

How salt saved the Lewis and Clark Expedition

When saltmakers came to Seaside

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Salt was not only a critical part of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. “I’m going to say it saved them,” historian and retired National Park Service ranger Tom Wilson said.

The Corps of Discovery’s harrowing expedition more than 200 years ago was the focus of Wilson’s presentation, “A Convenient Situation,” during the Seaside Museum and Historical Society’s History and Hops event Thursday at Seaside Brewery.

The story would not be complete, according to Wilson, without the mention of salt-making in present day Seaside.

“This expedition and these saltmakers did change the course of American history, and world history,” said Wilson, who draws most of his information from “The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition,” as printed by the University of Nebraska Press.

Wilson, dressed in period garb, opened his presentation by sharing different ways salt has contributed to human history and survival.

In ancient Greece, slaves



Katherine Lacaze/For The Daily Astorian
Historian and National Park Service ranger Tom Wilson points out the likely trail members of the Corps of Discovery took to come harvest salt in present day Seaside.

were traded for salt, which gave rise to the phrase “worth one’s weight in salt.”

The word “salary” also is derived from the Latin word “salarium,” which has the root “sal,” or salt, in reference to the allotment paid to Roman soldiers to purchase the commodity. Salt also played an important role in both the Revolutionary and Civil wars.

A bushel of salt

Before the 1860s, Wilson said, salt wasn’t mined in the

United States; rather, it was harvested from the ocean and natural salt deposits and salt licks.

As the Corps of Discovery prepared for its westward journey, they gathered supplies, including three bushels — or about seven barrels — of salt, leaving Wood River, Illinois, with more than 64,000 pounds of supplies.

For the expedition, Capt. Meriwether Lewis assembled “arguably the best team,” including what Wilson calls



Katherine Lacaze/For The Daily Astorian

Unprocessed ocean salt, as would have been harvested by members of the Corps of Discovery during the Lewis and Clark Expedition about 200 years ago.

“The Fab Five”: Lewis, Second Lt. William Clark, Clark’s slave York, Sacagawea and Lewis’s dog Seaman.

The expedition also included three dozen hand-selected noncommissioned officers and privates, and “yeah, they were worth their weight in salt,” Wilson said.

Economic stimulus

One of President Thomas Jefferson’s purposes in commissioning the expedition was to establish trade with the Native Americans and partners to the east, particularly capitalizing on sea otters as a trade good. In order to be successful, Wilson pointed out, “they have to survive. They have to get here and get back.”

After crossing the Rocky Mountains, the expedition began running low on supplies, including food, trade

goods and salt. By the time they were at the station camp at the mouth of the Columbia River, the situation was dire.

Unable to rely on trade with the Native Americans to get provisions, officers had to make an important decision.

According to the journal of Pvt. Joseph Whitehouse, the officers “had our whole party assemble in order to consult which place would be best for us to take up our winter quarters.”

During the winter of December 1805, the expedition set up their winter camp at Fort Clatsop.

On Dec. 8, Clark set out to find a direct route to the ocean. On Dec. 28, Joseph Field, William Bratton and George Gibbons followed, making their way to the coast near a Clatsop village about 15 miles south of Fort Clatsop, bearing five large kettles.

The salt-making began, as the explorers harvested about 3 quarts to a gallon per day and operated three kettles day and night. The operation continued through Feb. 21. Gibson and Bratton, at least, were at the salt works the entire time.

In all, the Corps harvested about 28 gallons of salt.

They left for the return journey with approximately 20 gallons — enough for a large part of their return voyage. They knew once they reached the east side of the Rockies,

they would have access to salt stashed there before, as well as plains of roaming buffalo.

Memorializing the salt-making

Wilson concluded his presentation by discussing how they know for certain The Salt Works site, now run by the National Park Service, is the correct location. The answer is Tsin-is-tum, also known by her English name Jennie Michel, a member of the Clatsop tribe. Although she was born about 1818, her mother witnessed the expedition’s salt-making endeavors and showed her the site.

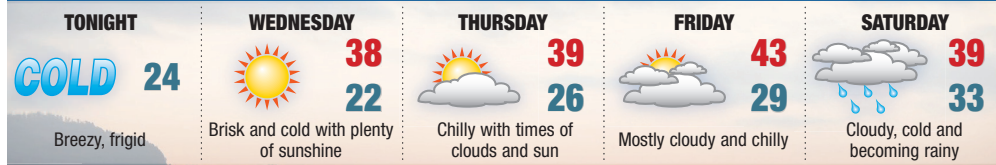
In the early 1900s, the Oregon Historical Society traveled to find where the original salt works was located. They relied on the information from Michel.

The Cartwright family gave the land to the society, which started the process of maintaining the site, including the original rock structure. In the 1950s, the Lions Club, wanting to maintain the site, did more work, installing the monument and a salt cairn replica.

