

## Gleanings from the Chase Garden Archives

The Garden Conservancy's documentation program is working to organize decades of archival materials from Chase Garden, Rocky Hills, and the John P. Humes Japanese Stroll Garden. As we process materials to document the evolution of gardens and the vision of their creators, new ways of telling a garden's story emerge through words and pictures, letters and notebooks—even plant tags and pressed flowers. In Washington State, archivist Chloe Kadel is conserving and cataloging archival materials and transcribing interviews to document the garden and its creators, Emmott and Lone Chase.

One of Chloe's favorite parts of archiving the history of the garden has been sifting through Emmott Chase's many construction invoices, kept from when they built their home and the garden. "Not only are those invoices and receipts examples of mid-century branding at its best, but I began to see the hum and pattern of Emmott in that pile. You could see that he shopped mostly every weekend, in the morning, and spent usually no more than \$50 a trip. He did it methodically—cement for a few weeks, doorknobs or light fixtures another, appliances for the kitchen, tools for the garden, etc. It was quite touching to see

the drive and persistence of this man who was helping and supporting his wife pursue her dream. I love those receipts."

Transcribing hours and hours of cassette tapes, many of them recorded when Emmott and Lone were in their 80s and 90s, was another of Chloe's favorite activities. She comments: "To hear their passion, to hear Lone's vision for the garden, why she chose a particular plant for the unobtrusiveness in which it swelled up a hill, or why she limbed certain trees to create a simpler view out to the mountain. Emmott was SO funny. His stories about hunting in the hills across the valley as a young boy, falling in love with Lone in high school, his unbelievable memory about each step of the house and garden build out and plan—it has truly been a treat to hear them."

After the archiving and organizing of materials at each garden is finished, the next step in the documentation process will be to create online access to them so that others may also enjoy the treat of learning from these garden creators.



**Archivist Chloe Kadel organizing materials in front of the fireplace built by Lone Chase with stones pulled from the Puyallup River**