

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

## **NORTHWEST NEWS**

The *Friends of PNRA* receive this progress report which summarizes the activities at the Archive during the second quarter of 2017.

### **PNRA's Headlight Society**

We have formed the *Headlight Society* to honor those individuals who create a planned gift to PNRA in a will, regardless of the size. Such gifts will be used to solidify the financial foundation of the Archive for future generations by dedicating those funds to endowing PNRA's preservation mission for the long term. Gifts may be for a specific dollar amount, a percentage of the total estate, or the residual remaining after all debts, taxes, expenses and other bequests have been paid. Specific bequests of property such as real estate may also be made. For further information, contact us and we will help you with the specific nature of your gift.

### **Preservation Activities**

Bill Petryk is completing the ongoing catalog of all the digital material created since the Archive started operations in 2012. PNRA's digital files currently fill 5.9 terabytes of storage space, and are backed up at least two locations, one of which is maintained away from PNRA's Archive building.

Cascade Rail has been putting Milwaukee right of way maps on the CRF archive web site, and are creating a comprehensive box level inventory of their collections that will make the material more accessible.

GNRHS volunteers completed a finding-aid to assist researchers in locating GN materials at PNRA, and an inventory of the Ainsworth GN cabinets which identified over 150 binders, boxes or containers with GN content.

At the first of this year, Phil Beach donated his very large NP timetable collection to PNRA. This last quarter, Dave Sprau completed the integration of this new timetable collection into PNRA's comprehensive timetable collections from Pacific Northwest Railroads to make them more complete.

SP&SRHS members are indexing: the archived material in their collection boxes; the Authorization For Expenditure (AFE) from the railway's card files; and the rolled maps and drawings in the collection. When finished, these indexes will be posted on the SPSHS.org research web site for all to use to locate collection material.

PNRA exchanged Bay-Area interurban and trolley photos with the *Bay Area Electric Railroad Association (BAERA)* which is part of the Western Railway Museum in Solano County, California. BAERA sent Pacific Northwest railroad photos to PNRA.

### **Help Preserve Collections**

PNRA was founded on the need to gather the many collections of railroad documents, maps and photos from the Pacific Northwest region into a facility where they can be preserved and made available to the general public over the internet. The Archive is currently receiving collections at a rate of five to eight each month with the total now at 368 collections.

We know many more collections will need a new home in the future. However, many of the owners or their families don't know of PNRA and our preservation mission. It is criti-



*The contractor's crew hanging drywall on the ceiling of the Upper Floor. All the Archive items were moved to the center section on the left during the work.*

cal that we talk with these people before the collections are discarded. **If you know of such a collection, please contact us.**

### **Community Outreach**

On May 21, 2017, PNRA volunteer Mike Bergman presented the history of the *Highland Park & Lake Burien Railroad (HP&LBR)* to the *Southwest Seattle Historical Society* at the Delridge Library, part of the Seattle Public Library system. The HP&LBR was a streetcar line that started in 1912 and traveled from Spokane Street and Iowa Avenue in West Seattle to 152nd street and Seahurst, a few blocks west of the Archive in downtown Burien.

In mid-May, PNRA provided a digital set of the Standard Plan drawings of the NP third-class depot to Kim Olsen of O2 Architects of Billings, Montana. Kim is heading the project to restore the Red Lodge, Montana, depot to its original configuration. The depot will be used as a museum for the Red Lodge community which has a rich history in the mining of coal.

The Spring Santa Fe Railway Meet was held April 1, 2017, at PNRA with twenty-six attendees.

At the end of June, Boeing Employees Model Railroad Club held their first operating session using their newly created car waybills and train order system to control the train activity. Reports were that the operating session went well.

Hilding Larson, President of the Union Pacific Historical Society toured PNRA on May 17, 2017, and was pleased with the Archive facility. We discussed the possible creation of group of UPHS members in the Puget Sound Region that would be held regular meetings at PNRA. During his visit, we transferred our duplicate UP timetables to the UPHS.

Snoqualmie Valley Historical Museum had a successful day using PNRA's wide-format scanner to digitize 138 maps from their collection on June 20th. They plan to return with more items to be scanned.

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In early June we provided photos of GN 2000-series Mallets to the *Hillyard Community Futures* organization which is creating a mural within one of the buildings at the site of the former Hillyard Shops.

