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This document forms part of the Preliminary Guide to the Willis Tryon Batcheller Papers. To find out more about the history, context, arrangement, availability and restrictions on this collection, click on the following link:

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WILLIS T. BATCHELLER PAPERS

Acc. No. 195, 2497, 2497-2 - MCR 62 R

Guide

Willis T. Batcheller, (1889-1975) was a consulting engineer who specialized in electric and hydraulic projects. During the course of his career he was associated with some of the largest and most important electrical power projects in the Northwest. As president and director of Willis T. Batcheller Inc., he built an important practice preparing original studies for design purposes of soils, structures, large public works, hydraulic systems and dams, as well as investigating engineering failures of all types.

From 1912 to 1921 he was employed by the Seattle Light and Power System and worked on such engineering projects as the design and construction of three turbines at the Lake Union steam-electric plant; planning, surveys and cost estimates for the Skagit River power project; and planning additions to the Cedar Falls power project. In 1921 he resigned to take charge of the original survey and report on the Columbia Basin Reclamation Project for the State. Batcheller advocated the pumping and power development plan for irrigating the Basin, the main feature of which was a dam at Grand Coulee. He prepared the original designs for the dam, power house, electric pumping system, conceived the plan of financing irrigation by sale of commercial power, worked out the plan for diversion of the Columbia River and made complete engineering studies, all of which were later approved. In 1928 he appeared before the Senate and House irrigation committees of Congress in the interest of the Grand Coulee Dam and Columbia Basin Project. Batcheller's involvement with the Columbia Basin Project continued intermittently for forty years, during which time he served the Quincy Irrigation District for 14 years as chief engineer.

Valley

In 1960 the repayment contract between the three Columbia Basin irrigation districts and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation came up for review. Batcheller was engaged by the Landowners Association in 1961 to study the situation and make a preliminary audit of the Project revenues and expenses. He prepared four reports including a management proposal in which he advocated the takeover of the operation and maintenance of combined irrigation and power facilities by the Joint Boards of Columbia Basin. Batcheller continued to push for this plan, originally proposed by Under Secretary of the Interior James Carr, and offered to handle the legal and engineering details of the takeover. He also worked against passage of S.3162, an amendatory repayment contract which he claimed would have reduced the proportion of irrigation construction cost to be borne by the sale of commercial power.

Among his other activities, as reflected by the papers, Batcheller was President and chief engineer of the Canadian-Alaska Railway Company which proposed building a railroad from Seattle and Vancouver, B.C., to Fairbanks, Alaska. Batcheller did the preliminary studies for the project. From 1959 to 1963 he was employed by the Washington Toll Bridge Authority and the State Highway Commission to investigate the sinking, in the Duwamish River, of two reinforced concrete pontoons intended for the Hood Canal Floating Bridge. In the course of this project he was again involved in disputes concerning a rival engineering plan.

For further biographical information see Spencer and Pollard, A History of the State of Washington.

WILLIS T. BATCHELLER PAPERS

Notes on arrangement

Final processing of the papers has not been undertaken. Subgroups represent some of the major projects in which Batcheller was involved. Papers relating to other engineering undertakings may be found in the CONSULTING AND RELATED FILES subgroup and in the main body of the records as GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE. Subgrouping is accurate on the whole but the researcher should be warned that some papers may not be in the correct subgroup. In most cases Batcheller's folder headings were retained. For this reason series designations are only approximate. Many of the files that are labeled correspondence contain other forms of material and other series, particularly subject series, contain some correspondence as well. In the SEATTLE CITY LIGHT subgroup the Project and Planning Files have been left in their binders. They contain a variety of material including a small amount of correspondence.

Provenance

The papers were given in three installments by Willis Batcheller and Mrs. Batcheller in 1961, 1975 and 1979.

WILLIS T. BATCHELLER PAPERS

Preliminary Inventory

* 195, 2497, 2497-2

<u>BOX/FLDR. NO.</u>		<u>DATES</u>
1	BIOGRAPHICAL DATA (see also WWA)	
	DIARY	1926-37, 1946-56
2	DIARY	1957-63
	<u>GEN.</u> CORRESPONDENCE	1946-Jan. 1949
3	GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE. This series is a mixture of subject files and correspondence with persons or organizations.	
	Alaska International Rail and Highway Commission	1957-61
	Alaska Mining and Exploration Company	1947-56
	Alaska Pulp and Paper Company	1947-48
	Cascade Mining Company	1948-60
	Empire Tin Mining Company, Alaska	1911
	Fish Creek Mining Company, Alaska	1927-36
	Friday Harbor, Washington	1953
	Hanford Engineer Works	1943-44
4	Hood Canal Floating Bridge - "original design"	1959-71
	Howard Flat Irrigation Project, Chelan County, Wash.	1930-34
	Hyder Mines	
	Magnusson, Warren G.	1950-68
	Monte Cristo	1954-55
5	Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference	1951
	Portland Canal and Power Company, Vancouver B.C.	1940-47
	Quincy Valley Irrigation District, Washington	1932-38
	Steam-Electric Plants	
	Sunset Copper Co., Index, Wash.	1930-52
	Tacoma. Public Utilities Dept.	1970-71
	Tollefson, Thor C.	1949-70
	Washington. Power Commission	1954-56
	Washington. Toll Bridge Authority	
6	Washington. Toll Bridge Authority	1959-65
	"Washington, D.C."- mainly correspondence with members of Congress and U.S. regulatory bodies	
	Westport, Wash.	1948-51
	<u>AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS</u>	1919-21
	<u>CANADIAN-ALASKA RAILWAY COMPANY</u>	1947-56
	PROPOSALS	
7-9	Preliminary proposal to Province of British Columbia	
	Proposal	1947
	Correspondence	1947

BOX/FLDR.
NO.

