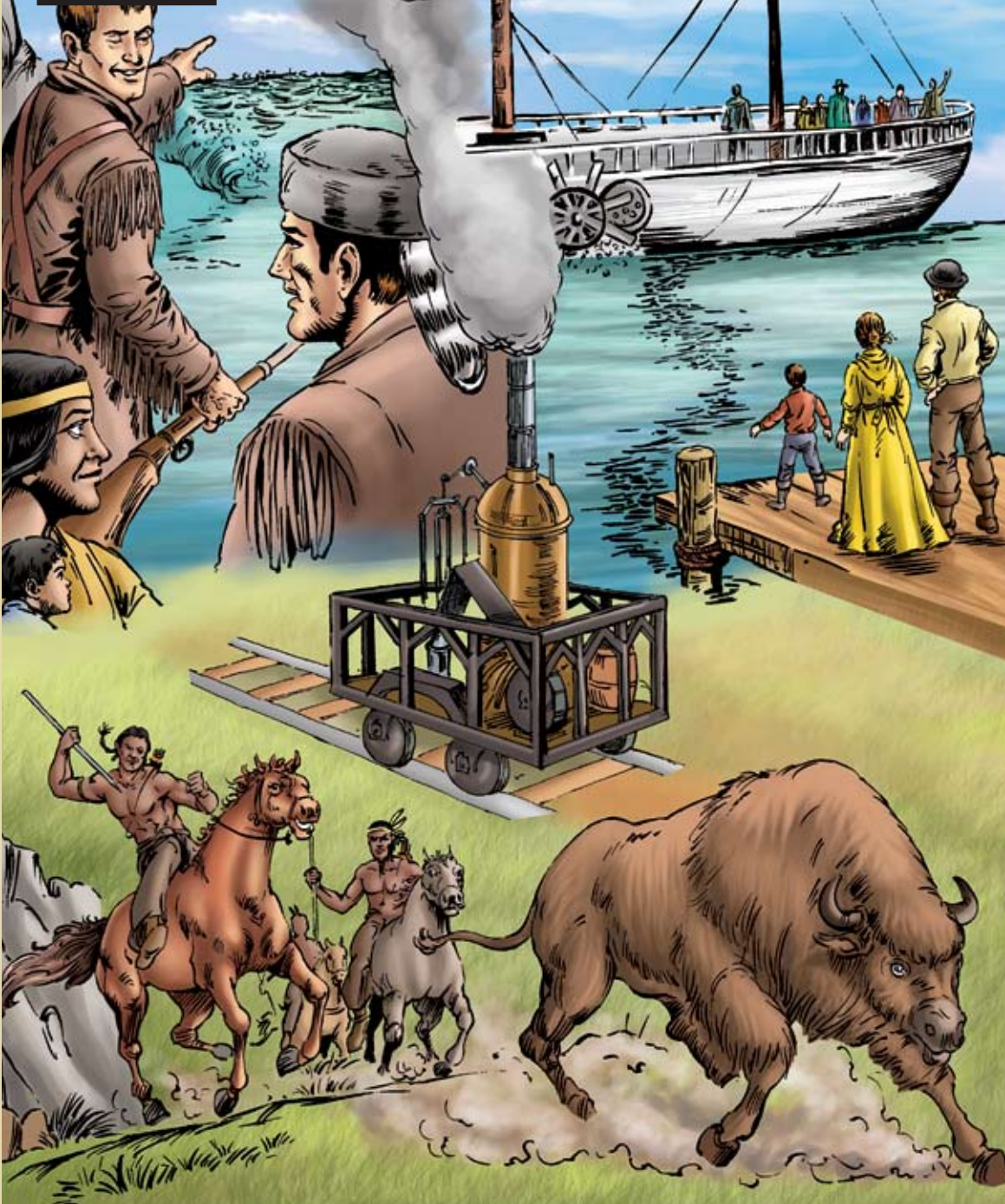





AMERICANS MOVE WESTWARD

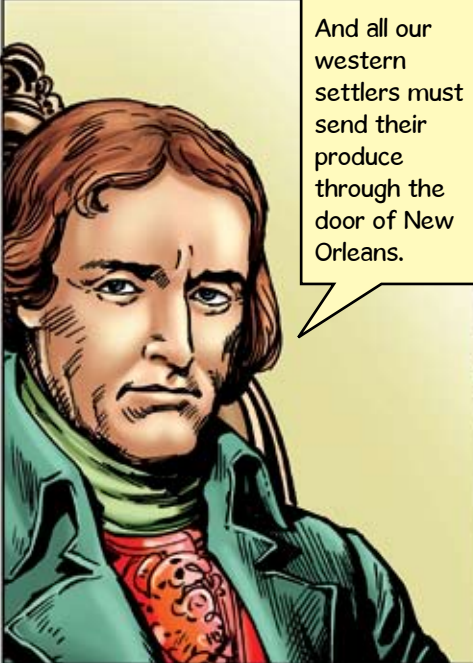


Thomas Jefferson, president of the United States in 1802, received important news.


France has taken over New Orleans and the Louisiana Territory from Spain!



There is no doubt about it, Mr. President. The rumor has been confirmed.



And all our western settlers must send their produce through the door of New Orleans.



Whoever owns that door is our natural enemy.

We can hardly fight France if she decides to close that door.

After long discussions with Jefferson and Madison, and hours of research, Monroe sailed for Paris.



Meanwhile Livingston, as instructed, opened negotiations with Talleyrand.

I am authorized to make an offer for the island of New Orleans.

Why not buy the whole of the Louisiana Territory?

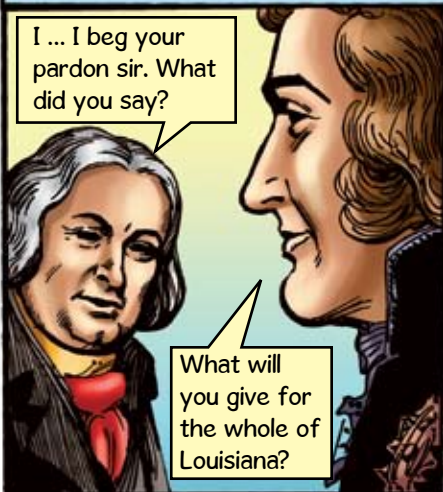


