

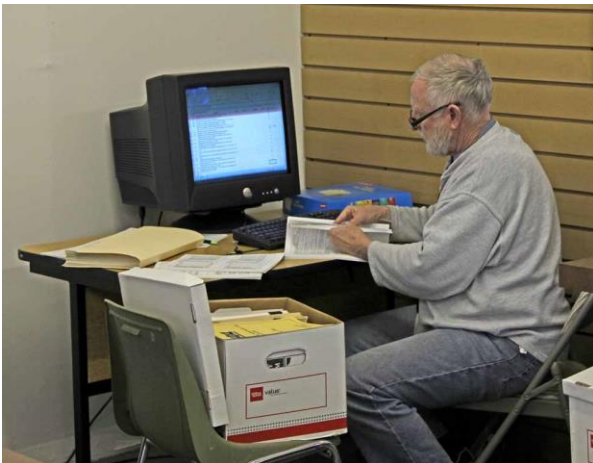
PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

NORTHWEST NEWS

Northwest News is published each quarter to keep all *Friends of PNRA* up to date with the happenings at the Archive. Work continued on several fronts during the third quarter of 2013, as reviewed below.

Preservation Activities

The Archive was established as a permanent institution where collections of railroad documentation can be preserved and made accessible over the internet. Over our first three years eighty-four collections have been donated to the Railroad Heritage Organizations (RHOs) associated with PNRA, twenty-six of them in the first nine months of 2013. When received, each collection is inventoried and a written acknowledgement and deed of gift is sent to the donor.



John Tucker inventorying a box of railroad documents

Some of those donated collections include railroad books with Pacific Northwest Region themes. Work continues on establishing a reference library containing books of interest to our region. The library catalog will be posted on the PNRA web site with the books accessible at the Archive.

The Wade Stevenson photo collection was initially donated to the Milwaukee Road Historical Society. They decided to further donate the NP and GN photos to the NPRHA and GNRHS at the Jackson Street Archive in St. Paul. The GN society is in the process of digitizing their images. The NPRHA's East-End Archive completed scanning the NP images this last quarter and forwarded a set of image files to the West-End Archive, as many of images were taken in the Pacific Northwest. The Wednesday Crew is now cataloging the images in preparation to posting them on NPRHA.org.

The NPRHA's portion of the Jim Fredrickson Collection has been moved from Tacoma to the PNRA facility. Work is well along on completing the database which will also be posted on NPRHA.org.

The Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway Historical Society (SP&SRHS) plans to transfer its extensive collection from the Portland area to the PNRA facility in early October. The space has been cleared and is ready for the collection's arrival.

Community Outreach

We developed a PowerPoint presentation explaining the use and significance of train sheets to safe railway operations. It was first shown at the 2013 GNRHS Convention in July and recently at the White River Valley Museum's Railroad Night in Auburn, Washington.

Thirteen people attended the first meeting of the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical and Historical Society's in Washington and Oregon held at PNRA on August 10th. The meeting's purpose was to see if there was sufficient interest in forming a PRRT&HS chapter in the Pacific Northwest. The meeting was a success will be repeated November 2, 2013, at PNRA. If you are interested, contact PNRA for more information.

PNRA hosted a booth at the celebration of the 125th year anniversary of the first Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern train's travel between Woodinville and Snohomish, Washington. Those communities are encouraging the reopening the line for passenger service which currently has freight-only service.

The Highline Heritage Museum in Burien is mounting a new exhibit entitled *Hope In Hard Times: Washington and Highline During the Great Depression*. At the Museum's request, PNRA loaned a photo print, a map and a railroad poster for the term of the exhibit.

Friends of PNRA

The involvement of individual *Friends of PNRA* is very important to the success of the Archive. This program recognizes two types of contributions people make to the Archive's preservation mission:

1. **Volunteering your time** to work on preserving the railroad material. We have regularly scheduled work crews that meet each week that you may join, or you can work from your home computer to catalog material.
2. **Contributing funds** each year to help pay the Archive's operating costs. If you can't volunteer your time, please consider making a once-a-year contribution to help PNRA preserve the region's railroad heritage.

Please call or email us for more details on how you can become a part of the Archive and its mission.

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Equipment Installation

PNRA purchased an Epson 750 photo negative and slide scanner with a portion of the grant from *4Culture*, the King County Heritage and Cultural funding agency. This unit scans up to twelve slides automatically at a time. It also is able to scan up to 8" by 10" negatives, in addition to 35 MM negative strips.



New slide and negative scanner

PNRA still needs used computer donations as our work crews grow in size. During many of our work sessions, all six of our computers are being used by our volunteers. **If you live in Western Washington and have a computer you would like to donate to PNRA, please call and we will arrange to pick it up.**

Facility Improvements

The new steel entry door in the Receiving area on the lower floor now allows entry from the rear of the Archive. The parking area at the rear of the building is now being used during our weekly work sessions.



New entry door into Receiving

Another steel door has been purchased for installation at the back of the Boeing layout space. It is expected to be installed during October and will make it easy for some BEMRRC members to park behind the building.

The new west restroom's plumbing and wiring have been completed and passed inspection. The next tasks include completing the drywall and installing the fixtures. The new steel entry door in the Receiving area on the lower floor now allows entry from the rear of the Archive. The parking area at the rear of the building is now being used during our weekly work sessions.

Financial Progress

In the first week of September, PNRA finished the audit of our 2012 financial statements conducted by the Hawthorne & Company, a regional CPA firm. This audit was needed to start our Capital Campaign.

Thus, with the audit in hand, we started the Capital Campaign to raise significant funds from selected individuals and foundations to transform our facility into *A World Class Archive* and retire the mortgage.

Help Find Collections

PNRA's mission, preservation of the operating documents from the railroads that served the region, remains the driving force of the Archive. As our facility moves toward completion, we continue to offer people with historic railroad collections, an archive where their donations will be honored and preserved. **If you are aware of a collection that will need a new home, please contact us,** and we will help the collector or their family, make arrangements to donate it to an appropriate institution. **Please act while there is still time to save the material!!**

Opportunities to Help

There are many opportunities to help with PNRA's important work. Cataloging work crews meet regularly to prepare the documentation to be physically preserved, scanned, cataloged and posted on the internet. We are looking for additional volunteers to join our crews on Wednesday during the day, Thursday evening, or a new crew that will work on selected weekends.

These crew members work on specific tasks ranging from sorting and repacking boxes to entering document information into a computer. New crew members are trained by experienced volunteers and enjoy working with their crew while preserving this important heritage of the Pacific Northwest region. If you live in the Puget Sound area, please call us to join a crew and help preserve our railroad history.

Gary Tarbox,
PNRA Executive Director
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