

Press Release
The *Lost Sea Expedition* TV Series
LostSeaExpedition.com

Bernie Harberts says he set off in his wagon to see America, “before the voices could talk me out of it”. Harberts and his mule Polly started their voyage in Neptune, Saskatchewan and, 14 months later, ended their trek in Fort Hancock, Texas on the border with Mexico.

Now he's sharing his vision and quest with a much wider audience. Harberts filmed the entire voyage without a film crew, support vehicle or sponsor. Then he edited his footage into an epic, true-life American adventure documentary. Harberts' *Lost Sea Expedition* TV series ranks as a modern Odyssey in the spirit of William Least Heat-Moon's “Blue Highways”.

Originally, he set out looking for an ancient sea – the Lost Sea – that covered the Great Plains millions of years ago. As he traveled, he interviewed people he met about what they knew about the vanished sea. He wasn't prepared for what they told him.

“I went off expecting to learn more about the ancient sea. Instead I found a story much deeper. A story that goes to the heart of what it is to be American. A play between water and desert, manual labor and automation. Faith and secular thought. A story of those who left the land and those who stayed.”

He learned the perils of Great Plains winter wagon travel. At one point, he succumbed to what he says the homesteaders called “Prairie Fever”. He says it was a madness caused by wind and isolation. Driven by mind numbing cold and loneliness, he taped notes in tumbleweeds and set them free in the prairie winds, hoping for a reply.

Through it all, he kept his film and audio gear rolling. He says, “When the tumbleweed gales struck, my camera was rolling. When I interviewed the Skunk Lady, the only thing bigger than my eyes was my lens cap.”

Back home in North Carolina, he edited the massive amount of footage in to the 4-part “Lost Sea Expedition” series. “That was work!” he says “But finally, all those folks who ever wanted to come with me in my wagon, can join me for the TV series.”

Public television does not pay for content. Harberts is now raising the funds to cover broadcast expenses. More at LostSeaExpedition.com

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