

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

## ***NORTHWEST NEWS***

PNRA publishes a progress report summarizing each quarter's activities for all *Friends of PNRA*. This report covers activities during 2014-Quarter 2.

### **GiveBIG Funding Results**

From Seattle Foundation's 2014 GiveBIG day on May 6, 2014, PNRA received a total of \$7,683 from the 40 contributors including the Seattle Foundation's matching funds. This is an impressive result for PNRA's first year involvement in the GiveBIG event. We received contributions from seven states and four foreign countries.

This year's total GiveBIG giving for the day raised \$12.8 million in 24-hours, a 16% increase over the 2013 giving. This total came from 64,000+ contributions to 1,470 non-profit organizations in King County Washington. Funds came from all 50 states and 35 foreign countries.

PNRA's page on [www.SeattleFoundation.org](http://www.SeattleFoundation.org) remains active, so you can make a contribution to PNRA at any time using your credit card by clicking the [Donate Now](#) button on our Seattle Foundation web site page.

### **Facility Improvements**

Two important projects have been completed which increases the Archive's functionality. First, the Archive received a new front door with stucco finished around the surrounding exterior wall. This steel door has a shatter-proof window and steel frame, further improving Archive security.

The wall on the Main floor has been completed between the Boeing layout space on the west side of the main floor and the Archive work space on the east side and looks great. The wall is insulated to reduce



*Archive facility with new steel door with window.*

the sound transmission between the two areas. A door is installed to allow easy access to either side and will be locked only when a large group of non-members are present on either side of the wall and need to be maintained in one area.

### **Heritage Services**

Bill Rowe, PNRA's librarian, finished sorting and cataloging the books in Walt Ainsworth's collection and is now adding appropriate volumes to the reference library from other donated collections.

When ready, the Library catalog will be posted on the PNRArchive.org site to help users find the sources they need. Books can be viewed at the Archive by appointment or scanned pages can be emailed to the requestor for research purposes.

The NPRHA has launched their overhauled web site with a new user interface in SharePoint 2013. Work continues to improve the site's ease of use, search function, and search results display.

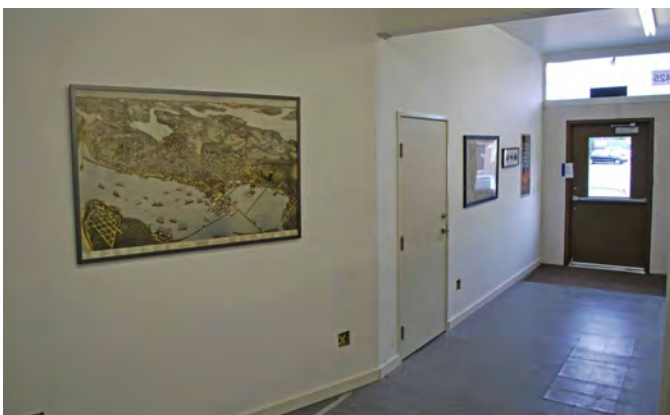
PNRA continues to receive research requests from city planning boards, surveyors, individuals, etc.

### **Friends of PNRA**

There are two important ways to support the Archive, become a *Friend of PNRA* and contribute to PNRA's preservation mission:

1. **Join a work crew** to preserve railroad material at one of our regularly scheduled work sessions, or work from your home computer to catalog material.
2. **Contribute funds** each year to help cover PNRA's operating costs. To date, 148 contributors have supported PNRA's mission.

If you can't volunteer your time, please make a financial contribution to help PNRA preserve the re-



*New wall with front door and door to layout.*

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gion's railroad heritage. Please call or email us for more details on how you can become a *Friend of PNRA*.

## Preservation Activities

Jim Fredrickson's photo negatives that have not yet been scanned, cataloged and posted on the NPRHA site are being processed by the Wednesday crew.

Crew members are also scanning prints from Walt Ainsworth's collection before cataloging begins. This allows the cataloging to be done at the Archive or at home.

The Tuesday Crew started weekly work sessions in June, meeting each week from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The Saturday crew works on the 2nd and 4th week from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The Wednesday crew continues to meet each week 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM with crews ranging from ten to fourteen volunteers each session. The Thursday Evening crew meets the 1st and 3rd from 6:30 PM to 10:00 PM.



*Part of Wednesday crew in action on main floor*

## Community Outreach

Bob Kelly and Gary Tarbox attended the Washington Museum Association Annual Conference at Fort Warden in Port Townsend, Wash., to spread PNRA's mission to the heritage community in the State. Bob presented our train sheet project and its implications to the revealing the early history of communities where the railroads were important.

## Archive Operations

During the first six months of 2014, Archive work has averaged 670 hour per month which is a 55% increase over 2013 work hours. At this point, the total work hours for 2014 are projected at 8,040 hours.

Clay Hanson and Gary Tarbox attended the second StEPs program training session. This program helps

smaller heritage organizations evaluate their processes and procedures against international standards. This April session, led by 4Culture, dealt with the policies needed by to operate a strong heritage organization.

Additional volunteers have been trained to operate the wide-format, photo print, negative and slide scanners to increase the rate of scanning of photos, train sheets, maps and documents at the Archive.

PNRA's Board created two new committees:

1. Fulfillment Committee to manage the pick, pack and ship work for the NPRHA and GNRHS online Stores and the increasing number of research requests.
2. Info Technology Committee to manage the Archive equipment and web site operations.

## Financial Progress

BNSF Foundation awarded PNRA in June, a \$2,500 grant to partially fund the installation the Security Door project.

PNRA continues to meet all its financial commitments since the facility was purchased in June 2010. We thank the individual PNRA members who continue to respond to our requests for contributions which fill the gap between our operating revenue and current expense levels.

With the improving economy, the Board is reviewing refinancing all of PNRA's debt.

PNRA's Capital Campaign is proceeding.

## Help Find Collections

Many collections of documents and/or photos of Pacific Northwest railroads still need a new home, but the owners and their families often do not know of PNRA and our mission. **If you are aware of such a collection that will need a new home, please contact us.** It is critical that we talk with these collectors or their families before the collections are discarded. We have a significant amount of Archive space where collections can be honored and preserved.

Gary Tarbox,  
PNRA Executive Director  
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