

Fort Simcoe at Mool-Mool Restoration Society

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February 1, 1955

TO ALL MEMBERS:

In the two years since the Fort Simcoe at Mool-Mool Restoration Society was organized, on October 28, 1952, it has contributed substantially to the State Parks and Recreation Commission program for the restoration of the historic site as a military post of the late 1850's.

The contribution has included research and the acquiring of historical material; suggestions to the commission's historian; the distribution of Fort Simcoe folders published at the society's expense (10,000 in October, 1953, and 20,000 in 1954); conferences with the Yakima Indian Tribal Council's Fort Simcoe Committee; conferences with the Yakima County Commissioners and State Highway officials, relative to improvement of the White Swan-Simcoe road; the making of arrangements with the Rural Electrification Administration for a heavier load line into the property, and meetings with the director, historian and other representatives of the State Park Commission.

The trustees and the Yakima Indian Council, with the approval of the Parks Commission, now are seeking to have the renewable 25-year lease period on the 140 acres of the Fort property extended to 99 years. This requires legislation, which is to be introduced at the next session of Congress. In this connection, the Tribal Council is willing to add sufficient acreage to the 140 acres to square up the boundaries and also to prevent commercial or other encroachments.

The Society is recommending that the State take over the White Swan-Simcoe road as an extension of Secondary State Highway No. 3-B, and in this project it has the support of the Yakima Chamber of Commerce.

By the end of the biennium, next March, the State Parks and Recreation Commission will have expended in excess of \$30,000 on the Fort since the restoration was undertaken in March, 1953.

For actual restoration--chiefly repairs to the commandant's residence and to one of the captains' quarters--some \$3,000 has been used to date and a like amount will be spent by the close of the biennium.

A comfort station, in the architectural style of the Fort buildings, has been built at a cost of \$7,343.



SIMCOE BLOCKHOUSE

Repairs to the caretaker's house, which is one of the agency period buildings, has taken \$2,000; electrical system improvements, \$1,840; water system improvements, \$1,500. A bondary fence to restrain livestock is costing \$2,500.

Salaries of carpenters and helpers for the biennium total \$8,000. In addition to \$4,520 for the caretaker from the general fund, we have received the services of the State Historian, Architect, Park Planner, Engineer, District Supervisor and other park personnel.

Publicizing the restoration project has been helped by the changing of the name of the Central Washington Area Council of the Boy Scouts to the Fort Simcoe Area Council, in May, 1954, and by a visit of 50 members of the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association, and wives, on September 10, 1954, when trustees of the Society served as guides.

On September 17, 1954, a flagpole donated by the Malcom Crabtree Post of the American Legion, of Toppenish, was dedicated.

25,618 visitors registered in 1954. It is estimated that at least double this number actually visited the Fort.

Present plans call for completion of the commandant's residence in 1955, and for work upon the captains' quarters, and for other improvements. Our furnishings committee, composed of the women of the valley, has been, and is, securing donations of funds and furniture for the furnishing of the officers' quarters.

In order to carry on our activities, we depend upon receipts from membership dues and donations. We, therefore, urge that you forward a check to cover your dues through 1955. Annual dues are \$1.00, but we suggest that you give earnest reconsideration to life membership, which may be obtained for \$10.00, or you may become a sustaining member for \$25.00, or more. We also hope that you will secure other members for us.

It is hoped that individuals and firms, who are financially able, will seriously consider making substantial gifts to the general restoration fund through the Society. At least \$25,000 in additional funds are needed. A restored Fort Simcoe, apart from its historic significance, can be the means of attracting more visitors to the Yakima Valley than any other known instrument. Of course, YOU are interested.

Your Trustees,

By

President

Roscoe Sheller

George M. Martin, Secretary
Fort Simcoe at Mool-Mool Restoration Society
902 Larson Building
Yakima, Washington

I enclose dues of \$_____.

(NAME) _____

(ADDRESS) _____