

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

NORTHWEST NEWS

Archives Activities for the First Quarter of 2022

GiveBIG is May 3-4, 2022

The annual *GiveBIG* campaign promotes community support of non-profit organizations throughout Washington State and has grown into one of the largest giving campaigns in the nation. We thank the many *Friends of PNRA* who contributed nearly half of our individual contributions during last year's *GiveBIG* campaign, and encourage you to support the Archive again in these changing times. The funds from your contribution helps to cover operating expenses such as utilities, supplies, etc. We ask our *Friends of PNRA* (aka: members) for donations only once each year and your contribution during *GiveBIG* will renew your membership for 2022.



Contributions can be made easily at the Archive's website, www.PNRArchive.org by clicking the **Donate Now** link near the top of the Home page. This takes you to the PNRA page on the *GiveBIG* website where you can make your donation securely using a credit card from April 19th through May 4th and have your donation counted as a *GiveBIG* contribution. If you would rather contribute by check, mail it to the address at the bottom of this page. Either way, you will be a *Friend of PNRA* for 2022.

AtoM Update

Loading data from SharePoint to AtoM is underway with some 4500 records, mostly photographs from the Fredrickson, Werkema and Newby Collections now posted in AtoM. Gary Tarbox has been coordinating the efforts of a team of volunteers who are formatting and editing the item descriptions. Our consulting archivist, Rachael Woody, has developed a method to catalog groupings of research materials such as researchers' binders and files in a way that complied with archival standards. Rachael and Bill Petryk will be working on developing the tools and templates for this type of cataloging. On March 15th Bill Petryk visited with the GNRHS volunteers cataloging the archives at the Jackson Street Roundhouse in St. Paul. They're ready to begin the process of moving records into AtoM from their custom database. We will be

One of the many items transferred from the Western Railway Museum is this Oregon Short Line Railroad promotional brochure from June 1901.



working with Don McGlothlin and the other volunteers in St Paul to develop the process.

Preservation News

One of the ongoing projects at the archives is the digitizing of the employee timetable collection. Volunteers such as Ken Iverson and Kent Sullivan have been actively scanning the timetables and posting them on the PNRA website. You can view these timetables by going to www.pnrarchive.org and clicking on the link for "PNRA Employee Timetable Collection" on the left hand side of the page.

On March 21st the PNRA received ten boxes of material from the archives at the Western Railway Museum at Suisun City, CA. For a number of years we have partnered with WRM in transferring out of scope material between our archives and they delivered some outstanding material. In the collection was a large amount of public timetables and promotional brochures for the GN, NP, Milwaukee Road, SP&S and Oregon Short Line with some reaching back in to the late 1870's. Other items were a number of books as well as photos and negatives.

Sometime ago the GNRHS received some GN depot signs from eastern Washington and these were stored at the archives. As the archives generally does not keep artifacts, GNRHS President John Langlot arranged for a donation and PNRA Executive Director Jonathan Fischer transported them to the Inland Northwest Rail Museum at Reardan, WA.

James J. Hill III Donation

James J. Hill III has made a substantial donation through the Great Northern Railway Historical Society for the purpose of assisting the PNRA. He has donated funds that are designated for reducing the PNRA building mortgage and for capital improvements relating to

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computing and building security. The funds are specifically restricted to capital improvements and cannot be used for operational purposes.

Mr. Hill's very generous donation was planned to support the long term preservation of railroad history and it will allow us to preserve and protect archival material for decades to come. This donation also provides a major step toward in achieving the missions of the GNRHS and PNRA.

Community Relations

PNRA hosted an information table at the Foss Waterway Seaport, March 17 - 20, 2022 in Tacoma, WA. The event called "Rails to Sails" included model trains, the Northern Pacific ongoing exhibit and dozens of boats from the museum collection.

On June 8th to 11th the Friends of the Burlington Northern Railroad will hold their annual convention in Vancouver, WA. On the 7th they will visit the PNRA and on the 9th we will give a presentation in Vancouver. For more info see: <https://fobnr.org/convention/>

Volunteer Activities

On the second floor Dan Cozine has been busy building a home for the many rolled drawings in the collection.

Over the past few months Richard Wilkens has been active in organizing a number of different areas in our collections. One of these collections is the extensive amount of diesel locomotive operating and servicing manuals as well as promotional materials. Some of this material reaches back to the early 1930's when the diesel locomotive was in its infancy.

Chuck Soule has been working on two Northern Pacific photo collections. The first collection is approximately 3,200 aerial photographs of the Idaho & Tacoma Divisions taken about 1959-1960 and were donated by Walt Ainsworth. The entire collection has been scanned and an index is in progress. The other collection is the Northern Pacific joint facility photographs. These books contain photographs, descriptions of buildings and tracks, and contract summaries for facilities that were owned by the NP but shared with another railroad under an agreement. These were mostly prepared between 1926 and 1929, with occasional subsequent updates.

Randy Hammond has wrapped up the inventorying of the Jerry Masters Collection. Jerry was the Chief Engineer on the Northern Pacific prior to the merger and

Richard Wilkens showing the drawing cabinet that has been constructed by Dan Cozine. Bob Kelly Photograph.



he has done a tremendous amount of railroad research which is most helpful to researchers.

On March 25, 26, and 27 the Boeing Employee Model RR Club participated in SOUNDRAIL 2022. The event consisted of operating sessions on 15 model railroad layouts from Mukilteo to Olympia and the event visited the BEMRRC layout on the 25th and 27th.

Mike Bergman has been working on organizing the collection of photographs of the electric railways in Portland. The collection covers the early years into the end of passenger operations in the 1950's as well as the later years when it was a freight only operation.

LED Lighting

Replacement of fluorescent lighting by LED's has been completed at the Archive. It was a three part effort: Seattle City Light replaced the four-foot fluorescent bulbs in 28 fixtures under their commercial rebate program. Rod Loder, owner of Photo Electric LLC electrical contractors offered to replace the eight fluorescent lighting fixtures in the main workroom with new, dimmable LED fixtures and on February 3rd sent a crew up from Salem, Oregon who completed that part of the project in five hours. The 22 eight-foot fluorescent fixtures in other areas of the Archive were not eligible for the Seattle City Light program and have been reworked by Bill Petryk to take LEDs. With the replacement of all the fluorescent bulbs, annual savings of approximately \$400 are expected.



Bob Kelly, Board President

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