

ARCHIVES GAZETTE



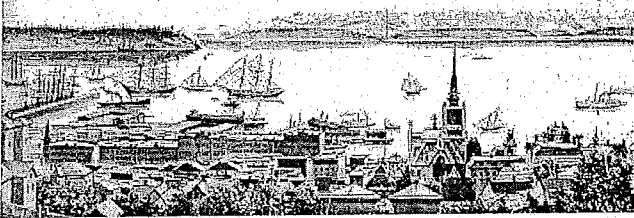
City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

Number 9 Winter 2002

Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department

New Web Site

The Seattle Municipal Archives has redesigned its website and has a new address: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/CityArchives>

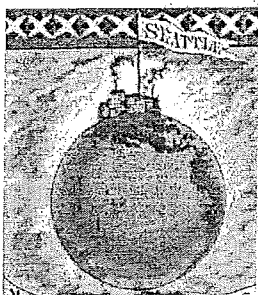


The website retains its emphasis on searchability, and includes the Photograph Index, the Subject Index, and the Documents Collection Index. The "Guide to Records in the Seattle Municipal Archives" is updated and available on the website. Additions include access to the General Files database and the World Trade Organization Accountability Review Committee database.

The website also includes several new features. The list of Seattle mayors includes a link to an image of each mayor. Lists of City Council members, alphabetically or chronologically, are available, as well as lists of selected other officials. Also available on the website are election results, from 1910 to the present, for City of Seattle general and special elections for officials elected by a vote of the people.

The website includes a new exhibit on postcards and will soon add a new exhibit on Seattle's City Halls. A new section with research guides is introduced. Currently, two research guides are available: one on the Great Fire and one on Seattle Parks. The most recent issue of the *Archives Gazette* is also available online.

General Files Collection Open



The General Files Collection, featured in previous *Gazettes*, is available for research. Researchers can find material relating to the Great Fire, the development of the water supply system, solid waste, the Fire Department, grading and street improvements,

housing, women, race relations, and other issues, especially as they relate to the rapid growth of a large city. The General Files collection contains a wide range of documents, including petitions, claims, reports, contracts, bids, and other items relating to the early years of Seattle's municipal government. The documents, numbering close to 4,000, date from 1874 to 1904 and are described and indexed in the General Files Database, available online. The "Guide to the General Files" describes the collection and accompanies the database.

Processing of the General Files collection was completed with partial funding from the King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission.

Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks Donated Olmsted Materials

Reference copies of Olmsted plans and drawings were donated to the Seattle Municipal Archives by the Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks (FSOP), along with a copy of a guide to using the collection. The collection brings together materials documenting the work of the Olmsted landscape architecture firm on Seattle parks and aids researchers in identifying drawings for further study at full size. The guide, written by Jerry Arbes and Anne Knight, identifies Olmsted projects in Seattle, the number of plans and drawings and where they are located. Photocopies of plans drawn by the Olmsted Brothers are part of the collection. FSOP will also donate slides of the drawings at a later date. Compilation of this material was made possible in part by a grant to the FSOP by the King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission.

The Olmsted Brothers, a nationally renowned landscape architecture firm, was hired in 1902 to design a comprehensive system of parks and boulevards for Seattle. The Olmsted office, also known as Fairsted, was located in Brookline, Massachusetts, and became part of the National Park Service in 1979.

The FSOP collection also includes copies of three microfilm reels from the Library of Congress Olmsted records. The microfilm contains the job files for Seattle Olmsted park projects, as well as an index to the records. The microfilm is also available at the University of Washington Suzallo Library and the Seattle Public Library. The job files contain detailed descriptions of the Olmsted Brothers' visits to Seattle, their meetings with City officials, and observations they made on walks and drives through existing and proposed parks and boulevards.

The Library of Congress Olmsted records include correspondence from Seattle Park Commissioners as well as trip reports written by the Olmsted brothers on their visits to Seattle. The reports contain detailed descriptions of conversations and property. One example of a trip report is an entry from J. C. Olmsted on May 17, 1908.

“About 10 am H. M. Dawson and I started for Green Lake. Got back about 1:20 or 1:30. Met Thompson there and later...Mr. Ernst. We looked over the stump pasture area and Mr. Dawson located the edge of timber west of it....Mr. Ernst said he meant to fill over the marsh at the south end of Green Lake not less than four feet deep. I told him one foot would do.”

