

ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

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Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department

Out of the Archives

We regularly receive reference requests asking for records from the Seattle Police Department, although our records from that department are limited. So we were excited to receive a recent accession from the SPD with historical records dating back to the early 1900s.

The records contain photographs depicting Seattle Police Department officers and events, mostly group portraits.

Groups include police sub-units, motorcycle squadrons, patrol groups from the 1910s, and the police band. Many photos are unlabeled, but we estimate they date from the 1910s and 1920s.

Photos from the accession have been digitized and are available online [here](#).

A [1919 group photo](#) from the accession has already been featured in a [King5 Evening story](#) exploring the history of prohibition in Seattle. The story focuses on officer-turned-bootlegger Roy Olmstead, who served with the police department until he was arrested in 1920 and subsequently fired from the force. Olmstead can be seen in the 1919 photo (below) in the second row from the bottom, seated eighth from the left.

We're continuing to process the records and look forward to sharing more finds!



[Item 196334](#), Second Patrol Seattle Police Department, 1919.
(Detail of Roy Olmstead at right.)
Seattle Police Department Photographs
(Series 6401-05), SMA.



Accession of records from SPD, August 2021.

New! E-Learning Courses

Check out our short e-learning courses to find out more about the Seattle Municipal Archives and how to search and access our collections. Currently there are five courses available, with more to come.

Topics include: Introduction to the Archives; Searching for Records in the Archives; Visiting the Archives; All About the Photo Archives; and Searching the City's Historical Web. Choose depending on your interest, or take all five!

Courses are free and generally take about 10-15 minutes, and are all available on the [SMA website](#).



Archives Month

October is American Archives Month! In Washington State, the theme is: Reconnect, Converge, Rediscover. Here at SMA, we'll be launching a series of brief video features with SMA archivists sharing some of our favorite records from the collections. And we'll be participating the annual social media event Ask An Archivist Day on October 13th, where we'll take to [Instagram](#) to answer any and all questions about archives and archives work.

We're also excited to be participating in our first in-person event since the start of the pandemic. Celebrating both Archives Month and Family History Month, SMA will be participating in [The Root of It All](#) at MOHAI, exploring family and community history on October 9 from 11am-3pm. Also at MOHAI (taking place online), SMA's Audiovisual Archivist Libby Hopfauf will be a panelist at the History Café talk exploring [The Teen Dance Ordinance and Youth Political Action](#) on October 20 from 6:30-7:30pm.

Find more Archives Month events in your area and throughout the state at the [Washington State Archives Month Committee website](#).

Newly Processed Collections

Among the new collections now cataloged and available for research are those documenting activities at City Light, the Office of Policy and Management, the Parks Department, and Woodland Park Zoo.

Facility and Exhibit Planning Records

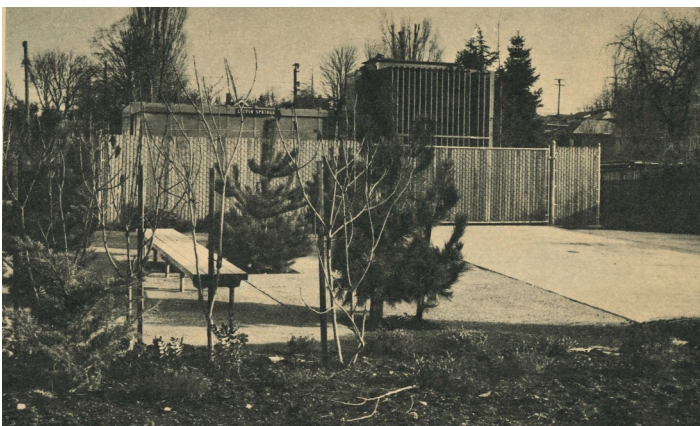
(Series 8630-03) document the development of, and the public's response to, the 1976 Zoo Master Plan and its later refinements. Spanning 1967-2005, the files include maps and diagrams, budget charts, correspondence, memos, contracts, meeting minutes, reports, some news coverage, and publicity materials. **Staff Information Files (Series 8601-12)** date from 1925-1991 and contain records kept by and about zoo personnel. Materials include news articles, photos, academic papers, memos, correspondence, and administrative records.

