

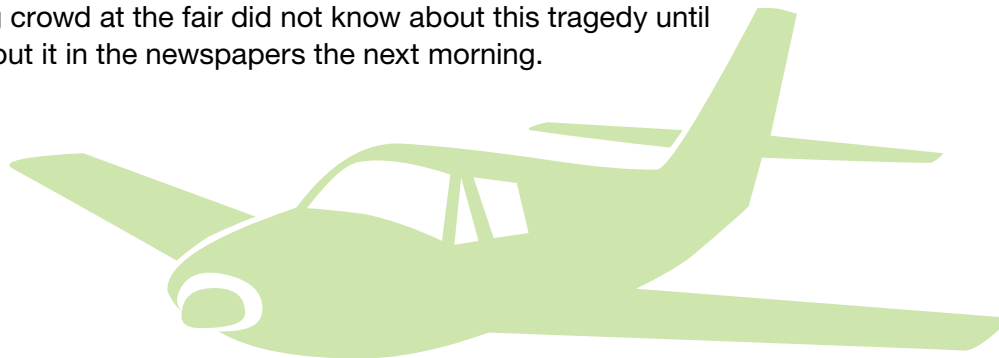
Stories from the Fair

Airplane crash.

During the opening ceremonies of the fair an Air Force squadron of 10 jet fighters roared over the stadium. After two ear-splitting fly-bys, the pilots circled to make a third pass over the excited crowd. Suddenly, one of the planes stalled and the pilot, Captain Joseph W. Wildt, tried twice to unsuccessfully restart the engine. He set the controls for the plane to crash in Lake Washington and bailed out of the plane.

Instead of ditching in the lake, the plane crashed into a neighborhood just south of the Snohomish County line. The first house that the jet hit was empty—the family and all four children were on vacation. But the occupants of the second house were not so lucky— Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Smith were killed.

The news of the accident was quickly relayed to the fair officials and dignitaries who were having dinner at the Space Needle. The watching crowd at the fair did not know about this tragedy until they read about it in the newspapers the next morning.



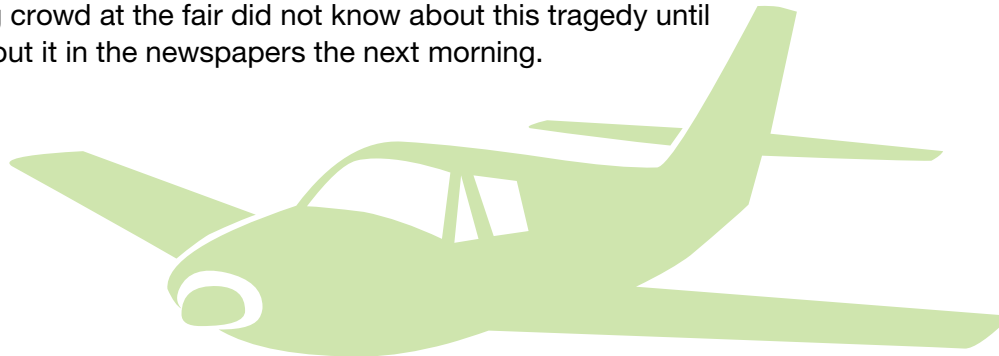
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TIME to THINK:

How would people have learned about this airplane crash in 2012?

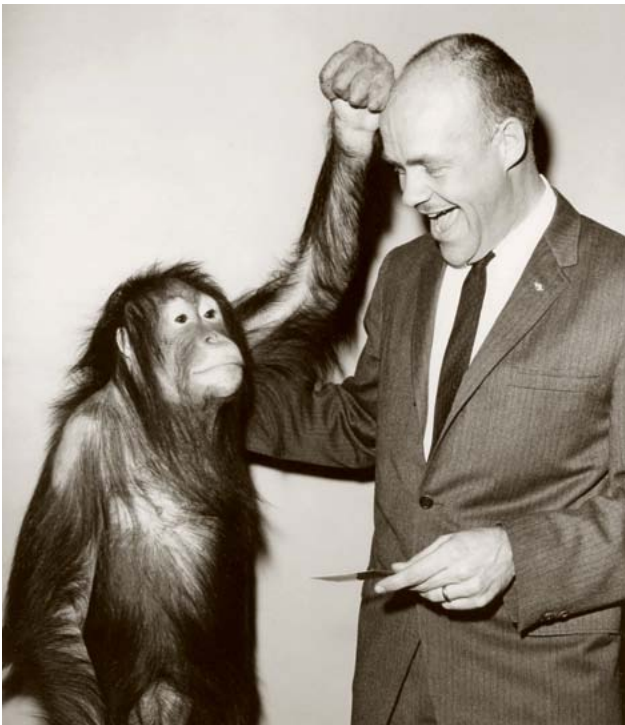
How long do you think it would have taken to get the news?

