



ARCHIVES GAZETTE

Seattle Municipal Archives

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Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department

The first newsletter from the Seattle Municipal Archives is published in conjunction with Scott Cline Day, August 30, 1999. Newsletters will be published quarterly and carry news about the archives and recent accessions. Suggestions and questions about the archives are welcomed.

The Seattle Municipal Archives

The mission of the Archives is to support the goals of the City of Seattle and the citizens of the City by identifying, acquiring, arranging, describing, preserving, and making accessible--for the use of City agencies, scholars, students, and the general public--the records of enduring value created or received by City agencies and elected officials.

The Seattle Municipal Archives was established in 1985 with a two-year grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). The Archives was a program of the City Clerk Division of the Office of the Comptroller from 1985 through 1992. A City Charter amendment, which took effect January 1, 1993, transferred the City Clerk and the Municipal Archives to the Legislative Department.

In 1988, as part of the NHPRC grant, the Municipal Archives published *A Guide to the Archives of the City of Seattle*. The Guide subsequently was awarded the Society of American Archivists' C.F.W. Coker Prize as the year's outstanding work in the area of archival description. A new edition of the Guide is mounted on the Seattle Municipal Archives web site and is updated periodically.

Scott Cline Day

By Judith Pippin, City Clerk

City Council has proclaimed August 30, 1999 as Scott Cline Day "in recognition of the many achievements and good work of City Archivist Scott Cline, and for his outstanding work in the development and growth of the Seattle Municipal Archives."

Scott Cline was hired in 1985 to implement the two-year NHPRC grant to initiate an archives program for the City. By 1988 Scott had described the collections and produced a guide which received the Society of American Archivists' C.F.W. Coker Award in 1989.

The list of Scott's accomplishments in the Archives over the past 14 years is long and the kudos he has received are many. Most recently, the State Archives Administration of China invited Scott to speak on "Local Archives in the 21st Century: Challenges and Strategies" at a conference in Beijing and Shanghai in September of this year. Scott currently lectures on archival administration to graduate students at the University of Washington. The slide presentation he researched and prepared on the Great Seattle Fire of 1889 during the State's centennial continues to be in high demand by community groups and schools.

His success in securing grant funding for special projects has enabled increased access to photographic images relating to the history of the City's parks, the Pike Place Market, Skagit River power development, and public works. Scott has also recognized the value of a good website and constructed a site for the Archives that is well-used and valuable to both city employees and the public. The rising number of reference requests each successive year testifies to both the high descriptive standards Scott adheres to and to the high quality of service he has provided to users. Scott Cline Day recognizes these and many other accomplishments.

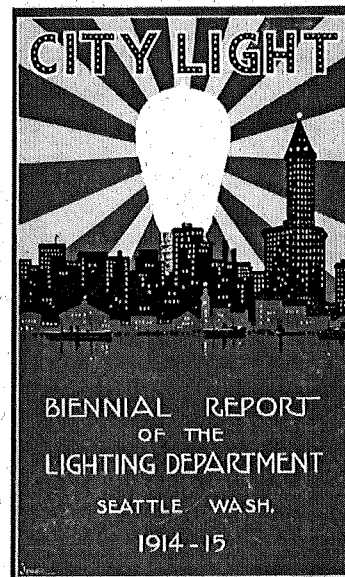
What's in the Archives?

The Municipal Archives holdings include approximately 5,000 cubic feet of textual records; 3,000 maps and drawings; 3,000 audiotapes; 1,000 videotapes and reels of

motion picture film; and 1.5 million photographic images of City projects and personnel. These records document the history, development, and activities of the agencies and elected officials of the City of Seattle.

*Annual Reports
Box 50 Folder 4*

The holdings of the Archives are public records and are managed in accordance with the Revised Code of



Washington public records law and public disclosure law. The most heavily used records are housed in the City Clerk's office, including the records of City Council, the Mayor, the Pike Place Market Urban Renewal, and the photography of the Engineering Department, Parks Department, Water Department, and Seattle City Light.

