

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

NORTHWEST NEWS

We publish this progress report to update the *Friends of PNRA* on the activities at the Archive during 2019-Q1.

GiveBIG Day Is May 8, 2019

This year's *GiveBIG* campaign is on May 8, 2019, to promote community support for non-profit organizations in Washington State. This is PNRA's sixth year of participation in *GiveBIG* which generates significant 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* campaign and encourage you to support the Archive again in 2019.

We ask for donations from each of our *Friends of PNRA* (aka: members) only once each year, so if you contribute during *GiveBIG*, you will not be asked again in 2019. Contributions can be made easily at our www.PNRArchive.org web site, by clicking the **Donate Now** link near the top of the Home page. This takes you to the PNRA page on *GiveBIG*'s web site where you can make your donation securely using a credit card from April 23rd through May 8th and have it counted as a *GiveBIG* donation. If you would rather contribute by check, mail it to the address at the bottom of this page.

Preservation Activities

The first printing of 500 copies of the *Pacific Coast Railroad* book was distributed to the four historical societies on the eastside of Lake Washington where the PCR operated and through the GNRHS online store since the GN purchased the PCR in 1951. Initial sales of the book have been strong through all five sources as it is the first book providing the full history of Seattle's own railroad. We thank 4Culture and the GNRHS for their funding of the production and first printing of the PCR book which provides this important chapter in King County railroad operations to the general public. In late March, the PNRA Board approved ordering a second printing of 250 books.

Work continues on scanning, cataloging and posting NP AFEs on the NP website from the East-End Archive. At the start of 2019, 30,131 AFEs have been posted with dates from 1895 into 1921 from the microfilm collection at Jackson Street Roundhouse (JSRH). The scanning and posting is being done on the East-End by Hudson Leighton at JSRH while the cataloging is being done by Jim Hansen of Helena MT, Dean Ogle of Custer WA and Craig Ringenberg of Prescott AZ.

A full box of traction books from the CRF collection that aren't needed in PNRA's Reference Library was transferred to the Oregon Electric Railway Historical Society in mid-March.

Tim Wahl with the help of Kent Sullivan and Dale Sanders has donated to the Archive, the photo collection of his father, Terence R Wahl. The collection has been named the *TR Wahl Bellingham Bay Area Railroad Stock and Infrastructure Photos*, and recognizes that the photos are of the GN, NP and Milwaukee Road that served Bellingham, Wash. in the 1950s. The collection is being scanned and cataloged in preparation for posting it on the RHO websites.

In January, we received an original CB&Q public timetable published in 1876 in stellar condition. It has been scanned and is preserved in the PNRA collection as the CB&Q connected with both the GN and NP at Billings, Montana.

John Barrows, a former NP dispatcher from Helena loaned 47 train sheets from the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone



divisions and they were scanned and returned.

Bob DelGrosso, librarian at the Western Area Railroad Museum in Barstow, California, found a substantial collection that he felt should be relocated to the Pacific Northwest. The collection consists of 20 binders of Washington State trolleys, logging railroads, early NP locomotives, letters about the NP dating back to 1879 and photographs. Bob McCoy picked up the collection on 2/23/2019 and brought it to PNRA for preservation.

Cascade Rail Foundation has moved its regular work sessions at PNRA from Thursday nights to 10 am to 3 pm on each second and fourth Fridays. The new hours gives crews longer work sessions, and will hopefully attract more volunteers. Contact Paul Krueger at kruegerp12@gmail.com if you'd like to be added to the CRF crew mailing list.

We received two documents prepared by the Army Corps of Engineers reviewing railroad bridges in King County and a detailed report on the NP mainline relocation to accommodate the Howard Hanson Dam construction on the Green River.

Community Outreach

Ruth Eckes, author of six books of stories of railroading throughout the western United States, passed away on March 29th. Ruth became one of many teenage women who became railroad telegraph operators to help relieve the workforce shortages during WWII. Ruth donated to PNRA her working files for her books in 2017.

The standard plans for an NP 20,000 gallon water tank from the NPRHA collection were sent to Carol Dittbenner of Roy, Wash. who is part of a group that wants to restore their town's water tank and turn the surrounding area into a city park. The plans will help a structural engineer develop plans for the tank restoration.

The Washington State Governor's proposed 2019-20 capital budget contains a request for \$5.146 million to open the Milwaukee Road bridge across the Columbia River at Beverley, Wash. to connect the east and west halves of the Palouse to Cascade Trail that crosses the State. The Coalition organizing the project requested indorsements from state organizations supporting the bridge restoration. PNRA, CRF, MRHS, and NPRHA have forwarded their logos to show support for the project.

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On March 16, 2019, PNRA hosted nearly 30 attendees at GN-SP&S Day and viewed three presentations: SP&S Maintenance of Way; Pacific Coast Railroad history; and Great Northern Operations in southern British Columbia.

