



THE CALIFORNIA ENCOMPASSER IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND YORK RITE BODIES OF CALIFORNIA AND IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE MEMBERSHIP. THE ENCOMPASSER IS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE MEMBERSHIP AT ALL CONVOCATIONS, ASSEMBLES AND CONCLAVES OF THE YORK RITE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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A Nation Moves Westward. "The Mother of All Camping Trips"

By Sean N. Foran, Grand Orator

CALIFORNIA CRYPTIC MASONS GRAND SESSIONS, SACRAMENTO, APRIL 2004

Exploration and discovery are as old as man. Man has always responded to the urge to explore and discover. The greatest of all adventure stories is Man's will to live and desire to have and to know.

Exploring expeditions, led by Masons in the 18th and 19th centuries, discovered new routes and opened up the vast wilderness for colonization and expansion. Foremost of all Masonic pathfinders was General Meriwether Lewis and General William Clark. Both were honored members of the Masonic fraternity and of the same lodge, St. Louis, No. 111.

Many of these early brothers were true exemplars of the tenets of our profession of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

When Thomas Jefferson took the oath of Office as the third President of the United States, on March 4, 1801, the nation had 5,308,483 people within its boundaries. In 1803, only four roads crossed the Appalachian Mountains; but the United States had the potential to become a powerful nation if it could add the area west of the Mississippi to its territory. Jefferson knew the inhabitants of this region posed a risk of succession from the United States. After all, the nation, only 18 years old, was born of rebellion. He was determined to prevent the West from breaking away.

Other nations also sought to control the West's destiny, but still knew little about the region. Spanish conquistadors had explored the Southwest. French and Spanish fur traders had ventured part of the way up the Missouri River.

Some of Jefferson's books described a land mass of erupting volcanoes and mountains of undissolved salt.

Many reports told of western terrain spotted with wondrous creatures: unicorns, gargantuan woolly mastodons, seven-foot-tall beavers, and friendly, slim-waisted buffalo. Depictions of land and creatures in the west often came from the imaginations of men who had never been there.

Maps of the west proved equally fictitious. European geographers, for example, drew maps depicting California as an island. The lack of detail in maps circa 1803 hinted at the enormous task to be faced by future explorers.

The expedition of the Territory west of the Mississippi was the dream of President Thomas Jefferson; in 1792 he proposed to the American Philosophical Society that some suitable person be secured to explore the region "by ascending the Missouri, crossing the Stony Mountains, and descending the nearest river to the Pacific.

In 1803, Congress appropriated \$2,500.00 to send an expedition, led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, to explore the area between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean. The immediate purpose was to establish a transportation route for American fur traders. The expedition's explorers were also to produce detailed reports about the geography, climate, plants, and animals as well as report on the customs and languages of the area's Indians.

Meriwether Lewis was born on August 18, 1774, west of Charlottesville, Virginia Colony, on the eve of the American Revolution. His Father died when Meriwether was five years old. Lewis was well educated for his day and was tall and had light-colored hair. He gained practical

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experience and skills while running the family plantation.

At the age of 20, he enlisted in the Virginia Volunteer Corps, and later served under the command of William Clark when assigned to the Chosen Rifle Company. In 1801, Lewis accepted a position as secretary to President Thomas Jefferson, and lived in the presidential residence in the City of Washington. Thirty-one years his senior, Jefferson became Lewis' mentor. By the fall of 1802, Lewis was preparing for the exploration of western North America by studying with America's leading scientists, at the American Philosophical Society, in Philadelphia. There he studied geography, botany, mineralogy and astronomy. Celestial navigation, field medical treatments under Dr. Benjamin Rush, natural history and how to prepare specimens, and finally paleontology were all part of his educational curriculum.

He was a man of high energy and was at times impetuous, but this was tempered with great self-discipline. His talents ran wider than they ran deep. He could describe an animal, classify a plant, name the stars, manage the sextant and other instruments. Where he was unique, truly gifted, and truly great was as an explorer, where all his talents were necessary. The most important was his ability as a leader.

