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“On March 7, 1957, they [the Army Corps of Engineers] closed the concrete gates and the tribal people stood on the side of the hills dressed in regalia and mourning the loss of Celilo Falls. It took seven to eight hours before it was completely flooded over. The people in the village, some of them said we can’t stay here, we don’t want to witness this. And they left. The people that stayed at the village, they said you could hear the wailing and crying because this place was going to be gone. A place that was put there by the Creators for the tribal people. It was devastating. They thought, after that, that we would lay down our fishing equipment and walk away.”

Carol Craig (Yakama), NMAI Interview, August 2016

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There are many stories that chronicle the mournful event of the inundation of Celilo Falls, all bearing witness to the loss of a way of life practiced and cherished for millennia.