Do you think it would have affected the mood of the fair?

Stories from the Fair

Monkey business.

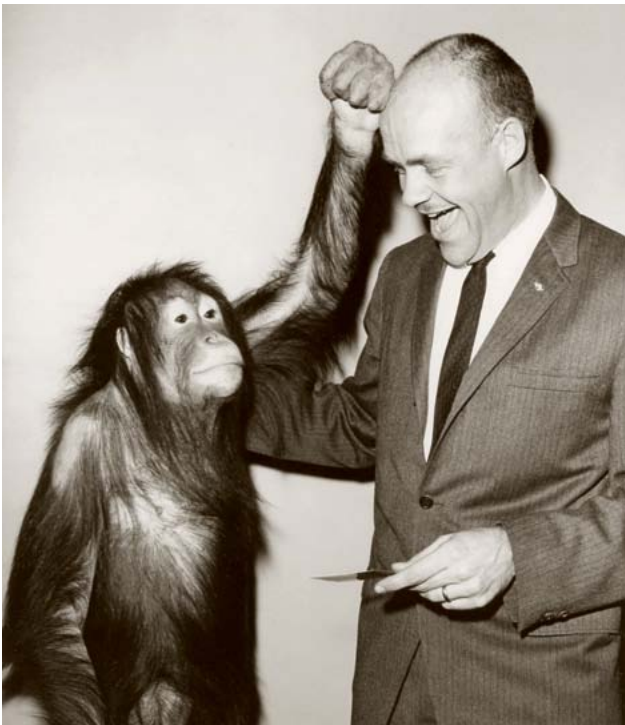
In order to have all systems ready for John Glenn's space flight, NASA launched a chimpanzee named Enos into orbit in November 1961. Fair promoters saw an opportunity for some fun and unusual publicity, so they contacted the Woodland Park Zoo. They had an orangutan named Sandra pretend to write a letter to Enos, send him tickets to the fair, and invite him to be her special guest. When Sandra was given the tickets to put in the envelope to send to Enos, she ate them instead.



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TIME to THINK:

What do you think about using animals in experiments?

Are there regulations in place in 2012 about using animals in experiments?

Would you favor using animals to advance medical science?

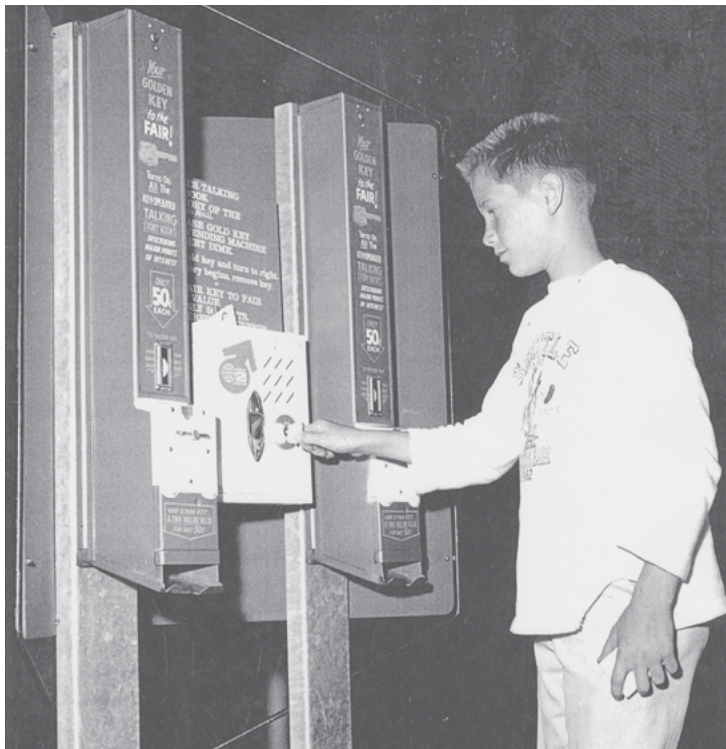
How about for testing cosmetics and household products?

