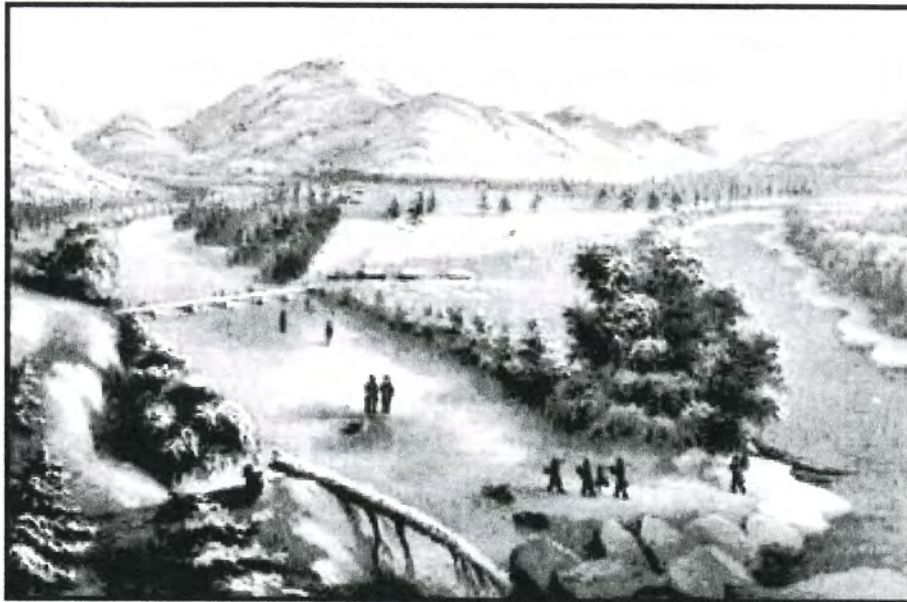


When Bonner Was Young

History Forum
Week I, March 4, 2009
Bonner School



1806-1862:

- The Lewis Blackfoot leg
- Native comings and goings
- Isaac Stevens Railroad Survey
- Mullan winters at Milltown
- And???



John Mullan



Where Jennie Used to Swim

The Blackfoot bends, pools deep around
the cliff that bends it, and a brave man arcs down
yelling 'hey.' He splits the river clean. Foam
and his first wave die before they gain
the opposite sand. His cry and his exploded plunge
die in yellow tamarack high above her dream.
When she swam here, boys threw pine cones
at her bobbing hair. Tamarack was green
and promise, both in current and the summer,
hummed as warm as the plane she heard
but couldn't find hummed to glamorous lands.

Promise. Glamor. These thin out after
twenty-five hard winters. Jet engines make
no hum. Not one rattlesnake remains
for boys to nail on a weathered one-by-ten
for a parade through Bonner where
the girls applaud. Heavy August air
compounds the waste, the black smoke pouring
from the mill, the sunning girl reliving
the phone call from the hospital.

The swimmer climbs out chattering. This river
needs no calendar when tamarack turns gold
and someone, loved so much her final day
is rerun like a film each autumn
on the silver pool. The Blackfoot says: you lose
and rivers jump so honestly, even the rejected
cannot call them smug. A woman arcs
and arrows down the rock, her 'hey' gone ringing
up the canyon, her first wave fighting flow.

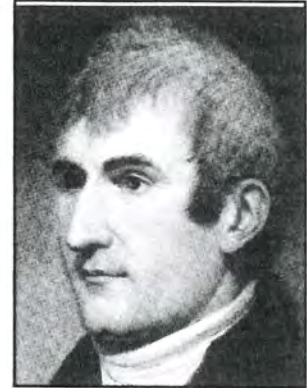
for Jennie Herndon

– *Richard Hugo*

from "The Lady in Kicking Horse Reservoir"
1973, W.W. Norton & Company

THE LEWIS LEG, 1806

1. **MERIWETHER LEWIS, Captain, Virginia
SEAMAN, Newfoundland.**
2. **PATRICK GASS, Sergeant, Pennsylvania**
3. **GEORGE DROULLIARD, civilian interpreter, Canada**
4. **JOSEPH FIELD, Private, Virginia/Kentucky**
5. **REUBIN FIELD, Private, Virginia/Kentucky**
6. **ROBERT FRAZER, Private, Virginia?**
7. **JOHN THOMPSON, Private, Indiana?**
8. **WILLIAM WERNER, Private, Kentucky?**
9. **HUGH McNEAL, Private, Pennsylvania**
10. **SILAS GOODRICH, Private, Massachusetts**



