out of his room, any native who may become troublesome to him; and should such native refuse to go when requested, or attempt to enter their rooms after being forbidden to do so; it shall be the duty of the Sergeant of the guard on information of the same, to put such native out of the fort and see that he is not again admitted during that day unless specially permitted; and the Sergeant of the guard may for this purpose employ such coercive measures (not extending to the taking of life) as shall at his discretion be deemed necessary to effect the same.

“When any native shall be detected in theft, the Sergt. of the guard shall immediately inform the Commanding officers of the same, to the end that such measures may be pursued with respect to the culprit as they shall think most expedient.

“At sunset on each day, the Sergt. attended by the interpreter Charbono and two of his guard, will collect and put out of the fort, all Indians except such as may specially be permitted to remain by the Commanding officers, nor shall they be again admitted until the main gate be opened the ensuing morning.

“At Sunset, or immediately after the Indians have been dismissed, both gates shall be shut, and secured, and the main gate locked and continue so until sunrise the next morning: the water-gate may be used freely by the Garrison for the purpose of passing and repassing at all times, tho’ from sunset, until sunrise, it shall be the duty of the centinel, to open the gate for, and to shut it after all persons passing and repassing, suffering the same never to remain unfixed long[er] than is absolutely necessary.

“It shall be the duty of the Sergt. of the guard to keep the key of the Meat house, and to cause the guard to keep regular fires therein when the same may be necessary; and also once at least in 24 hours to visit the canoes and see that they are safely secured; and shall further on each morning after he is relieved, make his report verbally to the Commandg officers.

“Each of the old guard will every morning after being relieved furnish two loads of wood for the commanding officers fire.

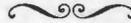
“No man is to be particularly exempt from the duty of

bringing meat from the woods, nor none except the Cooks and Interpreters from that of mounting guard.

"Each mess being furnished with an ax, they are directed to deposit it in the room of the commanding officers [with] all other public tools of which they are possessed; not shall the same at any time hereafter be taken from the said deposit without the knowledge and permission of the commanding officers; and any individual so borrowing the tools are strictly required to bring the same back the moment he has ceased to use them, and [in] no case shall they be permitted to keep them out all night.

"Any individual selling or disposing of any tool or iron or steel instrument, arms, accoutrements or ammunition, shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this order, and shall be tryed and punished according. the tools loaned to John Shields are exempted from the restrictions of this order.

Meriwether Lewis, Capt. 1st U. S. Regt.
Wm. Clark capt &c



"SENT SERGT. Gass and George Shannon to the Saltmakers who are somewhere on the coast to the S.W. of us, to enquire after Willard and Wiser who have not yet returned . . ." Captain Lewis wrote on January 3, 1806.

Two days later Willard and Wiser returned, reporting, according to Captain Lewis' journal, that "they had not been lost as we apprehended. they informed us that it was not until the fifth day after leaving the Fort that they could find a convenient place for making salt; that they had at length established themselves on the coast about 15 Miles S. W. from this, near the lodge of some Killamuck [Tillamook] families . . ."

The site of the salt-makers' cairn was located on June 9, 1900, by a committee of the Oregon Historical Society who had the testimony, among other evidence, of a native who had known contemporaries of the explorers. Like Fort Clatsop, the site is now in the possession of the Society and is a public park.

The two men, Captain Lewis continues, reported that ". . . the Indians [near the cairn] were very friendly and had given them a considerable quantity of the blubber of a whale

which perished on the coast some distance S. E. of them; part of this blubber they brought with them, it was white & not unlike the fat of Poork, tho' the texture was more spongy and somewhat coarser. I had a part of it cooked and found it very palatable and tender, it resembled the beaver or the dog in flavor . . . These lads also informed us that J Fields, Bratton and Gibson (the Salt Makers) had with their assistance erected a comfortable camp, killed an Elk and several deer and secured a good stock of meat; they commenced the making of salt and found that they could obtain from 3 quarts to a gallon a day; they brought with them a specimen of the salt of about a gallon, we found it excellent, fine, strong & white . . ."

The salt was "a great treat" to all the party except Captain Clark, who cared but little if he had any with his meat or not. Both captains agreed, however, that if they could get fat meat they were not very particular about their diet. They had learned to think that "if the chord be sufficiently strong which binds the soul and boddy together, it does not much matter about the materials which compose it . . ."

The three salt makers were Joseph Fields, William Bratton and George Gibson, all privates, who had been with the expedition from its beginning, and who returned safely to the States. Patrick Gass was one of the three sergeants and George Shannon was the youngest member of the party. Shannon was once lost from the group while east of the Cascade Range and was succored by an Indian woman. Except for an incident on the return trip, and an earlier one at Seaside, the Expedition's experience with the natives was most friendly.

