

Law Department Baseball Litigation Records, 1932-1977

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Seattle (Wash.). Law Dept.
Title	Law Department Baseball Litigation Records
Dates	1932-1977 (inclusive) 1932 1977 1964-1977 (bulk) 1964 1977
Quantity	6.4 cubic feet, (7 boxes)
Collection Number	4402-02
Summary	Records relating to the Seattle Pilots' short residence in the city, including maintenance files for Sick's Stadium and documents relating to various lawsuits after the team left Seattle.
Repository	Seattle Municipal Archives Seattle Municipal Archives Office of the City Clerk City of Seattle PO Box 94728 98124-4728 Seattle, WA Telephone: 206-233-7807 Fax: 206-386-9025 archives@seattle.gov
Access Restrictions	Records are open to the public.
Languages	English

Historical Note

The Seattle Pilots were the city's first major league baseball team, but were in the city for only one season before relocating to Milwaukee and becoming the Brewers. The team played in Sick's Stadium, which was a minor league park built in 1938. The stadium had to be extensively renovated to accommodate the team, and construction work continued right up to the first home game on April 11, 1969. Less than two months later, the American League declared the facility to be "inadequate" for a major league team.

Complaints about the stadium, coupled with low attendance and finances in the red, led to threats by the Pilots' owners to leave Seattle. When the state of Washington obtained a temporary injunction to stop the move, the team's parent company, Pacific Northwest Sports Inc., declared bankruptcy. However, Bud Selig had already worked out a deal to buy the team and move them to Wisconsin, a change that the American League approved. The team went to spring training as the Seattle Pilots but were the Milwaukee Brewers by the time the season started - a move so sudden they didn't even have uniforms made in time.

The city, the state, and King County joined together in a lawsuit against the American League in 1970, seeking \$32 million in damages. The suit was delayed while the league floated proposals to move various other teams to Seattle, but in 1976 the case finally came to court in Snohomish County. Eventually the league offered to locate another franchise in Seattle in exchange for the plaintiffs dropping the lawsuit. By this time the Kingdome was nearing completion, so a new team would have a suitable home without the headaches of Sick's Stadium. The plaintiffs agreed to this settlement, and the Seattle Mariners debuted in 1977.

Content Description

The records in this series document the maintenance and renovation of Sick's Stadium, as well as the various lawsuits that ensued when the Pilots left Seattle. There are also a number of files relating to plans to build a new multi-purpose stadium in the city (the Kingdome). One discrete set of materials come from the files of Henry Berg, who was the Maintenance and Construction Supervisor at Seattle Center and was responsible for overseeing the renovation of Sick's Stadium.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

[Item and date], Baseball Litigation Records, Record Series 4402-02. Box [number], Folder [number]. Seattle Municipal Archives.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

The records are arranged in five categories:

- Henry Berg Files
- Sick's Stadium
- New Multi-Purpose Stadium
- Court Documents
- Other Related Material

Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Henry Berg Files

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/1	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium, Sky Hi Equipment / Century Construction	1969-1970
1/2	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium, Sky Hi Equipment / Century Construction	1969-1970
1/3	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium, Venture Construction	1969
1/4	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium, Venture Construction	1969
1/5	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium	1966-1968
1/6	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium, Sky Hi Equipment Co. / Century Construction	1969
1/7	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium Renovation	1967-1969
1/8	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium Trailer	1969-1971
1/9	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium Correspondence	1966-1969
1/10	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium Punch Lists	1969
1/11	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium- Pacific Northwest Sports, Inc.	1969-1970
1/12	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Industrial Electric Field Lighting	1969
1/13	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Renovation	1967-1970
1/14	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Construction	1969
1/15	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Construction Drawings	1969
1/16	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Construction Correspondence	1969
1/17	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Renovation - Plans and Bids	1967-1968
1/18	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Locks	1970