Also in early June, PNRA donated to the North Seattle College (NSC) Education Fund, six computers and auxiliary parts that we had received in 2016. We had wanted to use these computers to run our high-capacity scanners, but found they could not be updated to current operating systems which would run the software of the scanners. They are now being used by the students of NSC's computer sciences department to power their laboratory projects.

## Archive Funding

The 2017 GiveBIG Campaign ran from April 27th through May 10th and our supporters contributed a total of \$8,070 to sustain the Archives operations. This support amounts to 40% of the projected individual contributions for the full year of 2017. We thank all of those members who made a contribution during this year's GiveBIG Campaign.

In June, PNRA made a \$20,805 principal payment which lowered the total debt principal from the 2010 purchase of the Archive building to \$234,058 from its original \$475,000. With this payment the Board of Director voted to end our current Capital Campaign and refinance the remaining principal by taking out a mortgage using the building as security. In addition, the Board voted to also finance the cost of adding climate control throughout the building and the box lift between the lower and main floors. Thus the mortgage is expected to be for \$295,000 with closure in early July 2017.

In mid-2016, PNRA submitted a Heritage Capital Project grant application requesting \$51,821 to the *Washington State Historical Society* to increase the energy efficiency and security of our Archive building. As of this writing, the House has approved full funding of the applications and we await the similar approval from the Senate.



*Volunteers, Don Larson & Rod Olson install the wall framing to fur out the east wall of the upper floor.*

## Facilities

This last quarter, 4Culture, the King County administrator of hotel/motel tax revenues, awarded PNRA a Heritage Facilities Grant of \$5,000 to fund the installation of drywall on the Archive's Upper Floor. For 54 years, the Archive building existed without the fire-proofing drywall covering the ceiling and walls of the upper floor. Work to correct that issue started in

mid-June and will be completed in early July. The funding purchased 100 sheets of drywall and paid a professional crew to install it and tape the seams. PNRA volunteers furred out the east wall and prepared the upper floor for the installation. The work required moving a large number of items stored in the area to make room for the work. The space will be reconfiguring to efficiently contain most of our map collections, along with the inventory of the online stores for which we provide fulfillment services.

As mentioned above, the Board elected to increase the funds raised by the refinance of PNRA's debt to pay for adding climate control systems throughout the Archive building and to install a box lift system between the lower and main floors. Both systems cost more than we can reasonably expect to raise through grant funding in the current economic climate. In addition, the Board sees the box lift as a safety improvement which will keep our volunteers from carrying of heavy boxes between the floors. We are planning to start the climate control project this summer followed by the box lift with completion of both project before the end of 2017.

## Administration

PNRA has changed our informational email address to [info@PNRArchive.org](mailto:info@PNRArchive.org) which is a simplification of our previous email. Please update our email to reflect this change as our ISP is dropping their email service in the fall.

The *Tacoma Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society* (TCNRHS) and PNRA signed an agreement on May 3rd whereby TCNRHS donated a portion of their collections to PNRA and will use the PNRA facility for their membership meetings.

On June 21st, the Chapter sponsored a trip on Amtrak from Tacoma to Centralia, Washington, to ride and view the Point Defiance line before it is taken out of service later this year. They are repeating the trip on July 15 and August 12. If you are interested in the trip, go to [www.railheritage.org](http://www.railheritage.org) for more information.

On September 9, 2017, the Tacoma Chapter plans to hold their annual *Northwest Railroad History Forum* at the *Washington State History Museum* auditorium. For more information, go to [www.railheritage.org](http://www.railheritage.org).

## Become a Friend of PNRA

PNRA has members throughout the United States as well as in the Puget Sound area. Our members support the Archive and our mission of preserving the history of our region's railroads and making it available on our internet web sites. There are two ways you can become a member and *Friend of PNRA*:

**Join a work crew** at one of regularly scheduled weekly sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays evenings or Saturdays. Send us an email to get you started working on a collection that interests you at a time that works for you.

**Contribute funds** each year to help cover PNRA's operating costs. Join the hundreds of contributors that regularly support PNRA. Go to [www.PNRArchive.org](http://www.PNRArchive.org), call or email us for more details on becoming a *Friend of PNRA*!!

Gary Tarbox,  
PNRA Executive Director  
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