

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

NORTHWEST NEWS

This progress report is published to update the *Friends of PNRA* on the activities at the Archive during 2018-Q3.

Community Outreach

PNRA & BEMRRC will hold our annual **Holiday Open House** at the Archive **Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 23-25**. We will have two layouts running from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

One hundred ninety attendees of the Union Pacific & Milwaukee Road Joint Convention toured the Archive on July 19, 2018. They arrived in three full-size and one half-size bus and were divided into three groups as they left the buses. One group started their tour with a presentation on PNRA's mission, operation and history in the Main Work Room; one in the BEMRRC layout; and one on the lower floor. There were six table displays, three on the Main floor and three on the Lower floor to show examples from our Union Pacific & Milwaukee Road collections. We received many complements on the tour and what the Archive's volunteers have done to make the region's railroad history accessible to everyone.

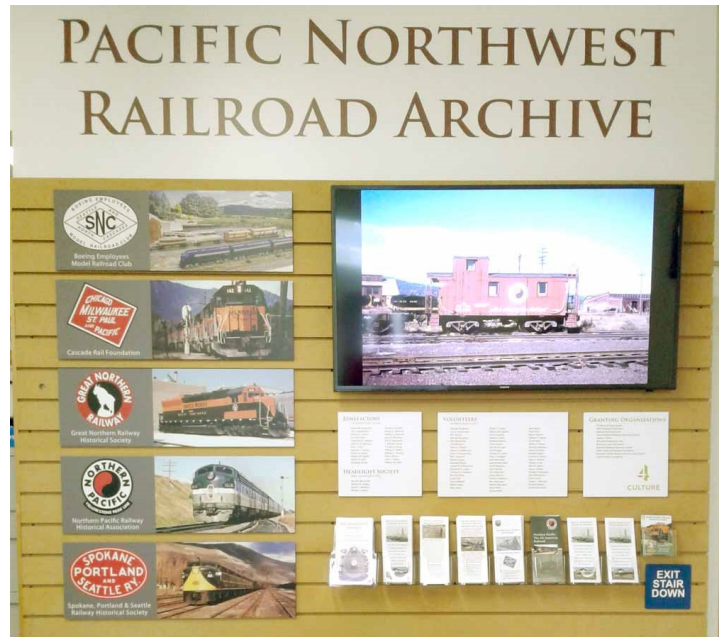
In September 2018, the conventions of PNRA's other Rail Heritage Organizations preserving the *Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway*, *Northern Pacific Railway* and the *Great Northern Railway* history were held in western Washington. The NPRHA brought two busloads of conventioners to the Archive for a tour on September 13th. SP&SRHS and GNRHS individual members also came to PNRA during that second week of September for tours.

PNRA was awarded a \$3,000 grant from 4Culture toward funding the publication of our book on *Pacific Coast Railroad* (PCR) history. Author, Kurt Armbruster uses PNRA's extensive collection of PCR photos, maps, train sheets and operating reports to illustrate the book. Additional funds have been committed by the GNRHS for the purchase of 100 book copies, as the GN owned and operated the PCR from 1951 till the operations ceased in 1982. The book will also be distributed by the four historical societies where the PCR operated. Those copies will be a fund raiser for the societies and a vehicle to promote railroad history in their areas. Kurt made the first presentation on the *History of the PCR* to a group at the *Maple Valley Historical Society* on September 15th. PNRA plans to make a series of presentations to the historical societies and other interested groups to introduce the history of the PCR to their public in the coming months.

Railroad author Dale Jones from Spokane, author of *The Great Northern Railway in Marias Pass*, visited the Archive on July 21st to understand our mission, operation and to review our collections.

A scan of the front of a Seattle Municipal Street Railway car was provided to *Highline Heritage Museum* on July 11 to create a permanent exhibit featuring the *Highland Park & Lake Burien Railroad* in their new museum building in Burien. The photo scan has high enough resolution to print an image 10-foot tall and 8-foot wide.

We provided three operational photos of *Puget Sound Electric Railway* to the Fife Historical Society on July 12. The Society installed the images on reader boards commemorating the interurban along its route through their city near Tacoma, Washington.



The new Welcome Wall greets people entering the Archive by showing our Rail Heritage Organizations and their brochures, lists of our contributors and volunteers, and a video monitor which can show our mission & history, floor layouts, photo slide shows, or items from our collections,

A member of Colorado & Southern Railway Society was provided photos of the NP Gas-Electric, B-7 which in 1925, was briefly leased by the C&S to demonstrate the value of Electro Motive Company's product.

