

Valentine SNIPPETS of SALEM

436 – 1982 WKCHS LaSalle Expedition II of 1977 by Reid Lewis

Contents:

In 1982, the Western Kenosha County Historical Society hosted a presentation regarding the 1977 expedition of Reid Lewis as a LaSalle Expedition.

This booklet, from the WKCHS files, documents the effort and the information about this program.

The original documents have been scanned to create this PDF. Images in the document will be pulled and scanned and will be in the digital image project.

The original documents may be destroyed or may reside in the archives of the WKCHS.

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0-100 pages

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ALL THE MATERIAL THAT FOLLOWS ON THIS TITLE SHEET IS FROM THE INTERNET on 04 13 2014. PLEASE use it to start your own search. At this writing, Reid Lewis was still alive and teaching. THERE IS A RECORD of the educational information he has shared. Check AMAZON.com
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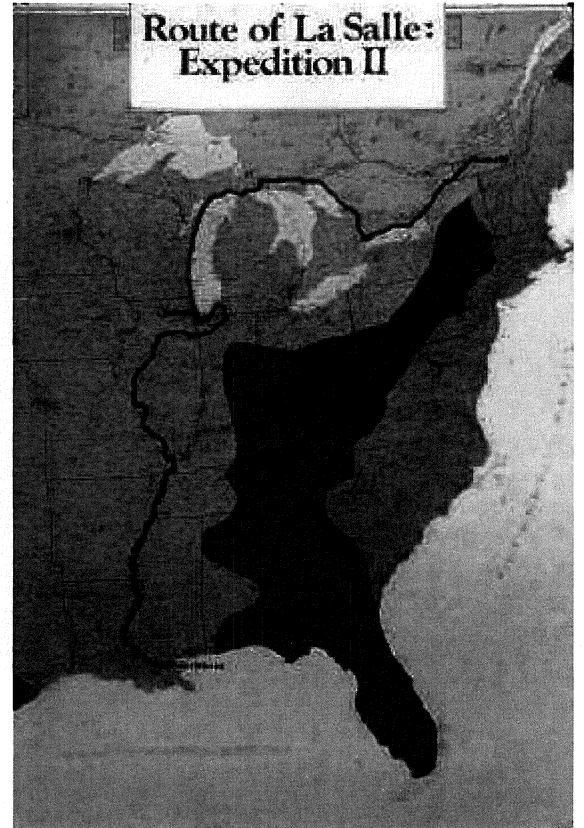
LaSalle: Expedition II

(From the liner notes accompanying the LP: "Voices of LaSalle: Expedition II.")

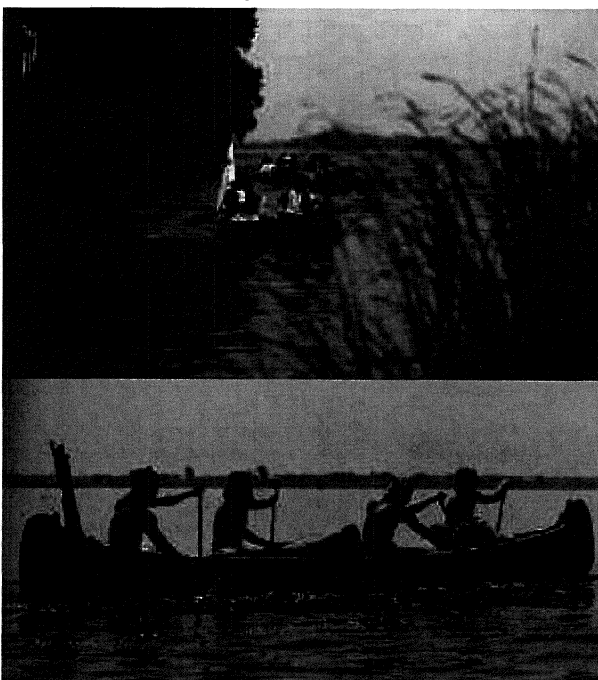
When an Illinois French Teacher named Reid Lewis proposed celebrating the American bicentennial with an authentic re-enactment of LaSalle's 1681-82 journey from Montreal to the Gulf of Mexico, there were a few raised eyebrows.

First, there were those who seemed to think that American history began with George Washington and ended just west of Philadelphia. Lewis' response was an articulate defense of the drama and importance of our French-Canadian heritage: "If the vision of the first European who really grasped the potential greatness of this continent doesn't deserve bicentennial commemoration— nothing does! Over one hundred years before Daniel Boone crossed the Cumberland Gap, LaSalle had already laid claim to all the land between the Alleghenies and the Rockies. That act marked the opening of one of the richest areas on earth-our North American heartland."

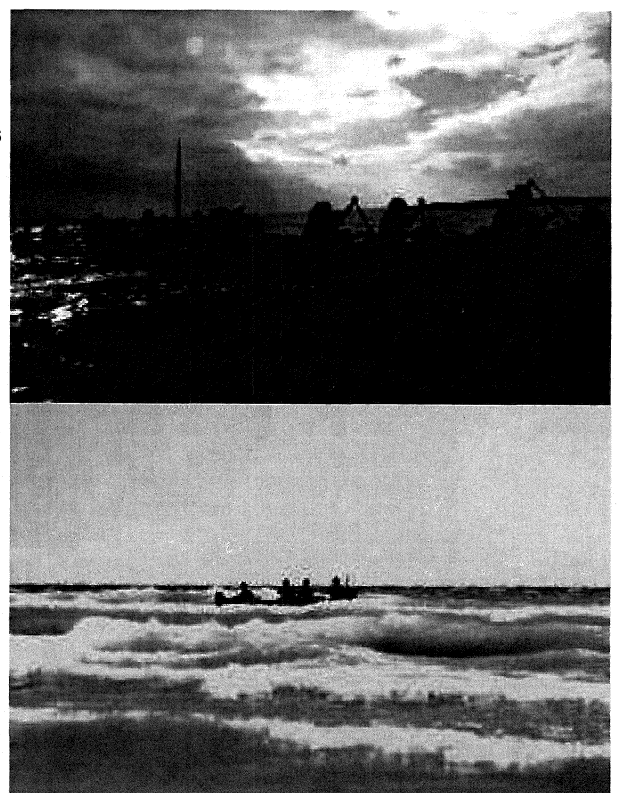
Then, there were those who believed that America's youth had lost the spirit of adventure and the physical hardihood necessary to undertake such a journey. Two years of dedicated preparatory work, and the progress of the 8-month, 3,000-mile voyage itself, whittled away at that notion. As the 17 students and 7 adults in the crew overcame first one challenge, then another, they weathered, like the 17th Century clothing, canoes, and equipment that saw them through their ordeal. Their skin turned to rawhide; their determination, to flint and steel.



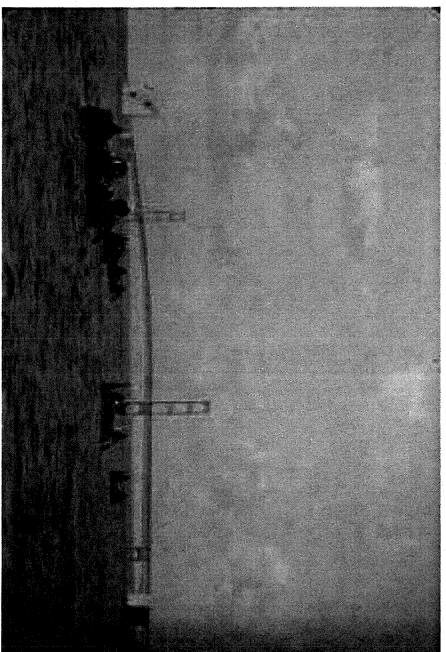
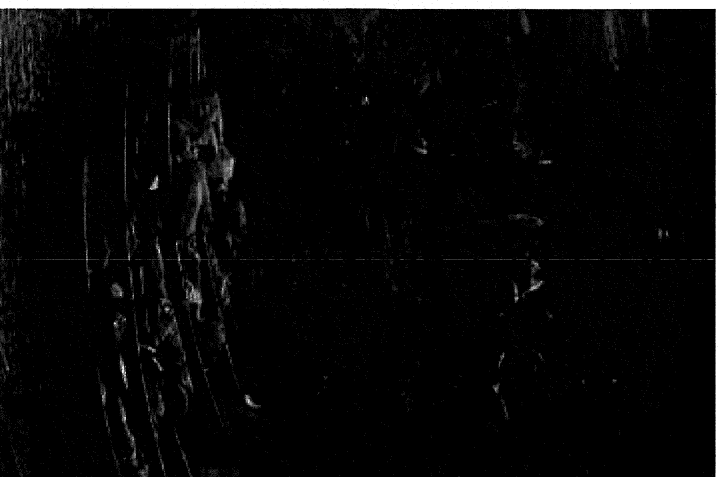
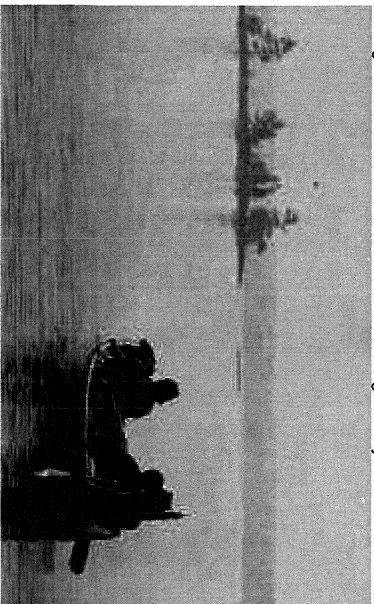
At the journey's end, they had survived the worst Midwestern winter in recorded history. They had dragged their gear over 527 miles of frozen river and prairie. They had paddled against formidable currents on the St. Lawrence;



over
mountainous
waves on
Lake
Ontario;



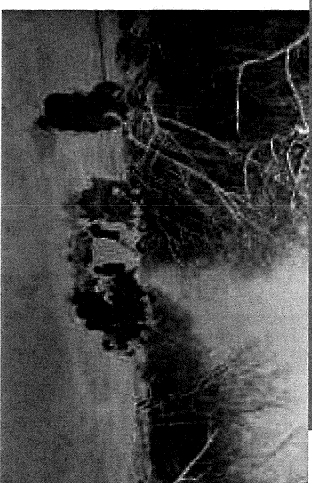
through the rock-strewn wilderness of Georgian Bay.



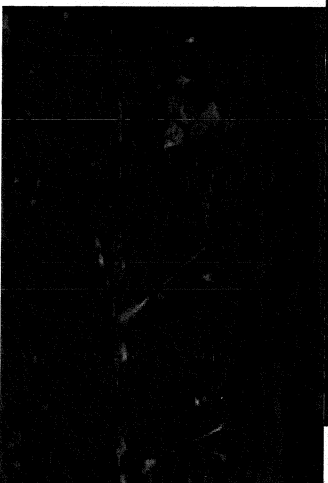
They had encountered ice-floes on Lake Michigan,

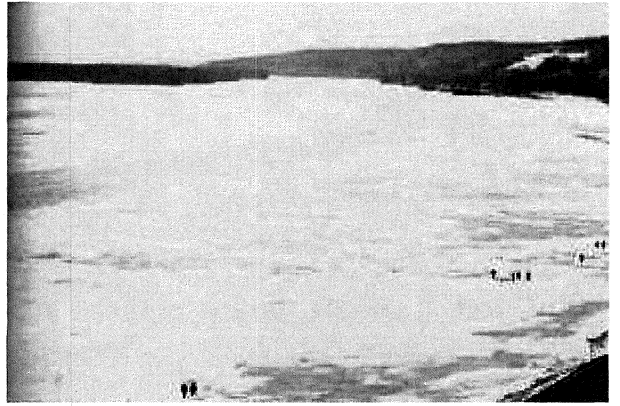
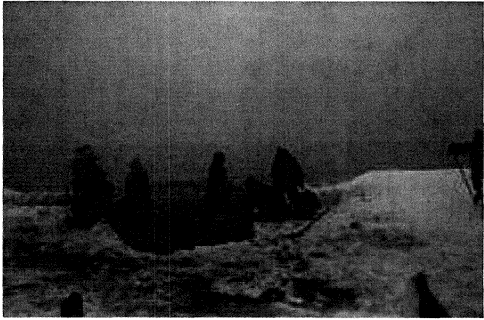


blizzards on the Illinois,



and sandstorms on the Mississippi.

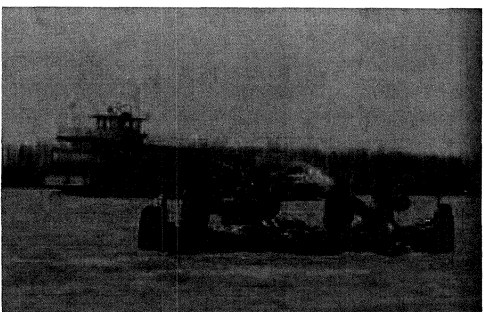
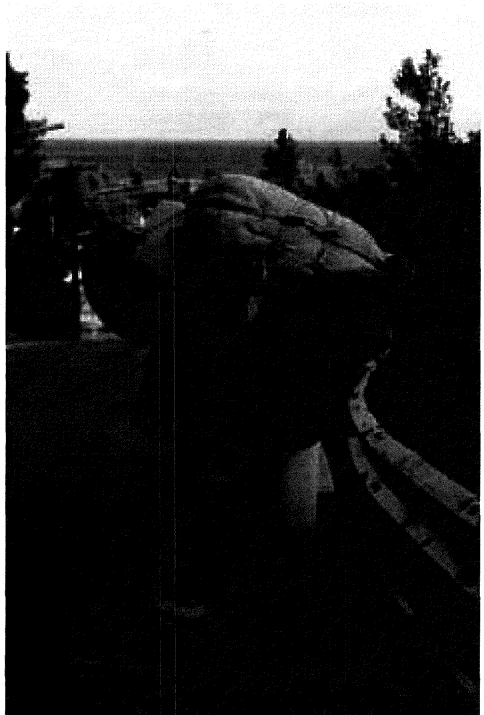




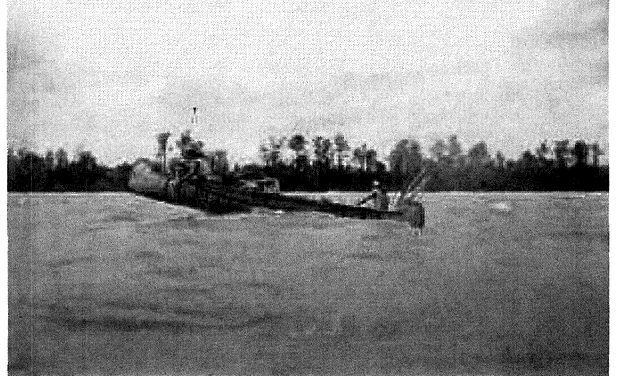
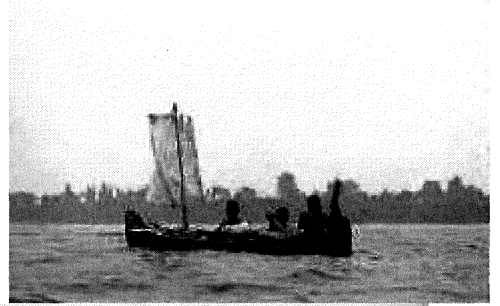
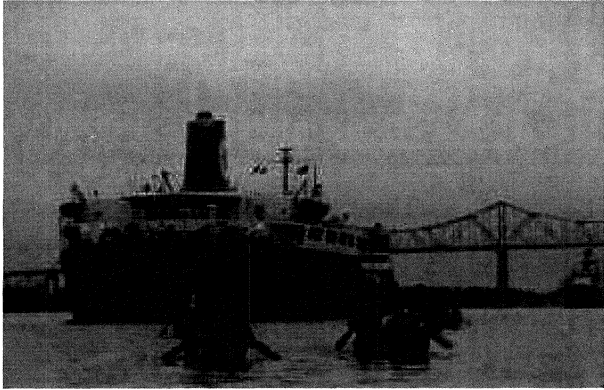
They had slept beneath their canoes each night, like their 17th Century predecessors. while temperatures plummeted to minus 27 degrees!



