

ARCHIVES GAZETTE



City of Seattle
Seattle Municipal Archives

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Office of the City Clerk
Legislative Department

Out of the Archives

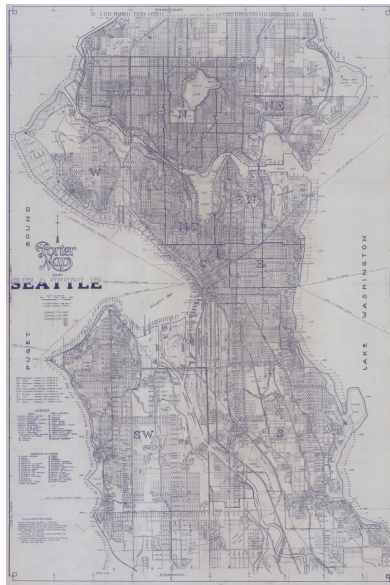
A recent accession of maps transferred to the archives from the SPU Vault contained one item that particularly caught our eye. Drawn in 1926, [The Porter Map of Seattle](#) is a large wall map covering the entire city. It is meticulously detailed, with keys to public buildings, road types and grades, street designations, and churches according to denomination. The author of the map is shown as Mrs. Florence Porter. We were curious about who Mrs. Porter was, and began digging for information on the story behind the map.

We found several articles in the Seattle Times between 1924 and 1936 heralding Mrs. Porter's cartographic endeavors. Inspired by a need she witnessed daily in her position as head of the room registry department at the YWCA where she helped women find housing, she designed a guide and directory to the city specifically with newcomers in mind.

The booklet included a street directory, traffic rules, streetcar and ferry lines, lists of hospitals, hotels, markets, restaurants, and more ([copies of the guide](#) are held by the Seattle Public Library). It was soon officially approved by the Chamber of Commerce and updated into subsequent editions.

Mrs. Porter began working on developing a large wall map to complement the guide. In a June 13, 1926 Seattle Times article entitled "How to Get There Answered," Mrs. Porter explained that, even though mapmaking had been a hobby of hers since childhood, Seattle was "the hardest city, with its broken and twisted streets, and small courts and places." Nevertheless, she described her map as one in which "one is enabled to instantly and exactly locate any address, and at the same time see all related information in getting to the place, or the surrounding interests of that locality."

Updates were made annually, which Mrs. Porter claimed made it "a virtually perpetual map." Our Porter wall map was last updated in 1935. View or download your copy at our [Digital Collections site](#).



The Porter Map of Seattle, drawn in 1926 and last updated in 1935.
[Map 3408](#), Series 9910-03, SMA.

Archives Month 2022

October is American Archives Month! SMA will be joining archives around the country to celebrate archives and the work archivists do. Washington State's Archives Month theme is "Let Archives Transport You," highlighting materials featuring the varied modes of transportation that have existed in Washington over time, from horses and buggies, to trains, cars, and airplanes, and at least one monorail.

Follow us on [Instagram](#) to learn more about what we have planned throughout the month, including a forthcoming exhibit, a series of top tips from the archivists, and participation in the annual Ask an Archivist Day social media event, where we'll take to Instagram to answer your questions about our work and the records we hold.

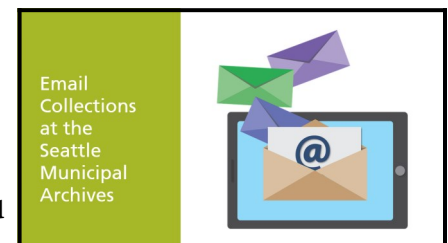


New! E-Learnings on Audio and Email

Now available on SMA's website are two new e-learning courses on how to search for [Audio Archives](#) and [Email Collections](#). Each course is self-paced and interactive, and covers the basics of what records are available and how to find and access them.

All of SMA's e-learning courses are free and generally take about 10-15 minutes, making them easy and convenient ways to learn about the archives and how to search and access collections. In addition to these new

offerings, other e-learning topics include a general introduction to the archives, exploring specific formats such as photos and moving images, how to research legislative history, and what to expect when visiting. Find all nine e-learning courses on [our website](#).



City Light Funds Access to Photographs and 16mm Film

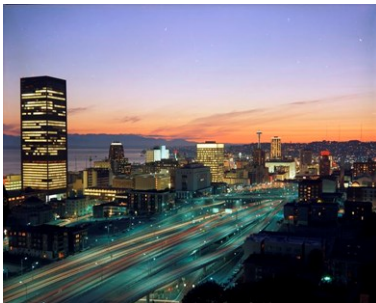
Seattle City Light's Communications Division funded work at SMA to catalog, scan, and index 4,479 negatives from two different series of SCL negatives and digitize 4,700 feet of 16mm film on 35 separate reels. This project enables access to new visual resources documenting SCL's work, including the use of electricity, its employees, and related events. SMA hired Simmons University SLIS student Annalise Nicholson to perform the work on the negatives and Audiovisual Archivist Libby Hopfauf completed the work on the 16 mm film.

