# Pacific Northwest Railroad Archive
# *Northwest News*

The *Friends of PNRA* receive this progress report which summarizes the activities at the Archive during the first quarter of 2018.

## GiveBIG Day Is May 9, 2018

The Seattle Foundation's annual *GiveBIG* campaign will be held on May 9, 2018, although you can start donating on April 26th and be credited as donating on May 9th. This event promotes community support for non-profit organizations serving Washington State's King County, and is the third largest non-profit fund raising event in the United States.

PNRA is eligible to receive a $2,500 *Dollars For Change* award based on the individual donations we receive. So, your donation could make a BIG difference!!

This is PNRA's fifth year to participate in the *GiveBIG* event. We will use the *GiveBIG* funds to support the Archive's mission of: *Preserving the history of the Pacific Northwest railroads and making it available over the internet*. We thank the many *Friends of PNRA* who contributed nearly half of our budgeted contributions during last year's *GiveBIG* event and encourage you to contribute this year.

We ask for donations from each of our supporter-members only once each year, so if you contribute during *GiveBIG*, you will not be asked again in 2018. Contributions can be made easily at our web site, **www.PNRArchive.org** by clicking the **Donate Now** link near the top of the Home page. This takes you to the PNRA page on *Seattle Foundation's* web site where you can make your donation securely using a credit card from April 26th through May 9th to be counted. If you would rather contribute by check, mail it to the address at the bottom of this page.

## Become a *Friend of PNRA*

Our members, *Friends of PNRA* support the Archive and our mission to preserve the history of our region's railroads and make it available on our internet web sites. Our members live throughout the United States, as-well-as in the Puget Sound area. There are two ways you too can become a *Friend of PNRA* by:

- **Joining a work crew** at one of regularly scheduled weekly sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays evenings or Saturdays. Email us to get started working on a collection that interests you at a time you are available.
- **Contributing funds** each year to help cover PNRA's operating costs. You can join the hundreds of contributors that regularly support PNRA at **www.PNRArchive.org,**

or mail a check to the address below. All donations during the *GiveBIG* campaign will make you a *Friend of PNRA!!*

## Community Outreach

PNRA submitted a grant application to 4Culture to fund the publication of member Kurt Armbruster's book on the history of the *Pacific Coast Railroad* (PCR) which hauled coal to the Seattle waterfront from Renton, Newcastle and Black Diamond. 4Culture is the agency which distributes lodging tax proceeds to the King County Arts & Culture organizations. The book will use PNRA's extensive collection of PCR photos, maps, train sheets and operating reports to illustrate the history of the road.

PNRA is collaborating with the historical societies of Newcastle, Maple Valley, Black Diamond, and Renton where the PCR loaded coal for transport to its coal bunkers on the Seattle waterfront. While the grant would fund the initial publication of the book, it will also pay for 100 copies of the book to be provided to each of the four historical societies for use as a fund raiser and a vehicle to promote railroad history through those organizations. As a way to enhance publication of the book, PNRA will provide speakers to those societies and other interested groups to present the history of the PCR.

PNRA and the Highline Heritage Society will host the April 16th Board meeting of the *Washington Museum Association*. This is an opportunity for the WaMA leadership to learn about PNRA's mission and activities.

Events on the PNRA calendar include:
- Washington Museum Assoc. Board, April 16, 2018
- NW Santa Fe Meet, April 21, 2018.
- GN/SP&S Modeling event, June 16th, 2018
- PRRT&HS meetings at PNRA, July 21, & Oct. 20, 2018.
- SP&SRHS Convention, Sept. 9-11, 2018, in Chehalis WA.
- PNRA Convention Open House, Sept. 9-14, 2018.
- NPRHA Convention, Sept. 11-15, 2018 in Tumwater WA.
- GNRHS Convention, Sept. 15-19, 2018, Bellingham WA.
- PNRA-BEMRRC Holiday Open House, Nov. 23-25, 2018.

## Preservation Activities

In January, PNRA received the large, Del Jacobsen collection of GN and NP engineering documents and drawings donated by the Orange Empire Railway Museum (OERM) of Perris, California. This historic material was rescued from BN's Seattle Engineering Office, when the Railroad moved to Fort Worth in the 1990s. Del took the material to southern California when he moved, and it was donated to the OERM when Del passed away. Bob McCoy worked to return the collection to the Pacific Northwest for more than six years. The transfer was approved when the OERM leadership viewed our GN-NP Joint Archive website and were very impressed.

