

ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

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Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department

Office of the Mayor Records: 1956-1970

Archives staff recently completed processing one of three accessions of mayor's records transferred from the University of Washington to the Seattle Municipal Archives in 2006. The records of the Office of the Mayor, 1956-1970 (record series 5210-01), are fully described to the folder level on the SMA website and in Northwest Digital Archives' regional catalog.

The records are mainly from the terms of Dorm Braman (1964-69) and Gordon Clinton (1956-64), but also include material from Floyd Miller's (1969) brief term, as well as a small amount from the beginning of Wes Uhlman's (1969-1977) time in office.

Documents reflect a wide variety of issues of public interest in the 1960s. Concerns relating to discrimination, open housing, and civil rights are reflected in constituent correspondence. Police Department correspondence shows apprehension about the possibility of riots, and other

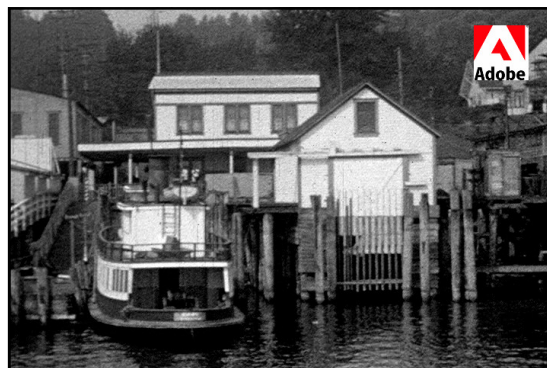
issues, civil defense, police actions and complaints, and engineering projects. The records are a rich resource for researchers wanting to learn more about Seattle during the 1960s.

Moving Images at SMA

In 2005-2006 the Seattle Municipal Archives participated in the Washington Film Preservation Project at the University of Washington. Funded through a Washington Preservation Initiative grant, the project enabled Archives staff to learn more about film preservation and to begin making film available for use.

One of the films preserved and transferred to a digital format during the project was a 1925 Engineering Department film, *Picnic at Fortuna Park*.

Footage includes boatloads of families arriving at Fortuna Park, copious hot dogs, baseball

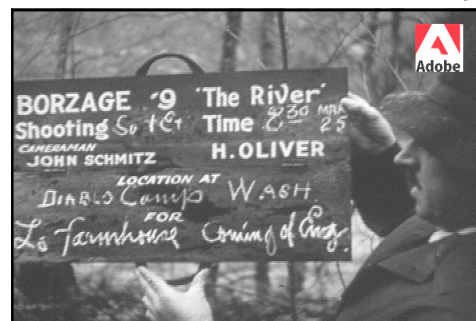


Engineering Department Picnic at Fortuna Park, 1925. From film 506, Seattle Municipal Archives.

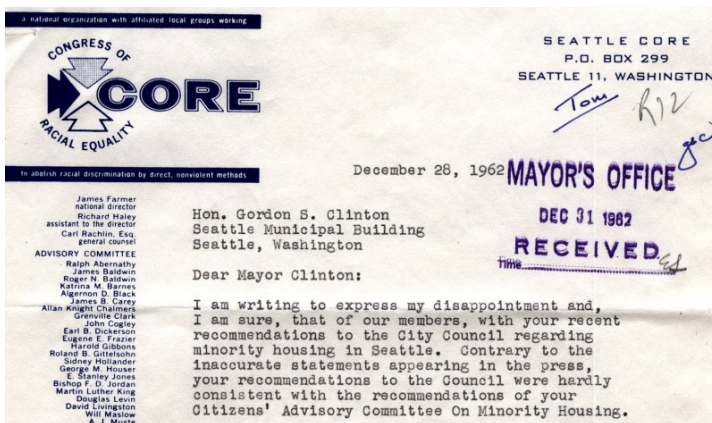
games, other picnic games, and many women and children.

After the Film Preservation Project concluded,

Seattle City Light enabled the Archives staff to focus its film work on City Light film by funding a six-month project.



Two early films apparently shot by film maker Frank Borzage, possibly for *The River*, were among the exciting finds in the film transferred in the City Light project. The Borzage footage, 1928-1930, includes a shot of J. D. Ross and early Diablo Dam construction. Films 432 and 433, Seattle Municipal Archives.