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DATES

REPORT

Chief Engineer	1929
Original Reports and Data	1948?
Lands	1947-57
Miscellaneous	1948-52
Preliminary	1947
Economic and Traffic Survey	1947
Seattle. District Engineer	1942
Group of reports on CARR, etc.	1948
Financial	1949-56
Estimated Annual Net Income	
Preliminary	
Coal Deposits	
Engineering	

MINES

Correspondence
Miscellaneous Data

OILS

Correspondence
Reports
Ram Riner

TIMBER

Correspondence
Reports
Water Power

MAPS

Map of proposed route of CARR Co.	1948?
Seattle and Vancouver to Peace River;	(1943)
White Horse, Dawson, Fairbanks Map	1949
U.S. Dept. of Interior Geological Survey	
Aerial Photography of Alaska, Canada	
Maps - 32 pp., Documentation	
Miscellaneous	

CHARTS

Condensed Compensated Profile (approx. 50)

SUBJECT SERIES

Surveys
Royal Bank of Canada
Pacific Great Eastern

<u>BOX/FLDR.</u> <u>NO.</u>		<u>NO. OF</u> <u>FLDRS.</u>	<u>DATES</u>
	<u>COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN PROJECT</u>		
9	HISTORICAL FEATURES		
	INCOMING LETTERS	8	1921-66
	OUTGOING LETTERS	8	1921-69
	GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE	7	1921-39 1960-62
	T.L. CARR CORRESPONDENCE		1948
	R.N. SHAKESPEAR CORRESPONDENCE		1948
	MINUTES		1961
	REPORTS	16	c.1922-61
10	TECHNICAL DRAWINGS, MAPS CHARTS		
	CONTRACTS	4	c.1948-61
	COURT TESTIMONY		1962
	FINANCIAL RECORDS		
	LEGISLATION	4	1928-65
	SPEECHES AND WRITINGS	3	
	MAPS	2	
	CLIPPINGS	4	
	EPHEMERA	7	
	STATISTICS		
	PHOTOGRAPHS		
	SUBJECT SERIES:		
	Chelan River Irrigation Dist.		1960-62
	Study of Repayment Ability		
	NOTES	2	

<u>BOX/FLDR.</u> <u>NO.</u>		<u>NO. OF</u> <u>FLDRS.</u>	<u>DATES</u>
<u>COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN PROJECT (cont)</u>			
11	MEMORANDA		
	HEARING - U.S. Interior Dept. - Repayment Contract		1961
<u>CONSULTING AND RELATED FILES</u>			c.1945-73 (Bulk 1945-67)
<u>SEATTLE. LIGHTING DEPT.</u>			
12	SUBJECT SERIES - Skagit River Project		
	General Correspondence	4	1915, 1918-19
	Transmission Line		1918-24
	"Estimates and Hydrogr."		
	Design		1920
	Plans		
	Power Plants - Skagit and others		
	Reply to Testimony at hearing of Department Efficiency Committee by I.B.E.W.		c.1923-24
	City Light Committee Report - Plates and Negatives (Charts)		
	Water Rights		
	Legal Documents		1917
	State Applications, Gov't Estimate		
	Charts and Graphs	2	
	Charts and Transmission prints		
	Clipping, Maps, Charts		c.1918-19
	Project and Planning Files	3	c.1918-19
	Project and Planning File (Skagit and others)		c.1917-19
	Proposal		1918
	Reports		
	Skagit River Project		1918
	Preliminary Report on the Skagit R. Power Project		1918
	Data on Hydro-Electric Development on Skagit R.		1919
	Skagit River Development, Transmission Line. Vol. 2		
	Skagit River Project		1921
13	Design of the Skagit River Transmission Line		1921
	Skagit River Power Project		1918
	Ephemera		
14	SUBJECT SERIES - Cedar River		
	General Correspondence (also White River)		1911-18
	Charts and Graphs		
	Charts - River discharge - Skagit, Cedar and others	2	
	Project and Planning File		c.1919-20
	Proposal - Cedar River Water Supply Line No. 3		1922
	Report - Cedar River Project		1912

<u>BOX/FLDR.</u> <u>No.</u>		<u>NO. OF</u> <u>FLDRS.</u>	<u>DATES</u>
	<u>SEATTLE. LIGHTING DEPT. (cont)</u>		
	SUBJECT SERIES - Other Projects		
14	Specifications and Proposals	5	1909-18
	Steam Electric Station - Report of Operation		1916
15	Water Power - Charts and Plans		
	Project and Planning Files	3	c.1913-18
	Reports		
	Preliminary Reports on the Sauk and Suiattle Rivers		1915
	Preliminary Report + Stilaguamish Project		
	Kettle Falls, Rock Island Rapids and Skagit River Power		
	Projects with Power Market Survey		
	Report on Power Supply for Proposed Acquisition of		
	P.S.P.L. Properties		1950
	Proposed Acquisition by Seattle Lighting Dept. of Certain		
	Generating Plants, Transmission and Distribution Prop-		
	erties of P.S.P.L.		1948
	"Old City Light Files" - Incoming Correspondence, reports,		
	charts.		1915-36
	General Correspondence, clippings		1952-67
	Financial Reports		1932-34
	<u>MUNICIPAL LEAGUE. CITY LIGHT COMMITTEE</u>		
			1934
16-17	ACCESSION #195 CLIPPINGS		c.1925-36