How do they check to make sure the space shuttle systems are safe and ready for lift-off in 2012?

Stories from the Fair

Key to the Fair

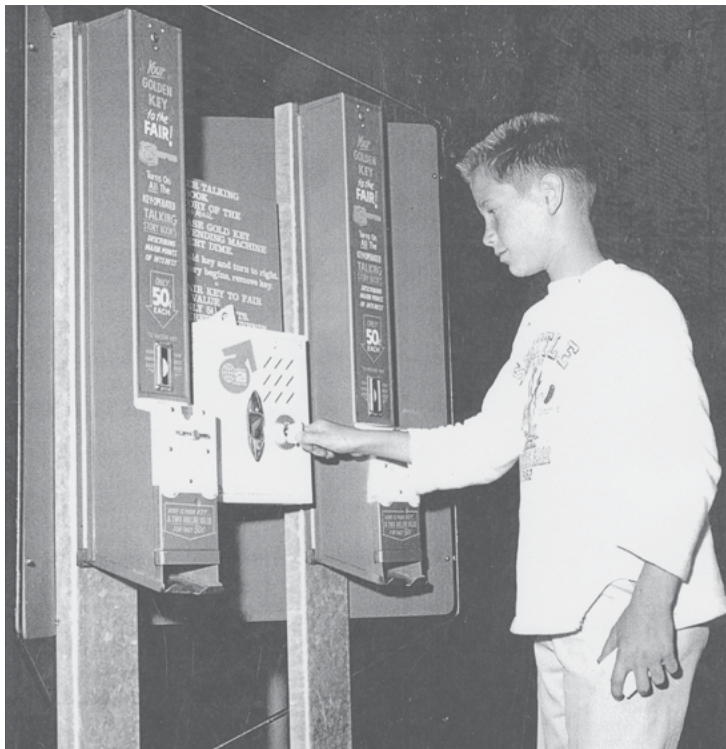
For 50 cents, kids could buy a plastic gold-colored Key to the Fair. These keys operated talking storybook machines that were located through the fair grounds and exhibits. The machine at the International Fountain provided statistics such as how high the water jetted into the sky, and the NASA story-machine featured a simulated countdown and blast off.



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TIME to THINK:

Can you think of ways that you can get information like this onsite at a museum or a fair nowadays?

Stories from the Fair

Visiting dignitaries

When the **Shah of Iran**, Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi, attended the fair with his wife, Empress Farah, a little boy approached him and handed him a world's fair souvenir spoon. The shah thought the boy's gift was such a nice gesture that he asked for his name and address. A few days later, the postman delivered a special gift from the shah in return, a silver plate and dish inlaid with gold.



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TIME to THINK:

Do you think that you could step up to a foreign dignitary at a public event in 2012 and hand him a gift or speak to him?

Why not?

What gift do you think would be appropriate for an international leader?

Stories from the Fair

Yummy new food!

One of the favorite treats at the fair was Belgian waffles. Belgian waffles were first sold at the 1958 Brussel's World Fair but had not been sold anywhere in the United States until the 1962 World's Fair.

They were lighter, thicker, and crispier than other waffles because they were made with a special yeast-leavened batter. When they were topped with whipped cream and strawberries, most fair visitors found them irresistible!



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TIME to THINK:

What is your favorite food at the Seattle Center Food Court or the Puyallup Fair?

Does it represent a specific country or culture?

Do you think there are different rules for food-handlers in 2012?

Why?

Stories from the Fair

Space drama witnessed live in NASA Pavilion.