Talleyrand usually spoke softly, and Livingston was a little deaf. Had he heard correctly?

This was a tremendous development. Livingston pulled himself together. He must bargain!

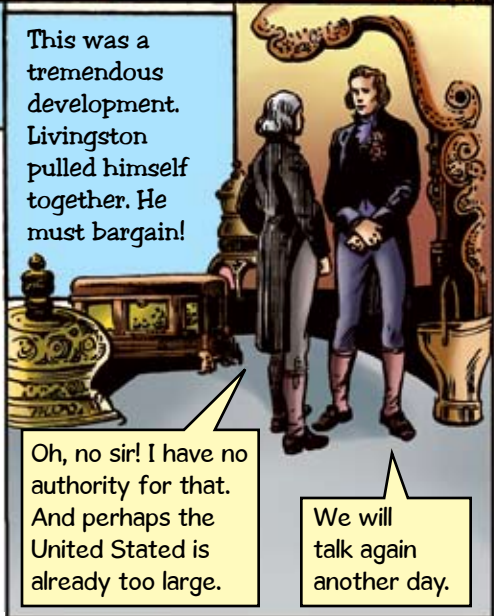
I ... I beg your pardon sir. What did you say?

What will you give for the whole of Louisiana?



Oh, no sir! I have no authority for that. And perhaps the United States is already too large.

We will talk again another day.



This was the amazing news that greeted Monroe when he arrived in Paris two days later.

Napoleon offers to sell us the whole of that great territory? And most of it still unexplored! Why would he do that?

He is on the edge of another war with England.



I see, I see! With the strong English navy between France and Louisiana, he stands to lose it any way.

So he might as well sell it and get something out of it! Exactly!



We are not authorized to buy so much—or to spend so much.

