

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

NORTHWEST NEWS

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

Gary Tarbox Retires as Executive Director

Founding Director and Executive Director Gary Tarbox has retired and the PNRA Board appointed him our first Director Emeritus. Gary plans to continue assisting PNRA as an active volunteer and is looking forward to having more time to focus on a long list of research projects he has in mind.

The Board appointed Jonathan Fischer as the PNRA Executive Director and he has taken over the daily operations. As Jonathan begins to focus on the PNRA Vision, Mission and Goals, he will work with Board President Bob Kelly and Gary Tarbox to learn the details of our processes, meet all our volunteers and introduce himself to our member organizations.

Covid-19 Effects the Archive

The State of Washington has ended masking and social-distancing in all counties for people who have been fully vaccinated. We are now opening the Archive's weekly work crew sessions Tuesdays and Saturday to larger groups of vaccinated volunteers. For those not vaccinated, they will work with masks and social distancing at the Archive. However, many PNRA volunteers are continuing to work productively on Archive projects from their homes mainly using material provided to them digitally. If you would like to join one of the crews, please contact us. The BEMRRC is opening their work and operating sessions to vaccinated members.

Community Outreach

The King County Library System held a webinar titled: *Uncovering Community Stories from Railroad History* on May 12, 2021. Gary Tarbox presented PNRA, our mission and how to use the Archive's resources. The examples include: finding interesting histories of many of our communities, finding the genealogy of railroad employees, plus building prototypical railroad models. The webinar was recorded and is available on YouTube for everyone at: <https://youtu.be/3bigfxhYr6w>

Bob Crawford found a photo of a railroad accident in a family album and asked if the location and date could be identified. The photo shows NP 1790 on its side. Later Bob found the inscription *Carlton MN 1949* on the back of one of the accident photos which allowed him to request the accident report from the Federal National Transportation Safety Board.

The GNRHS and Bob Kelly participated in a virtual train show/swap meet on April 17th where they interacted with 95 attendees & were able to sign up new & renewed memberships.

Thomas Knapp asked if the Pacific Coast Railway and Railroad used the same rule book and if we could figure out to what Rule 81 pertained. Dave Sprau projected that Rule 81 dealt with the "superiority of train classes."

Aaron Farmer of the Steam Railroad Institute (SRI) in Owosso, Mich. asked if PNRA had a better diagram copy of NP tender 59-E-1 which was purchased by the NP with Rotary snowplow 44 from the *Copper River & North Western Railway* in 1941. When Plow 44 was retired by the BN, the tender made its way to SRI and was mated to their Chicago & Northwestern 4-6-0 type, steam locomotive No. 175. Aaron was sent a crisp copy of the diagram to help with his rebuilding project.



Gary Tarbox speaks at the 2016 memorial service for Jim Fredrickson held in the rotunda of Tacoma Union Station.

Steve Goen of Wichita Falls TX saw the Warren McGee photo index on our server and asked if we had the Fort Worth & Denver photos from the early 1940s while Warren was serving with an Air Force Photography Unit in Texas. Steve was directed to the *Montana Historical Society* that has Warren's collection.

Jim Betz asked where the *Puget Sound & Baker River Railroad* log dump was located on Fidalgo Island WA. We were able to send Jim map of the dump area.

The Anthracite Railroads Historical Society sent a small collection of *Pacific Great Eastern* and *British Columbia Railway* photos to PNRA which will strengthen our British Columbia collection.

Robert Dass requested the specific NP locomotives used in the iron ore operations out of the Cuyuna Range in Minnesota. He was directed to the monthly Distribution of Power reports generated by the railroad throughout the last century which show where specific steam engines were assigned.

Eva Lundahl of the Newcastle Historical Society requested and received six images from the *Pacific Coast Railroad* collection for use in the Society's projects.

Robert Scott asked if we could help identify an accident photo. We were able to determine that the photo was taken between 1898 and 1910 which helped Robert narrow the possibilities when reviewing accident reports.

Kelsey Doncaster requested maps showing the railroad bridge over the East Duwamish waterway in Seattle.

Helen Harris asked if the Archive had the historic agreement between the *Oregon Trunk* and *Deschutes Railroad* referenced in several articles about the railroad wars in Oregon in the early 1900s. Helen was provided the agreement by the SP&SRHS.