The NPRHA provided condensed profiles for the Tacoma Division's 4th and 17th subs to the National Park Service's *Coast Starlight* Trails & Rails Program for the pending switch of the train from the Point Defiance to the inland route.

The Grand Opening of the *Highline Heritage Museum* is scheduled for June 14, 2019, and will include an exhibit on the Highland Park & Lake Burien Railroad with the centerpiece being a life-sized photo of the front of a Seattle streetcar on the Lake Burien route provided by PNRA from the Ainsworth collection. Also we provided photos showing the orange color of the cars and the map of the route showing station locations.

Paul Krueger staffed a table for Cascade Rail Foundation and PNRA at the annual WinterRail weekend in Corvallis OR on March 16-17, 2019.

Snoqualmie Valley Museum (SVM) in North Bend recently received over 200 maps of Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Co and Cherry Valley Lumber Co. Cristy Lake and Dave Battey of SVM used our wide-format scanner to digitize the maps to make them easier for researchers to view without affecting the original drawings.

Milwaukee Road Spring Meet was held at PNRA, March 2, 2019, with nearly 50 people attending and enjoying Milwaukee photos from the Tacoma area and eastern Washington, plus the history of the Pacific Coast Railroad.

We provided photos of the NP Pullman WA depot to in support Whitman County Historical Society's application for National Register of Historic Places status.

Events on the PNRA calendar include:

- Newcastle Historical Society: PCR presentation, April 10, 2019.
- Southwest Seattle Historical Society: PCR presentation, April 11, 2019.
- Maple Valley Historical Society: PCR presentation, April 13, 2019.
- Black Diamond Historical Society: PCR presentation, April 28, 2019.
- Santa Fe Spring Meet at PNRA, May 4, 2019.
- Renton History Museum: PCR presentation, May 16, 2019.
- Milwaukee Road Convention at St. Paul MN, June 20-23, 2019.
- GNRHS Convention in Fargo ND, July 20-24, 2019.
- PRRT&HS meetings at PNRA, July 20 & Oct. 19, 2019.
- NPRHA Convention at Brainerd, MN, Sept. 8-11, 2019.
- GN Days by the Skykomish Historical Society, Sept. 14, 2019.
- SP&SRHS Convention in Astoria OR Sept 17-19, 2019.
- White River Valley Museum: PCR presentation, Oct. 4, 2019.
- Northwest Railway Museum: PCR presentation, Oct. 5, 2019.
- Milwaukee Road Fall Meet at Centralia Depot, Oct. 26, 2019.

Administration

Starting in 2013, PNRA has received funds each year from a 4Culture Heritage Sustaining grant. These funds are very useful as they can be used for general expenses or projects that we chose. Our application for the 2019-20 Heritage Sustaining Grant program was selected to receive \$3,500 for each of the next two years.

The status of our grants over the next two quarters is positive with the following activities:

- Our 4Culture Heritage Equipment \$2,569 invoice was paid on Feb. 6th.
- A \$3,000 payment for our 4Culture Heritage Project grant award was received Feb. 26th.



Attendees of GN-SP&S Day at PNRA March 16, 2019 enjoyed three presentations along with meeting other rail fans.

- PNRA was awarded \$3,500 annually for the next two years from the 4Culture Heritage Sustaining Grant program which matched the payments for the last two years.
- A grant request for \$5,000 was submitted to BNSF Railway Foundation on Feb. 22nd to partially fund the completion of our mobile shelving.
- When the Legislature approves the 2019-20 capital budget, \$46,700 will be available from our Washington State Historical Society Heritage Capital Projects grant to mostly fund the completion of our mobile shelving by August 1st.

Facilities

All five of our 2017-19 State of Washington Historical Society's Heritage Capital Projects (HCP) were completed on Dec. 30, 2018. On Jan. 4th Lissa Kramer, administrator of the HCP Program made a site visit to close out our HCP grant and confirmed what we had accomplished. At the end of the tour, Lissa asked what standards we had used in establishing the Archive. We presented our 42-page Facilities Planning document created by archive professional Erica Vargas in 2010 which has a list of the standards we used. These facilities improvements moved the Archive much closer to our goal of becoming a *world-class railroad Archive*.

For the 2019-20 Heritage Capital Project funding biennium there are four organizations including PNRA, from the 34th district that were selected to receive grants when the Legislature approves the capital budget. On Jan. 30, 2019, Gary Tarbox attended the Heritage Capital Caucus meeting at the Washington State Capital in Olympia and met with the 34th District Legislative delegation and staff of Senator Joe Nguyen and Representatives Eileen Cody and Joe Fitzgibbon. The four 34th district projects were discussed with the 34th District Legislative delegation while requesting support for funding for all 36 Heritage Capital Projects.

Gary Tarbox,
PNRA Executive Director
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