

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

NORTHWEST NEWS

Preservation Activities

Work is underway on the Train Sheet Preservation project funded by a grant from the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. The project entails scanning and cataloging of 6,000 dispatcher train sheets in the Railroad History Organizations (RHOs) collections at PNRA. Train sheets give a snapshot of 24-hours of operations on a specific railroad's subdivision. A project crew has been trained in the processes used to prepare the sheets for scanning. The first group of train sheets have been selected and are being processed to begin the scanning. When completed, this project will provide access to many of the train sheets on the RHO's web sites.

The Cascade Rail Foundation has completed the initial sorting and box repacking of their Milwaukee Road operating document collection. This crew has been meeting on the first and third Thursday evening of each month and is currently looking at working during the day on Fridays. If you would like to join this crew, email us and we will help get you started.

The Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association (NPRHA) has acquired the extensive railroad photo and document collections of Jim Fredrickson, a retired NP dispatcher from Tacoma. The first part of the collection was moved to Burien this quarter. It included Application for Expenditure (AFE) files which contain detailed project information from the NP's Tacoma and Idaho Divisions from the 1890s to 1927;



correspondence and personal files; train sheets; maps and technical drawings. All of this material was sorted, boxed and cataloged over a seven-year period and is being placed in permanent locations on the shelving on PNRA's lower floor. The catalog for these materials will be posted in the Research Library section of the web site: www.NPRHA.org when ready.

The Tacoma Public Library (TPL) deaccessioned twenty-seven boxes of AFEs from the Tacoma Union Station and gave them to the NPRHA this

quarter. These AFEs describe capital improvement projects made on the Tacoma Division by the NP from World War I to the 1950s between Centralia and Seattle. These files were originally with the seventy-two boxes of AFE files donated to the NPRHA by TPL in the early 1990s. Both of these sets are being merged by the Wednesday Crew to put them in geographical order by station in preparation to be cataloged for posting on www.NPRHA.org.

Help Find Collections

PNRA offers a place where people who have collected historic railroad material can feel confident that their donations will be honored and preserved. 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 the appropriate RHO(s). Please act before the material is thrown away!!

Friends of PNRA

We started the Friends of PNRA program to honor people who support the Archive financially as we work to make PNRA *a world-class archive for the preservation of railroad history in the Pacific Northwest region*. Contributions from Friends support the day-to-day operation of the Archive facility by making up the difference between the current funding from monthly payments from our member-RHOs and our monthly expenses. Friends of PNRA receive the following benefits:

- Recognition as a person who supports the preservation of railroad history on our website and in our publications.
- Quarterly updates on PNRA activity through issues of the *Northwest News* newsletter.
- Priority access to products as they become available from the collections at the Archive.
- Early notice of opportunities to participate in helping PNRA reach preservation goals.

We invite you to become a Friend of PNRA. Just mail your donation check to the address below, making sure that your mailing and email address are included with your phone number. To learn more about the Friends of PNRA program, go to www.PNRArchive.org. PNRA is a recognized tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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Web Site Development

In 2009, the principals involved in forming PNRA launched www.GN-NPJointArchive.org, a web site to provide access to the railroad documentation from the collections of Joint Archive formed by the GNRHS and NPRHA in the St. Paul and Seattle areas. This content-rich site contains many photo collections and over 120,000 applications for expenditure (AFE) files which detail the railroad projects carried out on the GN and NP lines. This material has been cataloged by volunteers at the Jackson Street Roundhouse in St. Paul and PNRA facility in Burien.

In 2010, www.PNRArchive.org was created to keep in touch with our community of volunteers and supporters. The servers that host these sites are located in a commercial internet hub located in Seattle and are administered by RHO members at various locations between Seattle and St. Paul.

Fund Raising Opportunity

Ed Austin of the North Bank Line donated an exquisite HO-scale, brass model of SP&S 315 to PNRA to raise funds to further our work of preserving the railroad history from the Pacific Northwest region. The prototype SP&S 315 started its life at Baldwin in 1888 as NP 480 and later,



operated as NP 79, one of thirty-two Class F-1, Baldwin Hogs. NP 79 had an “interesting history” which included an eighty-foot dive into a snow bank in 1903 and a massive boiler explosion in 1907, both on the NP’s Wallace Branch. NP 79 was given a tapered boiler after the explosion. The locomotive was sold to SP&S in 1923 and given the number 315 which it carried in switching service until it was dismantled in 1937.

- PNRA is selling this great North Bank Line model in an online auction which will run until 6:00 PM Pacific Time on January 31, 2013. The model has a retail price of over \$1,500.00. You can see many photos of the model and review the current bid by going to our web site, www.PNRArchive.org.
- Bids can be emailed to info@PNRArchive.comcastbiz.net or mailed to: **PNRA Silent Auction, 425 SW 153rd Street, Burien, WA 98166.**

Opportunities to Help

There are many ways to participate in the important work at PNRA. Cataloging 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 one of the crews that work at the following times:

- Wednesday Crew works from 10:00 AM till 4:00 PM each week.
- Thursday Evening Crew from 7:00 to 10:00 PM every other week.
- Friday Crew is planning to start working from 10:00 AM till 4:00 PM every other Friday.

These crew members work on specific tasks ranging from sorting and repacking boxes to entering a description of the documents into a computer. New crew members are trained by experienced volunteers and enjoy working with their crew while preserving this important history of the Pacific Northwest region. If you live in the Puget Sound area, please consider joining a crew and helping preserve railroad history. To get started, email us at the address below.

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.

Administrative Changes

In preparation for our Capital Campaign, the PNRA Board of Directors voted to separate the governing and administrative functions which have been responsibilities of the Board since PNRA’s 2009 founding. The Board created a new position of Executive Director with responsibility for all the administrative activities of PNRA, while the Board will continue to set governing policies for the Archive. To implement these changes, Gary Tarbox moved to the new Executive Director position and Bob Kelly became the President of the Board of Directors.

The Board has called a Membership Meeting for November 14, 2012, at 7:30 PM with the purpose of reviewing the activities of the Archive and electing directors for the next term. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this meeting.

Gary Tarbox,
PNRA Executive Director
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