

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

## NORTHWEST NEWS

For all *Friends of PNRA*, we summarize each quarter's activities in a published progress report. This *Northwest News* covers activities of Quarter 1 of 2015.

# give BIG

 The Seattle Foundation

### GiveBIG Day Is May 5, 2015

The Seattle Foundation holds its annual GiveBIG campaign this year on May 5th. It is a One-Day event promoting the support of registered non-profit organizations serving King County in Washington State. PNRA participated for the first time in 2014, receiving total donations of over \$7,000. We thank all of our *Friends* that contributed to PNRA on GiveBIG day last year.

GiveBIG contributions to PNRA are made on our page on *Seattle Foundation's* web site, which is reached by going to our web site, [PNRArchive.org](http://PNRArchive.org), and clicking the **Donate Now** link near the top of the Home page. Contributions made through this link during the 24-hours of May 5th, from midnight to midnight (Pacific Time) will be matched by funds gathered by *The Seattle Foundation* from the GiveBIG sponsors.

### 4Culture Grant

PNRA was awarded a two-year Sustaining Grant from *4Culture*, the King County organization that distributes part of the County lodging taxes to arts and culture organizations in the county. This new grant provides \$3,000 each year during 2015 and 2016. We thank *4Culture* for their vote of confidence represented by this award.



An NP Class Q5 Pacific at Seattle, James Turner Photo, Walt Ainsworth Collection

### Capital Campaign

The first phase of PNRA's Capital Campaign is in full swing as we present proposals to many foundations and key individuals. At the end of 2014, James J. Hill III made a \$25,000 challenge grant whereby he will match other donations to our Capital Campaign. Subsequently, the *Great Northern Railway Historical Society* gave us an immediate \$25,000 and another \$25,000 challenge grant, which were followed last month by a \$50,000 challenge grant from the *Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association*.

The First Phase goal is to retire the notes totaling \$475,000 funding the purchase of the Archive building in Burien. As a first step, a \$30,000 principal payment was made in February to reduce the building mortgage using the first \$25,000 from the *GNRHS* and a \$5,000 capital contribution from the *Cascade Rail Foundation*.

### Heritage Services

A web site providing access to the SP&SRHS collections went live this quarter. The database is on the PNRA servers and linked from the home page on the SPSHS.org web site. The database includes over 5,000 records now with more records added each month.

Jim Mattson scanned the NP title plats from Walt Ainsworth's collection, added a descriptive header to each map; grouped the maps by branch line into multipage PDF files; and those PDFs are posted on the *NPRHA.org* site. To find them: Click the Right-of-Way & Structures tile, Click Maps, and Select NP Title Plats.

The Washington State railroad valuation maps at the Washington State Archive were digitized by volunteers before we received copies. The Great Northern set has been reorganized by PNRA volunteer, Chuck Soule to match the GN's valuation sections and are posted on the *GN-NPJointArchive.org* site.

James Turner was a motorman on Seattle's municipal streetcars and an expert railroad photographer who shot the railroads operating in western Washington in the 1920-40s. The NP prints have

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been scanned, cataloged and posted on the *NPRHA.org* site in the Research Sources > Photo Sources section.

## Preservation Activities

The Archive work crews continue to prepare additional collections to be posted on the RHO web sites. The NP Tacoma Division station plats from Jim Fredrickson's collection have been scanned and are being cataloged so they can be posted on the *NPRHA.org* site. The SP&S crew has cataloged 246 of the 360 bankers boxes of superintendent's and chief engineer's files moved to PNRA in late 2013. The NP *Authorization for Expenditure* files from the Walt Ainsworth collection are being cataloged and will be added to the NP Tacoma Division AFE database on the NP site. The James Turner GN steam locomotive photos are being scanned. The NP steam locomotive prints from Walt Ainsworth's collection are being scanned and 2,930 images have been cataloged so far. Scanning of train sheets continues toward the goal of 6,000 scanned sheets. Scanning has started on the over 13,000 slides from the Dan Perkins collection showing scenes of the major railroads in Washington State.



*GN 362-C at Spokane, Dan Perkins Photo*

## Community Outreach

PNRA staffed tables this quarter at the *SP&S Railway Historical Society Swap Meet* was held on February 14, 2015 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Portland, Oregon; and at the *United Northwest Model Railroad Club's 24th Annual Train Show & Marketplace* at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe, Washington on February 28 & March 1, 2015.

The PNRA facility hosted two history meets this quarter. *Cascade Rail Foundation* held the Spring Milwaukee Road Meet at PNRA on March 7th. Over 50 Milwaukee fans gathered for slides, movies, discussion

and socializing. On March 21st, members of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the *Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society* held their biannual meet at PNRA.

## Friends of PNRA

Our *Friends* provide the power for PNRA to achieve our mission. Two important ways you can be a *Friend of PNRA* and support our mission:

**Join a work crew** which meets for sessions each Tuesday or Wednesday during the day, the first & third Thursday evening or the second and fourth Saturday during the day.

**Contribute funds** each year to help cover PNRA's operating costs. Invite your friends to contribute through the *GiveBIG* campaign and become a *Friend of PNRA* and support the Archive!!

## Archive Operations

Hot water is now available on the eastside of the Archive's main floor after a water heater was installed in the Receiving area. In addition, the three way light switch was moved from inside the entry door of the Archive storage area, to the end of the Receiving hallway to allow the stair lights to be switched on or off near the steel personnel door.

The Board voted to resurface the Main floor work area with industrial carpet which will encapsulate the existing floor tile and improve the area working conditions. The installation is expected to be complete by mid-May.

## Help Preserve Collections

Many collections of Pacific Northwest railroads documents, maps or photos will need a new home in the future, but the owners and their families may not know of PNRA and our mission. It is critical that we talk with these collectors or their families before the collections are discarded. PNRA has a significant amount of Archive space where collections will be honored and preserved. **If you know of any such collections, please contact us.**

Gary Tarbox,  
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