William Clark was born in Carolina County, on August 1, 1770, near Charlottesville, Virginia Colony. He was the ninth child in a large and well known family. George Rogers Clark, who secured the Ohio Territory for the United States, during the Revolutionary War, was his oldest brother. A black slave York, was his companion since childhood. Clark was tall and had red hair. Clark joined the army in 1792, rose to the rank of Captain four years later, before resigning his commission in 1796, to take care of the family business in Kentucky and during this time he kept in touch with Lewis. President Jefferson approved of Clark as the co-leader of the planned expedition to the Pacific. The Army would not reinstate Clark with his former rank of Captain. He received the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. Lewis always called Clark by the title of "Captain" and never told the members of the Corps of Discovery otherwise. While on the expedition, Clark kept a daily journal and produced all the maps of the expedition's route. Clark was without peer as a cartographer, because he had an incredible instinct and feel for the landscape. Much of the success of the expedition can be attributed to how well Lewis and Clark worked together to lead the Corps of Discovery and "they were equal in every point of view." Their skills and personalities were individual, yet complimentary.

On May 14, 1804, Lewis and his friend William Clark and their "Corps of Discovery," set forth on a journey that would take them, over a period of 28 months, the length of the Missouri River and to the mouth of the Columbia and

back. By boat and on foot, Lewis and Clark navigated and named two-thirds of the American continent. They traveled 8,000 miles, hauling 3,500 pounds of equipment, camping gear, navigational tools, medical supplies and rifles. They were guided for part of their expedition by Sacagawea, a Shoshone woman. By journey's end, they had written the first scientific descriptions of 178 plants and 122 animals.

When Lewis and Clark hired Toussaint Carbonneau, Sacagawea's husband, he didn't appeal to them personally; but, they knew that his wife could speak Shoshoni, Minitari, as well as French. The "interpreters" would be a valuable member of the expedition. Gathering familiar plant foods, interpreting, trading and identifying familiar Shoshoni landmarks and abandoned Indian village sites. Perhaps her most important function is one that sometimes we don't realize and that is by carrying a woman along, especially a woman who was carrying an infant, said to tribes this is not a party that is out for aggressive reasons. This is not a war party. So she was a living white flag, so to speak as they moved along. She was a sign of peace, better than anything they could have found. On several occasions, her courage drew praise from the expedition, and on May 20, 1805, Lewis named a "handsome river," after our interpreter, the Snake Woman, (east-central Montana). She would die of fever about six years after the expedition at the age of about 25. She would give birth during the expedition to a little boy.

Lewis and Clark were such good observers that scientists still refer to their findings. For example, based partly on their descriptions, experts believe there were about 100,000 grizzly bears roaming from the Mississippi River to the West Coast 200 years ago. Their observations were also very accurate, for example, Lewis was able to figure out the black-billed magpie was a magpie just by remembering a picture he had seen of a European magpie. For years scientists said he was mistaken. But in recent years, DNA evidence proved that he was right. As a side-note, Lewis and Clark were able to ship a live black-billed magpie to Thomas Jefferson.

Lewis and Clark were able to bring back many animal skeletons and pelts. They also gathered many plant samples, or specimens. They discovered 122 species and subspecies animals including: rattlesnake, striped skunk, harbor seal, white sturgeon, western gull, grizzly bear, mule deer, burrowing owl. They saw the first Prairie dogs, or as they called them "barking squirrels." Mosquitoes, very troublesome and William Clark included twenty-six different spellings of the word mosquito, in his journal, never once did he get it right. They had also discovered and described 178 new plants, more than two-thirds of them from west of the Continental Divide. Not since Columbus and Cook had there been so much that was new.

The Indians had warned them about a ferocious, big

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HAVE YOU TALKED TO A MASON TODAY?

By Larry Reynolds,

Illustrious Grand Master, Cryptic Masons

Have you talked to a Mason today about York Rite Masonry? If not, why not? As York Rite Masons, we "CAN ASK" any Blue Lodge Mason to join York Rite Masonry. Most of us travel through the day without thinking that the person next to us in the line at the bank or grocery store might be a Mason. Does he have a lapel pin or a ring? Do you? Do you have emblems on your car or truck? If not, WHY NOT? Sometimes we are our worst problem, by hiding the fact that we are Masons. Are you not PROUD to be a Mason? I AM, and I show it by eleven emblems on my truck, a ring on my hand, lapel pins, and a license plate that says Cryptic Masons. I want people to know that I am a Mason. You cannot know how many times someone has asked me what those mean. In parking lots, car washes, and while I am out on errands. What a wonderful way to tell about our Craft.

