



A REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

WORDS, WATER AND WORK: LITERATURE AND HISTORY IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN

**February 20, 2010, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Tex Rankin Theater, Pearson Air Museum
Fort Vancouver National Site, 1115 E. 5th St., Vancouver,
WA 98661**

With Center for Columbia River History James B. Castles Fellow Chad Wriglesworth



Blasting for The Dalles Dam, 1950s. Image courtesy of the Army Corps of Engineers

"Words, Water, and Work: Literature and History in the Columbia River Basin" introduces educators to poets, novelists and essayists who have written about the social and ecological transformation of the Columbia River Basin, from the 1930s to the present.

Participants in this workshop explore multiple approaches to integrating regional history and literature in the classroom through case studies of Bonneville and The Dalles dams. These case studies are complemented by materials for curriculum development on Grand Coulee Dam and Hanford Engineering Works. This session builds upon resources provided by the Center for Columbia River History and materials developed by Chad Wriglesworth, a Ph.D. candidate in English at the University of Iowa and former Language Arts teacher. Wriglesworth provides a practical teaching bibliography and online resources for future projects and curriculum development, as well as ideas about implementing these resources in the classroom. The workshop explores the complex legacy of dam building through history and literature, keeping in mind relationships to the river between and amongst different groups of people.

WORDS, WATER AND WORK: LITERATURE AND HISTORY IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN

February 20, 2010 9:00-12:00

AGENDA / SCHEDULE

- 9:00-9:15:** Donna Sinclair, Program Manager, Center for Columbia River History
Introduction to Workshop and Center for Columbia River History
- **Center for Columbia River History resources for educators**
- 9:15-9:40:** Chad Wriglesworth, University of Iowa: **“Words, Water, and Work: Literature and History in the Columbia River Basin”**
- **The value of combining literature and history**
 - **Reclamation and the Columbia Basin in history and literature**
 - 1. Optimism of the 1930s-1940s, New Deal, WWII literature: Woody Guthrie, Nard Jones, Richard Neuberger as brief historical-literary examples. (Grand Coulee, Bonneville, Hanford)**
 - 2. Suspicion of the 1950s-1960s, emergence of localized counter-culture response to the Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers’ projects: Gary Snyder, Ken Kesey, Raymond Carver as brief literary-historical examples. (The Dalles Dam)**
 - 3. Bioregional thought and practice, 1960s-present: overview of contemporary literary voices and activists. David James Duncan, Sherman Alexie, Elizabeth Woody, Gloria Bird, William Witherup as brief historical examples.**
 - 4. Overview of approach – “case studies” of key sites, with focus on curriculum building and application. Locations not discussed in case studies will be highlighted in bibliography to be distributed.**
 - **Thinking about site based literature and history: Sherman Alexie, “The Powwow at the End of the World” (handout)**

CASE STUDY #1: USING VISUAL MATERIALS AND DIGITAL ARCHIVES: BONNEVILLE DAM

Materials Needed:

1. CCRH, Factsheet on Bonneville Dam
2. CCRH, FDR Speech at Opening of Bonneville Dam, 1937
3. Film Clips from *Hydro* (1940) and *Look to the River* (1952) – both available on *Celilo Falls and the Remaking of the Columbia River* (2005)
4. Copy of William Stafford poem, “The Fish Counter at Bonneville,” 1960
5. Copy of typescript of poem from William Stafford Archive, c. 1951

9:40-10:30 Donna Sinclair
CCRH, Factsheet on Bonneville Dam
CCRH, FDR Speech on Opening of Bonneville Dam, 1937

Chad Wriglesworth
View film clips from Bonneville Power Administration films, *Hydro*, 1940; *Look to the River*, 1952

- Visual / narrative optimism presented in the film
 1. What does the film promise its viewers?
 2. How does it go about making these promises?
 3. Representing Columbia River Indians in Literature

- Reading and Discussion: William Stafford’s “The Fish Counter at Bonneville”
 1. Compare the tone and mood of the poem. How is William Stafford’s vision of the Bonneville Dam / fish ladder different than the vision portrayed in *Hydro*?
 2. The William Stafford archive. How digital drafts of the poem can be used to interpret Stafford’s anxiety towards the Bonneville Dam, <http://williamstaffordarchives.org/poem/23/>