Northwest Railway Museum in Snoqualmie, Wash. plans to restore *Puget Sound Electric Railway* car Number 523 recently added to their collection and is creating exhibits on the car and the PSER. PNRA is assisting Jesse Cunningham of NWRM with the exhibits by provided photos and PSER background information. We also assisted artist J. Craig Thorpe with research and photographs as he created the promotional painting showing car Number 523 departing north-bound from PSER's Auburn station.

Events on the PNRA calendar include:

- PRRT&HS meetings at PNRA, Oct. 20, 2018, & March 30, 2019.
- Milwaukee Road Fall Meet, Oct. 27, 2018, in Centralia WA
- BEMRRC Swap Meet, Nov. 10, 2018, at Kent Commons.
- PNRA Annual Members & Board Meetings, Nov 14, 2018.
- PNRA-BEMRRC Holiday Open House, Nov. 23-25, 2018.
- GN/SP&S Seminars, Jan. 19, 2019.

Facilities

The Archive's Welcome Wall which has served us since 2011 has been updated to better show our Mission, Rail Heritage Organizations, and physical layout. The modular design features a 48-inch flat-screen monitor that displays a wide varie-

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ty of pages to assist the guided tours we provide to PNRA visitors.

Work continues on PNRA's 2017-2019 Heritage Capital Projects with the installation of the mechanical units of our climate control system on all three floors on August 1st. The electrical contractor installed the power to the units in the six sectors of the Archive, and those units are now heating and cooling those areas.

The awning on the Archive's south wall to route water away from the building was completed by our volunteer construction crew in September. Our painting contractor will complete the back side of building the first week of October. The construction crew is scheduled to complete the awning on the north side of the building in early November.



On the south side of the Archive, Bill Petryk secures an awning frame from the lift as the rest of the construction crew are ready for the next frame.

Doors and other materials have been purchased to replace the rollup door in Receiving with steel twin doors. Installation is now scheduled for November due to crew availability.

Two sections of used flat files containing five draws each were received from Kennedy Jenks Consultants of Federal Way, Wash. on July 26.

Preservation Activities

The Whitman County Historic Society recently purchased the NP Depot building in Pullman, Washington. The historical society plans to restore the 1917 Depot's interior to its days of NP service and requested photos from the PNRA collections. However, PNRA has no interior photos of the Pullman depot in our collections. All PNRA and RHO members are asked to check their collections for such images and let us know if you find any.

Bill Petryk and PNRA's Digital Archive Team completed our 4Culture Collection Care Grant's Phase 2.

PNRA provided Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions of Seattle the history of the two spans over I-5 in Du Pont, Washington, where Amtrak Train 501 ended in the fatal accident on Dec. 18, 2017.

The UW Libraries Special Collections, Digital Media Section sent us a request to identify an 1890-era photo image of a maintenance-of-way car used to replace trucks on rail cars on

the line.

The Zoomify processed Pacific Coast Railroad's dispatchers train sheets have been linked from the PNRArchive.org home page near the links to the PCR photos.

Eleanor Boba wrote an article on the Spirit of Washington Dinner Train which ran from Renton to Woodinville on the eastside of Lake Washington for publication on History-Link.org: <http://www.historylink.org/File/20637>. PNRA provided a photo of the ribbon cutting at the start of service in 1992.

Jerry Leone of Portland donated the William R. Fleming collection of over 14,000 slides taken in the mid-west, southern Idaho and Washington areas while Mr. Fleming worked for the Rock Island Railroad, Idaho Power and Cascade Natural Gas. We will work to place the slides from out of our area with appropriate societies once we start to process the collection.

Administration

PNRA's \$46,700 grant request to the 2019-2021 Heritage Capital Projects Grant Program was approved for submittal for funding to the Washington State legislature. This grant will partially fund the purchase of the last three mobile shelving carriages on the lower floor. Two addition grants will be applied for to fund the balance needed to complete the \$55,262 purchase.

Google announced with the July 2018 release of its Chrome 68 browser, that the software will generate a "Not Secure" error flag when any website not setup to use the "https security protocol," is opened. In actual fact, using the "https security protocol" will not make any of our sites safer because none of them collect confidential personal information. However, most of our website users will not understand the error message and will assume our sites will harm their computers. Thus, we plan to convert all of our sites to use the "https security protocol" this fall.

Gary Tarbox,
PNRA Executive Director
2018-Quarter 3 *Northwest News*



The installed awning on the Archive's south side. Note the new climate control compressors to the left of the awning.