

ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

Number 17 Summer 2005

Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department

20th Anniversary of the Seattle Municipal Archives

Earlier this year the Seattle Municipal Archives quietly celebrated its 20th anniversary. The Archives was established in 1985 with a two-year grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). The grant went into effect February 14, but an archivist was not hired until March 25. Scott Cline, then Archivist of the Cleveland Jewish Archives at the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, Ohio, was hired with the responsibility to develop the Seattle program. He has been the City Archivist ever since.

The future of the Archives was by no means clear in the mid-1980s; the Office of Management and Budget removed the program from the City budget in three consecutive years. However, lobbying by the local heritage community and a friendly City Council reinstated the Archives in each instance. In 1989 the Archives won the prestigious C.F.W. Coker Award from the Society of American Archivists for its publication of *A Guide to the Archives of the City of Seattle*. The national Award honors the best finding aid published during the previous year. The Archives has since been recognized as one of the most prominent local government archives in the United States.

Since coming to Seattle, Cline has been active regionally and nationally in the archives profession and is currently president of the Academy of Certified Archivists, the profession's national certifying association. In 1999, the Archives hired its second professional archivist, Anne Frantilla who came to Seattle from the Bentley Library at the University of Michigan.

The Archives is administratively situated in the Office of the City Clerk. The Clerk and the Archives were part of the Office of the Comptroller until 1992, when a City Charter amendment moved the City Clerk to the Legislative Department.

In 2003, the Archives moved into the new Seattle City Hall after 18 years in the old Municipal Building. The new facility includes two archives vaults, freezer and refrigeration units for special media (to be completed in August 2005), a spacious processing room, and a bright and pleasant research room.

City Hall Plaza Opening and Time Capsule

The Seattle Municipal Archives coordinated collection of materials and packing of the City Hall time capsule that was buried as part of the City Hall Civic Plaza dedication. The City Hall capsule has a short time horizon, as time capsules go. The capsule will be opened in 50 years as part of what current City Council President Jan Drago hopes will be a rededication of the City Hall.

The time capsule is a piece of collective memory, a slice of time locked away to be released in 2055 that will help tell a some future generation something of what makes us who we are in 2005.

The approach to gathering time capsule materials focused on three things: 1) City government (this is after all a time capsule for City Hall), 2) a small representation of the City as a whole, 3) and a look backward into Seattle's history in order to bring some of the past to the future.

Among the materials buried are: letters from elected officials and City department directors to their future counterparts; historical and contemporary photographs of elected officials, Seattle's city halls, Pike Place Market, Smith Tower; sports memorabilia including an autographed photo of Ichiro breaking major league baseball single season base hit records and a Seattle Storm t-shirt signed by all of the players; items from the Wing Luke Asian Museum and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; selected examples of modern digital and magnetic media.

A complete list of items will be placed in the time capsule. The list will also be sent to the International Time Capsule Society, and preserved in the Seattle Municipal Archives.

The time capsule is a 12x12x14 inches bolted, waterproof metal box. All materials placed inside have been wrapped or sleeved in archival materials. The box will also contain oxygen absorbers and silica gel packets (moisture absorbers) to create an environment conducive to long-term preservation.

50 Years Ago

Construction on Evans Pool at Green Lake was completed in 1955 and a dedication ceremony held on February 11. Mayor Pomeroy, Park board

members and Park Department employees were there, with Roosevelt and Lincoln High School Moonlighters Swing Band performing. Among other events at the pool opening was a comedy diving exhibition by the Husky Swim club. Entrance fees when the pool opened were 10, 25 and 35 cents for children, youth and adults.



Evans Pool Construction, 5802-09, Box 1 Folder 4.

Over 50,000 signatures were gathered in 1952 in support of a pool at Green Lake. Voters approved a money for the Green Lake pool in a Park Department bond in 1952 and ground was



Evans Pool, 1955 Item 29161

broken in 1954. Designed by Lamont & Fey, unique features of the pool at the time were port-holes allowing underwater viewing of swimmers. The pool was named "Evans Pool" in honor of Ben and Lou Evans, Recreation Directors of the Parks Department.

More Annexed Cities Ordinances Online

Seattle annexed eight small municipalities between 1905 and 1910, nearly doubling the City's physical size. The City Clerk's Office recently completed online indexes for the annexed

cities of Columbia, Southeast Seattle, and South Park. Online indexes to the ordinances of the cities of Ballard, Georgetown, and West Seattle were made available in 2003. A user's guide to materials on all annexed cities is available at

<http://clerk.ci.seattle.wa.us/~public/annexed.htm>

Topics common to these early annexed cities ordinances include issues relating to street construction and improvement, animal control, and meetings of the Councils.

Recently Cataloged Photographs

Photographs recently added to the Archives Photograph Database date primarily from the 1920s and 1930s. They include more images of the Cedar River Watershed, especially of property, including residences and agricultural land around Swan Lake (or Lake Youngs) relating to land acquisition by the City, Masonry Dam and the flooding of the town or Cedar Falls. Also depicted are various landslides around the City, including Alki, Perkins Lane, and Mount Baker.



Corner of 20th and E Prospect, looking east, March 11, 1925

Item 49983

Over 100 images show the replacement of steel pipe for wood stave for the Cedar River Pipeline Number Two along 20th Avenue. The images depict residential and commercial buildings, children and pedestrians, the character of the neighborhood, and people and machinery working on the pipeline replacement.

Project Staff

To assist with the transfer of 80,000 digital images from the former Photographic Services Unit, UW graduate Linda Corets was hired on a temporary basis. Part of her work involves editing duplicates and similars, indexing, and integrating the images with the Archives historical photos.

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