A large number of negatives, consisting of several different subseries, were accessioned in 2006 and staff



Holiday spectacular, December 1969.
[Item 199585](#), Series 1204-01, SMA.

A total of 3,360 black and white negatives were scanned from the second series of negatives, the "P" Series, dating from 1956 to 1962. Many images in this series were used in SCL publications and included more employee activities than the "C" Series, such as line workers, employees in the workplace, fishing derbies, award ceremonies, and tour groups at the Skagit Hydroelectric Project. Also included were businesses illustrating uses of electricity, especially restaurants, and window displays on electricity. Many



Seattle at night from Jefferson Terrace Apartments, July 1969.
[Image 198765](#), Series 1204-01, SMA.

thousands of negatives remain unprocessed in these two series of negatives, but this project provided a glimpse of what they hold.

Billboard at Sick's Stadium reading "Madam, I prescribe an electric dishwasher," 1961.

[Image 197822](#), Series 1204-01, SMA.



(City Light, cont'd)

Work on the undigitized 16mm film portion of the project included first identifying historically valuable content,

evaluating their condition, and then reviewing, with use of a Movi-scop, the identified 47 films (about 7,000 feet of 16mm film). During her review, Libby selected 35 films or about 4,700 feet of 16mm film for digitization.



Seattle City Light employees playing golf at the Rainier Golf & Country Club in Seattle.
[Event 52](#), Series 1204-05, SMA.

Dating from 1948 to 1983, content selected included information about various aspects of SCL's work, such as energy conservation, major projects, planning and construction of facilities, and employee events. All film was cleaned, re-cored, re-housed in archival film cans, and la-



B-roll of workers excavating land for construction of the Bothell Substation, August 1948.
[Event 142](#), Series 1204-05, SMA.

beled. Catalog records were created with title, film format, media length in feet and descriptive notes on content and subject matter before films were taken to the vendor for digitization. After the digital files were returned, a

preservation copy was put in the repository and smaller access copies were uploaded to SMA's Digital Collections site as well as to [YouTube](#) and the [Internet Archive](#).

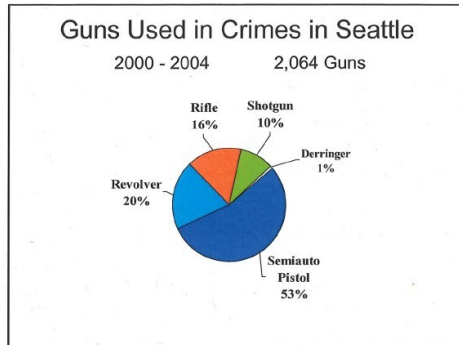
Films selected included:

- SCL employees at a [golf tournament](#) at Rainier Golf and County Club, 1952
- B-roll of workers excavating land for construction of the [Bothell Substation](#), 1948
- B-Roll of [SCL billboards](#), signs and buildings including exteriors of SCL facilities in SoDo and downtown, 1959
- SCL employees working inside the scroll case at the [Diablo Dam Powerhouse](#), 1958

SMA is very grateful to the Seattle City Light Communications Division for their support in increasing access to audiovisual resources documenting Seattle's electrical utility. These materials provide valuable historical information about major projects, hydroelectric operations, national and local energy campaigns, employees, and SCL facilities.

Newly Processed Collections

Now processed and available for research are records documenting efforts to reduce gun violence in Seattle. [Gun Violence Prevention Records \(Series 4010-01\)](#) cover the years 1993-2012. Records cover both stand-alone efforts as a municipal government and in conjunction with other governing bodies, coalitions, foundations, and interest groups, and include records of numerous conferences and forums, as well as reports, correspondence, and briefings. Topics include gun locks, firearms dealers, youth violence, background checks, and gun tracing. Other files detail the involvement of the Mayor's Office and Police Department.



Guns Used in Crimes in Seattle, 2004.
Box 5, Folder 1, Series 4010-01, SMA.

Also recently processed are records from Jorge Carrasco's tenure as City Light Superintendent. The records have been added to the [SCL Superintendent Records \(Series 1200-13\)](#). Carrasco headed the agency from 2004 to 2015, and his records cover issues including the agency's transformation initiative and strategic planning, its response to the 2006 windstorm and planning for future storms, and exploration of alternative energy sources. With the addition of these records, the Superintendent series now spans 59 cubic feet and covers almost 100 years of City Light history.

