

The fall meeting of the Yakima Valley Historical Society will be held at the White Swan Grange Hall on Sunday, November 11, 1962. The plan is for society members, and any other people who might be interested, to meet at the White Swan Grange Hall at 10:00 o'clock A.M. There a caravan will be formed to view portions of the old Indian trail and the military road which led southward from Fort Simcoe to The Dalles. After the loop drive, the group will gather for their usual potluck picnic lunch at the Grange Hall at 12:30 P.M., those attending to bring their own table service and drink. Following lunch the meeting will be held, and the program will feature Indian trails and early roads of the area.

It has been the policy of the society to record events in the history of the Yakima Valley and to take note of pioneer reminiscences. A study is now underway to contact people who have had personal experience with the old routes, and to coordinate their information with that gained from documents written a hundred or more years ago. At present we are concentrating on the trails in the Fort Simcoe area. We are fortunate to have such people as Billy Adams, Ross Morris, Roscoe Hause and John Shipocot who have ridden the old ways and byways.

Traveling south from White Swan for about five and one-half miles on the Mount Adams Highway, the caravan will cross Toppenish Creek and continue on to Mill Creek. Just under Satus Peak a turn will be made westerly on Mill Creek. The entire route is good, graveled road, suitable for modern automobile travel. Through the old Guard Station site and upstream for three miles the caravan will continue to the base of Dug Hill. Here traces of the military road can be seen swinging down the steep shoulder of the scab rock hill. For many years piles of stub-limbed logs remained at the foot of the hill--logs which had been necessary to hold back wagons on the steep rock slope.

Farther west will be seen evidence of the Mill Creek brickyard, then the mill flat, where Father Wilbur instigated the construction of a steam powered sawmill. Faint traces can be seen where the old trail left Mill Creek to climb southward onto Toppenish Ridge, the highest portion of the trail between Fort Simcoe and The Dalles.

The caravan will continue west on the Mount Adams highway for some distance before it swings to the right to make a loop back toward the point of beginning. From the point farthest west will be seen the new Guard Station, beyond which is an area restricted to white travel and protected by the Yakima Indian Forest Service. The return trip will be made by way of the logging road, a high road overlooking Fort Simcoe. And looking toward Medicine Valley and the Ahtanum Ridge, perhaps the trail to Kamiakin's gardens and the Ahtanum mission can be visualized.

Members of the society are urged to attend this meeting and make the trip described, and the general public is also invited to join with us in both the trip and the meeting to follow.

YAKIMA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.