

ARCHIVES GAZETTE

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Seattle Municipal Archives

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Out of the Archives

We're still finding ways to celebrate and honor Seattle's Sesquicentennial in 2020! For a recent presentation about the Seattle at 150 book project, we created a video exploring how the project was conceived and produced, including a selection of stories highlighted in the book. You can watch the video on our website at the [Seattle at 150](#) page.

We've also been excited to spot the Seattle at 150 light pole banners posted at intersections around the city. Keep an eye out for them in your neighborhood!



New! District Resource Pages

SMA staff created a new set of webpages featuring resources in the archives by [Council District](#). While not an exhaustive list of what is in the archives for each district, the pages provide a sampling of records meant to engage constituents with the history of their neighborhood. The pages are structured around the themes of Parks and Recreation, Infrastructure and Public Works, Neighborhood Development and Community Services, and Legislative History.



Hat and Boots Service Station, circa 1980. [Item 193638](#), Series 1629-01, SMA.

A clickable map gets you to pages for each of the seven districts. Each district page has a section for early records which includes topics such as the aftermath of the Great Fire, annexations, the



1107th St. & 30th Ave NE culvert removal, 1960.

[Image 65001](#), Record Series 2613-07, SMA.

development of the water supply and sewer systems, grading and street improvements, housing, and public health. The district pages include links to both descriptions of records and scanned items. Infrastructure and Public

Works sections highlight engineering records which include bridge construction, paving, widening, and more, with textual records providing context and detail for visual images.

Neighborhood records include Model City records, Neighborhood Matching Fund records and more, offering windows into community driven projects. Parks records include maps, textual records and photos about parks, playfields and boulevards as well as open space. Moving images are sprinkled throughout the district pages. District 6 includes a film depicting the [Pony Club](#) picnic at Woodland Park Zoo from about 1935. An episode of [Neighborhood News](#),



Planting Plan for Hiawatha Playfield, 1911. [Map 2385](#), Record Series 5801-06, SMA.

produced by the Seattle Channel, details upgrades to parks, pedestrian improvements, and streetscapes as part of the neighborhood planning process throughout the Central Area, First Hill, and Capitol Hill in the late 1990s. We hope you'll use these pages to explore your district!

Seattle City Light Labor Strikes

Every Labor Day we are reminded of the role of unions in supporting good wages and safe working conditions for workers. SMA holds photographs of several strikes by members of workers' unions at Seattle City Light.

In October 1965, construction work on the Boundary Dam project was halted by the West Coast Boilermakers' Union Local 104 strike. Picketing took place in Washington, Oregon and Northern California. The strike ended after 22 days when the eight-state contract dispute was settled.



Signs used in Boilermakers strike, October 11, 1965.
[Item 186928](#), Record Series 1204-01, SMA.

On October 17, 1975, members of Local 77, Electrical Workers began a strike involving more than 700 City Light employees in the electrical crafts. Picketing took place at the North and South Service Centers, the Power Control Center as well as on the Skagit River and at Boundary Dam. Strikers included linemen, system controllers, dispatchers, and powerhouse operators. The strike was over wages and working conditions among other issues in a new contract. The strike ended after 98 days on January 23, 1976, with neither side satisfied. The vote to accept the contract was 389 to 238. The strike affected requests for new connections or disconnections to service and appliance service calls.

Other images of strike activity between 1963 to 1975 can be viewed [here](#).



Picket lines at South Service Center, December 15, 1975.
[Item 192890](#), Record Series 1204-01, SMA.

Archives Month

October is National Archives Month! This year's theme for Washington State is **Creativity, Rights, and Resilience**. To celebrate, SMA is planning a series of virtual tours of the archives, including behind-the-scenes looks at the records vault, processing area, and research room. A new online exhibit highlighting records at SMA documenting the 1970 occupation of Fort Lawton by the United Indians of All Tribes, and the subsequent creation of the Daybreak Star Cultural Center, is also in the works.



Follow SMA on [Instagram](#) to stay informed on upcoming Archives Month events and resources, and follow the Washington State Archives Month's [Facebook](#) page to learn more about how archives around the state are celebrating Archives Month.

75 Years Ago: Ballpark Drinking

The Women's City Club of Seattle sent [the following letter](#) to City Council in 1945:

Dear Sirs,

Many of our members have experienced disagreeable episodes from indiscriminate drinking at the ball park and in our public parks.

We feel that the lack of enforcement of the Steele Act is disgraceful.

In line with the present drive against juvenile delinquency, we think that the practice of selling beer and permitting the drinking of hard liquor in the Seattle Ball Park and all the public parks is indefensible.

A large percentage of attendance at these places is our youth. These are being impressed by adult conduct.

