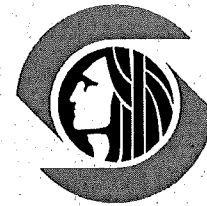


ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

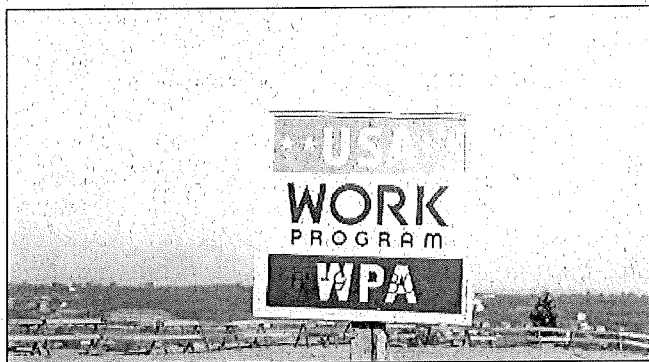
Number 16 Winter 2004

Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department

Document Library

In cooperation with middle school staff in the Shoreline School District, Seattle Municipal Archives staff constructed a website to support the study of Washington State History through primary source documents.

Currently, four topics are supported on the site: Seattle's Great Fire, Hoovervilles and the Great Depression, the New Deal, Unemployment, and WPA, and the World Trade Organization in Seattle. Each topic is supported by background information, a bibliography, a "library" of primary source documents, and in some cases, photographs. Digital representations of primary sources are provided on the web.



West Seattle Golf Course, 1936 Item 30626
Seattle Municipal Archives

The Document Library offers students an opportunity to read words from those participating in the historical events which they are studying. Whether it is the voice of the unemployed or that of a WPA administrator, words written at the time the events happened bring the events to life for students.

The Archives hopes to work cooperatively with other institutions and include primary sources from a variety of repositories in the document library.

Resources for teachers are also included on the site. The project which inspired the document library, "Washington State Historical Newspaper Project," is accessible on the site; other resources are welcome.

Information about primary sources and links to other repositories with primary sources are also available on the site. The website address is available on the Archives website at the top under "New Resource."

Northwest Digital Archives Site Debuts

Detailed descriptions of over 100 Seattle Municipal Archives records series have been entered into a regional database housed at Washington State University. The finding aids, along with those of twelve other northwest archival institutions can be searched via the internet at <http://nwda.wsulibs.wsu.edu>

The development of this catalog is the product of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to the Northwest Digital Archives (NWDA) consortium. The NWDA catalog includes nearly 2200 finding aids for important research collections on the history of the Pacific Northwest.

Among the SMA finding aids are guides to Seattle Model City Records, several former City Council Members' records, the Don Sherwood Parks History Collection, Pike Place Market Records, the records of the six small towns annexed to Seattle between 1905-1910, fifteen small photograph collections, annual reports from past and present City agencies, tax rolls from the 1870s, Board of Police Commissioners Minutes (1890-1896), and many other important record series.

The work on the SMA portion of the consortium grant was conducted by project archivist, Shannon Lynch, a graduate of the University of Washington Information School. Lynch was hired for six months. The original SMA proposal was to submit 53 finding aids, but Lynch was able to encode nearly twice that number during the grant period. Besides encoding finding aids for web presentation, she developed a procedures manual that will be used by Archives staff for future submissions to the NWDA database.

Other members of the NWDA consortium include University of Idaho, Montana Historical Society, University of Montana, Oregon Historical Society, Oregon State University, University of Oregon, Center for Pacific Northwest Studies, Pacific Lutheran University, University of Washington, Washington State University, Washington State Archives, and Whitworth College.

100 Years Ago

"Communication from Mrs. Platt, Secretary W.C.T.U., in regard to enforcing the curfew ordinance, read and placed on file: Marshal reported it almost impossible to enforce curfew law, unless a city jail was built. On Motion and 2nd the Street Committee was authorized to have a jail erected, not to exceed in cost \$99.99."

City of Columbia City Council Minutes, December 5, 1904. Record Series 9112-01

Glass Negatives

The Archives recently completed a project to preserve its 1500 fragile glass plate negatives. The photographic negatives on 6x8 inch glass include images of the Cedar River Watershed, pipeline construction, public buildings such as the old Carnegie Library and Seattle firehouses, construction of Smith Tower, street scenes throughout the downtown area, among others.

The project included creation of a positive transparency that serves as an archival copy of the image, a copy negative that will be used for scanning or printing the photograph, and a contact print. The lab work was completed by Crux Conservation, a small local contractor that has done high quality preservation work for northwest archives and libraries for several years.

Particularly exciting is the duplication of 58 broken glass negatives that were previously unusable due to their condition. Crux fitted the broken pieces together as tightly as possible. Although the break lines are visible in the images, the information content is now available to researchers. These images will be scanned and added to the Archives Photograph Database during the month of January.

Newly Processed: Yesler-Atlantic Neighborhood Improvement Photographs

Dating from 1961, over 300 black and white images depicting primarily residential but some commercial buildings in the Central District. The majority of images are from the Atlantic and Leschi neighborhoods. The photographs were taken as part of a survey of the neighborhood and planning effort.

The City approved an urban renewal project in the Yesler-Atlantic neighborhood in 1959 but

the federal funding and plan approvals were not secured until 1966 and work did not begin until 1968. By 1973, 42 homes had been rehabilitated, new complexes had been constructed, and a new park completed.

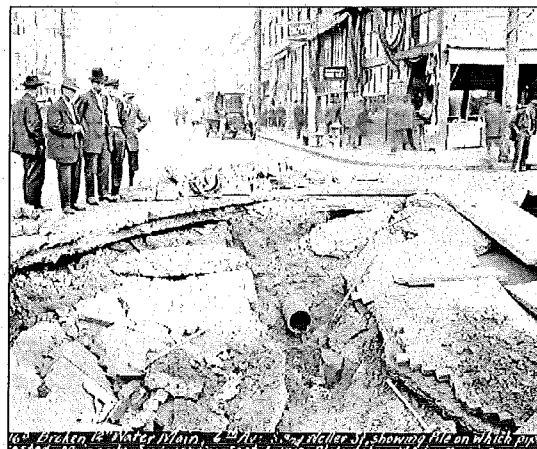
The guide is available in the new Northwest Digital Archives database, and the images in the collection are available in the Archives Photographs Database using the records series, 1627-04, as a search term..



922 25th Ave So., 1961. Record Series 1627-04 Item 49547

Recently Cataloged Photographs

Staff recently scanned and cataloged photographs from the Seattle Water Department dating from 1910 to the 1930s. Many images are of water main breaks in a variety of places around the City. Other images are of the Cedar River Watershed and of work on the Beacon Hill and Maple Leaf reservoirs. Work rebuilding portions of the Cedar River Pipelines is documented through these images as well. Water department photographer George Chew appears in some of the images. Chew worked for the Water Department from 1907 to 1947.



Broken water main at 6th Ave. S. and Weller St.

Oct. 7, 1918

Item: 49313

Seattle Municipal Archives

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