

CITY OF SEATTLE

HARBOR

DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL

REPORT

1950

William Fitzgerald
Port Warden

291874

William F. Devin
Mayor

William Fitzgerald
Chief

THE CITY OF SEATTLE

Office of
PORT WARDEN

July 2, 1951

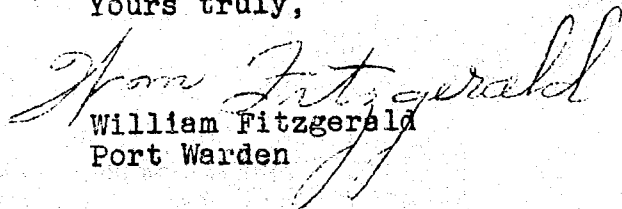
To the Mayor, City Council and
People of Seattle:

There is transmitted herewith the Annual Report of the Seattle Harbor Department for the year 1950, outlining services performed and the operating results.

The year was one of intense activity in all spheres of service, and a safety record was achieved that is unsurpassed by any major port in the nation. Not a single incident even approaching disaster occurred in this port during the year. My sincerest thanks are extended to the members of the Department whose faithful services accomplished such a splendid record.

I extend to the Mayor, City Council, all departments of the city government, to the press, radio stations and people of Seattle, my sincerest thanks for the support and cooperation extended to the Harbor Department throughout the year 1950.

Yours truly,


William Fitzgerald
Port Warden

WF:scm

CITY OF SEATTLE

HARBOR DEPARTMENT

OPERATIONAL REPORT 1950

The Seattle Harbor Department, with patrol boats on duty day and night, is the waterborne and seagoing department of the municipal government, its sphere of activities being everything that floats on water, projects over water, or that is adjacent to water on the 193 miles of Seattle shoreline. In a port that is second in number of pleasure boat registrations in the nation and that ranks high in waterborne commerce, the job is an arduous one.

Each patrol boat is manned by trained harbormen, men trained for the specialized job they perform, and each vessel is a complete operative unit carrying complete equipment for the multifarious services the vessels perform. They are equipped with two way radio, first aid appliances, complete fire fighting equipment including pumps and fire hose, ropes, drags and diving equipment.

Waterfront safety is the principal duty of the Seattle Harbor Department. However, the Department seeks to operate in a manner to expedite business in waterborne commerce of the port and in this service cooperates with the waterfront interests in the realm of port security and public safety. During the year, as a result of this cooperative effort, not a single disaster of any nature, type or kind occurred on waters within Seattle city limits.

The services of the Seattle Harbor Department break down into four categories: safeguarding life, safeguarding property, law enforcement and public safety.

SAFEGUARDING LIFE:

Just as on land, people on water get themselves into predicaments. During the year, the Department performed 227 services in this category, which included rescuing

SAFEGUARDING LIFE, Continued:

persons whose lives were in imminent danger, removing young children from rafts, logs and positions of peril, rescuing vessels in distress, rendering personal first aid services and salvaging sinking vessels.

SAFEGUARDING PROPERTY:

Due to the volume of commerce through this port, plus the pleasure fleet, safeguarding property is a heavy responsibility and absorbs the major portion of the facilities of the Department each year.

During the year, the Department performed 3696 specific services in safeguarding property. Included were 1710 dock surveys to establish safe practices in the handling, storing and processing of cargoes, which included many hazardous types of merchandise and materials. A total of 1225 vessels were inspected to establish safe practices in cargo transfers, especially in the bulk oil trade. Other services included removal of obstructions to navigation, and one airplane in distress was aided.

The Department also responded to 97 waterfront alarms of fire. Each patrol boat is equipped with complete fire fighting equipment and while on patrol, patrol vessels act as the eyes of the fire department in detecting and discovering fires and transmitting the information to the fire department via two way radio.

In connection with these services, it must be remembered that practically every peacetime disaster in recent years has originated from cargo handling on waterfront facilities. Absence of even minor disasters on our waterfront during this and past years demonstrates the effectiveness of the services in safeguarding property.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

In this service, harbor patrolmen are marine police. During the year, the Department performed 983 specific services of law enforcement which included investigation of suicides, overdue boats, missing children and persons, and suspicious circumstances on vessels, piers and waterfront properties.

The work also entails curbing activities of juvenile pirates and recovery of stolen property. Forty-one boats were recovered and returned to the owners in this category.

Prevention and investigation of oil slicks and the dumping of refuse of various kinds into the waters of the bay, canal and lakes also continued to present problems of law enforcement during the year.

PUBLIC SAFETY PATROL:

Throughout the year, harbor vessels maintained a continuous patrol of the navigable waters within the city limits. This service is an overall public safety program designed to maintain and safeguard our navigable waters for the use of all the people.

During these patrols, harbormen perform a large number of services not heretofore listed, such as warning youngsters not to play on log booms, warning persons swimming in unauthorized areas, curbing reckless motorboat driving and speeding, causing removal of encroachments into the fairways, and general safety supervision.

COST OF OPERATIONS:

Total cost of operating the Department during 1950 was as follows:

Salaries	\$49,502.97
Patrol Maintenance	4,930.82
Total Expenditures	\$54,433.79

REVENUES:

Rental of Washington Street Float	180.00
Rebate of Gasoline Tax	41.85
Total Revenues	\$221.85

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Mayor

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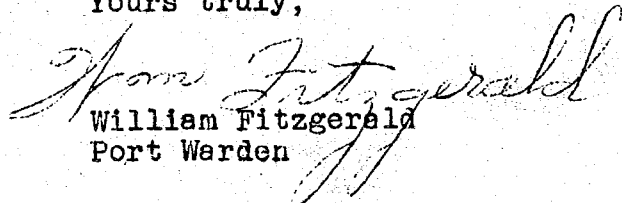
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