

# ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle  
Seattle Municipal Archives

Number 12 Spring 2003

Office of the City Clerk  
Legislative Department

## Cedar River Watershed Photograph Project

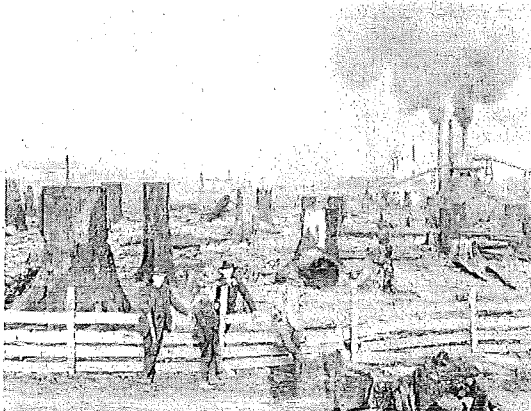
The Seattle Municipal Archives received funding from the Cedar River Watershed Management Division of Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) to scan, catalog, and index more than 1,250 negatives depicting the Cedar River Watershed.



House on  
SW  
1/4 of  
S4 R22 T7  
1911

Item  
479096

The images document condemned land in the watershed from 1909-1912. The location of most images is identified by the Section, Township, and Range. In many images, this information is on a sign held by a man, who is sometimes part of group of men with a dog. Women are depicted in a few images. Also documented are: towns, including Barneston and Sherwood, with a schoolhouse and a saloon; a Kent Lumber Company mill; homesteads with orchards; survey and logging camps, including a Weyerhaeuser camp; railroad tracks and bridges; rivers, creeks, lakes, waterfalls, burned and cut timber; mountain views. Some images are from outside the watershed.



Barneston.  
Mill in back-  
ground.  
S14 R22 T7E

1911

Item 47741



Surveyors at camp-  
site.  
Undated

Item 47946

The Archives is providing SPU with high-resolution scans, re-sampled scans for web presentation, and a catalog database for the images. The Archives will retain custody of the original images and include them in the photograph database.

## Related Cedar River Watershed Records

The Seattle Municipal Archives holds several collections which complement and provide context for the SPU photographs. Cedar River was first proposed as a source for the City's water by Chicago Hydraulics Engineer Benezette Williams in 1890. Williams conducted the first survey of the watershed and issued the first plan for a City water system.

Records of the City Engineer (**Records Series 2627-04**), dating from 1890 to 1921, regarding the construction, extension and maintenance of the City's water system include a volume of correspondence and calculations of Benezette Williams. Early reports and correspondence surrounding Williams' proposal and employment are in the General Files (**1802-04**).

Other related collections include: outgoing correspondence from the Superintendent of the Water Department beginning in 1891 (**Record Series 8200-02**); records of the construction of the Cedar River Watershed facilities from the Engineering Department, including correspondence, contracts, reports and specifications dating from 1890 to 1940 (**Record Series 2614-09, 2614-12, and 2627-02**); ledgers of supplies for the Cedar River Watershed cook and bunkhouses dating from 1918-1919 (**Record Series 8201-03**); and records of the Board of Public Works regarding the bids and financial aspects of the Cedar River Watershed project dating from 1897 to 1903 (**Record Series 0603-01**).

Records from the Law Department relating to the condemnation of land in the watershed

for pipeline right-of-ways and creation of a reservoir date from 1892 to 1930 and contain correspondence, petitions appraisals, court orders, motions and draft legislation (**Record Series 4403-01**).

Maps from the Engineering Department of the watershed date from 1898 to 1968. The maps give information about property ownership, topographical information, location of roads and railways, and sometimes vegetation. This collection (**Record Series 2613-01**) will be available later this year in the Maps Database. Maps and drawings of the watershed are also available in the Engineering Department Cedar Falls Power Plant Construction Files and date from 1898 to 1932 (**Record Series 2614-12**).

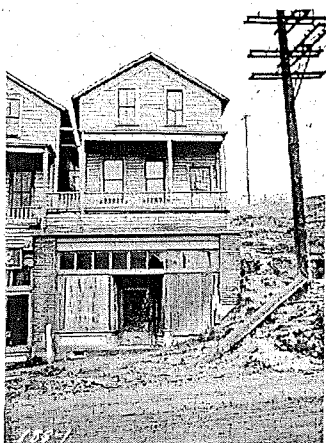
## New Photographs in the Database

Photographs added to the online database in the past few months include images dating from 1936 to 1938 taken by the Department of Streets and Sewers. Many photographs document landslides throughout the city. Some of the locations include:

Laurelhurst, Alki, Perkins Lane, Capitol Hill, Main and Maynard, W. Marginal Way, and W. Highland Park.

The dredging operation at Green Lake in 1936 is also well documented in this series of photographs.

Landslide at Main and Maynard in the International District. March 15, 1935. Item 46247



## Archives to Move this Summer

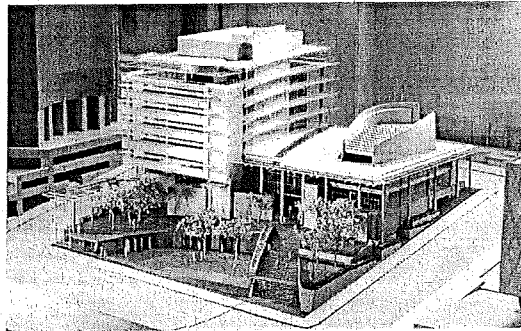
The Archives will move into the new City Hall in mid-June. The research area will be closed for two weeks at the end of June and beginning of July. Researchers can also expect reduced hours for the remainder of July. **Please call ahead to make sure the Archives is open for research in June and July.** The telephone numbers for the Archives will remain the same.

The Archives will be located on the third floor of the building and will include an improved reading room, processing room, and immediate access storage vault for high-use materials. A larger storage area will be located at a lower level. The vaults will utilize compact moveable shelving, and the storage capacity will be greatly increased.

The new City Hall is located on the east side of the same block as the current Municipal Building and will open onto Fifth Avenue between James and Cherry Streets in downtown Seattle. A second phase will add a large plaza on the Fourth Avenue side of the block.

## Archives and Art

Beliz Brother is the lead artist for the art work in the new City Hall in Seattle. One of her projects in the new City Hall will make use of photographs and documents from many different archival repositories in the City, including the Seattle Municipal Archives, the King County Archives, and the National Archives. Beliz Brother and her staff have gathered a large number of images, including faces of people in Seattle from different professions and time periods.



Model of new City Hall  
Architects: Bohlin / Gustafson

In her concept plan for the City Hall, Brother stated "Many have come to associate public art with a sculpture in a lobby or a painting on a wall. However, the word 'cultural' embodies much more. Culture implies that we both remember what has happened in the past and look forward to the possibilities of the future.....Culture is also about the soul, the heart and the heritage of our city."

## 100 Years Ago

On May 20, 1903 Mayor Thomas Humes declared the afternoon of Saturday May 23, 1903 a holiday "in all the departments of the city administration" due to a visit by President Theodore Roosevelt. Mayor Humes also recommended merchants and businessmen close their businesses between 1 and 5. Streets were to be cleared for "passage of the presidential party, to the end that confusion may be avoided and good feeling prevail, and that no opportunity be given for a wrong impression of our citizenship."

The Seattle Municipal Archives does not hold any photographs of his visit, but images of crowded streets and hotels decorated in the President's honor can be found at the University of Washington Special Collections.

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

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