

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

## **NORTHWEST NEWS**

Archives Activities for the Fourth Quarter of 2022

### **GiveBIG is May 2-3, 2023**



The annual GiveBIG campaign promotes community support of non-profit organizations throughout Washington State. 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 these changing times. The funds from your contribution helps cover operating expenses such as utilities, supplies, etc. We ask our Friends of PNRA (aka: members) for donations only once each year and your contribution during GiveBIG will renew your membership for 2023. Contributions can be made easily at the Archive's website, [www.PNRArchive.org](http://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 18th through May 4th 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 2023.



During our Fall open house large maps, photos, documents and various records were displayed in our workroom so our visitors could see and feel the real items.

### **Bob Kelly retires as President, Russell Holter new PNRA President**

New President Russell Holter provides his view of PNRA as he starts his term: The past dozen years have seen unprecedented growth under the capabilities of president-emeritus Bob Kelly. Thanks to his administration we own a permanent home for the collections of our regional heritage organizations and permanently homed the Boeing Employees Model Railroad club. The PNRA is on a firm financial footing. Anyone taking the reins of an organization could not ask to be placed in a better position for continued organizational success moving forward.

With financing and infrastructure in good order, I plan to emphasize my administration upon development of generally accepted archival standards, improve our customer experience, and organizational development in the form of turning our much-appreciated volunteers into advocates, and our donors into ambassadors.

Under the tutelage of Bob Kelly and our former executive director, Gary Tarbox, the customer service has always been great. In improving the customer experience, I look to make more PNRA services available through our website, social media, and digital archive portals. This process was begun under Kelly and is currently managed by PNRA Treasurer Bill Petryk. I look forward to working with Bill to complete this process in the near future. Other items needing attention are improved work spaces for our volunteers, and better accessibility for people with physical limitations at our archive.

To help meet these objectives, Executive Director Jonathan Fischer and I are planning to add a paid parttime staff member to the organization soon. If you have questions or suggestions on how to make the PNRA a more useful public interface for the collections of our regional heritage organizations, shoot me an email at [rholter@pnrarchive.org](mailto:rholter@pnrarchive.org). Jonathan Fischer and I look forward to the challenge of helping this organization meet its potential.

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## Collection Organization

During the last months of 2022 Richard Wilkens began working on the organization of our collection. Starting with a wall to wall inventory we are working on consolidating shelves to make better use of the space available. This is helping to provide contiguous space for receiving larger donations. Also work is being done on creating more finding aids to better detail items in our collection.

## Community Relations

Our annual open house after Thanksgiving was a large success. We advertised in several local blogs and had over 350 people attend the two day event. A highlight of the event was the Boeing Model Railroad Club layout.

We have been sharing surplus materials with our local heritage partners, at year end we moved two large flat files to the Highline Heritage Museum and loaned the Northwest Railway Museum two large air moving fans to assist in recovery from a flood under the depot.

For the first time on January 4th 2023 our bi-weekly Volunteer Zoom meeting had representation from all 6 US time zones (Eastern, Central, Mountain, Pacific, Alaska and Hawaii)

This past quarter we have sponsored public events live or via Zoom on the following topics: Railroad Art, Digital Archive Techniques, and Railroad History as well as special tours for conventions held in the area.

In 2022 PNRA received 90 new collections and as we all learn how to live with Covid our volunteer hours have gone up 70 percent from 2021 to 14,699 total in 2022. Thanks to all our volunteers helping to make PNRA successful.

## Cherisse Gordon Joins PNRA Board

Cherisse Gordon has joined the PNRA board. She brings over 20 years of experience in public education and administration and is currently working for the Oregon Department of Education. She also brings a variety of railroad experience as a volunteer, along with her husband and son, at Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad, Oregon Rail Heritage Center, Oregon Pacific Railroad and Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad. As a member of the Oregon Air National Guard, Cherisse is nearing her 20th year of service.



After moving surplus equipment to the Highline Heritage Museum, the move crew of Rich Wilkens, Russell Holter, Bill Petryk and Jonathan Fischer posed for a photo.

## AtoM Railroad Catalog Update

The first meeting of the AtoM coordinating committee appointed by our member society presidents was held in December. Going forward, quarterly meetings are planned to set priorities and review progress. Data is continuing to be loaded to the system and currently there are over 12,000 photos installed. Several large bulk uploads are in work for transition including the 114,000 record GN AFE files. Over 400 collection level records have been uploaded from the Burien files and accession records at Jackson Street Roundhouse are nearly ready. A process document has been created and a data template for photograph cataloging. In late December 2022 a link was placed on the PNRA home page to the (“under construction”) AtoM railroad catalog.

## “Out of Scope” Collection Relocation

While the vast majority of material that is donated to the PNRA fits within our mission we do get material that is not relevant to our needs. In these cases we contact other historical institutions around the country to see if they have an interest. In the last quarter we transferred material to the The Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society; New York Central System Historical Society; and recently some blueprints for Norfolk & Western steam locomotive boilers were sent to the Norfolk & Western Historical Society.

Russell Holter, Board President



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