

924 S.26th Ave., Yakima, Wash., June 15, 1960.

Mr. Click Relander,
C/o Yakima Papers.

Dear Mr. Relander:- I want to congratulate you on the fine articles you have written concerning the early history of Ft. Simcoe. To one like me, who was employed and lived there, nearly sixty years ago, your articles are very interesting. --The first Indian Agent, with whom I was personally acquainted there was R.E.L. Newborne, who was succeeded by Jay Lynch. I was chief clerk under Jay Lynch, and Chas. E. Roblin was my assistant. I have often wondered what became of him. When I quit, a Mr. Miller, who was later Pres. of a bank in Toppenish, took my place as chief clerk, and the last I knew of Mr. Roblin, he was a Spl. Allotting Agent in the Indian service. He was younger than I, and probably is still living.

The last of the employes I happen to know about was Mrs. James Anglea, who died in Yakima ^{Jan. 16, 1959} ~~a year or two ago~~. She was one of the teachers there and Mr. Anglea was the instructor in carpentering. All three of us were employed, prior to that, at the Puyallup Indian School, at the same time.

Of course I had heard much of the early history you have related, but having been personally well acquainted with so many of the old Indians you have written about, like White Swan, Abe Lincoln, Dan'l. Boone, the Olney family, Ben. Franklin, and numerous others, long since gone to the "happy hunting ground", I enjoy reading your articles, --and as I am now jogging along on my 90th year, I have plenty of time to read and for reflection. --I think the oldest ~~man~~ white resident I knew was William N. Wright, son of the Mr. Wright, who was the teacher at Ft. Simcoe, about 1860 and Father Wilbur was the Agent. Wm. N. was born at the Agency, in fact was the first white boy baby born there, and he lived there until ten years of age. Most of the rest of his life he lived in Olympia. I was first elected a member of the state legislature fifty years ago, from Pierce County (and years later, served in both the House and Senate from Yakima) and I lived in ^W ~~the~~ ^{r.} right,

and I lived in one of Mr. Wright's hotels several sessions of the legislature. We became well acquainted and good friends. After a lapse of 78 years, he and a younger brother came to Yakima to visit me, and I took him out to Ft. Simcoe, his first visit there since he was 10 years of age. He went at once to the house ^{next to the Commandant's} in which he was born, and said: "Here is the house in which I was born and lived ten years", - which happened to be the same house which was occupied by Mr. Roblin and me, when we lived there and boarded in mess (cooperative boarding house, in which each participant paid his or her proportion of the cost)). Mr. Wright owned three hotels in Olympia. He died a few years ago, without issue. I think one sister and ^{possibly} one brother still reside in Olympia.

I spent a total of about 12 years in the Indian Service; filed on a homestead in Yakima Co., shortly after the turn of the century; with Wm. H. Redman, then Indian Service Engineer, pitched our tent and camped under a clump of bushes (the only shade we could find) just this side of where the big ditch crosses the main highway, a little beyond where Mr. Gage had his store, now taken over by the Highway Dept. triangle, when the Indians with their horses and scrapers started to dig the canal. Of those bushes at least one or two are big maple trees now. My job there was making a pay roll for the Indian workers. The changes in the reservation have been marvellous, to say the least.

Many of the old Indians were naturally fine people, but their great curse has been the white man's whisky.

Yours truly,

Edward M. Quisten



Mr. Chuck Relander
To Yakima Daily Republic
114 North 4th St.
City

616 Vesteris Dr.
City.