For over five hours, live broadcasts of astronaut Scott Carpenter's triple-orbit space flight, on May 24, 1962, were viewed by crowds gathered in the NASA Pavilion. When Carpenter was making his re-entry, he missed his mark and the space capsule crashed into the ocean. The audience was solemn and quiet for nearly ½ hour while they awaited news of whether Carpenter had survived the crash. Once it was announced that he was safe, the tense spectators in the room broke out in cheers.

Several months later, fair visitors once again had the opportunity to watch an astronaut blast off into space on a live television broadcast. While Wally Schirra orbited the earth six times spending nine hours in space, most fairgoers explored the exhibits and the midway. Many returned to the NASA Pavilion to watch his space capsule safely splash down in the Pacific Ocean.



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TIME to THINK:

How would people at a fair or expo watch this type of current event in 2012?

Does the way events are shown to the public affect our reactions?

Why or why not?

Does this impact our willingness to take risks?

Stories from the Fair

Television stars visit

Cowboy star **Roy Rogers** was well-known for his popular television show, his wife, Dale Evans, and his famous horse Trigger. Fair organizers arranged for a two-week Rogers Western variety show in Memorial Stadium. To get fans excited for the upcoming shows, they could dial Century 5-7980 and hear a recorded message from their hero.

When Roy Rogers and Dale Evans arrived at the fairgrounds, Rogers was made an “honorary chief of the Indians of this state.” He received a blue-tipped bonnet, a membership to the Eagle War Bonnet Society, and a lifetime license to hunt and fish on the Colville Indian Reservation.



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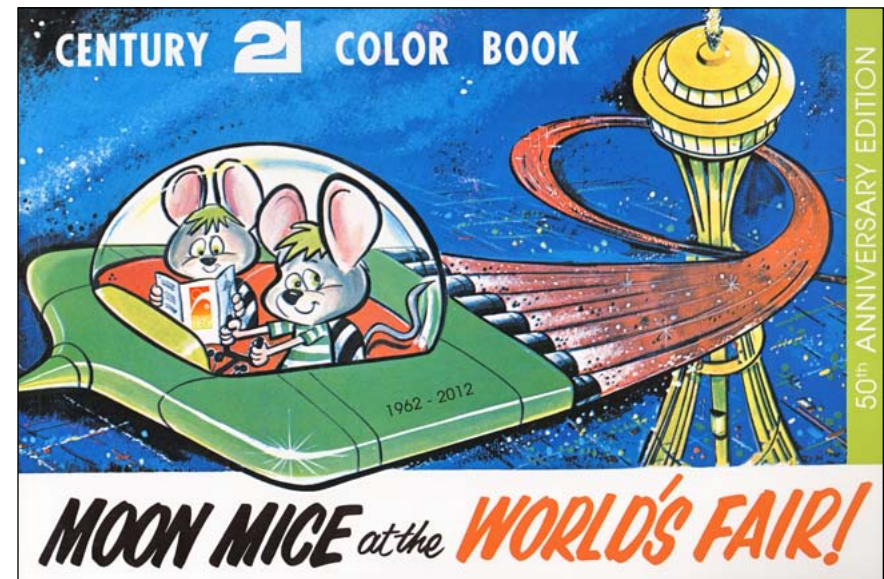
How do you think Native Americans would feel about these gifts in 2012?

Do these gifts represent the Native American people of Washington state?

Stories from the Fair

Souvenirs

There were two **souvenir coloring books** designed specifically for the Seattle World's Fair: *Moon Mice at the World's Fair* and *All About the Seattle World's Fair*. *All About the Seattle World's Fair* featured a family called the Andersons and described (in drawings) the road trip that they took to come to the fair. The drawings showed the family enjoying the sights of the fair, including the Monorail, Space Needle, and the rides on the Gayway. *Moon Mice at the World's Fair* featured two young mice who spotted the Space Needle from their home on the moon and decided to take a trip to investigate.



