

MLB-  
11/10/05

Dear Dr. Sheldon,  
as you know I'm one of your "old  
Soldiers" (more than a decade). I reflectively  
look back and realize, and truly appreciate,  
the good services you have given me.

I see & feel your leadership. Lilia  
will soon "proceed on" in her future  
and quest. I so remember her and

Barbara among many fine folks who  
have assisted you. Perhaps I ~~too~~,  
will be moving on shortly (probably  
N. Virginia) - we all have different  
paths. I so admire your staff and  
operation - please extend my special  
thanks to all concerned. You are a  
great team!

John Derrick  
Old Red leg Artilleryman

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**Engelmann Spruce - *Picea engelmannii***

Collected September 16, 1805: Lolo Trail

Thomas Jefferson held a lifelong interest in the West. As president, he was able to send out a "Corps of Discovery" under the leadership of Meriwether Lewis, his personal secretary and military frontiersman, and William Clark. Jefferson instructed them to study the West's geography, Indian cultures, and animals and to survey new plants. Lewis received training in preparation under Philadelphia botanist, Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton.

Assisted by William Clark, who mapped and charted the party's course, Lewis spent many hours observing, collecting, and describing hundreds of tree specimens from areas previously unexplored by trained botanists and recorded information on their habitats, characteristics, and uses by Native Americans. Their collections formed the basis for the first major scientific publication that described and illustrated the plants west of the Mississippi River.

