

ARCHIVES GAZETTE



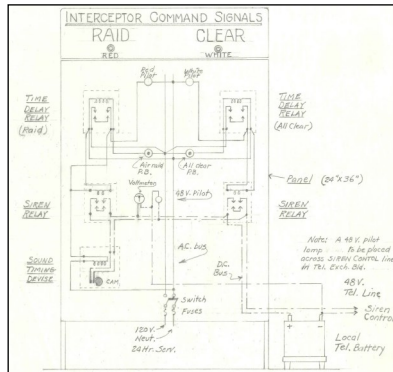
City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

Number 60 Summer 2017

Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department

Out of the Archives

You never know what treasures you'll find in the archives! We recently received a request for information about air raid sirens installed in Seattle during World War II. Our researcher was particularly interested in Decot Red Arrow sirens, as finding company records and other related documents had been challenging. We checked the Traffic Engineering Dept. Subject Files (2609-01), which document Seattle's civil defense activities and include several folders pertaining to the purchase, installation, and operation of air raid sirens during the war.



Master Siren Control diagram.
Box 3, Folder 13, Record Series 2609-01.

The researcher was thrilled to find that among brochures, correspondence and maps was a detailed diagram of a Red Arrow siren, something he had never seen before.

A student in Paris, France, contacted us to learn more about the life of an American soldier who died in France during WWI. Prior to the war, the soldier had been living in Seattle and briefly



convalesced at the old City Hospital, which was located in the former Public Safety Building. Our researcher was

City Hospital, Misc. Views, June 27, 1922.
[Item No. 2654](#), Record Series 2613-07.

hoping to find details about what life would have been like for him as a Seattleite and as a City Hospital patient.

Among the resources provided by the archivist, the student was especially excited by pictures in SMA's photo database showing interior views of the hospital from the early 1920s.

We love when the records we preserve and make available here at SMA are connected with the people who need them, near and far!

Scott Cline Honored with Distinguished Service Award

At the Northwest Archivists (NWA) Annual Meeting in May, former City Archivist Scott Cline was presented with the Merle W. Wells / John F. Guido Distinguished Service Award. This rarely-bestowed award is given for lifetime service of a high caliber to NWA. As an NWA member since the 1980s Scott has served in many capacities, including on the Board of Directors, as President/Vice President, chairing various committees, and as Editor of



Photo courtesy Erin Passehl-Stoddart

the Procedures Manual. His years of service deepened the purpose of NWA by strengthening the knowledge of archivists about their work, archival materials, and practices.

A high honor indeed, and well-deserved. Congratulations, Scott!

100 Years: Lake Washington Ship Canal

SMA joins the [celebration](#) of the 100th anniversary of the Lake Washington Ship Canal (LWSC) this year. Though it was a federal project, then called the Government Locks, parallel work by the City of Seattle was required to prepare roads and bridges to meet the needs of increased traffic, both on land and on the water.

The construction of the LWSC raised the water level of Salmon Bay, previously a tidal inlet, by nine feet. City Engineer A.H. Dimock proposed using waste material from the canal dredging to fill in properties, particularly the saw mills, and bring them to elevation with the forthcoming canal. In a letter dated February 1912, Dimock proposed to "construct a bulkhead along the canal to be paid by assessment upon the property protected by the bulkhead." Dimock also proposed to have the fill deposited behind the bulkhead to help fill streets, but the contractor, Puget Sound Bridge and Dredging, did not deem that feasible, stating "material taken from the Waterway could not be made to stay in the narrow street fills at any reasonable cost; and further that we would [be] subject to innumerable damage suits due to flooding property with water and dirt."

(cont. p. 2)

LWSC cont.

In November 1912, Ordinance 30389 was passed and established Local Improvement District (LID) #2601, allowing the City to assess property owners for the cost of the street grading and creation of the bulkhead. The bidding process for the work was opened by the City and twice there were no bids. Ultimately,

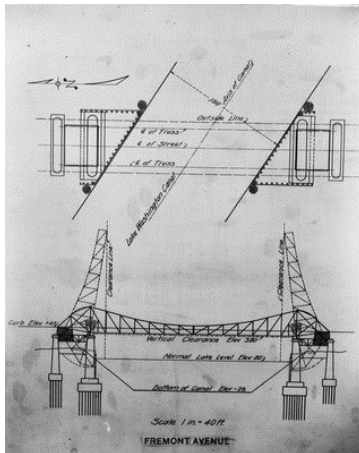


Ballard Regrade East on Shilshole from Fifteenth Ave. [Item 245](#), Record Series 2613-07.

the firm Holt & Jeffery bid on the project and were hired as the contractors for \$186,477.40.

