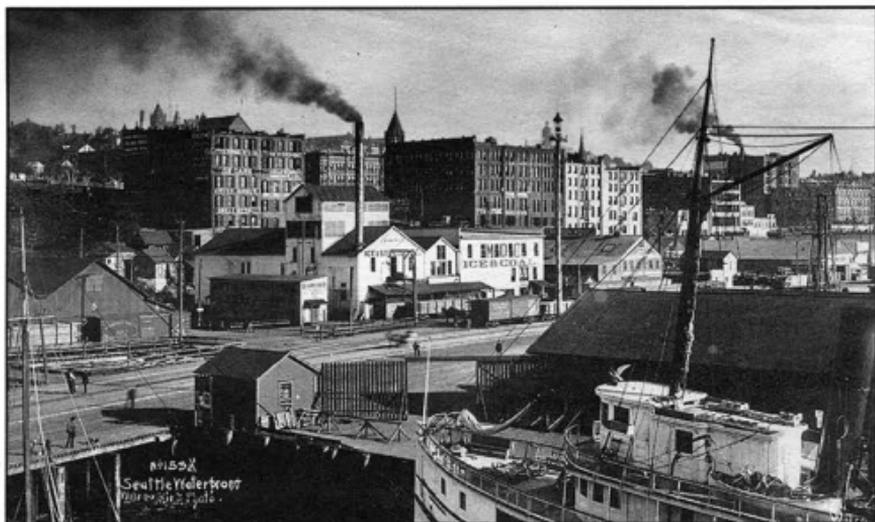
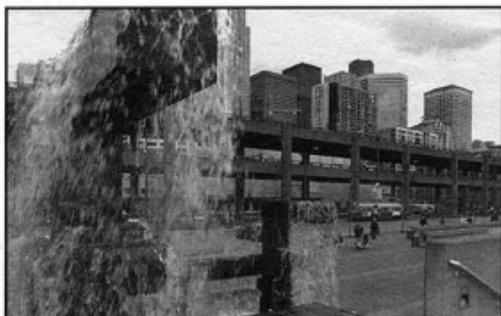


BY PAUL DORPAT



COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND INDUSTRY

Anders Wilse's late-1890s record of the waterfront below Union Street.



PAUL DORPAT

The contemporary view looks through the Lila Wallace Fountain at Waterfront Park.

The "Best Ice"

ALATE-AFTERNOON SUN illuminates the irregular additions of the Diamond Ice and Storage plant, the dazzling centerpiece of this scene. The ice-factory owners likely chose a gleaming white for the exterior of their plant to suggest the clean chill inside. However, this whitewash was constantly retouched. Here, a breeze off the bay pushes the black emissions billowing from the smokestack east onto the city; during doldrums, much of the soot settled on the plant itself.

The Norwegian photographer Anders Wilse photographed this view from the wharf at the foot of Pike Street in the late 1890s. The ice plant sprawls at the southwest corner of Western Avenue and Union Street. Ice (or cold storage) was manufactured here from soon after the city's "Great Fire" of 1889 into the 1980s. At the turn of the century, Diamond advertised its product as "The Best Ice — No Core in It."

Above the ice plant and behind its smokestack is the still-standing Diller Hotel at the southeast corner of First Avenue and University Street. The tower to the

right of the stack (across First Avenue) distinguishes the Arlington Hotel at that intersection's southwest corner.

Right of center, an odd waterfront light standard reaches as high as the ice plant's smokestack. Behind and to the left of its crown, a bright sky silhouettes the weighty First Hill tower of the King County Courthouse at Seventh Avenue and Alder Street like a wedding-cake ornament without the bride and groom.

On the right behind the mast of the unidentified vessel, a large cloud rises from the roof of the Thomas Burke Building. This is an emission from a fitful electric plant in Judge Burke's basement. The dynamos imperfectly electrified Burke's underpowered trolley to Ballard. At that booming time, cities welcomed spewing stacks as proud signs of their industriousness. P

Vol. 1 and Vol. 3 of Paul Dorpat's books, "Seattle Now & Then" are \$19.95 each from Tartu Publications, P.O. Box 85208, Seattle, WA 98145.