

ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

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Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department

Message from the City Archivist

There is no question that my job is fun. And sometimes it contains the element of surprise. Such was the case a couple of months ago when a private citizen brought in eight linear feet of records and artifacts from administration of Mayor Allan Pomeroy.

The surprise is that no one had any idea that Pomeroy records still existed. The fun is handling “found” materials and taking stock of the content. But first, some background.

Pomeroy was a lawyer who spent much of his legal career in public service, including six years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney and four years as a Superior Court Judge prior to his election as Seattle’s 47th mayor. In 1948, he lost a run for Seattle Mayor to three-term incumbent William Devin; four years later, he narrowly defeated Devin, receiving 50.8 percent of the vote.

Although Seattle elections are non-partisan, the 1952 race divided along party lines. Pomeroy was a Democrat; Devin was part of Governor Arthur Langlie’s Republican machine...albeit a progressive machine.

Pomeroy served just one term as mayor. He was defeated in 1956 by the 35-year old Gordon S. Clinton.

When I became City Archivist in 1985, one of my first tasks was determining the location of mayors’ records. Charles Royer was Mayor at the time. The records of his three predecessors—Wes Uhlman, Dorm Braman, and Gordon Clinton—were at the University of Washington (and subsequently transferred back to the City). No one had a clue regarding the whereabouts of Pomeroy’s records.

To say the least, I was surprised and delighted when these records came to light. Going through them has confirmed what I have noted many times: issues that go around tend to come around. Among the records are files related to the:

- Advisory Committee on Police Practices appointed by Pomeroy to investigate allegations of police brutality, especially targeting members of the Central Area’s Black community.
- Maritime Advisory Committee formed to study labor/management issues on Seattle’s waterfront and to ensure the free flow of commerce through the Port.
- Minority Employment Committee to advise the Mayor on solutions to the chronic unemployment issues facing Seattle’s minority communities.

Message cont.

- Juvenile Advisory Committee whose objectives were to suggest ways the City could support education programs and fight juvenile delinquency.

(You might notice that these issues, perhaps couched in slightly different language, seem to reappear throughout our history.)

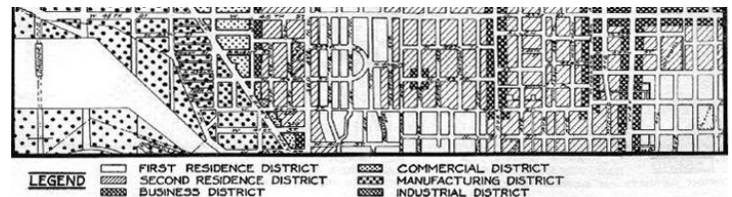
Also documented in this collection is the Second Annual Japan-American Pacific Mayor’s Conference which was held in Seattle in 1953, just eight years after the end of World War II; Pomeroy’s planned visit to Nevada to witness a nuclear bomb test; and several files documenting his participation with other U.S. mayors in a 1953 trip to Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel (just five years after the War of Independence). Among the records of the Middle East trip is a 32-page script for a presentation he gave several times about the trip.

This has been quite the gift. And there are more Pomeroy records that will be delivered to the Archives in the near future. This job just keeps getting better and better.

—Scott Cline

New Research Guide: Land Use and Zoning

[A new research guide](#) is available, providing researchers with an overview of key changes in the land use and zoning codes. Largely the work of Office of the City Clerk staff member Janet Polata, with contributions from Archives staff, the guide is a starting point for researching a complicated process.



1923 Zoning Map Legend

The guide provides dates of key ordinances, traces the relationship between the zoning code and the land use code, and offers resources useful for further research.

55 Years Ago: Anti-Litter Campaign

On February 23, 1960, City Council passed an ordinance defining “litter.” The City began providing public receptacles and requiring the public to use them, but enforcing the law remained problematic throughout the 1960s.

Buoyed by the “Keep America Beautiful” campaign by the National Public Service Organization for the Prevention of Litter, the Mayor corresponded with Detroit, New York and other cities regarding how they enforced their anti-litter laws and how they raised money to beautify their cities. “Keep America Beautiful” also created teachers’ guides for both elementary schools (“Nobody Loves a Litterbug!”) and high school (“It’s Everybody’s Job!”).



Education materials by “Keep America Beautiful.” Box 38, Folder 11, Office of the Mayor Subject Files, Record Series 5210-01.

Signs were posted to enforce the litter law. By the end of 1961 over 500 litter receptacles had been installed, heavily concentrated in the downtown area.



Installation of “No Litter” sign at University Way and NE 47th, April 24, 1961.

Item 67974, Seattle Municipal Archives

Anti-Litter (cont)



Seattle Beautiful, Inc., a citizens’ group, adopted Pelican Pete as their mascot. 5210-01, 37/2, SMA

In 1964 Mayor Braman wrote an open letter to the Police Chief requesting that police ticket offenders in anticipation of Seafair. Dag’s Drive-In created a press kit, and TV spots to “Fight Litter” were run during cartoon shows. Enforcing the litter law continued to be a problem in 1968. A Mrs. Neukirch wrote Mayor Braman suggesting that “...if we could do something about the litter business we would solve a lot of our problems.” She suggested deputizing bus drivers to give tickets to litterers, arguing that because their seat was “so high up” they could see better. The Mayor thanked her for her suggestions.

New Images: Sister Cities and WTO

In 1994, the Office of International Affairs held a public program called “A World of Magic” allowing Seattle’s citizens to explore more than twenty Sister City relationships. Slides from the program were recently cataloged and digitized to allow access via the Photo Archives online catalog. From Europe to Asia, New Zealand to South America, Indonesia to Uzbekistan, 88 images from 18 Sister Cities highlight the cultural exchange embodied by this program in such elements as agriculture, houses of worship, athletic arenas, parades, education, transportation, civic institutions, street scenes, and more.