They had endured a portage through the concrete heart of Toronto, wearing moccasins;



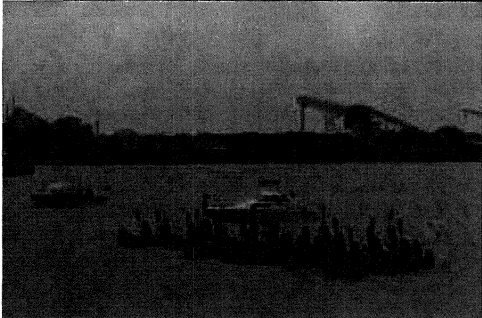
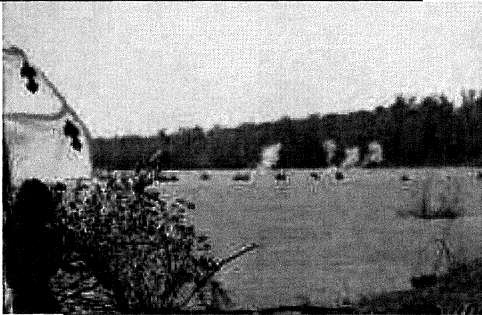
capsized in a November storm off Death's Door, Wisconsin; seen four of their number struck down by a runaway truck in Indiana; and encountered tow-boat wakes so violent they literally threw the canoes out of the lower Mississippi.



Through it all, they not only survived, they found time to carry their message of historic and natural preservation to nearly 200 communities along their route. They sang their songs and shared their adventures with children in hundreds of classrooms.



They brought the living presence of our history into town-meetings, civic celebrations, hospitals, and nursing homes. They developed the 19 research projects that would serve as the permanent educational legacy of the expedition.





All this is not to say they did it alone, They had the devotion of the five people who traveled alongside them all through that bitter winter, coordinating the crew's movements with the community celebrations, They had the encouragement of relatives and friends, They had the material support of the people, governments, businesses, and civic organizations along their way, They had the enthusiasm of the communities they passed through, who took the flame of historic awareness kindled by the expedition and made it blaze, Without these, nothing could have been accomplished.



Still, when it comes right down to it, the whole expedition rested on those 24 fragile wooden paddles that finally parted the salt waters of the Gulf of Mexico, one brilliant spring morning in the April of 1677.

The real measure of the expedition's success is the pride that can be heard in the voices of the 24 men who wielded those paddles. These are the voices of La Salle: Expedition II.



Crewmembers of the re-enactment expedition
(August 11, 1976-April 9, 1977)

Reid Lewis
Father Loran Fuchs, O.F.M.
Marc Lieberman
Keith Gorse
Clif Wilson
Sid Bardwell

Their counterparts on the original expedition
(August 11, 1681-April 9, 1682)

René Robert Cavalier Sieur de La Salle
pere Zenobe Membre
Henri de Tonty
Le Sieur de Boisrondet
Jacques Bourdon Sieur d' Autray
Le Castor Blanc (Indian Guide)

John Fialko
George Lesieutre
Richard Stillwagon
Gary Braun
Charles Campbell
Terry Cox
John Di Fulvio
Randy Foster
Mark Fredenburg
Jorge Garcia
Rich Gross
Sam Hess
Ron Hobart
Bob Kulick
Ken Lewis
Steve Marr
Doug Sohn
Bill Watts

Pierre Prudhomme(Armourer)
Jacques de La Metairie (Notary)
Jean Michel (Surgeon)
Jean du Lignon
Andre Henault
Andre Baboeuf
La Violette de Lyon
Jean Pignabel
Pierre You
Nicholas de La Salle
Pierre Buret
Gabriel Barbier
Louis Baron
Colin Crevel
Antoine Brossard
Jacques Cauchois
Pierre Mignoret
Jean Masse

The Liaison Team

Jan Lewis
Marlena Scavuzzo
Sharon Baumgartner
Cathi Palmer
Barton Dean

Director
Assistant Director
Community Relations
Crew Support
Photographer PhotoJournalist

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
PRODUCED BY

MUSICAL DIRECTION
WRITING AND CONTINUITY
RECORDED AT WBEZ Studios, Chicago
MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS
ADDITIONAL NARRATION

ORIGINAL SONG "River Winds"

JACKET DESIGN
JACKET ART SUPERVISION
SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Reid Lewis
Ron Hobart (Expedition Music Project Director)
Ken Lewis (Expedition Audio Project Director)
Ron Hobart
Ken Lewis

Mac Frampton (Music Project Advisor)
Judy Staab and Howard Platt
(Expedition Drama Project Advisors)
written, played, and sung by Howard Platt
(c1977 by La Salle. Expedition II)
Swanson, Pearson, Haugaard; Chicago
John Fialko (Expedition Art Project Director)
Mr. and Mrs. Perry Lewis, Joe DiFranco, Bill Myers, John Miller,
Mike Alft, Wayne Schimpff, Gail Campbell, and to photographers
Marc Lieberman, Doug Sohn, Bart Dean (Expedition Photo Project
Team); Al Gruber, Tom Thomas, and A. Craig Benson of the
Wisconsin State Journal

LaSalle Expedition II voyagers really roughed it

On Thanksgiving Day 1976, 23 men in pseudo-birch bark canoes arrived on Southport Beach. These were the voyagers of the LaSalle Expedition II. Their mission was to go exactly where the original LaSalle Expedition had gone 294 years before them. Welcomed by a bonfire on the beach and about 200 people, the men of the replica LaSalle Expedition II had steadfastly paddled their way south from Racine in six 20-foot canoes.

Some were clad in moose-hide moccasins while others remained barefoot despite the 37-degree water.

Just about everything, right down to the French songs sung to keep time while paddling, was done exactly as the original explorers had done.

Teacher leads the way

The group, led by Illinois high school French teacher Reid Lewis, celebrated the American bicentennial with an authentic re-enactment of Robert Cavalier de LaSalle's 1681-82 journey from Montreal through the Great Lakes, through the St. Joseph, Kankakee and Illinois rivers onto the Mississippi River down to the Gulf of Mexico.

LaSalle is believed to be the first white man to set foot on the shores of what is now Kenosha in 1681.

For two years, 16 of Lewis' students and seven adults prepared mentally and physically for the massive journey.

The expedition used nothing but replica clothing, tools and foods of the first expedition, with the exception of the fiberglass canoes, made to look like birch bark canoes.

Their six-hour, 6-mile trip into Kenosha was just one leg in a 3,300-mile canoe trip.

Arrive in Kenosha



A crowd gathered above the rocky shore at Southport Beach on Thanksgiving Day in 1976 to greet the voyagers of the LaSalle Expedition II, a re-enactment group that traveled 3,300 miles, mirroring the explorations of Robert Cavalier de LaSalle and his crew.

Click picture to enlarge

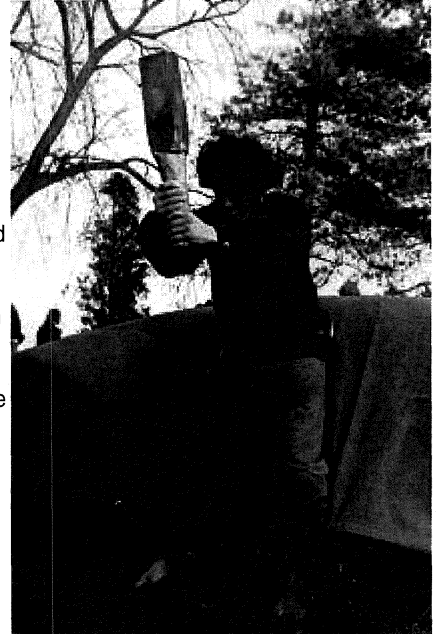
It was a tough six hours of paddling into a southeast wind on the day they arrived in Kenosha. Loaded with up to 1,200 pounds of gear and human cargo, each of the heavily laden canoes rode with sides just 6 inches above the water.



Bob Kulick, 18, of Elgin, Ill., slings one of the tents on shore at Southport Beach.

[Click picture to enlarge](#)

Standing barefoot to pound tent stakes with a hand-hewn mallet wasn't a hardship for Rich Gross, 18, of Elgin, Ill., as he and others in the expedition were conditioned



to outdoor life.

After securing camp, they were escorted to the nearby home of Miriam Swanningson, where a full turkey dinner awaited them. The meal was sponsored by the county's Bicentennial Commission and the American Association of University Women.

The group then went to the Southport Beach House and gave an hour-long presentation to a crowd of 400 that had squeezed into the building. There they sang paddling songs, love ballads and drinking ditties of the 17th century.

The following morning they set off for Zion, a two-hour paddle ride with the wind at their backs.

Brutal weather

Had they known what was ahead, the men may have hung up their paddles here in Kenosha. They later would drag their gear over 500 miles of frozen river and prairie.

They continued to sleep beneath canoes each night, like their 17th century predecessors, while temperatures plummeted to minus 27 degrees.

At the journey's end in New Orleans in April 1977, they had survived the trip during one of the worst Midwestern winters in history.

The objects used by the re-enactors were donated to the Elgin Public Museum in Illinois, where they are still on exhibit to show life in the 17th century American wilderness.

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April 18, 1977 Vol. 7 No. 15

Sacre Bleu! An Illinois Teacher and His Students Retrace La Salle's 1682 Expedition

By Lynne Baranski

Explorer René Robert Cavelier, sieur de la Salle, was 39 in 1682 when he paddled with his voyageurs from Montreal to the Gulf of Mexico and claimed all of America's heartland, from the Alleghenies to the Rockies, for France and Louis XIV.

Reid Lewis is only 36, but in more important ways he is much like La Salle, whose historic adventure he has just re-created in an eight month, 3,300 mile expedition with 22 latter-day voyageurs from the Chicago area.

"A dream burned in La Salle," says Reid, "and he refused to quit." The other members of La Salle: Expedition II, now unwinding after reaching the Gulf, agree that a dream burned just as hotly in Lewis, a French teacher, historian and passionate Francophile. How else could he have persuaded 15 high school students, five teachers, a playwright and a Franciscan priest to train for two years, sew their own costumes, re-create in harrowing detail the 1682 expedition and perform educational skits in 127 communities along the way?

The trip took them up the St. Lawrence, through three of the Great Lakes and down the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. It was at least as arduous as La Salle's, and the weather was worse. Off Washington Island, Wis. one of their six canoes—fiberglass since Lewis feared the effects of pollution on birch bark—was swamped by six-foot waves in 39-degree water. "Our survival training paid off," he says. "The crew stayed with the canoe and away from the island so they wouldn't be crushed into it." One day in Indiana a howling gale held their progress on land to two miles. "I was so cold I ached," said one crew member. The severe winter also froze their river route from Chicago to St. Louis, forcing them to portage 525 miles instead of the expected 120. It also brought them close to tragedy.

In January they were walking beside a two-lane highway south of Chicago. A cattle truck slowed for a look and was rammed from behind by a semi—right into the voyageurs. Four were hurt; one almost died. Two are still in casts but refused to drop out. They traveled the rest of the route in a van with the liaison team that moved ahead of the group to coordinate its public appearances. The voyageurs never walked beside a road again; river ice was much safer. But there was no thought of abandoning the project. "By unanimous vote," says Lewis, "we kept going."

That, he believes, is the real spirit of youth today. "Adults don't give kids enough credit," Reid says. "This proves that if you give a kid half a chance, he'll live up to anyone's standards."

Chicago born and reared, Lewis inherited "a spirit of adventure" from his parents, who loved to travel. He escaped to the woods with the Boy Scouts, took a B.A. in French at the University of Illinois and later studied in California and France. In 1971 he answered a newspaper ad and became a diver on a team that searched for the treasure from Sir Francis Drake's Golden Hind in Ecuador. Two years later he helped organize a reenactment honoring La Salle's 17th-century Jesuit predecessors, Marquette and Joliet. Then he began planning the La Salle voyage with financing from such sources as France's Committee on the American Bicentennial. (The trip will end up costing \$500,000—which includes salaries for the teachers and \$1,000 scholarships that Lewis promised each student. He has already taken more than \$30,000 in personal loans to help meet the expected \$250,000 deficit.)

The voyageurs of La Salle II sang the French songs of their 17th-century precursors, talked with French accents and addressed one another by French names, each taking the identity of an original adventurer. But the esprit de corps faltered at times.

"The physical difficulties were trying," says Lewis' brother Ken, 39, who wrote the voyageurs' educational skits. "But the psychological problems were twice as difficult." Lack of privacy created great strain. "It was quite tense at times," says one teacher.

"There were some tremendous egos. If it weren't for our psychological training—how to deal with anger without coming to blows—it would have fallen apart." Daily temptations were complicated by amorous girls who sometimes followed them 150 miles downriver. (Women were banned from the trip for reasons of historical accuracy.) Lewis tried to discourage fraternizing with the local females: "It's not a moral judgment," he explained with a smile, "but you can't go raping and pillaging."

After the Gulf of Mexico, the real La Salle continued his explorations and was eventually killed by his own men when he got them lost in Texas. Lewis has more cheerful plans with his wife of two years, Jan, who traveled with the liaison team. They will spend two weeks camping in Colorado—the man's appetite for the outdoors seems unquenchable. And then?

"Well," Lewis says, "some people have suggested that I reenact the Crusades." He has decided against it.

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as of 2011:

Mr. Reid Henri Lewis

Employment History Director and President Aventure Francalse , Inc.

Board Memberships and Affiliations Member The Explorers Club

Historian, Adventurer and Cultural Preservationist

French Caucus of the United States Congress - France in the United States/

Embassy of France in Washington

www.info-france-usa.org, 16 July 2011

This year's recipients are: Ambassador Craig Roberts Stapleton, for his overall contribution to bilateral relations; Ms. Katharine Branning, vice-president of the French Institute Alliance française in New York City; Mr. Reid Henri Lewis, director of Aventure Française Inc., a total-immersion language school; Mr. Christophe Pinet, professor emeritus at Montana State University; and Mr. Albert Valdman, professor emeritus at Indiana University.

www.washingtonislandcanoeandkayakevent.com, 23 June 2009

Reid Lewi's presentation is a fully produced, multi-media spectacle including live narration by Reid Lewis in person and in costume, a powerful audio-effects track and vivid image programming and projection.?

...

In story and song, Reid Lewis relates the humor, frustrations and adventures of the voyage with a style that is highly entertaining and profoundly moving.?

"Meeting Challenge Head-On! has a powerful impact on audiences.? Lewis invites us to welcome the obstacles in our lives.?"

Mr. Lewis is traveling from Elgin, Illinois for the June 20 presentation.? He will be introduced by Ralph Freese, legendary owner of the Chicago Land Canoe Base who has been called an Urban Voyageur by numerous media sources. Tickets for the performance are \$10.00 at the door.? All proceeds will be applied to the not-for-profit purpose of the Washington Island Canoe and Kayak Event and create seed money for Year II of the event.?

