

Feb. 10, 1953

Mrs. Thelma Kimmel,  
Route 2, Toppenish.

Dear Mrs. Kimmel:

Thank you for your informative letter of February 6, received today. It is heartening to know of your enthusiasm and grasp of research.

The committee formation is still under way, since I believe the research needs competent persons and those who will actually produce.

I have contacted Dr. Herman ~~Bearash~~ Deutsch of the State College and he is having the library compile a bibliography of material pertaining to Fort Simcoe on file there. Incidentally, Dr. Deutsch is coming to Yakima next Monday to address the Chamber of Commerce Forum luncheon at noon at the invitation of the Yakima Valley Museum, Inc. I will not be able to attend the luncheon--that is during the deadline hour at the paper--but Dr. Deutsch is to write and let me know about his early arrival so we can have breakfast and talk things over. The Forum Luncheon is public.

Yes, someone should interview Judge Kuykendall, thoroughly, before it is too late, and that will be something that some member of the committee can perhaps take on while on vacation through that area.

I have a complete ~~map~~ file, I believe, of the West Shore magazines that have his legends but they have been far superceded by now. Then too, a Mrs. Clark, I think it is, has some legends dealing with Eastern Washington, to be published this spring at the University of California.

As for the contacts with the Indians. Knowing them, I believe it would be wise to "lay off" them at present. Alex Saluskin, the chairman of the tribal council, is due home from Washington soon. He has been asked to appoint one or two Indians to the research committee. We know from experience that, until there is a definite place for artifacts and relics, it only brings on trouble to encourage acquisition. This is particularly so with Indians. That will come in time, or at least



until Indians are named to that committee. The agency tells me they are re-checking to see the exact status of the final approval of the project and agreement with the Department, and any little misunderstanding, as so many times in the past with the Indians, just causes them to mark time and bid their time. I know you understand how that is.

About the Methodist angle: Dr. Hector Johnson (Methodist) in Yakima, who has considerable experience in historical research, has agreed to serve on the committee to the extent of making contact with the proper Methodist circles and to the proper people, for material.

The microfilm of the Wilbur journal is a good idea and judging from your last letter, I know you have things in mind for that. However, perhaps when we get organized, various committee members having material that they are working on, also for their own projects, such as writing, etc. should be assured of a "restricted" file for such. I presume that something can be worked out as time goes on. We have a projector at the office which might solve your problem of viewing the material once you get it and it would involve a possible tedious typing job.

Your contacts with such persons as Mrs. Brock, whose husband might be a possible source, are good.

I hope to be able to make some public announcements, coupled with publicity, within a short time. I have been waiting for Saluskin to make an appointment since the Indians never like to feel like they are left out of anything. He will probably be pretty busy upon his return and is to hold a council meeting on Feb. 18th.

Thanks again for your letter and be assured you will hear from me when I have something definite to offer.

Sincerely

Click Relander

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Yakima, Wash.