

January 22, 1953

Mrs. Thelma Kimmel,
Route 2, Toppenish.

Dear Mrs. Kimmel:

I am sure you are well acquainted with the organization, now underway of the Fort Simcoe at Mool Mool Restoration Society.

And, I am sure you are interested in participating more than as an "onlooker" in that project.

As chairman of the research committee, I am writing to ask if you would be interested in serving on that committee. Thus far I have contacted only Mr. H. Dean Guie of Yakima and Mr. Bennett of White Swan. But I wish to spread the committee out so various districts can be represented. It will probably be several weeks before a more definite program can be undertaken.

I know only that the duty of the committee will be to gather research material, locate the repositories of various documents, letters and artifacts, collect pictures, etc. for the furtherance of the activity.

Through connections here photographs that are deemed worthy can be recopied, thus providing a negative that will permit pictures of a uniform size. Interviews and material gathered by individuals should be carbon copied so all the material can be gathered in one general file; a card index will be maintained of repositories where documents, letters and relics are available for inspection, copying or, in due time, for direct application if the owner wishes to provide them to the restored fort, in the event a museum is located there.

I suggest that the probable first major activity of the committee would be a meeting (start early and stay late) at Fort Simcoe when weather permits. We would rally the Olneys, various old Indians and other "source" material there for on the ground interviews, inspections etc.

When a committee of sufficient size of truly active and interested people has been selected, we would meet and through a type of screening or brief discussion, determine the special talents of various members. Then those people would work in specialized fields. One, for instance, would pursue Father Wilbur's trail and even his Oregon connections; another would deal with the military side of the fort, another with the Indians, etc. and, all would try to locate relics connected with the fort.

I am writing in detail so you can gain a general idea of our hopes as rapidly as possible.

I sincerely hope you will wish to serve with us.

If you have any suggestions of others who would perhaps be willing to serve with us, please do not hesitate to recommend them, giving me their names and addresses so I may communicate with them; Even, in some cases, they may be spread out a considerable distance in the Yakima Valley.

And, if you have any ideas about operations of the group, etc., please do not hesitate to outline them.

Sincerely hoping that you will join with us,

Click Relander

Route 3, box 146

Yakima