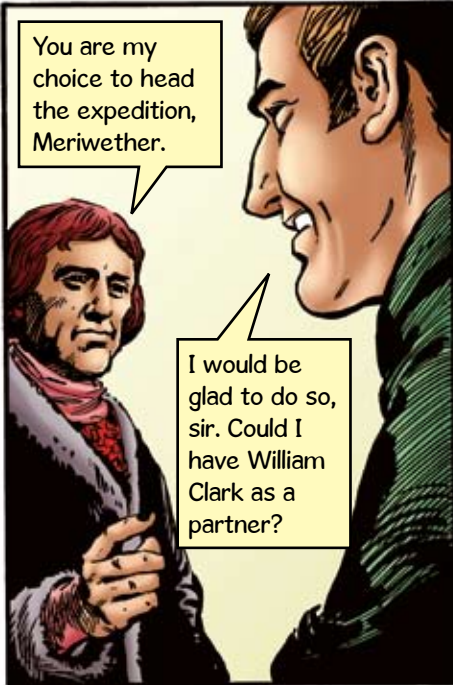
But to more than double our size—to remove all foreign interference from the Mississippi Valley—it is the opportunity of a lifetime!



Talks took place with Talleyrand. A price was agreed upon of \$15 million—about four cents an acre. This was the biggest real estate deal in history!

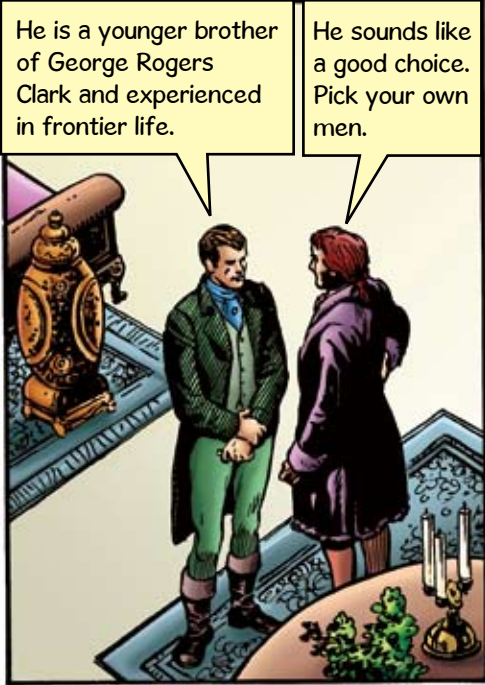


THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE TERRITORY 1803



You are my choice to head the expedition, Meriwether.

I would be glad to do so, sir. Could I have William Clark as a partner?



He is a younger brother of George Rogers Clark and experienced in frontier life.

He sounds like a good choice. Pick your own men.

At Jefferson's request, Congress voted \$2,500 for the expenses of the expedition. Lewis made extensive preparations. They set up headquarters in St. Louis. In the spring of 1804, they were ready to move up the Missouri River on the first stage of a voyage across the unknown continent. They had a 55-foot keelboat, two lighter craft, and tons of supplies.



The Missouri was an enemy with its swift current, sand-bar snags, whirlpools, and collapsing banks. Occasionally they made 30 miles in a day; often, only five or six.

In addition to 28 soldiers and several boatmen, there were Clark's African-American servant, York, and Lewis's Newfoundland dog, Scammon.



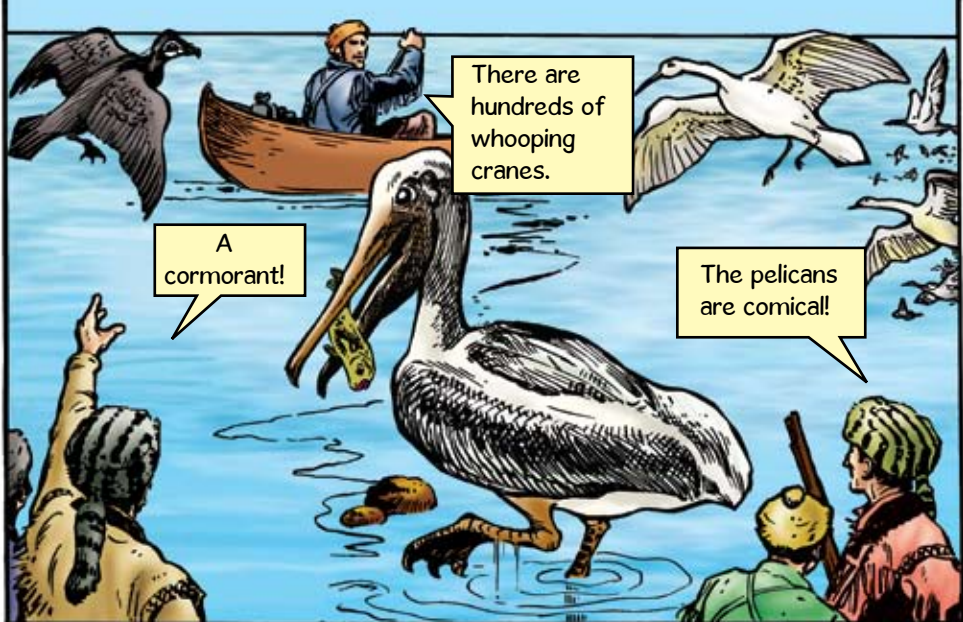
The river provided all sorts of fish, including the biggest catfish they had ever seen.

