The opening of the "big ditch" which we are proud to call the "Dalles-Celilo" Canal, is the psychological time to ascertain the origin and meaning of the word "Celilo", and also the name of the person who first gave the name to the upper end of the portage, which was probably about 1863.

During the last six weeks, inquiries have been sent out to those who had an acquaintance with the history of those days, a part of which many of were. The following replies have been received from those whose authority no one would question. These answers come from the oldest inhabitants, earliest steamboat men, settlers, pioneers and historians, and each disclaim any definite knowledge of the new historic name, "Celilo", whether it be of the white man's language, or "Siwash". And thus far "Celilo" and "Oregon" are in the same class, in that no one can say whence they came.

All local Indians all disclaim any knowledge of the word.

Cyrus H. Walker, if the oldest inhabitant. He was born at Whitman Mission near Walla Walla in December, 1838, and was therefore a resident of this country before any of us came. His parents...
were missionaries to the Spokane Indians, whom he lived until 10 years old and knew no other companions. Some years ago, he was for 11 years a government employee on the Warm Springs Reservation, and has kept up his knowledge of Indian languages. He says: "As to the name "Celilo", I can give you no information as to origin or meaning."

A letter from Mrs. Nettie White Scott, of Portland, the daughter of Captain Len. White the first captain of a steam boat on the Columbia River which was in 1850 and the Snake Rivers, and whose home when a child of was at the mouth of the Des Chutes and at Celilo, says neither she nor her mother have any definite about the origin of Celilo.

Mrs. Scott's mother is now Mrs. O. N. Denny of Portland, and is one of the few survivors of the Whitman Massacre of 1847. Captain E. W. Baughman who has been on the river since 1850, and who is, now retired, living at Moscow, Idaho, says; "I can't give you the origin of "Celilo". It is either Indian or "down-east". The first I remember of hearing the name was when a man by the name of Jones, a called it Yankee, took up the land and "Celilo". I think it is the Indian name for the falls."

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Another steamboat man of the first class, is George H. Knaggs, now of Portland, and he was a purser on the river for ages, and he says, "I do not know what the word "Celilo" means, it is an Indian word. The Oregon Steam Navigation Company established and named "Celilo" as the terminus of the Dalles Portage road in 1863. I think that L. W. Coe named the landing "Celilo".

Another purser: contemporary with Geo. H. Knaggs of Portland, is N. B. Engalls, and he says; "I regret that I cannot supply authentic information in regard to the word "Celilo". As well as I have been able to discover, it is an Indian word meaning "Rapid Water".

Major Morehouse of Pendleton, for years Indian agent on the Umatilla Reservation says; "I do not know anything about the origin of the name "Celilo". Why not ask some of the old Wishram Indians?" If it is an Indian name they ought to know the origin and meaning."

Amos Underwood, of Underwood, Washington, now the oldest living settler on the river says; "I don't know the meaning of the word, but it is a Klickitat word. "Celilo", I think is for "falls" or "eddys" or "swift water", but I don't know. Some of the old Indians at Celilo might know. "Turn water" is the Chinook of it."

Among the historians whose replies have been re-
from

ceived, is T. C. Elliot of Walla Walla, who was elected
the historian of the Dalles-Celilo celebration, and he
what Celilo comes from
says, he does not know, but he spent last Monday in the
Old Fort Dalles building looking over the old files of
"The Mountaineer" for that time, looking for any informa-
tion regarding the word; finding none-

Another historian is F. H. Saylor, of Portland, who has
made a specialty of Indian names and legends, says: "I
neither know nor have I been able thus far to find out
from whence the name "Celilo" comes. I have however,
a faint remembrance that some one told me in the long ago,
that it was a corruption of a Wishram Indian word".

Wisham or Wishram is the name of the Indian village
opposite Big Eddy. Another historian is Prof. W. D.
Lyman of Whitman College, the author of a large book
entitled, "The Columbia River and its Tributaries",
and one of the most ardent of the open river men and has
this to say; "I am a seeker after truth, to learn
the meaning and origin of the name "Celilo". I suppose it
to be Indian, but never learned the facts". Geo. H.
Himes, the secretary of the Oregon Historical Society,
says that he had a talk with an Indian many years ago when
at The Dalles, who said the word meant "shifting sands"-
and another Indian said the word came from the Klickitat
people. Mr. Himes has been looking up this word for
many years, and thinks this is most likely to be the
true one.

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An old pioneer of the days when Celilo was first placed on the map, is E. F. Humason now of Portland, who well remembers the story that "Father" Wilbur who was Agent for years Indian at the Yakima Agency, told him.

"Father" Wilbur had the information from Chief Moses that "Celilo" was the name of the big chief of the Indians, called "Dreamers", and that his home was at the falls of the Columbia, now known as "Celilo". Chief Moses had this story from his father, but his home was at Priest Rapids. And the conclusion is not yet.