Wilson said he likes to think “the rocks you see there now are the original charred rocks of the expedition,” but there is no evidence to confirm that.

The National Park Service took over in 1979 and continues to strategize how to best portray and interpret the site.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



ALMANAC

Astoria through Monday.

Temperatures

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| High/low | 39°/33° |
| Normal high/low | 49°/37° |
| Record high | 61° in 1981 |
| Record low | 21° in 1974 |

Precipitation

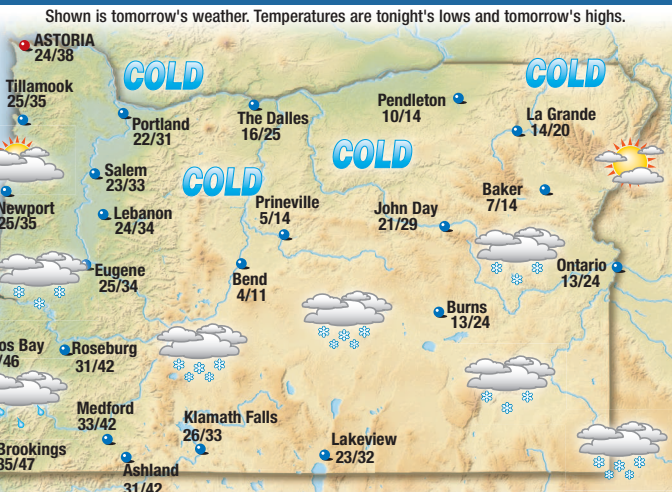
| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Monday | Trace |
| Month to date | 0.09" |
| Normal month to date | 0.69" |
| Year to date | 0.09" |
| Normal year to date | 0.69" |

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight 4:42 p.m.
Sunrise Wednesday 7:58 a.m.
Moonrise today 11:04 a.m.
Moonset today 10:46 p.m.

First Full Last New
Jan 5 Jan 12 Jan 19 Jan 27

REGIONAL WEATHER



UNDER THE SKY

Tonight’s Sky: The Quadrantid meteor shower should be at its best tonight, radiating from the constellation Bootes.

TOMORROW’S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks

| Time | High | Time | Low |
|-----------|---------|------------|---------|
| 5:32 a.m. | 8.4 ft. | 11:37 a.m. | 2.7 ft. |
| 5:18 p.m. | 7.7 ft. | 11:39 p.m. | 1.1 ft. |

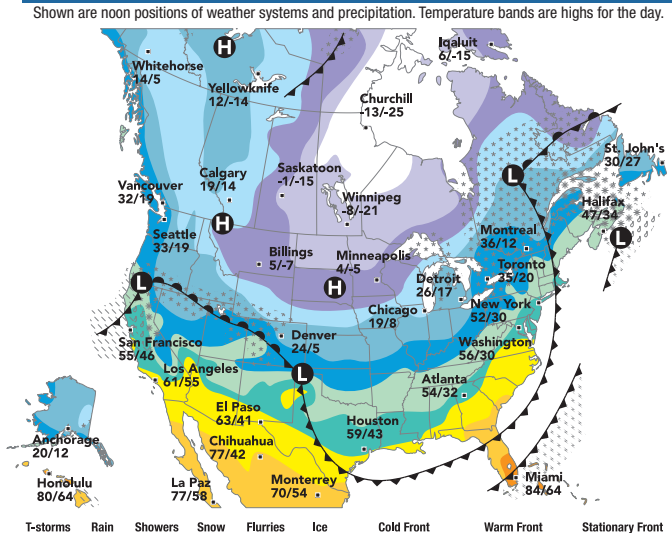
NATIONAL CITIES

| City | Today | Wed. |
|----------------|-------------------|------|
| Atlanta | 67 50 c 54 32 pc | |
| Boston | 44 41 r 50 29 pc | |
| Chicago | 40 12 c 19 8 pc | |
| Denver | 27 10 c 24 5 sn | |
| Des Moines | 30 7 pc 21 7 s | |
| Detroit | 46 23 r 26 17 sf | |
| El Paso | 59 38 pc 63 41 s | |
| Fairbanks | 15 13 pc 20 4 sn | |
| Honolulu | 80 63 s 80 64 pc | |
| Indianapolis | 51 20 c 29 15 pc | |
| Kansas City | 31 12 pc 23 12 c | |
| Las Vegas | 57 42 pc 61 51 pc | |
| Los Angeles | 62 50 c 61 55 sh | |
| Memphis | 63 34 r 42 29 s | |
| Miami | 85 71 pc 84 64 pc | |
| Nashville | 65 36 c 41 26 pc | |
| New Orleans | 72 53 pc 62 46 pc | |
| New York | 46 43 r 52 30 pc | |
| Oklahoma City | 41 21 pc 39 20 pc | |
| Philadelphia | 49 43 r 54 32 pc | |
| St. Louis | 46 20 sh 30 19 s | |
| Salt Lake City | 33 29 sn 35 24 sn | |
| San Francisco | 55 51 r 55 46 r | |
| Seattle | 33 19 s 33 19 s | |
| Washington, DC | 49 43 r 56 30 pc | |

