

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

NORTHWEST NEWS

Archives Activities for the Third Quarter of 2022

Preservation News

Bill Zidel and Kent Sullivan made several stops while visiting the NP convention in Brainerd, MN. Prior to the convention they stopped to visit Don Hofsommer and he donated twelve banker's boxes of Northern Pacific research materials. After the convention they stopped at Jackson Street Roundhouse in St. Paul where they picked up material from the Larry Schrenk collection and maps for scanning. Included in the maps were some very rare original linen drawings and this included 1886 drawings of the NP car ferry that operated between Pasco and Kennewick; 1888 drawings showing the wheat warehouse at Tacoma; and detailed drawings from 1901 showing the remodel of the Northern Pacific Yesler Pier in Seattle.

On September 12th Lloyd Palmer and Sheldon Perry delivered a large collection of Union Pacific employee timetables that were donated by Jeff Asay. These are the older, larger timetables known as "Horse Blankets" and are a welcome addition to the PNRA.

Ken Iverson has been working on developing processes for using a book scanning camera-arrangement to digitally record larger fragile paper documents. Starting with large employee timetables several techniques were needed for flattening, adjusting color, and various methods of lighting adjustments were needed. This work has resulted in nearly 400 timetables being scanned and



Kent Sullivan and Richard Wilkens unloading the material transferred from St. Paul. Jonathan Fischer Photograph.

posted on the PNRA site. Ken has now also started teaching our staff how the process works.

Community Outreach

Partnering with local historical societies in the third quarter resulted in two events with famed Northern Pacific engineer Jack Christensen. At the first event, Jack appeared live at the Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association convention at Brainerd, Minnesota via zoom talking with the 150 people attending. The second event, presented to 97 people by Zoom, Jack talked live about his time running locomotives on Stampede Pass.

Working with the Highline Heritage Museum in Burien and the Northwest Railroad Museum in Snoqualmie, Washington, PNRA arranged for two live events with local painter J. Craig Thorpe discussing how railroads, art and the civic life are integrated. Both events were free and open to the public and well received and attended, providing PNRA an opportunity to share some great content in partnership with local heritage organizations.

PNRA and the Boeing Employees Model Railroad Club participated in 'Arts-a-Glow' a community night out sponsored by the City of Burien. Along with touring the Boeing Club, visitors from the community were able to visit the Archive. It was a fun evening and we had about 100 guests of all ages.



Sheldon Perry, Rich Wilkens, Dave Sprau, Chuck Soule, Lloyd Palmer, and Ken Iverson with the Union Pacific timetables. Jonathan Fischer Photograph.

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In early September the PNRA and BEMRRC hosted an open house for the Narrow Gauge convention held in Tacoma.

At our bi-weekly zoom meetings we had Steve Carter of Tacoma present on drone photography in Tacoma and on 10/12 Ken Iverson made a presentation on using a book scanner to scan old, fragile oversized timetables. We hold zoom meetings every other Wednesday at 1PM Pacific. Please contact us at info@pnrarchive.org for more information.

AtoM Update

Work on implementing the Access to Memory (AtoM) archive catalog system is proceeding in two main areas: loading data and developing processes for use by our volunteers. Data loading over the past quarter has focused on photographic collections, with over 10,000 photos added.

We have also begun process development for recording accession records into AtoM. Data from the 700 accessions at PNRA and 350 at Jackson Street Roundhouse are being reviewed for transfer. During August and October visits to St. Paul, data transfer, accession records and transferring the 110,000 Great Northern AFE records were planned.



Visitors enjoying the Boeing layout during "Arts-a-Glow".
Jonathan Fischer Photograph.



Renowned railroad artist J. Craig Thorpe made two live presentations for PNRA at partner locations this past quarter.

Computing and Security Updates

Installation has started on the improved digital and building security improvements. This work is supported by a generous donation from James J. Hill III. Phase one of this effort includes improved computer back-up and storage, replacing out-dated equipment, installing a more versatile and secure wired computer network and implementing improved procedures. Phase one will be completed by year end.

November Open House at PNRA

PNRA and the Boeing Model Railroad Club will host an open house on November 25th and 26th, 2022. The event, running 10:00 am to 3:00 pm each day, is free and open to the public and will include tours, demonstrations and viewing of the model railroad layout.

Bob Kelly, Board President



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