

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

NORTHWEST NEWS

Northwest News is published each quarter to keep all *Friends of PNRA* up to date with the latest happenings at the Archive. Let's review the work during the fourth quarter of 2013.

Preservation Activities

The Archive preserves the documentation of the railroads of our region and makes them accessible over the internet. This quarter we received a number of smaller collection donations in addition to two very important collections:

We welcome the SP&SRHS to PNRA and the energy of their members as they catalog their collections. On October 12th, the *Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway Historical Society* (SP&SRHS) packed up their collections stored in a number of private spaces in the Portland area and moved them to PNRA. After the items arrived in a variety of boxes, they have been repacked into 360 bankers boxes. This number of boxes nearly fills two entire 39-foot rows of our mobile shelving.



SP&SRHS members wrestle a pallet of boxes off truck.

Walt Ainsworth donated his massive collection to PNRA. Walt was involved in the early formative stages of PNRA, but had to drop out due to health issues. On November 26th, a 48-foot moving truck, with no room to spare, was unloaded at the Archive. Walt's collection is centered on the Pacific Northwest railroads: NP, GN, UP, SP&S, logging, interurban and trolleys. It includes photos, maps and documents which are well organized and came in 17 two door cabinets, 21 file cabinets, 34 rolled map cabinets, 5 book cases and 30 sections of open frame shelving. In addition, Walt donated his high-resolution scanner he used to digitize Jim Fredrickson's photo negative collection. We thank Walt for donating his amazing collection that he started amassing in 1970.

The George Werkema NP slide collection has been scanned and is being cataloged for posting on the NPRHA.org web site. Also, the Bill McKown steam locomotive drawing collection is being cataloged before scanning starts.

We are starting a Saturday crew that met first on January 4, 2014 and will meet regularly on the second and fourth Saturday of each month. While the focus of crew is expected to be on SP&S material, other RHO collections will also be sorted and cataloged during those sessions. The Wednesday crew is now averaging 10 to 14 members each week and the Thursday Evening crew meets at 6:30 PM on the first and third Thursday s. Please contact us to join a crew!!!



Wednesday cataloging crew - Sorting crew on lower floor.

Friends of PNRA

The active participation of Individual *Friends of PNRA* is very important to the success of the Archive. *Friends* contribute to PNRA's preservation mission in two ways:

1. **Volunteering your time** to work on preserving the railroad material at one of our regularly scheduled work crews, or you can work from your home computer to catalog material.
2. **Contributing funds** each year to help pay the Archive's operating costs. If you can't volunteer your time, please consider making a once-a-year contribution to help PNRA preserve the region's railroad heritage.

Please call or email us for more details on how you can become a part of *Friends of PNRA* program.



Jim Fredrickson reviews Walt Ainsworth collection.

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Community Outreach

The second meeting of the *Pennsylvania Railroad Technical and Historical Society's* in Washington and Oregon was held at PNRA on November 2nd to continue to gather local people interested in this classic railroad. If you are interested, contact PNRA for more information.

PNRA hosted a table at the Boeing Swap meet held each November at the Kent Commons. This is the premier swap meet in the Seattle area for serious rail-hobbyists. On February 1st, we will have tables at the shows in Monroe and in Portland. These meets provide great opportunities to present PNRA's mission to attendees and recruit volunteers to join our work crews.

Facility Improvements

The second steel entry door at the rear of the Archive was installed in the Boeing layout space on the main floor. The door satisfies fire safety requirements, but also makes it easier for a few BEMRRC members to park behind the building.

The new west restroom's drywall has been installed and painted and is now ready to hang the door and install the plumbing fixtures. When this restroom is complete, we will finish the separation wall on the main floor between the Archive work space and the Boeing layout.

Operations

As part of *4Culture's* award of our two-year Heritage Sustaining grant in 2013, PNRA was enrolled in Standards & Excellence Programs (StEPs) for history organizations offered by the *American Association of State & Local History* (AASLH). One of our volunteers is chairing the working group of the Archive's leaders participating in the StEPs evaluation and mentoring program. The group met this quarter and will continue next year to evaluate how our standards and processes compare to other history organizations.

The boxes permanently placed on the mobile shelving are being assigned location labels which will be referenced in each item record added to the Archive's master database during the cataloging process.

This quarter we trained additional volunteer catalogers and operators for our wide-format scanner and slide and negative scanner. This gives us backup on these important processes.

All Windows XP computers at the work stations have been upgraded to run Windows 7 and Office 2010. This allows our catalogers to open SharePoint 2013 files from our web servers and work on them at the work station or at home while controlling the versioning of the files and assuring regular daily backup of all work on our servers.

Financial Progress

With the completion of 2013, PNRA reaches the 3.5 years of operations and has been able to meet our financial commitments each of those months thanks to all the help from our *Friends of PNRA*.

Help Find Collections

Even though it may sound like our space is filling up, we can assure you all that we still have a lot of space to preserve collections of the operating documents from the railroads that served our region. **If you are aware of a collection that will need a new home, please contact us.** Time is critical to talk with individual collectors or their families before the collections are discarded due to them not being aware that there is a place where their collections will be honored and preserved.



Chuck Morrison assigns box locations on mobile shelves.

Special Project Funding

From time to time we seek funding for special projects to improve the Archive operations. These are projects that are needed in the short-term and can't wait until grant funding is available. Currently, we have identified three such projects that require funds outside our normal monthly expenses. The Archive needs:

1. \$1,600 to purchase four reconditioned laptop computers to expand our work space for catalogers to the center tables on the main floor.
2. \$500 to install a seven-gallon hot water heater to supply the sinks on the east side of the building.
3. \$2,200 to install forty-seven light fixtures to light the lower floor storage and work spaces.

If you can help the Archive move forward on any of these projects, please send your check for any amount to the address at the bottom of this page. Thank you for considering these projects.

Gary Tarbox,
PNRA Executive Director
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