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/19	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Venture Construction	1969
1/20	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Sound System	1969
1/21	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Water Main Installation	1969-1970
1/22	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Fire Stairs	1969
1/23	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Safeway Scaffolding	1969
1/24	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Fence	1969-1970
1/25	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Sound Elevator	1969
1/26	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Guard	1969-1970
1/27	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Maintenance	1970
1/28	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Sound System	1968-1969
1/29	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Coordinating Meetings	1968-1969
1/30	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Electrical Vault	1969-1970
1/31	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Drainage System	1969-1970
1/32	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Scoreboard	1969
1/33	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Fire Protection System	1969
1/34	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Press Box Air Conditioner	1969
1/35	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Sound System	1969
1/36	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Miscellaneous	1968-1970
1/37	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Miscellaneous	1968-1970
2/1	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Miscellaneous	1968-1970
2/2	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Testing Lab Reports	1969

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/3	Henry Berg Files - Sick's Stadium - Miscellaneous	1969-1970

Sick's Stadium

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
2/4	Sick's Stadium - Correspondence	1964
2/5	Sick's Stadium - Correspondence	1965
2/6	Sick's Stadium - Correspondence	1967
2/7	Sick's Stadium - Correspondence	1968
2/8	Sick's Stadium - Correspondence	1968
2/9	Sick's Stadium - Correspondence (Jan-Mar)	1969
2/10	Sick's Stadium - Correspondence (Apr-May)	1969
2/11	Sick's Stadium - Correspondence (June)	1969
2/12	Sick's Stadium - Correspondence (July-Aug)	1969
2/13	Sick's Stadium - Correspondence (Sep-Dec)	1969
2/14	Sick's Stadium - Correspondence (Jan-Feb)	1970
2/15	Sick's Stadium - Correspondence (Mar-Apr)	1970
2/16	Sick's Stadium - Correspondence (May-Jan)	1970-1971
2/17	Sick's Stadium - Bleacher Contract	1969
2/18	Sick's Stadium - Bleacher Contract	1969
2/19	Sick's Stadium - Board of Public Works	1969
2/20	Sick's Stadium - Conversion	1968

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/1	Sick's Stadium - Meeting of Seattle Center and Seattle Pilots Representatives	1968
3/2	Sick's Stadium - Parking	1969
3/3	Sick's Stadium - Restrooms, Press Box, Hoistway Contract	1969
3/4	Sick's Stadium - Seattle Center/Rental/Lease Issues	1970
3/5	Sick's Stadium - TV Platforms	1969
3/6	Sick's Stadium - TV Towers/Elevators	1969
3/7	Sick's Stadium - Work Orders (Seattle Center)	1969
3/8	Sick's Stadium - Miscellaneous	1968-1969
3/9	Sick's Stadium - Miscellaneous	1965-1970
3/10	Sick's Stadium - Miscellaneous	1969-1970
3/11	Sick's Stadium - Miscellaneous	1971-1972

New Multi-Purpose Stadium

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
3/12	New Multi-Purpose Stadium - Mayor's Correspondence	1966
3/13	New Multi-Purpose Stadium - Mayor's Correspondence	1967
3/14	New Multi-Purpose Stadium - Mayor's Correspondence	1968
3/15	New Multi-Purpose Stadium	1968
3/16	New Multi-Purpose Stadium	1969
3/17	New Multi-Purpose Stadium	1970

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/18	New Multi-Purpose Stadium	1971
3/19	New Multi-Purpose Stadium	1972
3/20	New Multi-Purpose Stadium	1973
3/21	New Multi-Purpose Stadium - Forward Thrust	1968
3/22	New Multi-Purpose Stadium - Parking	1968-1972
4/1	New Multi-Purpose Stadium - News Clippings	1968
4/2	New Multi-Purpose Stadium - Citizen Comment	1968
4/3	New Multi-Purpose Stadium - Citizen Comment	1968
4/4	New Multi-Purpose Stadium - Parking Study	1968
4/5	New Multi-Purpose Stadium - Citizen Participation	1972

