

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

NORTHWEST NEWS

Welcome to our quarterly progress report published to keep all *Friends of PNRA* up to date on what is happening at the Archive. Our activity levels have increased during the second quarter of 2013, reflecting the many projects reviewed below.

Equipment Installations

In mid-June *4Culture*, the King County Heritage and Cultural funding agency informed PNRA of the award of a \$5,000 equipment grant. This funding allows PNRA to buy a wide-format scanner and photo negative scanner. Earlier, the *Puget Sound Model Railroad Engineers Historical Society* (GNRHS) \$1,750 toward the purchase of a used wide-format scanner. However, no used machine came on the market, so we had to buy a new machine. The *4Culture* grant covers the additional cost of the new machine and funds the negative scanner. The new wide-format scanner was installed after the July 4th holiday.

The ICOS mobile shelving installation is now complete. This shelving was donated to PNRA during the ICOS building remodel. The five sections fit nicely in a small area in which we planned for static shelving because of the red post seen below supporting the overhead beam.



Flat Files & ICOS Mobile Shelving behind

A group of flat files donated to PNRA from Tacoma's Camp 6 Logging Exhibit have been installed next to the ICOS shelving. The installation has 40 drawers in two sections arranged back to back with a rack above for storing boxes of rolled drawings.

Community Outreach

PNRA's traveling exhibit, *Rails to Sails* concluded its second three-month run on July 3rd. The exhibit was mounted at the *North West Railway Museum* in Snoqualmie, Washington.



Wide-Format Scanner digitizing a Train Sheet

Information Requests

PNRA continues to receive requests for information regarding structures and communities in Washington and Oregon. Recent requests include:

- *Oregon Dept. of Transportation* – Sought a map showing the location of the NP's ferry slip in Kalama, Washington.
- *Wash. State Dept. of Transportation* – Requested drawings of Bridges 100 and 105 on the NP's 3rd Subdivision of the Tacoma Division.
- *HDR Engineering Inc.* – This Portland Oregon based firm requested four drawings of Bridge 1.1 on the NP' Yacolt Branch of the Tacoma Division.
- *Siena Engineering Group Inc.* – This Redmond Washington based firm requested historic right-of-way maps of the mainline through Auburn, Wash.

Preservation Activities

Over the last three years, PNRA and its Railroad Heritage Organizations (RHOs) have received donations of a sizable number of railroad books. Work has started on the establishment of a reference library specializing in railroad subjects pertaining to the Pacific Northwest Region.

PNRA's RHOs have approximately 18,000 dispatcher train sheets in their collections. In 2011, PNRA was awarded a grant from the *Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation* to scan 6,000 train sheets from the three represented railroads. Each train sheet gives a snapshot of 24-hours of operations on a specific railroad's subdivision. To date over 1,000 train sheets have been scanned at a local contractor's facility, but the scanning will now be done at PNRA on the new wide-format scanner.

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The project goals include posting many of the train sheets on the internet using an innovative software product, Zoomify. This software lets a user examine an entire sheet and also zoom in to clearly view a portion of the sheet as small as a couple inches square.

As part of the grant, Bob Kelly developed a PowerPoint presentation explaining the use and significance of train sheets to railway operations. This presentation will be first shown at the 2013 GNRHS Convention in July and then again at the White River Valley Museum's Railroad Night in October in Auburn, Washington.

The RHOs continue to receive a steady stream of collection donations. When received, each collection is inventoried and a written acknowledgement and deed of gift is sent to the donor. Currently, seventy-five individual collections have been inventoried and acknowledged with a few waiting to be processed.

Friends of PNRA

The *Friends of PNRA* program is a good way for people not living within driving distance of the Archive to support PNRA's mission by contributing funds to help pay the Archive's operating costs. The other way to become a *Friend of PNRA* is by volunteering your time to work on preserving the railroad material as part of one of the crews that meet each week or by spending time on your home computer cataloging material. **However, if you can't volunteer your time, please consider making a once-a-year contribution to help PNRA preserve the region's railroad heritage.**



Bill and Buzz sort and catalog Archive Material

Financial Progress

As mentioned in last quarter's report, PNRA was awarded a \$6,000 *4Culture* Heritage Sustained Support Grant for 2013-2014 to help fund Archive operations. In June, we signed a contract outlining the public benefits PNRA will provide King County residents and visitors during the two year period.

In June, PNRA initiated an audit of our 2012 financial statements conducted by a regional CPA firm. A completed audit is required to start our Capital

Campaign. The Campaign will raise funds to transform our facility into *A World Class Archive* and retire the mortgage. The first phase of the campaign will involve individual contacts with each potential contributor.

To fund the audit and support Archive operations, PNRA requested that RHOs GNRHS and NPRHA each contribute \$5,000. Both groups have voted to provide the requested funds.

Facility Improvements

A steel entry door was installed in the Receiving area on the lower floor to improve entry from the rear of the Archive. This was done by removing one of the rollup doors and replacing it with an insulated 2"x6" wall with the frame for the new door.

The plumbing for the west restroom is complete and flooring has been laid. A new toilet has also been donated. The next tasks include completing the wiring, inspections, drywall and installing the fixtures.

Help Find Collections

PNRA's main mission is to preserve the operating documents from the railroads that served the region. While our Archive is being completed, we can still offer people with historic railroad collections, a facility where 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 their family, make arrangements to donate it to an appropriate institution. Please act while there is still time to save the material!!

Opportunities to Help

There are many opportunities to help with PNRA's important work. Cataloging work crews meet regularly to prepare the documentation to be physically preserved, scanned, cataloged and posted on the internet. We are looking for additional volunteers to join the crews on Wednesday during the day, Thursday evening, or a new crew that will work on Saturdays.

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

Gary Tarbox,
PNRA Executive Director
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