Bill Petryk, leader of PNRA's Digital Archive Team is working directly with Rachael Cristine Woody, our Digital Archive consultant to develop the processes needed to select the collections that will have data records created using the format of the AtoM platform. In March we engaged Kerkhoff Technologies to complete the installation the AtoM platform on a server at the Archive. The platform will be the test-bed to allow us to test AtoM's search function and complete our 4Culture Collection Care Grant's Phase 2.

# Pacific Northwest Railroad Archive

Patricia Brady has completed and posted many Zoomify-converted train sheets files on the PNRA, Cascade Rail, SP&SRHS, and GN-NP Joint Archive research websites. The train sheets have been grouped by Subdivision, year and month on the sites for easier navigation through the daily files.

A large set of *Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range Railway* photos not fitting in PNRA's collections, were donated to the *Lake Superior Railroad Museum* in Duluth, Minnesota, where they were gratefully received.

On March 17, 2018, PNRA hosted the first *Great Northern* and *Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway* Day. The activities included a review of the GN and SP&S collections at the Archive, exhibits of historic materials, and a work session for the nearly 40 attendees. Many attendees spent the afternoon sorting and inventorying eight donated GN boxes that had been packed away for decades. Another crew reviewed over seventy blueprints that had not been opened for over 50 years and found detailed plans for the Wenatchee, Tumwater, Scenic and Skykomish electrical substations. Some of the attendees were signed up to work regularly at the Archive.

Jan Taylor has been entering into a database employee seniority data from all NP crafts for many months. You can now find the searchable database of over 25,000 records under the Employee tile on the NPRHA website.

The Marysville (Washington) Historical Society transferred five books of early Milwaukee Road negatives in Washington to the Cascade Rail Foundation collection at PNRA.

The NPRHA helped Tom Kajer, Executive Director of the newly restored Staples Minnesota Depot select photos for their permanent exhibit.

Bob Del Grosso found some significant documents from the railroads of the Pacific Northwest in the collections at the Western Area Railroad Museum (WARM) in Barstow, California, while working there as a volunteer. He requested a transfer of the material to PNRA and the WARM Board agreed to the transfer which will happen later in 2018.



*Six attendees of the GN and SP&S Day at PNRA sort and catalog collections as part of the March 17th meeting.*

will fund: 1) our climate control system, 2) replacement of all single-pane windows, 3) adding metal treads to our stairs to improve the safety, 4) replacement of the rollup door in Receiving with steal doors, and 5) adding porches on the Archive's north and south sides to route the rain away from the building.

Bob Kelly and Bill Kajdzik updated the Archive's wireless network with a new router when it was found that the bandwidth at the workstations was less one-third what Comcast was providing from their modem, caused by overheating.

## Administration

The ordering of PNRA supplies is being streamlined by developing a process flow, standard order form and assigning volunteers to manage and monitor the process.

Our weekly online store fulfillment orders preparation is being transitioned to our volunteers.

The two PNRA members seriously hurt in the wreck at DuPont, Wash. of Amtrak train 501 on 12/18/2017 are mending, but it will be many months before they are both are able to fully resume activities. Ed Berntsen, the most seriously injured of the two recently described the experience as "A really exciting train ride."

## Help Preserve Collections

-The Archive continues to receive collections at a rate of five to eight each month with the total of 408 collections received to date. An important part of PNRA's mission is to gather the many collections of railroad documents, maps and photos from the Pacific Northwest region into a facility where those collections will be preserved and made available to the general public over the internet. We know many collections need a new home now and in the future. However, 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 before the collections are discarded. **If you know of such a collection, please contact us.**

Gary Tarbox,
PNRA Executive Director
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## Facilities

Construction of the Box Lift system between the Archive's main and lower floors started this quarter. Our contractor, Olympic Home Modification of Gig Harbor finished the hoistway, installed the mechanical system, and will put the system in service after the State inspection in early April.

Funding for PNRA's $51,821 Heritage Capital Project grant was approved by both chambers of the Washington State Legislature and released in mid-March. This approval came eight months after the scheduled release of funds and



*The hoistway framing on the Main floor of PNRA's new Box-Lift system.*