

2315 N.E. 65th
Seattle, Wash. 98115
15 April 1968

Mr. Click Relander
City Editor, Yakima Herald-Republic
Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr. Relander:

I have been much pleased and impressed with your articles on the closing of the John Day Dam. I am a retired teacher living at the Ida Culver House here in Seattle. I retired in 1962 and after a year of travel, I settled down to collecting material on the site of Paterson and its early settlers. My husband's father, Frank Carroll Mathews, along with Henry Paterson, were first settlers there, Paterson coming in about 1882, first on a homestead up on the hill, and then Mr. Mathews in 1884. I have tried to document every thing before I wrote anything about it.

I was hindered by an eye operation for two years and can work only a short while now each day. Then getting the genealogy of the family has taken me about the last year. It was extremely rewarding. But that delayed me in the preparation of my story which I have just started. Then other stories about the "Mathews house" which appeared in print took me several months to trace down, beginning in St. Paul in the Northern Pacific office there and ending in a Superior Court case in Prosser, Washington. I have tried to touch on every angle of historical reference.

The old Mathews' River Ranch passed into the hands of Frank Sanders, so has been known as the Sander's place, I presume.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter sent to me by one of the men working on the islands of the Columbia who had their headquarters at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon. He was most helpful to me, as has been everyone, in documenting my work. You would not have known about "Pelican Rapids" which jutted out from the Mathews place noted on p. 138 second entry "passed rocky bad rapid on the Star a chain of rocks" and labeled on the map. NOTE VERY CAREFULLY what he says about Blalock Island in the letter. Pelican Rapids did not become a GEOGRAPHIC name because the Journals weren't printed until about a hundred years later.

I have asked the Army Engineers if they had a picture of this and they were unaware of this old, old map. I sent them one. They were not sure if they could get a picture before it was covered, but I thought that I might inquire around and find someone to do it. Your photography is wonderful and so I am asking you if you could. Location is down, or over the Horse Heaven to Paterson, and up the river about a mile and one half in the bend. I used to watch the

to teach

river boats when I first went down to the river in 1917, for they had to swing far over to the Oregon side to avoid them. Probably they were not designated as rapids because there was a clear channel over on the other side of the river.

These rocks made a quiet backwater and this was known as Mathews' Landing. This is not found on any map, but I have letters to prove that sternwheelers stopped at Mathews' Landing as late as 1916. This site became the land holding of the Holmes family sometime after 1904 and they later established a ferry there. Their place adjoined the Mathews.

The map that he mentions receiving is an old one of Blalock Island that I had found. It shows Coyote Island.

The Journal map that I am enclosing is from the Thwaites Edition, which I noticed that he mentioned in another letter. That would be Dodd, Mead, 1905. He speaks of sending it to me there.

One other family in Horse Heaven belongs to the same line as my husband's mother, Martha Gardner (Wheaton) Mathews. The two families are cousins twice removed.

I have a son who lives in Yakima, Laurence Carroll Mathews. I have taken your paper for many years so that I can keep up with valley news.

I would be glad to share this information with you with the hopes that I might get a couple of prints of "Pelican Rapids". I do have a snapshot with them covered with ice following the big freeze of 1919-20 when the river froze from shore to shore. Just give credit if you think it worthwhile. Would pay for prints.

Yours truly,

Lois E. Mathews

Mrs. Frank Elmer Mathews

Member, Seattle Genealogical Society

N.B. Quote from letter received from Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers dated 21 March 1968: *Walla Walla, Wn*
 "The islands or rocks which form the rapids have been referred to under several names. Among them are: Island No. 19, and Island No. 20, Cooks Island, and Paterson Reef."

Howard A. Preston Chief, Planning Branch

[Enclosure. 1968 Apr 15]

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
EUGENE, OREGON

OREGON STATE MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY

March 20, 1964

Mrs. Lois E. Mathews
Box 55
Malaga, Washington

Dear Mrs. Mathews:

My apologies for not having written sooner, to thank you for the box of confections that you sent, we enjoyed them very much.