It is surprising how little is known about the members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Captain Clark's history is fairly well known; he became Indian Agent and governor of Missouri Territory, dying in St. Louis in 1838. Captain Lewis' death occurred in 1809, from a cause never satisfactorily determined. The best article on the personnel of the expedition is one by Charles G. Clarke in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* for December, 1944. It is from that article that the following information is taken.

Fields was from Kentucky. He was an excellent woodsman and all-around handy man, one of the most valuable members of the expedition. In fact, he was so much depended upon that he was excepted from the order to turn in his tools at the end

of the day, as was noted in the order for Fort Clatsop. In addition to his salt making, he explored part of the Yellowstone River.

Bratton was born in Virginia, of Irish parentage, in 1778. After the Expedition returned he moved to Kentucky and later to Waynetown, Indiana, where he died in 1841.

Fields and Bratton were listed as "young men from Kentucky," and were not, as was Gibson, accounted a "soldier." Gibson was born in Pennsylvania and died in St. Louis in 1809. In addition to being a good hunter, he played the violin and acted as interpreter.

Gass' journal was published before those of Lewis and Clark. He was head carpenter as well as sergeant, and lived to be ninety-eight years old, dying in 1870.

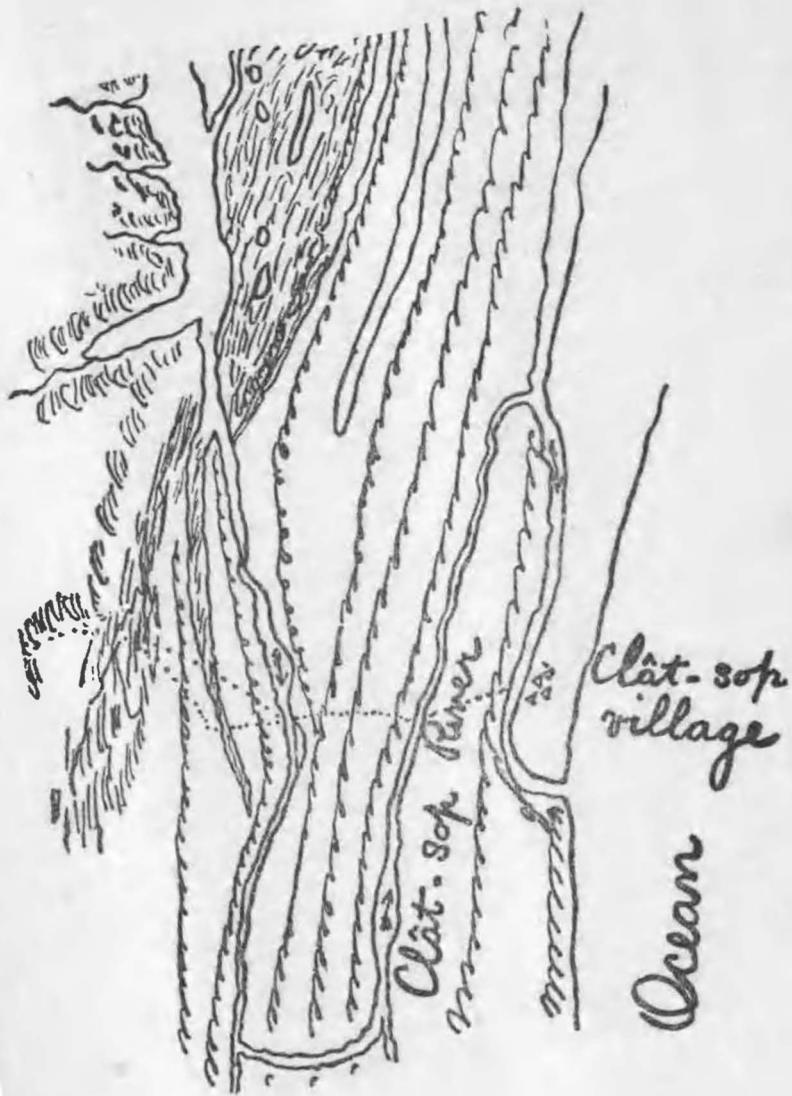
Shannon, only eighteen when the expedition started, returned to Missouri. He became a lawyer, was senator from Missouri, and died at the early age of forty-nine in 1836.



CAPTAIN CLARK set out with, apparently, a group of thirteen in two canoes after breakfast on January 6 to go to the coast and find the whale, hoping to purchase some of its blubber from the natives. Included in the group were Charboneau and Sacajawea, his wife. The reason Sacajawea was taken is stated by Captain Clark: "The last evening Shabono and his Indian woman was very impatient to be permitted to go with me, and was therefore indulged; She observed that She had traveled a long way to See the great waters, and that now that monstrous fish was also to be Seen, She thought it very hard that She could not be permitted to See either (She had not yet been to the Ocian) . . ."