The Seattle Base Ball Club is a matter of civic pride. Many citizens look forward to attending games but it is becoming obnoxious to the better class of people.

We hope this condition will show marked improvement.

The Steele Act was Washington State's response to the repeal of Prohibition, regulating the sale of liquor and establishing the Liquor Control Board. The council was apparently not too concerned with the ballpark's practices, as they placed the club's letter "on file."

Recently Processed Photos

A small collection of photographs relating to former councilmember Sam Smith was recently donated to SMA by Deb Harrick. Deb is the daughter of Evelynne Adler who was a secretary for Sam Smith in the 1970s.

The Deb Harrick Photograph Collection on Sam Smith (Record Series 9937-01) includes photographs of the 1976 swearing-in ceremonies, casual group photographs, and unidentified events. The twelve images that were scanned and cataloged from the collection can be seen [here](#).



Florence Harrell, Phyllis Beaumonte, Sam Smith, Evelynne Adler, 1977.
[Item 195416](#), Record Series 9937-01, SMA.

Sam Smith enjoyed a rich 24-year career as the first African-American member of the Seattle City Council. An online exhibit detailing his tenure on the Council is available on SMA's website [here](#). Textual records from his office, such as correspondence, subject files, and committee records, are described [here](#).



Councilmembers John Miller, Phyllis Lamphere, Sam Smith, Paul Kraabel and Tim Hill being sworn in as Councilmembers, January 12, 1976.
[Item 195240](#), Record Series 9937-01, SMA.



Sam Smith and Evelynne Adler, 1977 (estimated).
[Item 195425](#), Record Series 9937-01, SMA.

SMA is always grateful to people like Deb who take the time to contact the Archives with items relating to a family member who worked for the City.

Newly Processed Collection

Recently processed and available for research are [Bruce Harrell Subject Files](#) (Record Series 4632-02). Spanning the years 2006-2019, the files comprise 2.6 cubic feet and cover topics brought before the council during his time in office.

Harrell was elected to City Council in 2007 and reelected in 2011. In 2015, the Council was reorganized to be based on districts, and he was elected to represent District 2. While in office, his committee and policy work often focused on technology, public safety, and civil rights. He elected not to run again in 2019.

Public safety issues are strongly represented in the records, including police accountability and reform, domestic violence, aggressive panhandling, and use of police drones and body-mounted cameras. Also covered are City Light topics such as management, streetlights, and expansion in South Lake Union. Harrell's job assistance legislation to assist ex-offenders is also documented, as well as SR 520, public schools, the youth jail, and issues related to south Seattle.

YouTube and Flickr News

A popular image recently added to [SMA's Flickr site](#) is this image of the Place Pigalle Tavern, taken as part of a series showing the Pike Place Market Urban Renewal Area in 1969.



Place Pigalle Tavern, 1969.
[Item 195004](#),
Record Series
1802-01, SMA.

One of the most watched videos recently added to [SMA's YouTube channel](#) is *Not Too Young to Volt*, containing footage of a 1983 educational musical theatrical performance on energy conservation at Ballard High School.



Not Too Young to Volt, November 12, 1983.
[Item 3346](#), Record Series 1204-05, SMA.

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SMA in the News

SMA archivists assisted with research for a recent Crosscut article by Knute Berger examining the history of mayoral recall attempts in Seattle. Mayor Hiram Gill was recalled in 1911 and Mayor Frank Edwards in 1931, and Mayor Wes Uhlman survived three recall attempts during his years in office in the 1970s. Read more at [Crosscut](#).



Mayor Wes Uhlman at Market Day 1972, 65th Anniversary of Pike Place Market.
[Item 33097](#),
Record Series
1628-02, SMA.

20 Years ago: Mariners Baseball



Seattle Mariners baseball game at Safeco Field on September 11, 2000.
[Item 105420](#), Record Series 0207-01, SMA.

Upcoming Events

Virtual Moving History, Sundays, 4:30-5:30 PDT.

Weekly series of archival videotape documenting a diverse history in Seattle, presented by MIPoPS in partnership with the Northwest Film Forum.

Oct 11 & 25: [Home Movie Day 2020](#), in celebration of Home Movie Month and National Archives Month.

Check the [Moving History website](#) for upcoming dates and themes.

Oct 21 [Seattle Now and Then](#) with Clay Eals and Jean Sherrard, Pacific Northwest Historians Guild, 7pm.

Oct 21 [History Café](#): Lessons in Building Multiracial Unity with El Centro de la Raza, 6:30pm.

Oct 20-23 [Pacific Northwest History Conference](#): Contested Spaces: Power and Resistance in the Pacific Northwest.