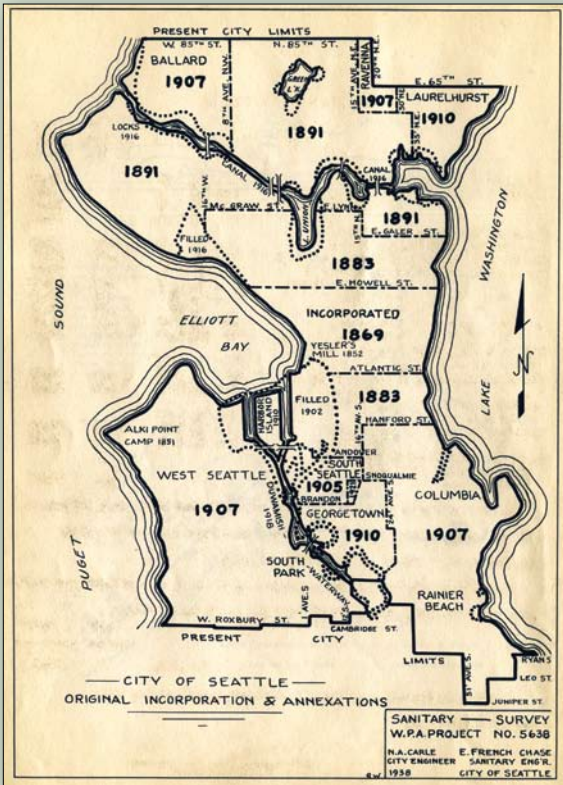


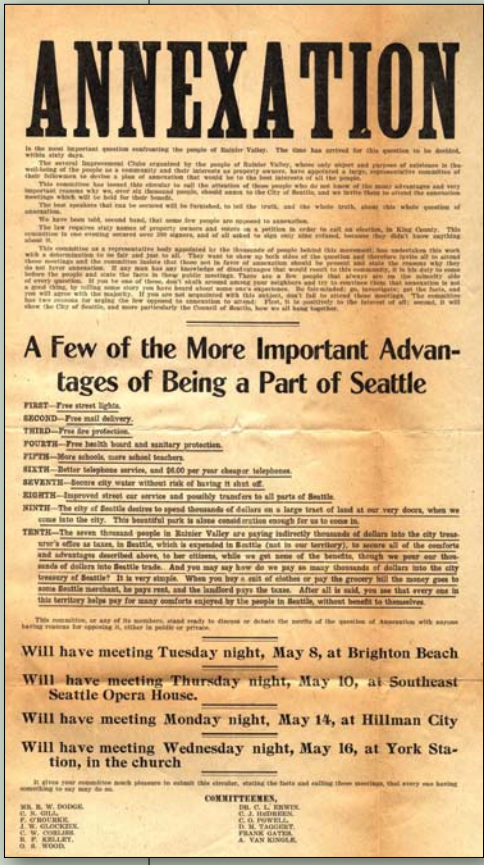
1907 THE YEAR SEATTLE BECAME A REAL CITY



1910. Also during 1907, major institutions and enterprises — including Children’s Orthopedic Hospital, United Parcel Service, the Moore Theatre, St. James Cathedral, the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, and Pike Place Public Market — were founded, and rail transit and steel-frame construction transformed the cityscape. Ground was broken that year for the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, Seattle’s first world’s fair, on the new University of Washington campus. Seattle was on the map at last.

THE GROWTH SPURT BEGINS

One of the first annexations was the Town of Ravenna, which became part of Seattle on January 15, 1907. It had recently incorporated solely for the purpose of annexation. At the time, Ravenna Park was private property owned by William Beck, the developer who had platted the neighborhood. Beck and his wife, Louise, had imported exotic plants and built paths and picnic shelters, charging visitors 25 cents to get in. Several tall trees, untouched by loggers, filled the ravine, but they were cut down after the city took over the park in 1911.



During the year, five other towns — Ballard, West Seattle, Southeast Seattle, Columbia City, and South Park — voted for annexation. Each town had its own reasons for petitioning for annexation, but common themes emerge. Many had difficulty securing a safe and ample water supply for their residents. Utilities such as sewers and electricity caused problems for town councils, and it was difficult to keep up with street improvements for growing populations. Some towns found themselves with



mounting debt. The towns ended up deciding it was in their best interest to ask that their problems — and their resources — become part of the city of Seattle.

ABOVE: Information about the benefits of annexation was presented in each neighborhood. Seattle Municipal Archives
CENTER: Postcard of Ravenna Park.

BELOW: The birth of the auto age necessitated paved roads to each of the new neighborhoods. Seattle City Engineer R. H. Thomson began laying out a transportation grid that connected the future neighborhoods long before they were annexed. University of Washington Libraries Special Collections

Although incorporated in 1869 (for the second time), Seattle was a city in name only prior to 1907. Then, in the span of one remarkable year, it shed the mud and rude manners of a rough-and-tumble frontier port for the genteel sophistication of a major Pacific Rim metropolis.

As 1907 began, Seattle was still basking in the economic glow of the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897, which had lifted the city out of a deep depression and established it as the “Gateway to Alaska and the Orient.” Over the course of the year, the annexations of Ballard, West Seattle, Southeast Seattle, South Park, Ravenna, and Columbia City more than doubled the city of Seattle’s land area amid a dramatic surge of immigration that nearly

tripled its population from 80,671 in 1900 to 237,194 in

