

ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

Number 7 Summer 2001

Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department

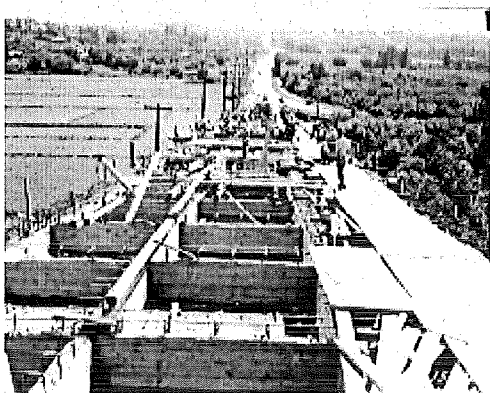
Photos Added to Online Database

Over the past year, more than 2,000 images were added to the Seattle Municipal Archives online photograph database. Primarily images from the Engineering Department, they date from 1939 to 1949. Subjects include: paving of streets, construction of the north and south approaches to the Ballard Bridge, the 45th St. viaduct, various landfills around the City, and many other subjects.

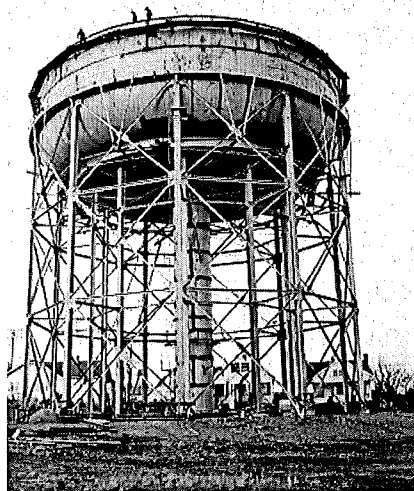


Sixth Avenue South Landfill showing shacks,
October 25, 1939 No. 39279

Other landfill images from this time period include Laurelhurst, Interbay, 22nd Avenue South, and West Seattle.



Building the viaduct near what is now University Village. No. 39121 June 27, 1939



Maple Leaf Water Tank, almost completed.
Item 41499
December 14, 1948

Users should realize that while most images in the Archives from the decades following 1950 are not yet online, the archivists can help you search for images using other indexes in the Archives. Please contact the Archives if you don't find the images you are looking for.

Summer Staff

The Archives is pleased to have three new work study students from Seattle Pacific University working at the Archives through the summer. Allison Duzenski, Andrew Neff and Erica Owens will be processing Mayoral, City Council, and other records, scanning and cataloging negatives from the Engineering Department, and completing other projects. The Archives also welcomes Ilene Jaffe, a student completing a directed field experience at the Seattle Municipal Archives this summer, through the University of Washington Information School.

Contact the Archives:
Seattle Municipal Archives
600 Fourth Avenue, Room 104,
Seattle, WA 98104

Scott Cline, City Archivist
scott.cline@cl.seattle.wa.us
(206) 684-8353

Anne Franilla, Assistant Archivist
anne.franilla@cl.seattle.wa.us
(206) 233-7807

<http://www.cl.seattle.wa.us/seattle/leg/clerk/archhome.htm>

General Files Project

Processing of the General Files began this year with a grant from the King County Landmarks and Heritage Commission. Processing continues of this early collection with expectations that the guide will be done by the end of 2001. Dating from the 1870s to 1902, the General Files predate the Comptroller or Clerk Files. The General Files touch on a variety of subjects and include voices of many Seattle residents and City officials, providing a glimpse of everyday life and issues facing citizens living in a city experiencing amazing growth. The last *Gazette* highlighted issues relating to women and work. This *Gazette* looks at documents relating to stray animals and one suggesting tensions between the diverse groups of people that made up the City.

Document number 992048 dated April 12, 1892, describes the frustrations of a citizen who owned cows as he appeals to the City for a refund of money paid to the pound master.

To the Police Commissioners of the City of Seattle: First, I would hearwith[sic] certify that poundman E. C. McClanahan did on the 24 day of April unlaw fully seize and drive away from a boy Harvy Frazier 2 cows. After the boy had told him 3 or 4 times that he was hearing [sic] them. But he would not head the protests of the boy. Secondly after he had taken possision [sic] of the cows he did ill treat the animals by running them almost continuous untill [sic] he got to the pound which is no short distanse. [sic] I called to him to stop running them but he would not head [sic] me also and said he would not stop untill [sic] they were in the round. I went direct to the pound but could not get the cows without first paying 6 dollars so I went to Police head quarters but could not find the chief so I went home and in the evening I went and paid the six dollars under a protest and took a receipt. Now I would respectfully ask you honorable body to cause the money to be paid back. Yours respectfully, W. Nickerson.

Several documents in the General Files reflect attitudes towards Seattle's Asian population. Protests against flower stands, petitions protesting business owners who are not citizens, and letters asking that some laundries be declared nuisances suggest a population that was not always accepting of differences. Some documents are less subtle than others, such as this petition by eleven Chinese merchants, written in 1894. It is document number 992090.

"The undersigned, Chinese merchants of the City of Seattle, respectfully represent that it is the habit and custom of some of the detectives on the Police force of the City of Seattle, to enter the residences and places of business, at all hours of the day and night, and without warrant, to search through their premises." The petition cites the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Washington. Police Chief Bolton Rogers responded that he was "unable to find any case where an officer of this department has entered a Chinese house and searched the same without having a proper search warrant with him."

The General Files collection contains few images. Letterhead offer images of a different type, and often include engravings or special fonts. City of Seattle letterhead rarely included graphics during the 1890s, but businesses often included engravings on their letterhead. These examples are from various years.

The City of Seattle--legislative Department.

Ar. President:

Document 992445. February 14, 1898

CITY OF SEATTLE

Mayor's Office

CITY HALL

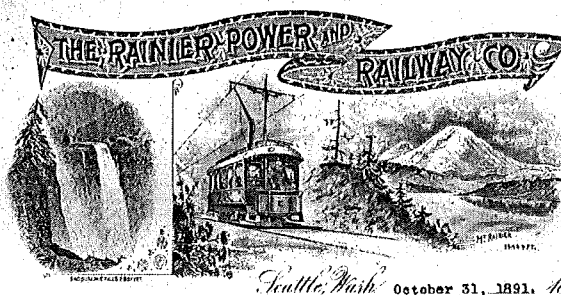
Document 992391 January 2, 1894

REGINALD H. THOMSON
CITY ENGINEER

DEPARTMENT OF

CITY ENGINEER

Document 992336 October 17, 1892



Document 992465 October 31, 1891

The General Files will be open to research when the project is completed, in January 2002.