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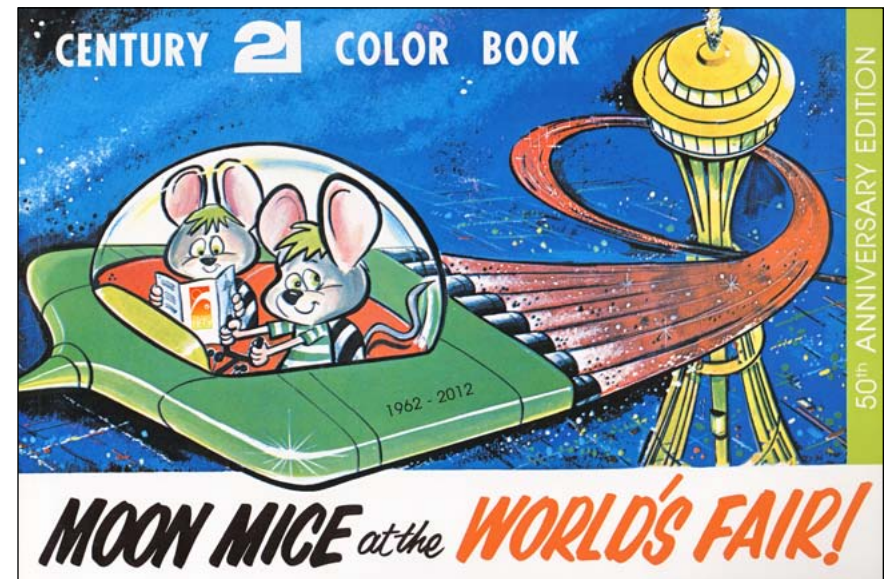


TIME to THINK:

Why do you think they used mice as the creatures that lived on the moon?

What did the mice see on their visit to Seattle that you can still see today?

Can you identify some of the main differences in lifestyles by analyzing some of the drawings in the coloring book?



Stories from the Fair

Rules and Regulations

In an effort to keep the fairgrounds clean and inviting, fair organizers used one of Walt Disney's rules at Disneyland—**no chewing gum** was sold on the fairgrounds! The one person reporters spotted with gum in his mouth was the 9-year-old son of Robert Kennedy.



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TIME to THINK:

What is the item that you most often see discarded in amusement parks or at fairs?

How do you think banning gum would work now?

Do you think it was fair that the Kennedy boy was allowed to chew gum when it was not allowed?

Do you think he was spotted because he was the son of a famous politician?

Stories from the Fair

Pigeon Race

By September, fair organizers felt it was necessary to have an event that would bring more press attention back to the fair—the **World's Fair Unlimited Pigeon Rally**. Seventy-five racing pigeons were scheduled to race from the top of the Space Needle to Minneapolis-St. Paul, 1,225 miles away. Each of the birds' legs was banded with Century 21 identification and the name of their individual business sponsor.

When they were launched, instead of heading towards Minnesota, most of the pigeons circled the Needle and headed down to Pioneer Square. Fourteen days later, one lone pigeon made it to Minneapolis. Another pigeon got as far as South Dakota before it was shot by a hunter.



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TIME to THINK:

How do you think they train pigeons to fly such long distances?

Do you train your pets? What works better—praise and reward or scolding and punishing?

Why?

Is this also true for students in school?

Children with babysitters?

Stories from the Fair

Always Prepared

Over 8,000 **Boy Scouts** volunteered during the course of the fair. Each state day, scouts raised the individual state flags at the Plaza of the States. The World's Fair Service Scouts, a group of young men who represented the states of Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, and Alaska, also provided invaluable help at the fair. They stayed in bunkhouses at Fort Lawton and worked at the fair for about six hours each day. When it came time to return home for school, the scouts all resigned at the same time and then jumped in the DuPen fountain to celebrate.



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TIME to THINK:

What types of badges do you think these scouts earned?

Do you volunteer for neighborhood or community projects or events?

Stories from the Fair

Surprise Visit

Richard M. Nixon visited the fair with his wife, Pat, and teenaged daughters Tricia and Julie. While in Seattle, he visited Nathan Eckstein Junior High student Karen Anderson, who lived in Seattle's Bryant neighborhood. After Nixon's loss to John F. Kennedy in the 1960 presidential election, Karen wrote him a note to let him know that she was sorry that he had not won. Nixon wrote back to her and they exchanged a few letters. Karen was recovering from skin grafts at the time of Nixon's fair visit, so he decided to surprise her and her family with a personal visit to the hospital.



