Seattle Department of Lighting Electric Home and Farm Authority Contract Records, 1939-1943

Overview of the Collection

Creator  Seattle (Wash.). Dept. of Lighting
Title  Seattle Department of Lighting Electric Home and Farm Authority Contract Records
Dates  1939-1943 (inclusive)
1939  1943
Quantity  0.4 cubic foot, (1 box)
Collection Number  1200-12
Summary  Files documenting Electric Home and Farm Authority contracts, administered by the Seattle Department of Lighting (now Seattle City Light), 1939-1943; included are logbooks, payment charts, and correspondence.
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

Seattle City Light provides electricity and electrical and conservation services to its public and private customers. It is the largest public utility in the Pacific Northwest. Public responsibility for electrical energy dates to 1890 with creation of the Department of Lighting and Water Works. In 1902, Seattle voters passed a bond issue to develop hydroelectric power on the Cedar River under the administration of the Water Department. Electricity from this development began to serve Seattle in 1905. A City Charter amendment in 1910 created the Lighting Department. Under the leadership of Superintendent James D. Ross, the department developed the Skagit River hydroelectric project, which began supplying power in 1924. Both public and private power were supplied to Seattle until 1951 when the City purchased the private electrical power supply operations, making the Lighting Department the sole supplier. The Boundary Project in northeastern Washington began operations in 1967 and supplied over half of City Light's power generation. By the early 21st century, approximately ten percent of City Light's income came from the sale of surplus energy to customers in the Northwest and Southwest with
the remainder of City Light's financial support coming from customer revenue. The current name of the agency was adopted in 1978 when the Department was reorganized.

Incorporated in 1934 and run by the Tennessee Valley Authority during the Great Depression, the Electric Home and Farm Authority allowed the purchase of electrical appliances by those families that demonstrated need based on finances. Large appliances were sold at "reasonable prices" to local power companies; families could then purchase an appliance with an Electric Home and Farm Authority loan.

(Source: TVA: Electricity for All.)

Content Description

Records include log books containing contract information such as date of contract, customer name and address, dealer/vendor number, and contract number. Also includes monthly payment charts, appliances eligible for financing, information for dealers, balance and finance charges for appliances and delinquent payment lists. Delinquent payment lists provide customer name and address, dealer name, and unpaid balance. Correspondence includes customer correspondence, correspondence with dealers, and correspondence between City Light and the Authority. Also included are form samples for requesting the payment of unpaid balances.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

[Item and date], Seattle Department of Lighting Electric Home and Farm Authority Contract Records, Record Series 1200-12. Box [number], Folder [number]. Seattle Municipal Archives.

Administrative Information

Detailed Description of the Collection

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

Seattle Department of Lighting Electric Home and Farm Authority Contract Records, 1939-1943

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box-volume</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1</td>
<td>Collection Log</td>
<td>1940-1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Collection Log</td>
<td>1941-1942</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Container(s) | Description | Dates
---|---|---
1/3 | Collection Log | 1943

**Box/Folder**

1/4 | Dealers and Financing | 1941
1/5 | Past Due Account Letters | undated
1/6 | Delinquent List | 1943
1/7 | Forms and Notices Used by Puget Sound Power and Light on Electric Home and Farm Authority Accounts | 1939-1940
1/8 | Customers’ Letters | 1940-1942
1/9 | Correspondence with Dealers | 1941-1942
1/10 | Correspondence with Authority | 1941-1943
1/11 | Purchase Letters to Dealers | 1940

**Names and Subjects**

**Subject Terms:**
- Household appliances, Electric--Washington (State)--Seattle
- Low-income consumers--Washington (State)--Seattle

**Corporate Names:**
- United States. Electric Home and Farm Authority.

**Geographical Names:**
- Seattle (Wash.)--Politics and government

Finding aid prepared by Scott Cline and Shannon B. Lynch
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