The group followed Captain Clark's first route to the sea and with similar experiences—except that the night was clear and the "moon shiney." They found the hidden canoe. They roused some elk and shot one, of which they ate, "incredible" as it may seem, all but eight pounds. The next morning they

Captain Clark's map of "Seaside," showing the native village at the approximate site of the salt cairn and the trail from the fort to the salt works.



followed Skipanon Creek to the coast. They crossed a stream Captain Clark named Clatsop River after the natives living on it. That name, also, has been changed, the stream today being known as the Necanicum. Going on about two miles they came to the salt-makers. Those men had a neat camp close to fresh as well as salt water, and they had enjoyed kind and attentive care from the natives.

Captain Clark and his group then made a trip to Tillamook Head, described in words that merit quoting from the original text:

“ . . . left Sergt. Gass and one man of my party Werner to make salt [William Warner thus joined the little group of Seaside's earliest business men] & permitted Bratten to accompany me, we proceeded on the round Slipery Stones under a high hill which projected into the ocean about 4 miles further than the direction of the Coast. after walking for $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles on the Stones, my guide made a sudden halt, pointed to the top of the mountain and uttered the word Pe shack which means bad, and made signs that we could not proceed any further on the rocks, but must pass over that mountain, I hesitated a moment & view this immense mountain the top of which was obscured in the clouds, and the ascent appeared, to be almost perpendicular; as the small Indian path along which they had brought immense loads but a few hours before, led up this mountain and appeared to ascend in a sideling direction, I thought more than probable that the ascent might be tolerably easy and therefore proceeded on, I soon found that the [path] became much worse as I ascended, and at one place we were obliged to support and draw ourselves up by the bushes & roots for near 100 feet, and after about 2 hours labor and fatigue we reached the top of this high mountain, from the top of which I looked down with astonishment to behold the height which we had ascended, which appeared to be 10 or 12 hundred feet up a mountain which appeared to be almost perpendicular, here we met 14 Indians men and women loaded with the oil and blubber of the whale. In the face of this tremendous precipice immediately below us, there is a Strata of white earth (which my guide informed me) the neighboring Indians use to paint themselves, and which appears to me to resemble the earth of which the French Porcelain is made; I am confident that this earth contains argile [alumina], but whether it also contains silex or magnesia, or either of those

earths in a proper perpotion I am unable to deturmine. we left the top of the precipice and proceeded on a bad road and encamped on a small run passing to the left: all much fatiagued"

Captain Clark's party were the first white men to stand on Tillamook Head, the mountain that the Tillamook Indians called Nah-se-u'-su; and Sacajawea was in all likelihood the first native woman, except those of the local tribes, to climb its steep sides. The explorer's estimate of its height was remarkably accurate: the highest point being 1136 feet above sea level. The spot from which the party stopped to gaze over the sea and the coastline is now appropriately known as Clark's Point of View.

The area has since challenged the imagination of every visitor, and has been the setting of several novels, among them: Thomas Rogers' *Beeswax and Gold*, Sheba Hargreaves' *Ward of the Redskins* and Claire Warner Churchill's *Slave Wives of the Nehalem*. Another description is by Archie Binns in his chapter of the recently published *The Pacific Coast Ranges*. It has become a romantic and literary as well as a historic spot.

And what changes have been made today! Now an excellent highway enables the traveler in a few minutes from Seaside to come to the view that Captain Clark's party struggled hours to reach. On Tillamook Rock, a barren pinnacle to those first Americans to see it, now stands one of the Pacific Coast's most modern lighthouses, built seventy-five years later. It is on so isolated an "island" that its keepers must often be landed in a breeches buoy. Many of John Fleming Wilson's sea stories involve Tillamook Light—literature again using this area for its setting and subject.

The next morning proved to be clear, and from the next elevation Captain Clark "beheld the grandest and most pleasing prospects which my eyes ever surveyed. in my frount a boundless Ocean; to the N. and N. E. the coast as . . . far as my sight could be extended, the Seas rageing with emence wave[s] and breaking with great force from the rocks . . . on the other side I have a view of the coast for an emence distance to the S. E. by S. the nitches and points of high land which forms this corse for a long ways aded to the inoumerable rocks of emence Sise out at a great distance from the shore and against which the Seas brake with great force gives this coast a most romantic appearance . . . "

The modern visitor is as much lost for words as was Cap-

tain Clark to express the grandeur and dramatic quality of the Oregon coast about Seaside.

