

superintendents' corner

Editor's note: *The following two pieces of correspondence came to us from Jim Thomson, Fort Vancouver NHS superintendent, with a cover note that ended "The important thing is that the information was made possible by the publication in the newsletter, so chalk one up for you!"*

To James Thomson, Fort Vancouver NHS, Vancouver, WA, from William N. Jackson, Superintendent, Fort Stanwix NM, Rome, NY.

"Dear Mr. Thomson: I just finished reading an article in *PPS* (Fall '80 issue) concerning decay of wood at Fort Vancouver. I am particularly interested in learning more about the volatile fungicide prescribed by Prof. Robert Graham of Oregon State University to control it. Here at Fort Stanwix we have perhaps the same kind of problem with our wood and earthen fort. Fort Stanwix NM is a completely reconstructed wood over concrete fort with earthen glacis, fraise and pickets made of yellow pine. Originally this fort was built by the French in 1758, and later rebuilt by American forces in 1776 as a frontier outpost, and it served as a very significant stronghold during the Revolution. This site was set aside because of the role it played in repulsing the siege of Gen. Barry St. Leger in August of 1777, and the outcome of this repulse led to the eventual capture of Gen. Burgoyne at Saratoga in October of that same year.

"Fort Stanwix is known as the fort that would not sur-

render. However, it may fall prey and surrender to the forces of nature if the erosion and decay problem is not stopped. The severity of the winters in this part of the country (annual snowfall over 100 inches) has been detrimental to this wooden fort, causing the pickets to decay much more rapidly than anticipated. I would appreciate any information you have on remedying or controlling this decay, or perhaps you can direct me to someone that can help me."

From James M. Thomson to William Jackson:

"We appreciated very much hearing from you and knowing of the problems you have that are similar to what we have here in the Pacific Northwest. By now, we assume that Prof. Graham has contacted you and hopefully given you some good advice about the potential for arresting the spread of decay.

"We have not yet awarded the contract for treatment of our palisade, but the bid opening is this week. Work will be done after Labor Day, since it is necessary to close the fort for a brief period to avoid any possible contamination of humans from the gasses that might exude from the posts. We'll let you know how it goes with the work and what results we observe after it has been done. We wish you well in overcoming the erosion and decay so that Fort Stanwix will not have to give up its distinction of being the fort that never surrendered."