

President's Note

As we enter the Summer months and approach the end of 2006, a few of us are beginning to think about our 2007 calendar. From my perspective, there are several key questions we need to ask ourselves as we go about putting one together. These are: How many Chapter sponsored events should we have?; Where geographically should they be held?; What should be the focus or theme of each event?; What resources are required to effectively conduct the event (both financial and volunteer) and do we have them?; and What should our priorities be?

The primary objective in this planning process is to define events that are both interesting to you, our membership, and are held within a reasonable driving distance from where you live. Of course another key attribute is that the event must be within our means to conduct.

As of this writing, our membership totals 71, an increase of 40 from 9 months ago. This growth is encouraging. However, we are spread over a large geographical area, from San Diego to Weed - a distance of over 700 miles, and this makes choosing a convenient location difficult at best. [It's over 870 miles across the length of the state (San Diego to Crescent City) and over 280 miles across its middle (Monterey to South Lake Tahoe). Three of our members reside outside California.] Conducting many events at locations distributed across the state can overcome this geographical difficulty but our limited resources make this impractical.

As a point of reference, 46% (17) of the respondents to our January survey stated a preference for quarterly Chapter events whereas 49% (18) preferred semi-annual events. However, although 54% (25) indicated they would be willing to travel a distance which required an overnight stay - if an event involved a nationally known speaker - it's likely that a travel distance of more than one hour associated with a lesser event would be out of the question for most people.

If you would like to be a member of our 2007 Event Planning Committee, or just have ideas or opinions about what our 2007 Calendar should look like, please let me or another member of your Board of Directors know. I may be reached via regular mail at CALCTHF, P.O. Box 1767, Camarillo, CA 93011; via email at calcthf@adelphia.net; or via phone at (805) 987-0978.

As a reminder to those of you who will be attending the annual meeting in St. Louis this September, we will have a short business meeting in the afternoon of the 19th. One of the items on the agenda will be our plans for 2007.

Ken

On the Trail

Danner, Oregon

by Nan Kaeser

A mourning dove is singing her sad song from atop an elderly cottonwood. A meadowlark's liquid notes float across the sagebrush and a quail calls "Chicago" then skitters across the dusty track. A northern harrier skims low over the fields in search of breakfast. A few white fluffs of clouds dot the horizon. Overhead all is blue.

In the high desert of south eastern Oregon these are the sounds of Jean Baptiste "Pomp" Charbonneau's final resting place. A simple wooden fence encircles his grave and various signs commemorate his life and burial site. Inside this enclosure is a large wooden sign identifying this special location. His mother's name is spelled with a "g", i.e. Sacagawea. There is a plaque inlaid into a lava rock-stand erected by the Oregon Historical Society that enumerates five different people buried here in the 19th century, including of course, Jean Baptiste Charbonneau.

Within the larger circle is a smaller chain and pole circle. This encloses the actual gravestone for Pomp that was erected by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Here a plaque spells Pomp's mother's name with a "j", i.e. Sacajawea, the way the Salmon River area Lemhi-Shoshone spell their ancestors name.

The grave is decorated with mementos honoring him - plastic flowers; a colorful scarf; two lava rocks; a few Sacagawea dollars and numerous other coins; three baseball caps, one with "Lewis & Clark" across the front; and even a pen knife.

At the age of sixty-one, Jean Baptist was traveling from the Auburn, California, gold fields to a new gold strike in what was then know as the Montana Territory. On the way he contracted pneumonia to which he succumbed on May 16, 1866, at a roadhouse known as Inskip Station.

It is incredibly peaceful here in this high plateau of south eastern Oregon. The rolling plains of sage brush stretch in every direction, a gentle breeze nods the grasses and birds sing and flit everywhere. What a special spot to spend eternity!

Nan Kaeser is a member of the LCTHF and our Chapter. Nan submitted this "trail report" as she was en-route to Lewiston, Idaho to begin a four month long journey eastward along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (LCNHT) to St. Louis, Missouri. Learn more about this "globe trekker extraordinaire" in this months issue of "The Orderly Report". Nan lives (some of the time) in Sierra Madre, California. Photos related to her report are on page 8.