Do you remember, that sometime in your own Masonic career, you were asked something like: "HOW DO I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BECOME A MASON?" Do you remember the answer to that question? Before I enter a Lodge building, I walk around the parking lot to see what cars or trucks have what symbols on them, so I know what to expect of some of members attending that event. I also look around the room at each member to see what lapel pins, rings, belt buckles, etc. that they have on so I know what other organizations they belong to.

I listened to a speech given by a Grand Honored Queen at Grand Lodge Communications about wanting to have a simple bumper sticker on every car in her year. That bumper sticker was: "2B1ASKI".

Maybe its time we come into the 21st Century or out of the "Dark" and show our communities, cities, and our state, what we are and what we are all about. Talk about what we do, not just for our charities, but for each other. I travel up and down this state and see everyday what we are all about by the actions of all the Companions and their Ladies that I meet. They are Wonderful.

SO TALK TO A MASON TODAY!!!!!!!!!!!!

LET'S COMMUNICATE

By Gordon Alexander, Grand High Priest

We all have ideas. Some of them frivolous some of them possibly paradigm shifting, world changing, unbelievably significant additions to the human knowledge base. BUT, if these ideas are not communicated, they are useless thoughts of a hopeless dreamer. Let's communicate.

If you have an idea, any idea which you feel might better the state of Masonry in general or York Rite Masonry in particular now is the time to let the world know. Sure, you may think, "How can I have a great idea. I'm just a regular person." Rest assured, most of the great ideas came from regular people. The only thing that has made their ideas unique is the fact that these people told someone else about them. Let's communicate.

How often have you seen a new product or a new way of doing things when you have said to yourself, "Hey, I thought of that 10 years ago."? Thinking is a good thing. We should all try to do it on a daily basis. But, if you do think of something, get it out there. Don't just say to yourself, "You know, things would be better if we..." Say it out loud. Say it to the Leaders. Because you know what, this will make you a Leader. Let's communicate.

In Masonry, your Grand Officers are eager for your ideas. They wish everyone in the Fraternity would suggest something. We can only evolve and improve through the benefit of new concepts and new ways of looking at things. Any given thought may not be that great but it could get someone else to thinking and result in a truly significant idea. Let's communicate.

Almost every Mason I have ever met has said, "Hey, why don't they do such-and-such." If everyone would contribute we could get a swelling of ideas and a consensus of thought which might lead to a truly revolutionary approach to what we do. It could lead to The World Changing Concept. Let's communicate.

Almost every year every Masonic leader in every Masonic body has a theme. This is nothing more than his idea of how to improve or regenerate or inspire. Each and every one of us could have an annual theme (or idea) of how to accomplish these worthy goals. Do you reflect on the state of our Craft? Do you have an idea? Well, what the heck, let's communicate.

You can reach me via e-mail, snail mail, telephone or personal conversation. I'm constantly on the lookout for a new idea, a new approach, a way to avoid doing the same old boring things which may have worked once but are now so out of date they drive people away through the

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Freemasonry in a Space Age

— Ill. Mcllyar H. Lichliter, 33°

Supreme Council Newsletter, March 1958

On October 4, 1957, Sputnik I, the first artificial satellite was launched, opening the Space -Age.

When Sputnik I made its dramatic appearance, the News Letter planned to capitalize on the emotions of the moment. An editorial — “In Spite of Sputnik” — approved by the Sovereign Grand Commander — was laid aside to make room for his generous comments on the retirement of the Grand Prior. Imagine our surprise when, a week or two later, the New York Herald Tribune carried an editorial with the same title! It was a comfort to realize that a trained editorial writer in New York and an amateur in Boston shared the same conviction: In spite of Sputnik, life goes on!