REID HENRI LEWIS

Early in his career, Reid Henri Lewis, a French teacher by profession, found himself expanding the scope of his activities to include the promotion of French-American culture. He has appeared in films and on TV portraying French characters such as La Salle in the Cousteau special on the Mississippi River and in "The Good Gang Express", an Emmy award-winning production by CBS-TV, Chicago. In addition, Lewis led two authentic reenactments: the 4month, 2,800-mile Jolliet-Marquette Expedition, and the 8-month, 3,300-mile La Salle: Expedition II which went through the coldest winter in the history of the Midwest. Both canoe expeditions included over 700 dramatic presentations given to communities along the route. Lewis has worked to encourage cross-cultural understanding by creating study programs in France and the United States and is serving on Mayor Daley's Chicago Sister Cities International Program, Paris Committee. He gives presentations on French-American culture throughout the United States and abroad as a way of encouraging good relations between the peoples of different countries. "If we truly believe in peace on earth," says Lewis, "we must transcend the turmoil of politics and focus on the common bonds of people throughout the world."

One of these bonds is the challenge to treat our natural environment responsibly. In all of his work, Lewis has incorporated a strong ecological component for which he has been recognized by the National Audubon Society and the Izaak

Walton League. In the Cousteau special on the Mississippi River, 11th century observations on the environment are compared with those of the 20th century. Currently, Lewis is director and president of Aventure Francalse, Inc. a total immersion in French program conducted at the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center near Chesterton, Indiana.

Lewis has been recognized by and is a member of the Explorers Club of New York, the Adventurer's Club of Chicago and most recently, he was made an honorary citizen of Fresse, France, presented the Vermilion Medal of the city of Paris, France and named "Chevalier" in the Order of Academic Palms by the French Ministry of National Education.

www.washingtonislandcanoeandkayakevent.com, 18 May 2009

Bicentennial re-enactment of the 1681 LaSalle Expedition leader, Reid Lewis, voyageur rendezvous with Project Lakewell, Inc., and Pottawatomie Spiritual Elder presenting at the Washington Island Canoe and Kayak weekend, Door County.

Click here for high res photos:

<http://www.doorcountyvisitorbureau.org/Rendezvous.htm>

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Reid Henri Lewis, historian, adventurer, and cultural preservationist, is the keynote presenter at Washington Islands Trueblood Performing Arts Center on Saturday, June 20th at 8:00pm. Lewis will recount his experience leading an 8-month, 23-man expedition through the cruelest Midwestern winter on record to re-create LaSalles epic 1681 voyage from Montreal to the Gulf of Mexico. His presentation is a vivid multi-media spectacle including live narration, powerful audiovisual effects, story and song.

news.greatlakesboating.com, 19 May 2009

Bicentennial re-enactment of the 1681 LaSalle Expedition leader, Reid Lewis, voyageur rendezvous with Project Lakewell, Inc., and Pottawatomie Spiritual Elder presenting at the Washington Island Canoe and Kayak weekend, Door County.

"Voices of Our Past," a fur-trade rendezvous will be created at Red Barn Park on Saturday, June 20.

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www.ppulse.com, 29 May 2009

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John Flesher June 17, 2013 8:16 PM

Reid Lewis of Elgin, Ill., portrays the 17th century French explorer La Salle during his journey across the Great Lakes. Lewis and his companions previously retraced La Salle's voyage, and on Monday, June 17, 2013 they reunited in the Lake Michigan community of Fairport, Mich., where scientists and history buffs are searching nearby waters for his lost ship, the Griffin. (AP Photo/John Flesher)

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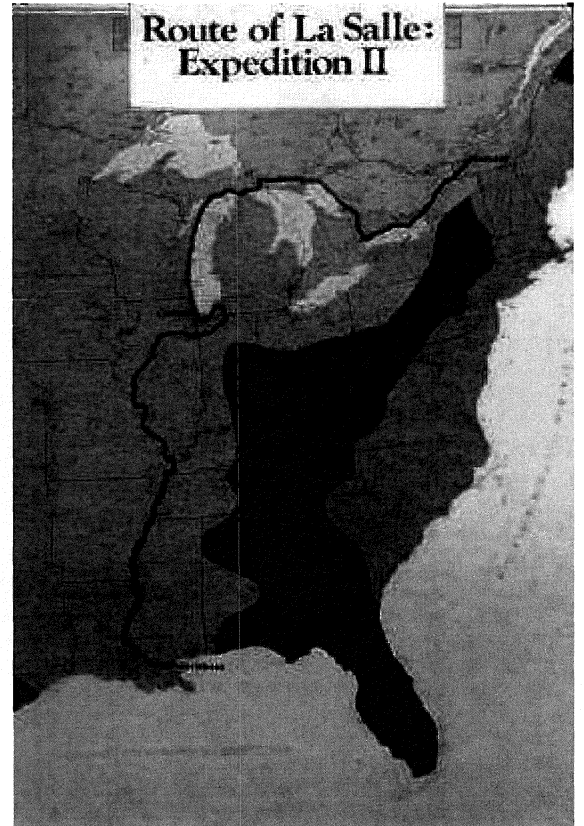
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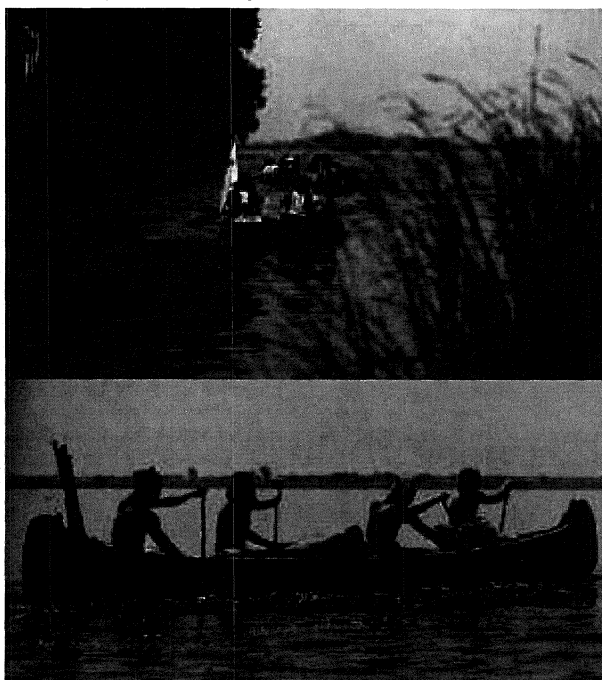
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First, there were those who seemed to think that American history began with George Washington and ended just west of Philadelphia. Lewis' response was an articulate defense of the drama and importance of our French-Canadian heritage: "If the vision of the first European who really grasped the potential greatness of this continent doesn't deserve bicentennial commemoration— nothing does! Over one hundred years before Daniel Boone crossed the Cumberland Gap, LaSalle had already laid claim to all the land between the Alleghenies and the Rockies. That act marked the opening of one of the richest areas on earth—our North American heartland."

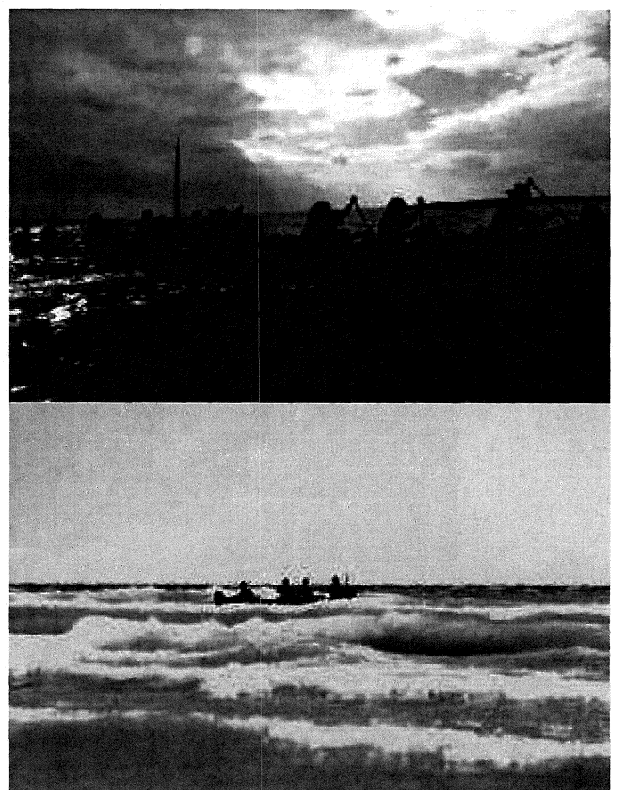
Then, there were those who believed that America's youth had lost the spirit of adventure and the physical hardihood necessary to undertake such a journey. Two years of dedicated preparatory work, and the progress of the 8-month, 3,000-mile voyage itself, whittled away at that notion. As the 17 students and 7 adults in the crew overcame first one challenge, then another, they weathered, like the 17th Century clothing, canoes, and equipment that saw them through their ordeal. Their skin turned to rawhide; their determination, to flint and steel.



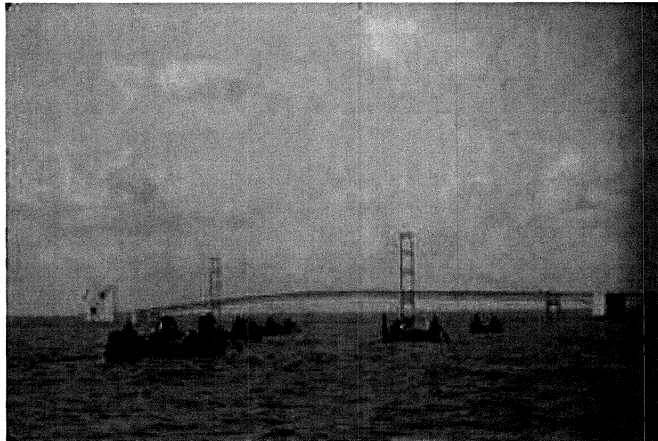
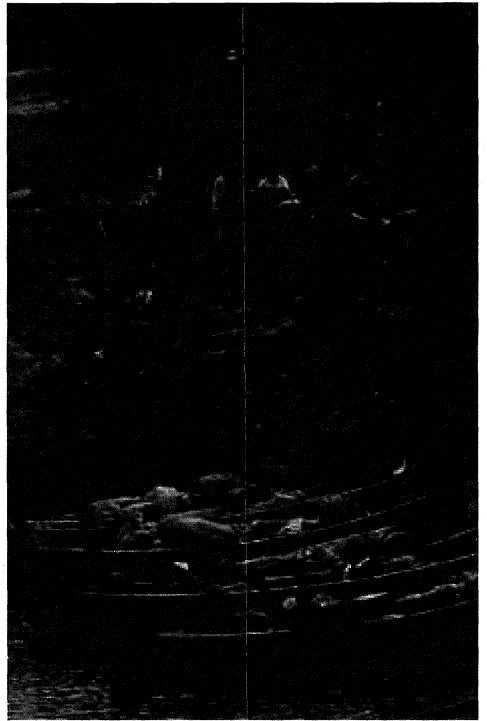
At the journey's end, they had survived the worst Midwestern winter in recorded history. They had dragged their gear over 527 miles of frozen river and prairie. They had paddled against formidable currents on the St. Lawrence;



over
mountainous
waves on
Lake
Ontario;



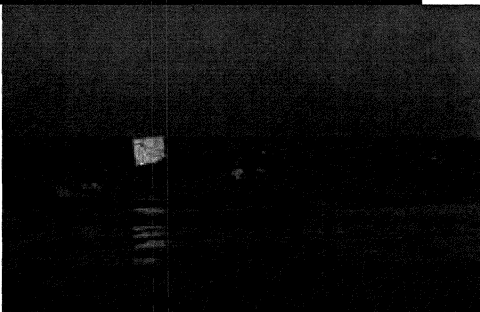
through the rock-strewn wilderness of Georgian Bay.



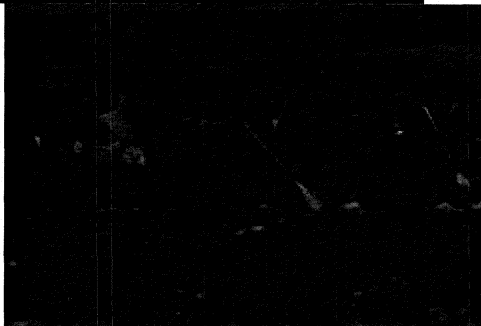
They had encountered ice-floes on Lake Michigan,

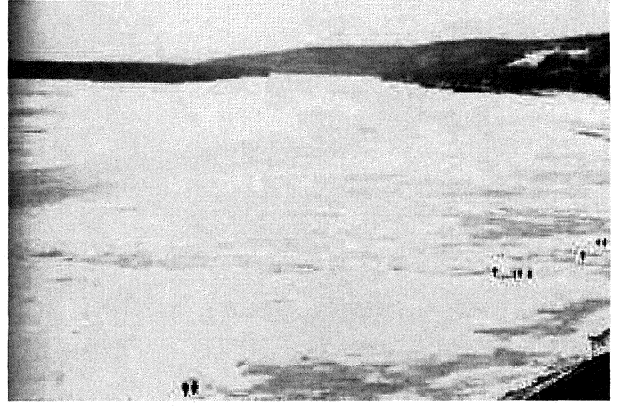


blizzards on the Illinois,



and sandstorms on the Mississippi.

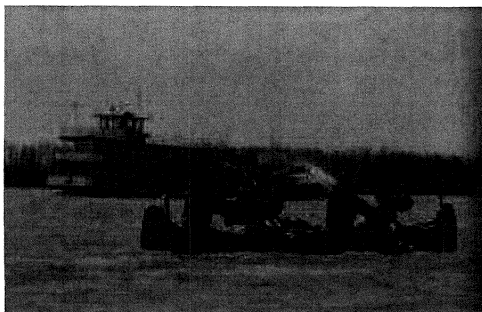
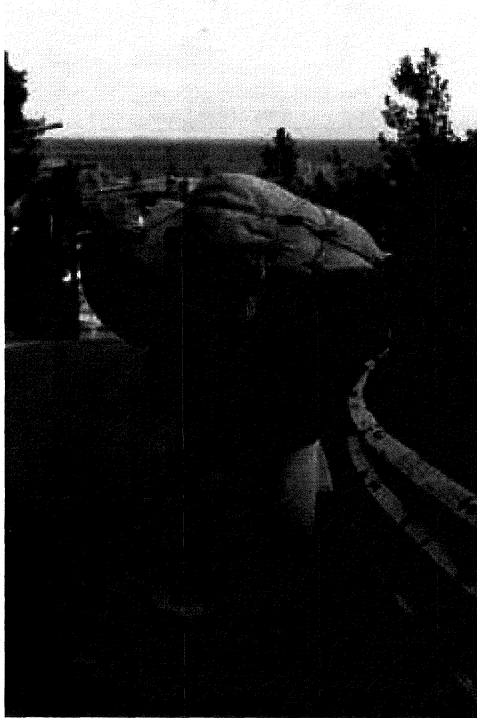




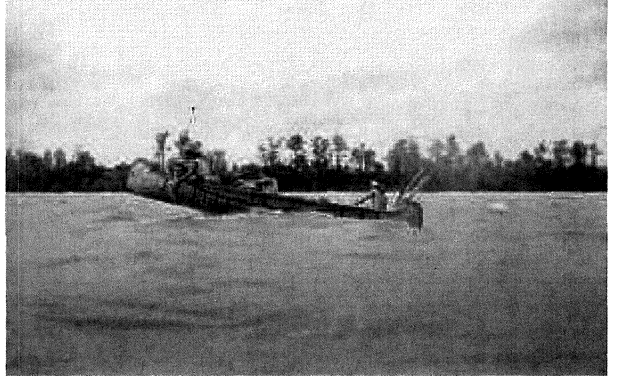
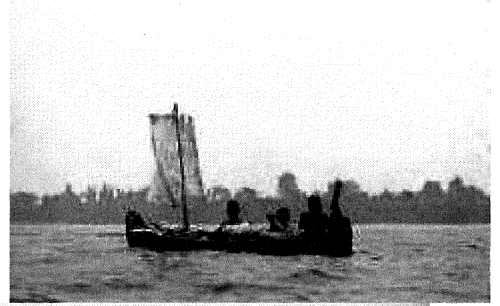
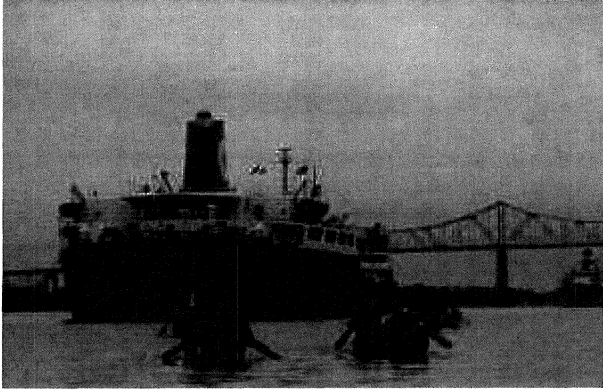
They had slept beneath their canoes each night, like their 17th Century predecessors. while temperatures plummeted to minus 27 degrees!