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TIME to THINK:

Do you think that President Obama would correspond with a student—or do you think that it would be done by one of his aides?

Do you think that President Obama would be able to make a hospital visit without it becoming a huge media circus?

If you were in the hospital, would you welcome a presidential visit?

Why or why not?

Stories from the Fair

Employment at the fair

At the start, over 150 people worked at the fair. This number increased dramatically in the next few months. If she wanted to operate the elevators or sell tickets to ride the Space Needle, a woman had to be at least 5 foot 6 inches tall and have a nice personality. Men could not have a beard or mustache.

Some lucky young people got their jobs at the fair because they knew or were related to people who were organizing the fair—or who were politically important. The rule was that you had to be 18 years old to get a job at the fair.



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TIME to THINK:

What qualities do you think you should have in order to be considered for a job?

Do you think it is fair to get a job because you know someone in charge?

Do you think your physical appearance should influence the person who is interviewing you for a job?

Why or why not?

Stories from the Fair

Eyes to the Sky

A European circus troupe called **Circus Berlin** was hired to present two shows every day throughout the summer in Memorial Stadium. One of the exciting features of the circus was the high-wire act where an 18-year-old man performed his act wearing a blindfold and a hood. A high wooden fence was erected in an attempt to keep people from seeing the show without buying a ticket but it was easy to just look up and watch the aerial acts.



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TIME to THINK:

What types of events or acts do you think would be the exciting featured headliners for a fair or expo in 2012?

Are acts more daring in 2012 or are they more regulated with safety standards?

Stories from the Fair

Space Needle Adventures

There were a few **scary moments** for people in the Space Needle. During a high wind storm, the speed controls blew out and the manager of the Eye of the Needle restaurant was the only one still atop the tower. After waiting for an hour for help to come, he opened the escape hatch and climbed down the stairway inside the Space Needle.

One afternoon, the elevator, which was filled with passengers, stalled on the way to the top due to a minor electrical fire. Suddenly the elevator dropped 20 feet before the emergency brakes stopped it. The elevator operator, Nancy Sutherlin, was an experienced airline stewardess and she was able to keep the frightened passengers calm while waiting for the elevator to be repaired.



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TIME to THINK:

Would you have been scared to have been trapped in the Space Needle?

Have you ever been in a situation where you were not sure what was going to happen?

How did the people around you react?

Were they calm?

Nervous?

How do you think they would have called for help in 2012?

Stories from the Fair

Do the Twist!

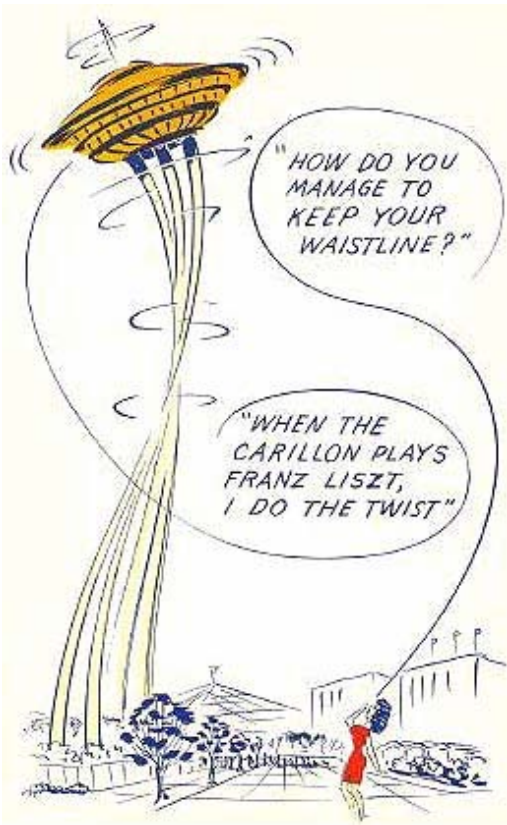
Teenagers enjoyed the **teen dances** at the fair. The Seattle Police Department, however, became worried that during the dances, there were higher reports of vandalism, drinking, and poor behavior. The chief of police wanted to ban the dances but decided to increase security instead.