One who knows nothing of astrophysics is grateful for the significant results of the current emphasis upon outer space. It has introduced us to a large group of scholars who are masters in this field. They are emerging as pioneers in dramatic new aspects of national defense and in rather terrifying weapons of aggressive war.

A solemn note of warning has been sounded by Dean Roy Pearson of Andover Newton Theological School in West Newton, MA. “It is good that we increase our proficiency in science,” he says, “but only if we do not diminish our capacity in those areas for which science was designed to be not master but servant. We shall find the profit small when we have sold our souls to buy a Sputnik.”

One wishes that Dean Pearson’s illuminating article in *The Christian Century* (Jan. 1, 1958) could be read by every Freemason. “Our salvation,” he concludes, lies neither in the destruction of the Russians nor in the achievement of a military stalemate.

One who is confused by voices on television, radio and by news columnists with such themes as intercontinental ballistic missiles, rockets and space conquests, which only a few scientists understand, may find peace of mind not only in the church but also in a tiled room from which the noisy world is shut out, a room with an altar in the center and on the altar, an open Bible. There he feels the nearness and power of the Eternal.

Do not misunderstand. We must have the proving grounds and be militarily strong. But one may be content to leave the bewildering complexities of the Space Age to the specialists and to trust the experts with the task of assuring us military protection and a wise distribution of Space Age equipment among friendly nations.

There remains the problem of building a national life that is worth protecting. That is the function of the church and the school, but it is also a challenging opportunity for Freemasonry - a worldwide brotherhood, universal in its fellowship, generous in its manifold charities and loyal to the ethical and spiritual precepts which make any nation strong.

LET’S COMMUNICATE

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sheer power of their time wasting uselessness. Let's communicate.

All your Grand Officers will be spending a major portion of their time this year traveling around the Great State of California. You will probably be in the same room with at least one of us sometime between now and next April. Don't be shy. We're nothing special. We're just regular Masons trying to contribute to The Craft. If you do see one of us and you do have an idea please come right up, introduce yourself and say, "Hey (Gordon, Larry or Dan) you know what, I think we should do this or try that or change this or ..." Let's communicate.

I look forward to meeting or hearing from YOU this year. My only goal in Masonry is the improvement of myself and contributing whatever I can to the greater good. I didn't set out to be a leader but I sure made my ideas known. Our beautiful Fraternity gives each and every one of us a chance to do something, to be someone who contributes to the betterment of all. The time is now.

This is YOUR chance LET'S COMMUNICATE!.

Grand Chapter Celebrating 150th Anniversary

Your Grand Chapter is offering some GREAT Sesquicentennial memorabilia. Each Department Grand Officer has them for sale.

We have coffee cups, Baseball caps, and Red Polo Shirts all with the Triple Tau logo and: “Royal Arch Masons of California since 1854” printed on the cups and embroidered on the Caps, and shirts.

Many Chapters are opting to wear the Red shirts to summer meetings in lieu of Red Coats.

**Contact your Department
Grand Officer,
or Jerry Wohlfarth,
Grand Captain of the Host
at jerrywohlf@cox.net**

Royal Arch Chapters Banner Presentation Report

The following presentation was made on April 26th 2004 during the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of California's 150th Annual Grand Convocation opening ceremony. It was made possible at the request of the Grand High Priest Edgar Fentum, coupled with the fine coordination by Exc. Companion Jon Humphreys of Sonora Ch. #2, in getting the early, surviving Chapters to present their Standard banners and then staging and controlling order of presentation for all to enjoy:

Milestones leading to California's 1st Grand Convocation of Royal Arch Masons:

Sept. 13 1850: Deputy General Grand High Priest issues San Francisco Chapter No. 1's Charter,

Sept. 17, 1853: General Grand High Priest grants Charters for Sonora Chapter, No. 2 and Sacramento Chapter No. 3.

April 1, 1854: General Grand King issues warrant, granting permission to said Chapters to organize a Grand Chapter for the State of California.

Saturday, May 6, 1854: Representatives of the three chartered Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, existing in California, assembled at the Masonic Hall, in the City of Sacramento for the purposes of forming a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the State of California. Warrant from General Grand King was read and a Committee of three was ordered to prepare a Constitution for consideration of this Convention.