They had endured a portage through the concrete heart of Toronto, wearing moccasins;



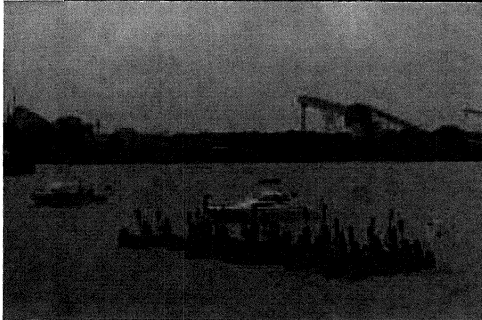
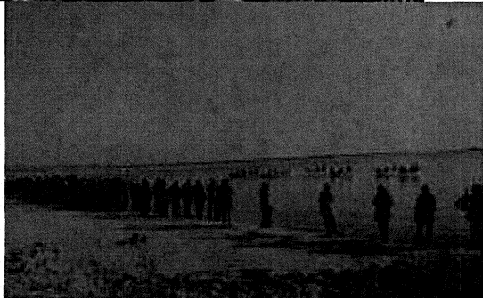
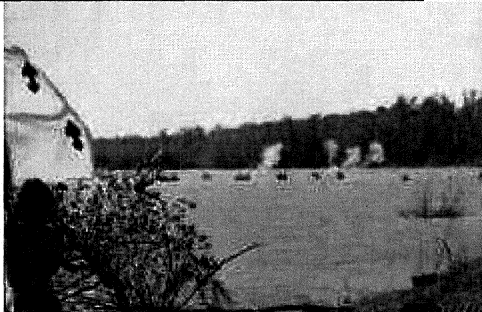
capsized in a November storm off Death's Door, Wisconsin; seen four of their number struck down by a runaway truck in Indiana; and encountered tow-boat wakes so violent they literally threw the canoes out of the lower Mississippi.

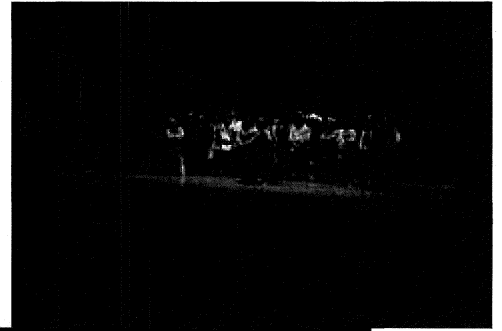
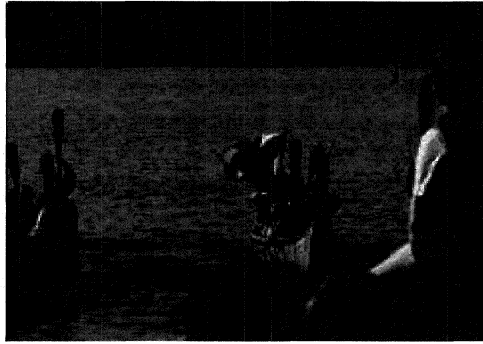


Through it all, they not only survived, they found time to carry their message of historic and natural preservation to nearly 200 communities along their route. They sang their songs and shared their adventures with children in hundreds of classrooms.



They brought the living presence of our history into town-meetings, civic celebrations, hospitals, and nursing homes. They developed the 19 research projects that would serve as the permanent educational legacy of the expedition.





All this is not to say they did it alone. They had the devotion of the five people who traveled alongside them all through that bitter winter, coordinating the crew's movements with the community celebrations, They had the encouragement of relatives and friends, They had the material support of the people, governments, businesses, and civic organizations along their way, They had the enthusiasm of the communities they passed through, who took the flame of historic awareness kindled by the expedition and made it blaze, Without these, nothing could have been accomplished.



Still, when it comes right down to it, the whole expedition rested on those 24 fragile wooden paddles that finally parted the salt waters of the Gulf of Mexico, one brilliant spring morning in the April of 1977.

The real measure of the expedition's success is the pride that can be heard in the voices of the 24 men who wielded those paddles. These are the voices of La Salle: Expedition II.



Crewmembers of the re-enactment expedition
(August 11, 1976-April 9, 1977)

Reid Lewis
Father Loran Fuchs, O.F.M.
Marc Lieberman
Keith Gorse
Clif Wilson
Sid Bardwell

Their counterparts on the original expedition
(August 11, 1681-April 9, 1682)

René Robert Cavelier Sieur de La Salle
pere Zenobe Membre
Henri de Tonty
Le Sieur de Boisrondet
Jacques Bourdon Sieur d' Autray
Le Castor Blanc (Indian Guide)

John Fialko
George Lesieutre
Richard Stillwagon
Gary Braun
Charles Campbell
Terry Cox
John Di Fulvio
Randy Foster
Mark Fredenburg
Jorge Garcia
Rich Gross
Sam Hess
Ron Hobart
Bob Kulick
Ken Lewis
Steve Marr
Doug Sohn
Bill Watts

Pierre Prudhomme(Armourer)
Jacques de La Metairie (Notary)
Jean Michel (Surgeon)
Jean du Lignon
Andre Henault
Andre Baboeuf
La Violette de Lyon
Jean Pignabel
Pierre You
Nicholas de La Salle
Pierre Buret
Gabriel Barbier
Louis Baron
Colin Crevel
Antoine Brossard
Jacques Cauchois
Pierre Mignoret
Jean Masse

The Liaison Team

Jan Lewis
Marlena Scavuzzo
Sharon Baumgartner
Cathi Palmer
Barton Dean

Director
Assistant Director
Community Relations
Crew Support
Photographer PhotoJournalist

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
PRODUCED BY

Reid Lewis
Ron Hobart (Expedition Music Project Director)
Ken Lewis (Expedition Audio Project Director)
Ron Hobart
Ken Lewis

MUSICAL DIRECTION
WRITING AND CONTINUITY
RECORDED AT WBEZ Studios, Chicago
MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS
ADDITIONAL NARRATION

Mac Frampton (Music Project Advisor)
Judy Staab and Howard Platt
(Expedition Drama Project Advisors)
written, played, and sung by Howard Platt
(c1977 by La Salle. Expedition II)
Swanson, Pearson, Haugaard; Chicago
John Fialko (Expedition Art Project Director)
Mr. and Mrs. Perry Lewis, Joe DiFranco, Bill Myers, John Miller,
Mike Alft, Wayne Schimpff, Gail Campbell, and to photographers
Marc Lieberman, Doug Sohn, Bart Dean (Expedition Photo Project
Team); Al Gruber, Tom Thomas, and A. Craig Benson of the
Wisconsin State Journal

ORIGINAL SONG "River Winds"

JACKET DESIGN
JACKET ART SUPERVISION
SPECIAL THANKS TO:

LaSalle Expedition II voyagers really roughed it

On Thanksgiving Day 1976, 23 men in pseudo-birch bark canoes arrived on Southport Beach. These were the voyagers of the LaSalle Expedition II. Their mission was to go exactly where the original LaSalle Expedition had gone 294 years before them. Welcomed by a bonfire on the beach and about 200 people, the men of the replica LaSalle Expedition II had steadfastly paddled their way south from Racine in six 20-foot canoes.

Some were clad in moose-hide moccasins while others remained barefoot despite the 37-degree water.

Just about everything, right down to the French songs sung to keep time while paddling, was done exactly as the original explorers had done.

Teacher leads the way

The group, led by Illinois high school French teacher Reid Lewis, celebrated the American bicentennial with an authentic re-enactment of Robert Cavalier de LaSalle's 1681-82 journey from Montreal through the Great Lakes, through the St. Joseph, Kankakee and Illinois rivers onto the Mississippi River down to the Gulf of Mexico.

LaSalle is believed to be the first white man to set foot on the shores of what is now Kenosha in 1681.

For two years, 16 of Lewis' students and seven adults prepared mentally and physically for the massive journey.

The expedition used nothing but replica clothing, tools and foods of the first expedition, with the exception of the fiberglass canoes, made to look like birch bark canoes.

Their six-hour, 6-mile trip into Kenosha was just one leg in a 3,300-mile canoe trip.

Arrive in Kenosha



A crowd gathered above the rocky shore at Southport Beach on Thanksgiving Day in 1976 to greet the voyagers of the LaSalle Expedition II, a re-enactment group that traveled 3,300 miles, mirroring the explorations of Robert Cavalier de LaSalle and his crew.

[Click picture to enlarge](#)

It was a tough six hours of paddling into a southeast wind on the day they arrived in Kenosha. Loaded with up to 1,200 pounds of gear and human cargo, each of the heavily laden canoes rode with sides just 6 inches above the water.



Bob Kulick, 18, of Elgin, Ill., slings one of the tents on shore at Southport Beach.

[Click picture to enlarge](#)

Standing barefoot to pound tent stakes with a hand-hewn mallet wasn't a hardship for Rich Gross, 18, of Elgin, Ill., as he and others in the expedition were conditioned



to outdoor life.

After securing camp, they were escorted to the nearby home of Miriam Swanningson, where a full turkey dinner awaited them. The meal was sponsored by the county's Bicentennial Commission and the American Association of University Women.

The group then went to the Southport Beach House and gave an hour-long presentation to a crowd of 400 that had squeezed into the building. There they sang paddling songs, love ballads and drinking ditties of the 17th century.

The following morning they set off for Zion, a two-hour paddle ride with the wind at their backs.

Brutal weather

Had they known what was ahead, the men may have hung up their paddles here in Kenosha. They later would drag their gear over 500 miles of frozen river and prairie.

They continued to sleep beneath canoes each night, like their 17th century predecessors, while temperatures plummeted to minus 27 degrees.

At the journey's end in New Orleans in April 1977, they had survived the trip during one of the worst Midwestern winters in history.

The objects used by the re-enactors were donated to the Elgin Public Museum in Illinois, where they are still on exhibit to show life in the 17th century American wilderness.

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April 18, 1977 Vol. 7 No. 15

Sacre Bleu! An Illinois Teacher and His Students Retrace La Salle's 1682 Expedition

By Lynne Baranski

Explorer René Robert Cavalier, sieur de la Salle, was 39 in 1682 when he paddled with his voyageurs from Montreal to the Gulf of Mexico and claimed all of America's heartland, from the Alleghenies to the Rockies, for France and Louis XIV.

Reid Lewis is only 36, but in more important ways he is much like La Salle, whose historic adventure he has just re-created in an eight month, 3,300 mile expedition with 22 latter-day voyageurs from the Chicago area.

"A dream burned in La Salle," says Reid, "and he refused to quit." The other members of La Salle: Expedition II, now unwinding after reaching the Gulf, agree that a dream burned just as hotly in Lewis, a French teacher, historian and passionate Francophile. How else could he have persuaded 15 high school students, five teachers, a playwright and a Franciscan priest to train for two years, sew their own costumes, re-create in harrowing detail the 1682 expedition and perform educational skits in 127 communities along the way?

The trip took them up the St. Lawrence, through three of the Great Lakes and down the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. It was at least as arduous as La Salle's, and the weather was worse. Off Washington Island, Wis. one of their six canoes—fiberglass since Lewis feared the effects of pollution on birch bark—was swamped by six-foot waves in 39-degree water. "Our survival training paid off," he says. "The crew stayed with the canoe and away from the island so they wouldn't be crushed into it." One day in Indiana a howling gale held their progress on land to two miles. "I was so cold I ached," said one crew member. The severe winter also froze their river route from Chicago to St. Louis, forcing them to portage 525 miles instead of the expected 120. It also brought them close to tragedy.

In January they were walking beside a two-lane highway south of Chicago. A cattle truck slowed for a look and was rammed from behind by a semi—right into the voyageurs. Four were hurt; one almost died. Two are still in casts but refused to drop out. They traveled the rest of the route in a van with the liaison team that moved ahead of the group to coordinate its public appearances. The voyageurs never walked beside a road again; river ice was much safer. But there was no thought of abandoning the project. "By unanimous vote," says Lewis, "we kept going."

That, he believes, is the real spirit of youth today. "Adults don't give kids enough credit," Reid says. "This proves that if you give a kid half a chance, he'll live up to anyone's standards."

Chicago born and reared, Lewis inherited "a spirit of adventure" from his parents, who loved to travel. He escaped to the woods with the Boy Scouts, took a B.A. in French at the University of Illinois and later studied in California and France. In 1971 he answered a newspaper ad and became a diver on a team that searched for the treasure from Sir Francis Drake's Golden Hind in Ecuador. Two years later he helped organize a reenactment honoring La Salle's 17th-century Jesuit predecessors, Marquette and Joliet. Then he began planning the La Salle voyage with financing from such sources as France's Committee on the American Bicentennial. (The trip will end up costing \$500,000—which includes salaries for the teachers and \$1,000 scholarships that Lewis promised each student. He has already taken more than \$30,000 in personal loans to help meet the expected \$250,000 deficit.)

The voyageurs of La Salle II sang the French songs of their 17th-century precursors, talked with French accents and addressed one another by French names, each taking the identity of an original adventurer. But the esprit de corps faltered at times.

"The physical difficulties were trying," says Lewis' brother Ken, 39, who wrote the voyageurs' educational skits. "But the psychological problems were twice as difficult." Lack of privacy created great strain. "It was quite tense at times," says one teacher.

"There were some tremendous egos. If it weren't for our psychological training—how to deal with anger without coming to blows—it would have fallen apart." Daily temptations were complicated by amorous girls who sometimes followed them 150 miles downriver. (Women were banned from the trip for reasons of historical accuracy.) Lewis tried to discourage fraternizing with the local females: "It's not a moral judgment," he explained with a smile, "but you can't go raping and pillaging."

After the Gulf of Mexico, the real La Salle continued his explorations and was eventually killed by his own men when he got them lost in Texas. Lewis has more cheerful plans with his wife of two years, Jan, who traveled with the liaison team. They will spend two weeks camping in Colorado—the man's appetite for the outdoors seems unquenchable. And then?

"Well," Lewis says, "some people have suggested that I reenact the Crusades." He has decided against it.

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as of 2011:

Mr. Reid Henri Lewis

Employment History Director and President Aventure Francalse , Inc.

Board Memberships and Affiliations Member The Explorers Club

Historian, Adventurer and Cultural Preservationist

French Caucus of the United States Congress - France in the United States/

Embassy of France in Washington

www.info-france-usa.org, 16 July 2011

This year's recipients are: Ambassador Craig Roberts Stapleton, for his overall contribution to bilateral relations; Ms. Katharine Branning, vice-president of the French Institute Alliance française in New York City; Mr. Reid Henri Lewis, director of Aventure Française Inc., a total-immersion language school; Mr. Christophe Pinet, professor emeritus at Montana State University; and Mr. Albert Valdman, professor emeritus at Indiana University.

www.washingtonislandcanoeandkayakevent.com, 23 June 2009

Reid Lewi's presentation is a fully produced, multi-media spectacle including live narration by Reid Lewis in person and in costume, a powerful audio-effects track and vivid image programming and projection.?

