



A REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Summer, 2007

### **CCRH Annual Report 2006-2007**

CCRH public programs are funded through a generous endowment from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust in honor of James B. Castles, a founder of the Trust and a strong supporter of public, informal education. In 2006-2007, Center programs also received valuable support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Ray Hickey Foundation, and Humanities Washington.

CCRH awarded the 2006-2007 **Castles Fellowship** to public historian Harry H. Stein to support his research on the Pacific Northwest's aluminum industry and the Bonneville Power Administration. Dr. Stein is the author of several books, most recently *Gus J. Solomon: Liberal Politics, Jews, And the Federal Courts*. In November, Dr. Stein presented his work at Portland State University in a program titled "Fighting for Aluminum and for Itself: The Bonneville Power Administration, 1939-1949." Dr. Stein submitted his work for publication in the *Pacific Historical Review*.

Andrew Fisher, the 2005-2006 Castles fellow and a professor of history at William and Mary published "Invasion of the Boardheads," in the Summer 2007 issue of *Columbia Magazine*. The article is the culmination of his fellowship work.

CCRH continued support of **National History Day**, a year-long history education program for students in grades 6-12. CCRH partnered with the Clark County Historical Society and regional History Day volunteers, led by Battleground School District teacher Irene Soohoo, to offer a history day workshop for teachers in Southwest Washington in the fall of 2006. CCRH presented the 2006 Castles Award in Columbia River Basin History at the Washington State History Day competition in at Green River Community College. Olivia Clements and KayCee Gassaway of River HomeLink received the award in the Junior division for their group documentary, "Indians, The Dalles, and Celilo Falls: Chief Tommy Thompson Takes a Stand Against the Damming of the Columbia River." Shona Voelkers and Megan Gottwald of Stanwood High School received the award in the senior division for their group exhibit, "Wobblies: The IWW Takes a Stand for Free Speech in the Pacific Northwest." CCRH staff also acted as judges and presenters at History Day competitions at the state and regional competitions in Oregon and Washington.

The Center for Columbia River History held a **series of library discussion and lecture programs** on Celilo Falls in partnership with libraries throughout the Columbia Basin. The library programs ran from October through February. The library series featured the documentary *Celilo Falls and the Remaking of the Columbia River*, discussion groups, and author visits. Authors included George Aguilar (*When the River Ran Wild!*), Katrine Barber (*Death of Celilo Falls*), Craig Lesley (*River Song*), and Elizabeth Woody (*Seven Hearts for Seven Hands*). Partnering libraries included the Yakima Valley Regional Library, Wenatchee Library, Goldendale Community Library, Stevenson Community Library, Lewiston

City Library, Neill Public Library in Pullman, Richland Public Library, Vancouver Community Library, White Salmon Community Library, The Dalles Library, and Hood River Library. This series was supported by Humanities Washington.

CCRH supported programs commemorating Celilo Falls at four tribal museums: Tamastlikt Cultural Institute, Yakama Nation Cultural Heritage Center, the Museum at Warm Springs, the Nez Perce National Historical Park. These programs included exhibits and an oral history program. CCRH also supported and participated in commemorative activities held at Celilo Village March 9 and 10, 2007, by its leaders and residents.

On March 17-18, 2007, the Center for Columbia River History held ***Celilo Stories***, a free public conference at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center in The Dalles, Oregon. More than 300 people attended the two-day event. The conference brought together more than 25 anthropologists, archeologists, historians, artists, poets, scholars and Native American elders. Charles Wilkinson, Moses Lasky Professor of Law at the University of Colorado at Boulder and author of *Blood Struggle: The Rise of Modern Indian Nations*, was the keynote speaker. The Center partnered with the Maryhill Museum of Art, which hosted a reception and guided tour of their exhibit, *The Day the Columbia Ran Backward, March 10, 1957*. The conference culminated with a Blessing of the Land ceremony hosted by the Confluence Project at Celilo Park to mark the commencement of an art installation by Maya Lin, part of the larger Confluence Project's effort to install pieces by Lin at seven sites along the Columbia River.

Proceedings from the *Celilo Stories* conference will be published in a **special edition of the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*** in Winter, 2007. CCRH director Katy Barber and William and Mary professor Andrew Fisher are acting as guest editors. In addition, ***Columbia Magazine*** will publish a series of four articles connected to the conference. Carol Craig wrote the inaugural essay, which came out in the Spring 2007 issue. Historian William Robbins and artist Lillian Pitt will pen other pieces. These publications will allow the findings of the Celilo Stories conference to reach an even larger audience.

CCRH held a ***Celilo Stories* teacher workshop** in April with generous support from the Ray Hickey Foundation and the Oregon Historical Society. Twenty-seven teachers from Oregon and Washington participated in the public conference and then came to a one-day workshop at the Vancouver Historic Reserve to discuss how they would implement what they learned at the conference in their classrooms. Teachers worked with master social studies teacher Bill Bigelow, Yakama fisheries specialist Carol Craig and environmental education specialist David Moen.

In partnership with the National Park Service and with support from Destination Pacific and the Washington State Historical Society, CCRH produced the first phase of the **Columbia Pacific Region Special History Study**, a supporting document for the recently created Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Parks. Historians Janice Dilg and Sara Paulson conducted field work and compiled a thematic outline, inventory of resource and bibliography that will provide the foundation for subsequent project phases.

**Additional public lectures** held by the Center for Columbia River History in 2006-2007 included:

- September 2006, Katrine Barber, "Death of Celilo Falls," Clark County Historical Museum.
- November, 2006, Eugene Hunn, "Nch'I-Wana, the Big River: Mid-Columbia Indians and Their Land," Washington State University Vancouver.
- April 2007, George Aguilar, "When the River Ran Wild!," Washington State University Vancouver.
- April 2007, Katrine Barber, "Letters from Celilo," Benson County Historical Society.

The CCRH **website, [ccrh.org](http://ccrh.org)**, got a much-needed update to improve the feel and function of its event and resource pages. Look forward to continued improvements to our extensive online exhibits and community histories in the coming year.

The recently passed Washington Senate Bill 5032, naming Washington State Historical Society as the State's agent at the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, will increase CCRH's contribution to education and programming at the Vancouver Historic Reserve. The Center will continue to hold public programs that explore the themes and topics embodied at the Vancouver Reserve, and state funding will allow half of the CCRH program manager's time to support Washington State Historical Society's role in the Vancouver Reserve partnership.

We look forward to working with Bob Reinhardt, CCRH's third Castles Fellowship recipient. Mr. Reinhardt is a Ph.D. student at University of California, Davis, whose work compares community resistance to the development of dams in Detroit, Oregon, and Hover, Washington, in the 1940s and 1950s. His research will take him to archives at the University of Oregon, the Mid-Columbia Library in Kennewick, and the Army Corps of Engineer's libraries in Portland and Walla Walla. He will present a public program in 2007-2008 at a time and place to be determined.

Next year, we will focus our programs on the impact that flooding, particularly those of 1948, had on communities in the Columbia River Basin.

CCRH continues to be served in 2007-2008 by board members Garry Schalliol (Washington State Historical Society), David Johnson (Portland State University) and Bruce Romanish (Washington State University, Vancouver), as well as Program Manager Mary Wheeler. We will be joined in 2007-2008 by Candice Goucher, Professor of History at WSU Vancouver and a former CCRH board member.

We have appreciated your support in 2006-2007 and look forward to continued work together in the future.

More information about the Center for Columbia River History and about upcoming programs can be found at [ccrh.org](http://ccrh.org).