Monday May 8, 1854. Proposed Constitution and several resolutions were taken up and by the end of the evening session were unanimously adopted. The convention was then adjourned "subject to the call of the presiding officer, to meet again at such place as may be designated, for the purpose of electing Grand Officers and opening the Grand Chapter of California."

Tuesday May 9, 1854 the Order of High Priests in California met at Sacramento with Isaac Davis presiding. Exc. Companions Radcliff and Hoy, destined to be the 1st Grand High Priest and Grand King, were received into the Order.

Friday July 28, 1854, 10:00 AM the convention for organizing the Grand Chapter met in San Francisco, at the Masonic Hall, situated at the corner of Washington and Kearny Streets. After the reading and approval of the minutes of the Sacramento meeting, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: Resolved, That this Convention do now adjourn, and that the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of California be opened in Ample

Form. The Convention was then adjourned sine die.

12:00 PM The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of California was opened in Ample Form and proceeded to elect its officers. The M. E. John Dunbar Creigh, High Priest of San Francisco Chapter then installed M. E. Charles M. Radcliff as Grand High Priest, after which the Grand High Priest installed the Deputy Grand High Priest and other officers of the Grand Chapter and made his appointments. A Resolution was then adopted to issue new charters to San Francisco Chapter, No.1, Sonora Chapter, No. 2, and Sacramento Chapter, No. 3. After disposing of several routine matters the Grand Chapter adjourned its first Convocation.

Now for the History Briefs of the early, surviving Chapters of California Grand Chapter

San Francisco Royal Arch Chapter No. 1 was granted a new charter on Friday, the 28th day of July 1854 as a constituent of the Grand Chapter of California. Records show that it was supposed to have actually been given the name "California." Like many early towns and cities, San Francisco had a fiery beginning - it was devastated by six great fires between 1849 and 1852 but none equaled the loss suffered during the April 17, 1906 earthquake and the resultant fire. Grand Chapter had opened the day before the quake and elected its officers and closed about five hours after the quake. On closing, Grand Treasurer Day, member California Chapter, No.5, ascended the stairs to his office and opening the safe, removed all its valuables representing \$50,000 in money and securities belonging to the Grand Chapter. His act in protecting the property entrusted to him at such extreme personal hazard to himself is a splendid example of the fidelity of one of the finest of California's Grand High Priests. Golden Gate Chapter, No. 121 consolidated with No. 1 on January 13, 1971. California Chapter, No. 5 consolidated with San Francisco Chapter No. 1 on December 21, 1995 as California Royal Arch Chapter No. 1. California Chapter, No. 5, dated its existence from March 18, 1854, when a dispensation was issued to Companions in San Francisco desirous of establishing a second Chapter in that city. This manifest earnestness of Companions of San Francisco at that time illustrated the favorable impression Capitular Masonry had made upon the Brethren, and the rapid growth of Craftsmanship in that locality. As a result of all consolidations the Chapter is now credited with providing 23 Grand High Priests (1 from Mission Chapter, No. 79 consolidation of April 23, 1963, and 14 from California Chapter, No. 5.) Her last annual report shows 143 members.

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Banners — *(Continued from Page 5)*

Sonora Royal Arch Chapter No. 2 was granted a new charter on Friday, the 28th day of July 1854 as a constituent of the Grand Chapter of California. James Wilson Marshall, identified with discovery of gold on the American River, was a member of Sonora Chapter No. 2 in 1854. He withdrew to become a charter member and first Scribe of Columbia Chapter No. 8. Sonora Chapter bears upon its books of record the names of the first and fourth Grand High Priests of California, Charles Morton Radcliff and William W. Traylor. Each of these Most Excellent Companions also served the Craft as Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge. A. A. H. Tuttle was the first county judge of Tuolumne County. In the summer of 1848 he built the first log cabin in Mormon Gulch, near Sonora, and the name of the settlement was changed to Tuttletown. Memories of Bret Harte and Mark Twain cling to the remnants of this once thriving mining camp. At one time Twain lived on nearby Jackass Hill. Columbia, Chapter, No. 8 at Columbia, Tuolumne County, Chartered April 30, 1855, consolidated with Sonora Chapter, No.2, on August 14, 1872. During the years of its separate life Columbia gave to the Grand Chapter a Grand Scribe; a Grand High Priest, and a Grand King. James W. Marshall, discoverer of gold at Coloma, served as Scribe in 1855. The consolidated chapter met in Columbia for several years before returning to Sonora. Her last annual report shows 44 members.

