

[Fort Simcoe]

1212 N. 32nd Ave.

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April 16, 1954

Mr. Albert Culverwell, historian,
State Parks and Recreation Commission,
Seattle, Washington.

Dear Al:

I'm sorry you had to rush in and out of Yakima the other day, and that I did not have an opportunity to talk to you.

In relation to remarks made at the public meeting of the Board on April 14, I am writing to request that inasmuch as my name was brought out in connection with a letter written by Mrs. J.J. Bartholet of Yakima, I be sent the excerpt from the letter, pertinent thereto.

In my connections with the organization and individuals I have always endeavored to avoid any conflict, realizing that there seems to have been a feud simmering between various individuals. I have for years, before the organization of the commission, been placed in the position of listening to various complaints of this individual or that, all of which I disregarded. Either they have a news story for me or not.

But if I have been quoted in any way, I wish to know in what way because I know it is human for people to get the wrong idea.

I was asked by Mrs. Bartholet for a copy of a letter which required me some three hours to dig out. This letter is of little historical value and could not have been construed to have vindicated Mrs. Bartholet in her efforts at placing an estimation on the furniture in use at the fort in the Army Days. But I have picked up in Yakima that it has.

As the possessor of that letter (not the original) and sticking to the truth and accuracy of history, I do not wish to be used in this situation and refuse to let others bring me into it.

You can depend upon me to put the record straight now that my name has been brought out at a Board meeting.

I have been compelled to listen, for long periods on end to Mrs. Swanstrom, which I did gladly, expressing no views but an appreciation of the work she has done.

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I have also ~~undergone~~ the same sympathetic ear to Mrs. Bartholet. But if the situation has turned to that of pitting individuals against individuals, I draw the line. I wish and will insist on remaining friends to all and upholders of no issue but what is proven on the

record.

People seem to be making mountains out of molehills. Nothing will ruin or disrupt an organization, its benefits or the product of its benefits sooner.

I see the time is approaching that the legislators should be acquainted with the value of such things as Fort Simcoe and through the news columns of our paper, this is being done. That is one of the greatest values of the research, at present, that and build a record to assist in the project.

I would suggest that any abstract material required by the Commission be prepared by H. Dean Guie. It would be a difficult task to compile a two-way report. Mr. Guie has duplicate copies of the Simcoe material and the repositories of that which he does not have, and I do not have either, in complete form or partial form, can easily be provided to him.

Moreover with material that appears to be so valuable as that of Mrs. Swanstrom's, in the Seattle office, that poses another problem. Any kind of "abstract" as suggested by Dr. Deutsch, would be complete and comprehensive, I am sure and I frankly do not see how one of that kind could be compiled at this time. I understand that such abstracts have been prepared for Columbia and perhaps somewhere else, and I assume that one would be available to Mr. Guie on short loan for a pattern. You can count on me for my cooperation and help in making backing him up on that.

For your information, you may realize we have had quite a library situation in Yakima that is just simmering down, from attempting to steer things behind the scenes. That shows how things can be disrupted through too much trying to play politics. The Simcoe situation, which you appear to have allayed, has lots of similarities. Hence I see clearer than ever why I do not wish to be drawn into it, but since I have, I intend to get the record clear.

Hope things are going well with your other work. From now on I suspect will be an ever busier season than before. But you seem to be the kind of a fellow who can take it.

I'll try and round up an extra copy of Mrs. Kimmel's Fort Simcoe Story, another pamphlet publication, 26 pp. That makes two for the record the research committee members have produced, but they won't learn to submit their material for cross checking of accuracy. Inasmuch as it is their personal projects, there's nothing you can do about it. I believe I provided you with a copy of Mrs. Travis' Mool Mool.

Kind regards

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