

Feb. 12, 1953

Martha Ferguson McKeown,
Route Two, Box 352,
Hood River, Oregon.

Dear Mrs. McKeown:

Our circulation department (we have morning and evening papers, passed on your note to me concerning the Wanapum story. Had I known you were interested, I would have sent you clippings at the time.

I am enclosing a little follow through that should be of interest to Chief Tommy and his good wife; a few hurried notes taken close to one of our deadlines because Mrs. Whiz had to leave.

As time goes on, mayhap you can help "us poor Wanapums," as I think we will have quite a story. Incidentally, I have a manuscript on them, "Drummers and Dreamers," the story of Mowhala the Prophet of Priest Rapids.

Our mutual friend, Mr. Dolph, has mentioned you to me on one of my visits to Maryhill.

One of these days, Mrs. Whiz is going to tell me more in detail, at our convenience, about the part of the country she knows, upstream from Celilo.

Incidentally, too, I am chairman of the research board for the Fort Simcoe at Mool Mool Restoration Society. We are now waiting approval of the Department of Interior before a program involving the State Parks and Restoration Commission, and restoration of Fort Simcoe, is put into effect. Would you keep my committee in mind? We plan to obtain bibliographies of Simcoe from libraries in the Northwest for a card index; gather interviews, etc. for our files; gather old photographs and later photographs; hold a few field days

at the fort to interview old timers like George Olney, on the spot;
locate the various old graves near the fort and locate, for cataloging,
the location of various relics and artifacts connected with Fort Simcoe.

I am somewhat acquainted with Dr. Griffith at the Dalles and want to
enlist his help too. Later we will announce an extensive committee,
a certain group being close at hand for a routine of work, and others
lending their experience and research ability.

Mrs. Thelma Kimmel of Toppenish, who wrote a series of articles
on Father Wilbur for the Toppenish paper is one member of the committee;
H. Dean Guie, (editorial writer on the Yakima papers) and ~~editor~~
author of Coyote Stories (Caxton) editor of a Yellowstone re-issue
~~for~~ by Caxton and pamphlet material, "Yakima Tribal Days," as well as
preface writer for the late L.V. McWhorter ~~and~~ when he issued pamphlets;
Dr. Rector Johnson, Methodist minister in Yakima and somewhat of a
historian; Possibly Mrs. Guy Travis, "Umatilla Trail," are committee
members.

Would you consent to serve with Dr. Griffith as "Oregon members,"
in case it appears that Oregon has some material to be procured, and
at local levels? By that I mean your contacts at museums, etc. you
visit, would be helpful.

Sincerely

Click Relander

Route 3, box 146,
Yakima.