
CAMP DISPATCH

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Managers Corner



By Brad Winn

Well winter came and went and I am happy to say that we survived with a minimal amount of snow. As we face the upcoming year I can honestly say that it will perhaps be our most challenging to date. That being said I know that we will overcome these challenges like we always have. The strength of our Agency and our site has always been the love and passion of those people who work for it. You have all been an essential part of our success and I know that you will continue to do this site proud through the next several months. Through all the difficulties, obstacles and challenges we have faced over the years you have always been there to lend a hand and a genuine willingness to help. For this and all that you have done I am truly grateful. Know that the staff and I appreciate all your hard work and time given to our little piece of history and we hope that continue to show the same kind of passion as you always have.

Mike Stout needs your help!!!!

I have taken up an interest in the "Lake View Castle." Well, you may ask what is Lake View Castle. About 113 years ago and about a quarter of a mile from the L&C site a Frenchman named Benjamin Bizant purchased the land he was to build his and his future wife's new home. It has been recorded that Bizant was an insurance salesman, but I can't be sure at this time if that is true. In 1973, it was reported by Louie Haines that she and her father helped dig a one mile triangular moat using only a team of horses and digging equipment. The dirt from the moat was place somewhat in the center of this triangular moat to raise the ground. On this raised area Bizant would build he and his wife's elegant home which would over look a small lake to the east. The house had 14 rooms, a hallway with mirrors from floor to ceiling, floors made of imported cypress wood, and hand carved pillars would support the stairs. The grounds were pleasing to the eye with many flower gardens, fountains, gazebos, fish ponds, and wells. Located somewhere on the property most likely was a boat house, because as the story goes many friends and even some towns people came to enjoy the moat and gardens. The house was completed by 1897 and Bizant and his English bride moved in, but sometime in the next few years Bizant's wife died. He was so disturbed over this that he rented and then sold the place and moved to California and then back to France. The house was sold and was used as a home, speakeasy, rental property, and a boys' military school, but its existence ended when it was reported to have been set a blaze by hippie vandals in 1973.

What I need are actual photos that I could reproduce (or take photos of) and record any information on the Lake View Castle. It also became known as the "Hartford Castle," or just the castle. I am looking for inside and outside photos of the house, and photos of the grounds showing the outbuildings, fountains, gardens, and gazebos. If you were in the house I need you to record every detail you can remember. I do have most newspaper articles about Lake View which I've retrieved from the Madison County Historical and Hartford Libraries. I have placed some old newspaper photos on the page two.

If you have any information on Lake View Castle, please contact Mike Stout at the site or phone me at 618-251-5811.

Lake View Castle Photos:



The Store of Discovery

The Store of Discovery is offering several new items for sale. We have new finger puppets as well as a new book on Meriwether Lewis. The author for this book made a presentation at one of the Lewis & Clark Society meetings and will be at the site for the event the weekend of May 9 and 10. We will also have Dark Rain and James Alexander Thom to sign books as well as John Dunphy on that weekend.

We have also brought back two postcards, which were offered for sale in the early days of the store. One postcard is of the keelboat and the other is of the camp.

On Departure weekend, May 8, 9 and 10, 2009, the Store of Discovery will be holding its **GRAND BOOK SALE**. Every book in the store will be discounted 10% for everyone. Tell your friends, co-workers, no limit. This discount is in addition to your regular Society and store volunteer discounts. Come in and join us.

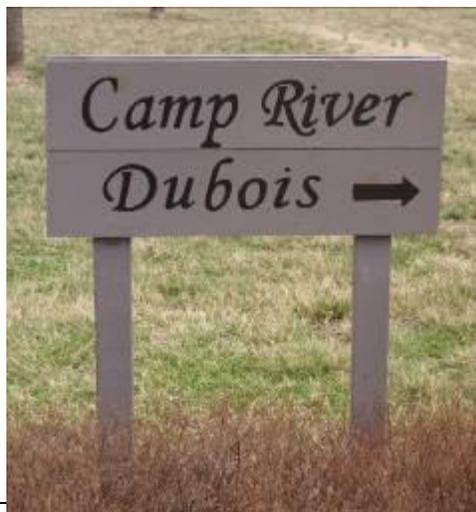
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This advertisement for Lake View Castle was taken from the Chicago Tribune dated August 20, 1914.

**Volunteer News by
Cindy Upchurch**

You may have noticed that the stampers are gone from the gallery. They have just taken a beating and have broken down. I am not sure when they'll be back in operation. The new Illinois Teacher is up at the front desk. This month's theme is Illinois Railroads. Also, thank you to the volunteers (Katie Dile, Rex Maynard, Jim Munie and Paul Imes) that assisted with insulating the Settlers' Cabin.

Jeff & Barbra Gates graciously made the site a new *Camp River Dubois* sign. Thank you, Jeff & Barbra.