10:30-10:40 BREAK

CASE STUDY #2

INTEGRATING HISTORY AND LITERATURE: THE DALLES DAM AND CELILO FALLS

Materials Needed:

1. CCRH, Factsheet on The Dalles Dam
2. CCRH, William Brophy's Letter to Department of Interior, 1946
3. Carol Craig, "Relocation and the Celilo Village Community"
4. Ken Kesey, Selection from *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*
5. Ed Edmo, "After Celilo" and "Celilo Blues"
6. Handout of Kesey's drawing of Chief Bromden

10:40-11:10 Donna Sinclair

CCRH, Factsheet on The Dalles Dam

CCRH, William Brophy's Letter to Department of Interior, 1946

Chad Wriglesworth

Literature on / about The Dalles Dam

Developing Curriculum: Overview of Selected Literary-Historical Materials

Carol Craig, "Relocation and the Celilo Village Community" in *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 108.4 (Winter 2007).

Selection from Ken Kesey's, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

- **Overview of the historical / geographical context of the novel in relationship to Celilo Falls / The Dalles Dam.**
- **Selection from Ken Kesey novel**
- **Ed Edmo, "After Celilo" and "Celilo Blues"**

Activity: Mapping the Columbia River through literature.

Draw pictures of images and thoughts as seen / imagined by Ed Edmo in "Celilo Blues" and Chief Bromden in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

WORKSHOP TIME: INTEGRATING SITE BASED LITERATURE INTO THE CLASSROOM

11:10-11:40: Site Based Curriculum Development Groups

- **Participants will work in site based “interest groups” for curriculum development / planning. Bibliography will be used here.**

INTEREST GROUPS

- 1. Bonneville Dam / Cascade Rapids**
 - 2. Grand Coulee Dam / Kettle Falls**
 - 3. Hanford Nuclear Reservation / World War II**
 - 4. The Dalles Dam / Celilo Falls**
 - 5. Site Based Public Art Projects**
- **Key Questions for curriculum development: What types of literary and historical sources might be used to teach a set of lessons of your selected site? What written or verbal student assignments / engagement might come as a result teaching about this particular site?**
 - **Questions for Consideration: What do these materials tell us about the complex legacy of dam building? How do they reflect relationships between different groups, the Columbia River, and one another? What do those relationships look like? How are they similar? How do they differ?**

11:40-12:00: Group Discussion

Past Experiences:

- **Sharing of past projects / curriculum that have worked in the classroom?**

Present Ideas:

- **Project ideas / thoughts that have come about through the workshop?**

Site Based Bibliography

Curriculum Development Suggestions

Literature on Bonneville Dam

- William Stafford, “The Fish Counter at Bonneville” (c. 1951, first published 1960). Reprinted in William Stafford, *The Way It Is: New and Selected Poems* (Minneapolis, MN: Graywolf Press, 1998), 68. Stafford’s attitudes toward the fish ladder at Bonneville Dam provide a sharp contrast to the optimism announced and portrayed in the BPA film, *Hydro* (1940). For teachers without access to the film, the DVD titled *Celilo Falls and the Remaking of the Columbia River* (Sea Grant, 2007), contains footage and narration of the fish ladder at Bonneville Dam that was taken directly from *Hydro*.

Also of interest: William Stafford Archives. The archive provides digitized versions of several drafts of this poem. Through them, readers can trace and interpret Stafford’s attitudes towards the Bonneville Dam. <http://www.williamstaffordarchives.org/poem/23/>. The William Stafford Archives also includes a list of resources for teachers under the section titled “Tools.”

Literature on Grand Coulee Dam

- Raymond Carver, “My Father’s Life” in *Fires* (New York: Vintage, 1983), 13-21. Carver’s father (Clevie Carver) migrated from Arkansas to Washington during the Great Depression. He worked as a construction laborer on Grand Coulee Dam and then as a saw filer in several timber mills throughout the Pacific Northwest. Carver’s portrait of his father indicates that (despite good intentions) he was never able to achieve the vision of the “Promised Land” envisioned by political leaders, journalists, and song writers like Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Richard Neuberger and Woody Guthrie.

Also of interest: The reading of “My Father’s Life” can be supplemented by several poems that Raymond Carver has written about his father. When collected, they provide a sort of literary photo album of his father’s life and struggle to achieve social and economic stability. The following poems are available in Raymond Carver, *All of Us: Collected Poems* (New York: Knopf, 2000).