Continuing the search for the whale, he noted the native manner of burying the dead in canoes resting on the ground, and commented upon the very heavy forests of the area—forests that originally were among the finest and most dense of the North American continent. When, the same day, the party reached their goal, they found that the Indians had taken every "valuable part" of the whale, leaving only its skeleton on the sand. Probably it was the great gray whale of the Pacific, still sometimes seen; Captain Clark wrote that its skeleton measured 105 feet in length.

In trying to purchase some of the oil or blubber he found that, although the natives "possessed large quantities of this blubber and oil [they] were so prenrurios that they disposed of it with great reluctance and in small quantities only . . . " He could purchase only a few gallons of the oil, which the Indians rendered by placing hot stones on the blubber in wooden troughs, and about 300 pounds of the blubber. However, he thanked "providence for directing the whale to us; and think him much more kind to us than he was to jonah, having Sent this Monster to be Swallowed by us in Sted of Swallowing us as jonah's did . . . "

The men of the Expedition were as hungry for fat as for salt.

The following day the party underwent an experience that changed their easy attitude toward the natives and made them "shudder at the dreadful road" they had to follow on their return. Private Hugh McNeal, who liked a good time and was inclined to be a hail fellow well met, had separated from the group to enter a lodge with a "verry friendly" native. There a squaw tried to hold him while the very friendly native attempted to murder him for his blanket. The killing was prevented by the local natives and the would-be murderer, a man of another tribe, "ran off as soon as he was discovered."

Late that evening the group again reached the salt works. They dined on part of an elk and a deer that J. Fields had killed during their absence, and stayed the night to rest from their fatigue.

Leaving the salt makers early the next morning, January 10, the whale hunters made their way back to Fort Clatsop, arriving at ten o'clock in the evening.

FOR MANY days there are few references in the *Journals* that deal with the salt makers at Seaside. Until March 23, when the party left Fort Clatsop, most of their attention was given to affairs there, and to making notes that are a major source of our knowledge of the natives and their life—and the life of explorers—nearly a century and a-half ago.

The securing of food both for daily use and for the trip home was a constant concern. Almost every day's entry contains references to the hunt, stating who were sent out and what their luck, or lack of luck, had been. Often the game was killed so far from the fort that much of the meat was lost to the wild animals of the area, or to the Indians who frequently helped themselves before men could be sent from the fort to bring in the game. One amusing note on this native activity reads, in Captain Lewis' record of February 12: "This morning we were visited by a Clatsop man who brought with him three dogs as a remuneration for the Elk which himself and nation had stolen from us some little time since, however the dogs took the alarm and ran off; we suffered him to remain in the fort all night . . ." Captain Lewis may have regretted that loss of meat, but Captain Clark was probably contented that the dogs did escape becoming a dinner for the men of the Expedition.

They did not fare too well, for a dinner that was living "in high style" consisted of "a marrowbone a piece and a brisket of Elk that had the appearance of some fat on it." However, they seldom went hungry and by February 12 had dried enough meat to last out the month. They also took heart in the information supplied by the Indians that in March they would have a great abundance of small fish "Which from their description must be the herring."

That seems to be the first published reference to the Columbia River smelt, a fish much sought by the natives—and by Oregonians today—because of its delicious flavor. Captains Lewis and Clark thought them superior to any fish they had ever tasted, and found them best when "cooked in Indian stile, which is by roasting a number of them on a wooden spit without any previous preparation whatever." The smelt, also known as the eulachon, is so rich in fat that it was often used as a candle by the natives. Some of the early explorers actually called it the candle fish. Men of the expedition were dispatched up the Columbia to catch

smelt for the table, adding a welcome variety to the diet of fresh and dried flesh.

In March the wapato root was also more plentiful, and the party lived "sumptuously on our wappetoe and Sturgeon . . . and Anchovy [smelt]." Sometimes a snow goose or brant was killed, both of which were judged better tasting than fowl of the same species east of the Rocky Mountains. Other foods mentioned, either as in use among the natives or tried by the explorers, included thistles, ferns, rushes and berries—"cranberries for the sick," a beneficial remedy. By the middle of March Captain Lewis reported that they were living "in clover." Also, they had salt from Seaside to flavor their dishes.

Nevertheless, the Expedition left Fort Clatsop without sufficient food for the return journey, "depending on Drewer and the hunters" to keep them supplied on the long route from the mouth of the Columbia River to St. Louis at the junction of the Missouri and the Mississippi.

Another item briefly and infrequently mentioned was clothing. Although the party were outfitted for the entire trip, some garments had to be replaced and parts of costumes were secured to show the native dress in the there-to-fore unexplored land. Captain Lewis states that he "Had a large coat completed out of the skins of the Tiger Cat and those also of a small animal about the size of a squirrel not known to me; these skins I procured from the Indians who had previously dressed them and formed them into a robe; it took seven of those robes to complete the coat . . ." A striking coat it must have been.

