

# ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle  
Seattle Municipal Archives

Number 61 Fall 2017

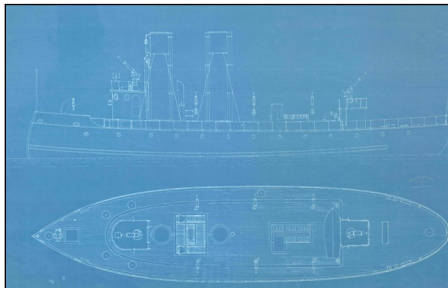
Office of the City Clerk  
Legislative Department

## Out of the Archives

We often see records used decades later for very different reasons than why they were created. For example, photographs originally taken to document street repairs may be used today to illustrate a long-gone cityscape, or show architectural styles. A picture showing workers repairing a bridge may include someone's great-grandfather and become a treasured source of family history. Or, as was the case here at SMA recently, records created for construction and infrastructure purposes can serve as inspiration for unrelated projects, many years later.

A model ship hobbyist contacted us recently looking for information about the fireboat Duwamish. Launched in 1909,

the Duwamish was Seattle's second fireboat and was in commission for over 75 years. Our researcher was happy to discover that the original plans for the



Plans for fireboat Duwamish, 1908.  
Record Series 0204-01.

Duwamish survive in the Facility Architectural Plans of the Fleets and Facilities Department, held by SMA (Record Series 0204-01). We were able to provide high-resolution scans that show details like cross-sections, elevations, and main engines. For those wishing to see the real thing, the Duwamish still exists and is moored at Lake Union Park where it may be toured by the public.

Have you ever stopped and considered the pavement beneath your feet? A recent research question we received about the history of street and sidewalk pavement in Seattle got us thinking about it. In addition to records such as photographs, reports, correspondence and contracts, we found that in 1940 the Engineering Department created



Rainier Avenue, Perfect Brick Pavement.  
[Item 1292](#), Record Series 2613-07.

maps of the entire city

showing street pavement types: concrete, brick,

asphalt, stone block, and wood. It was a gold mine of information for our researcher, and has us looking down a lot more on our walks around the city!

## SMA @ SAA

During the week of July 24<sup>th</sup>, SMA staff joined archivists from around the country in Portland, Oregon to attend the Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting. Programs centered around the theme of "alike/different" and discussed topics relating to diversity, inclusion, and community engagement. SMA collections and staff were well represented at the meeting, which had the highest attendance of any West Coast conference in SAA's history.



Julie Irick presents at the SAA Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon.

City Archivist Anne Frantilla presented at the Local Government Records Section meeting, discussing activism in the archives and highlighting examples from SMA's print, photo and audio collections. Photo Archivist Julie Irick participated in the *Navigating the Digital Maze of Visual Material Description and Access* program with her talk on *Built In-House: Photograph Collections, Description, and Access at the Seattle Municipal Archives*.

We were also happy to have SMA's digitized copy of the video [Seattle City Light Connections Employee Newsletter #1, 1984](#) included in SAA's AV Archives Night screening event, which is held annually at the SAA meeting and features short films from archives across the country.

## Preserving the Wonder That is the Boundary Dam

Thanks to preservation funds provided by Seattle City Light, SMA is digitizing thousands of construction photos. The images provide a visual record of the Boundary Dam, including: the powerhouse, transmission lines, roads, and projects completed as improvements to the nearby city of Metaline Falls.

The Boundary Hydroelectric Project is located one mile south of the Canadian border in Pend Oreille County. The concrete double-curvature arch dam rises 340 feet from its base, which is 32 feet thick, tapering to 8 feet thick at its crest. Depending upon water conditions, the dam provides 35 to 45 percent of Seattle's power requirements.

(cont. p. 2)

Boundary Dam, cont.

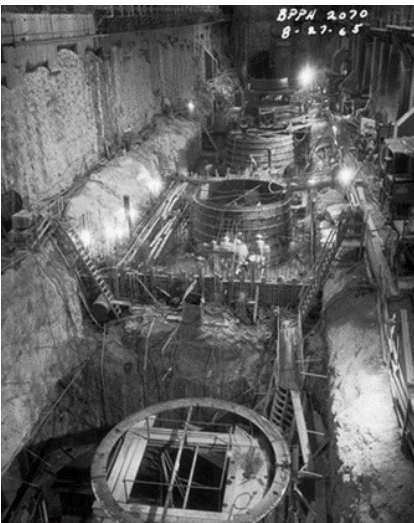
Completed in 1967, the project originally produced 600,000 kilowatts of electricity; it now produces 1,114,000 kilowatts at peak due to improvements that have been made over the past 50 years.

Shot on large-format black-and-white film, these photos taken from 1963 through 1967 detail the technical



View from Transformer Bay #51 after blast overlooking river, 1964.

