

Lewis & Clark

The Journey Continues

For about three months in 1804, Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led the men of their Corps of Discovery up the Missouri River where it runs along Nebraska and Iowa. They were assigned by President Thomas Jefferson to explore the new Louisiana Purchase, meet its inhabitants, record and collect specimens of the region's plants and wildlife, and hopefully find a waterway to the west coast. The captains had 22 soldiers, 2 interpreters, 16 more men (including some French boatmen) who were to help the expedition as far as what is now Mandan, North Dakota, and a slave named York, who was Clark's manservant.

Going upriver, the expedition used a keelboat and two smaller boats called pirogues. These were moved by pulling with ropes from the shore, poling, rowing and, occasionally, by using their sails. The plan was for the keelboat and the boatmen to return to St. Louis in the spring of 1805 with journals, letters and specimens that had been

collected on the way to the winter quarters at Mandan while the rest of the expedition continued to the Pacific Ocean.

While some people think that Lewis and Clark led the first whites through this region, actually several others had already been here. Most of these earlier travelers were French fur traders upon whose maps and knowledge the Americans relied.

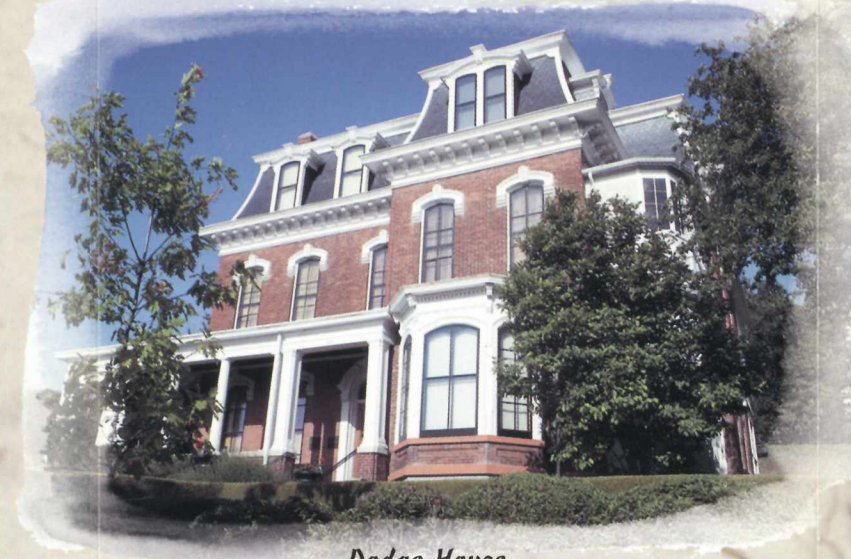
Going upriver, the men could sometimes make no more than 10 miles a day against the 5-mile-per-hour current of the Missouri River but during their return journey in 1806 they spent only about 10 days covering the same distance. That year, on September 8 alone, the men made 78 miles. Fifteen days later, the Corps of Discovery reached St. Louis again, concluding a trip of two years, four months and nine days during which the men had become the first Americans to cross the continent to the Pacific Ocean and back.



Reenactment of Lewis & Clark/Discovery Corps, Inc. IA 10-IA
Lewis & Clark State Park, Onawa, IA