For some days at least the men of the garrison were busily engaged in dressing elk skins for clothing. Their major hindrance was the lack of brains or soap to use in curing the hide. They could not get sufficient ashes to make lye, for "extrawdinary" as it may seem, green and dry wood was consumed without leaving "the residim of a particle of ashes." Native hats made of cedar bark were purchased from the natives.

Skins were apportioned among the men to make into coverings for the baggage when they set out on the return journey.

The health of the members of the Expedition was also a constant worry to the two captains. Sickness and accidents are often mentioned, and the treatment applied—usually the best known a century and a-half ago. Alexander Willard cut his knee "very badly with his tomnahawk"; but the cut healed under

a treatment not stated. William Bratton complained "of a pain in the lower part of the back when he moves which I suppose proceeds from dability. I gave him barks. [George] Gibson's fever still continues obstinate tho' not very high; I gave him a doze of Dr. Rush's . . ." When George Drouillard, often written Drewyer in the *Journals* was taken ill Captain Clark "blead him."

At one time or another most of the members of the party were ill, and although all recovered, their inferior diet, as Captain Lewis observed, made their recovery slower than it might have been.



THROUGHOUT January, February and March the leaders collected and minutely described the flora and fauna of the area. Frequently their descriptions are accompanied by drawings of remarkable accuracy.

The trees are enumerated, very much as we know them, including a "pine tree, or fir, which at the hight of a man's breast was 42 feet in girth; about three feet higher. or as high as a tall man could reach, it was 40 feet in the girth which was about the circumpherence for at least 200 feet without a limb . . . it was very lofty from the commencement of the limbs . . . [Its total heighth] may be safely estimated at 300 feet." That tree was probably a Douglas fir, named for the British botanist, David Douglas, who was in Oregon twenty-five years after Lewis and Clark were here.

A majority of Pacific Northwest birds are described, including the Oregon robin, "a beautiful little bird"; a coast buzzard that measured more than nine feet from wing tip to wing tip, which Captain Lewis believed "to be the largest bird of North America"; owls and woodpeckers, jays and doves—the list is surprisingly complete.

"The quadrupeds of this country" Captain Lewis lists: "1st. the *domestic animals*, consisting of the horse and the dog only [the horses being 'excellent' but the dogs even smaller than the common cur]; 2edly the *native wild animals*, consisting of "among others, bear, deer, elk, wolf, tiger cat [our cougar], beaver, otter, mink, seal, raccoon, squirrel, mole panther hare and skunk." Many

of those animals are carefully described even as to their sub-family, in their appearance, habits and habitat.

Second only to the attention that the explorers gave to securing adequate food, was their attention to the natives. The *Journals* often supply us with our best first-hand information about the Indians and their customs.

As might be expected, much attention is paid to the Indians' manner of supporting themselves. Captain Clark notes that, although some natives had guns traded by the maritime fur-traders they were "usuually of an inferior quallity" and "invariably in bad condition." The Indians still relied upon the bow and arrow. Those are described in detail and judged excellent; they were used against beast and bird. The native methods of fishing are counted: the seine, dip-net, gig, and hook and line were used to catch salmon, cherr, trout, sturgeon, smelt and other fish. The manner in which the natives dug roots or gathered berries is also discussed, with pictures of the implements used.

Native cooking utensils in the neighborhood of Seaside were: "wooden bowls or troughs, Baskets, Shell and wooden Spoons and wooden Scures [skewers] or Spits, their wooden Bowles and troughs are of different Sizes, and most generally dug out of Solid piecies; . . . [they] are extremely well executed . . . in [them] they boil their flesh or fish by means of hot Stones which they immerce in the water with the articles to be boiled . . . Their baskets are . . . So closely interwoven . . . that they are watertight . . ." Both captains tell how the natives roasted their meat and fish, and dried fish, roots and berries.

The remarkably good houses of the Clatsops and Chinooks are described—houses that were, so far as native techniques permitted, adjusted to the climate and the Indians' social needs. They included private and "apartment" dwellings, winter and summer homes—a permanent residence and "a cottage on the beach," often in or near the present Seaside.

The government of the natives was studied, the explorers concluding that "the creation of a chief depends upon the upright deportment of the individual & his ability and disposition to render service to the community; and his authority or the defer-

Reproduction of a page from the official *Journals* containing drawings of local natives to show the effect of head flattening. Sketch opposite is of a baby in flattening "machine."



old man



Head of Flat head Indian with
Cranial Bone was broken off
in battle

Note The best of these Flat head skulls I got at St. Louis
the most common side of front to back and so
all the part of American skulls were in this form
some thing later some day

young man



woman



ence paid him is in exact equilibrio with the popularity or voluntary esteem he has acquired among the individuals of his band or nation. Their laws like those of all uncivilized Indians consist of a set of customs which have grown out of their local situations. not being able to speak their language we have not been able to inform ourselves of the existance of any peruliar customs among them." It was a form of democracy the natives had not too much unlike our own or, apparently, not much unlike ours in its working.

