

# ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle  
Seattle Municipal Archives

Number 15 Summer 2004

Office of the City Clerk  
Legislative Department

## Women in City Government

The Seattle Municipal Archives mounted an exhibit titled "Women in City Government" in March of this year. The exhibit features well-known and little-known women from various time periods and City departments. Also available online, the exhibit is accompanied by a timeline and a bibliography.

Although many women worked as clerks, telephone operators, and stenographers in the first half of the 20th century, women were often seen in nurturing and caring roles, working with other women and children in the library, the police department and the parks department. Women secured positions by working for less pay, or in some cases, working for free.

The first woman employed by the Police Department was Emma Taylor, hired as police matron in 1893 in response to a state law requiring police matrons care for women prisoners. Other women worked for the Police Department as volunteers. One of the few female African-Americans mentioned in early City records is Corinne Carter or Mrs. W. D. Carter. She worked with African-American children brought to the Police Department. She started working for the Police Department as a volunteer about 1912. She was designated "Special Policewoman" in 1914 which relieved her "of the burden of applying her own limited funds towards the payment of car fare" in her travel throughout the city. Her work for the City, however, remained unpaid.

Other women featured include Mayor Bertha K. Landes, City Light Home Economist Mary Norris, fire fighter Bonnie Beers and librarian Mary Banks.

Home Economist Mary Norris, 1953  
Seattle Municipal Archives  
Item 23858



The exhibit boards will be at History House (790 N 34th St., Seattle) through October.

## History Day Resources

Look for a link this fall from the Seattle Municipal Archives website to suggested topics for 2005 History Day. Many subjects found in City records are relevant to this year's History Day theme, "Communication In History: The Key to Understanding." Some topics pertinent to the theme this year include:

- Initiative and Referendum Process: Communicating with City Government*
- Campaign Finance Disclosure: Communicating Ethics*
- Seattle Model City Program: Communicating to Improve Neighborhood Services*
- WTO in Seattle: Demonstration and Communication*

Interested students and teachers should contact the archivists to discuss topics and sources.

## ACA

City Archivist Scott Cline assumed the presidency of the Academy of Certified Archivists on August 6 at the Academy's annual business meeting held in conjunction with the Society of American Archivists meeting in Boston. He will serve as president for one year and as past president/regent for nominations the following year.

The ACA is the national certifying board for the archives profession. Its mission is to promote the fundamental standards of professional practice; define the knowledge and abilities necessary to become a certified archivist; and to promote the mastery of archival principles. In carrying out this mission, the ACA develops, maintains, and monitors the national certifying examination.

## 100 Years Ago

In the Report of the Park Board for 1904 "at Woodland Park some clearing of underbrush has been done and a band stand erected, on which a series of band concerts were given on Sunday afternoons during July and August, which were attended by thousands of Seattle's citizens and their families."

## Staff and Interns

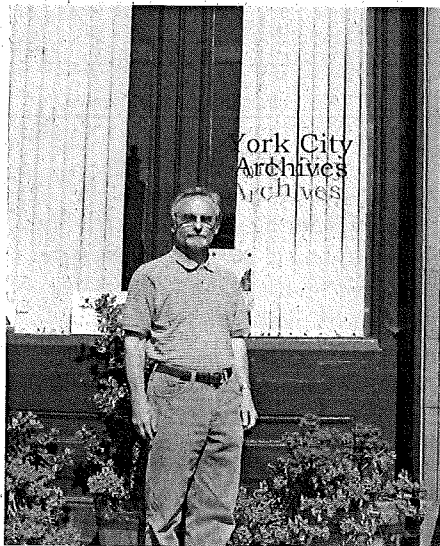
The Archives is pleased to have Shannon Lynch on board as part of the Northwest Digital Archives project. A UW graduate, Shannon is encoding finding aids and performing other work for SMA's contribution to the union database of Northwest Encoded Archival Description (EAD) finding aids.

The Seattle Municipal Archives welcomed Seth Dalby, from the University of British Columbia, as a summer intern. Seth participated in all aspects of work in the Municipal Archives this summer.

## Archives in the UK

While on vacation in Europe during May, City Archivist Scott Cline took the opportunity to visit three archives in the United Kingdom, including the London Metropolitan Archives, the York City Archives, and one of the reading rooms of the Scottish National Archives.

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) Head Archivist, Dr. Deborah Jenkins, provided a tour of LMA that focused on outreach to the community, conservation of very old records, and innovations in digital scanning technology. LMA has 95 professional and technical staff, including 19 who work in the conservation laboratory. The Archives supports an amazing array of exhibitions, lectures, tours, and programs for school age children. LMA manages 32 linear miles of archival records that span nearly 900 years of London history.



Scott Cline at York City Archives  
May 2004.

The York City Archives is much smaller by comparison, but includes a rich tapestry of records documenting city government, local parishes, cemetery associations, corporations, solicitors, manors, and more. The assistant archivist noted that a significant number of records relate to Richard III. At the end of the tour she pulled out the Archives' oldest record, the early 12th century town charter with the royal seal still attached.

## Newly Processed: Seattle Model City Program Records

Dating from 1967 to 1975, the Seattle Model City Program records measure 98 cubic feet. A new guide is available, providing more in depth description of the records than previously available. The guide will soon be available in the new Northwest EAD database, but copies are currently available online.

The Seattle Model City Program was created to improve the quality of urban life in selected neighborhoods in Seattle. Social services, educational programs, and legal services were some of the project areas that were explored.

The SMCP records are split fairly evenly between administrative and program/project files. The Administrative Records provide details of SMCP from many different perspectives. The largest volume of records are those of Walter Hundley, director, offering a detailed view of the issues and complexities presented by SMCP. Records from each piece of the administrative structure complement Hundley's records to provide a very complete picture of the difficulties and successes of SMCP.

The project and program files list 80 projects and typically include correspondence, contracts, monthly and quarterly reports, yearly operating plans and grant applications. Among the projects included are the Odessa Brown Children's Clinic, the Early Childhood Education Center, the Skid Road Shelter and Food Center, and El Centro de la Raza.

## Recently Cataloged Photographs

A large number of maintenance equipment photographs are now available online. Prints are also available for browsing in photograph albums in the Archives. The photographs date from the late 1940s and early 1950s and includes rollers, trucks, pumps and air compressors.



Portable  
Welder, 1948  
Item 48762

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