Taejeon, Korea, 1989. [Item 176970](#), Seattle Municipal Archives

(Photographs cont.)

Images from Mayor Uhlman's records, 5287-04, were also scanned and include some international visits as well as local events.



Mayor Wes Uhlman tours Jerusalem, 1971.
Item [176849](#), *Seattle Municipal Archives*



Mayor Wes Uhlman testifying in Olympia on "Save our Buses," 1973.
Item [176814](#), *Seattle Municipal Archives*

Black and white as well as color images of the World Trade Organization protests in 1999, from the Fleets and Facilities Imagebank record series, were added to the online database.



Mounted police and WTO protesters, Nov. 29, 1999.

Item [176734](#),
Seattle Municipal Archives

WTO protesters on 7th Avenue, Nov. 29, 1999.

Item [176886](#),
Seattle Municipal Archives



New *Seattle Voices*: [Women's Shelter](#)

Listen to testimony from May 15, 1975, regarding Jeanette Williams' proposal for a shelter for victims of domestic violence. The voices of Melissa Thompson from Seattle King County NOW, Tamara Turner from the Freedom Socialist Party and Frances Johnson from the Salvation Army are featured.

Interns and Volunteers

We are thrilled that long-time volunteer Jessica Jones got a job at the Museum of Flight, although sad to see her leave us.

Johanna Kiciman ended her volunteer stint in order to focus on school and job hunting, but completed textual processing projects and research for a housing exhibit before she left.

Hailey Galper also finished up her work with us and is starting the archives graduate program at Western Washington University this fall.

Maris Sovold continues working on an inventory of a large collection of Woodland Park Zoo photographs.

Alicia Schofield is continuing her good work with our published documents collection and a large series of LID records.

Jennifer Woodfield processed a set of photos from the WTO protests, and is also working on digitizing textual records.

Libby Hopfauf is hard at work with both audio and video digitization projects.

New volunteer Cass McQueen has been working on processing Central Staff records and digitizing 19th century General Files.

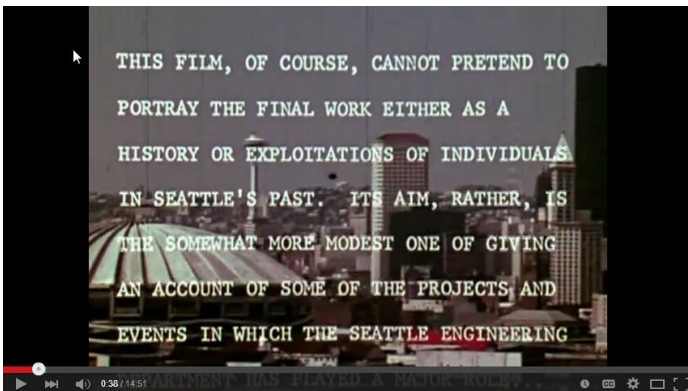
YouTube and Flickr News

The most popular image on SMA's Flickr site in the past three months is a 1968 aerial view of downtown and the waterfront.



Aerial of waterfront and downtown, 1968
Item 78786, Seattle Municipal Archives

The most popular item on YouTube was "Picture of a Young City," a promotional film created by the Seattle Engineering Department in 1976.



"Seattle: Picture of a Young City," 1976.
Item 3165, Seattle Engineering Department Moving Images (Record Series 2613-09), Seattle Municipal Archives

Seattle Municipal Archives

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48 Years Ago: Loitering

In 1967, City Council was considering what was referred to as the "loitering law." The ordinance would make it unlawful "to loiter or prowl in a place, at a time, or in a manner, and under circumstances that manifest an unlawful purpose or warrant alarm for the safety of persons or property in the vicinity." Examples of suspicious behavior included "flight by the actor upon appearance of a peace officer, refusal to identify himself, or manifestly endeavoring to conceal himself or any object." Any person deemed suspicious should not be arrested without being given an opportunity, "if practicable under the circumstances," to explain his or her presence.

After reading a newspaper article about the proposed ordinance, Seattle resident Patrick Nesser wrote [a strongly worded letter](#) to the Council expressing his opposition. He began by saying that he had previously made verbal comments "during the 'Garbage Crisis,' 'the Go-Go fiasco,' 'the Namu in the Center mess,' 'the Timothy Leary ban,' and 'the Light Show comedy routine,'" but that he had never before submitted written comment on an issue before the Council. He asked Councilmembers in this case to "be careful before you have another 'mess' on your hands."

Nesser wrote that he understood the police chief's interest in reducing the crime rate in the city, saying he shared that concern himself – "but I must say an ordinance such as is proposed is not only legally unconstitutional, but morally is a 'black eye' to any so-called 'forward-looking' metropolitan area. Who is to say when or how a person looks 'suspicious'? A patrolman, who after all is human first and a police officer second – subject to all the prejudices and emotional responses as the rest of us?"

In addition to Nesser's letter, the Council also [received a petition](#) signed by 36 citizens opposed to the bill. The petition stated that "every American has a constitutional right to just stand around or walk around without a purpose, and without having to give any account of himself to police." Despite these protests, and those of many who attended a public hearing on the bill, the Council went on to pass the law, which became [Ordinance 95876](#).

Upcoming Events

September 29: AKCHO Meeting, NARA Sand Point Way,
10AM-12PM

October 12-13: SAA [Digital Forensics Workshop](#)

November 18-21: Association of Moving Images Conference,
Portland