In short, little of native life, as little of anything about them, escaped the two captains' observation. They made the first records of many an animal and plant, naming—among many plants—our Oregon grape. They first described many animals, fish and birds unique to the Pacific Northwest. But in that, as in geographic features, the names they gave have often been supplanted by the names given by later and better publicized visitors to Oregon.

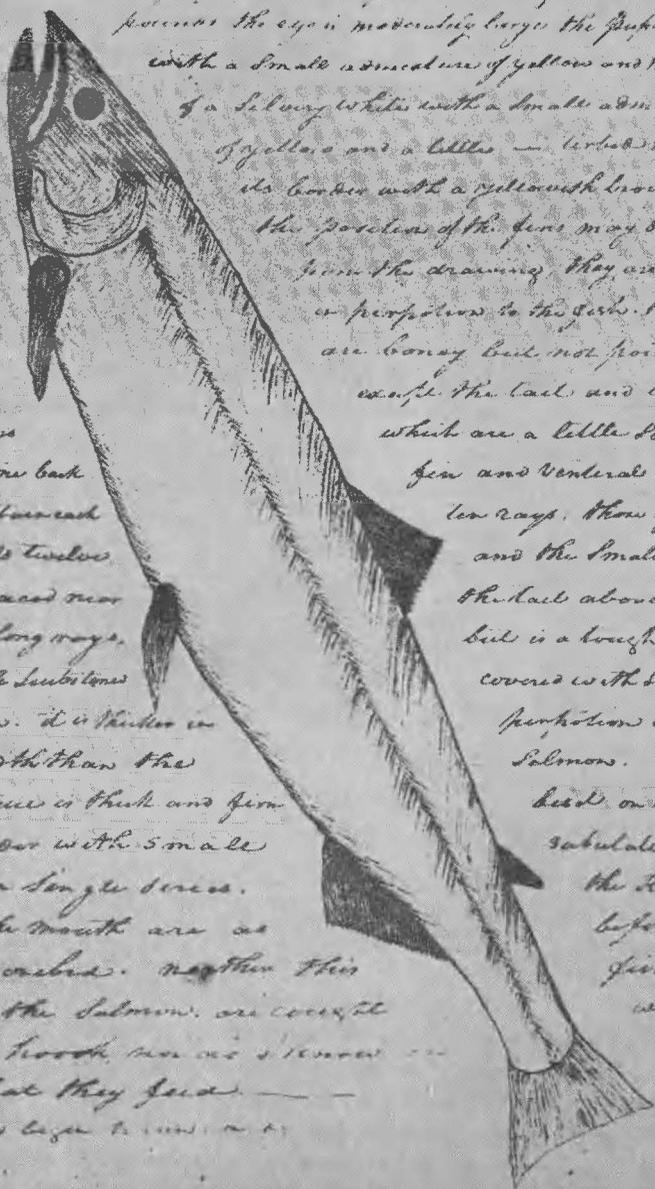


ACTIVITIES at Fort Clatsop all aimed at preparing for the trip home. Food had to be secured, clothing made or repaired, canoes put in shape for the up-river trip and plans perfected. It is difficult for us to realize the hazards and dangers they would face. They were to make their way through plains and over mountains, and always their very lives depended upon their own ability to cope with the wilds and the uncivilized peoples of the wilds.

Of trade goods, there were little left, Captain Lewis revealing [on March 16] that "two handkerchiefs would now contain all the small articles of merchandize which we possess; the balance of the stock consists of 6 blue robes one scarlet do. one uniform artillerist's coat and hat, five robes made of our large flag, and a few old cloaths trimmed with ribbon. on this stock we have wholly to depend for the purchases of horses and such

Reproduction of a page from the official **Journals** containing drawing of a salmon in the descriptive text. Many pages of both Captain Lewis' and Captain Clark's journals contain such drawings.