[Item 183716](#), Record Series 1204-01.



General view of Machine Hall as seen from Service Bay, August 27, 1965.

[Item No: 183474](#), Record Series 1204-01.

cataloged, and are available to view on [SMA's online photo database](#).

An exhibit celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Boundary Dam is currently on display at the Seattle Municipal Tower Gallery (Level 3), featuring photos from this collection. The exhibit will run until January 2, 2018.

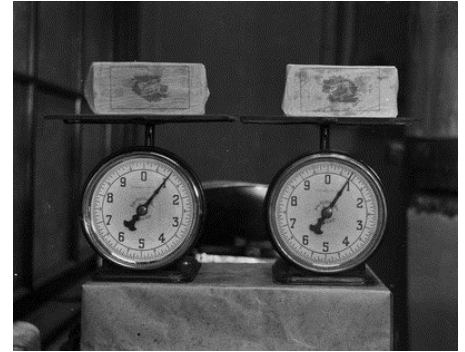
Spec. 1999, tower 54-2, workmen drilling holes for guy anchors, 1967.

[Item No: 182702](#), Record Series 1204-01.



## New Exhibit: Weights and Measures

We are happy to share that we have a new exhibit case located in the Clerk's Office 3rd floor reception area, where we plan to have rotating exhibits highlighting topics and records from SMA collections. Our inaugural exhibit features materials from the Weights and Measures unit. In 1911, Seattle City Council passed Ordinance 26477 establishing a new Weights and Measures Division in the Department



Scales find discrepancy in weight comparison, 1916. [Item 184102](#), Record Series 2705-02.

of Public Utilities in order to enforce the keeping of proper legal weights and measures by all vendors in the City. The division included a chief inspector, two



Taxi being tested for mileage calibration.

[Item 184111](#), Record Series 2705-02.

assistant inspectors, and a bookkeeper/stenographer. The inspectors checked loads of firewood, weighed coal deliveries, tested taxi meters, inspected oil pumps, and verified the net contents of packaged goods. Seattle still has a consumer protection unit, housed today within the Department of Finance and Administrative Services. Technology has changed some of the Inspectors' work – electronic computing scales and price scanners, for example – but their focus is still on making sure Seattle's consumers get what they are paying for.

## Interns and Volunteers

Our newest volunteer is Jess Short, who has a background in metadata librarianship and is applying her technical expertise on digital projects for us.

Meanwhile, Skyler Burger, Staci Crouch, Kelli Yakabu, Hanna Roseen, and Kat Lewis all continue their work on projects to help us make our collections accessible to the public. We thank them all for their dedication!

Our two work-study students, Jenn LaScala and Rachel Mahre, continue to help us with daily behind-the-scenes tasks, as well as working on special projects. This summer Rachel took on a large cleanup project for our published document collection, and Jenn began working on digital preservation of our audio collection. They truly help us keep SMA running.

## October is Archives Month!

To celebrate Archives Month, Seattle Municipal Archives is partnering with King County Archives and Seattle ARCH (Activists Remembered, Celebrated & Honored) to present *Activism in Archives*, an exploration of how activism is documented in local archives. Topics include the King County logo change from crown to civil rights leader, open housing legislation, and the freeway revolt of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Presentations will showcase diverse materials including: documents, photographs, moving image and sound recordings, maps and activist ephemera. All are welcome to join us at the Douglass-Truth Library on October 25th from 6-7PM for this free presentation.

SMA will also be offering an open house on Monday, October 16th, from 11:30AM to 1:30PM. Come see highlights from the collections and learn more about the services SMA provides. Behind-the-scenes tours of the archives work areas and storage vault will be offered at noon and at 12:30PM.

Come and celebrate Archives Month!

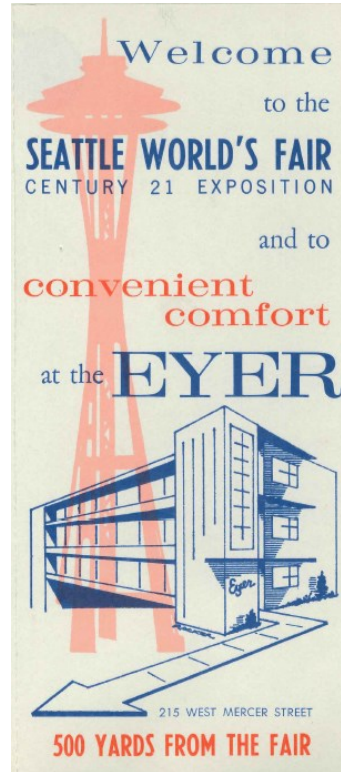


CORE-sponsored demonstration at realtor office of Picture Floor Plans, Inc., 1964.

[Item 63932](#), Record Series 5210-01.

