

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

NORTHWEST NEWS

Archives Activities for the Fourth Quarter of 2021

Annual Meeting

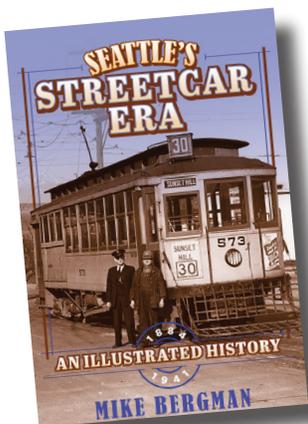
The PNRA Annual Membership and Board meetings were held on November 3, 2021 via a virtual meeting. Thirty-Five members attended. During the annual membership meeting a review of the past year's activity was presented and a top-level financial review was conducted. The members also reelected Chris Craig and Dave Sprau for new two-year terms as PNRA directors. At the annual board meeting officers for 2022 were elected, detailed financial reports were approved and several annual activities specified in the bylaws were completed. Officers for 2022 are: Bob Kelly, President, Rich Wilkens, Vice-President, Paul Kruger, Secretary, Bill Petryk, Treasurer.

4Culture Sustaining Grant 2021

4Culture has awarded PNRA 2021 Sustaining Grant funds based on our successful service to the public of King County. These funds are provided to King County Heritage organizations based on commitments to provide public service for the community. At the beginning of each year PNRA agrees to provide specific services and then at year end provides documentation of our work. Our commitments this past year centered on volunteers to work on heritage preservation projects, making virtual presentations about railroad history, communicating with King County heritage organizations, our members, and the general public by providing access to heritage resources.

Seattle Streetcar Era Book

On December 4, 2021, PNRA partnered with the Highline Heritage Museum sponsoring a free to the public presentation by Mike Bergman about his new book, *Seattle Streetcar Era, An Illustrated History*. A display of large photos from the book was set up in the museum lobby for the event and local bookstore Page 2 Books had books available. All the photos in the book are from the Walter Ainsworth collection at PNRA. Over fifty people enjoyed the event.



A visitor at the Highline Heritage Museum viewing some of the photos found in the Seattle Streetcar Era book. Bob Kelly Photograph.

Preservation News

This past quarter time has been allocated to begin catching up on sorting existing collections, consolidating duplicate materials, identifying out of scope items, and inspecting the integrity of the collections.

In October a collection of Railway Express Agency material was donated to the archives. This material had been saved by the daughter of James Spellman who was the last REA Terminal Superintendent in Seattle in the 1970's. This collection fills four bankers boxes and contains both employee and management manuals, routing guides, and info on the services provided by REA from the 1940's to 1970's. Mr. Spellman had started with REA in Seattle in the 1940's and later worked in California and Portland before returning to Seattle.

Larry Schrenk donated another wealth of material to the NPRHA in mid-2021. It was stored at Jackson Street Roundhouse until Bill Zidel and Kent Sullivan arrived in late September, after the NPRHA convention in Missoula, to transport it to the PNRA. This donation comprised 42 boxes of material, adding to the 34 boxes donated in 2020. The Schrenk collection covers a very broad set of topics, covering the lifetime of an acclaimed NP researcher and author. There is a special focus on steam locomotives, passenger cars, and diesel locomotives and the collection contains many rare original photographs and NP documents.

425 SW 153rd Street, Burien, WA 98166 - (206) 402-6519
www.PNRArchive.org - info@PNRArchive.org

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

Fourteen boxes of Frisco materials are being shipped to the State Historical Society of Missouri, Curtis Laws Wilson Library in Rolla, MO. These materials had been donated to the GNRHS and were inspected and organized at PNRA. Once the items were determined to be out of scope for GNRHS, NPRHA and PNRA they were de-accessioned from the collection and made available to other institutions. After considering the various options the State Archives in Missouri were selected as the best fit for preservation.

Twenty-eight additional boxes of duplicate or out of scope materials have been transferred to the Northwest Railroad Museum at Snoqualmie, Washington. Our partnership with their Archive is providing successful placement for materials that PNRA would not be able to preserve.

Volunteer Activities

During 2021 volunteers were very busy and they put in a total of 9053.5 hours. Thank You!

Three volunteers who do a lot at the archives are John Tucker, Bill Rowe and MaryBeth Fujita. When new collections come in to the archives the first person to see them is John Tucker. John documents the material that is coming in, creates an accession number and after the donor signs the donation form he sends a letter of thanks to the donor. During 2021 John completed documenting the arrival of 101 donations at PNRA. During 2020, 89 collections arrived and for the year 2019, 70 donations were recorded.

In the donations we receive quite a few railroad books and other publications and after being received in they go to Bill Rowe. Bill maintains the PNRA library and he reviews the publications to determine if it is in the scope of the collection and if the library needs a copy. Also Bill maintains the hours put in by the volunteers.

Finally the real person who keeps the archives running is MaryBeth. She keeps track of the materials needed for preservation as well as other items needed for the day to day operation of the archives. She also plays an important role in doing location checks to make sure the boxes of collection material are in their proper places.

Rich Wilkens has been busy on organizing several collections at the archives. Work was done on mating up the prints and negatives from the Walt Paschelke collection within the Tom Dill Collection. Also work was done on organizing the George Simonson Collection and is continuing into 2022.



Rich Wilkens, Randy Hammond and Jack Christensen on a busy Tuesday work session. Jonathan Fischer Photograph.

GiveBig

The 2022 annual fundraising event for **GiveBig** will be held April 19 – May 4, 2022. PNRA successfully takes part in this event each year. More information will be in the next Northwest News.

Administration

PNRA will continue to follow King County Department of Health guidelines for Covid safety as we adapt due to the health situation. At year end all onsite work requires wearing a mask, maintaining social distance and frequent hand cleaning.

Bill Petryk reports that the Access to Memory (AtoM) software has been upgraded from Version 2.4 to Version 2.6. New features that should be particularly useful include improvements to importing digital files and batch editing of existing records. Gary Tarbox has developed and improved the process to move data from SharePoint spreadsheets for transfer into AtoM. Once gathered into the appropriate AtoM fields the data is provided to other team members for final review and editing. Transfer of large photo collections from SharePoint to AtoM has begun with cataloging of the George Werkema and Jim Frederickson Northern Pacific diesel collections. Brian Ferris has been working with Frederickson diesel photos and as the process matures several more volunteers will be needed.

Six yards of gravel have been placed in the back of the building to improve safety in the alley parking areas which gets muddy during the wetter parts of the year.

Bob Kelly, Board President

425 SW 153rd Street, Burien, WA 98166 - (206) 402-6519
www.PNRArchive.org - info@PNRArchive.org



CULTURE
KING COUNTY LODGING TAX