

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

NORTHWEST NEWS

The *Friends of PNRA* receive this summary of the activities at the Archive during the fourth quarter of 2020.

The Archive & Covid-19

Many PNRA volunteers are working productively from their homes with only occasionally trips to the Archive to pick up additional material to scan or catalog. Some individual volunteers work on special projects at the Archive on various days throughout the week while limiting two volunteers per floor on the PNRA-side and three people on the BEMRRC-side. Our bi-weekly Zoom meetings with our Archive volunteers keep us in touch and share stories. If you would like to join our Zoom meeting, contact me.

The State of Washington and King County Department of Health recommendations are being met at the Archive by requiring everyone in the building wear a mask, wash their hands, and maintain significant separation from other members. All group events have been canceled until the health recommendation will allow them. We continue to recruit new volunteers from throughout the United States with special knowledge of railroad operations or subjects to expand our cataloging efforts.

Community Outreach

The following is a summary of outreach and research requests we have fulfilled to serve the public interest:

On Nov. 1st, Northwest Railway Museum's NP 924 pulled its first passengers in two cars between Snoqualmie and North Bend sporting the 1900-era lettering schema provided by PNRA. This milestone follows the restoration of the 0-6-0.

Dan Barnum, Maintenance of Way foreman for the *Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad* in Boone, IA requested information for the restoration of a wood caboose on their railroad and was put in touch with volunteers with caboose experience.

Scott Bigelow was sent a set of valuation maps showing



Northwest Railway Museum's 924 guides its first passenger train since restoration, across a street crossing in Snoqualmie, Wash. *Northwest Railway Museum Photo*

the right-of-way between Roy and Yelm, WA to help complete the bike trail and resolve some land questions.

Steve Hauff asked if the Archive had any photos of the 5-foot gauge, 2-10-0s that *Willamette Iron and Steel* assembled for Russia in Portland in the 1944-1946 timeframe. Rich Wilken's was able to find information on the Willamette built yard and the shop building where they assembled 1200-2000 of the steam locomotives from parts manufactured by Alco, Baldwin and others. The operational locomotives traveled on SP&S rails for loading on ships bound for Russia.

Frank Leone asked for a schedule of train service from Butte MT and Spokane WA in the fall of 1965, and was sent a link to the 1965 Public Timetable for on the NPRHA.org website.

Washington State University Press has given the go-ahead to Mike Bergman to finalize the *Seattle Municipal Railway* manuscript and selected photos from the Ainsworth Collection at PNRA.

The Park County Montana Museum received information and advice for an exterior restoration of the caboose they have in their collection.

Karl Kleeman of Bellingham WA requested information on the Milwaukee Road's Bellingham Sub-division for a book on the Milwaukee in Whatcom County.

Mike Bargmann is researching the Stampede Pass switchbacks in Washington and was sent a copy of a 1998 article detailing when a Puget Sound group walked the area of the Pass and found all sections of the switchbacks.

The 2020 Bridge Day Lecture was presented 10/28 by the Rosalia Branch of Whitman County Library and Cascade Rail Foundation. This was the fourth annual presentation of local Milwaukee Road railroad heritage which was held successfully via Zoom this year with 85 people in online.

Brad Lowans, a retired Train Order Operator on the *Western Maryland Railway* requested the details on the painting of O-scale F3s in the NP's Lowey paint scheme and was sent a painting diagram that showed the details.

Richard Anderson of the Northwest Railway Museum



As shown during the 2020 Bridge Day virtual lecture, Milwaukee Road Train 264S crossing the concrete arch bridge east of Rosalia, Wash. on Feb. 12, 1974.

David Klawunder Photo.

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requested photos and AFE information on NP Parlor Car 1049 built in February 1901 which they plan to restore in their facilities.

Cristy Lake of the Snoqualmie Valley Museum, used the wide-format scanner on 12/8 to digitize maps from their collection.

Sam Anderson was sent diagrams of 1908 NP freight cars for a 3D printing project.

Greg Taylor requested profile information for the area from Fish Lake to east of Marshall and the yard trackage connecting to the P&L at the Marshall Junction.

Kurt Armbruster is assembling an inventory of Jack Christensen's railroad paintings. Currently, over 90 paintings have been identified and Jack is writing detailed commentaries on each of them.

Historic Seattle has invited Mike Bergman to present his West Seattle Streetcar lecture on their virtual platform on Jan. 23 at 11:00 AM. You may register for the free presentation at: <https://HistoricSeattle.org>.

Preservation Activities

Rich Wilkens is leading the sorting crew which goes through new collections to determine the appropriate material to be added to the collections at PNRA. He recently reviewed the Frisco material shipped west from JSRH this fall to prepare an inventory to determine which group in Frisco historical community should receive the material.

Randy Hammond completed the cataloging of the 90 boxes of AFEs received from Montana Rail Link which operates the NP right-of-way from Sandpoint ID to Billings MT. The AFE index has been posted on NPRHA.org website.

Sheldon Perry donated four Sanborn Map books of the Industrial parts of Portland along with some SP&S material.

Bob Tjossem's father was the secretary and legal counsel of the Seattle-based *Pacific Coast Railroad*. Bob donated the railroad's corporate seal and a framed photo of the last PCR steam locomotive #16.

Bill Kajdzik completed scanning the Ainsworth SP&S photo negative collection and 18 BN documents. He also completed scanning many of the Burlington Northern operating documents from the Ainsworth collection for posting on the PNRArchive.org site.

Andrew Klamka has completed the GN AFE Blueprint database which is posted on the GN-NP Joint Archive site.

A Webster & Stevens photo of the Pacific Coast Steamship Building in Seattle turned up in the Seattle streetcar collection. This building still exists near T-Mobile Field and also served as the headquarters of the local *Pacific Coast Railroad* and the *Pacific Coast Railway* in California.

Ken Iverson has expanded the PNRA Employee Timetable index to include 2,844 timetables from Santa Fe, Southern Pacific, Union Pacific, SP&S Canadian Pacific, and Canadian National along with the GN, NP and Milwaukee. The index is posted on the PNRArchive.org site.

Jim Mattson has donated an additional set of maps from his collection to the Archive. As before, Jim will scan the new accession.

Dean O'Neill organized many of the NP digital photos, standard plans and maps at PNRA which are being offered to NPRHA members in their new *Vista-Dome Membership* which includes a four-year membership.



GN 2507 approaches Golden Gardens south-bound in Seattle. *Jack Christensen Water Color Painting*

Diane Morlock donated her husband's collection of 1950s & 60s timetables.

Administration

4Culture, the King County funder of Arts and Heritage programs, awarded PNRA a 2021 Sustained Support grant..

Archive volunteers have been working with both the GN and NP volunteers at the Jackson Street Roundhouse in St Paul on several research questions for future articles.

Facilities

With the completion of the user-friendly search interface for the Access to Memory (AtoM) software and the production AtoM server, collection data is being loaded into the AtoM catalog by a batch process using data developed for our current SharePoint websites.

The file server, PNRA45 is supporting the remote cataloging work being done by our volunteers. The server is backed up every month on 20-terabyte external hard drive boxes using software that only copies new and modified files.

Our Box Lift system had its annual Washington State inspection on 10/1 and passed with flying colors.

Our new web server has been completed by Dean O'Neill from purchased motherboard and case with CPU and drives donated by Microsoft. It is being configured at the Archive to run SharePoint 2019 for the websites and data on the two older servers running our six websites. During this process, our sites will be converted to https:// security.

All the Archive's workstations are being converted to Office 2019 which is very similar to the previous 2010 version, but provides more stable performance.

Gary Tarbox
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