



# ARCHIVES GAZETTE

Seattle Municipal Archives

Number 5 Fall 2000

Office of the City Clerk  
Legislative Department

## New Space for the Archives

In January, 2001, the Seattle Municipal Archives will be moving into new, but temporary, space in the Municipal Building while a new City Hall is constructed. The Archives will move to the front of the building but remain on the first floor. Reference service may be disrupted during this two-week period. Telephone numbers will remain the same. The Archives will be in the temporary space for two years.

## SPECIAL ISSUE: PHOTOGRAPHS

This is the second issue of the Archives Gazette devoted to major Photographic Collections in the Seattle Municipal Archives. Dating from the early 1900s to the present, photographic images document public works, parks, City employees, and many aspects of working and living in the City of Seattle.

This issue is devoted to collections from the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Pike Place Market. The Don Sherwood Parks History Collection and the Ben Evans Recreation Program History Collection include over 2,700 images documenting the Parks Department. Photographs and slides in the Pike Place Market collection number over 7000. Images for all collections are scanned and available on-line on the Archives' website:

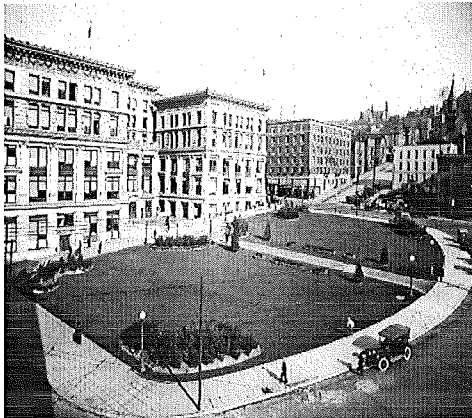
<http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/seattle/leg/clerk/archhome.htm>

All of the photographs are public records and are available for public use. To acquire better quality copies of the images than are available on the web site, please contact the Archives.

## Seattle Parks Photographs

Seattle parks are well documented visually through the images from the Don Sherwood Parks History and Ben Evans Recreation Program photographs. All images from both collection are available on-line and date from 1891 to 1984.

City Hall Park  
Sept. 24, 1963  
*Don Sherwood  
Parks History  
Collection*  
Item No. 2890



The photographs in the Don Sherwood collection were collected by Don Sherwood and date from 1891 to 1975. Don Sherwood (1916-1981) worked for the Parks Department from the early 1950s to 1977. Sherwood researched park histories and pulled together Parks Department records in danger of being destroyed as employees retired. The records that he collected, including photographs, are known as the Don Sherwood Parks History Collection.

Included in the collection are images created by three well known local studios: Ashael Curtis, Frank H. Nowell, and Webster and Stevens. Images in the collection document Parks Department properties, facilities, and events, sports and recreation events and facilities. Among the largest numbers of images are those of Green Lake, Lake Washington Boulevard, Leschi Park, Lincoln Park, Ravenna Park, Volunteer Park, Woodland Park, and Woodland Park Zoo.

Ben Evans (1895-1988) also worked for the Parks Department and was director of the Recreation program for over 20 years, turning the program into one of the nation's major playfield and recreation systems. Photographs collected by Evans form part of the Ben Evans Recreation Program History Collection. The images number over 300 and include employees, participants in sporting events such as kite flying contests, the old Oswald and Old Woodenface contests, facilities in the Parks program, the skiing program at Snoqualmie, and Aqua Theater productions.



Ben Evans and youth participating in the "Old Woody" contest, n.d.  
*Ben Evans Recreation Program collection, Item No. 31110*

## Pike Place Market Photographs

As a result of a 1971 ballot initiative to save the Pike Place Market, the Department of Community Development (DCD) created the DCD Pike Project office in 1972. The Project office had primary responsibility for developing a new urban renewal plan for the Pike Place marketing district, and administering and managing its implementation. The Department of Community photographs in this collection were compiled to document the history and redevelopment of the Market. The Pike Place Market Collection as a whole is an artificial collection accumulated by the City of Seattle Law Department for the Urban Group lawsuit in the early 1990s and was transferred to the Seattle Municipal Archives in 1994. DCD Pike Project Office ceased operations in 1980.

Historical photographs were gathered from several sources and contemporary images were gathered from amateur photographers and project staff who documented various aspects of the Market and the project. A 1972 visual survey of building interior and exterior conditions in the historic district was conducted, and, in addition, the Project Office contracted with several photographers to document specific activities or physical elements of the Market.



Corner of Pike Street and First Avenue, 1972  
*Pike Place Market Visual Images and Audiotapes*  
Item No. 33293

The Pike Place Market photographs are organized in three distinct sections. The first is organized by individual property or parcel and is comprised of historical and contemporary photographs, including the 1972 survey images. The second grouping was part of the Department of Community Development's acquisition request records. These photographs were taken in 1967 and are a nearly complete exterior survey of the Market neighborhood. The final grouping is organized by subject or Market activity and includes both historical and contemporary photographs.

Over 4,500 slides of the Pike Place Market primarily document conditions of the structures within the project boundaries before, during, and after rehabilitation and construction. Also included are slides of Market activities, events, and celebrations, and images from public markets and urban renewal projects throughout the United States.



Corner Market  
Paint-In  
Artwork, 1975.  
*Pike Place  
Market Visual  
Images and  
Audiotapes.*  
Item No.  
32106.

## New Accessions

Several large accessions have come in during the past six months. They include over 50 feet of maps from the Seattle Transportation Department. They date from 1890 and document Local Improvement Districts, sewers, franchises, etc. Over 17 cubic feet of Mayoral records from the mid-1990s were accessioned, and 49 feet of Central Files from Seattle City Light dating from the 1980s were transferred to the Archives. Records from the Department of Community Development and the Department of Human Resources were also transferred to the Archives in the second half of 2000.

### Contact the Archives:

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

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