Bridges and pedestrian footpaths spanned the narrow canal prior to the Federal project. But with the much wider and deeper Ship Canal being cut, bridges would not only have to accommodate the passage of large boats but also dredging equipment. After a failed attempt in 1913, voters approved bonds for two bridges in 1914: the Ballard Bridge along 15th Ave W and the Fremont Bridge. Construction began in 1915; the Ballard Bridge opened in 1916 and the Fremont Bridge in June 1917, three weeks before the formal dedication of the Lake Washington Ship Canal.

The Latona Bridge was replaced by the University Bridge in 1919. The Montlake Bridge, originally a makeshift walkway, was opened in 1925 and is now a City of Seattle Designated Landmark.



Fremont Avenue Bridge [plans]. [Item 165](#), Record Series 2613-07.



Montlake Bridge. [Item 312](#), Record Series 2613-07.

The Mills of Salmon Bay Exhibit

Created to commemorate the Lake Washington Ship Canal Centennial, a new exhibit produced by our friends at the King County Archives presents a history of the sawmills and shingle mills in the Ballard neighborhood that were affected by the canal. Featured are maps, drawings, and photos created by the City of Seattle and King County for the canal project.

The exhibit is on display now through July 2017 in the underground pedestrian tunnel between the King County Courthouse and the King County Administration Building. Find more details [here](#).

Newly Processed

City Light's Engineering Reports (1209-03) contains documents generated for the City of Seattle Lighting Department regarding power transmission, distribution, load forecasting, cost savings, and testing in the Seattle and Skagit areas. The collection covers the years 1936-1967 and includes reports, charts, calculations, drawings, blueprints, and photographs.

Also newly processed are the Neighborhood Planning Records from the Office of Economic Development (2105-05). Primarily covering the years 1998-1999, the records document OED's input to the neighborhood planning process from the perspective of the department's goals for a diversified economy, livable wage jobs, access to education, job training and self-employment opportunities, and increased capacity for local neighborhood revitalization. The work of city staff, consultants and citizens is also reflected in these records as neighborhoods worked towards finalizing their plans.

Interns and Volunteers

Farewell and good luck to our work-study student Bryce Neal-Harris, who is graduating from Seattle University! She has been a great asset to SMA during her time with us.

Meanwhile, we are glad to welcome Rachel Mahre, who is finishing her first year at the UW iSchool. She joins Jenn LaScala in helping us serve researchers and process collections.

Two new volunteers have recently started working with us. Hanna Roseen and Kat Lewis are both Seattle Pacific University students who are thinking about the archives field and looking to get some hands-on experience. They are quickly learning the ropes and have already been working on several projects.

Skyler Burger, Jen Woodfield, Staci Crouch, and Kelli Yakabu all continue their volunteer work on projects including scanning documents and photos, cataloging publications, and processing textual collections. We are grateful for all the work they do!

Recently Processed Photographs

We've cataloged more photographs from the Engineering Department Negatives (Record Series 2613-07), including 1963 scenes of Lake Union, the Seattle City Light North Service Center, and R. H. Thomson Expressway preparations. Also included are 2002 images of Tolt Dam and City Council, and mayoral activities from 2016.



Lake Union looking west to gas plant, August 28, 1963.
[Item 181550](#), Record Series 2613-07.

R. H. Thomson
Expressway temporary
connection progress.
August 2, 1963.
[Item 181281](#), Record
Series 2613-07.



Seattle City Council banner at Pride Parade, held by Seattle City Clerk Monica Simmons and Legislative Assistant Sera Day, June 24, 2016.
[Item 181552](#), Record Series 4600-11.

New Online Exhibit: Life on the Cut

SMA's new online exhibit ["Life on the Cut"](#) is a collection of field survey property photographs containing color slides of homes and businesses located in neighborhoods along the Lake Washington Ship Canal (LWSC). The development of these neighborhoods was spurred by transportation and trade activities made possible by the LWSC project. Taken between the years 1974 and 1980, the photos feature examples of maritime activity that took place during the mid-to-late 1970s



Crane barge passing through the Chittenden Locks, 1975.
[Item 179436](#), Record Series 1629-01.

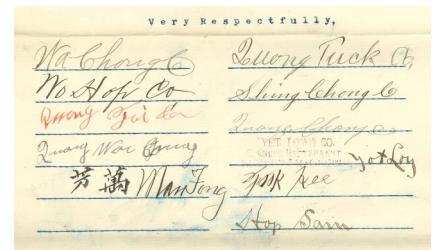
along Salmon Bay, the Fremont Cut, Lake Union, and the Montlake Cut. Highlights include snapshots of Old Ballard, Foss Maritime, the celebration of Norwegian Constitution Day in Ballard, the Maritime Shipyards, and Gas Works Park.