This is a description of a fish which is very good & interesting, and is called
ten because the eye is remarkably large; the pupil black
 with a small iridescence of yellow and the iris
 of a silvery white with a small admixture
 of yellow and a little iridescence
 the body with a yellowish brown.
 the positions of the fins may be seen
 from the drawing they are small
 & perpendicular to the fish. the fins
 are bony but not pointed
 except the tail and back
 which are a little so, the
 fin and ventral ones,
 ten rays; those of the
 and the small form
 the back above has
 but is a tough clear
 covered with smooth
 perforations to the
 Salmons. The
 head on each
 sabulate teeth
 the teeth
 before
 fish
 with



fins
 from back
 continue each
 gills twelve
 placed near
 on long rays,
 cable substance
 there. it is thicker in
 width than the
 tongue is thick and firm
 bones with small
 in a single series.
 of the mouth are as
 did crabs. neither this
 nor the Salmons are covered
 the hood nor is it removed
 what they feed
 and large to use in it

portion of our subsistence from the Indians as it will be in our powers to obtain. a scant dependence indeed, for a tour of the distance of that before us . . . ”

A couple of months earlier the date of departure had been set for the early part of April, but by the middle of March the two captains were ready to start on the homeward trek. Troubles beset them: Drouillard [Drewer, in the *Journals*] was taken with a violent pain, and several of the men complained of being unwell—a “truly unfortunate” circumstance, as Captain Lewis complained. He noted that a dog “purchased for our sick men, [some dried fish] to add to our small stock of provision’s [and an otter skin] to cover my papers.” The rain hampered work on the canoes which would be used on the first part of the return journey up the Columbia River. In fact, adverse weather delayed the departure from March 18 to March 23. Following the south bank of the Columbia the Lewis and Clark Expedition made six miles before nightfall that day. For two more months they would be in the Pacific Northwest; but they had said good-bye to their winter camp at Fort Clatsop and to their salt works at Seaside.



WHAT WE KNOW of the life of the saltmakers, who they were, how they fared and how they succeeded in their work, we learn from many scattered references in the official *Journals*. No member of the Expedition seems to have written a first hand story of those first American Seasiders.

Some of those who have already been mentioned as being at the salt works were recalled and others were stationed there, so the personnel constantly changed. Several members of the Expedition visited the salt works at one time or another, to bring salt back to the fort or to hunt for the saltmakers.

Shannon soon returned from the salt works to the fort, where he was employed as a hunter.

John Collins, one of the fourteen soldiers of the Expedition, is next mentioned as being at the salt works. He was from Maryland, a good hunter and somewhat of a cook. The scanty records indicate that he was killed in 1823 in a fight with the Arikara

Indians while with W.H. Ashley, one of the most famous and colorful of American fur-traders.

Apparently Alexander Hamilton Willard was for some time at Seaside. Of him we know considerable. He was born in New Hampshire in 1771, but enlisted in Kentucky. He was one of the most useful members of the group, serving as gunsmith, blacksmith and hunter. Of an adventurous nature, he fought in the Indian wars of the Middle West and immigrated to California, where he died in 1870, almost one hundred years old. He was one of the men who kept a journal of the expedition.

Of the Expedition's forty-five members [including Sacajawea], these seven may be called the salt-makers, the earliest "residents" of our community: Bratton, Cass, Collins, Fields, Gibson, Shannon and Willard.

Other visitors are mentioned in addition to the large party under Captain Clark, who may fairly be called "tourists," the first of such to enjoy Seaside.

Thomas P. Howard and William Warner, who were not very good woodsmen, were sent from the fort to bring back a supply of salt. They took five days for the trip, much to the worry of the two captains.

On the last day of January "four men" were sent "to assist the saltmakers in transporting meat which they had killed to their camp." Three days later they returned "and brought with them all the salt which had been made, consisting of about one busshel only . . ."

In the middle of February a party under Sgt. John Ordway was dispatched to the saltworks. [It is interesting to note that Ordway also kept a journal, but that it was lost for nearly one hundred years and was not published until 1916.] Three days later he "returned with the party from the salt camp which we have now evacuated. they brought with them the salt and utensils. our stock of salt is now about 20 Gallons; 12 gallons of which we scured in 2 small iron bound kegs and laid by for our voyage."



SEVERAL facts and reflections here come to mind. First is that the salt makers had, considering their equipment and circumstances, done an excellent job.

While no one has yet been able to determine the exact size

of the "kittles" used, they could not have been large. They were, it must be remembered, carried many thousands of miles, and were only a part of the supplies, trade goods and accouterments of the Expedition. There is a tradition here in Seaside that one of the kettles was left behind—a possible but unlikely event. However, if it is true, that kettle would, if it could be found, be a historic relic of great interest and solve a historical problem.

But, whatever the size of the kettles, it was slow work to boil away in them the thirteen or fourteen hundred gallons of sea water that had to be evaporated to yield the amount of salt secured. As the men were at the salt works only about two months, they evaporated an average of more than forty gallons of sea water daily. The work of cutting wood to keep the fires burning must have taken much time; and it must often have been a problem during wet spells to build a good hot fire under the kettles.

Even during their stay not all could devote their time to salt making. They had to get their own food by hunting and "keep house" as best they could when they had no house and few utensils. Probably as much of their time was given to hunting as to tending the salt works.