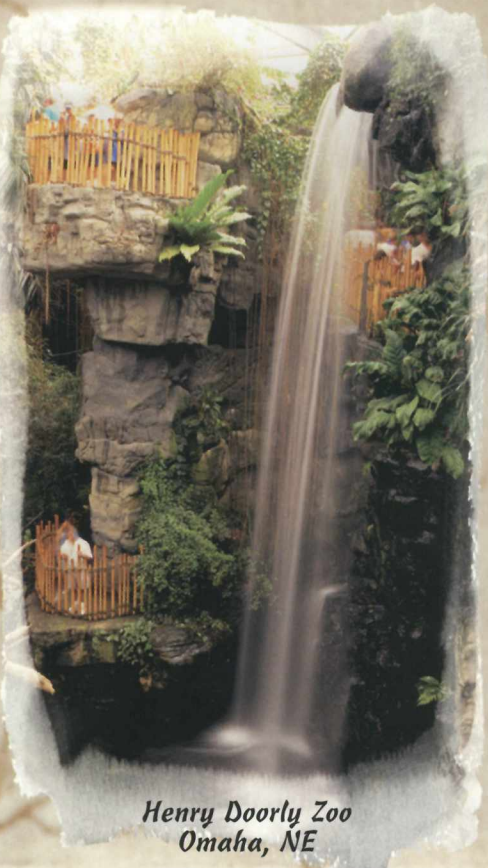
Fort Atkinson SHP 6-NE
Fort Calhoun, NE



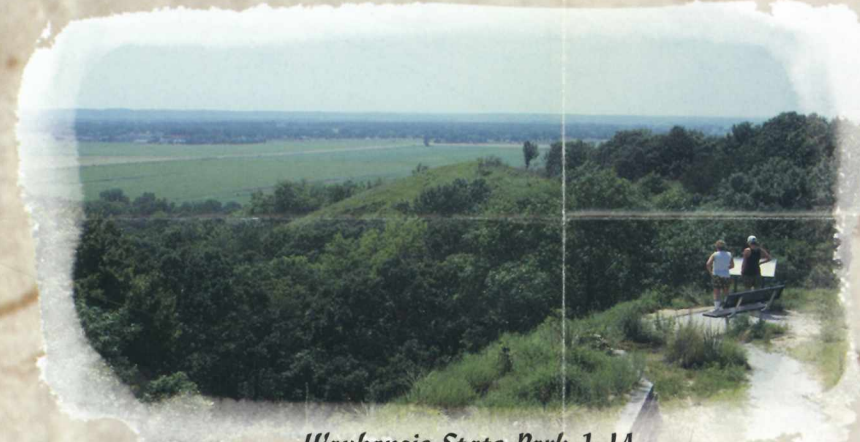
Dodge House
Council Bluffs, IA



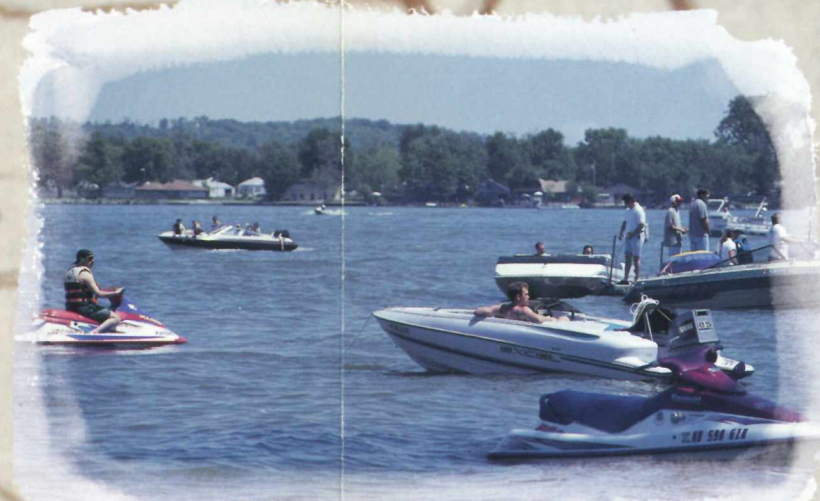
Fremont County Courthouse Square
Sidney, IA