We'll only report things as true that we've seen for ourselves.

One hundred twenty-six pounds! I've heard of 200 pounders.



They made notes of everything, this being one of the purposes of the trip.



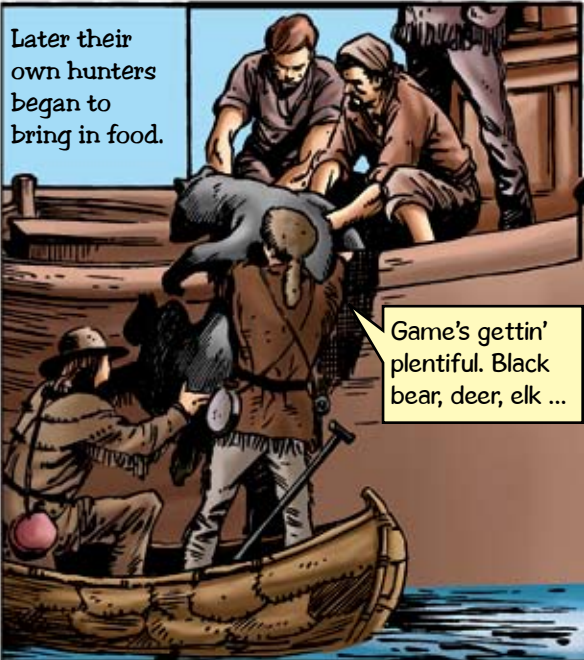
There are hundreds of whooping cranes.

A cormorant!

The pelicans are comical!

Another important task was to observe the various kinds of Native Americans they met, and to make friends with them if possible—for these tribes were now inhabitants of the United States.

On May 22, they traded for fresh meat with a hunting party of friendly Kickapoos.



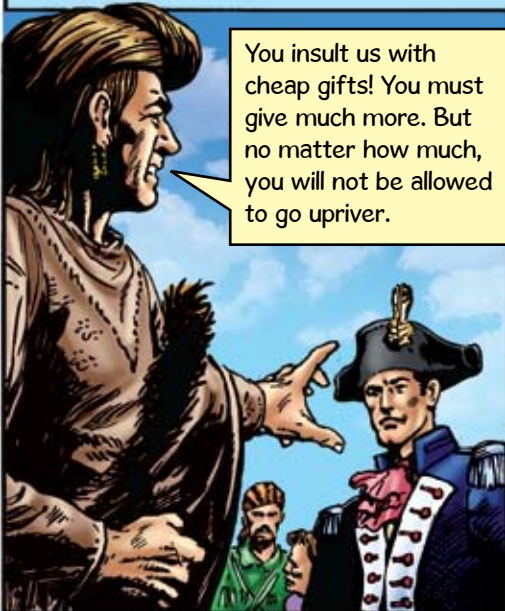
We bring you American flags and medals. The president wants, his people to live in peace together...



They distributed gifts to the Sioux.