## Newly Processed

Records from the City Light Advisory Board (1290-01), a citizen group appointed to advise the Mayor, the City Council, and the City-owned energy utility on strategy and policy direction, are now processed and available for research. Covering the years 2000-2010, materials include meeting minutes, reference materials, agendas, financial reports, and correspondence. Meetings focused on topics such as community outreach, environmental impact and conservation, work plans, and financial strategies.



Brochure advertising Century 21 housing available at The Eyer apartment building, 1962.  
[Record Series 7605-02, Box 1, Folder 5.](#)

Also newly processed are records from Seattle Center Buildings and Operations (7605-02), containing materials relating to the Seattle Center campus before, during, and soon after the 1962 Century 21 World's Fair (1957-1970). Records include correspondence, proposals and agreements, site plans, and drawings. Topics cover various infrastructure issues, such as lighting, security, and housing, as well as planning for the transition from fairgrounds to civic campus after Century 21 ended.

## Recently Added Photos: Mayor McGinn

Images from Mayor Mike McGinn's office are now in the SMA photo database, including events such as town halls and budget hearings, signing ceremonies for the panhandling ordinance veto and rental inspection resolution, Bike-to-Work Day, South Lake Union trolley announcement, the City Hall Open House, and the dedication of Bernie Whitebear Way at Daybreak Star Cultural Center.



Mayor McGinn attends Bernie Whitebear Way dedication at Daybreak Star Cultural Center Discovery Park, 2011.

[Item 183511](#), Record Series 5200-03.

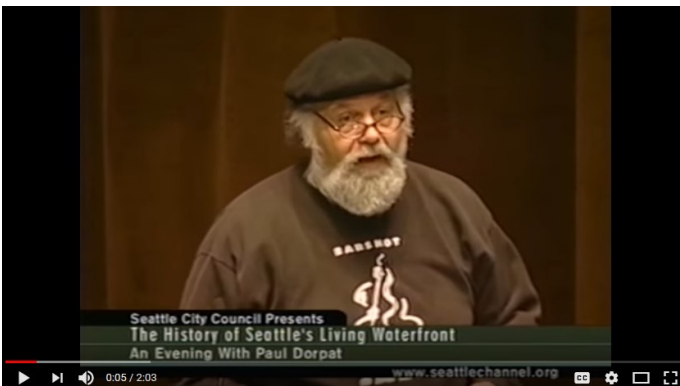
## YouTube and Flickr News

[SMA's Flickr page](#) now has more than 3,000 images, 35 albums, and 1,800 followers. One of the newest images featured on the site is a photo from the Fleets and Facilities Department Imagebank Collection (0207-01), showing WTO protestors on 7th Avenue in 1999. You'll also find this photo posted to the [Seattle Scenes](#) album.



WTO Protestors on 7th Avenue, 1999.  
[Item 176997, Record Series 0207-01.](#)

One of the new uploads to [SMA's YouTube channel](#) features footage of a public presentation given by historian Paul Dorpat on the history of Seattle's Central Waterfront.



Copy of The History of Seattle's Living Waterfront: An Evening with Paul Dorpat, April 13, 2005.

[Item 6414, Record Series 3902-01, Seattle Municipal Archives](#)

### Seattle Municipal Archives

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<http://www.seattle.gov/CityArchives>

## PARK(ing) Day

SMA partnered with the Department of Neighborhoods to participate in PARK(ing) Day, a once-a-year international event in which urban on-street parking spaces are temporarily turned into public spaces. SMA and DON "took over" spots in Pioneer Square and Pike Place Market, and filled them with displays, trivia games, and information about services and collections. PARK(ing) Day enthusiasts and curious passersby alike stopped to engage with and learn from SMA and DON staff.



SMA's Photo Archivist Julie Erick at the Pike Place Market PARK(ing) spot.

Seattle has participated in PARK(ing) Day since 2007 to raise awareness about the importance of walkable, livable, and healthy communities.

## 41 Years Ago: Electric Vehicles



This City Light prototype electric vehicle, the RT1, could travel up to 75 miles on one charge of its eight six-volt batteries. The four-passenger car was only seven feet long and five feet wide, and took up one-fifth the parking space of a typical car from that period. Curious to learn more? Check out the full story at the [Find of the Month](#).

## Upcoming Events

- Oct 10-14: [Pacific Northwest History Conference](#), Spokane, WA
- Oct 16: Seattle Municipal Archives Open House, 11:30-1:30 (Tours at noon and 12:30PM)
- Oct 25: *Activism in Archives*, presented by SMA, King County Archives, and Seattle ARCH. Douglass Truth Library, 2300 E. Yesler Way, 6-7PM.
- October: WA State Archives celebrates Archives Month with events on the theme ["Strange Washington."](#)