Sacramento Royal Arch Chapter No. 3 was granted a new charter on Friday, the 28th day of July 1854 as a constituent of the Grand Chapter of California. Its Mother city was founded in December 1848 by John Sutter Jr.. During the early 1850's the Sacramento valley was devastated by floods, fires and cholera epidemics. Despite this, because of its position just downstream from the Mother Lode in the Sierra Nevada, the newfound city grew, quickly reaching a population of 10,000. Since receiving its Charter the Chapter has furnished 9 Grand High Priests to its Grand Chapter and four governors to its State:- (J. Neeley Johnson (1856-1858) - best remembered for his futile efforts to suppress the San Francisco Vigilance Committee of 1856 which sprang into action after the fatal shooting of James King of William, then a member of California Chapter No. 5., Milton Slocum Latham (who served 5 days in 1860 - just long enough to become a Senator), Romualdo Pacheo (1875-1875) (A true outdoorsman, he is the only governor who claimed to have lassoed a grizzly bear,) and Hiram Johnson (1911-1917). Royal Arch Masons took an active part in the California National Guard during Civil War days. Nathaniel Greene Curtis, a member of Sacra-

mento Chapter No. 3, who completed four terms as Grand Master in 1861, was appointed Major General commanding the Fourth Division. William A. Davies, who later became Grand High Priest, was commissioned a Brigadier General. William W. Traylor, the fourth Grand High Priest and a native of Georgia, served as a captain. Her last annual report shows 104 members.

Nevada Royal Arch Chapter No. 6: In the Autumn of 1849, gold was discovered on Deer Creek in Nevada County. A mining camp quickly sprang up which was called Caldwell's Upper Store. Thereafter the locality became known as Deer Creek Dry Diggins. Civic leaders named the town Nevada, Spanish for "snow covered," in 1850. On October 17, 1854, the Deputy Grand High Priest issued a dispensation to establish Nevada Chapter, No. 6 at Nevada in Nevada County. On April 30, 1855, the Grand Chapter authorized a charter to be issued to Nevada Chapter, No. 6. Nevada became Nevada City in 1856 - no doubt to satisfy the Post Office. Grass Valley Chapter, No. 18, formed in 1857, consolidated with Nevada Chapter No. 6 on April 29, 1969. Nature had been formidable at Grass Valley. There her treasure trove was tightly locked in quartz which baffled the early prospectors. However, by 1853, a bustling camp of 5,000 population was bending its energies toward extracting the precious metal from the stubborn rock. On July 19, 1853, a group of Royal Arch Masons of Grass Valley requested San Francisco Chapter No. 1 to grant its consent to the organization of a chapter. The consent was readily given, but no further steps were taken until 1857. Also formed in 1857, Sierra Chapter, No. 21 consolidated with Nevada Chapter December 21, 2001. Downieville had been established on the North Fork of the Yuba River in 1849 and is said to have been "reasonably rowdy in its time". For many years leading up to its consolidation it was customary for Grand Officers to make an annual visit to Sierra Chapter. The consolidated Nevada Chapter has furnished 4 Grand High Priests to its Grand Chapter. Her last annual report shows 61 members.

Above compiled and submitted by:

Don Read, PGHP

Chairman History Committee

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons
of Calif.

A Nation Moves Westward

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The Indians had warned them about a ferocious, big bear. The first grizzly bear they saw was big, but they shot it and killed it. They were not always so lucky. One large bear they fired 8 or 9 shots into chased them right off the plain and into the river. Another one chased a number of the men up a tree. Lewis finally wrote in his journal, “I find the curiosity of our men with respect to this animal is pretty much satisfied.