Funded by a heritage grant from 4Culture, this exhibit is part of "Making the Cut," a region-wide consortium of institutions participating in the 2017 centennial of the Lake Washington Ship Canal.

123 Years Ago: Search Warrants

In 1894, eleven Chinese businessmen wrote a letter to Seattle's Board of Police Commissioners to express concerns about illegal property searches by Police Department detectives. The letter states that it was "the habit and custom of some of the detectives on the Police force of the City of Seattle, to enter their residences and places of business, at all hours of the day and night, and without warrant, to search through their premises."



Petition, May 25, 1894.
Box 16, Folder 8, Record Series 1802-04.

The Board apparently asked Police Chief Bolton Rogers to look into the complaint. About three weeks later, he reported to the Board that "I have been unable to find any case where an officer of this department has entered a Chinese house and searched the same without having a proper search warrant with him." Read the whole [Find of the Month](#) on the SMA website.

YouTube and Flickr News

A popular image on [SMA's Flickr site](#) is of a circa 1910 postcard showing a "Residence District on Capitol Hill"- specifically, 14th Avenue at Aloha.



[Record Series 9901-01](#), *Seattle Municipal Archives*.

With over 18,565 views (and counting!), one of the most-watched videos on SMA's YouTube channel this quarter is *Seattle: Picture of a Young City*, a promotional film produced by the Seattle Engineering Department in 1976.



Seattle: Picture of a Young City [Part 1], 1976.

[Item 434](#), [Record Series 2613-10](#), *Seattle Municipal Archives*

New photos and video are added to SMA's [Flickr](#) and [YouTube](#) sites on a regular basis. Enjoy!

Seattle Municipal Archives

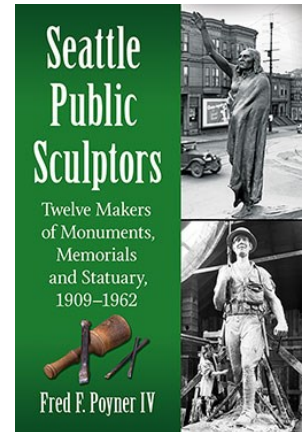
600 Fourth Avenue, Floor 3,
PO Box 94728
Seattle, WA 98124-4728
206 233-7807 archives@seattle.gov
<http://www.seattle.gov/CityArchives>

SMA in Print and in the News

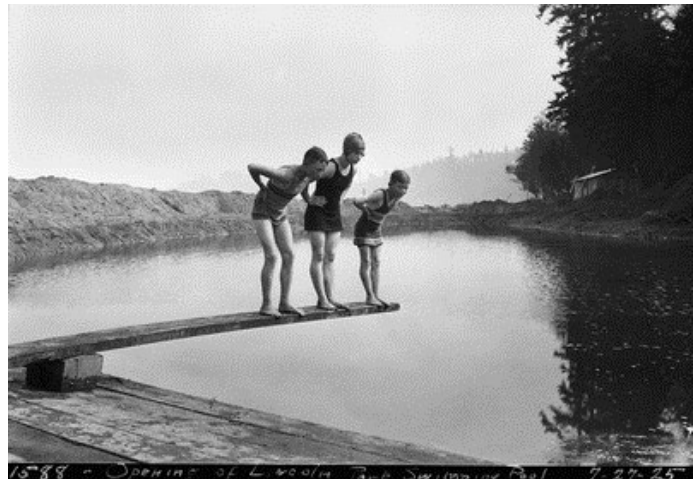
A recent *Seattle Times* article on Denny Park features historical photos of the park from the Don Sherwood Parks History Collection (5801-01). Denny Park re-opened to the public on May 6th after a \$2.2 million renovation for updates such as new paths, plantings, lighting, seating, and irrigation system.

Fred Poyner spent many hours at SMA researching material for his newly published book, *Seattle Public Sculptors:*

Twelve Makers of Monuments, Memorials and Statuary, 1909-1962. Among other records, Parks Board Minutes and Superintendent Subject Files provided much useful information. A 1936 Engineering Department photo (Item 10654, Record Series 2613-07, SMA) of the sculpture of Chief Seattle at Fifth and Denny is featured on the front cover of the book.



92 Years Ago: Opening of Lincoln Park Swimming Pool



Three swimmers prepare to test the diving board at the newly opened Lincoln Park Swimming Pool, July 27, 1925.

[Item 28728](#), [Record Series 2625-10](#).

Upcoming Events

- June-July (various dates): ["Making the Cut" events](#) celebrating 100 years of the Lake Washington Ship Canal.
- June 22: [Northwest Film Forum](#) hosts MIPoPS Archival screening night, 8:00 PM
- July 26-29: [Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting](#), Portland, OR