Henry Doorly Zoo
Omaha, NE



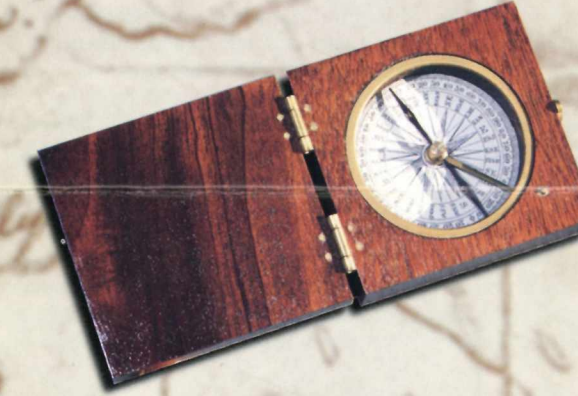
Waubensie State Park 1-IA
Sidney, IA



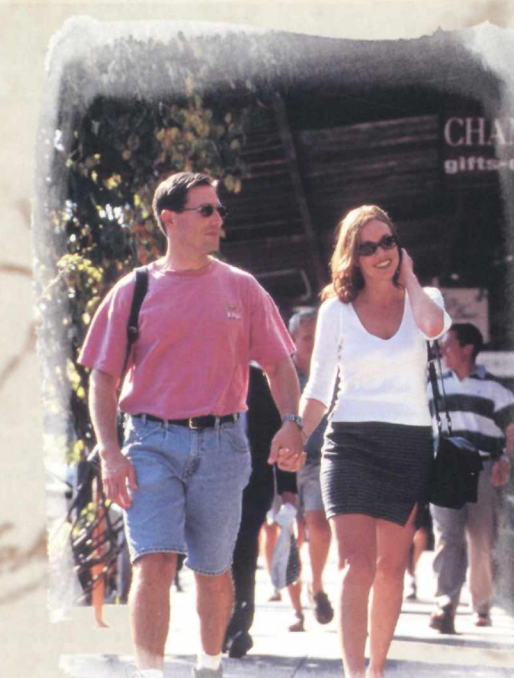
Lake Manawa 2-IA
Council Bluffs, IA



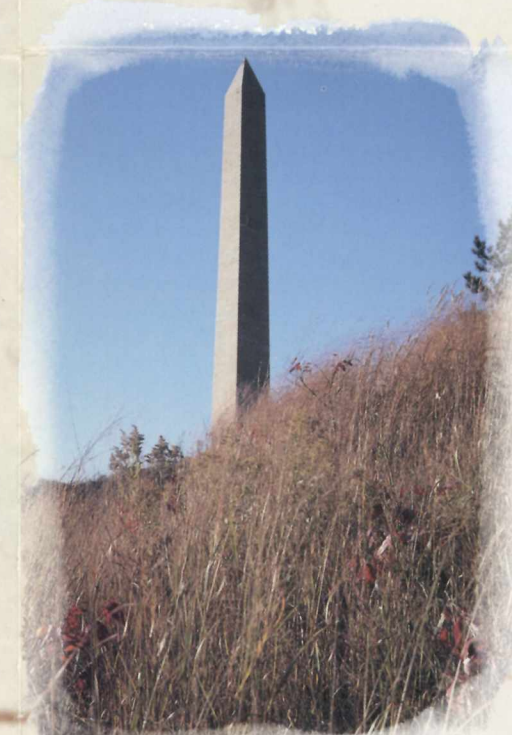
Lewis & Clark Lake
Crofton, NE



Sgt. Floyd Riverboat 14/15-IA
Sioux City, IA



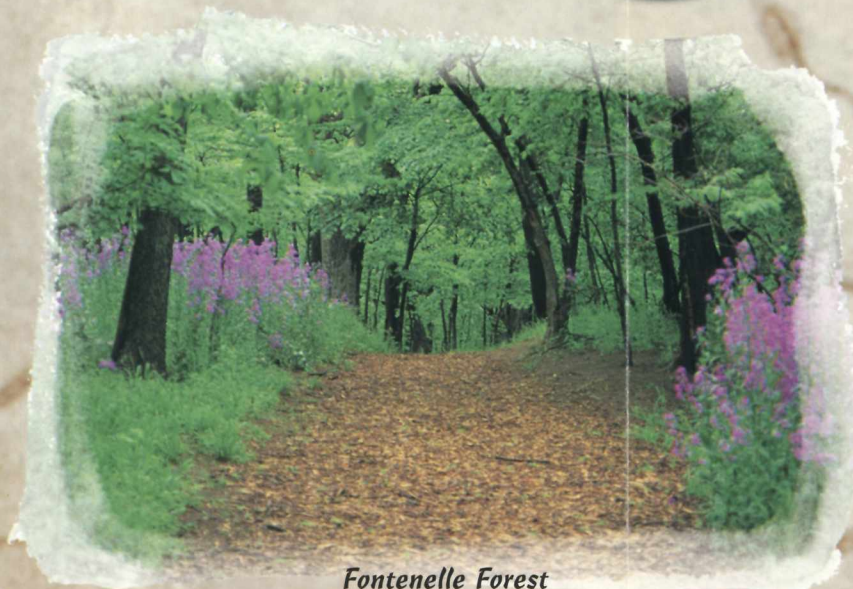
Old Market District
Omaha, NE



Sgt. Floyd Monument 13-IA
Sioux City, IA



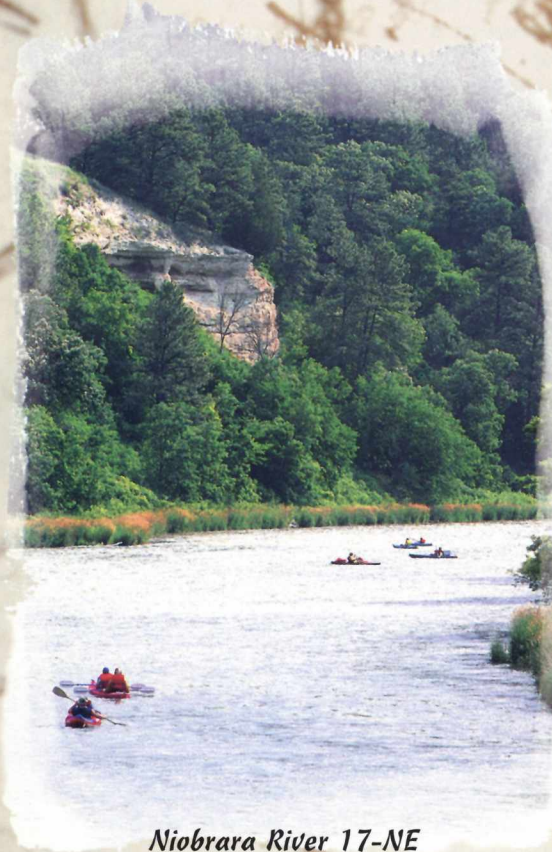
Western Historic Trails Center 3-IA
Council Bluffs, IA



Fontenelle Forest
Bellevue, NE



Indian Cave State Park 2-NE
Shubert, NE



Niobrara River 17-NE
Northeast, NE



Tarbox Hollow
Dixon, NE



Arbor Lodge State Historical Park
Nebraska City, NE

Nebraska • Iowa

Trail of Lewis & Clark

