

Gen Del North Ridland Wn

November 27, 1951

Mr Click Kelander

Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr Kelander;

I bet that you did not expect to hear from me so soon.

Mr Walter Purdum was telling me that you was a great Historian

What I would like to know and I did not get a chance to ask you last Sunday was how far back in History that you study the Oregon Territory, Washington Territory or the present State of Washington only

I have some rough, tough, hard, rugged questions that I would like to find some one who can answer them they are back as far back as Lewis & Clark or further ~~to~~ up to the time of about 1880

II

the questions will be of Eastern  
Washington, Idaho (the Pan handle) &  
Western Montana

If you think that you would like  
to try and answer the questions please  
let me know, I know that they will  
not be easy still it is History of the  
three States

Sincerely

D. E. Caves

P. S. I do not know if you want to waste  
your time or not

D. E. C.

Gen Del, north Richland wa

December 10, 1951

Chick Relander

Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr Relander;

I have done a little checking up on that Old spring "evil smelling" but so far I have not found any one who knows any thing about it, but I got 3 or 4 names of different people to see I may run it down yet

The only thing I have found out about a big sturgeon was in 1921 a Mr C. J. Bam financed about three men for fishing they Caught a 11 ft sturgeon it took them 3 days before they Could land it. they Caught the fish on the yakima River below where Richland now is I will keep checking to see what I Can find

## II

I do not know if this will do you any good or not, but it might if you are checking old roads, trails & ferries in Washington

In 1886 a m Ed Timmerman built a ferry across the Columbia between the yakima River & the town of Richland he operated the ferry until 1927 it was the main crossing during that time

About 3 or 4 years ago a 4 lane Hi way was built around a lake in Idaho (to straighten out some curves) the men found a large rock which was in the way it had to be blasted they found some writing on the rock & a date 1700 (I forgot the last two numbers) there was no one in the crew who could read what was on the rock instead of trying to get some one who might be able to read the writing they blasted the Rock & used it for a fill in the road way

Since I have been down here I

### III

Heard of a man (now died) who was an authority decoding the Indian marking from the Viking marking on the rocks along the Columbia river, I was wondering if the Vikings ever got inland

now for my questions that I wrote you about this will be just a couple of them

Early in the 1870's a pony mail route went from The Dalles Ore to Walla Walla Wash, it connected with the mullan road at Rock Creek 50 miles S. W. of Spokane Wn & followed it to the Spokane Bridge, The mail route crossed the County from Spokane Bridge via Wood ranch to steamboat landing at the head of Lake Pend Oreille thence by government steamers down the lake to the present site of Sandpoint, Ida S. E. over the mountains to missoula, montana. The route from Walla Walla to missoula was 400 miles

## IV

21 stations, 25 riders each rider making from 40 to 70 miles a day with several relays, Carrying mail & small packages of express, one relay station on the pony mail route was established at the Wesley Wood ranch where Rathdrum Idaho is now located

Where was the other 20 stations located & did the steamship Mary Moody Carry mail on Lake Pend Oreille, who was some of the riders & are there any of the descendants still living now

There was also another mail route which went from New Westminster, B. C. to Soogus Lake, Rock Creek, Fort Shippard, Fort Colville, Kalispelm Lake, Back River lower Kootenay ferry & from Bend Oreille river to the junction of the fort sheppard walla walla & Kootenai trail, moogie bridge, Little Spokane river, Crossing

a stream called "Big Creek" about 20 miles from Hope, to the post office at Hope also up to the Big Bend mines, a Mr John Johnston & a Mrs Brown was two of the carriers the date was around July 21, 1865 or February 5, 1866, there may be two different mail routes that went to the different places.

See what you can find out about this mail route where the relay stations were and if you can more detail of the route how many riders how many stations etc

Let me know when you want the rest of the questions

John Mac Loughlin's mother was a Fraser, was it one of her brothers or uncles which the Fraser River in B. C. was named after, was one of them an explorer if so was he after or before Alexander Mac-Kenzie

Sincerely

R. E. Coles

Gen Del, North Richland, Wn

January 15, 1952

Mr Cliff Belander

Yakima, Washington

Dear friend;

I have found out about the Dorian Bridge that I was asking Mr Purdin about it was built in 1931 & across the Walla Walla river at Wallua on 410 Highway

I have some more history questions to ask you There was a man by the name of Sohon who was attached to Mullen's party as a Civilian, he knew a great deal of Indian lore & was an excellent artist as well the Sohon's Pass was named for him later it was changed to Lookout Pass (between Idaho & Montana), what can you tell me about Mr Sohon where did he come from why was he the only Civilian with Mullen & what did he do so as to have a Pass named after

him, what became of him after he was with smullan

I read in a book Called "History of North Idaho" published by Western Historical Publishing Co., in 1903, (They also published a book of the "History of Washington")

