

# Seattle receives poor environmental quality marks

SEATTLE (AP) — An environmental research institute has given Seattle, long considered one of America's most livable cities, poor marks for environmental quality.

The World Resources Institute of Washington, D.C., ranks Seattle 65th out of 75 metropolitan areas studied.

San Antonio was rated first, edging out West Palm Beach, Fla., and Austin, Texas. Portland was the highest-rated city on the West Coast, finishing 15th.

St. Louis came in last.

"This is not good," said David Ortman,

Northwest director of Friends of the Earth. "There goes that notion that we're that shining city on the hill. It all shows that we can't rest on our laurels."

A city official who headed a 1992 study of environmental problems questioned Seattle's ranking.

"It's right to say we haven't won every environmental challenge that faces us, and we have more to go. But comparing the major urban centers of the United States, to say that Seattle is 65th, leads me to wonder what's really in those measures," said Tom Tierney, director of intergovern-

mental relations for the city.

There was some good news for Seattle: It was first for recycling, tied with Oakland, fourth in terms of bike paths — it has 133 miles of them — and eighth in mass transit.

It was dragged down because of the number of Superfund hazardous-waste sites, ranking 69th; acreage used for city parks, ranking 35th; and the amount of solid waste generated, ranking 70th.

Seattle had only a handful of days when the air was considered "unhealthy," compared with 159 in Los Angeles.

Still, the Seattle area had 229 days of "moderate" air, according to Environmental Protection Agency figures. That means air quality, while not exceeding federal pollution standards, was still not good. Honolulu was first in air quality.

Seattle finished 65th in terms of drinking water quality, 20th in toxic releases, 30th in energy use and 59th in motor vehicle use.

In its third annual Green Metro Index, the World Resources Institute used federal statistics to determine the rankings. It also used information gathered from cities on specific topics relating to quality of life.

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## Book stems from welcome arches

TACOMA (AP) — An arch of 2,500 elk antlers, strung over Washington Street, reminds visitors they are in Afton, Wyo.

Two mock lighthouses, linked by a 200-pound model of the car ferry Ann Arbor No. 7, span Seventh and Main in Frankfort, Mich., to tell folks "Frankfort Welcomes Your Return."

If not for welcome arches, visitors to Castroville, Calif., might not know that it is the artichoke center of the world; that Grants Pass, Ore., is the little town on the Rogue River with the big arches; that Golden, Colo., is where the West lives; that Cozad, Neb., owes its existence to being smack on the 100th Meridian.

Welcome arches, graceful symbols of civic pride, are rare today. Only about 50 welcome arches survive in America. More than 100 welcome arches, many knocked down to make way for wider streets, for safety, for progress, have been catalogued and chronicled by Bernard C. Winn of Enumclaw in a book, *Arch Rivals: 90 Years of Welcome Arches in Small-Town America*.

Winn, 73, is a retired U.S. Department of Agriculture inspector and almond farmer from Merced, Calif. He moved to Enumclaw three years ago to escape California's heat, be near his son's family and write about welcome arches.

Of the book's 100-plus welcome arches, Winn said, he has visited 15 or 20. Winn made queries to writer's digests, inquiries to chambers of commerce and calls to libraries and historical societies, with one qualification — the welcome arch had to cross a public street. This eliminated arches welcoming people to parks and forts, cemeteries and race tracks.

Winn's favorite is in Ronald Reagan's boyhood hometown, the Illinois popcorn metropolis of Dixon. Dixon's arch over Galena Avenue was built in 1919 to welcome soldiers returning from World War I. Dixon's arch has been updated and maintained, making the town's dedication to veterans a constant symbol, not a singular event like Veterans Day.

"I admire the people of Dixon the most for what they've accomplished with their arch," Winn said. "I am interested in seeing things saved that are disappearing. People are inclined to forget things if somebody doesn't put them down in a book."

Tacoma once boasted four welcome arches. All were quickly built — and instantly razed — in 1891 to welcome a bearded, 5-foot-6 Indianapolis lawyer, commander of the 70th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers and Presbyterian elder. His name was Benjamin Harrison and he was not only the 23rd president but the first to visit Washington upon statehood.