They kept amazing journals in which they kept track of their locations over the course of their journey. Altogether, the entries of these seven Corps members who kept journals span, March 3, 1804, to September 26, 1806, totaling more than 140,000 words.

One of the great feats accomplished by the expedition was their ability uniformly to respects the rights of humanity. Both men displayed through these and other actions the principles taught in Freemasonry!

The captains decided to allow everyone to participate in the decision as to where to spend the winter on the Pacific coast. They put it to a vote. They never explained why. Perhaps they felt that, since they were all going to be in this together, they should all have a say; maybe they just wanted to involve everyone so that none would have a right to complain. York’s vote was counted and recorded. Using Sacagawea’s nickname, Clark noted, “Janey in favour of a place where there is plenty of Potas.”

This was the first vote ever held in the Pacific Northwest. It was the first time in American history that a black slave had voted, the first time a woman had voted. This was a family that had come together and formed a team for the exploration of the continent of North America.

But what became of the youngest member of the expedition? Jean Baptiste Carboneau was born on February 11, 1805, at Fort Mandan. As an infant, he traveled with his parents on the expedition and was nicknamed “Pomp or Pompy.” Clark named a large stone outcropping near the Yellowstone River, “Pompy’s Piller.” After his mother’s death, he traveled to St. Louis and remained with Clark for 6 years and received a good education. In October 1823, Prince Paul of Wurtemberg, Germany met young Carbonneau and took him to travel and study in Europe for six years. When he returned Jean could speak French, English, German as well as a number of native languages. He became a mountain man, served as interpreter for John C. Fremont, and later traveled to California and became an alcalde at San Luis Rey near San Diego. He mined gold on the American river, worked as a clerk, and would later die of pneumonia near present day Danner, Oregon. There is a marker at his grave.

The number one story is there is nothing that men can’t do if they get themselves together and act as a team. Here

you have 32 men who had become so close, so bonded, that everyone of them could recognize a cough in the night and know who it was. They could hear a footstep and know who it was. They knew who liked salt on their meat and who didn’t. They knew who’s the best shot on the expedition. Who is the fastest runner. Who is the man who could get a fire going the quickest on a rainy day. They knew, because they sat around the campfire, and talked about each other’s parents and loved ones. Each other’s hopes. And they had come to love each other. To the point that they would sell their own lives gladly to save a comrade. They had developed a bond of brothers, and together they were able to accomplish feats that we just stand astonished at today when we look at them. The crossing of the continent with nothing but rifles to depend on the face of dangers and the greatest physical difficulties.

So, I think the human lesson of the Lewis and Clark expedition is, what can be accomplished by a team of disciplined men who are dedicated to a common purpose.

Meriwether Lewis was the first Royal Arch Mason of which there is record in the great Louisiana Purchase, for a Certificate of 1799 testifies that he had been exalted in Staunton Lodge, No. 13, Virginia; which at that time was conferring the chapter degrees by virtue of a lodge warrant. The monument at Lewis’ grave is a “Broken Column,” a very significant emblem in Freemasonry, and undoubtedly chosen because of his connection with the fraternity, because he was cut down in the midst of life.

Within our Brotherhood, when faced with crucial problems, we are taught to turn back to the basics. Let us look back again to see what made this Nation great. Let us turn back to the part which Masons bore in its founding and in shaping its growth. It is with the deepest sense of awareness of those great men who have gone before us that we should accept the responsibility of membership. Let us commit ourselves to the vision of what an individual or an organization can become that has the determination to fulfill.

Quick Quotes

Man’s maturity: to have regained the seriousness that he had as a child at play. — *Friedrich Nietzsche*

There is only one thing people like that is good for them; a good night’s sleep. — *Edgar Watson Howe*

The ego is the ugly little troll that lives underneath the bridge between your mind and your heart.

— *Dennis Miller*

Again and again, the impossible problem is solved when we see that the problem is only a tough decision waiting to be made. — *Dr. Robert Schuller*

From the rocking horse to the rocking chair, friendship keeps teaching us about being human.

— *Letty Cottin Pogrebin*