

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

## ***NORTHWEST NEWS***

### **June 30, 2012 – New Format**

This is our sixth edition of PNRA's quarterly reports to which we have given a new name and format as *Northwest News* sent to you via email. You are receiving this report as you have been a part of establishing the Archive or requested to be kept up to date with PNRA's progress. You can review our past reports on our web site, [www.PNRArchive.org](http://www.PNRArchive.org).

### **Archive Operations**

At the end of May 2012, we are completing our second full year of operating the Archive facility in Burien. As you may know, PNRA was formed by a consortium of four Railroad History Organizations (RHO) to own and operate the Archive building and equipment to preserve the documentation from the region's railroads in the RHOs' collections. We preserve the collections by scanning, cataloging, storing and making the material available on the internet. GNRHS, NPRHA, Cascade Rail Foundation and Boeing Employees Model Railroad Club, have made PNRA possible. People who have recently toured the Archive have been impressed by the work completed on the facility, our plans for the future and by the material cataloged during our work sessions.



425 SW 153rd Street, Burien, WA 98166

### **Facility Update**

On June 20, 2012, the Borroughs Corporation and Sound Business Systems completed the installation of our mobile shelving systems on the lower floor of the Archive. It was purchased with project funding awarded last October by the North American Railway Foundation of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Crews are now moving the cataloged boxes onto the shelving which frees work space to sort collection received since the Archive opened.



Head-end of PNRA's new Mobile Shelving installation

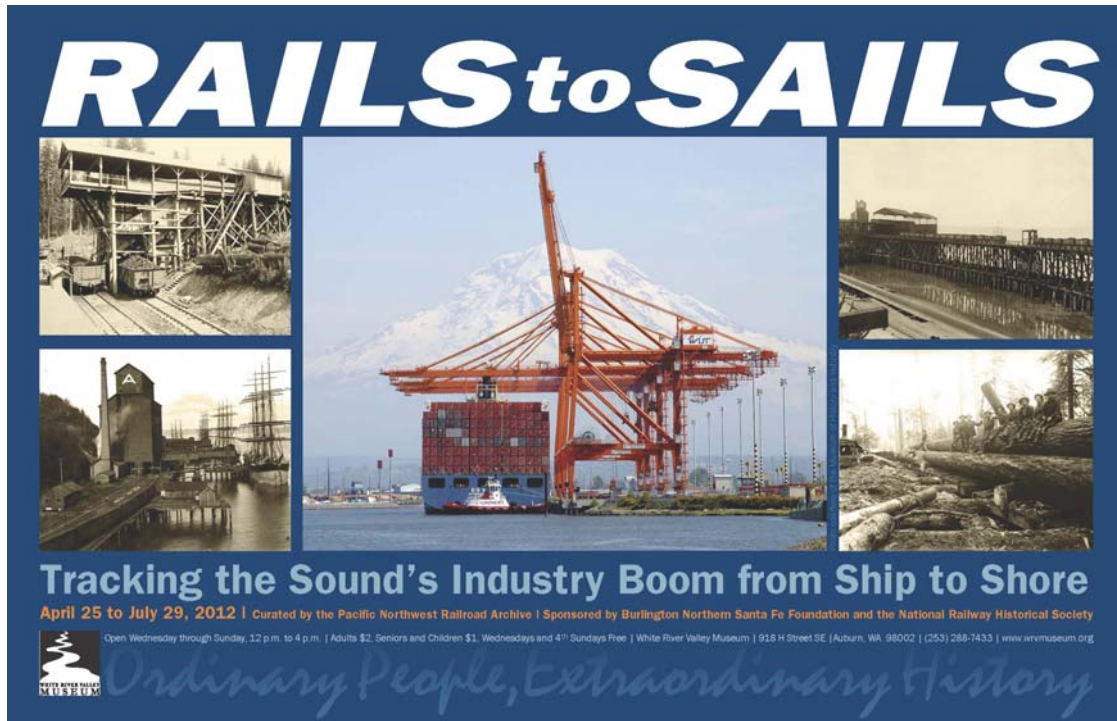
Last month, PNRA received a donation of three Xerox DC12 Digital Color Copy machines from a commercial printer in Seattle. Once refurbished, these units will be used as auto-feed scanners and digital printers.