**Detachment
Members**

Please remember to let Mike Stout know if you plan to attend the "Departure" special event May 9 & 10. Please RSVP by April 30, 2009. Your help is greatly needed. Mike can be reached at 618-251-5811 Tuesday-Saturday.

Thank You!

Calendar for 2009 & 2010

Education Day: May 8, 2009

This event will not be open to the public, but expecting an overwhelming amount of 4th graders. Ok, maybe about 1000 students, but it seems like a million. These students will go from station to station learning many new, but historic ways of doing all sorts of wonderful games and skills.

Point of Departure: Camp River Dubois, May 9-10, 2009

Demonstrators will include: blacksmithing, candle making, soap making, coopering, cooking, weaving, carving, and much more.

Kids' Day Camp: June 22-26, 2009

There will be stations of exploration where children will learn to make rope, fold a flag, drill as soldiers, and have other fun adventures.

Junior Explorers: Sometime in late June we will have a week long camp for 20 explorers ranging in age from 9-12 years old.

Music Festival: Sept 12, 2009

Traditional bluegrass music is performed by the Alton Dulcimer Players. Other musicians will include de: drummer, harpist, cello player, and fiddler.

Flags over the Mississippi: Struggle for an Empire: Oct. 10-11.

This event and will center on several military periods in America's history. Re-enactors will represent the Spanish, French, British, and American military from 1750-1812.

No Name Event: November 8, 2009

The site would like to start an event in November to replace "Women Come By" which was in January. The new event will simply have cooking and a few other things going on, but what do we name this event? If you have suggestion please give Pam a call.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner: Friday, November 20, 2009

Form 5:30-9:00 pm at the Godfrey Lewis & Clark College, the Commons Room.

Arrival at Camp River Dubois: Dec. 12-13, 2009

Experience the military life of the Lewis & Clark Expedition at Camp River Dubois in 1803-04. There will be a few demonstrators located inside the Interpretive Center and guest speakers.

Christmas Day: December 25, 2009

This year's Christmas falls on a Friday and we will be closed on that day, and reopen on Saturday the 26.

New Years Day: January 1, 2010

This year's New Year's Day falls on a Friday and we will be closed on that day, and reopen on Saturday the 2.

Special Event Announcements

BY PAM IMES

“EDUCATION DAY” May 8 AND “POINT OF DEPARTURE” May 9–10 AT LEWIS AND CLARK STATE HISTORIC SITE

Commemorates the departure anniversary of the Expedition

More than 800 fourth graders will take part in the fourth annual Education Day on Friday, May 08 at Lewis and Clark State Historic Site in Hartford, Illinois. From 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. students from Albert Cassens, Beckemeyer School, Bethel Christian Academy, Germantown Elementary, Holy Cross Lutheran, Holy Rosary, J.E.Hinchcliffe, Jana Elementary, Lewis and Clark Elementary, Pocahontas Center, St Jacob and Vandalia Elementary will learn first hand about the Lewis and Clark Expedition by experiencing how the men prepared for their journey. Students will learn to fold a flag, make a fish net, feel animal hides, start a fire with flint and steel, make rope, learn about a white pirogue one of the Expedition’s boats, visit a woodworker, see how beekeeping works to make honey and wax, lifestyles of children, spinning, sewing, blacksmithing, flax work, fiber dyeing, broom making, petting Seaman, march and drill military-style, carrying water in buckets with a yoke and experiencing the history of flax, making buckets, seeing how to saw logs into planks and making a trade bead necklace or a candle to take home.

Saturday and Sunday, May 9 and 10 will be the seventh annual “Point of Departure” event at Lewis and Clark State Historic Site.

May 09th

*Trail Net Bike Ride/9:30a.m. For registration, call 314-416-9930, ext. 111 or visit www.trailnet.org.

May 10th

*World Bird Sanctuary will be having performances at 1:00 and 3:00p.m.

May 09th and 10th

Activities for the two days will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the reconstructed Camp River Dubois. Re-enactors portraying expedition members will perform marching drills and manual labor, cooking, and engage in shooting demonstrations. Visitors may see period artisans demonstration candle making, cooking, herbs, blacksmithing, weaving, natural dying of wool, plants of the expedition, coopering, woodworking, period sewing, gun smithing, broom making, basket making and watch a sawyer cut logs.

Sponsors for Education Day are: The BANK of Edwardsville / Conoco Phillips / Lewis & Clark Society of America / Village of Hartford / St. Louis Cardinals

Pam Needs Volunteer Help! There are many tent flies that need to be set up for Education Day and we need your help on Thursday May 7th and/or Friday morning May 8th. We really need help to spread the flies on the ground and hold the tent poles while Mike and Brad pound the stakes into the ground. For the past six years our maintenance staff handled this task, but due to layoffs we don’t have a maintenance staff. Please let Pam know if you can help us out. Please give us a call at 618-251-5811.