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## Evanston photographer retraces Lewis and Clark expedition

Associated Press

**CHICAGO** - An Evanston photographer has taken his camera to retrace the steps of the most famous expedition in American history.

Richard Mack's 248 color photographs chronicle the 7,600-mile journey of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's group - the Corps of Discovery - as it made its way up the Missouri River into the newly acquired Louisiana Territory, the Pacific Ocean, and back again.

His photographs of the Yellowstone River, Missouri's White Cliffs, Native American villages and other sites Lewis and Clark came upon are featured in a new book called "The Lewis & Clark Trail American Landscapes." A selection of the photographs, one of many tributes marking the 200th anniversary of the expedition, are on display in Chicago at the River East Art Center.

For two years, Mack shot pictures of the same landscape that Lewis and Clark visited on their expedition, which was commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson. And to give the viewers a glimpse of what the explorers saw, Mack not only visited the same sites as the pair did, he visited them at about the same time of year, too.

"If they had winter, you are looking at a picture of winter," said Mack, who endured temperatures during the project that ranged from a frigid -15 degrees to a blistering 110 degrees.

"To be able to sit there and look at the stuff that they wrote about, that's pretty impressive stuff," he said.

During the project, Mack put about 30,000 miles on his vehicles. He often camped along rivers during the first half of the project and then toward the end of the trip, slept in a camper of a pickup truck that he bought.

Mack, 50, came away with a renewed respect for the explorers who lost only one member of their group. Throughout the trip, which ended in 1806, they traveled without reliable maps, often ran low on food and became ill.

"There is no comparison to what I did and what Lewis and Clark did," said Mack. "They didn't know where they were going... They were trail blazers. Those guys were tough."

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On the Web:

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