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TIME to THINK:

What types of rules are there at your school dances or events?

Do you think they are fair?

Can you understand why the school administrators or your parents have rules for student events?

Stories from the Fair

Dogs and more dogs:

One of the fair VIP's (very important person) was a black labrador named Baron, who was credited with saving the life of his 5-year-old owner Vicki Spiwak. The child was lost in the Cascade Mountains for more than 50 hours and the dog remained by her side during the ordeal. Baron was the only non-service animal allowed at the fair—that is if you don't count the live dog that was given as one of the gifts to the 10 millionth visitor to the fair in September or the poodles that were given away as prizes at one of the concession stands during the first weeks of the fair. When this practice was discovered, the choice of winning a live poodle as a prize was discontinued.

One of the most popular concession prizes, however, were huge bigger-than-life-sized stuffed animals—dogs, bears, ponies, etc.. There were so many of these popular prizes being carted around



the fair that the Space Needle could not allow people to take their stuffed prizes along on the crowded elevator. They provided a check-in where you could stash the huge animal until you came down from your Space Needle ride.



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TIME to THINK:

Has your pet ever done something heroic that surprised you?

What are some of the things that make your pet special?

What do you think about having real dogs as prizes?

What is the best prize you have won at a fair or party?



Stories from the Fair

More Souvenirs!

There were many **world's fair medals**, coins, trade dollars, and medallions available as souvenirs of the fair.

- 1) George Tsutakawa's official bronze collector's medal cost \$1.95,
- 2) a three-coin series of official coins featuring the Space Needle, the Monorail, and the million-dollar display selling for 50 cents each,
- 3) the \$1 trade dollar, which was good at all participating businesses,
- 4) bags of 1,000 silver dollars sold by the Million Dollar Display concessionaires for \$1,500. The silver dollars could not be collected until after the fair because they were part of the display.



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TIME to THINK:

Do you have a favorite souvenir from a vacation?

Does it have a special symbol on it that reminds you of that fair, town, country, or place?



Stories from the Fair

Million Dollar Display

If you stacked the million silver dollars (on exhibit) into the sky, it would reach 8,800 feet. One mile is 5,280 feet and the Space Needle measures 600 feet. It would take one man 18 days to count one million silver dollars—even with a machine! And edge to edge, one million silver dollars would extend 23 miles.

During the run of the fair, the Million Dollar Display was guarded by “electronic eyes” that would immediately set off an alarm sealing all exit gates if any object (human or otherwise) penetrated a protective invisible “wall.”



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TIME to THINK:

Is silver worth more in 2012 than in 1962?

Do you think they would have an exhibit like that at a fair in 2012?

Do you think that security systems have changed in 50 years?

Stories from the Fair

Drop Me a Line!

Two United Nations **memorial stamps** were issued at the fair on September 17, which was named United Nations Philatelic Day. The stamps were postmarked at the United Nations post office in New York and they featured the Space Needle, Seattle, and the postmark. During the United Nations ceremony at the fair, all those who had given their lives in the service of the United Nations, including the late Dag Hammarskjold, were honored.



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TIME to THINK:

How much are regular or postcard stamps worth in 2012?

What image might be featured on a memorial stamp that celebrates the 50th anniversary of the 1962 World's Fair?

What would be featured on a stamp that celebrates Seattle today?

Stories from the Fair

Where was the President?

President John F. Kennedy was supposed to attend the fair to take part in the closing ceremonies, but his aides called and said he would not be able to attend because he had a bad cold. Fair organizers asked if Vice President Johnson could come instead and were told that he was also ill. The day after the fair closed, the **Cuban Missile Crisis** was announced to the public.



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TIME to THINK:

Do you think that such a critical political event as the Cuban Missile Crisis could be kept from the public in 2012 with the advancements in technology and media?

Stories from the Fair

A Trip to the Future

The World of Tomorrow featured the **Bubbleator**, a clear floating sphere that transported riders to the City of the Future. One of the scenes that the riders viewed on the way into the future was of a family waiting in a fallout shelter due to the threat of nuclear war. The City of the Future showed Seattle but with many futuristic changes to its landscape—there are jetports, monorails, and highways that allow people to live outside the city. Factories in the future have devices that send micromail, transmit correspondence, and communicate with each other.



