

Columbia River era relived in early photographs



An Indian family at Seufert, Oregon, near The Dalles pose at Seufert's Cannery in the late 1890's.

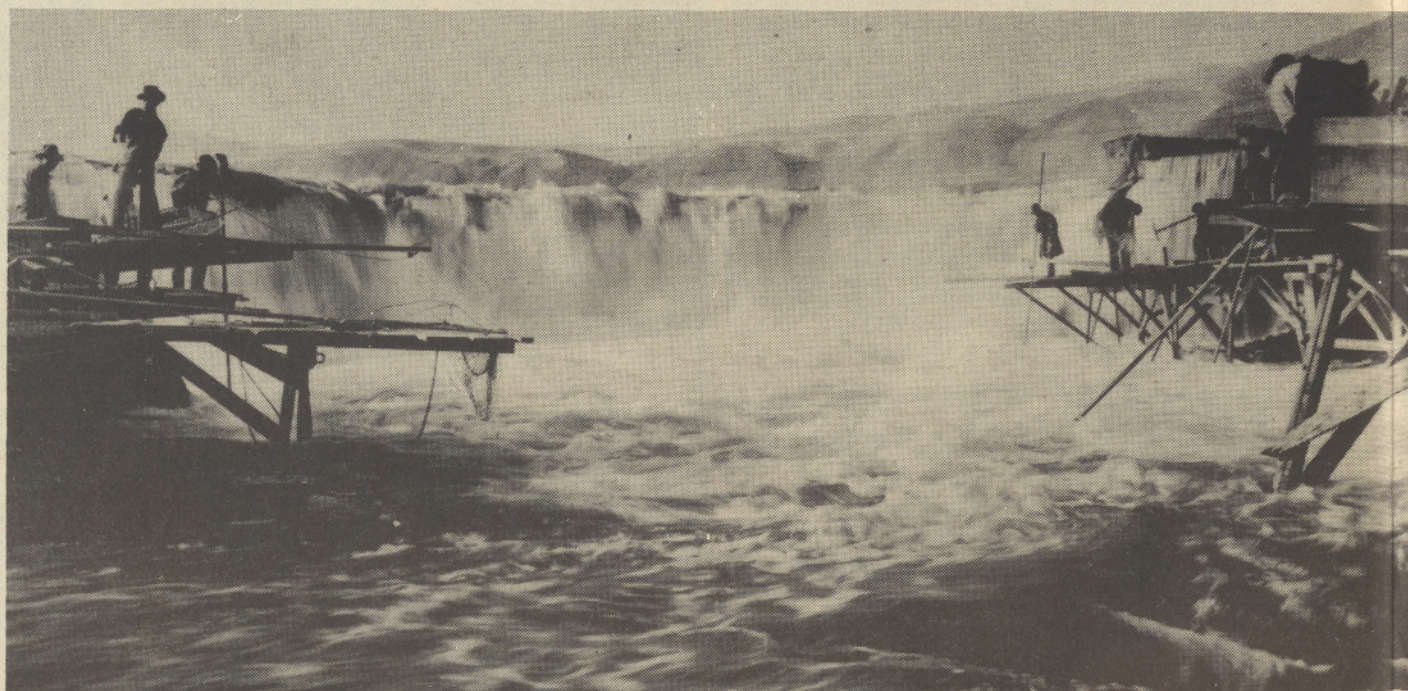


Two Indian women are pictured in front of dwelling at the Indian Village at Celilo Falls, on the Oregon side of the Columbia River. Note the use of tule mats in construction of dwelling.



The Indian village located at The Dalles is pictured before the building of The Dalles Dam.

Photographs courtesy
of MOIHS



Indians fish at Celilo Falls on the Columbia River in 1938. Celilo has since been covered by water with the building of The Dalles Dam.



In 1920, the construction of the Columbia River highway near Big Eddy was through an Indian burial site shown in foreground are Indian artifacts.



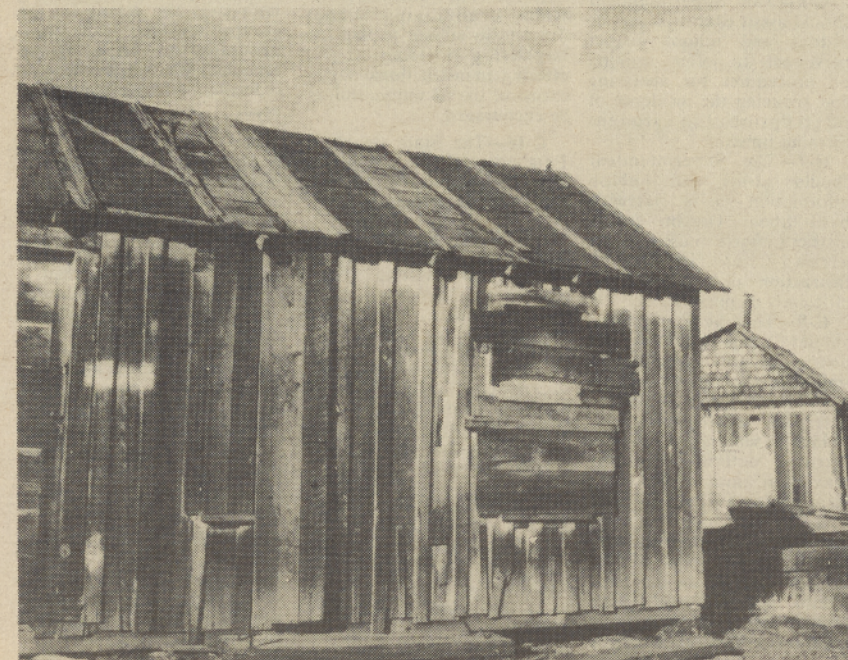
The Wishram Indian Village shown during the era before The Dalles Dam.

by Pat Leno-Baker

The Columbia River, before The Dalles Dam was, for many Indians, the center of their very lives. The river villages became a hub and many times the center of activity with the seasonal runs of salmon. Salmon was a way of life as well as a gift to the Indian people. The importance of salmon is still remembered, in each of the dinners and feasts held at the many Longhouses, through the prayers and blessings of those meals.

Today, the many villages are gone. Gone are the days of trading and bartering of the salmon and gone is the old way of life along the Columbia River as it was once known to the Warm Springs, Yakima, Nez Perce and Umatilla.

Legends are still told by the Elders of the gift of the salmon to the people. Memories are relived by those who were once a part of those years. Pictures can give to the young the visual images of those days. Fortunately, photographers had the foresight to record those villages and special places along the Columbia River.



Sam Williams was the pastor of the Indian Shaker Church at Lone Pine Tree Indian village located near The Dalles.