

ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

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Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department

AYPE Projects Underway at SMA

The City of Seattle's role in the 1909 Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition is the focus of a new online exhibit by the Seattle Municipal Archives. Work by the City for the Exposition was in part "invisible" and included providing water, police and fire protection, and caring for the grounds after AYPE ended.



Logo from letter by J.E. Chilberg, President of the AYPE Executive Committee to City Council, requesting Cedar River Water, June 25, 1909.

CF 37233, AYPE Records, 1802-E8, Seattle Municipal Archives

The exhibit, *A Memorable Enterprise: Seattle and the AYPE*, is presented online on SMA's website. Documents from the Comptroller Files, annual reports from various departments, and Park Board minutes were used to research the exhibit. The City's role in planning for the Exposition is chronicled as well as its contribution to a safe experience for those attending.

Citizens approached the City with various concerns before and during the Exposition. For example, a flag company wanted to put 300 small American flags up on First, Second and Third Avenues. A collection of vendors was unhappy that they were not allowed to sell at the entrance to the Exposition.

The Parks Department worked hard to prepare the City with the goal of completing the boulevard system "so that our Eastern visitors might enjoy the beauties of our lake and mountain scenery."

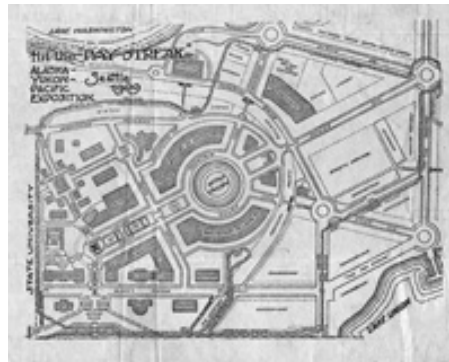
As a whole the City felt the AYPE was a success. The Fire Department described its efforts in its 1909 Annual Report: "We all take pride in the success of this memorable enterprise, and congratulate ourselves that it ran its allotted time under such favorable circumstances and without disaster. It was the first of the great fairs to have fire protection furnished to such a large extent by the city."

An accompanying set of digital documents relating to the City's AYPE efforts will be added to SMA's Digital Document Library later this summer, enabling researchers to access AYPE resources online.

Two city-wide efforts are also available to researchers. "Discovering AYP" is a project sponsored by the Museum of History and Industry with the goal of involving the citizens of Seattle and King County in their own discovery of the legacies and significance of the A-Y-P Exposition. Workshops will be held this fall and research projects will be hosted on the website: www.aypecentennial.org. The City's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs is hosting the website which will list resources throughout the City for AYPE projects. Results of community research projects will be put on the site and it will serve as the portal for all Seattle-based AYPE events.

The 4-Culture website, www.aype.org, is a gathering place for AYPE projects. This website is

intended to help heritage organizations share information, request help, and learn about the progress of peer organizations' projects.



Map of AYPE grounds
Clerk File 33542, Seattle Municipal Archives

Audio Preservation Grant Completed

The Seattle Municipal Archives completed work early this summer on an audio preservation grant awarded by the Office of the Secretary of State, Washington State Library Division, funded by the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The grant provided for transfer of 375 hours of audio material to a digital format, assessing open reel audiotape in the process. The transfer reduces the risk of damaging the original tape and provides a means of access to the audio material.

The content of the audio included City Council meetings and public hearings from the early 1970s. Topics of meetings included transportation, solid waste and energy conservation, air pollution, police accountability, and women's rights. The audio recordings enrich the already existing paper records and provide access to another dimension of the City's history.

On December 10, 1974, a public hearing was held on transportation options for the I-90 corridor. It was a long hearing, with many members of the community giving their statements.

Carl Heller testified: "It boils down to people versus cars. It's people that are going to determine the vitality... of the city, not cars."

A member of the Ravenna community, Constance Palmerlee, was concerned about cost and pollution. She stated that solutions to transportation problems had the same "tired old concrete answers to our people moving problems....Bridges are expensive and freeways ruin our city...." She recommended passenger-only ferries. "A whole fleet of ferries could be built for a fraction of the cost" of the I-90 bridge.

Dr. Glover Barnes, representing the Mt. Baker Democratic Club, pleaded for a reallocation of the funds to public transit on a regional basis and cautioned that "we are on a collision course, not only as a city but as a nation, with energy depletion, unbearable pollution...."

He also spoke as a member of the civil rights community and reminded the Council that "in almost every case where a super highway is to be built, it usually splits the central or core city where most of the black and other minority people live...."

Keeping the City Clean: Photographs



A litter can on Seattle's streets in 1936. The can reads "Keep Your City Clean. Your Clean Streets Make for Better Health."

Item 11232, Seattle Municipal Archives



A litter can being emptied on Main and 2nd Ave S, May 1958.

Item 57363, Seattle Municipal Archives

One Hundred Years Ago

Restrooms for the public were a focus of concern during preparations for the AYPE. The Seattle Federation of Women's Clubs wrote to City Council on June 27, 1908:

The Seattle Federation of Women's Clubs beg leave to ask the favorable attention of your honorable body, to the imperative and urgent importance of the further and additional construction of suitable located comfort stations—to accommodate the several street railway transfer points, and the more congested districts within the business radius of our rapidly increasing population. It is more urgent at this time, by reason of the divers [sic] cares and the multiplicity of tasks that each of the coming months may impose upon all, in the effort of making adequate preparation for the tourist and exposition travel of 1909. And your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed: Mrs. M. P. Harper and Mrs. M. J. Loveless

CF 34881, Clerk Files, 1802-01, Seattle Municipal Archives

The City posts "No Littering" signs on University Way and 47th in April, 1961.

Item 67974, Seattle Municipal Archives



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