“Photograph of My Father in His Twenty-Second Year” (p.7, full text included in “My Father’s Life”)
“Shiftless” (p.75-76)
“My Dad’s Wallet” (p. 89-91)
“The Trestle” (p. 136-137)

- Matt Rasmussen, “Pastures of Plenty: Woody Guthrie and the Columbia River Dams.” *Orion* (July / August 2008). A historical and well-researched article on the history behind the making of the Columbia River songs. The article is very readable and site-based; it is broken into sections devoted to The Dalles Dam, John Day Dam, and Grand Coulee Dam.
- David James Duncan, *My Story as Told By Water* (San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 2001), 108-111. Duncan offers a complete rewriting of Woody Guthrie’s, “Roll On, Columbia,” with the refrain:

Roll on, Columbia, roll on. Roll on, Columbia, roll on,
Once a free-flowin’ river, now a big poison pond,
But roll on, Columbia, roll on.

Literature on Hanford Nuclear Works

- William Witherup, “Mother Witherup’s Top Secret Cherry Pie” in *Learning to Glow: A Nuclear Reader*, John Bradley, ed. (Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press), 27-31. A short essay about growing up near Hanford.
- William Witherup, “My Father Dying: 1984,” “Once By Hanford Reach,” “Mervyn Clyde Witherup,” “Down Wind, Down River” in *Down Wind, Down River: New and Collected Poems* (West End Press, 2000). Interview with William Witherup: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLhS_VqPv9g These poems deal with childhood memories and memories of his father’s illness and death of cancer, which Witherup believes is a direct result of working at the nuclear plant.
- Teri Hein, *Atomic Farmgirl: Growing Up Right in the Wrong Place* (New York: Mariner Books, 2003). A memoir about growing up near Hanford.
- Debora Greger, “Landscape of Memory,” “Memories of the Atomic Age” and “northwest Passage” in *Desert Fathers, Uranium Daughters* (Penguin Books, 1996). Interview with Greger at: <http://www.joe.org/shows/shows.htm?programID=97-P13-00035#feature2> Childhood memories (poems) about growing up near Hanford.
- S.L. Sanger and Greg Wollner, *Working on the Bomb: An Oral History of WWII Hanford* (Portland OR: Portland State University, 1995).

Literature on Celilo Falls, The Dalles Dam and “She-Who-Watches”

Short Fiction

- Raymond Carver, “Sixty Acres” in *Will You Please Be Quiet, Please?* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1978), 60-74.
- Yakima Valley Promotional Film: *A Land Called Yakima*
http://yakimamemory.org/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/memory&CISO_PTR=10431&REC=9

Possible Poetry

- Ed Edmo, “There Has Been Something,” “Celilo Blues” and “Celilo Fisherman”

- in *These Few Words of Mine* (Marvin, SD: Blue Cloud Quarterly Press, 1985).
- Earle Thompson, “Celilo” and “Vigil” in *The Juniper Moon Pulls at My Bones* (Marvin, SD: Blue Cloud Quarterly Press, 1986).
- Raymond Carver, “The Sturgeon” in *All of Us: The Collected Poems* (New York: Knopf, 2000).
- William Witherup, “Columbia River Suite” and “Across from Celilo Falls” in *Black Ash, Orange Fire: Collected Poems 1959-1985* (Floating Island Publications, 1986). “Columbia River Suite” is reprinted in *Down Wind, Down River: New and Selected Poems* (West End Press, 2000).
- Elizabeth Woody, “Longhouse I,” “Longhouse II,” “She-Who-Watches, The Names are a Prayer” in *Seven Hands, Seven Hearts* (Portland, OR: Eighth Mountain Press, 1994). See also: *Luminaries of the Humble* (Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press, 1994).

Possible Essays

- H.L. Davis, “Oregon” in *Kettle of Fire* (New York: William Morrow and Co., reprinted in *Collected Essays and Short Stories*, 1986).
- David James Duncan, “Celilo” in *My Story as Told By Water* (San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 2001), 5-7.
- Ed Edmo, “After Celilo” in *Talking Leaves: Contemporary Native American Short Stories*. Ed. Craig Lesley. (New York: Dell Publishing, 1991), 70-73.
- Elizabeth Woody, “Recalling Celilo” in *Salmon Nation: People, Fish, and Our Common Home*, Edward C. Wolf and Seth Zukerman, eds. (Portland: Ecotrust, 1999), 9-16. http://www.salmonnation.com/essays/recalling_celilo.html
- Elizabeth Woody, “Wyam: Echo of Falling Water” in *Seven Hands, Seven Hearts* (Portland, OR: Eighth Mountain Press, 1994), 63-68.

