

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

NORTHWEST NEWS

Friends of PNRA receive this progress report summarizing the activities at the Archive during the third quarter of 2021.

Annual Meeting

The PNRA Annual Meetings will be held November 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM via Zoom. This is the event where we review the past year's results and activity with the members, elect At Large Directors and the board elects the 2022 Officers. In addition, new business from the members will be addressed

Community Outreach

We have assisted the Washington Department of Natural Resources with information and maps of GN Bridge 36 (north of Mt Vernon) related to the current BNSF plans to replace the bridge.

PNRA made a presentation at the Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association convention in Missoula this past September. About 125 convention attendees received a review of Archive progress, a virtual tour of the building and an overview of AtoM our future public collection access system. After the presentation individual demonstrations and questions were also answered.

An environmental review study near Bossberg, WA (north of Spokane) has requested information on railroad spurs in that area. Several right-of-way maps were provided.

Video producers for a program about NP locomotive 1762 (in Kalama, WA) have visited PNRA several times for assistance with still photos. Our volunteer Jack Christenson has been interviewed on camera for the program.

On September 11, 2021, we had 149 people attend the Burien Arts-A Glow event where the Boeing Club teamed with the Archive to have an open house. A large lighted archway was installed in the front of the building as the grand entrance. Many of the people attending were inspired by the "glow" event and wore costumes incorporating lights.

Preservation Activities

The Thomas Dill photo collection arrived on August 23. This collection contains 13 banker's boxes with thousands of prints from almost all areas of the Southern Pacific in Oregon as well as many areas in California. A number of these photos were used in the books authored and co-authored by Mr. Dill, a well-known Northwest author and photographer. His collection represents several photographers. The Walt Paschelke portion of the collection is around 3,000 prints and negatives of primarily SP steam locomotives from the late 1940's to 1950's. Jim Paschelke is represented with approximately 2,000 prints of primarily SP diesel locomotives and trains from Oregon & California and were taken from 1959 to the



SP&S 865 and Western Pacific 916-A stand in the GN Yard at Klamath Falls, Oregon June 3, 1957. Jack Bowden photo, Thomas Dill collection, PNRArchive.org.

1990's. Andy Payne adds 1,500 prints of SP, Texas & New Orleans, and San Diego & Eastern steam locomotives.

The Dallas Gilbertson group provides almost 2,000 slides from 1952 to 1971. The largest part was taken in Northern and Southern California of railroads such as SP, Santa Maria Valley, Pacific Electric and more, in addition the Dill collection has 2,000 negatives of SP steam locomotives and diesels from many different photographers. Gordon Ramsey has several hundred negatives of SP trains. Additionally, these boxes have 1,000 slides taken by many photographers, a number of who worked for the Southern Pacific such as Jack Bowden from the Klamath Falls area. Other slides are from Ron Kuykedall, Rick Kang, Stan Kistler, Donald Duke, Bob Searles, and others. Rounding out the collection are four photo albums mostly of SP steam locomotives, two folders of Southern Pacific photos taken by roundhouse foreman Ed Maas with many from the 1930's and 1940's, SP employee timetables for most areas ranging from the 1910's to the 1960's, and six spools of 8MM movie film of SP subjects. John Bell a member of the Southern Pacific Historical and Technical Society has started indexing the Walt Paschelke photographs.

The Bay Area Electric Railway Association is planning to transfer eight boxes of northwest related materials to PNRA, arriving this fall. Wayne Monger has volunteered to deliver the materials to PNRA. This exchange is part of an ongoing relationship of shifting materials to institutions near where the history happened. NP, GN and BN materials relating to the Northwest were also transferred from St Paul to PNRA this fall. When PNRA has surplus or out of scope materials we also transfer them to appropriate organizations. Currently we are working with

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a State Archive in the Southeast and have duplicate items ready to transfer to the Northwest Railway Museum Archive.

Volunteer Activities

Dan Cozine is building a new map storage cabinet using “Role-A-File” tubes that are two- inches square and attach to each other to form a sturdy cabinet. The donated Role-A-File tubes will stand three feet wide and six feet tall when assembled. Once completed the first maps placed will be the James C. Mattson, Great Northern collection of over 750 Station Plats, Right A Way maps and geographic maps.

Tim Repp is working at home with the Bob Johnston negative collection. These negatives were part of the Warren Wing collection preserved at PNRA by Walt Ainsworth. 2,600 black and white and color 6x6 (120) negatives are in the first phase of this work. These include all of Bob’s work up to November 1969, just before the BN merger. Bob continued to take many more photographs after merger day, an additional 12,000 negatives will be worked on in the future. First step was to manually transcribe some 75 pages of Mr. Johnston’s notes into MS Excel to allow sorting and easier access to specific topics. To date, over 1000 negatives have been scanned. These include all the Northern Pacific, Union Pacific and SP&S images, and about half the GN images located west of Pacific Junction MT.

Gary Tarbox is recovering from the health emergencies that forced his June retirement as Executive Director. He is now focusing his volunteer time on helping PNRA leadership transition into their expanded roles, and moving content from our SharePoint website system to PNRA’s new Access-To-Memory website operating system. In addition, Gary looks forward to researching his favorite subjects at the Archive for future articles.

Kurt Armbruster has been working at PNRA to consolidate, sort and catalog the Burlington Northern materials that had been in our holding area. We have now added more than 500 new items to the existing 449 items earlier inventoried. This work is being coordinated with Ed Berntsen who is the Curator of our BN collection. In addition, Roy Gelder is continuing to catalog BN photos at his home in the Chicago area. The photo scans, from the Ainsworth collection, were completed by John Mantle and Bill Kajdzik, then sent to Roy to complete the digital inventory.

Rich Wilkens has continued to sort backlogged incoming materials at PNRA. These items have been in storage due to limited resources during the health situation. We use a standard process to sort and evaluate, then consolidate and re-box prior to placement on shelving for future cataloging. As part of this backlog clean up Randy Hammond is working to complete an inventory of the Jerry Masters papers.



Southern Pacific Cab Forward 4253 leads a drag out of Oakridge, OR on December 5, 1954. Walt Paschelke photo, Thomas Dill collection, PNRArchive.org.

Administration

We have noticed a drop off in individual contributions to PNRA in the first half of 2021. Analysis has determined that some of the reason is the uncertainty of the current health situation and its potential impact on the economy. The Board has reviewed this financial information within the context of our four main income sources: Railroad History Organization’s membership fees, fulfillment work, donations and grants. They also reviewed our rainy-day-fund status and our investments. Their conclusion was we are on a sound financial footing. Further, the Board also authorized the following cost saving actions: 1) Refinancing of the building mortgage to take advantage of the currently low interest rates. 2) Proceeding with a plan to replace incandescent and four-foot fluorescent bulbs, with LED bulbs through Seattle City Light’s COVID Small Business and Non-profit Support Program. When the eight-foot tubes are also replaced electrical cost savings are estimated at \$400 annually.

Additional building security actions have been completed including activating the building security system. We are in a test period to get everyone experienced with the activation and de-activation of the security system at this time. Additional outside lighting has been installed in the back of the building to improve our security in the alley.

A new Archive phone number (206-402-6519) has been established for public access to PNRA. There will be several phones in the building and we will be able to accesses messages remotely. We will also be systematically transitioning all the printed and online media to incorporate the new number.

Bob Kelly, Board President



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