A series of railroad franchise maps recently transferred to the archives from SDOT are now cataloged, with high resolution scans available to download from our Digital Collections site. The maps are detailed at the street level and show tracks, right of ways, and include references to related legislation.



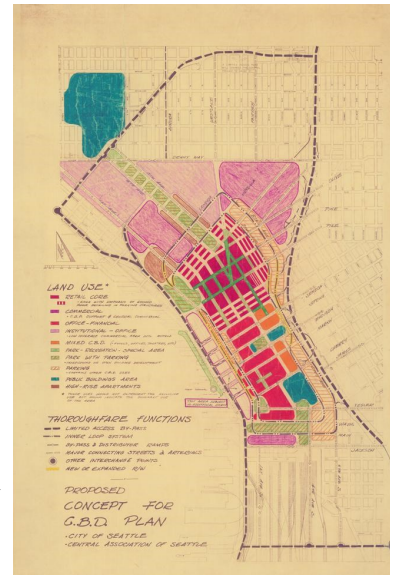
Detail of street map showing railroad tracks and terminals along the Salmon Bay Waterway, 1916.
[Map 3410](#), Series 2613-01, SMA.

(newly processed, cont'd)

Also recently cataloged and added to our Digital Collections site are maps transferred to SMA from the SPU Vault. These maps date from the 1950s to the 1970s and were created to inform land use and transportation planning efforts during this time.

Map showing proposed thoroughfare and land use functions for C.B.D. (Central Business District) Plan, March 1960.

[Map 3466](#), Department of Community Development Maps and Drawings (Series 1600-05), SMA.



New! Domestic Partnership Exhibits

This year marks the ten-year anniversary of the legalization of same-sex marriage in Washington State. To celebrate, SMA has produced two new resources exploring the history of domestic partnership legislation in Seattle and how the city supported the road to marriage equality.

SMA's online exhibit on [Domestic Partnerships and Marriage Equality in Seattle](#) explores how marital status and sexual orientation were included in Seattle's anti-discrimination laws over time, eventually leading to the city's domestic partnership registration program and its support of statewide marriage equality legislation. The exhibit includes digitized original documents and photos, as well as a list of related resources for further research.

A new Seattle Voices piece on [Domestic Partnership and Seattle's Family Leave Ordinance](#) highlights audio excerpts from a June 1989 public hearing on a proposed law which would expand the definition of "family" so that city employees could take sick leave to care for their domestic partners as well as their children and parents. Representatives from many community groups including Radical Women, the Employee Committee for Equal Rights at City Light (CERCL), Freedom Socialist Party, and Coalition of Labor Union Women spoke at the hearing.

In an 8-1 vote, City Council passed the Family Leave Ordinance ([Ordinance 114648](#)) on August 14, 1989.



Flyer for first day of domestic partner registration, 1994.
Box 1, Folder 14, Series 8405-04, SMA.

YouTube and Flickr News

Popular with SMA's Flickr followers is this 1971 photo showing 35th Ave NE, looking north from NE 85th St. Buildings, traffic, and signs for businesses like Pay 'N Save and McVicar Hardware are also visible in the photo.



[Image 202053](#), City Light Negatives (Series 1204-01, SMA).

One of the most popular videos recently posted to our [YouTube channel](#) is "Electric Safety from A to ZAP," a 1970 animated educational short program for children about electrical safety.



Electric Safety from A to ZAP, 1970.

[Event 182](#), City Light Moving Images (Series 1204-05), SMA.

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SMA in the News

Several photos from SMA's collections were used to illustrate a recent article on SCL's Powerlines blog about [Seattle's Illuminating History of Electric Vehicles](#), part of SCL's celebration of Drive Electric Week from September 23-October 2.

SDOT's recent blog post about the [history behind the Fremont, University, and Ballard bridges](#) features some early photos of each bridge from SMA's collections. All three of the moving "basculer" bridges have been serving the city for over 100 years and remain vital today.

HistoryLink drew from SMA's [Women in City Government](#) exhibit for their article on the history of [Seattle Police Matrons](#), and also used several SMA images to illustrate their two-part article on A Century of Seattle Vice, [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).

A news story out of Wyoming on the [history of wood stave pipe technology](#), claiming it's not "as bad as it sounds," used [this popular image](#) from SMA's collections to show how such pipes were once constructed.

50 Years Ago: Discovery Park Land



In September 1972, the U.S. government officially transferred 391 acres of surplus land from the decommissioned Fort Lawton to the City of Seattle, paving the way for the creation of Discovery Park which would open the following year.

[Image 172087](#) showing Fort Lawton facilities in 1972.

Series 5801-07, SMA.

Upcoming Events

Oct 16 [Women of the Black Panther Party](#). 1-2pm at the Northwest African American Museum.

Nov 16 [History Café: How Comics Frame History](#). 6:30-8pm at MOHAI.