

# ARCHIVES GAZETTE



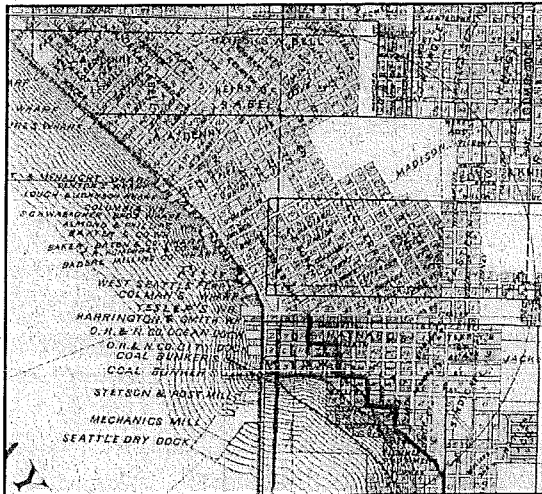
City of Seattle  
Seattle Municipal Archives

Number 11 Fall 2002

Office of the City Clerk  
Legislative Department

## Grant from King County Landmarks & Heritage Commission for Maps

The Seattle Municipal Archives received a grant of \$5,000 from the King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission 2002 Heritage Special Projects to provide access to its historical maps. The project will result in access via an online catalog and index to a representative portion of maps, dating from the 1880s to 1990, in the Seattle Municipal Archives. Currently there is no comprehensive index to maps in the Archives.



Anderson's New Guide Map  
of the City of Seattle and Environs. 1890

The City's maps document the physical development and infrastructure of Seattle including transportation, the water system, shorelines, sewers and drainage, and general city-wide street mapping. Also of interest are maps related to projects that were planned, but never completed, such as the R.H. Thomson Freeway through the Arboretum, and the proposed bridge from Seward Park to Mercer Island.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2003.

## 100 Years Ago

On December 1, 1902, the Beacon Hill Improvement Club petitioned the City to improve the fence surrounding the reservoir. The Club claimed it *"is surrounded by an unsightly high board fence, and is the occasion of much ridicule from visitors...."*

*Also by reason of said high board fence the reservoir is used in the summer time by the st[reet] urchins as a natitoriam[sic], thus polluting the water for drinking and culinary[sic] purposes." (CF 17260)*

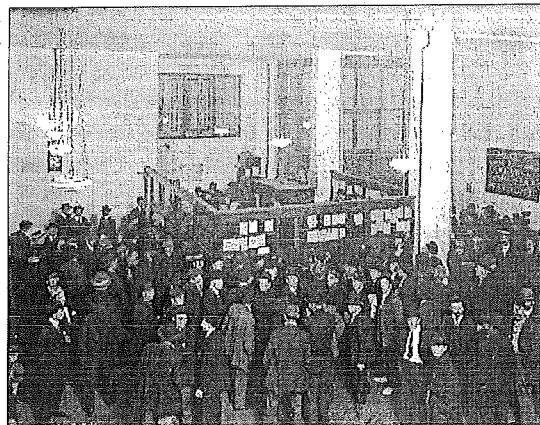
The first reservoir on Beacon Hill was built in 1886 by the Spring Hill Water Company, which the City purchased in 1890. It had a capacity of 6 million gallons and held water pumped from Lake Washington until 1901 when the first Cedar River pipeline was constructed. Two new reservoirs were built on Beacon Hill in 1911 as part of Cedar River Water System No. 2 which brought a second pipeline to the City. The two reservoirs had a combined capacity of 110 million gallons. One of these reservoirs, the South Reservoir, was taken out of service in 1979. Plans are in place to renovate and cover the North Reservoir.

## New on the Website: History Day Resources for Teachers and Students

New this fall on the Municipal Archives website is a resource page on History Day. The Municipal Archives is one of many Pacific Northwest repositories preserving primary sources illustrating this year's theme "Rights and Responsibilities."

The Archives website lists possible topics matching this year's theme, research tips for using research tools and visiting the Municipal Archives, as well as links to some of the national sites available on using primary sources in historical

re-  
search.



City Employment  
Office,  
1916.  
Item 1130

The research topics on the webpage and resources in the Archives can be used by teachers and students for more than History Day projects.

Records from the Archives can be used in history and social studies classrooms in grades 6-12 to illustrate both Washington State history curriculum objectives and themes in U.S. history at a local level. Many research topics in the Municipal Archives could also be used to support content standards for teaching civics and government.

History is brought to life for students when they can read the actual words written or spoken by people 25, 50, or 100 years ago. Using primary sources can also sharpen the analytical skills of students as they consider the perspective of the author of a document, the time period in which the document was written, and purpose for which the document was created.

Visit the website on History Day Topics: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/CityArchives/Tools/HistoryDay/hdayweb.htm> and give us your feedback.

### Preservation of Photographs

The Archives is just completing a project to duplicate 3,000 nitrate and diacetate negatives that were in danger of destruction through deterioration. The 6.5x8.5 inch negatives include important images dating 1915-1935 detailing the history of Seattle, the Cedar River Watershed, and the Skagit River Power Development.

Crux Corporation, a Seattle photo preservation lab, is producing positive transparencies, copy negatives, and contact prints of the images. The Archives chose to duplicate the negatives that were in the most danger. The project was funded by \$21,000 from the Legislative Department.

Cellulose nitrate and cellulose diacetate are unstable media that will, over time, be destroyed by their own internal chemistry. The Archives still holds 27,000 nitrate and diacetate negatives that need to be preserved.

### Temporarily in the Archives

The Archives welcomes Alison Constanza. On a four-month term, Alison is processing a variety of collections and working on several projects to help prepare for the upcoming move of the Archives next spring. She is a recent graduate from Western Washington University with a Masters in History.

Erica Owens continues as a part-time work study student this fall.

Contact the Archives: [archives@ci.seattle.wa.us](mailto:archives@ci.seattle.wa.us)

Seattle Municipal Archives  
600 Fourth Avenue, Room 104,  
Seattle, WA 98104

<http://www.cityofseattle.net/CityArchives>

### New! Madrona and Denny-Blaine Neighborhood History

*The Last Electric Trolley* by Junius Rochester is a welcome addition to the histories of Seattle's neighborhoods. Published this year, Rochester's book tells the story of Seattle's Madrona/Denny-Blaine neighborhood, where he grew up. His book makes good use of local repositories, including the Seattle Municipal Archives. Well illustrated and well researched, it is a lively and readable history of one of Seattle's oldest neighborhoods. The history can be purchased from Tommie Press, 805 32nd Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122.

### Japanese Researcher Visits Archives

Over the summer, Ph.D. Candidate Akito Murayama visited the Archives to conduct research on spatial planning and consensus building. His research used four US cities for case studies of downtown planning in the 1980s, including Cleveland, Denver, Portland, and Seattle. Primarily of interest to Murayama were records of the Legislative Department, especially Central Staff and Councilmember records, and items in the Documents database.

Murayama is in the Department of Urban Engineering at the University of Tokyo.

### Photographs Added to Online Database

Several hundred photographs are newly indexed and available online. Included are images of 1954 landslides in Beacon Hill, Queen Anne, Alki, and Magnolia, the construction of the Battery Street Tunnel, widening of 23rd Ave. S and a 1934 flood at Yesler and 13th Ave. S.



Battery Street Tunnel  
Carbon monoxide / ventilation test, 1954.  
Item 45797