Beneagooten is one of the oldest settlements in the County, the H.B.C. had a trading post here in the very early days, and in 1864 when the act was passed by the territorial legislature creating Kootenai County, Beneagooten was named as the temporary County seat, one County business was ever transacted here however, & the settlement has remained a small trading post

I wrote to the H.B.C. at Winnipeg, Canada & they say that they never had any posts at Beneagooten, on the Pend d'Oreille River

There is one of the Markham boys living at the place yet to day, I talked to him

### III

last summer (1951) he said that his dad told him that H. B. C. had a post there but his dad tore down the building some time before 1903, here is a brief history of his dad

Francis M. Markham was born in Knox County, Illinois on Dec 12, 1847, 1848 the family crossed the plains to Albany, Oregon (Son of Simon S & Cynthia (Fry) Markham) Francis was educated at Albany learned the Carpenter trade from his father, In 1883 he (Francis) came to Kootenai County Idaho he bought the right to his present place  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile South from Jacole, at what is known as the Senequestern Crossing, he secured it & the ferry from Richard Fry & Co, Recently Mr Markham tore down a building erected by the H. B. C.

Richard A. Fry was born in Knox County Illinois March 1838, in 1849 he came with his parents to Linn County, Oregon, they

made the trip across the plains with wagons  
 he participated in the Cayuse Indian war  
 of 1855-6 & assisted to capture the old Indian  
 warrior Pu-Pu-mox-mox, he was in Company  
 H. Oregon Volunteers then and the youngest  
 member of the Company, he came to Bonners  
 Ferry in 1876 settled down & established a Post  
 for trading he bought the Ferry from Mr Bonner  
 he conducted a stage line & pack train from  
 Walla Walla to Wild Horse & mining Camp in  
 B. C. he died December 19, 1898

That is a brief history of the two men connected  
 with the trading Post at Seneagooten

David Mc Laughlin (son of John  
 Mc Laughlin of Fort Vancouver) had a place  
 near Bonners Ferry called O'Konook

Do you suppose that he established a Post  
 at Seneagooten & called it a H. B. C. Post  
 just to get the trade with the Indians

IV

since his Dad was Chief factor at  
Fort Vancouver

Do you think that you can find any  
thing for sure about such a post

Can you tell me what tribe of Indians  
had the phallic sex worship also what  
Can you tell me about the worship as I hear  
a lot of rumors

David Thompson received a letter  
Dated Poltito Palton Lake Sept 29<sup>th</sup> 1809  
To the British mercht. Trafficking with the  
Cabanaws,

Where & what is the present name of that  
lake?

Well I guess that is enough for this  
time, I'll wait and see if you can  
answer these questions

Sincerely  
D. E. Covel

1362, St maries, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

February 25, 1952

Click Relander  
yakima, Washington

Dear mr Relander:

just a line to let you know that  
I got layed off at north Richland, ~~was~~  
the job. Came to an end, it got finished

So when you write to me my  
address it above where I am staying  
at the present I may be back again  
in north Richland, ~~was~~ before long  
any way I hope so

It sure is a lot of snow left  
here and it gets down to 8 & 10 above  
in the night

Sincerely  
D. E. Carls

1302, St marias, columbia river, Idaho

May 11, 1953

Mr Click Relander  
Yakima, Washington  
Dear Mr Relander;

I have a little Historical problem  
about Indians

I was talking with Dr C. S. Kingston  
the other day about the problem & he told me  
to write to you, he said that you are making  
a study of Indians

There is an Island in the Columbia  
River Called Strawberry Island South  
of Pasco, Washington

I understand that the Island is about 3 miles  
around, on the Island is a depression in the  
ground which is quite large it has sides  
around the depression, which they think was a  
Council Chamber, there are other smaller  
depressions near the large one, all around  
the Island looks like what would be sweat

bath houses, the front of the houses faces the river.

On an other island near there is a grave yard.

I understand that there is no record of such a place in Lewis & Clark Journals

Why did the Indians abandon this island? When ever else where every where flooded out they came back what happened there that the Indians never came back.

Did the Indians live there & never told Lewis & Clark, & if the Indians did live there how come Lewis & Clark never seen any life on the island?

The Indians must of lived that at one time but when, before Lewis & Clark

The island will be flooded over this summer by the Vmatilla Dam

Can you answer some of these questions for me

Sincerely  
D. E. Caves