CORE to Mayor Clinton, December 28, 1962. Folder "Minority Housing 1962," Box 14. Seattle Office of the Mayor Records, 5210-01. Seattle Municipal Archives.

files document the discussion surrounding the Human Rights Commission and its work.

Transportation is another topic covered in depth. Efforts to improve transportation at the city and state level are documented in correspondence regarding the transit system and METRO, parking issues downtown, I-5, the Lake Washington Bridge, I-90, the R.H. Thomson Expressway, and downtown transportation planning.

Other topics covered include the 1962 World's Fair, urban renewal, environmental

The staff was able to preserve and transfer about 50 films, including productions such as *Search for Power*, *Million Horsepower Skagit* and *Skagit Adventure*. Also included is footage of a 1961 tour of the Skagit, shots of women employees in a 1950 office setting using billing machines, and a 1955 Range Service Safety Meeting.

Recent use of the digitized film includes a high school student using Skagit footage for his senior project, and 1970s Pike Place Market footage included in a market centennial celebration piece.

SEATTLE CHANNEL - "History in Motion"

The Seattle Channel will present a number of films from the Municipal Archives this summer as part of a series called "History In Motion." The series begins June 11 and will air Monday nights at 8:00 pm on cable 21 in the city, with streaming video and video on demand available at seattlechannel.org. "History In Motion" will feature documentaries, films from the Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI) collection, and City films such as "The Bombing of Seattle" (a civil defense film from 1943); "Skagit Adventure" and "Million Horsepower Skagit" (1940s and 50s films about hydroelectric power); and a silent film (complete with decorative titles) of the "Engineering Department Picnic at Fortuna Park" from the 1920s. For more information about "History In Motion," please visit seattlechannel.org.

One Hundred Years Ago

Ballard was annexed to the City in May 1907, more reluctantly than some of the other small towns. 1907 was also the year the Pike Place Market was established. That same year, Ballard citizens lobbied, and were granted, permission for a market in Ballard to be located on the East End of Block 67 or the West End of Block 166, Gilman Park, which translates to either the east or west side of 15th Ave NW between NW 48th and 49th Streets. Whether or not the market was ever established is unclear.

The reasons for wanting a market were many, although primarily economic. The petitioners gave the following reasons:

1st. Accessibility of produce and consumer by both Seattle Electric and Everett Interurban lines.

2nd. Accessibility to harbor and incentive to build up an inland fleet.

3rd. This locality will serve a much larger field and draw outside people into Ballard.

4th. We believe principal business streets should be reserved for modern business blocks and be the means of the upbuilding of our city.

5th. By choosing either of the above sites the producer can ship on early morning car, leave his team and man home (which is worth \$5.00 to

\$6.00 per day to him), and his son, wife or daughter could sell his produce and thereby could sell to us cheaper than where he must use his team or hire one, and thereby save to himself more money and his work goes on at home without interruption."

Comptroller File 33037, September 17, 1907
1802-01, Seattle Municipal Archives.

Recently Cataloged Photographs Hanukkah Eve Wind Storm Photos

The Seattle Municipal Archives has received photographs from Seattle City Light documenting damage and repair work from the massive December 14 & 15 windstorm. Named *The Hanukkah Eve Windstorm of 2006* by the National Weather Service, gusts reached 69 mph at SeaTac Airport, and power was knocked out for half of City Light's system, about 175,000 customers. City Light employees worked 58,000 hours, answered 36,000 customer calls, removed 500 downed trees and replaced 267 poles, 98 transformers and 34 miles of wire while restoring service.



City Light Crew Repairing Wind Storm Damaged Lines from Fallen Tree. E. Madison St. and 37th Ave. E., December 17, 2006. Item 152772

This series includes 89 photos of post-storm damage and repair work at Queen Anne, Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Burien and Madison Park. These pictures may be viewed via the Archives Photograph Index by typing *2006 Hanukkah Eve Windstorm* into the *Enter Search Terms* box.

Seattle City Light Dispatcher marking board after wind storm, Dec. 17, 2006. Item 152770



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