

## **For release week beginning March 12:**

Educator/writer Larry McClure is a member of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and director of Tualatin Heritage Center. He is following the historic path of the Corps of Discovery until they leave Oregon this spring.

### **Week ending March 18:** Fort Clatsop.

**Highlights:** Winter sea life along the coast and estuary take several pages of the journals as the captains list shellfish (clams, mussels, periwinkles), seaweed (kelp), mammals (porpoises, whales) and more descriptions of birds, trout, steelhead and salmon. Of particular interest to the easterners is how local tribes dry salmon roe for later eating and how all parts of a whale are used. While local residents also relish eating fresh porpoise, the captains find the taste “disagreeable.” Worries about weather and rough river travel to reach the more protected Cathlamet area prompt the captains to leave Fort Clatsop earlier than April 1. They send men to kill more elk and buy two more canoes. Their inventory of trade goods is now extremely low (smaller articles would fill one handkerchief) plus used clothing and several robes, including five made from their large U.S. flag. Leather work during their many days of confinement resulted in 358 pairs of moccasins for the return trip. A local “old baud” sets up camp nearby offering several women for sexual favors, but after treating several cases of venereal disease all winter, and with their impending departure, the captains warn the men to refrain. A Quinault Indian visitor from the northern coast (Willapa Bay) tells of trade ships visiting his area at this time.

**Words from the Journals:** Looking ahead, the captains worry about their slim stock of trade goods for horses and food they will need for the return trip: “a scant dependence indeed for the tour distance before us.” The sharp Chinookan traders squeeze Lewis’s barely-used uniform and “half-carrot” of tobacco for one cedar canoe “which is equal in value to a wife and generally given in exchange to the daughter for a daughter.”

Watching to see if the men ignore temptation by the “old baud”, Capt. Lewis writes “I believe notwithstanding every effort of their winning graces, the men have preserved their constancy to the vow of celibacy.”

**Today’s connections:** When is it OK to break a code of conduct? The captains authorize stealing of a second Chinookan canoe on the pretense it was payback for elk carcasses taken earlier in the winter by local residents (even though the offenders had already tried to make recompense). The cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*) is one of many plant and animal species today that bear the name of Lewis or Clark.

**Books of the Week:** Popular Naselle, Washington speaker and writer Rex Ziak has a new book *Lewis and Clark: Down and Up the Columbia River* (Moffitt House Press) featuring an eight-foot fold out map with commentary.

**Bicentennial events in the Pacific Northwest:** The free exhibit and hourly performances at the traveling National Park Service Corps of Discovery II and Tent of Many Voices runs March 13-20 in St. Helens, then travels to Grand Ronde for two weeks. See [www.lcbo.net](http://www.lcbo.net) for details. Presentations in the tent alternate between tribal stories and Lewis and Clark history, natural science and implications for today. Re-enactors and exhibits from other state and federal agencies will be stationed nearby.

Special thanks to Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation members, particularly historian Barb Kubick, for assisting with this series. See [www.lewisandclark.org](http://www.lewisandclark.org). To follow the story, click “200 Years Ago This Week” at [www.thejourneycontinues.org](http://www.thejourneycontinues.org). Better yet, read the actual journal entries at <http://libtextcenterunl.edu/lewisandclark/index.html> For Bicentennial activities in Oregon, go to [www.lcbo.net](http://www.lcbo.net). Comments should be directed to [education@lcbo.net](mailto:education@lcbo.net).