



## DAILY DILEMMA #7

LEWIS & CLARK

### Late Summer, 1805

You have met the Shoshone at last! Your initial meeting went better than expected. President Jefferson sent a message through you to these Native people, telling them that he is their Great White Father. In a letter to Lewis, Jefferson wrote:

*“In all your intercourse with the natives...treat them in the most friendly and conciliatory manner which their own conduct will admit. Satisfy them of your journey’s innocence, but simultaneously tell them of the size and strength of the United States....Americans only wish to trade with them...Also, invite a few chiefs to come to the United States and be brought up with us, and taught such arts as may be useful to them.”*

*(Ambrose)*

You also communicate to the Shoshone your need for horses to travel over the mountains to the Columbia River.

The next day, you return to Three Forks to the rest of the Corps with Chief Cameahwait. The Chief brings a few other tribes people with the group.

When you arrive at Three Forks where Clark is waiting, a woman from the Shoshone tribe recognizes Sacagawea and they embrace, renewing their friendship. You ask Sacagawea to join you in a meeting with the Chief. As soon as she sees the Chief, she jumps up, embraces him, and weeps profusely. Chief Cameahwait is her brother!

You spend six days in this new place you call Camp Fortunate with your friends the Shoshone. Time is spent making saddles, taking **celestial** observations, documenting the **ethnography** of the Shoshone, and supervising the establishment of a **cache**.

Two problems still remain. You do not have enough horses to make it over the mountains; and you need a guide.

You ask Cameahwait if you can buy 20 additional horses from his tribe, but he is reluctant. They have recently lost quite a few horses to the Blackfeet tribe.

The Shoshone know you are desperate for horses, and their price has gone up significantly. They want pistols, knives, and ammunition. Your policy has been not to reduce your arsenal of weapons, but perhaps you should make an exception in this case.

Will you trade pistols, knives, and ammunition for horses?