Another example relates to boulevards. J. C. Olmsted writes on June 11, 1909:

“A Times reporter told me in the morning that the Board had passed a vote on Monday requesting me to visit the parkway and meet Mr. Thompson and report recommendations. I telephoned Cotterill and he said such as the case and said Thompson would be at the office at 12:30. I got through other errands and got there at 12. He came in about 12:30 but had so much business we could not be away till 1:30 for lunch. He had made an appointment by telephone for Mr. Lancaster to meet us on Washington Park Boulevard. I understood that Thompson had requested I might give him some ideas. What between economy of land and construction, and trying to suit the ideas of individuals, the boulevards are narrow, crooked, and with unscientific boundaries.”

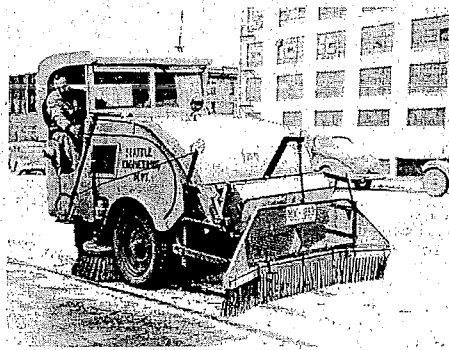
On Tuesday, March 26 from 1:30-3 pm, the FSOP will offer a free training workshop on using the collection at the Seattle Municipal Building, 10th Floor Conference Room, 600 4th Avenue. Jerry Arbes and Anne Knight of FSOP will give an overview of the collection and Seattle Archivist Scott Cline will discuss access to this collection and other Seattle parks materials at the Municipal Archives. Space is limited; to reserve a place, please contact FSOP at seattleolm@aol.com or (206) 329-9329.

Interns in the Archives

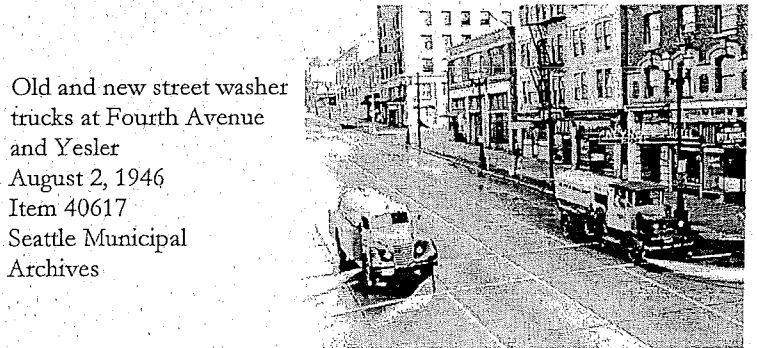
The Archives welcomes two interns. Alexis Meyners, a student at the School of Information at the University of Washington, is an intern in the Clerk's office. She is working on indexing issues and is lending her expertise to the indexing of photographs in the online database and other projects in the Clerk's office. Rachel Price is a volunteer with a background in radio and is interested in working with photographs and film.

Photographs Added to Online Database

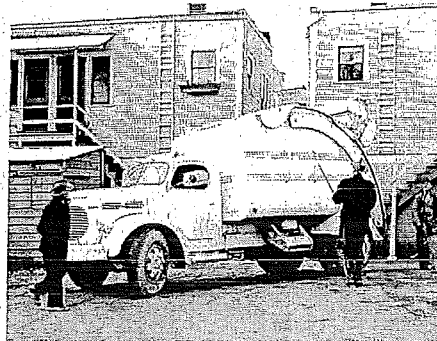
Close to 500 additional images from the Engineering Department were added to the online database in the past few months. The images date primarily from the mid-1940s. The photographs document civil service examinations, the tearing up of streetcar tracks downtown, repaving, street maintenance vehicles, landfills, reservoir construction, and other topics.



Curb Sweeper
January 29, 1947
Item 40719
Seattle Municipal Archives



Old and new street washer trucks at Fourth Avenue and Yesler
August 2, 1946
Item 40617
Seattle Municipal Archives



New type of garbage truck,
January 28, 1947
Item 40715
Seattle Municipal Archives

Contact the Archives: archives@ci.seattle.wa.us

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

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