For another thing, we ask how they prospered, strangers in a wild land and among a different people.

With the natives, except for rare instances, they got along well, finding them friendly and even helpful. Although the Americans were inclined to look upon the Indians as inferior creatures, it is to the credit of the Lewis and Clark Expedition that its members treated the "savages" as human beings. [What an absorbing book it would be, if Chief Comcomly had written what he thought about the whites!]

The men at Seaside, being fewer in numbers with, consequently, fewer to hunt, suffered periods of privation. At one time it was reported that five days had passed without any game being killed ". . . and they had been obliged to Subsist on Some whale which they purchased from the natives . . . Some Small articles of Merchandize to purchase Some provisions from the indians in the event of their Still being unfortunate in the chase" were immediately sent to the men at the sea. A short time later Captain Lewis noted that the "salt makers are still much straitened for provision, having killed two deer only in the last six days . . ." Once at least, when the salt works hunters did succeed in killing

game, help had to be secured from the fort to get the meat to their camp.

Sickness and accidents plagued those at Seaside also. Willard was injured. Bratton suffered a protracted but not disabling illness; Gibson was for a time so sick that he had to be taken to the fort in a litter—both were treated with “the barks” and both recovered.

On February 19 or 20 the salt works were closed, equipment was packed and the men started for the fort, where they arrived on the twenty-first. Thus was brought to a conclusion the enterprise of the farthest camp of the Lewis and Clark Expedition at the site now in the heart of Seaside.



THE LEWIS AND CLARK Expedition stayed in Oregon only a few months, but here the group made two of their “permanent” camps. Despite the shortness of their stay, the influence and effects of the Expedition continue until today, and will continue.

One of the earliest men to feel its influence was Simon Fraser who, in 1808, discovered the river that bears his name. He was searching for the source of the Columbia River, and was actuated by diplomatic and business reasons. If he could find the source of the river that Gray had discovered, and follow that stream to its mouth, he would be the first white man to do so and would thereby strengthen British claims to its drainage basin. That would counterbalance the work of the Expedition. Also, he wanted to advance the British-Canadian fur trade into the region.

The United States Government was encouraged by the Expedition’s success to send other exploring parties into the unsettled land west of the Mississippi River. Some of those parties reached the Pacific Northwest. John C. Fremont on a trip in 1842, that was aimed “. . . to aid . . . emigration to the Lower Columbia,” explored and accurately located South Pass. That pass was the gateway of the Oregon Trail, and through it poured thousands of Americans on the road to Oregon. In 1843 Fremont returned, visited Fort Vancouver and explored much of eastern Oregon. Lieutenant [later Commodore] Charles Wilkes was in charge of a Navy exploring expedition that visited the Northwest

Coast in 1841. Members of that party traveled over much of Oregon and Washington.

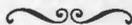
John Floyd, a member of Congress from Virginia, whose cousin, Charles Floyd, was a sergeant on the Expedition, was stimulated to argue in Congress and out of public office that the United States should occupy the "Oregon Country." Although his efforts did not bring immediate results, they were helpful in arousing interest throughout the nation.

Another person who was stimulated by the Expedition was Hall J. Kelley. He tried to move the American government and people to take over this region, and urged that a colony of Americans be settled here. He, too, failed in his immediate efforts, but he helped to prepare the public mind for the later acquisition of Oregon.

John Jacob Astor was encouraged to undertake his program for establishing a post at the mouth of the Columbia. Events at that post helped to confirm American claims to much of the Pacific Northwest.

Of especial importance was the publication in 1814 of an edition of the *Journal* of the Expedition. It was widely distributed as a government document. Many of the early settlers in Oregon spoke of having read it, and stated that it was the source of their abiding interest in this region.

It has been truly maintained that "the Lewis and Clark Expedition was not merely one of a series of events forming the basis of our claim to Oregon, but it was the event that carried the others in its train. From it emerged gradually the conscious desire to claim [this] territory . . ."



INSPIRED by the Oregon Historical Society, an international celebration was held in Portland one hundred years after Lewis and Clark had been here. That fair brought tens of thousands of visitors to Oregon, and thousands of new residents.

Under the leadership of the Chamber of Commerce, from this year on Seaside will hold an annual festival commemorating the first Americans to cross the continent, many of whom were the first American visitors of Seaside, whose journey was a potent force in making the site of this city a part of the American domain.

FINIS



FORT
CLATSOP

WASHINGTON

ROCKY
MOUNTAINS

SALT WORKS
(SEASIDE)
FARTHEST CAMP

OREGON

IDAHO

WYOMING

CALIFORNIA

NEVADA

UTAH

ARIZONA