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EVENING and MORNING  
and  
SUNDAY EDITIONS  
(Except Saturday p.m.—Monday a.m.)

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MAXIMUM NEWS AND  
CIRCULATION COVERAGE

# Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

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August 19, 1971

Mr. Gerald Tucker  
Umatilla River Road  
Joseph, Oregon

Dear Tuck:

Well, first of all, it was sure nice to hear your voice this morning and to get your so welcome response to the idea of another ride over the route of the Whitmans. Your presence on the ride will make it 100 per cent!

The idea of the ride comes at a fortunate time. John Miele, a new man at Whitman Mission National Historic Site, expressed desire to ride over the route so he could better have the "feeling" for the Whitmans in this particular effort. He is the historian at the Mission so you can understand this. When we broached the idea to Ed Osmond, Pendleton District ranger, we found that not only he but the La Grande Dist. ranger are vitally interested in getting over the route and setting up proper signs, etc. at least for now. So, now seems very pertinent time to get on with your project of ~~making~~ making the trail a fact. Hopefully, we can set up a master plan of development for the route so it can get done, no matter who the rangers might be and get done eventually, even if it takes a long time. Hopefully, it will be a short time, though!

Generally, what the planning now is calls for a rendezvous before noon at the Union County Fairgrounds on Wednesday, Sept. 29 and a departure from there about 1 p.m. as we did before. Then, an overnight at 5 points or at same overnight site as the Whitmans made after leaving the Grande Ronde, etc. We would then go on and try to arrive at breaks of Squaw Cr. to see the sunset or near it as did Mrs. Whitman, then go on down to loading up point on the creek or on Umatilla R. road. This last is to be "scouted" by Ed Osmond and you might query him on it when you write.

The meal situation we have figured as follows: Wed. eat your breakfast at your home (or your decision); make your own sack lunch or buy it at La Grande; supper at overnight spot to be responsibility of John ~~Miele~~ Miele and I (John is a vegetarian but I'll see we ~~may~~ have steaks or whatever the rest want!). Thursday breakfast also responsibility of John and I as well as lunch that day on the ride. We'll buy this grub and cost to be shared equally among riders. Thursday night meal will be the

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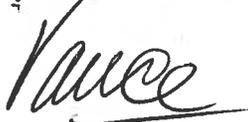
responsibility of each rider. I believe there are still little stores at both Gibbon and Thornhollow in event it is too far to wait until we get to Pendleton, etc.

En route, along the trail, we hope to pinpoint on a Forest Service map and aerial photos, pertinent points at which we want signs. I told Ed there were probably at least six such and likely more that would be of interest. We should also consider and try to agree on such things as the overnight camp sites you suggest and anything else that would properly enhance this development. Your aid in all this will be invaluable, of course.

Hope this fills you in on the trip. Sure glad you can make it and looking forward to seeing you and once again riding with you.

I could sure be talked into making that Appaloosa ride next year or through Yellowstone the following year. I'd like to hear more of the trip this year, too.

Kindest personal regards,



Vance Orchard, Historical Trail Writer-Rider  
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