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TIME to THINK:

Has the City of the Future portrayed in the World of Tomorrow come true?

How would families protect themselves in the event of a nuclear war in 2012?

Is the idea of nuclear war still the biggest perceived threat to the security of American citizens?

If not, what do you think students are most fearful or unsure of?

Stories from the Fair

Washington's Employ the Handicapped Committee made sure that **special accommodations** were made so that people with physical disabilities could enjoy the fair. These plans made it easier for the elderly, disabled, those with babes in arms, or those who might have trouble navigating steps to attend events and exhibits at the fair. They put wooden planks over steps and filled in curbs at corners and major intersections.



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TIME to THINK:

What measures have been improved over the years to insure that people with handicaps can attend the same events or activities as everyone else?

Stories from the Fair

And It Goes Like This...

Fair organizers had hoped that they could host a **“twist party”** to draw the younger crowd to the fair. Instead, popular singer Chubby Checker and many other rock and roll musicians were the headliners at the Orpheum Theater (located in downtown Seattle) the same day that the fair opened. It is suspected that many local teenagers probably chose the dance party over the fair.



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TIME to THINK:

Do any of the current dances have special moves and special names?

What event would you go to if you had a choice—a concert, a dance party, or a cultural event like a world's fair?

What type of event would influence you to attend a cultural venue over a social event?

Stories from the Fair

You can do it, Sal

Sal Durante was a young man from Brooklyn who had recently caught the record-setting 61st home run hit by Roger Maris in New York's Yankee Stadium. Fair promoters invited Durante to come to Seattle to try to catch a baseball thrown from the observation deck of the Space Needle. If he caught the ball, he would win \$1,000. However, a physics professor from the University of Washington calculated that a ball thrown from that height would reach speeds up to 140 miles per hour before it reached the ground and could potentially harm someone if they were hit.

So it was decided that the ball would be thrown from the top of the Ferris wheel instead. Seattle Rainiers pitcher Tracy Stallard was selected to throw the \$1,000 ball. Durante had brought his own glove and caught a couple of practice attempts. When he tried to catch the money ball, Durante dropped it. He was heartbroken and a little embarrassed. Durante's wife was expecting their baby back home and he could have used the money for his new family. The fair officials gave him the money anyway.



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TIME to THINK:

Who are some of your favorite sports heroes and why?

Do you think they could hold events like this in this era of personal injury lawsuits?



Stories from the Fair

Roommate for the Night

When **John Glenn** came to Seattle to dedicate the NASA Pavilion at the World's Fair, he stayed at the home of an old friend from the Korean conflict, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Rainforth, commanding officer of the Marine Corps Air Reserve at Sand Point Naval Station. Glenn was the childhood hero of Rainforth's 14-year-old son and that night he shared Kenny's bedroom. The boy had the chance to show the astronaut his model rockets, airplanes, and many newspaper clippings of Glenn's adventures in space.



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TIME to THINK:

Who are your heroes?

What would it be like for you if they spent the night in your house?

Stories from the Fair

Cosmonaut Visits the Fair

Major Gherman Titov was a Russian cosmonaut who visited the fair. Titov was a rather short man, only 5 foot 4 inches in height, and he found it hard to see many of the sights of the Fair as he was always surrounded by a crowd of people most of whom were taller than he was. He visited the NASA Pavilion and asked many questions through an interpreter. He visited many of the foreign exhibits and told representatives that he had seen their countries from the window of his spaceship.

When he toured the United States Science Pavilion, Titov told the crowd that he did not see God nor angels when on his flight into space, even though he had looked all day. Therefore, he had decided that there was no God and that instead, he believed that the success of the mission was the result of the “strengths, possibilities, and reason” of men. His comments were felt by many to be inappropriate.



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TIME to THINK:

Do you think he was treated differently after his remarks?

Do you think he might have been misinterpreted because of the language barriers?

Do you think people have a right to believe in God or not believe in God?

