

# the BEST

A CONTINUING SEARCH FOR THE BEST OF EVERYTHING

## 'SEA' SETS SAIL INTO LEWIS, CLARK HISTORY

By **BETTY STOKES**

Who found a book she loves

In October, Louisville will be the focus of a national celebration of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Allow me to offer up a selection that everyone in Louisville should put on their summer reading list: "From Sea to Shining Sea" by James Alexander Thom.

This beautifully written and transporting novel is equal parts family saga, adventure, love story and historical literature. Thom makes you hear the winds howl



Betty Stokes is the principal of Trunnell Elementary School in southern Jefferson County. This fall her school will embark on a three-year study of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

and feel the freezing cold of the wilderness. He grips your passions and makes your blood chill in hand-to-hand combat.

Thom has produced a book that even the most casual fan of history will not be able to put down. His research of the era, historical facts and use of language will engage you.

"From Sea to Shining Sea" is a mesmerizing literary delight perfect to read while our nation celebrates the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Two hundred years ago, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark traveled more than 4,000 miles on the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, fought grizzly bears, slept on rocks, braved the elements and crossed the Continental Divide to explore and lay claim to the Pacific Northwest for the United States.

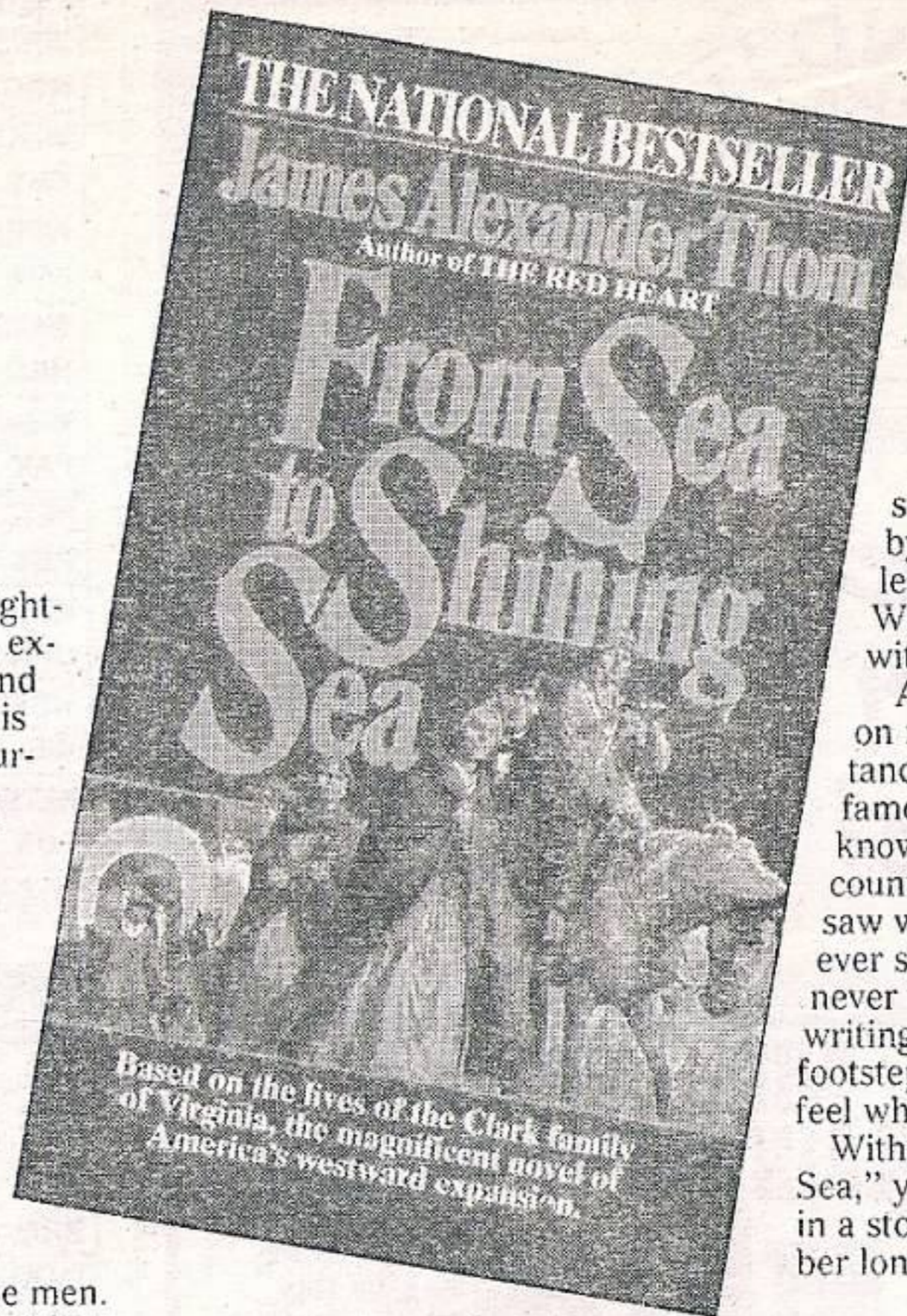
We are introduced to the story of the Clark family through the voice of Ann Rogers Clark, mother to 10 children. Thom's story begins in the pre-Revolutionary War years in Virginia. George

Rogers Clark is a joyful, delightful young man, 21 years old, excited about his discoveries and adventures in Kentucky. He is a student of the Indians, a surveyor and a soldier. William Clark is 3 years old; he idolizes his big brother.

Meriwether Lewis hasn't even been born yet, but his parents are friends of the Clarks, attending a Clark wedding. Thomas Jefferson's family and the Clarks are acquaintances. Ann Rogers Clark raises all of her children with motherly sayings. Her husband teaches them how to be men. The bonds of brotherhood and love of family keep you engrossed from beginning to end.

George shares his thoughts on life, Indian culture, conservation and the future with his brother William. That these two brothers from Louisville would each be such great men is remarkable.

Thom slowly reveals the characters of George Rogers Clark, Meriwether Lewis and William



scious, victimized by his own passions for learning, but always brave. William Clark is delightful, witty, responsible and brave.

All three knew they were on missions of great importance. They searched for fame and explored the unknown. They expanded our country and our horizons. They saw wildlife no white man had ever seen and landscapes they'd never forget. Through Thom's writing you can stand in their footsteps, see what they saw, feel what they felt.

With "From Sea to Shining Sea," you can escape into the past in a story of men you'll remember long after you close the book.

Clark. His delightful observations about the people and events of this historic period yield a portrait of three heroic men and the people who loved them. He creates multidimensional heroes. George Rogers Clark is a naturalist, a motivator of men, charming, fearless, yet unable to escape crushing debt. Meriwether Lewis is sad, self-con-

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