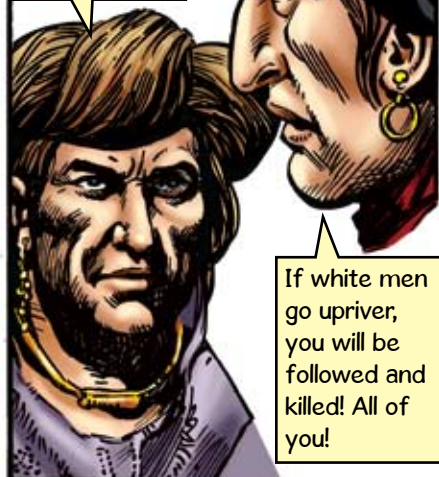


Then one of the chiefs stepped forward threateningly.



You insult us with cheap gifts! You must give much more. But no matter how much, you will not be allowed to go upriver.

The Sioux have many warriors—as many as the leaves on the trees!



If white men go upriver, you will be followed and killed! All of you!

First the Sioux chiefs threatened, then they begged. They came aboard, left again, tried to keep the boats from moving. The expedition was constantly on guard. When they moved upstream, the Indians followed along the banks for four days, but at last they disappeared.

They had been underway five months when they reached the Mandan villages.

It is mid-October.
We have covered
1,600 miles!

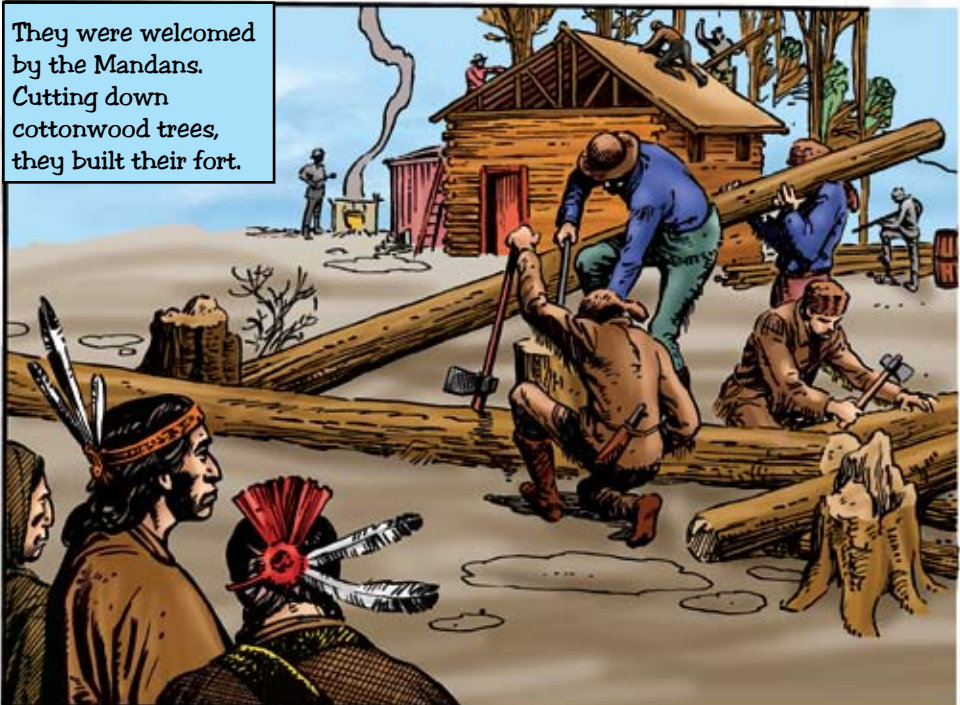
Everyone tells
us the Mandans
are friendly.



We've had snow
already, and ice along
the riverbanks. We
should make our winter
encampment here.



They were welcomed
by the Mandans.
Cutting down
cottonwood trees,
they built their fort.



So it was that Sacagawea joined the expedition with her two-month-old baby.

I will be happy to travel back to the land of my father with you!



In April they started upriver again. Time after time they had to get out and push.

This is ice water!

The rocky bottom cuts my feet to pieces.



After months of difficult travel, they reached Montana and the Shoshone nation.

We must make them know we are friendly.

Where is Sacagawea?



Suddenly she rushed forward.

Do you not know me, my brother? I am your little sister, come home after all these winters!





Tired, hungry, ill, they could not yet realize what they had accomplished. They had crossed the Rockies. They were near the headwaters of the Columbia River, on the last lap of their journey. The Nez Perce took them in, fed and cared for them.