...

In story and song, Reid Lewis relates the humor, frustrations and adventures of the voyage with a style that is highly entertaining and profoundly moving.?

"Meeting Challenge Head-On! has a powerful impact on audiences.? Lewis invites us to welcome the obstacles in our lives.?"

Mr. Lewis is traveling from Elgin, Illinois for the June 20 presentation.? He will be introduced by Ralph Freese, legendary owner of the Chicago Land Canoe Base who has been called an Urban Voyageur by numerous media sources. Tickets for the performance are \$10.00 at the door.? All proceeds will be applied to the not-for-profit purpose of the Washington Island Canoe and Kayak Event and create seed money for Year II of the event.?"

REID HENRI LEWIS

Early in his career, Reid Henri Lewis, a French teacher by profession, found himself expanding the scope of his activities to include the promotion of French-American culture. He has appeared in films and on TV portraying French characters such as La Salle in the Cousteau special on the Mississippi River and in "The Good Gang Express", an Emmy award-winning production by CBS-TV, Chicago. In addition, Lewis led two authentic reenactments: the 4month, 2,800-mile Jolliet-Marquette Expedition, and the 8-month, 3,300-mile La Salle: Expedition II which went through the coldest winter in the history of the Midwest. Both canoe expeditions included over 700 dramatic presentations given to communities along the route. Lewis has worked to encourage cross-cultural understanding by creating study programs in France and the United States and is serving on Mayor Daley's Chicago Sister Cities International Program, Paris Committee. He gives presentations on French-American culture throughout the United States and abroad as a way of encouraging good relations between the peoples of different countries. "If we truly believe in peace on earth," says Lewis, "we must transcend the turmoil of politics and focus on the common bonds of people throughout the world."

One of these bonds is the challenge to treat our natural environment responsibly. In all of his work, Lewis has incorporated a strong ecological component for which he has been recognized by the National Audubon Society and the Izaak

Walton League. In the Cousteau special on the Mississippi River, 11th century observations on the environment are compared with those of the 20th century. Currently, Lewis is director and president of Aventure Francalse, Inc. a total immersion in French program conducted at the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center near Chesterton, Indiana.

Lewis has been recognized by and is a member of the Explorers Club of New York, the Adventurer's Club of Chicago and most recently, he was made an honorary citizen of Fresse, France, presented the Vermilion Medal of the city of Paris, France and named "Chevalier" in the Order of Academic Palms by the French Ministry of National Education.

www.washingtonislandcanoeandkayakevent.com, 18 May 2009

Bicentennial re-enactment of the 1681 LaSalle Expedition leader, Reid Lewis, voyageur rendezvous with Project Lakewell, Inc., and Pottawatomie Spiritual Elder presenting at the Washington Island Canoe and Kayak weekend, Door County.

Click here for high res photos:

<http://www.doorcountyvisitorbureau.org/Rendezvous.htm>

...

Reid Henri Lewis, historian, adventurer, and cultural preservationist, is the keynote presenter at Washington Islands Trueblood Performing Arts Center on Saturday, June 20th at 8:00pm. Lewis will recount his experience leading an 8-month, 23-man expedition through the cruelest Midwestern winter on record to re-create LaSalle's epic 1681 voyage from Montreal to the Gulf of Mexico. His presentation is a vivid multi-media spectacle including live narration, powerful audiovisual effects, story and song.

news.greatlakesboating.com, 19 May 2009

Bicentennial re-enactment of the 1681 LaSalle Expedition leader, Reid Lewis, voyageur rendezvous with Project Lakewell, Inc., and Pottawatomie Spiritual Elder presenting at the Washington Island Canoe and Kayak weekend, Door County.

"Voices of Our Past," a fur-trade rendezvous will be created at Red Barn Park on Saturday, June 20.

Reid Henri Lewis, historian, adventurer, and cultural preservationist, is the keynote presenter at Washington Island's Trueblood Performing Arts Center on Saturday, June 20th at 8:00pm. Lewis will recount his experience leading an 8-month, 23-man expedition through the cruelest Midwestern winter on record to re-create LaSalle's epic 1681 voyage from Montreal to the Gulf of Mexico. His presentation is a vivid multi-media spectacle including live narration, powerful audiovisual effects, story and song.

www.ppulse.com, 29 May 2009

Reid Henri Lewis, historian, adventurer, and cultural preservationist, will be the keynote presenter at Washington Island's Trueblood Performing Arts Center on Saturday, June 20 at 8 pm. Lewis will recount his experience leading an eight month, 23-man expedition through the cruelest Midwestern winter on record to re-create LaSalle's epic 1681 voyage from Montreal to the Gulf of Mexico.



John Flesher June 17, 2013 8:16 PM

Reid Lewis of Elgin, Ill., portrays the 17th century French explorer La Salle during his journey across the Great Lakes. Lewis and his companions previously retraced La Salle's voyage, and on Monday, June 17, 2013 they reunited in the Lake Michigan community of Fairport, Mich., where scientists and history buffs are searching nearby waters for his lost ship, the Griffin. (AP Photo/John Flesher)



La Salle Expedition

La Salle Expedition was re-enacted under leadership of Reid Lewis in snow storm on Lake Michigan in 1977.

Ja

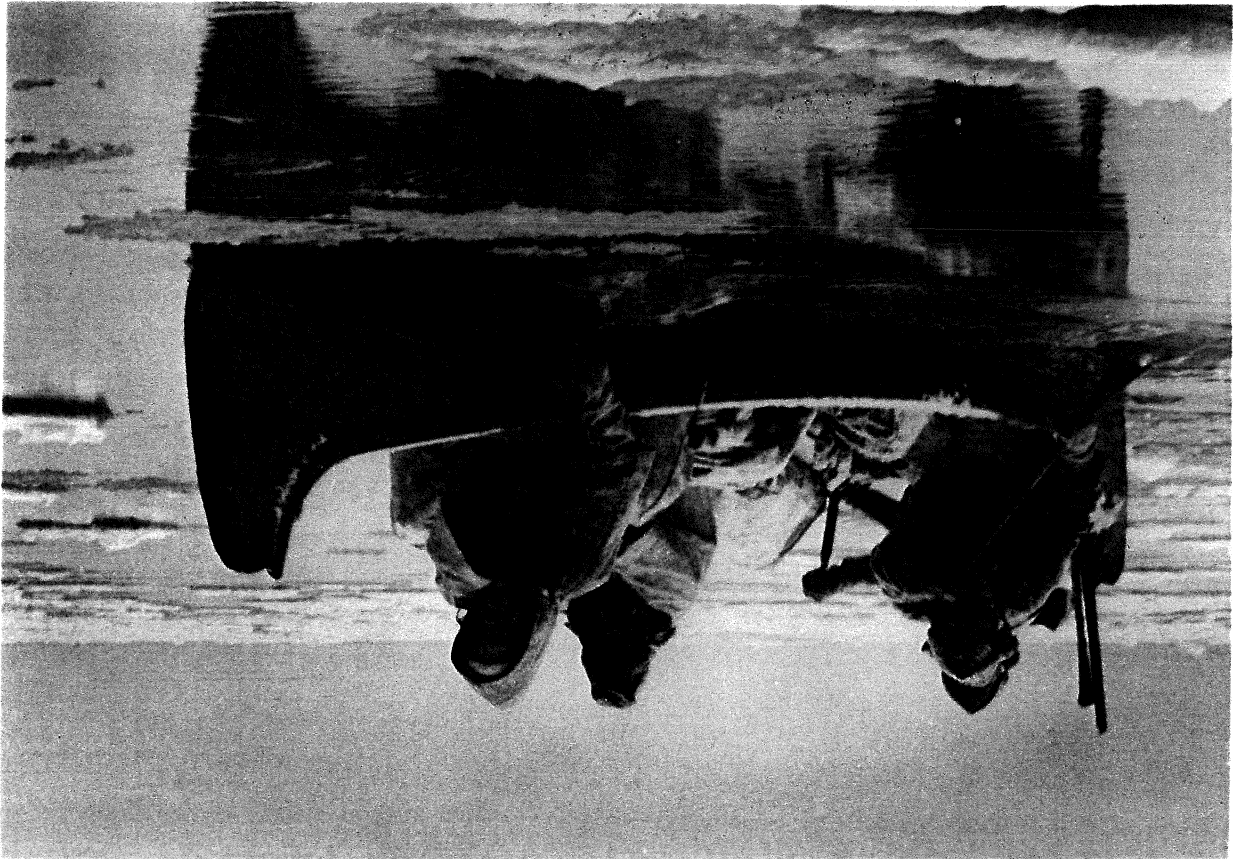
(Over)



GL

WESTERN KENOSHA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WILMOT, WIS.

*Presented on
Lake Michigan*



The LA SALLE Expedition II,
under leadership of Reid Lewis,

Foraging 5,000 lbs. of equipment

from Niles, Michigan, to South

Bend, Indiana in winter of

1977

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WILMOT, WIS.

3a



Re-creation of LaSalle trek to be told at Wilmot



18 at Wilmot High School, front of the 24 bardy road, who re-created LaSalle's expedition in 1976, are shown canoeing across the storm Lake Michigan during a snowstorm.

A crew of five teachers, 17 students, a playwright and a priest embarked Aug. 11, 1976 on a 20th century adventure to re-create the epoch journey of the French explorer Rene Robert Cavalier, Sieur de LaSalle from Montreal to the Gulf of Mexico.

Two years of research and physical training culminated on that day to produce the opportunity for a rare challenge.

Every facet of the voyage was carefully researched to re-create the voyage as authentically as possible. Equipment and clothing were handmade even the French language and voyagers' songs had to be mastered. The crew members were put through a rigorous physical conditioning program to prepare them for the long hours of towing and packing gear.

Raid Lewis, an Elgin, Ill., French teacher, was founder of the LaSalle Expedition II, as it came to be called in an effort to dramatize concern for historical and environmental preservation. His primary goal was educational. Intwoven in that goal was a desire to prove that frontiers still exist and within those frontiers lies an opportunity to experience the special gratification that can only be gained through individual accomplishment.

The voyageurs faced the hardships of a severe Midwestern winter - cooling their staples of boiled beans and cornmeal over a fire stoked with dirt and wool against the elements as they battled rain, squalls, blizzards and at one point 10 degree wind chill conditions. A capsule in 39 degree water nearly cost four men their lives at Death's Door passage between Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

All through the voyage the 175 and 20th centuries were brought together in unique opposition and sometimes curious paradoxes.

At the conclusion of the voyage April 9, 1977, 8 months later and 256 years after LaSalle claimed the American Heartland for Louis XIV, the members of the crew stood on a beach at the mouth of the Mississippi and rededicated themselves to the same quest.

Lewis will be presenting the audience with an overview of the preparation undertaken for the voyage. Scenes encountered by the expedition, hardships and triumphs will be related to the audience. At the conclusion, Lewis accompanied himself on the guitar singing a French voyageur song from the past. A period of questions and answers follows. Lewis and his crew represent the spirit of a look to undertake exploration and settlement of America. The historical society urges all interested individuals to attend and receive a part of this spirit.

one man had dropped out. In an effort to share the expeditionary experience with the public, the Western Kenosha County Historical Society has invited Lewis, as a guest speaker, to the Wilmot High School Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. General admission tickets will be available at \$2 for adults and \$1 for students.

THE WAY THEY WERE - Western Kenosha County Historical Society has invited Raid Lewis, founder of the LaSalle Expedition II, to speak at a special public program Feb. 18 at Wilmot High School, front of the 24 bardy road, who re-created LaSalle's expedition in 1976, are shown canoeing across the storm Lake Michigan during a snowstorm.

COMMENTS

ON LA SALLE: EXPEDITION II
PRESENTATION

"Reid Lewis captivated an audience of over 900 principals at the IPA Annual Conference. The evaluations on his presentation were the most outstanding ever received by a Conference speaker."

--Illinois Principals Association
Newsletter

"The standing ovation that Mr. Lewis received [from our students] was a beautifully spontaneous and genuinely warm expression of respect and appreciation."

--Jim Rowley, Centerville High
School, Ohio

"In twenty-one years of teaching, I have never seen an assembly enjoyed by so many ... Above all else, I truly enjoyed the real message...You can do anything you want if you commit yourself."

--A.L. Carpentier, Lockport
Elementary Schools, Illinois

"Your presentation brought back a lost dream I once had, and your telling us that nothing is impossible, I won't let it be laughed out of existence again."

--6th grade student, Mt. Prospect,
Illinois

"You left a spirit of positive thinking with us that we really needed."

--Susan M. Redd, Mount Vernon
Public Schools, Washington

"The standing ovation indicated the excitement and appreciation of the participants [in our Township Institute] about your work. Many requested that the session be repeated for the third time next year."

--Marie M. Meyer, Thornton
Fractional Area Educational
Cooperative, Illinois

SD

Forest Service - Regional office

633 - W. W. Ave

LA SALLE: EXPEDITION II

Reliving the past to explore the future

SA

Cost School
General

Cost general

Open dates

Open dates

For additional information,
please contact:

Reid H. Lewis
616 Park Street
Elgin, Illinois
60120

(312) 697-6580

REID H. LEWIS PRESENTS

LA SALLE: EXPEDITION II

In 1976, a group of twenty-three young men relived the adventure of La Salle's epic canoe voyage from Montreal to the Gulf of Mexico. Re-created in authentic detail, from handmade canoes to handsewn shirts, the crewmembers of La Salle: Expedition II spent eight months on the waterways of the North American continent, sharing their experiences with hundreds of communities along the route.

Reid Lewis tells the story of this arduous expedition and in a multi-media presentation shows the hardships, challenges, frustrations, and triumphs the crew encounters. He also describes the 19 educational research projects which were carried on before, during, and after the expedition, and which are being prepared for the use of young people throughout the world.

Upon request, materials concerning the presentation are available for schools, community groups, businesses, etc. These materials contain vivid descriptions of the Expedition and also testimonial letters from the hundreds of schools which have already had Mr. Lewis appear for their students, as well as testimonial letters from business and community leaders.

Gene
Jan. + Feb

Gene
March +
April

5B

5C

The Academy Arrow

WINNEBAGO LUTHERAN ACADEMY
475 EAST MERRILL AVENUE
FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN 54935



VOL. XXXVII

SEPTEMBER 1981

No. 7

PRINCIPAL'S DESK

School has begun! At the time of this writing 83 freshmen were enrolled with another one considering it. Student body enrollment totalled 334 with some unexpected transfers into WLA in grades 10 and 11. We thank God for moving the hearts of so many to consider Christian secondary education and we pray that He guide us through another successful year.

Homecoming: Friday, September 18, festivities begin at noon with the highlight being the football game at 4:30 P.M. Lunch and a movie will also be presented after the game. We hope many alumni and friends of WLA will be able to join us.

Spectator Bus: The Pep Club and the Student Council are joining together to provide a spectator bus to every away football and boys' varsity basketball game this year. Lutheran Bus Service of Brownsville has consented to provide a bus for most of the games and another bus will be secured when their bus is not available. A price of \$2.00 per person is being set for each trip. This price, together with the fact that Mrs. Schultz of Brownsville has graciously donated her driving time, will allow the Pep Club and the Student Council to underwrite the remaining cost of approximately \$800.

Projects: Some items are always needed but the financial picture prohibits them being placed into the budget. Four such projects were noted at budget time this year and we print them now for your prayerful consideration. We'll keep you posted on each of these projects from time to time so that you may be aware of any progress.

