

## THE BOONVILLE

## DAILY NEWS

## P.G. students vicariously relive Lewis and Clark's explorations

By Karen Ratay-Green  
Features Editor

It's difficult to believe land in Missouri ever sold for three cents per acre, but that was the price of the Louisiana Purchase.

This week students at Pilot Grove Elementary are learning about the historic real estate sale and the subsequent mission of Lewis and Clark to explore it.

Fifth graders at the school are studying one of several trunks provided by the Manitou Bluffs Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundations, Inc.

The trunks were built by members of the organization and filled with numerous handmade items that would have either been taken along on the journey, or been indigenous to Missouri at that time.

Coyote and red fox furs are included in the trunk because at that time they only existed west of the Mississippi.

Musical instruments, journals, samples of plant species, dolls dressed in period, handmade clothing, hand carved model keel boats and numerous other items are included in the trunk.

A Lewis and Clark curriculum is also included with suggestions on how to use the trunk to teach different subjects.

Students in the fifth grade class spent last week talking about the music of that period. They listened to tapes included in the trunk and had an opportunity to try the wooden flute.

"Who was the better boatsman?" wondered Sean McCarrell.

And there was a discussion about



(Daily News photo by Karen Ratay-Green)

**Fifth grade students at Pilot Grove Elementary had a chance for a hands on history lesson this week. The class is exploring a trunk provided by the Manitou Bluffs Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation that is filled with educational items about the expedition.**

the way societal and class distinctions changed during the trip as members learned to trust one another.

"Part of the reason was because of their clothes. They started out wearing regular dress clothes and military uniforms, but by the end of the trip those clothes would wear out and at some point they would have to dress more like the Indians," said Present Reuter.

"In the end, everybody was more respecting of each other. York and Sacajawea could vote and York was even given a gun," said Sharae

Newell.

Students will continue to study the trunk for a few more days and then pass it along to the next school on the list.

Members of the Lewis and Clark foundation think this is the best way to teach students about the trip and to encourage enthusiasm regarding the upcoming anniversary of the expedition.

When asked if they thought they could make the trip today, Lance Day said "Yes, but I'd rather do it on a horse than in a boat."