

May 28, 1959

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Billy Harrison,
Toppenish, Wash.

Dear Friends:

Received your letter today. Enclosed is another, written to go to him, the general. If the other was lost, perhaps someone found it and sent it on, that is ok if he gets two.

There is a copy for him to keep. His letter is in the envelope addressed to him. Oscar Billy should put his X mark on it.

I am glad Al liked it. Hope your committee got backing of tribal council, financially.

Letter makes it clear to general there is no elaborate program, but to come and look on mostly. But if he accepts, Ki and you people will have to be sure war veterans turn out that night for war dance, and that seprate dance is held for him by cute little boys and girls. If you want me, I would help Ki in any way I can later, for timing etc. in case he sends letter setting definite date. We want it to go smooth and nice for him I know.

Hope your plans are coming along good for the celebration.

Let me know later as we go along what I can do to help on stories. I will write story about general coming at proper time if he accepts. I think I can about figure how he would want it, not much publicity or perhaps I would have to write a story and have one of the officers we met at the firing center say it is okay first. Let me know how I can help you, at the right time.

Sincerely

Click Relander

(Now Tow Look)

Major General Louis W. Truman,
Commanding General 4th Infantry Div.,
and Fort Lewis.

May 25, 1959

Fort Lewis, Wash.

Dear Sir:

We are grateful for courtesies extended and appreciate your interest in our July 2-11 celebration at the White Swan Long House grounds, 25 miles southwest of Yakima and of White Swan.

You have suggested July 6 as a possible date you may attend.

It is our wish and at your desire that you come as a guest, free to relax and to enjoy yourself by partaking of our entertainment. Although our people would like to hear a small talk from you, we want you to come enjoy yourself, not come to entertain us.

So you will understand. Activities go on all the time. These include stick and bone games, card games for our people, noon dinners, suppers around 5:30 p.m. and Indian dancing most every evening. Some afternoons families may hold short memorial or lamentations, give names to young people, or take out the possessions of someone dead, display and give them to relatives and close friends.

Our dinners are simple, served in the old custom. We would endeavor to have some Indian food, salmon, bitter root, camas, wild carrots, choke cherries, huckleberries etc. for your sampling. You would also have a tepee in the village in which to seclude yourself and relax.

It is also our thought that some of the hundreds of our tribe who have served their country in various wars devote the dance evening to your honor.

If you do not find July 6 convenient and have another date between July 2 and 11 now in mind that would be fine. Our celebrations and our hearts are open.

Perhaps you would also care to visit the military post, Fort Simcoe built in 1856. It is about seven miles from our camp. Although the commandant's house on Officers Row, furnished in the times is normally closed, we would see if someone could not be there to open it for the pleasure of yourself and party.

If you desire guide service from Yakima to our village or the fort, please feel free to suggest it.

You and all members of your party are most welcome. We do not entertain stylishly but with sincerity for our friends.

Most Respectfully
Oscar Billy Harrison, chairman

Written as interpreted

His Mark-----

and requested: Click Relander