

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

NORTHWEST NEWS

The Friends of PNRA receive this progress report summarizing the activities at the Archive during the first quarter of 2021.

GiveBIG Is May 4-5, 2021

The annual *GiveBIG* campaign promotes community support of non-profit organizations throughout Washington State and has grown into one of the largest giving campaigns in the nation. We thank the many *Friends of PNRA* who contributed nearly half of our individual contributions during last year's *GiveBIG* campaign, and encourage you to support the Archive again in this time of uncertainty. We ask our *Friends of PNRA* (aka: members) for donations only once each year and your contribution during *GiveBIG* will renew your membership for 2021.

Contributions can be made easily at the Archive's website, www.PNRArchive.org by clicking the **Donate Now** link near the top of the Home page. This takes you to the PNRA page on the *GiveBIG* website where you can make your donation securely using a credit card from April 20th through May 5th and have your donation counted as a *GiveBIG* contribution. If you would rather contribute by check, mail it to the address at the bottom of this page. Either way, you will be a *Friend of PNRA* for 2021.

Covid-19 Effects the Archive

Work continues at a high rate on our mission of receiving and preserving railroad operating material and making that material accessible to everyone over our RHO's websites. Many PNRA volunteers are productively working on Archive projects from their homes mainly using material provided digitally. We continue to follow the State of Washington and King County Department of Health guidelines. Now that King, Pierce and Snohomish counties are in Covid Phase 3 protocol, we are starting weekly work crew sessions at the Archive with masks and social distancing. The crews are for those whose projects require them to work at the Archive, are limited to four volunteers on the main and lower floors, and will be held on Tuesdays and Saturday. If you would like to join one of the crews, please contact me. As the Covid guidelines are subject to change, we continue to evaluate our actions.



The rear of the Olympia Hiawatha as it detours over Stampede Pass in 1949. Jim Fredrickson Photo JMF20-6900.1

Community Outreach

The Archive is planning to start a *PNRA Railway History Webinar* series initially holding four Pacific Northwest railway history lectures each year. The series will be free with advanced registration and is expected to start in the late summer.

Robert Schalla asked about the NP's use of slack coal in passenger engines from the Bear Creek mine east of Livingston MT during the 1930s and into the 50s. Since the NP designed their steam engines to use RoseBud coal, they could handle the smaller size "slack coal."

Robin Adams asked if we had seen a photo of the Pacific Coast Railroad's Cedar Mountain station as he did not find one in our PCR photo collection. When we asked the PNRA volun-



teer community, Dan Cozine was able to provide a 1930s photo of the station from his collection.

Martin Christoffel is working on a project documenting lost buildings and sights in Tacoma and was looking for information and photos on the original NP shops and roundhouse which was the location of the current Union Station and the Washington State Museum. Volunteer, Chuck Soule was able to provide a number of drawings and photos to help with the project.

For the first time since February 2020, the Tacoma Chapter of the NRHS resumed its monthly membership meeting in January via a conference call. On the first Saturday in February, they met via Zoom at 11:00 AM. Also, several Chapter members assisted volunteers at *Foss Waterway Seaport Museum* in relocating and updating their popular railroad exhibit.

Corrie Hackbarth, Assistant Curator/Archivist at the Lake Superior Railroad Museum pointed out that photo WWANPC-01-052 on the NPRHA website is actually the interior of Great Northern Diner 1250, *Lake of the Isles*, not an interior of the *Rainier Club* observation car.

Phil Keppers received a digital photo of the Milwaukee Hiawatha detouring in the snow on Stampede Pass for a two-page spread in the new Kalmbach book: *Applying Lessons from the Prototype*.

Anaïsa Kalita from BNSF's Corporate Communications department, is writing a dining car china article for BNSF's *Rail Talk* publication. She requested help finding information on the china used on the GN, Milwaukee and NP. She was put in touch with Bill Taylor of Missoula MT who has studied and collected railroad china for many years and received information and photos for the article.

Joel Niemi asked why the bridge drawing database on the GN-NP Joint Archive website did not have links to the drawings of the bridges on the SP&S's Astoria line. It was pointed out that those drawings require that you contact PNRA to receive the files.

The Pacific Northwest chapter of the Pennsylvania Technical & Historical Society held its first Zoom meeting at Noon on March 20th.

Erik Olson donated his father's Burlington Northern Special Agent's instructional books.

Lucien Opperman requested information about the rail spur that went to the Hollywood Farm that later became the Ste. Michelle winery in Woodinville, Wash. He had found the spur on the Title Plats on the NPRHA website, and was given the information from a 1911 AFE authorizing the building of the spur.

Bob Wise of the Anthracite Railroads Historical Society donated fifty-seven color slides and their index from the John Endler, Jr. collection taken during rail trips in 1952-53 from St. Paul to Butte, Montana.

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Cascade Rail Foundation held a successful Spring Milwaukee Road Meet by Zoom on March 27th with over eighty participants.

Mike Myer requested and received digital copies of station plats for Dixie and Dry Creek, Washington.

Kenneth Johnsen asked about the study and tests to solve the locomotive size restrictions presented by the NP's Stampede Tunnel in Washington's Cascade Mountains. He was sent a copy of the Baldwin proposed cab-forward 4-8-8-2 and discussed how EMD's FTs resolved the problem.

Tived information regarding Hover, Wash. served by the SP&S, for a chapter of *Back Country Horsemen of Washington*. Rich Wilkens provided files scans regarding the station and one pertaining the right-of-way from 1909 to 1947.

