

## **For release week beginning April 9:**

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 April 15: Beacon Rock to The Dalles**

**Highlights:** It takes three days to cover seven miles in some of the most beautiful parts of the Gorge. Fierce rapids force the men use elkskin ropes to pull the canoes upstream. They must portage three miles around the roughest water in some of the most beautiful parts of the Gorge. After losing one canoe in the battle, and damaging the others, Capt. Lewis sends a group ahead to barter for a replacement and gather pitch from trees to seal the cracks. Friendly Indians trade them two small canoes for some skins. Encounters with other natives are not as cordial, and security becomes a concern. Someone tries to steal Seaman, Lewis's Newfoundland dog, and the Captain sends three men with orders to retrieve the dog at any cost (and Seaman is turned over). The captains notice the housing, hairstyles and clothing of tribes of the mid-Columbia are different from those living downriver. Particularly noteworthy are skins of the mountain goat and big horn sheep, and the price goes up when they express interest. The captains know horses will speed their return journey to the Bitterroots, so they try to buy as many as they can.

**Words from the Journals:** Despite nasty weather and heavy spring run-off in the Columbia, Lewis briefly mentions Multnomah Falls and other legendary falls we enjoy today: "we passed several beautiful cascades which fell from a great height over the stupendous rocks which close the river on both sides." Worried about security, Lewis writes "we informed the natives by signs that if the Indians insulted our men or stole our property we should certainly put them to death." After buying several dogs for camp food, Lewis writes "the dog now constitutes a considerable part of our subsistence...I prefer it to lean venison or Elk, and is very far superior to the horse..."

**Today's connections:** Tribal burial sites the explorers describe at Lower and Upper Memaloose Islands are interpreted at Memaloose Wayside on I-84. The expedition's Rock Fort campsite is in a light industrial area of The Dalles and remains an important historic site with good signage.

**Bicentennial events in the Pacific Northwest:** Re-enactors are continuing their journey upstream in authentic dugouts and spending each night in real campsites. National Guard members provide backup assistance. For a schedule, see [www.lewisandclark.net](http://www.lewisandclark.net). Visit the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center in Stevenson, Washington and the visitors center at Bonneville Dam to appreciate more about the Expedition's experience through the Gorge and the tribes whose descendants are still here today.

Special thanks to Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation members, particularly historian Barb Kubik, 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).

