

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

NORTHWEST NEWS

This progress report is published to update the *Friends of PNRA* on the activities at the Archive during 2019-Q2.

Community Outreach

The *Highline Heritage Museum* officially opened on June 14th for the greater Highline community. We have been able to help them this quarter in the following ways:

- Mike Bergman provided the route map for the *Highland Park & Lake Burien Railroad* to Nancy McKay for use in their permanent exhibit of the railroad which gave the Highline name to the area of King County. The map will be paired with a 10-foot high photo of a Lake Burien streetcar created from our Walt Ainsworth collection.
- A BEMRRC crew attached all parts of Highline Heritage Museum's 1960s model of SeaTac Airport so that it could be mounted vertically on the wall of the Museum.

Gary Tarbox met with Erica Chung and Matthew Benuska of the Korean American Historical Society on May 22nd to discuss how we provide public access to digital material. We also discussed how they could obtain funding to digitize 96 oral histories in their collection and make them available to the Korean community members.

Bob Kelly has been asked by the Judson Park Senior Living in Des Moines, Wash. to present *The Railroad History of Stevens Pass* on Oct. 28th as part of their lecture series. Dave Watson, the archivist at Black Diamond Historical Society has asked PNRA to help them map the material in their Museum's storage area. We are planning a couple work days this year.

On April 29th, eleven boxes of duplicate railroad history material from our donations were delivered to the Northwest Railway Museum in Snoqualmie, Washington, to help build their collections.

Kurt Armbruster has presented lectures on the *History of the Pacific Coast Railroad* this spring including:

- 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.
 - Renton History Museum: PCR presentation, May 16, 2019
- Events on the PNRA calendar include:
- Maple Valley Historical Society: PCR presentation, July 22, 2019.
 - Skykomish Historical Society: PCR presentation, Sept. 14, 2019
 - White River Valley Museum: PCR presentation, Oct. 4, 2019.
 - Northwest Railway Museum: PCR Presentation, Oct. 5, 2019.
 - PRRT&HS meetings at PNRA, Oct. 18, 2019.

Preservation Activities

We thank 4Culture and the GNRHS for their funding of the production of the first printing of the *Pacific Coast: Seattle's Own Railroad* book which provides the general public an important chapter in local railroad history. Our second printing of 250 copies of the book was released on 4/15 from Gorham



GN 3237 leads a southbound freight train through Bellingham, Washington, in Sept. 1949. Terrance R. Wahl Photo

Printing in Centralia. Because the first printing's 500 copies were assigned to the four historical societies on the eastside of Lake Washington where the PCR operated and to the GNRHS online store, we had no extra copies. Initial sales of the book have been strong through all five sources and other distribution locations have inquired about stocking copies. The next locations to receive books were the Northwest Railway Museum and Burien's Electric Train Store.

The Gordon Benton Collection was received as a transfer from the Western America Railroad Museum in Barstow, Calif. It consists of many notebooks with original research on Washington State railroad subjects. The collection is described by an Archive reviewer as "a wealth of information that I've not seen in other resources."

Noted Pacific Northwest author and photo editor, Dale Sanders conducted a digital photo processing class at PNRA on Saturday, May 18th for our volunteers. Dale covered scanning prep work and settings to achieve superior print, slide and negative scans with our scanners. He then covered post-processing of scans using Photoshop software.

The Terrance R. Wahl Bellingham Bay Photo Collection arrived at the Archive on June 21st after a stop in Ferndale for scanning by Dale Sanders and in Kirkland for cataloging by Kent Sullivan. The collection of nearly 1,100 images is being readied for posting on the NPRHA.org website.

Wesley Sonheim, a recent graduate of St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, is volunteering at the PNRA for two months this summer. He wants to gain additional archive experience before beginning the Masters of Library & Information

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Science program at the University of Wisconsin this fall. While he has no prior railroad history experience, he acquired experience digitizing collections at the Maryland State Archives and expects to learn some railroad history this summer.

Larry Schrenk prepared a hand-written index of the large map collection at Jackson Street Round House (JSRH) donated to the GNRHS and NPRHA by BNSF Railway. Sally Vogel transcribed the index for the Washington & Idaho maps in 2013 which can be viewed on NPRHA.org. The indexes for the other NP states have been sent to the West-End to be prepared for posting on the GN-NP Joint Archive website.



Milwaukee 1220 switches cars in Bellingham, Washington's lower yard in the spring of 1951. Terrance R Wahl Photo

Facilities

On April 30, 2019, the Washington State Legislature voted for full funding of the Washington State Heritage Capital Projects which included our grant toward completion of the Archive's mobile shelving installations of 2012 and 2016. The award will provide \$45,590 for the completion of our mobile shelving and is expected to be available by August 1st. Revised quotes have been received from both vendors, Borroughs and SpaceSaver that reflect the steel tariffs instituted since the initial bids. The costs increased by 11.8 % to a total of \$52,060.21, but remained well within our projected contingency for the project. Project managers from all 36 of the 2019 Heritage Capital Projects met at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma on July 1st to review the contract elements controlling the program and to answer questions about each institution's contracted responsibilities.

The GNRHS products for the Fargo Convention Store were packed and handed off on June 15th to member Cordell Newby for transport to the July 20-24 convention.

Two new wire carts have been added to Receiving to increase temporary storage used while sorting and inventorying collections.

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 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 online at www.PNRArchive.org, or mail a check to the address below and become a *Friend of PNRA!!*

Administration

The quarter has been a busy time for our grants and funding activities:

The annual *GiveBIG* campaign held May 8, 2019 was the first year Seattle Foundation was not involved with the event. They turned the campaign over to 501 Commons management which used the CiviCore online platform. As in the past two years, the campaign used the extended two-week period to accumulate funds before the May 8th event. This gave everyone time to make their contributions on their own timeline. Some of our Friends prefer to write checks rather than use online payment, so we received 57% of our \$8,619.25 total in GiveBIG donations via the mail. This total is 9.5% above our 2018 GiveBIG aggregate.

An application for \$5,000 was submitted to a local foundation on May 25th to partially fund the completion of our mobile shelving with the Heritage Capital Projects funding. This will be a companion to the \$5,000 grant award from BNSF Foundation on June 4th to also partially fund the shelving purchase.

PNRA's 2018 Form 990 was mailed on May 10th after review and approval by the Board.

A \$6,000 request to partially fund Phase 3 of PNRA's Digital Archive Project was submitted to the 4Culture Collection Care program. Additional funding requests have been submitted to selected railroad history organizations. This Phase 3 project being developed by Bill Petryk, will design and implement a user-friendly interface for the generic Access-To-Memory (AtoM) search portal that is compliant with the international-standards. The long-term goal of the AtoM search portal is to locate items in the collections at PNRA and JSRH.

2019-20 4Culture Sustaining Grant was awarded at \$3,500 for each of the next two years and the contract has been signed.

The PNRA Board approved an Investment Strategy submitted by the Finance Committee which will administer the reserve funds that have been established for the long-term success of PNRA.

Thanks to expert guidance from Jeff Otto, the West-End now has access to the Jackson Street Roundhouse (JSRH) Access Database of the East-End's collections. Bob Kelly will receive detailed instruction on its use after the July GNRHS Convention in Fargo.

Gary Tarbox,
PNRA Executive Director
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