I. Sound System -- Used at special functions and in class work by English, Music and Research Departments.		
A. Cassette deck, amplifier, microphone, turntable, speakers, recorder and cabinet	\$1040.00	
B. Sound mixer, adapters, microphone	\$1100.00	
C. Stereo amplifier and speakers	\$ 950.00	
D. Electric piano and amplifier	\$1500.00	
Total Project		\$4590.00
II. Printing Department		
A. Folding Machine	\$1000.00	
B. Composing Typewriter	\$4500.00	
Total Project		\$5500.00
III. Research Department		
A. Opaque Projector	\$ 660.00	
B. 16MM Projector Replacement	\$1215.00	
Total Project		\$1875.00
IV. Athletic Department		
A. Pole Vault Landing Pad and Weather Cover	\$3413.00	
B. High Jump Landing Pad and Weather Cover	\$1737.00	
Total Project		\$5150.00

SE

Latin-Religion Call Returned: Pastor Peter Naumann was led to return our call. A new call was issued at a Plenary Board meeting on August 31.

Cheerleaders in Competition: We congratulate our cheerleaders who took first place in regional preliminary competition for varsity high school cheerleading teams recently. They competed August 29 at Appleton in the finals. We appreciate their fine representation of WLA.

REID LEWIS AND LaSALLE EXPEDITION II

In August of 1681, exactly 300 years ago, a French explorer by the name of Robert de LaSalle began an expedition in Montreal that ended eight months later and over 3000 miles away in New Orleans. With completion of that journey, LaSalle claimed the entire Mississippi Valley and a large part of this continent's interior for France. In August of 1976, fifteen high school students, six educators, a playwright, and a priest set out on an historic recreation of LaSalle's expedition. Before embarking on such an extensive project, the crew spent two years in research, training, and hand-crafting their own canoes and equipment. Clad in 17th century garb, which they had sewn themselves, the crew of students and teachers departed from Montreal in August of 1976 and completed their 3,300 mile journey on April 9, 1977, in New Orleans. Unlike LaSalle, the 20th century expedition made its way through the worst winter in our nation's history — a winter which forced the crew to portage their canoes and equipment 525 miles over frozen rivers and fields. The expedition almost came to a halt because of an accident, but was able to continue a short time later. This and much more comes to life on the screen during the presentation of LaSalle Expedition II.

The man responsible for the dream and coordination of the expedition is Mr. Reid Lewis, a former teacher of French in Elgin, Illinois. Mr. Lewis now travels throughout our country presenting LaSalle Expedition II to bring a little of the past into our present. On Monday, September 21st, Mr. Lewis will be at WLA to present LaSalle Expedition II to our student body and area grade schoolers (5-8) who will be invited. The program will be repeated for the general public on Monday evening, beginning at 7:30 P.M. A freewill offering will be taken in the evening presentation to help defray costs. Please mark your calendars now for a journey into the past by way of slides and a very interesting narration by Mr. Lewis who lived the part of LaSalle. Hope to see you here.

RECYCLING COOPERATIVE

There are now 13 organizations that have paid a \$25.00 membership fee in support of a recycling cooperative in Fond du Lac County. The Student Council of Winnebago Lutheran Academy is one of those non-profit organizations.

The Cooperative at a recent meeting adopted Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Shortly thereafter officers were elected and progress is now being made in locating a site for operations. A projected date for our grand-opening is the first week in November. The recycling operation is to encourage people to save and bring in their glass products (green, brown, clear), paper, aluminum, used oil, tin, plastics, and all other items that can be recycled. By doing this, we can help our environment and save tax dollars used to purchase land fill. By bringing in items to be recycled, you will also be supporting the Academy since the Student Council will receive a large share of the profits for the Saturdays when we work at the recycling center. So please, start saving now to benefit everyone in the future. Watch for further information as the operation develops.

REPORT ON FISCAL YEAR

5F
The final results for the past fiscal year showed an operating loss of \$13,752.92. Add to this the shortage of \$5,511.39 on the roof repair project

2 Numbers
Rt 2 Box 294A
Salem WI 53168

Jan 19 1952

Dear Friend
I received your letter

recently mentioning
the sewing programme
sponsored by the
Western Handicrafts
Historical Society.

I will make every
effort to attend and as
I have not heard
from you for the past
two years do not
expect to be selling
tickets. The programme
around Hudsonville
is interesting but I will
skip that.
Yours Truly
Gene Hunter

CHAPTER SEVEN: Jesus Christ, The Son Of God And The Son Of Man, Died To Be Our Savior

Dear Reverend Sir,

There are many good things in God's world. Too often mankind makes them few and far between. The western part of Kenosha has been without a cultural event for a long time.

The Western Kenosha County Historical Society is sponsoring a good thing for the people of this area. It has engaged Mr. Reid Lewis to present a slid-lecture on his La Salle **expedition** II. In the years of 1976-1977 he and twenty men retraced the identical journey which the French explorer made in 1682. Mr. Lewis will show pictures and speak about the preparations which they made for this adventure, the many hardships they experienced along the way because of the cold winter, and their arrival in New Orleans after a 3,500 miles canoe and portaging trip. His pictures are beautiful. His explanation is most interesting. He relates the history of those early days to our times. All who have seen his presentation speak of it in glowing terms. It is indeed one of the good things in the world.

The date is February 18, the time is 7:30 AM, and the place is the gym of the Wilmot Union High School. Tickets for adults are \$2.00 and for children and students \$1.00. They will be sold at the door.

Our Historical **Society** respectfully asks you to announce this slid-lecture to your congregation. We know that you and your members will thoroughly enjoy it.

Sincerely yours,

Western Kenosha County Historical Society

For further information call
Richard Heigl 877-2698

7

La Salle: Expedition II
Reliving the past
to explore the future.



616 Park Street
Elgin, Illinois 60120
November 10, 1981

Rev. L. Wenzel
Box 37
Wilmot, WI 53192

Dear Rev. Wenzel:

My husband, Reid Lewis, is on an extended tour of the east coast, giving his presentation on La Salle: Expedition in Maine and New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and I have been busy trying to keep up with his correspondence. I apologize for being so late in responding to your letter asking about his program; I hope that the enclosed information answers all of your questions.

I am not certain what type of group you are interested in having a presentation for; however, Reid has given his program for church groups, schools private and public, historical societies, etc. I think that his program appeals to all ages and all types of people. Usually he gives performances during the day at a local school and then in the evening he gives a presentation for either the general community or for a special interest group, such as a PTO or an historical society. When he gives a presentation at a school, the schedule goes something like this:

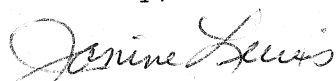
A Day in the Schools --4th grade through college

Within a given day, 0 or 2 presentations (1¹/₂ hours in length) to various grade levels of the general student body and then visits to individual classes where he speaks to students who have seen the main program and who feel free to ask questions; during these class visits, Reid talks about various aspects of the Expedition which relate to particular subject areas (science, music, physical education, etc.). He also demonstrates to the students the flint and steel fire-starting technique and shows them the clothing and moccasins used on the Expedition. It takes Reid 2 hours to set up his equipment and 1 hour to tear down. You might be interested to know that he has a special program, about 45 minutes long, for grades K-3.

As I mentioned above, he then usually gives a program in the evening. His fee for the above format is \$500 plus expenses (mileage @\$.30/mile round trip from Elgin, Illinois, food and lodging). When he is on tour in an area, he prorates the expenses between communities and groups at \$85 a day, making the total cost \$585. If he gives just one presentation, his fee is \$350.00.

Often, several groups and/or schools go together in order to afford Reid's program. He will be back in Illinois for December, January, and February, but he will be on tour again in March and April. If you are interested in his program, please let me know and I will relay the message to Reid. In the meantime, thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,


Janine Lewis

An extraordinary motivational program:

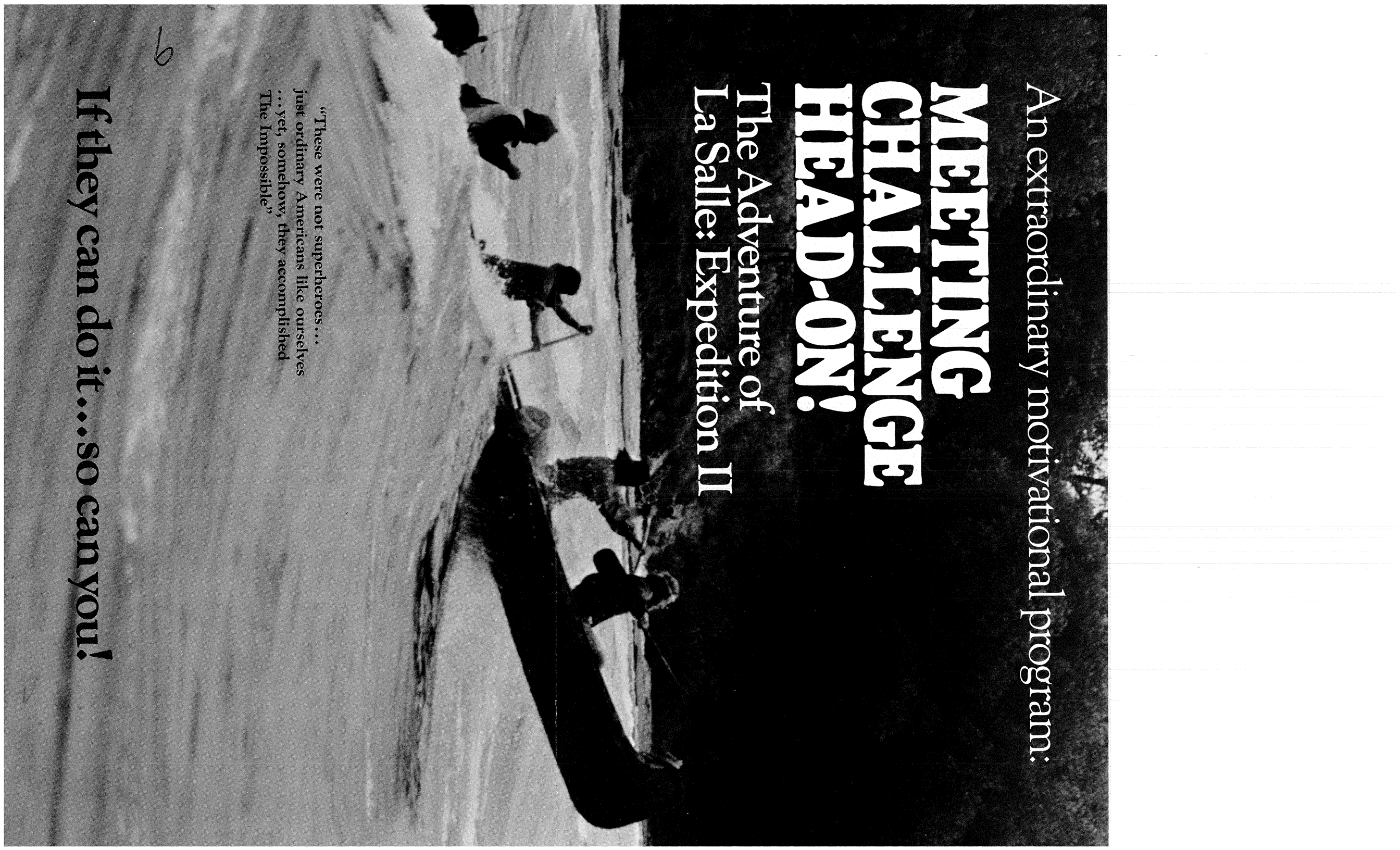
MEETING CHALLENGE HEAD-ON!

The Adventure of
La Salle: Expedition II

"These were not superheroes...
just ordinary Americans like ourselves
...yet, somehow, they accomplished
The Impossible"

9

If they can do it...so can you!



"IN 21 YEARS OF TEACHING, I HAVE NEVER SEEN AN ASSEMBLY ENJOYED BY SO MANY!"

—A. Carpenter, Illinois Elementary Schools Superintendent

"The highest rating . . . that any presentation received in the 17 years we have been conducting In-service sessions!"

—Summary of Wisconsin Teachers' In-service Day Evaluations

"The classroom visits . . . were the perfect ending to the total experience. (My) students were so impressed . . . they spoke of you for days!"

—S. Redd, Washington High School Instructor

"The fact that you can communicate so clearly with people of all ages and groups is a testimony to your ability as a teacher!"

—R. Pelletier, Assistant Professor, University of Maine

"I have been overwhelmed by the enthusiastic and positive response expressed by students, staff members and parents for having arranged this presentation."

—D. Wangles, Illinois High School Teacher

"You are somewhat a 'hero' in the eyes of Geneva students . . ."

—E. Howington, Illinois Student

"How grateful I am that two of our children had the opportunity to . . . share the Voyageurs' experiences. In our youngsters estimation, it was THE BEST assembly they have had in all their High School years!"

—Wisconsin Parent

"Teachers tell me they have never seen such enthusiasm over an assembly."

—J. Sullivan, Alger County (Michigan) Historical Society

"The faculty has told me it was the most professional convocation ever presented at Blue River."

—L. Davis, Indiana High School Principal

"I have received . . . phone calls from teachers . . . and administrators thanking me for providing your program."

—R. Gerry, Illinois Social Studies Coordinator

"(It's) difficult to pin a number on all the students who have approached me . . . to express their appreciation."

—P. Simonia, Illinois Department Head

"Kudos are still coming in. It's the first time in my experience that a PTO program received a standing ovation. The extensive background information packet for our teachers was . . . excellent."

—G. Richter, Illinois PTO Chairman

"'The Good Gang Express' . . . just won an Emmy Award for Best Children's Special in 1979/80. Your participation in that show definitely made that award possible."

—Warner Saunders, WBBM-TV (CBS Chicago)

"I'm proud of the fact a TEACHER did something so great . . . a beautiful example of the multi-disciplinary approach . . . motivating . . . inspiring . . . beautiful presentation . . . superb!"

Teachers' comments on an Illinois Institute Day Program

"One of the most difficult tasks (is) . . . value clarification. (Your program emphasized) dreams . . . discipline . . . respect for self, others, and the environment . . . so many, many lessons without preaching."

—Wisconsin Parent

"In the Olympics, the U.S. Hockey Team inspired . . . that same enthusiasm and exhilaration."

—C. Nash, Ohio High School Instructor

"It is hard to find assembly programs which do not make students restless. I can recommend the program which Mr. Lewis presents!"

—P. Johnson, Illinois High School Principal

"Entertaining . . . humorous . . . inspiring . . ."

—K. Wigdale, Milwaukee Audubon Society

"A great accomplishment in showmanship . . . magnificent photographs . . . the sudden appearance of La Salle himself on the stage . . . a masterpiece!"

—P. Capretz, Yale University

"How much we enjoyed your presentation at the Harvard Medical School!"

—A. Barger, Harvard University

"There are plans to have you return . . ."

—T. Hawley, Mason County (Michigan) Historical Society

"He presented (programs for) the total school, K-12. That same evening he gave (one) for the general public. The response at all levels was one of overwhelming acceptance, awe, enjoyment, (including) . . . a standing ovation and 3 callbacks. Having been in education for 16 years, I rate him as good as I have ever seen!"

A. Owen, Illinois Principal

"A standing ovation . . . 4 call backs . . . astonishing! In fact, your program for the *Rencontre des peuples francophones* has provided the primary inspiration for our international Cartier Celebration Rendezvous in 1984."

—P. A. White, Cartier Celebration Community, Province of Quebec

These responses to "Meeting Challenge Head-On!" — from teachers, administrators, students, and parents across the country—say more about our program than anything we could write. They are excerpted from hundreds of letters of appreciation, representing more than 500 performances throughout the United States and Canada.

For more detailed evaluations, as well as a complete program description and information on rates and availability, please call or write:

REID HENRI LEWIS
616 PARK STREET
ELGIN, ILLINOIS 60120
312-697-6580

Medfeldt

475 E MERRILL AV

FDL W 1 54935

January 10, 1982

Dear Pastor Wenzel,

I'm sorry about the delay in this response.