Possible Novels

- Ken Kesey, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* (New York: Viking Press, 1962).
- Robin Cody, *Ricochet River* (Portland, OR: Blue Heron Publishing, 1994).
- Craig Lesley, *River Song* (New York: Picador, 1993; 1999).

Materials on the “She-Who-Watches” Petroglyph

- Jarold Ramsey, ed. “Tsagigla’lal” in *Coyote Was Going There: Indian Literature of the Oregon Country* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1977), 53.
- There is an audio reading of this story by Ed Edmo, as well as an interview with Lillian Pitt available at: <http://www.wisdomoftheelders.org/program07.html>
- Robin Cody, “Celilo: She Who Watches ” in *Voyage of a Summer Sun: Canoeing the Columbia River* (New York: Knopf, 1995), 245-264.
- Katrine Barber, “Head, Heart, and Hands: An Interview with Warm Springs Artist Lillian Pitt.” *Columbia: The Magazine of Northwest History* (Fall 2007): 34-38. Lillian Pitt’s website: <http://www.lillianpitt.com/>

Literature on Poetry, Public Art and Localized Reclamation Efforts on the Columbia River Basin

Methow River Valley

- William Stafford, *Even in Quiet Places* (Lewiston, ID: Confluence Press, 1995). This collection includes all of the Methow River poems that Stafford originally composed for the United States Forest Service and the Winthrop Ranger Station in Washington.
- Sulima Malzin, “The Methow River Poems: More than a Roadside Attraction,” *Friends of William Stafford: A Newsletter for Poets and Poetry* 11.1 (Spring 2006), 1, 3. <http://www.williamstafford.org/pdf/mar2006.pdf>
- Janet and Edward Ganger-Happ, “On the Stafford Trail,” *The Fairfield Review* (Winter 1999).
<http://www.fairfieldreview.org/fairfield/FairRevw.nsf/f146883083505a1385256485000d91cd/c0951c5f82ce48598525670c000dd214!OpenDocument>
- Chad Wriglesworth, “‘What the River Says,’ Reading William Stafford’s Methow River Poems as New Genre Public Art,” *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment* (Forthcoming, Spring 2010).

Spokane Falls

- Sherman Alexie, “That Place Where Ghosts of Salmon Jump” in *The Summer of Black Widows* (New York: Hanging Loose Press, 1996).
- Photographs of the Public Art Installation of the poem available at: <http://www.fallsapart.com/roadtrips2.html>
- *The Spokesman-Review* published an article on the installation of the poem in the 7 Feb. 2008 issue.
- Link to the Coeur d'Alene /Spokane tribal story about the creation of Spokane Falls that Sherman Alexie alludes to in the poem:
<http://www.focuswest.org/learn/lands/falls.htm>
A print translation of the story is also available in Katherine Berry Judson, *Myths and Legends of the Pacific Northwest*. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 1997), 118.

The Confluence Project

- Project Website: <http://www.confluenceproject.org/>
- Susan Platt, “Maya Lin’s Confluence Project,” *Sculpture* 25.9 (November 2006): 54-59.

Online Sources about Contemporary Pacific Northwest Writers

Sherman Alexie

<http://www.fallsapart.com/>

<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20On%20e/commentaries/alexie%20com.html>

Kim Barnes

<http://www.randomhouse.com/boldtype/0997/barnes/>

<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20Fiv%20e/Commentary/Barnes%20Comm.html>

Rick Bass

http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/english/ms-writers/dir/bass_rick/

Archie Binns

<http://olywa.blogspot.com/2007/04/new-archie-binns-project.html>

Gloria Bird

http://www.nativewiki.org/Gloria_Bird

Henry Carlile

<http://orelitrev.startlogic.com/v2n2/carlileessay.pdf>

Raymond Carver

<http://www.whitman.edu/english/carver/carver.cgi>

<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20Fiv%20e/Commentary/Carver%20Comm.html>

<http://www.internationalraymondcarversociety.org/>

Mary Clearman Blew

<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20Fiv%20e/Commentary/Blew%20Comm.html>