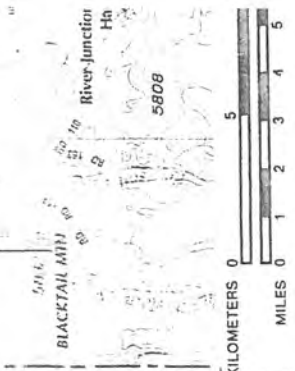
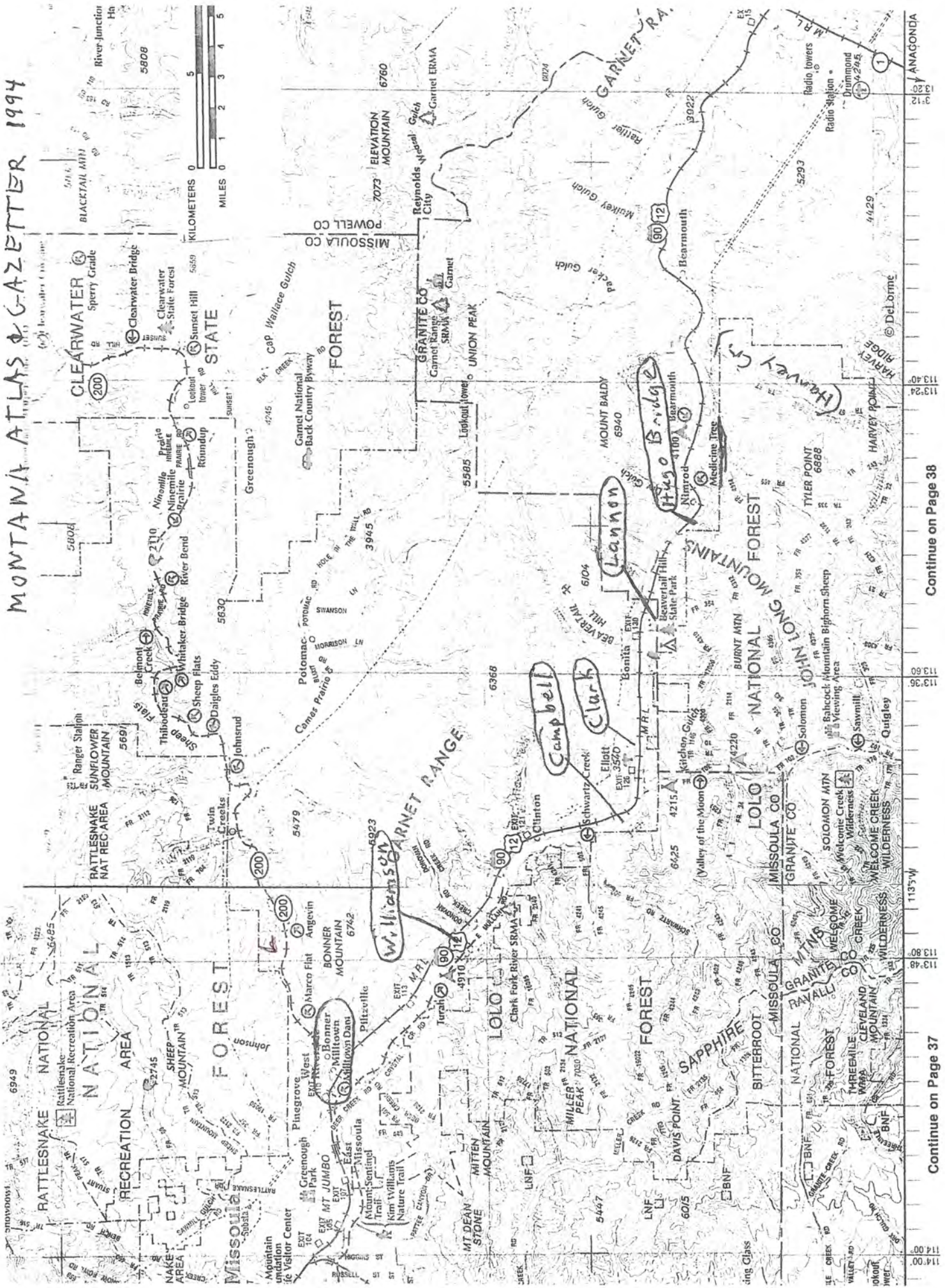
Meriwether Lewis



Patrick Gass

COKAHLARISHKIT: River of the Road to the Buffalo
July 4, 1806 (Grant Creek) to July 7, 1806 (Lewis and Clark Pass)

MONTANA ATLAS & GAZETTER 1994



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MULLAN ROAD 1863