Somewhere your letter got mixed in with some papers on my desk and just the other day I found it again. Hopefully, I can be of some help in answering your question.

The way we handled financing Mr. Lewis was through a free will offering at the public presentation and a voluntary donation of \$100 → Many did not contribute

from each of our students. We still were about \$1400 short so the Student Council and Pop Club paid that amount. Mr. Lewis naturally sends out a suggestion sheet on how to finance his appearance -- many of those were unacceptable to us in our situation. If you have not received that information sheet, I'd be happy to send it out to you.

We certainly enjoyed Mr. Lewis' company (He stayed in our home) and his presentation. I hope that your group will find him and his story just as interesting.

Home Phone (414)

921-7237 (414)

School 921-4930 (414)

In Christ's Service
Tom Medfeldt

NEWS ITEM

FROM:
Western Kenosha County Historical Society
Wilmot, Wisconsin
Richard Heigl, president
33210 Basset Road, Twin Lakes, Wis. 53181
Phone- 877-2698

RELEASE:
February 15 or 16

PICTURE ENCLOSED WITH EXPLANATION WRITTEN ON BACK

Donors

Reid Lewis

Program

1981

Dr. F Mayer 5.00
WesTech Lions 25.00
American Legion - Wilmer 25.00
I BANK S.E. Twin Lakes 25.00
LAVELLE INDUSTRY - Burlington
Chuck Lenerk - Grand Dale
Lynch Chocolate - Barrac - Burlington
ECHO LAKE Produce - Burlington
U.E.S. INCORPORATE - Burlington
Sentry Foods - Burlington
Mistle CO. Burlington
Burlington MANNERS CLUB
James Coffee - Burlington
Waterford ALUMINUM
Edward Foster - Burlington
CONTINENTAL CAR - Burlington

Schools - INVITATION LETTER

1. BRISTOL School - 20121 - 83 ST, BRISTOL

~~GRADE~~

2 LAKEWOOD School - 1218 WILMOT RD, TRUM LAKEOS

3 MORNINGDALE School - HI. C. WILMOT

4 PARIS CONSOLIDATED School - 1901-176 Ave. MEMOSLA

5 RIVERVIEW School - SILVER LAKE

6 ST. FRANCIS XAVIER School ?

7 SALEM CONSOLIDATED GRADE School
RT. 1 SALEM

8 TREVOR GRADE School RT 1 TREVOR

9 WILMOT GRADE School - WILMOT

10 WENTLAND GRADE School RT. 5 BURLINGTON

11 RANDALL GRADES School BASSSETT

12 ST. MARY Grade School 225 W. STATE ST.
~~CONTRACT~~ BURLINGTON

13 WINNER GRADE School BURLINGTON

14 WALLER GRADE School BURLINGTON 195 GRADNER AVE.

15 ST. ALPHONSUS GRADE School MEM MURSTER

16 MEMOSLA MEMESSORI School 5900 - 7 Ave.

17 ANTIOCK Grade School 877 - MAIN A

~~High~~

1 CENTRAL High School - PALMCH LAKE SALEM

2 ANTIOCK ^{COMMUNITY} High School - ANTIOCK 1133 - S. MAIN
Hi 83

3 ST. MARY High School BURLINGTON 148 - Mc HENRY

4 Shoreland Lark. Bot / Somers

✓
X *donor list received*

DONATION LETTERS

- ✓ 1. ~~WESTOSHA~~ KIWANIS CLUB BY SALEM, WIS. 53168
 - ✓ 2. ~~POTTERY~~ WESTOSHA LIONNES TO B FLEISHER 210 - WILMOT RD. TWIN LAKE
 - ✓ 3. 1. BANK SOUTHEAST HI. 83 SALEM WESTOSHA LIONS CLUB 70 Wm CARE 302 ELM, SILVER LAKE
 - ✓ 4. 1. BANK SOUTHEAST 790 COPSWALL DR SILVER LAKE
 - ✓ 5. 1 BANK SOUTHEAST 226 E MAIN TWIN LAKE
 - ✓ 6. FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF KENOSH WI: 50 BRISTOL
 - ✓ 7. BUZZLING TERN SAVINGS 213 W. LAKES AVE TWIN LAKE
 - ✓ 8. WILMOT AMERICAN LEYION
 - ✓ 9. SILVER LAKE AMERICAN LEYION
 - ✓ 10. TWIN LAKES AMERICAN LEYION
 - ✓ 11. SWATER SALES WATER SALES
 - ✓ 12. KRUZAN OIL - SILVER LAKE D. MARY PEARL
 - ✓ 13. TWIN LAKES CHAMBER COMMERCE CEREMONY
 - ✓ 14. Twin Dug TWIN LAKES ADULT SHOP
 - ✓ 15. BEN FRANKLIN - TWIN LAKES PROBATION
- 702 - N. LAKE AVE Donor list

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES - INVITATION LETTER

✓ 1. BURLING TOW - Parkville Blvd + Jefferson St.

✓ 2. KENOSHA COUNTY HISTORICAL + MUSEUM
6300 - 3 AVE.

✓ 3 LAKE GENEV A

✓ 4 GENEV CITY (meets in Public Library)

✓ 5 ANTIOCH

✓ 6 RICHMOND ILL.

17

MISCELLANEOUS

C/INVITATIONS

1 Boy Savers

2. 4-H Clubs
Newer - Paris - W. Wood - Denver

3 SENIOR CITIZENS
Joe Cyulow?

4. HOME MAIDERS -
Phyllis MORROWAY

5 LIBRARY -
18 Co-operative EXTENSION PROGRAM
RENOSSA COUNTY OFFICE 714 - 52 ST. RENOSKA

Downs

- ✓ WILMOT Ready Mix Concrete Box 98
- ✓ Dr. Fred Mayer TWIN LAKES
- ✓ Silver Lake Lumber Yard 209 - E LAKE
- ✓ TWIN LAKES Lumber Yard - 237 - E MAIN
- ✓ Super Value Store TWIN LAKES
- ✓ SENTRY STORE TWIN LAKES
- ✓ TWIN LAKES Rexall Pharmacy
- ✓ Burlington clinic TWIN LAKES Branch
316 - North LAKE Ave
- ✓ Dr. Noel MARRIT 118 - S LAKE Ave TWIN LAKES
- ✓ JAN'S Designer 316 N. LAKE Ave TWIN LAKES
- ✓ Schmidt Implementation INC. Hy 83 Salem
- ✓ HAASE Funeral Home 622 Legion Det TWIN LAKES
- ✓ ~~PT~~ TWIN LAKES Pet Clinic 142 - E MAIN TWIN LAKES
- 19 ✓ R + M INC, HILDEBRANDT ^{Shopping Center} TWIN LAKES
- ✓ HILDEBRANDT'S 202 MAIN ST TWIN LAKES
- ✓ Mc DOUGALL Aldi WILMOT
- ✓ FARM R KRISKA MARKET WILMOT
- ✓ STAG STOP RESTAURANT Hi C WILMOT
- ✓ WILMOT CAFE Hi C WILMOT

✓ TREVOR FEED CO. TREVOR, WIS

TOWN BOARDS
SALEM SILVER LAKE RANDALL
BRISTOL TWIN LAKES WHEPPIELAND

✓ JAMES RACUMER, ATTORNEY SILVER LAKE

✓ AMERICAN LEGION TWIN LAKE
✓ AMERICAN LEGION SILVER LAKE
AMERICAN LEGION WILMOT

✓ GANDER MT. SPORTING STORE - WILMOT

✓ AL PADDOCK, PADDOCK LAKE, SALEM

✓ CLUCK McGINN 121 CANOE DR. TWIN LAKES

✓ INTERSTATE FARM EQUIPMENT RT. 1 BRISTOL

✓ HANSEN + LANDA 633 Cogswell SILVER LAKE

✓ Julius Goldstein 743-EMMERT TWIN LAKES

✓ Joseph Sheen 304-N LAKE AVE TWIN LAKES

✓ Audrey Buehn 218 E MAIN TWIN LAKES
✓ PADDOCK LAKE REALTY BOX 67 SALEM

✓ TWIN LAKES REALTY 324 MAIN ST TWIN LAKES

✓ RUTH JOHNSON REALTY BOX 335 SALEM

✓ CENTURY 21 REALTY 24417-75 ST SALEM

✓ LOTH REALTY - 611-S. Cogswell DR. SILVER LAKE

✓ BRISTOL CARS COUNTRY CLUB HI. 50 BRISTOL

✓ DOAN WILSON INN 25 CANOE DR. TW. LK.

✓ BAMBOO HUT RESTAURANT TWIN LAKES

✓ FAIRVIEW DINING ROOM TWIN LAKES

✓ PINK HOUSE RESTAURANT DR. TWIN LAKES

✓ COLLINS AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLIES TWIN LAKES

✓ TREVOR COPY TREVOR

✓ MARKS CHEESE BRISTOL

2

12

Info on LaSalle Trip

53147

Lake Geneva, W. Co

550 S. Lake Shore Blvd

N. W. N. H

Col. Philip R Reinhold

✓ Missol Township Village Hall
2403-75 ~~Ad~~
Parker Ln Rd
Salon

✓ Salton Township Office
Salon

✓ Silver Lake Village Clerk Office
Silver Lake

✓ Twin Lakes Village Office
103 Main St

✓ Charles Store
226 Lake
Silver Lake

✓ Silver Lake Market
300 E Lake
Silver Lake

✓ Silver Lake Market
New Market
New Market
Best Market
Silver Lake

✓ Trevor Certified Market Basket
Trevor

✓ Hoffman Adv.
220 - E Lake
Silver Lake

Twin Lakes Adv
202 - E Main

✓ Eth Art Schultz
401 - E Lake
Silver Lake

✓ Bassett Plumbing & Heating
Box 87 Bassett

✓ Bills Plumbing
35-819-90 Place - Twin Lakes

(22)

Member
Letter

Western Kenosha County Historical Society
P.O. Box 31
Wilmot, Wis. 53192

Dear Friend,

On August 11, 1976, Reid Lewis, along with 24 companions embarked on a journey of rediscovery. Re-creating an epic American canoe voyage, the La Salle Expedition II was 3,300 miles on boiled peas, moosehide moccasins, and muskets.

After years of research and planning, Reid Lewis and his crew authentically re-enacted the 1682 voyage of the French explorer and claimed for Louis XIV of France, the area covered on an eight month voyage from Montreal to the Gulf of Mexico. The projects motto: "Reliving the Past to Explore the Future."

The Western Kenosha County Historical Society has invited Mr. Lewis to make a presentation about his challenging expedition. It is to be held at Wilmot High School on the evening of February 18, at 7:30 p.m. Reid Lewis' presentation of the re-enactment of La Salle's voyage will not only be entertaining but valuable as an educational experience as well.

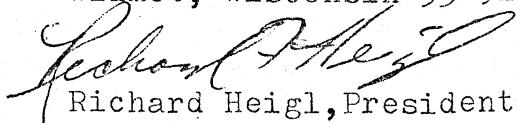
We would like to extend an invitation to you and your associates to attend this very interesting program.

General admission tickets will be sold at the door, \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children and students.

If you would like additional information you may contact Richard Heigl at 877-2698 or Nancy Dietmeyer at 537-4932. Thank you and we hope to see you there.

Yours truly,

Western Kenosha County
Historical Society
P.O. Box 31
Wilmot, Wisconsin 53192


Richard Heigl, President

23

DONATION
LETTER

Western Kenosha County Historical Society
P.O. Box 31
Wilmot, Wis. 53192

Dear Friend,

On August 11, 1976, Reid Lewis, along with 24 companions embarked on a journey of rediscovery. Re-enacting an epic American canoe voyage, the La Salle Expedition II was 3,300 miles on boiled peas, moosehide moccasins, and muskets.

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We would like to ask for your help in sponsoring this event, as well as encouraging your associates to attend, With your financial aid, you will make it possible for the people of our community to enjoy a cultural event - something which is lacking in our area. Any donations will be very gratefully accepted. In addition; upon receipt of your donation, ~~we will send complimentary tickets and a receipt for your tax purposes.~~ General admission tickets will also be available at the door, \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children and students.

For a small historical society such as ours, this is a considerable undertaking and we feel that with your support we will be able to make it a success.

We have enclosed a description of Mr. Lewis' program format. We hope your interest will be stimulated by the fact that independent spirit and the possibility of individual accomplishment still exists in America today. Thank you for your participation.

2/18

*

Pick up complimentary tickets (2)
and receipt at door

Sincerely,

Western Kenosha County
Historical Society
P.O. Box 31
Wilmot, Wisconsin 53192

Richard F. Heigl
Richard Heigl, President

22

For information, call:
Richard Heigl 877-2698 or
Nancy Dietmeyer 537-4932

GENERAL
INVITATION

Western Kenosha County Historical Society
P.O. Box 31
Wilmot, Wis. 53192

Dear member:

At this time we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our February 4th, 7:00 p.m. meeting at the Wilmot High School.

This meeting will be of special interest, as we will have as a guest speaker, Mr. Steve Gilbert. He will be giving a presentation of his personal participation in the Bicentennial re-enactment of the battle at Yorktown, the final battle of the Revolutionary War. Mr. Gilbert will be appearing in period dress and will be featuring a pictorial account of his experiences at the mock battle. We urge all members to try and attend this interesting demonstration by Mr. Gilbert.

We will also be distributing to each member, 10 tickets which they will be asked to sell for the upcoming lecture by Reid Lewis at Wilmot High School.

In 1976, Mr. Lewis led an authentic re-enactment of the epic canoe voyage of the French explorer, Rene' Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle who explored and claimed for Louis XIV of France, the area covered on the Gulf of Mexico. Mr. Lewis, as La Salle, along with a crew of 24 men, followed the time table and route originally taken by La Salle in 1682, facing one of the most severe winters in Midwestern history.


We have invited Mr. Lewis to give a public presentation on February 18, 7:30 p.m. at Wilmot High School.

To help meet expenses, tickets will be sold. The price is \$2.00 for adults, and \$1.00 for children and students. All members will be responsible for 10 tickets. Those members not in attendance will receive their tickets by mail.

This is a special opportunity to see an interesting and informative presentation representing the severe hardship and years of research and fund raising undertaken by Mr. Lewis and his crew. We are especially excited about this event and hope that as members, you will do your best to help us all make it a success.

Yours truly,

Richard Heigl, President


Nancy Dietmeyer, Secretary

25

Letter
to churches

Dear Reverend Sir,

There are many good things in God's world. Too often mankind makes them few and far between. The western part of Kenosha has been without a cultural event for a long time.

The Western Kenosha County Historical Society is sponsoring a good thing for the people of this area. It has engaged Mr. Reid Lewis to present a slide-lecture on his La Salle expedition II. In the years of 1976-1977 he and twenty men retraced the identical journey which the French explorer made in 1682. Mr. Lewis will show pictures and speak about the preparations which they made for this adventure, the many hardships they experienced along the way because of the cold winter, and their arrival in New Orleans after a 3,600 mile canoe and portaging trip. His pictures are beautiful. His explanation is most interesting. He relates the history of those early days to our times. All who have seen his presentation speak of it in glowing terms. It is indeed one of the good things in the world.

The date is February 18, the time is 7:30 AM, and the place is the gym of the Wilmot Union High School. Tickets for adults are \$2.00 and for children and students \$1.00. They will be sold at the door.

Our Historical Society respectfully asks you to announce this slide-lecture to your congregation. We know that you and your members will thoroughly enjoy it.