Immigrant and Refugee Engagement Records (Series 6330-02) are from the Office of Policy and Management and relate to outreach for immigrants and refugees in Seattle. Records cover 2002-2009 and include reports, memos, policies, and lists of relevant community groups, reflecting the program's goal to promote full and active participation of immigrant and refugee communities in Seattle's civic, economic, and cultural life.

Distribution Planning Records (Series 1207-04) date from 1956 to 1977 and are records from a City Light unit that planned and designed transmission and distribution infrastructure. Files include information on neighborhood substations as well as utility planning for the Seattle University area and the Pike Place Market redevelopment.



Woodland Park Zoo brochure, 1980. Box 3 Folder 4, Series 8630-03, SMA.



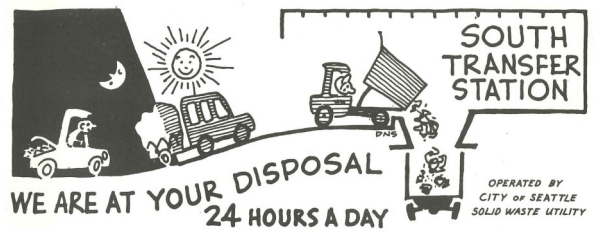
Licton Springs Substation at N. 92nd St. and Wallingford Ave, 1960. Box 1 Folder 3, Series 1207-04, SMA.

(collections, cont'd)

Mayor's Office Correspondence (Series 6300-04) document Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR) interactions with the Mayor's Office from 2002-2016. One subseries consists of briefings for the mayor on issues and events related to OPM and OIR's work. The second subseries is correspondence relating to constituent letters on OPM/OIR functions. Issues cover a range of development and planning topics, including annexations, the Pike Place Market, and the possibility of opening Boeing Field to passenger airlines.

Queen Anne Recreation Advisory Council Records (Series 5809-06) date from 1964-1987 and contain information about various advisory councils connected to the Queen Anne Community Center. Records include correspondence and meeting materials covering the establishment of the West Queen Anne Recreation Center Advisory Council, and subsequent name changes to the Queen Anne Community Center Advisory Council and then the Queen Anne Recreation Advisory Council.

Solid Waste Subject Files (Series 2624-02) relate to the work of the Engineering Department's Solid Waste Division. A subset of earlier files contains information on solid waste disposal and rates over time, as well as memos from division manager Harvey Mashinter. Other folders in the series date mostly from the late 1980s and deal with planning and operations of the division at that time.



Detail of South Transfer Station informational flyer, circa 1972. Box 1 Folder 1, Series 2624-02, SMA.

Volunteer Update

While our volunteer program has mostly been on hiatus during the pandemic, a few volunteers have been assisting us remotely.

Hannah Davenport has been cataloging published documents from afar, adding dozens of previously inaccessible reports and studies to our Digital Collections site. Joshua Schaiyer has added captions to 29 video recordings, a time-consuming task that greatly increases the accessibility of the videos. Maggie Harrison has been doing a stellar job of providing transcriptions for audio events to improve their usability, starting with recordings on Seattle Voices.

We're grateful for their assistance during our office closure, and are looking forward to seeing volunteers in person again when office protocols permit!

Recently Processed Photos

Newly digitized and cataloged photos from the Woodland Park Zoo Photograph Collection (Series 8640-01) are now available to view and download on our Digital Collections site. Images date from the early 1900s to the 2000s and document a wide variety of scenes and activities at the zoo, such as Pony Club outings during the 1940s, zoo staff and visitors, buildings and exhibits, and postcards featuring animals and views of the park's landscaped grounds.



Woodland Park Zoo Pony Club, circa 1940s.
[Image 196494](#), Series 8640-01, SMA.



Woodland Park Zoo Pony Club, 1940s estimated.
[Image 196509](#), Series 8640-01, SMA.



African Lion, Woodland Park Zoo postcard, 2003.
[Image 196474](#), Series 8640-01, SMA.



Zoo Director Gus Knudson with elephant at Woodland Park, 1920s estimated.
[Image 196421](#), Series 8640-01, SMA.