REGIONAL CITIES

| City | Today | Wed. |
|---------------|-------------------|------|
| Baker City | 12 7 s 14 3 c | |
| Bend | 13 4 sn 11 2 sn | |
| Brookings | 43 36 r 47 35 sh | |
| Eugene | 32 25 pc 34 20 sn | |
| Ilwaco | 38 29 s 39 28 s | |
| Klamath Falls | 32 26 sn 33 14 sn | |
| Medford | 38 33 sn 42 27 r | |
| Newberg | 33 24 s 31 19 pc | |
| Newport | 39 25 s 35 23 c | |
| North Bend | 45 31 pc 47 29 sf | |
| Olympia | 32 18 s 34 14 s | |
| Pendleton | 12 10 pc 14 2 pc | |
| Portland | 33 22 s 31 19 pc | |
| Roseburg | 40 31 pc 42 27 c | |
| Salem | 35 23 s 33 17 c | |
| Seaside | 38 29 s 39 27 s | |
| Spokane | 15 0 pc 16 -3 pc | |
| Springfield | 35 26 pc 35 24 sn | |
| Vancouver | 32 24 s 31 19 pc | |
| Yakima | 19 5 s 24 -3 s | |

TOMORROW’S NATIONAL WEATHER



OBITUARIES

Kenneth Loren ‘Hoagy’ Hoagland

Knappa

Sept. 23, 1931 — Dec. 25, 2016

Kenneth Loren Hoagland was born Sept. 23, 1931, in Roseberry, Idaho. The family later moved to King Hill, Idaho, where Ken attended Glenns Ferry schools. After high school graduation he moved to Moscow, Idaho, to attend the University of Idaho. In 1953 he moved to Lewiston, Idaho, and found employment at Potlatch Forests Inc. Pulp Mill.

There, in Lewiston, he met his wife, Lila, and they were married in 1953. They had three daughters.

In 1967 he was hired at Crown Zellerbach Pulp and Paper Mill, and moved his family to Knappa. He retired from the mill (then James River) in 1993.

Ken enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing, spending time with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and winters in Arizona.

He served in the military as a 2nd lieutenant in 1954-56, and was a member of Clatsop Post 12 American Legion in Astoria.

He is survived by his wife Lila; daughters Terri Peden, Cheryl Aho and Vicki Searle; four grandchildren, Jennifer Peden (Erin), Chris Peden (Karen), Mathew Aho and Nathan Searle (Nicholle); Eight great-grandchildren and four stepgreat-grandchildren; two sisters, Reva Carlock of Mountain Home, Idaho, and Gloria Weerheim Lead, South Dakota; a brother Richard of Clatskanie, Oregon; numerous nieces and nephews and his best friend “Bandit.”

Besides his parents and stepparents, he was preceded in death by brothers Clarence and Ronald. Ken and Lila celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary Nov. 29 of this year.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.



Kenneth Loren Hoagland

DEATHS

Dec. 27, 2016
ROBINSON, Weome May, 89, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematory in Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

Dec. 28, 2016
KUJALA, Patricia Anne, 84, of Beaverton, formerly of Astoria, died at home. Springer and Son Aloha Funeral Home in Beaverton is in charge of the arrangements.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY
Port of Astoria Commission, 5 p.m., workshop, new Port offices, 10 Pier 1, Suite 209.
Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.
Seaside Library Board, 4:30 p.m., Seaside Library, 1131 Broadway.
Miles Crossing Sanitary Sewer District Board, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.
Seaside Planning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.
Cannon Beach City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

WEDNESDAY
Maritime Memorial Committee, 1 p.m., Holiday Inn Conference Room 204, West Marine Dr.
Port of Astoria Commission, 4 p.m. executive session (closed to public), new Port offices, 10 Pier 1, Suite 304.
Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 5 p.m., work session on charter review committee, Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St., Astoria.
Seaside Improvement Commission, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.
Gearhart City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

LOTTERIES

OREGON
Monday’s Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 2-3-0-9
4 p.m.: 4-8-4-7
7 p.m.: 5-5-6-7
10 p.m.: 7-9-0-1
Monday’s Megabucks: 16-19-26-34-39-48
Estimated jackpot: \$4.2 million

WASHINGTON
Monday’s Daily Game: 2-4-8
Monday’s Hit 5: 03-08-13-15-39
Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
Monday’s Keno: 04-06-16-18-29-30-31-33-35-36-45-52-55-56-60-61-63-73-75-78
Monday’s Lotto: 07-11-12-16-32-47
Estimated jackpot: \$1.4 million
Monday’s Match 4: 02-13-23-24

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