Sincerely yours,

Western Kenosha County Historical Society

For further information call
Richard Helgl 877-2698

RL

January 18, 1982

Mr. Reid Lewis

616 Park St.
Elgin, Ill. 60120

Dear Mr. Lewis,

Several problems arose since I last talked to you on the phone. Most of them are settled. Hope to get all of them straightened out soon. I guess there is nothing we can do about the bitter winter weather. You and your group know that only too well.

C Thursday, February 18 is the day we expect you in Wilmot. The time is 7:30 PM. The place is the Wilmot Union High School. The gym will be available at 6:30 PM. You will be able to set up your equipment at 5:30 PM in the hall or on the stage and move it into position at 6:30 PM and finish what must be done after all is in place. High school boys will help out. I plan to be on hand to do what I can. Our screen is 60 by 60. We will try to find a larger one.

O We ask you to present the same program which you gave at the Lutheran High School in Fond du Lac. As I remember, you opened with introductory remarks, then your slide-lecture, informal remarks after, your singing, teaching the audience a French word to sing along with you, and a short period for questions. You presented a fine program in Fond du Lac; we look forward to see and hear it in Wilmot.

P We sent out letters for donations. We are selling tickets at the door- 2.00 for adults and 1.00 for children and students. Posters will be set up and letters sent to organizations.

P We want to make good use of the newspapers and advertizing papers. Do you have pictures and write-up for newspapers? If so send 6 sets. Please do right away.

Will you be in need of housing? Let us know.

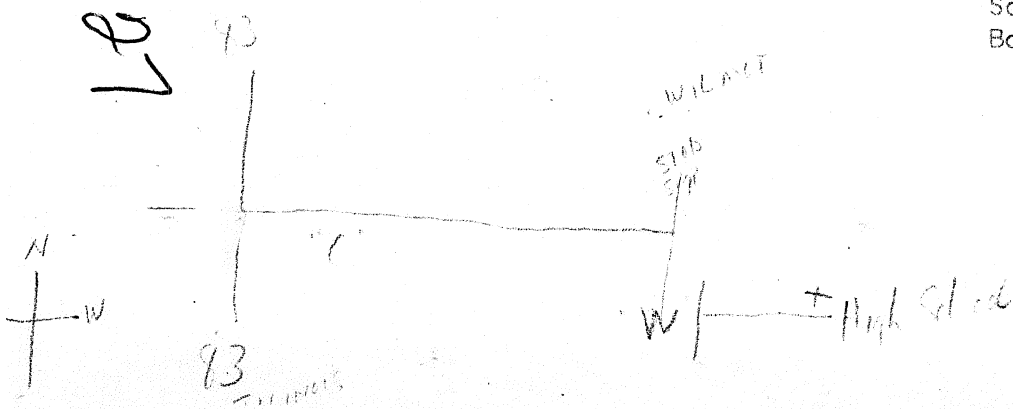
Y My phone number is 862-6014. Is it possible for you to give us a phone number or where you could be reached in Manroe. I am thinking of weather conditions.

Please let us know what hour we can expect you February 18.

This is a big undertaking for our new and small group. I hope everything works out fine.

Sincerely yours,

L. Wenzel
Western Kenosha County Historical
Society
Box 31 Wilmot, Wis. 53192



Western Kenosha County Historical Society
P.O. Box 31
Wilmot, Wis. 53192

Dear Friend,

On August 11, 1976, Reid Lewis, along with 24 companions embarked on a journey of rediscovery. Re-creating an epic American canoe voyage, the La Salle expedition II was 3,300 miles on boiled peas, moosehide moccasins, and muskets.

After years of research and planning, Reid Lewis and his crew authentically re-enacted the 1682 voyage of the French explorer Rene' Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, who explored and claimed for Louis XIV of France, the area covered on an eight month voyage from Montreal to the Gulf of Mexico. The projects motto: "Reliving the Past to Explore the Future."

The Western Kenosha County Historical Society has invited Mr. Lewis to make a presentation about his challenging expedition. It is to be held at Wilmot High School on the evening of February 18, at 7:30 p.m. Reid Lewis' presentation of the re-enactment of La Salle's voyage will not only be entertaining but valuable as an educational experience as well.

We would like to ask for your help in sponsoring this event, as well as encouraging your associates to attend. With your financial aid, you will make it possible for the people of our community to enjoy a cultural event - something which is lacking in our area. Any donations will be very gratefully accepted. In addition, upon receipt of your donation we will send complimentary tickets and a receipt for tax purposes. General admission tickets will also be available at the door, \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children and students.

For a small historical society such as ours, this is a considerable undertaking and we feel that with your support we will be able to make it a success.

We have enclosed a description of Mr. Lewis' program format. We hope your interest will be stimulated by the fact that independent spirit and the possibility of individual accomplishment still exists in America today. Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely yours,

Western Kenosha County
Historical Society

Richard Heigl, President

La Salle: Expedition II
Reliving the past
to explore the future.

LA SALLE: EXPEDITION II

A Slide Presentation by Reid H. Lewis



The presentation on La Salle: Expedition II opens with scenes of the moon--- a new frontier, conquered by man's insatiable urge to push beyond the limits of his known world. The conquest of the moon was a triumph of modern American technology; but the spirit behind that conquest is the age old spirit that first moved man to explore this earth. The audience approaches the roots of that spirit as scenes of the earth appear on the screen and we drop back in time--- back to the days of the early explorers. The first meeting with La Salle is at the royal court of Versailles in 1684. A scene of the palace bursts upon the screen as heraldic music, written for Louis XIV, sets the mood. An image of the king as himself comes into focus as the palace scene fades out, and the narrator tells of the splendor of the royal court. A view of the lords and ladies replaces that of the king and then, La Salle (Reid Lewis), garbed in 17th century finery, appears in person to address the noble gathering. After briefly explaining the significance of France's recent acquisition in the New World, La Salle invites his listeners to hear more about his voyage of exploration. The scene of royal splendor fades into a panorama of the North American wilderness, while the courtly music is replaced by the plaintive call of the loon --- a startling contrast, yet one which La Salle himself had experienced.

Before La Salle could embark on his journey, there was much preparation to be done. Such was also the case of La Salle: Expedition II. Reid Lewis presents the audience with an overview of the crew's two years of research, training, and hand-crafting of canoes and equipment. Twelve subject areas of the Flgin, Illinois school system contributed to this preparation and to the realization of 19 research projects which were conducted throughout the Expedition, and which will be made available to educational institutions around the world.

Mr. Lewis then relates the saga of the 20th century crew of students and teachers who followed on the 3,300-mile route of La Salle through the worst winter in our nation's history -- a winter which forced the crew to portage their equipment 525 miles over frozen rivers and fields. The audience witnesses the frustration of the Expedition as they view scenes of the youthful band encountering increasing difficulties and a few near-tragedies. A joyful and victorious end at the Gulf of Mexico confirms the belief that the spirit of determination and courage of our forefathers is still with us in the 20th century.

At the conclusion of the slides, Mr. Lewis accompanies himself on the guitar and sings a French voyageur song. Then, a brief period is allowed for questions and answers. This portion of the program has proven very popular with audiences of all ages and interests. The program closes with the audience participating in a rousing chorus of a French song.

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PREPARATION FOR THE LA SALLE PRESENTATION

In planning a program, consideration must be given to the fact that two hours are needed for set-up and one hour to tear down. Unrestricted access to the auditorium is therefore required before and after the program.

EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The following equipment is furnished by Reid Lewis:

1. sound system (effective for groups as large as 1500 pax)
2. tape recorder
3. 2 slide projectors and stand
4. 1 dissolve unit
5. extension cords

The following equipment should be furnished by the local organization:

1. 1 large projection screen (minimum 6' high by 9' wide)
2. 1 spotlight positioned in front of, slightly above or below the stage. Because La Salle wears a broad-brimmed hat, the lighting must not come from directly above the stage. Also, because a slide will be on the screen while La Salle is on stage, the spotlight must not spill over on to the screen.
3. 1 lectern with dim reading light to slightly illuminate speaker
4. 1 dark auditorium (It is important that the room be dark.)

N.B. - THE ABOVE EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE IN POSITION BEFORE MR. LEWIS ARRIVES.

PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS

1. 2 strong individuals to help unload car
2. 1 person to operate the lights
3. 1 person to change slide trays

The same person can work numbers 2 and 3. This person should meet with Reid Lewis forty-five minutes before the presentation to rehearse procedures.

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

Minimum -- 1 hour 15 minutes
Maximum -- 1 hour 45 minutes

These times do NOT include time needed to bring an audience into the auditorium.

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WESTERN KENOSHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
presents

**A REENACTMENT OF
THE LaSALLE EXPLORATION OF 1682**
by REID LEWIS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1982 - 7:15 p.m.
Wilmot High School - Wilmot, Wisconsin

ADULTS - \$2.00

STUDENTS - \$1.00

Tickets Donated by Johnson Business Forms

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Western Kenosha County Historical Society
P.O. Box 31
Wilmot, Wis. 53192

Dear member:

At this time we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our February 4th, 7:00 p.m. meeting at the Wilmot High School.

This meeting will be of special interest, as we will have as a guest speaker, Mr. Steve Gilbert. He will be giving a presentation of his personal participation in the Bicentennial re-enactment of the battle at Yorktown, the final battle of the Revolutionary War. Mr. Gilbert will be appearing in period dress and will be featuring a pictorial account of his experiences at the mock battle. We urge all members to try and attend this interesting demonstration by Mr. Gilbert.

We will also be distributing to each member, 10 tickets which they will be asked to sell for the upcoming lecture by Reid Lewis at Wilmot High School.

In 1976, Mr. Lewis led an authentic re-enactment of the epic canoe voyage of the French explorer, Rene' Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle who explored and claimed for Louis XIV of France, the area covered on the Gulf of Mexico. Mr. Lewis, as La Salle, along with a crew of 24 men, followed the time table and route originally taken by La Salle in 1682, facing one of the most severe winters in Midwestern history.

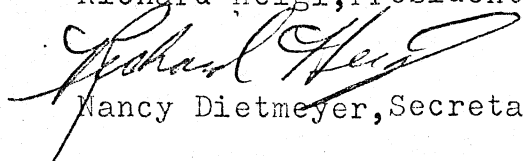
We have invited Mr. Lewis to give a public presentation on February 18, 7:30 p.m. at Wilmot High School.

To help meet expenses, tickets will be sold. The price is \$2.00 for adults, and \$1.00 for children and students. All members will be responsible for 10 tickets. Those members not in attendance will receive their tickets by mail.

This is a special opportunity to see an interesting and informative presentation representing the severe hardship and years of research and fund raising undertaken by Mr. Lewis and his crew. We are especially excited about this event and hope that as members, you will do your best to help us all make it a success.

Yours truly,

Richard Heigl, President


Nancy Dietmeyer, Secretary

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La Salle: Expedition II
Reliving the past
to explore the future.



FOR PUBLICITY PURPOSES

LA SALLE: EXPEDITION II PRESENTATION

Encouraged by the endorsement of notables such as Jacques Cousteau and Sir Edmund Hillary, 16 high school students, 5 educators, a playwright, and a priest spent 8 agonizing months recreating in harrowing detail the 1681-82 voyage of La Salle --- a 3,300-mile canoe journey from Montreal, Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. The story of this reenactment through the cruel record winter of 1976-77 is brought to life by the Expedition leader, Reid Lewis, who relates the adventure through a multimedia presentation which includes vivid image programming and projection, costume, and live and recorded music. Audience response to Mr. Lewis' program has been very enthusiastic throughout the United States and Canada.

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An extraordinary motivational program:

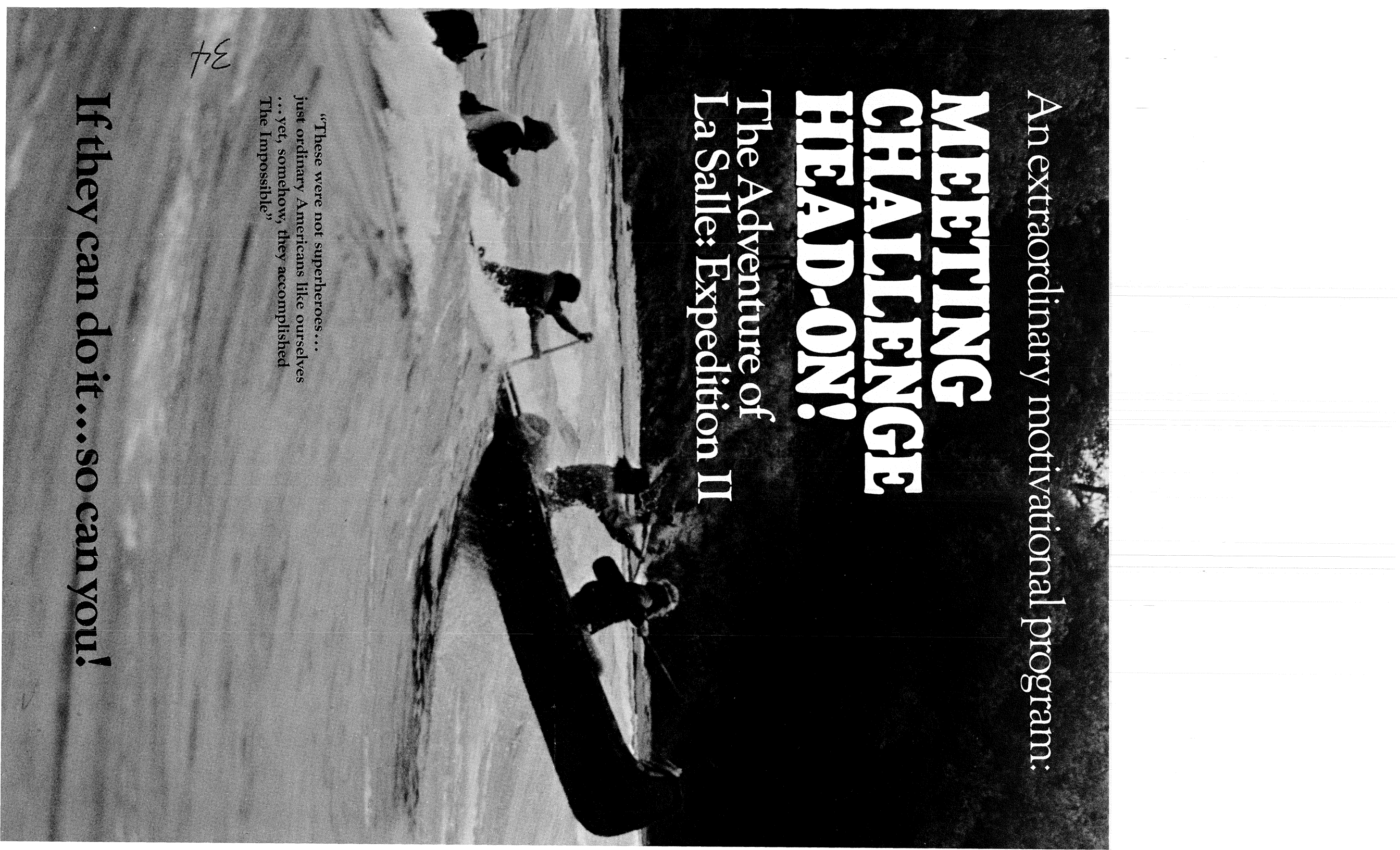
MEETING CHALLENGE HEAD-ON!

The Adventure of
La Salle: Expedition II

"These were not superheroes...
just ordinary Americans like ourselves
...yet, somehow, they accomplished
The Impossible!"

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If they can do it...so can you!



Western Menosha Co.
Historical Society



Relive

"La Salle Expedition of 1682"

Slide Presentation By...

~ Reid Lewis ~

Thursday, February 18 1977/82

7:30 pm.

^{30.} Wilmot High School

~ Tickets ~

\$ 2.00 \$ 1.00

Relive
the past
to
Explore the
Future...