<http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/idaho/news.newsmain/article/8/0/1576554/Arts..and..Culture/Art..and..Soul.--.Mary.Clearman.Blew.On.the.West.and.Her.Writing.11.11.09>

Robin Cody

<http://davejarecki.com/creative/2008/robin-cody-interview/>

John Daniel

<http://www.johndaniel-author.net/>

H.L. Davis

<http://www.ochcom.org/davis/>

Annie Dillard

<http://www.bookpage.com/BPinterviews/dillard492.html>

<http://www.anniedillard.com/>

Ivan Doig

<http://www.ivandoig.com/>

<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20Five/Commentary/Doig%20Comm.html>

Mourning Dove

<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20One/commentaries/quintasket.html>

David James Duncan

<http://www.grist.org/article/duncan/>

Ed Edmo

<http://ededmo.tripod.com/>

Timothy Egan

<http://www.randomhouse.com/author/results.pperl?authorid=58089>

Tess Gallaher

<http://www3.wooster.edu/ArtfulDodge/interviews/gallagher.htm>

<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20Five/Commentary/Gallagher%20Comm.html>

Molly Gloss

<http://www.mollygloss.com/>

David Guterson

<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20Four/Commentaries/Guterson%20Comm.html>

<http://library.umf.maine.edu/OBOC/2002/bio.html>

Richard Hugo:

http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=5082

<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20Five/Commentary/Hugo%20Comm.html>

Nard Jones

<http://www.ochcom.org/jones/>

John Keeble

<http://www.johnkeeble.net/>

Ken Kesey

<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20Five/Commentary/Kesey%20Comm.html>

<http://www.common-place.org/vol-06/no-02/talk/>

Carolyn Kizer

<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20Five/Commentary/Kizer%20Comm.html>

<http://www.poets.org/poet.php/prmPID/57>

William Kittredge

<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20Five/Commentary/Kittredge%20Comm.html>

Ursula Le Guin

http://www.ursulakleguin.com/UKL_info.html

http://www.gazettetimes.com/news/local/article_e6294917-5fa7-5c83-a0b2-f912539017d7.html

Denise Levertov

<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20Five/Commentary/Levertov%20Comm.html>

Barry Lopez

<http://www.barrylopez.com/>

Norman Maclean

<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20Five/Commentary/Maclean%20Comm.html>

Martha Ferguson McKeown

http://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/entry/view/mckeown_martha_ferguson_1903_1974/

<http://www.thedalleschronicle.com/news/2007/03/news03-11-07-02.shtml>

James Mitsui

<http://faculty.washington.edu/kendo/mitsui.html>

Lawney Reyes

<http://www.lawneyreyes.com/>

Tom Robbins

http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&File_Id=5456

Marilynne Robinson

<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20Five/Texts/Robinson%20Western%20Roots.html>

<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20Five/Commentary/Robinson%20Comm.html>

Theodore Roethke

<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20Five/Commentary/Roethke%20Comm.html>

Gary Snyder

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/archive/poet.html?id=6407>

William Stafford

<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20Five/Commentary/Stafford%20Comm.html>
<http://www.williamstafford.org/>

Kim Stafford

<http://legacy.lclark.edu/~krs/>

David Wagoner

<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20Five/Commentary/Wagoner%20Comm.html>

James Welch

<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20On/commentaries/welch.html>

William Witherup

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLhS_VqPv9g
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/obituaries/2009325480_poetobit11m.html

Elizabeth Woody

http://www.nativewiki.org/Elizabeth_Woody
<http://www.washington.edu/uwired/outreach/cspn/Website/Hist%20n%20Lit/Part%20On/commentaries/woody.html>

Anthologies of Pacific Northwest Literature

Barcott, Bruce, ed. *Northwest Passages: A Literary Anthology of the Pacific Northwest from Coyote Tales to Roadside Attractions*. Seattle: Sasquatch Books, 1994.

O'Connell, Nicholas, ed. *At the Field's End: Interviews with 22 Pacific Northwest Writers*. 1987. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1998.

Roche, Judith and Meg McHutchison, eds. *First Fish, First People: Salmon Tales of the North Pacific Rim*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1998.

Wollner, Craig and W. Tracy Dillon, eds. *A Richer Harvest: An Anthology of Work in the Pacific Northwest*. Corvallis, OR: Oregon State University Press, 1999.