

**Dateline August 29, 2013, El Pueblo Lodge, Taos, NM**

*Decided to take a layover day in this artsy hamlet along the Rio Grande. Will pay for it with megamiles tomorrow and Sat. on the way to Westfest, the annual Czech polka weekend in West, TX, featuring Brave Combo. My sister Sara mentioned she knows someone who's starting at FLC, and asked if I might take a few pics for her. So yesterday afternoon I spent about two hours rambling around campus and chatting with the people. Here's the upshot... Sincerely, your correspondent of the high plains and deep canyons, - Dave/Uncle Dave*

Starting from downtown Durango, you drive up a series of residential switchbacks and arrive at this gorgeous campus, home to about 3,800 undergraduates, 30 liberal arts degree programs, a Native American Center, Engineers Without Borders, and Skyler the Skyhawk. Cool!





Pretty much right away I started asking students, staff, faculty and groundskeepers which Lewis the fort was named for. No one knew...



Turns out the answer was on a plaque inside the clock tower. Armed with good info, I continued my investigation: does anyone else know?

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# FORT LEWIS MILITARY POST

**1878** *The Fort Lewis Military Post was established at Pagosa Springs, Colorado. It was named for Lieutenant Colonel William H. Lewis, who had been killed in a September, 1878 engagement against the Cheyenne Indians in Kansas. In October of 1879, troops were ordered to Animas City (now north Durango) to protect settlers during troubles with the Ute Indians.*

*Company A, 22nd and its quarters*



*In 1880 a permanent post was established 14 miles southwest of the*



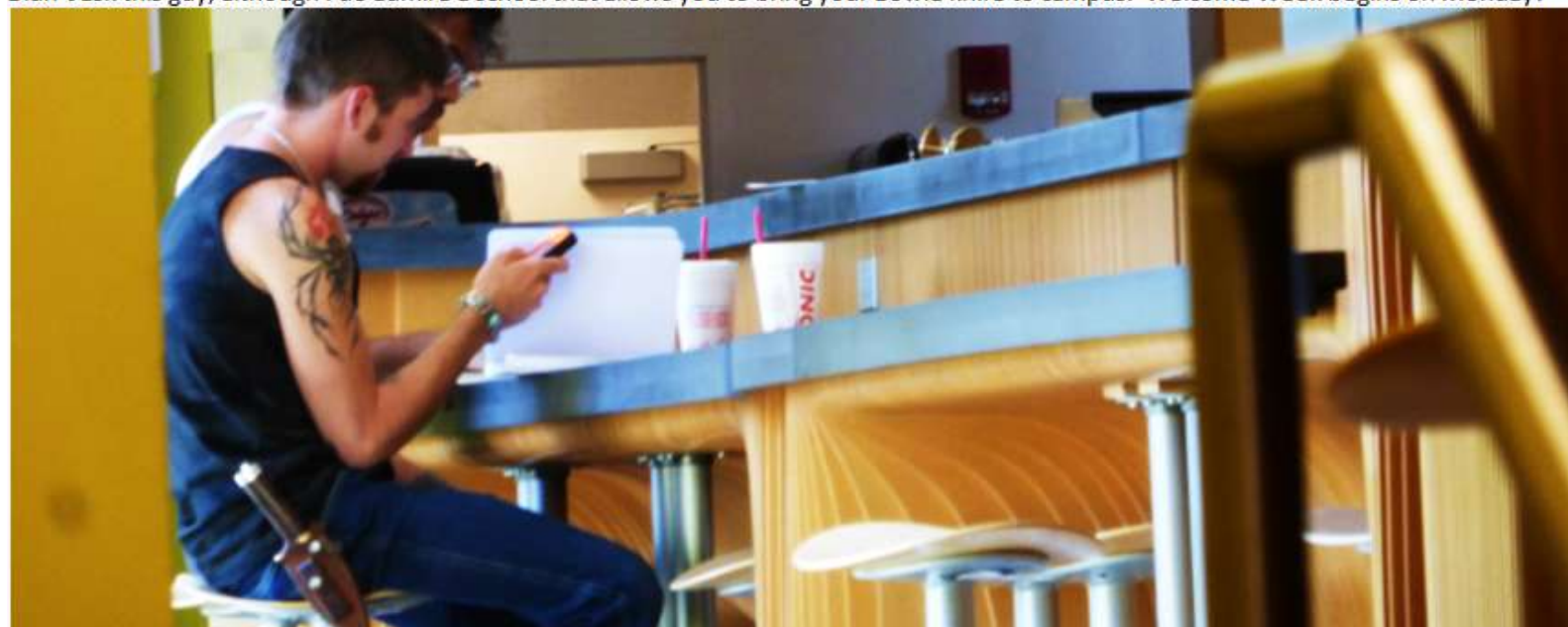
They didn't know in the bookstore, although one of the clerks thought maybe it was the Lewis who travelled with Clark, or a distant cousin.



