

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

## **NORTHWEST NEWS**

Archives Activities for the First Quarter of 2023



### **GiveBIG 2023**

The Pacific Northwest Railroad Archive (PNRA) participates annually in GiveBIG. This year's GiveBIG campaign begins April 19th and runs through May 4th. PNRA is one of nearly 1,500 non-profit organizations in Washington State that combine our resources to focus attention to the financial need of non-profit organizations. The PNRA is a participating non-profit organization and your donations are tax deductible.

By participating in GiveBIG, the PNRA can meet its annual operations needs without imposing upon our partners or diminishing their need for annual operations funding. Although the PNRA receives dues, and donations throughout the year, participating in GiveBIG creates a convenient season to remind our advocates, benefactors, friends and our tireless volunteers, that right now is the best time to renew your commitment to the PNRA.

Over the course of the GiveBIG campaign, you may notice an increase in mass media, public service announcements and celebrity endorsements reminding you that your donations to local non-profit organizations are essential in making Washington state a wonderful place to live. If you are employed, check with your human resources department to see if the company is willing to match your donation to PNRA. Taking advantage of matching funds are of vital interest in meeting the daily operations needs of the PNRA. Those who cannot take advantage of matching funds can still help us by spreading the word through social media, that you gave during this year's GiveBIG campaign. Finally, I want to say, 'thank you!' to everyone who gave last year. Go to [www.pnrarchive.org](http://www.pnrarchive.org) and GiveBIG.

### **Community Relations**

PNRA hosted several live events in the first quarter. On January 21st local author and painter Jack Christensen held a book signing at the Highline Heritage Museum in Burien. The event was also streamed live via Zoom as Jack talked about some of his favorite paintings and autographed copies of his book: Tales of the Northern Pacific.

On January 22nd world famous photographer Victor Hand held a virtual zoom presentation describing his photographs from the Pacific Northwest. Special thanks to the Center for Railroad Photography and Art, in Madison, Wisconsin, curators of the Victor Hand collection.

Our bi-weekly zoom meetings continue to be well attended with a number of interesting guest speakers. In the first quarter there were two presentations by the Center for Railroad Photography and Art. We also had Paul Swanson from the Lake States Archive in Wisconsin present. Our bi-weekly volunteer meetings are open to everyone. Several occasions in the first quarter there were viewers from six US time zones attending. Please drop us a note at: [info@PNRArchive.org](mailto:info@PNRArchive.org) if you'd like to attend. Meetings are every other Wednesday at 1PM Pacific time.



Gary Tarbox (left) moderated the presentation by Jack Christensen (right) about his "Ten Favorite Paintings." The event was live at the Highline Heritage Museum on January 21st and streamed live via Zoom.

425 SW 153rd Street, Burien, WA 98166 - (206) 402-6519  
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## Collection Acquisitions

Over the last quarter the PNRA has acquired several significant collections.

### Norm Hochhalter Collection

In late February 2023 PNRA received the Norm Hochhalter collection. Norm was an avid railroad photographer and he was able to capture many interesting images of Spokane, and the Inland Empire, during his many years of photography.

Norm, and his father, Art, were best known as model builders and Norm, a draftsman by trade, would visit and painstakingly measure various railroad structures around the Inland Empire. He would then create CAD drawings of the structure (depots, roundhouses, bridges, towers, etc). He paired his CAD drawings with photographs he took and he would sell these at train shows. While the structures he drew have succumbed to time, he created a legacy of images and drawing that facilitate modelers and historians.

Perhaps his most famous model creation was an 'O' gauge model of the Great Northern passenger depot on Havermale Island, in Spokane. His file of drawings and pictures is at least an inch thick. It took Norm and his Dad four years to design and build the depot, which still exists on a model railroad layout in Western Washington. The tower of the depot is four feet high. All four of the clocks in the tower work, although Norm told me that the clocks didn't keep the same time.

This collection will be of great interest to modelers and historians. A special thank you to Terry and Gary Dowler for their help in the preservation of this fine collection.

### Bill Baker Collection

The Bill Baker Collection consists of slides, negatives and photos from the mid 1950's to around 2001. The slides, which number over 4,000, capture a variety of subjects from the last years of Northern Pacific steam to the diesel and electric trains of the NP, GN, UP and Milwaukee Road. Bill also made other trips to Portland, OR, Vancouver, BC and around the United States. The first of the slides were taken by Bill in 1955 when he



One of the many excellent views to be found in the Bill Baker Collection is this one of Northern Pacific No. 2261 leaving King Street Station with the passenger train to Hoquiam on August 5, 1955.

was only 16. Work has already begun on scanning the slides and some of these are assisting in the creation of articles for the Union Pacific Historical Society quarterly magazine "The Streamliner."

### Historical Society Conventions

The **Union Pacific Historical Society** convention is being held in Pasco, WA on July 19th to 22nd. For more information go to: [uphs.org/conventions/current-convention/](https://uphs.org/conventions/current-convention/)

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Northern Pacific arriving in the "City of Destiny" the **Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association** is hosting there convention in Tacoma on September 12th to 16th. More information can be found at: [research.nprha.org/Pages/NPRHA.aspx](https://research.nprha.org/Pages/NPRHA.aspx)

The **Great Northern Railway Historical Society** convention will be held in St. Cloud, MN on July 22nd to 26th. For more information go to: [gnrhs.org/conventions/2023/convention\\_info.php](https://gnrhs.org/conventions/2023/convention_info.php)

Vancouver, WA is the location for the annual convention of the **Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway Historical Society** in September. For more information please go to: [www.spsrhs.org/convention/](https://www.spsrhs.org/convention/)

Russell Holter, Board President



**CULTURE**  
KING COUNTY LODGING TAX

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