

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

2012-Q1 PNRA Progress Report

Facility Improvements

- PNRA selected the Borroughs Corporation as the vendor of mobile shelving system to be installed on the Lower Floor this Spring. It is being purchased with the \$46,800 in project funding awarded by the North American Railway Foundation last October. The installation starts with the installation of the track and raised floor before the arrival of the shelving units. In addition, Borroughs will install the track and raised floors for the two smaller systems donated to PNRA during 2011.
- Last month, PNRA received a donation of three Xerox DC12 Digital Color Copy machines from a commercial printer in Seattle. These units will be used as auto-feed scanners and digital color printers. They are capable of scanning 11" x 17" documents and producing digital files of the pages.
- The first sixteen feet of separation wall on the Main Floor has been framed and the wiring added to move the light switches from the back of the building to near the front doors of both the Archive and Boeing layout spaces.
- A new handrail has been fabricated from steel pipe and installed on the stairs to the Lower floor to improve the user safety.

Archive Operations

- The three member-Railroad History Organizations, GNRHS, NPRHA and Cascade Foundation have progressed on their sorting and cataloging of the contents of the boxes stored on the lower floor. This work is in preparation for moving the boxes to the new mobile shelving this Spring. The Wednesday crews now works 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM every week at the Archive and has cataloged many of the boxes on the lower floor.
- PNRA's first traveling exhibit, *Rails to Sails: Tracking the Sound's Industry Boom from Ship to Shore*, is taking shape and scheduled to open at the White River Valley Museum in Auburn on April 25, 2012. The exhibit traces the evolution of handling of timber, coal and wheat in the Washington State from the 1850s to the present time. This exhibit is funded by grants from the National Railway Historical Society and the BNSF Corporation.
- Work on the DAHP Grant project for scanning and cataloging 6,000 train sheets from each of the RHOs collections is underway with the hired a consulting archivist. She is establishing the processes to be used for scanning, preserving and cataloging the trains sheets. These processes will continue to be used on collection materials after project completion. The train sheets have been sorted by district and date, and the sheets to be scanned during the first phase of the project are being selected. A wide-format scanner will be purchased this Spring for the scanning some of the train sheets and other large drawings at the Archive.

Fulfillment Services

- The fulfillment of online orders for the GNRHS and NPRHA Company Stores continues at PNRA. The products being shipped include modeling kits, shirts & hats, specialty items, books and DVDs.

Funding Sources

- PNRA started its first Annual Fund drive last month and received a good response from the first mailing. Additional mailings are planned to raise the funds o sustain PNRA's operations throughout 2012. If you have not already responded to our Annual Fund request, please help us establish PNRA as an important railroad history resource in the west.
- PNRA's monthly operating revenue covers 62% of our average monthly expenses with the short-fall made up from contributions. When the mortgage principal is reduced by \$200,000, PNRA's operations are projected to be self-sustaining.
- PNRA's Capital Campaign is planned to start during the Fall of 2012 with the goal of "establishing PNRA as a World-Class Railroad Archive." To achieve this goal, we intend to complete the facility improvements and the purchase of the building. A committee is being formed to lead the Campaign.