Ongoing construction activity has included the first sixteen feet of separation wall on the Main Floor being framed and the wiring added. A handrail has been custom fabricated and installed on the stairs to the lower floor. We now have a total of nine computer workstations connected through our wireless network and used for cataloging.

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## Preservation and History Outreach

Communicating the value of the region's railroads to our population, is one of PNRA's goals. This Spring, PNRA curated our first traveling exhibit, *Rails to Sails: Tracking the Sound's Industry Boom from Ship to Shore*, which opened at the White River Valley Museum in Auburn on April 25, 2012. The exhibit traces the evolution of handling of timber, coal and wheat in the Washington State from the 1850s to the present time. This exhibit is funded by grants from the National Railway Historical Society and the BNSF Foundation. The exhibit is open through July 29, 2012.



Work is underway on the DAHP Grant project for the preservation, scanning and cataloging of 6,000 dispatcher train sheets from the RHOs collections at PNRA. Train sheets give a snapshot of 24-hours of operations on a specific railroad's subdivision. They have been sorted by district and date, and the sheets are being scanned during the first phase of the project. When completed, this project will provide access to many of the train sheets on the RHO's web sites.

## Fulfillment Services

The fulfillment of online orders for the GNRHS and NPRHA Company Stores continues. When orders are placed on either of the Company Store web sites, PNRA packages and ships the orders for model kits, shirts, hats, books, specialty items and DVDs. This activity provides income to PNRA to partially fund operations.

## Collection Donations

A key mission of the Archive is to have a place where people who have collected historic material from the regions railroads, can feel confident that their donations will be preserved and honored. If you are aware of a collection that will need a new home, please contact us and we will help the collector or his family make arrangements to donate it to PNRA.

Over the past few months we have received several donations of railroad history materials. The items are added to the collection of the appropriate RHO following the PNRA collection management policy. For

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Mobile shelving unit purchased with NARF Grant.

example twenty boxes of GN-related materials arrived and were assigned to GNRHS ownership, but also included about twenty NP Train Order Books from 1970. These books were transferred to the NPRHA for stewardship and preservation.

Another collection was donated containing dispatcher's train sheets from GN, NP and Milw. These train sheets were assigned to the associated RHO to be preserved along with the other train sheets in their collections.

## Annual Fund Drive Underway

The annual fund drive provides operating funds for the Archive in the current year. PNRA started its first Annual Fund drive this Spring and received a good response. These funds important to the operation of the Archive facility which is partially funded by monthly payments from the RHOs. This income covers over half of our operating costs, with 65% of those costs going to our monthly mortgage payments. The balance of the operating expenses are made up by the Annual Fund contributions from individuals who want to help PNRA meet our preservation mission, but are unable to volunteer at the Archive.

## Capital Fund Campaign

We are planning a Capital Fund Campaign in 2013 aimed at soliciting larger grants from foundations. The goal of the Capital Fund is to *Establish PNRA as a World-Class Railroad Archive* by funding the completion of the planned improvements to the facility and the purchase of the building. A committee is being formed to lead the Campaign.

## Opportunities to Help

Cataloging and work crews are meeting regularly to prepare the documentation to be scanned and placed on our new mobile shelving. We are looking for additional volunteers to join our Wednesday Crew which works from 10:00 AM till 4:00 PM each week. We also are starting a Monday Crew which will work a similar schedule on that day each week. If you live in the Puget Sound region, please consider joining a crew and helping preserve railroad history. To get started, email us at the address below.

The crew members work on specific projects ranging from sorting and repacking boxes to entering a description of the documents into a computer. New members are trained by other volunteers and enjoy working with their crew while preserving this important history of the origins of the Pacific Northwest region. There are many ways to participate in the important work at PNRA:

1. If you live outside the region you can help catalog parts of the collections from your home computer.
2. We need help with development of advertising and promotion of our mission by soliciting collection donations.
3. People interested in assisting and not able to volunteer can consider a donation to the Annual Fund which sustains operations of the Archive.

We invite you to become involved in PNRA. If you have questions about PNRA, its member-RHOs or how you can be involved, please contact us at the address information below.

Gary L. Tarbox, PNRA President