Western Washington Sheet Metal Joint Apprenticeship Training Center in Dupont, a facility sponsored by union and management, completed a new water spout for the historic water tank at Roy, Wash. The spout was built to the standard plan supplied by the NPRHA. The tower is being restored by the City of Roy with funding from Nisqually Charities and Washington State Supplemental Budget.

The Washington State History Museum in Tacoma reopened April 2nd with hopes of being open for their Holiday train shows.

George Li of the Cheney Depot Society requested and received standard plans for both a Station Order Signal and a Semaphore Signal for use with depot restoration project.

The King County Library System has scheduled a webinar titled: *Uncovering Community Stories from Railroad History* on May 12th at 6:00 PM. We will present PNRA, our mission and how to use the Archive's resources to find the interesting histories of many of our communities and railroad employees, plus build more prototypical railroad models.

Preservation Activities

In late December, Mike O'Connell completed the donation of his slide collection of historic structures by delivering a total of over 30,000 slides which have been scanned, cataloged and placed in archival pages and boxes. Mike's collection can be viewed on PNRArchive.org.

John Mantle completed the scanning of Walt Ainsworth's Seattle Municipal Streetcar collection which will be posted on the PNRA website when its cataloging is complete.

Kent Sullivan with help from Chuck Soule, have been working with other organizations to fill in many gaps in PNRA's employee timetable collection using the master list of all timetables assembled by Jim Mattson. Dave Sprau completed the inventory of PNRA's physical timetable collection, and Ken Iverson has added Dave's inventory to PNRA's Employee Timetable database on PNRArchive.org. This database includes the timetables of the Puget Sound Electric Railway and Pacific Coast Railroad. Ken is now adding records and links to the digital copies received from other organizations.

The Newcastle Historical Society has updated and republished *The Coals of Newcastle*, a hundred-year history of coal mining in Newcastle and Coal Creek, Washington. The Pacific Coast Companies purchased the mines in 1897 along with the railroad that served the mines which was renamed the Pacific Coast Railroad. This 172-page book is available from the Newcastle Historical Society and is a great companion to PNRA's Pacific Coast Railroad book.

Peter Klein has donated a 1910 bound set of 500 NP employee records from the Seattle and Tacoma divisions which shows many employees that were working when the mainline was completed in 1883.

Bill Collins donated two electrical-load graph rolls from Milwaukee Road Substation # 27 in Renton. The SP&SRHS has been the scanning and cataloging of the Walt Ainsworth SP&S photo negatives. At this time the diesel, passenger, freight, and MOW negatives have all been scanned and an index created. Bill Kajdzik has scanned the negatives and Rich Wilkens is creating the index.

Mike Rubin donated papers and records dating to between 1911 and 1920 which include track orders, letters, a bound book of telegrams, and block signal diagrams.

Jerry Masters, the last NP Chief Engineer has donated to PNRA and the NPRHA, his large research collection he has used to write many articles on the routing of the northern-tier transcontinental railroads.

After a Covid shutdown, work has restarted at the St Paul



The crew from the Western Washington Sheet Metal Apprenticeship program at Dupont, Wash. with the new water spout they built for the Roy Water Tower using the NP Standard Plan from the collections at PNRA.

office of the GNRHS Archives. In addition to onsite work at the Jackson Street Round House, remote work has resumed to identify GN collections at PNRA and integrate data from both locations.

Patricia Brady has completed the Zoomify process on the first set of DNR railroad right-of-way maps. This process reduces the file size of a scanned map by a factor of 10 without losing any resolution which allows a user to Zoom into a map or drawing to read fine details like callouts or signatures.

Andrew Klamka in Chicago is currently cataloging the Pavia and Kelly collections of GN electric Locomotives; has cataloged GN's Rockport line plats; and Started cleaning up the GN AFE database and the Larson photo collection at Jackson Street for uploading into the AtoM database.

Ed Berntsen is sorting the miscellaneous BN paper collections to determine what should be retained in our collections.

The NP Idaho Division Track Worker Seniority rosters from 1921 to 1969 received in the Overlie Collection have been scanned and ready to added to the All-Crafts Seniority Database.

MRL's AFE database has been posted on the Right-of-Way & Structures section of NPRHA.org allowing searches of projects on the MRL lines from 1931 to 1985.

Jim Mattson donated over 500 additional GN maps in stacking tubes from his collection. The tubes are being installed in the map section on the upper floor at PNRA and Jim is preparing an inventory of the maps.

Walt Grivna donated a photo of the NP Communication Department staff taken in 1968 when his father was a member.

Kurt Armbruster hosted a Zoom meeting to discuss dispatching with Dave Sprau, Gary Emmons, Ed Berntsen and Larry Baxter and transcribed their comments for future articles.

Facilities

All the workstations and laptops at PNRA have been upgraded to Office 2019 which operates the similar to the previous Office 2010, except that many of the problems have been fixed.

Bill Petryk renewed the seal between the north wall and the awning added in 2019, to stop water running down the wall.

Our production SharePoint and the AtoM servers are installed at the Hosting Center. The SharePoint server is now running all the SharePoint websites that have been upgraded to SharePoint 2019 and are significantly faster than before.

Bill Petryk and the East-End Archive crew are transferring the first data sets from the JSRH database to AtoM.

The new security system is installed throughout the Archive, has been tested and is ready for activation in the next few weeks. All volunteers that have been issued outside door keys will be given an instruction card detailing the deactivation when entering the Archive and reactivating when leaving at the end of the day.

Gary Tarbox
PNRA Executive Director
2021-Quarter 1 Northwest News



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