An Excerpt from the Archives

"In the latter part of 1922 and during 1923, Seattle for the first time in history numbered women among the City Council members....During this period women of the city have taken a greater interest in city affairs and have assisted nobly in the holding of legislation for the common good."

From the Second Annual Message of Edwin J. Brown, Mayor
June 2, 1924 *Mayor's Addresses Box 1 Folder 2*

What's New in the Archives

In July, the Archives acquired 60 boxes of records from the Neighborhood Planning Office (NPO) documenting the City's innovative neighborhood planning process. The records include the final neighborhood plans, preliminary drafts, environmental studies, consultant reports, historical planning materials, and the records of the NPO director and the public information officer.

NPO was created in 1995 as a result of adoption of the City's Comprehensive Plan which committed the City to neighborhood planning. This program, currently being studied by planners from around the world, created a partnership between the City and its neighborhoods to improve the quality of life in Seattle. It fostered participation by approximately 20,000 citizens.

To Learn More about the Archives

Many different types of people use records in the Seattle Municipal Archives to research the City's history. Engineers, historians, image researchers, journalists, and those doing legal research are among those who make use of the archives. Information on land use, the history of specific policy decisions, photographs of street lighting, and changes in the City Charter are only some of the topics those using the archives have explored. You can find out more about collections held by the Seattle Municipal Archives by using the on-line guide:

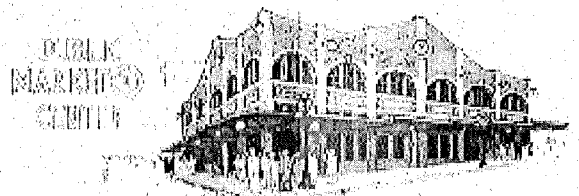
<http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/seattle/leg/clerk/archhome.htm>

The website allows you to search or browse descriptions of collections in the archives and also search for specific subjects within collections. Full text of collections are not on-line, however, and researchers will need to make an appointment to come to the archives to see the specific collections in which they are interested.

There are more than 30,000 photographs digitized and available on-line for browsing and searching. You will find images of the Seattle's parks, the Pike Place Market, the Denny regrade, and the construction of Smith Tower, among many others.

Please call or email the archives staff with research questions or other queries. And visit the website for more information and exhibits on archives holdings, including information on the mayors of Seattle, quick facts about Seattle, and on-line exhibits on the Upper Skagit Watershed Project and the Pike Place Market Project.

The Archives is pleased to welcome Anne Frantilla to city employment as the new Assistant City Archivist. A native of Seattle, she has over twelve years experience in the archival profession. She comes to the Archives from the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan.



Digitizing the Pike Place Market

This summer the Archives is busily scanning, cataloging and indexing 8,000 historical images of the Pike Place Market as part of a City of Seattle Neighborhood Matching Fund Program. This project, a partnership with the Pike Place Market Foundation, is part of the ongoing efforts to preserve the history of the Market and make it available to the general public.

The image collection includes color and black & white photographic prints and color slides dating from 1907 to 1981. The majority of images record the process of planning, preserving and restoring the Market following the 1971 citizen initiative to save the market. The 9-acre Seattle landmark is now a national historic district and the oldest continuously operating public market in the U.S.

Indexer/Imaging Supervisor Stephanie Schmidt is cataloging and indexing the collection and overseeing the scanning operations. This summer Stephanie supervised three Seattle teenagers, employed through Seattle's Summer Youth Employment Program and the Center for Career Alternatives, who performed the preservation tasks and scanning of the images. Volunteers at the Pike Market Senior Center will research image content and publication rights.

Once images are scanned and cataloged they are transferred to the Seattle Municipal Archives website where they are available for viewing. The final step in the project will be to create a CD-ROM of the images that will be sold and distributed to local schools. Some images are on display at the Market's Heritage Center that opened on August 18, 1999, coinciding with the 92nd anniversary of the Market.

Contact the Archives:

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