Harrison's visit on a windy, rainy May day in 1891 was so breathlessly anticipated that the Tacoma Daily News ran an ardent banner headline on the day of Little Ben's arrival. It simply said, "He Draweth Nigh."

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— Bernard C. Winn, author

Awaiting the president were four arches spanning Pacific Avenue, arches built to commemorate the new state's ample natural resources.

At 11th Avenue was an arch of iron, built from three carloads of hematite iron mined at Cle Elum and Ellensburg. A buoyant banner boasted, "Undeveloped Mountains of It!"

At 12th Avenue was an arch of wheat. Mighty timbers held 1,060 sacks of flour and 640 sacks of grain. At 13th Avenue was an arch of Roslyn coal.

And at 15th Avenue was the mightiest arch of all. It was a timber arch built of heroic beams six feet in diameter, cut at the St. Paul & Tacoma mill down on Tacoma's boggy Tidelands.

A carriage driven by J.H. Barton, stables foreman at Tacoma Passenger & Baggage Transfer, carried the president over the soggy streets.

"What is this, Mr. Mayor?" the president asked Mayor George B. Kandle, as he rode in the honored rig with Gov. Elisha P. Ferry and Judge William H. Calkins.

"Timber!" the mayor replied in the ancient logging holler.

"Admirable! Admirable!" the president said.

An equally enthusiastic ceremony was held in 1925 at Wilkeson. That Pierce County coal and sandstone town commemorated its ascension to the self-proclaimed title of "The Way to Wonderland" by building, for \$2,000, an arch of sandstone from its nearby quarry. Wilkeson frolicked for three days with movies, ball games, dances, a queen contest, a parade and a carnival.

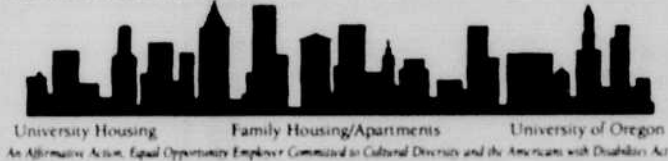
Wilkeson's welcome arch survives, regal in a dark gulch, eight miles from Winn's house in Enumclaw. Scrunched between Gale Creek and Chuck's Gas & Diesel Service on Highway 165, the arch reminds visitors that this span honors Wilkeson sandstone and Wilkeson coal at a gateway to the Carbon Glacier.

Visitors returning from the old mining town of Carbonado, from the lost town of Fairfax, from the plush woods of Mount Rainier National Park drive under the arch on their way to Tacoma and beyond. The arch holds a sign reading: "REMEMBER WILKESON." And you do.

## Announcing the Opening of the New Agate Apartments

University Housing is now taking applications for Winter Term assignments to the Agate Apartments. The Agate Apartments are located across from campus on the southwest corner of 18th Avenue and Agate Street. There a variety of twenty apartments ranging in rent from \$390 per month to \$655 per month. Rent includes water, sewer, on site laundry facilities, waste collection and recycling. The Agate Apartments are next to Campus, close to shopping and boutiques, and central to a variety of recreational activities. These apartments are energy-savers and insulated to "Good Cent\$" insulation standards.

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## Man uses phone for piano lessons

CENTRAL POINT (AP) — Duane Shinn has taught 12,000 piano students, but he was not actually there when they were learning to play.

He offers brief instruction through his "Dial-A-Piano-Lesson." This week's three-minute lesson was on playing crush notes, a technique that gives the piano a twangy sound reminiscent of a guitar.

"You've heard of Dial-A-Prayer," said the balding, roly-polyish Shinn, sitting at one of six pianos.

"This is kind of like that except, for the price of a phone call, you can see if you like my piano style. The lesson is just an introduction."

At the end of the free lesson, he offers callers the opportunity to order a catalog detailing his instructional tapes.

Shinn, 55, operates his business out of a cozy ranch-style house just north of Medford.

The taped lessons vary, but one called "Pros in Progress" is a big seller. Students listen to

the lesson and then they tape their own playing and mail it back to him for critiquing.

"I'm like a pen pal," Shinn said.

Except this pen pal charges \$50 a month.

"A housewife in Omaha might think it's a little bit spendy," Shinn said. "But a guy in New York might want to know how I do it so cheap."

Shinn's free lesson of the week is available at 503-664-6751.