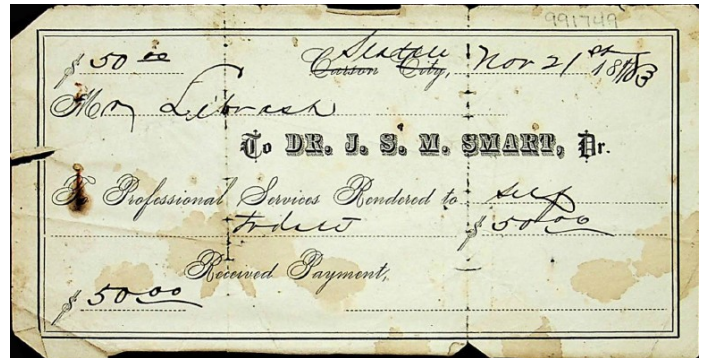
(Photos, cont.)



Primate House, 1911. [Image 196451](#), Series 8640-01 SMA.

138 Years Ago: Medical Bill

[General File 991749](#) includes an 1883 petition from Anthony Lebrache to City Council. The letter explained that Lebrache was a member of Engine Company No. 1, and that two weeks prior he had been seriously injured while assisting in fighting a fire. He described how he had gotten his right hand caught in the chain of the hose cart, thus smashing the third finger. The injury was so severe that it required amputation.



General File 991749, November 23, 1883.
City Clerk General Files (Series 1802-04), SMA.

In its earliest days, the city had no established fire protection. In 1883, the City Charter created a fire department and provided for engines and other equipment but not personnel, instead relying on volunteer fire fighters.

Therefore Lebrache, although part of an engine company, was not a city employee at the time of his accident. He sent City Council a copy of the receipt for the \$50 he paid the surgeon and asked the City to cover the bill. He noted that he was "a poor man, engaged when well in driving an express wagon in this city," and that his accident had prevented him from earning a living for the past two weeks and "for some time to come."

The Council's Committee on Finance recommended that City funds be used to pay the bill. It was not until after Seattle's Great Fire of 1889 that the City professionalized its fire department, adding five district fire stations, a fire boat, and a paid workforce.

YouTube and Flickr News

Popular with our Flickr followers is this recently posted image of a Rainbow Ambulance from SMA's Consumer Protection Photographs—Weights and Measures collection.



[Image 191592](#), Series 2705-03, SMA.

A recently posted video to [SMA's YouTube channel](#) features a Veteran's Day tribute to Japanese American veterans of WWII, which includes a video presentation documenting the work of the Densho Project.



[Item 7376](#), Series 3902-01, SMA.

Be sure to follow us for new content posted regularly on [Flickr](#), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), and [Pinterest](#)!

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SMA in the News

Records held by SMA were used to inform a [recent Seattle Times story](#) about the efforts of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church to reclaim land that was sold to the City in 1969 for urban renewal projects. SMA holds many materials relating to urban renewal in Seattle, including textual records, photographs, maps, and audio-visual records. [Another recent story](#) from the South Seattle Emerald on the gentrification of the Central District includes a photo from SMA's collections.

A recent [MyNorthwest article](#) about a Seattle property up for sale that includes a "forgotten roadside landmark" features an SMA photo showing the former gasoline station structure at 7th and Dexter.

Several SMA photos have been used to illustrate articles for the regular "Between Two Pines" column published by UW Daily News, chronicling the history and ecological restoration of various green spaces around UW and the Seattle area. Recent articles in the series include a piece on [wildfires and digital hikes](#), [Meadowcreek Pond and the Thornton Creek Watershed area](#), [Discovery Park](#), and an article on [parks stewardship](#) featuring both photos and a video from SMA collections.

105 Years Ago: Fremont Bridge



Fremont Bridge under construction on October 31, 1916.

[Image 1106](#), Series 2613-07, SMA.

Upcoming Events

October 9: [The Root of It All: Family, Culture, and Community](#). MOHAI, 11am-3pm.

October 20: [History Café: The Teen Dance Ordinance and Youth Political Action](#). MOHAI (online event), 6:30-7:30pm.

November 14: Moving History at Northwest Film Forum. In-person at 4:30pm (NWFF reserves the right to switch to virtual if circumstances change. Check the [NWFF website](#) for updates.)