

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

## ***NORTHWEST NEWS***

For all *Friends of PNRA*, PNRA publishes a progress report summarizing each quarter's activities. This *Northwest News* covers Quarter 4 of 2014.

### **Archive Operations**

PNRA became more visible in Burien this quarter. A sign was installed on the front of the Archive and it has peaked the curiosity of the people of Burien about PNRA. We are seeing more drop-in visitors and our next door neighbors are fielding questions about when we are open and what the Archive does.

### **Preservation Activities**

By the end of 2014, PNRA and its member RHOs have received 161 donated collections ranging from a few historic photos to large collections, such as Walt Ainsworth's collection which occupies over 2,400 cubic feet. These collections exist in our region due to the strong interest in railroad history and the fact that the Burlington Northern Railroad was headquartered in Seattle in the 1980s.

Jim Fredrickson's station plats and the Bill McKown's equipment erecting drawings are being scanned after their cataloging was completed.

The Wednesday crew completed scanning, cataloging and posting on the NPRHA.org site, the rest of Jim Fredrickson's Burlington Northern photos in Jim's Category 17, Amtrak images in Category 18, and trolley and interurban images in Category 24.

RHO Cascade Rail Foundation held a work session on Saturday, October 8, 2014, to enable members who must travel some distance to work at the Archive on the CRF Milwaukee Road collections.

Marybeth Fujita took over the box placement duties at the Archive. She recently retired from Boeing Flight Test group and works with Bob Kelly and John Tucker on the Wednesday crew tracking the status and location of each box to keep the Master Location database up to date.



*The Archive's new sign*

### **Community Outreach**

We made our first presentations to independent living seniors residing a retirement community in Normandy Park, just south of Burien. The purpose of this presentation was to acquaint the community with PNRA, that the Archive preserves railroad document collections, and to recruit new volunteers to join work crews. We hope to present PNRA to a number of communities during 2015.

PNRA assisted three Boy Scouts from local Troop 352 in earning their *Railroading* merit badge. PNRA

Volunteers, Craig Reese and Bob Kelly administered the merit badge examinations to the three Scouts and worked with others on their preparation for the exam. In the future we hope to extend our support for the merit badge process and other Scout projects into Seattle, the Eastside and communities of the Kent Valley. If you are interested in helping with this program please contact me.

### **Friends of PNRA**

Our *Friends* make the Archive go and allow us to fulfill our mission of providing a facility to preserve the region's railroad history and make that history accessible to everyone over the internet. There are two ways to become a *Friend*:



*Marybeth Fujita at work at the Archive.*

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**Join a work crew** at regularly scheduled sessions each month, or ask us to help you work from your home computer to catalog material.

**Contribute funds** each year to help cover PNRA's operating costs. Currently 151 contributors support PNRA's mission.

Call or email us for more details on becoming a *Friend of PNRA!!*

## Facility Improvements

The drywall around the inside of the rear door of the Boeing area on the Main floor has been finished and ready for painting at the same time as the west side of the wall separating the Layout area from the Archive work space .

Fixed shelving has been acquired to store our large Train Sheet collection on the east side of the lower floor. The shelving is being installed in early January 2015.

Planning has started for installing a water heater on the east side of the building to add hot water to the Archive restroom and kitchen sink area on the Main floor.

## Heritage Services

*Authorization For Expenditure* (AFE) files detail the changes railroads make to their facilities. The files are a rich source of information about each project and often the area surrounding the project. A searchable database containing 9,809 NP Tacoma Division AFEs has been completed by the Wednesday Crew and is now accessible on both the *GN-NPJointArchive.org* and *NPRHA.org* web sites. The database details all the AFEs from the Jim Fredrickson and Tacoma Public Library collections preserved at PNRA. Each record has a short description of the AFE, as-well-as columns for filtering which shows the nearest station, date, the name of the box containing the AFE and the location of the box in addition to other information.

PNRA's Reference Library has grown to 935 volumes, all donated to the Archive or an RHO. The Library database can be found on the *PNRArchive.org* web site by clicking on the Reference Library link in the Left Menu of the site. The library books are listed by Volume Types which cover: the eight Class 1 railroads active in the Pacific Northwest region; code books; freight cars; locomotives, logging; passenger cars; railfan subjects; regulatory books; railroad history organization newsletters; scrapbooks; special railroad subjects and trolley subjects. If you see something in

the database that you would like to study, we will help you get the information you need if you contact us.

## Equipment Improvements

One of PNRA's Board members this quarter, donated to the Archive, two new desktop computers and a laptop to replace slower computers we were using. The new systems all run Windows 8.1 and upgrade the speed and capabilities of two of our workstations on the main floor and our mobile computing done on the lower floor.

## Help Find Collections

There are still many collections of documents and/or photos of Pacific Northwest railroads that need a new home, but the owners and their families may not know of PNRA or our mission.

**If you are aware of such a collection that needs a new home, please contact us or the families to help preserve the collections.** It is critical that we make arrangements with these collectors or their families before the collections are discarded. We have a significant amount of space at the Archive where collections can be preserved and honored.

Gary Tarbox,  
PNRA Executive Director  
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*Part of the Reference Library*



**CULTURE**  
KING COUNTY LOGGING TAX