Richard Hunt requested plans for SP&S caboose 884 which was built with the NP 1050-1090 series cars. He was emailed two steel caboose drawings and was recommended to contact the Minnesota Historical Society Archive in St. Paul for the full drawings.

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Preservation Activities

After a Covid shutdown, work has restarted at the Jackson Street Round House office of the GNRHS Archives in St Paul. In addition to onsite work, remote work has resumed to identify GN collections at PNRA and integrate data from both locations. Bill Petryk and the East-End Archive crew are transferring data sets from the JSRH database to AtoM.

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.

Mac McCulloch donated to PNRA's Reference Library a copy of his newly published book, *Rocky's Rail: The Life of a Spokane Division Trainman 1960 – 2004* written with John Langlot.

Kurt Armbruster is sorting BN material at the Archive and preparing inventories for each collection box.

The Dispatchers' Train Sheet digital collection has been moved to the new SharePoint server and provide a very fast response in navigation around the Zoomify files.

Tim Repp has sorted the Don Golde Slide Collection, placed the slides in plastic sleeves, and inserted the pages in note books. In addition, he scanned the BN slides which are ready for cataloging. Tim is now sorting the Robert Johnston negative collection in preparation for scanning that collection.

Ida Ferris of Seattle donated the first ten boxes of Roger Ferris' railroad collection to the Archive in early June. Ida needed the boxes moved from their condo to get more space for packing.

Mike Bergman submitted the photos from the Ainsworth Collection and maps for his Seattle Streetcar book to WSU Press which are now laying out the book.

The leadership of the Tacoma Historical Society (THS) toured the Archive on June 9th to learn more about our collections and the influence of the railroads on the development of the Pacific Northwest. THS is planning a series of events over the course of 2023 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the NP in Tacoma.

Arron Schwarz wrote an article published in the current issue of the Union Pacific Historical Society's journal *Streamliner* on the UP's Gray's Harbor branch in Washington using some material from the PNRA collections.

Hudson Leighton has resumed scanning NP AFE Microfilm Collection which was stopped last year by Covid.

Jim Betz has offered to loan ten GN track profiles of the Anacortes to Rockport line so that they can be scanned and added to the Archive's map collection.

Kent Sullivan, Ken Iverson, Sheldon Perry and Dave Sprau continue to process employee timetables (ETT) and add then to PNRA's online ETT collection on www.PNRArchive.org.

Administration

The PNRA Board has voted to add three additional directors bringing the total to eleven. In addition, they accepted the succession plan to replace the retiring Executive Director and Board President. The PNRA Board then voted to make Virginia Wright & Russell Holter new directors starting immediately.

Reminder: Anyone using the Zoom platform and recording sessions, please download the recording within 8 hours after the meeting.



A busy Wednesday crew prepares collection materials for posting on the internet websites of PNRA's Rail History Organizations before the pandemic. Such work crews are now able to gather again at the Archive since Covid-19 is now under control in King County.

The 2021 GiveBIG event raised \$7,496.45 in individual contributions.

Bill Sornsins set up a new time recording app for the Archive and BEMRRC volunteers to record the time they work at the Archive or at their homes. To reach the App and record your volunteer time, log into www.PNRArchive.org.

David McKinnis and Kent Sullivan developed a macro to substitute a linked-title for a URL before uploading databases to SharePoint. This allows us to show only the linked-title in SharePoint, significantly reducing that column width.

Facilities

Our production SharePoint server is running all the website from the Hosting Center in South King County. During the afternoon of Thursday, May 15th our SharePoint2 server experienced a "denial of service attack" which did not allow the server to process any requests. It took 36 hours to understand the problem and stop the attack by tuning the server's firewall settings. At the same time the backup of the server was setup and is refreshed every day.

In addition, we found the new SharePoint 2019 operating system changed many of our web pages from the familiar "Classic Format" to a "Modern Format" that many of our users didn't understand. All the website pages were reset then to the Classic Format.

The new security system is installed throughout the Archive, has been tested and is ready for activation on July 15th. All volunteers that have been issued outside door keys are being given an instruction card detailing the deactivation when entering the Archive and reactivating when leaving at the end of the day.

Bob Kelly
PNRA Board President
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