I have received your last two letters and the first letter you sent to the History Dept. was forwarded to me.

The problem of correlating the sites mentioned in the Lewis & Clark Journals with present conditions is a considerable one since they were not always accurate in judging their distances or describing positions. The Lewis & Clark encampment of October 19, 1805 as described and illustrated in Thwaites edition of the Journals does not describe existing conditions. However, I suspect that the campsite was opposite what is now called Island No. 17 on property in Sec. 13, T. 5 N., R. 26 E., Will. Mer.

Pelican Rapids is shown in Clark's map of October 19, 1805 (between pp. 134-135) as well as in his map of October 20, 1805 (shown between pp. 138-139). His map of October 19 shows the encampment of that day while the Map of October 20 only shows the camp of April 25, 1806. The camp of October 20, presumed to have been West of Arlington, was not described in the Journal.

The Charnel house described by Lewis & Clark was on the eastern segment of Coyote Island which is part of the Blalock Island group. Blalock Island proper was not described by Lewis or Clark and Clark's map shows the island to be lowland attached to the Washington side.

Your mention of use of gunboats on the Columbia River brings to mind an account that I heard years ago of "the first Naval Battle fought by the U. S. Army" where the army floated down the river on a barge, firing at Bannock Indians encamped at Willow Creek (Heppner Junction, Ore.). The Bannock Indians were a southern Idaho, southeast Oregon group who were out of their territory. Reference to this and bibliography may be found in a section concerning the Bannock in "Tribal distribution in eastern Oregon and adjacent regions" by Verne F. Ray and others, American Anthropologist No. 40, 1938.

Sincerely yours,

David L. Cole

David L. Cole
Curator of Anthropology

Copy

DLC:rb

2315 NE 65th Seattle, Wash. 98115

Les E. Mathews
(Mrs. Frank Elmer)

[Clark, first draft:]

October 20th 1805 Sunday

A very cold morning wind S W. about 100 Indians come over this morning to see us, after a smoke, a brackfast on Dogs flesh we set out, [There are] about 350 men [of these Indians.]

West 6 miles to a St^d bend head of a rapid passed the Island at 1 mile 3 Ind^a Lodges on Lar^d

S. 20° W. 10 miles passed rocky bad rapid on the Star^d a chain of rocks from the St^d several small Is^d on the Lar^d good water. passed an Indian fishing camp of 4 Lodges deserted, fish hanging on scaffels (saw great numbers of Pelicans & comerants, black) To a Lar^d Bend ops^d a large Is^d on the Star^d Side

S. 60° W. 8 miles to the commencement of a high country on the Star^d Side, passed 3 Islands nearly opposit, 2 furst on the Star^d Side Indians encamped on each Island. we came to at some camps on the lower point of the 1st & dined. purchased a few indifferent fish & some berries examined a vault & c^c passed 4 Lodges on a Island near the Star^d side ops^d a bad rapid at the lower point of the Island

S. W. 18 miles to a Point of high land in the St^d bend Passed a large Island in the middle of the R at 8 miles one on the Lar^d & one on the Star^d below both small, one other imedeately below in the middle, passed a Lar^d point at 10 miles high uneavin lands on the Star^d low and leavil on the Lar^d Side

42 Passed 5 Islands small on the Star^d Side and 5 on the Lar^d Side a small one in the middle of the river at 16 miles. The land is higher on the Lard. side

42 passed a small riffle at the head of the 12 Islands in this day

Killed 2 large speckle guls 4 Duck in malade [mallard] small ducks the flavour of which much resembles the canvis back. no timber of any kind on the river, we saw in the last Lodges acorns of the white oake which the Ind^a inform they precure above the falls. The men are badly dressed, some have scarlet & blue cloth robes. one has a salors jacket, The women have a short indiferent shirt, a short robe of Deer

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Map from Clark Field-book, showing Course and Camping place,
October 20, 1805.

[Enclosure, 20 Mar 61]
to Matthews, Lewis

Copy Thwaites Ed. 1905

16 April 1968

Mrs. Frank Elmer Mathews 98115
2315 NE 65th Seattle, Wash.