Court Documents

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
4/6	Pacific Northwest Sports Inc. - Bankruptcy, Correspondence	1970
4/7	Pacific Northwest Sports Inc. - Bankruptcy, Correspondence	1970
4/8	Pacific Northwest Sports Inc. - Bankruptcy, Partial Pleadings	1970-1968
4/9	Pacific Northwest Sports Inc. - Bankruptcy, Pilots Settlement	1970-1974
4/10	Pacific Northwest Sports Inc. - Bankruptcy, Memos	1970
4/11	Pacific Northwest Sports Inc. - Bankruptcy, Extra Pleadings	1970
4/12	City v. Pacific Northwest Sports Inc. - Pleadings	1970-1972
4/13	City v. Pacific Northwest Sports Inc. - Pleadings	1970-1972

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/14	City v. Pacific Northwest Sports Inc. - Briefs	1970
4/15	City v. Pacific Northwest Sports Inc. - Notes and Research	1970
4/16	City v. Pacific Northwest Sports Inc. - Extra Pleadings	1970
4/17	City v. Pacific Northwest Sports Inc. - Correspondence	1968-1970
4/18	City v. Pacific Northwest Sports Inc. - Extra Pleadings	1970-1972
4/19	City v. Pacific Northwest Sports Inc. - Miscellaneous	1967-1972
4/20	State/County/City v. American League - Paul Anson Deposition and Exhibits	1973
4/21	State/County/City v. American League - Edward Heavey Deposition and Exhibits	1973
4/22	State/County/City v. American League - Edward J. Johnson Deposition and Exhibits	1973
5/1	State/County/City v. American League - Parking and Overtime	1968-1974
5/2	State/County/City v. American League	1970-1976
5/3	State/County/City v. American League	1974-1975
5/4	State/County/City v. American League	1974-1976
5/5	State/County/City v. American League	1973-1974
5/6	State/County/City v. American League	1968-1973
5/7	State/County/City v. American League	1969-1974
5/8	State/County/City v. American League	1973-1974
5/9	State/County/City v. American League	1973-1974
5/10	State/County/City v. American League	1973-1974
5/11	State/County/City v. American League	1973-1974

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5/12	State/County/City v. American League	1973-1974
5/13	State/County/City v. American League	1973-1974
5/14	State/County/City v. American League	1974
5/15	State/County/City v. American League	1969-1974
5/16	State/County/City v. American League - Continuance Agreement	1974-1975
5/17	State/County/City v. American League	1975-1977
6/1	State/County/City v. American League	1970-1974
6/2	State/County/City v. American League	1974-1977
6/3	State/County/City v. American League	1974
6/4	State/County/City v. American League	1970-1972
6/5	State/County/City v. American League	1971
6/6	State/County/City v. American League	1971
6/7	State/County/City v. American League	1970-1971
6/8	Exhibits - Remodeling and Renovation	1969-1970
6/9	Exhibits - Remodeling and Renovation	1969-1970
6/10	Exhibits - Remodeling and Renovation	1969-1970
6/11	Exhibits - Remodeling and Renovation	1969-1970
6/12	Exhibits - Remodeling and Renovation	1964-1973
6/13	Exhibits - Appraisal of Sick's Stadium	1965-1973
6/14	Exhibits - Mayor Uhlman	1970-1976

Other Related Material

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
6/15	Newspaper Clippings	1969
6/16	Newspaper Clippings	1970
6/17	Ordinances, Clerk Files, Resolutions	1943-1973
7/1	Ordinances, Clerk Files, Resolutions	1932-1969
7/2	Professional Baseball Rules, Constitution	1966-1976
7/3	Pilots - Public Statement (Mayor's Files)	1970
7/4	Pilots/Major League Baseball - Mayor's File	1970
7/5	Pilots - Mayor's File	1969-1970

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Sick's Stadium (Seattle, Wash.)
Baseball--Washington (State)--Seattle
Kingdome (Seattle, Wash.)
Litigation--Washington (State)--Seattle
Stadiums--Washington (State)--Seattle

Personal Names :

Berg, Henry
Uhlman, Wesley C. (Wesley Carl), 1935-

Corporate Names :

American League of Professional Baseball Clubs
Pacific Northwest Sports, Inc.
Seattle Pilots (Baseball team)

Geographical Names :

Seattle (Wash.)

Finding aid prepared by Julie Kerssen
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