This friendly staffer volunteered to look it up, but came up dry. She suggested I visit the Center of Southwestern Studies, a short walk away.



Didn't ask this guy, although I do admire a school that allows you to bring your Bowie knife to campus. Welcome Week begins on Monday!





Nobody to inquire of near the Arts complex, so I strolled along toward the Center. Did I mention this is one gorgeous place to go to college?



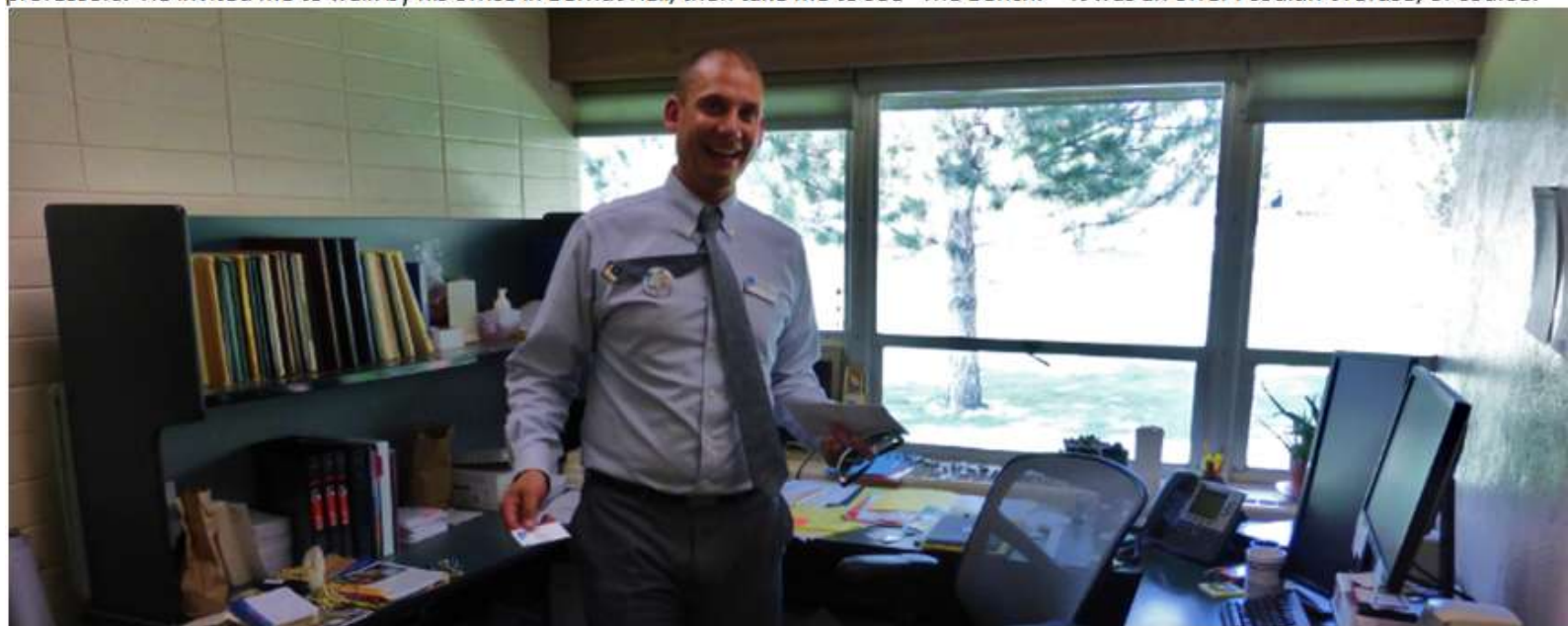
Popped the question to this group after they noticed I was shooting in their direction. After a few guesses, I said, "Nope... Jerry Lewis!" lols.



Turns out the museum in the Center has a renowned collection of Navajo textiles, one of which is more than 1,000 years old. Chatted with the desk clerk, an archaeology senior who told me that a special exhibit on local history had just been taken down; otherwise, she could have found the answer. We chatted for 15 minutes about history, anthropology, "1491," and other topics of mutual interest.



Back outside, I ran into Director of Alumni Relations Dave Kerns, who had been briefing the group I quizzed moments earlier. At this point it made sense to reveal the answer and its source. Dave laughed and thought it was quite ironic that I had just schooled a bunch of Fort Lewis professors. He invited me to walk by his office in Berndt Hall, then take me to see "The Bench." It was an offer I couldn't refuse, of course.



View from Bench, where Dave made the decision to attend FSC, graduating in '03. After 10 years in the corporate world, he recently landed his new gig, which is primarily fundraising. "It's all about nostalgia and sports," Dave said. Overall, he loves his job – and Fort Lewis College.



Driving back down the ten minutes into Durango, I noticed that there's a little rope-tow hill leading up to The Bench. Q: Part of FSC, or not?

