

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

## ***NORTHWEST NEWS***

This progress report summarizes the activities at the Archive during the fourth quarter of 2016 for the *Friends of PNRA*.

### **Community Outreach**

PNRA's first Holiday Open House was held December 26 to 31, 2016, was a great success for the community. PNRA and the Boeing Employees Model Railroad Club (BEMRRC) hosted the event at the Archive to present BEMRRC's new modular model railroad layout and their permanent layout to the public. In addition, PNRA provided tours of the Archive and showed parts of the collections to many of the 235 people visiting during the six-day event.

PNRA will host on Feb. 4, 2017, the members of Burien's Highline Heritage Museum at the Archive for a program exploring the history of the Highland Park & Lake Burien Railroad (HP&LBR) presented by volunteer Mike Bergman. This was a streetcar line starting in 1913, went from Spokane Street and Iowa Avenue in West Seattle to 152nd street in Seahurst, a few blocks west of today's Burien downtown. The Museum plans temporary HP&LBR exhibits in the Burien Community Center and SeaTac City Hall, and a permanent exhibit as part of their current building remodel project. In addition, the Seattle Public Library has asked Mike to present the HP&LBR at the Delridge Library on May 21, 2017, at 2:00 PM.

The White River Valley Museum sold PNRA its photo exhibit: *Interurban Revisited, Photos of the Puget Sound Electric Railway* which connected Seattle and Tacoma from 1902-28. The exhibit was curated by Warren Wing whose photo collection is preserved at the Archive. This exhibit will be displayed at the Archive and will also be a traveling exhibit to be loaned to regional heritage organizations.

PNRA hosted a regular monthly meeting of the Association of King County Heritage Organizations at the Archive on October 25, 2016. Elizabeth Knight presented PNRA's Digital Archive Plan to the over 30 people attending. The plan was partially funded by a grant from 4Culture. The Plan is also available to other Heritage Organizations on our [PNRArchive.org](http://PNRArchive.org) web site.



*BEMRRC's new modular layout had its initial run at the PNRA and BEMRRC 2016 Open House Dec. 26-31.*



*BEMRRC members tell the Open House visitors stories about building their modular layout during 2016*

### **Facilities**

PNRA submitted in mid-May 2016, a Heritage Capital Project grant application to the Washington State Historical Society to increase the energy efficiency and security of our Archive building. In September we were informed that our application was ranked twentieth on a list of thirty-five applications chosen to be submitted to the Washington State Legislature for funding. The application requests funding for six key facility improvements:

- Install climate control systems in the five separate sections of the 7,500 square-foot Archive allowing us to maintain controlled temperature throughout the building and to control the humidity in the preservation areas on the lower floor.
- Replace the rollup door in Receiving with steel-frame, double-doors to improve the security of that area.
- Engage an architect to develop plans for protective porches for submittal to city's building permit review.
- Build porch extensions on the building to keep the rain away from the east half of the building's front and from the doors in Receiving.
- Replace all the single-pane windows on the main and upper floors with thermal pane models.
- Add non-skid metal treads to 42 stairs to the upper and lower floor of the Archive.

The Heritage Capital Projects program is important in that it strengthens the heritage organizations in the State to present local histories to our residents. The next step will be for the selected applicants and their supporters to convince the Legislature to fully fund the *2017-19 Heritage Capital Projects* at the requested \$9 million during this year's Legislative Session. If you are a Washington State resident, you can help by contacting your Legislative representatives and requesting their support to fully fund the *2017-19 Heritage Capital Projects*. Please send a message to your district legislators through the toll-free Hotline at 800-562-6000.

This last quarter we improved the lighting in the Receiv-

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ing area on the Lower floor and in the work areas of the Upper floor.

## Preservation Activities

Board member, Dave Sprau is sorting and integrating the timetables from the Ainsworth, Fredrickson and other collections at the Archive into file cabinets on the lower floor. He is preparing an inventory that will be posted on *PNRArchive.org*, our web site, and make it accessible for research at the Archive by appointment.

In the last quarter, PNRA received twenty-two new collections which included: 1) Ten boxes of GN, NP & Milwaukee ephemera and maps; 2) Five original, bound equipment *Cyclopedias*, three for locomotives and two for cars; 3) Fourteen boxes of GN memorabilia; 4) Twenty-five switchman's lanterns which are now on display in the Main floor work area; 5) Three boxes of BN condensed track profiles; and 6) Two boxes of North Coast Limited research and photos from the Gelhaus collection.

The new shelving installed last quarter is proving to be very helpful in sorting collections to put like items together. The collection items can be laid out on a number of shelves by railroad and type of material, and then those types are placed in marked folders. Finally, all the folders are placed in bankers boxes and assigned a permanent location on the shelving. Each box is then taken to the Main floor work area where it is cataloged and that data is posted on the appropriate web site along with the box location.

The Train Sheet Digitization Project proceeds with the goal of scanning 6,000 train sheets from the GN, NP and Milwaukee railroads. Currently, 5,130 train sheets have been scanned in groups of specific months. After scanning, each day is then processed to make it compatible with display on



*BEMRRC's modular layout was setup in the Main floor work area for the Open House.*

our web sites. If you would like to review some scanned train sheets: go to [NPRHA.org](http://NPRHA.org) > Operations & Traffic > Train Sheets.

## Administration

In October the PNRA Board authorized the hiring of Burien-based Edwina Colley as a contractor to maintain our financial records and prepare payments for signing and mailing.

The PNRA appointed Bill Petryk as its PNRA Board representative in the last quarter. Our Board then appointed Bill as the Treasurer who is in charge of future financial projections, budgeting checking and day-to-day transactions from the bookkeeper.

The next GiveBIG event organized by Seattle Foundation, is scheduled for May 10, 2017. It is an opportunity for our members to support the Archive and our mission of preserving the history of our region's railroads and making it available on our internet web sites.

## Become a Friend of PNRA

There are two ways you can become a *Friend of PNRA*:

- **Join a work crew** at one of regularly scheduled weekly sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays. Email us and we will get you started working on a collection that interests you.
- **Contribute funds** each year to help cover PNRA's operating costs. Currently 212 contributors regularly support PNRA. Call or email us for more details on becoming a *Friend of PNRA*!!

## Help Preserve Collections

PNRA was founded in 2009 to collect railroad documents, maps and photos collections from the Pacific Northwest region into a facility where they will be preserved and made available to the general public over the internet. Our crews' success in pursuit of this goal, has led to receiving collections at a rate of five to eight each month with the total now at 317 collections. However, we know many more collections will still need a new home in the future. Many of the owners or their families don't know of PNRA and our preservation mission. It is critical that we talk with these people or their families before the collections are discarded. **If you know of such a collection, please contact us.**

Gary Tarbox,  
PNRA Executive Director  
2016 Quarter 4 *Northwest News*



*New Eastbay shelving being used to sort collections into a bankers box before setting its final location*

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