

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

NORTHWEST NEWS

PNRA publishes a progress report for all *Friends of PNRA* summarizing each quarter's activities. This *Northwest News* covers what we have been doing during Quarter 3 of 2014.

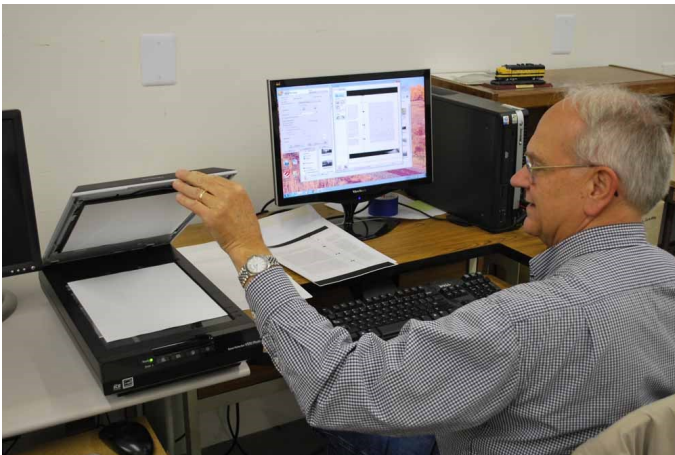
PNRA Annual Meeting

Plan to attend the PNRA Pizza Supper at 6:30 PM on Nov. 12, 2014, at the Archive to recognize our volunteers, followed by our Annual Meeting.

Preservation Activities

During their first nine months of work, members of the SP&SRHS crew have cataloged the contents of 140 of the 360 bankers boxes preserved at PNRA. Next quarter, this cataloged material will start appearing on their data web site at: www.spsrhs.org

The Wednesday and Saturday crew members are scanning prints from the Walt Ainsworth collection and are progressing through the following collections: NP steam locomotives, NP locations, NP AFE forms, GN Depots, GN Stations, Milwaukee locomotives, and SP&S unsorted negatives. The increased level of scanning will allow the remote cataloging to be ramped up soon for those who cannot travel to the Archive.



Chuck Soule using a new Epson V550 scanner .

The Tuesday crew completed the scanning of the NP Tacoma Division title plats, the first subdivision of the Idaho Division, and the full set of Longview, Portland & Northern right-of-way maps. Now the crew is scanning the station plat collections from the Jim Fredrickson collection and equipment erecting drawings from the Bill McKown collection.

The Wednesday crew completed scanning, cataloging and posting the rest of Jim Fredrickson's Burlington Northern photos, Amtrak images, and trolley images on the NPRHA.org site.

Equipment Improvements

We now have a total of fifteen work stations active on the Archive's main floor to accommodate the expanded work crews, especially the Wednesday crew.

A Fujitsu fi-5750C scanner was donated to the Archive in August. It is a flat-bed scanner which digitizes 11" by 17" documents and books. Also, we purchased a Fujitsu iX-500 an auto-fed document scanner that scans both sides of a page during a single pass through the unit.

New Epson V550 flat-bed scanners have been installed at four work stations to increase our scanning capability and complete the *4Culture* Heritage Equipment grant awarded in 2013. These scanners use the same interface as the Epson 750 and 3170 that we have used for some time. They scan 8.5" x 11" documents, as well as photo negatives and slides.

Friends of PNRA

Our *Friends* are essential to the Archive fulfilling our mission of providing a facility to preserve the region's railroad history and making that history accessible to everyone over the internet. There are two important ways our *Friends* support the mission:

Join a work crew which meets at regularly scheduled sessions each month, or ask us to help you work from your home computer to catalog material.

Contribute funds each year to help cover PNRA's operating costs. Currently 148 contributors support PNRA's mission.

Please call or email us for more details on how you can become an active *Friend of PNRA*.

Heritage Services

In 1890 the Union Pacific surveyed a right-a-way from Portland, Oregon to Mukilteo, Washington for a new railroad called the Portland & Puget Sound. This survey was the first in many sections of southwestern Washington and established reference points for the land surveys in those areas. The maps of this original survey have been lost by the counties of the area and remained a mystery until PNRA was contacted. We

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located the maps in St. Paul and provided a digital copy of the requested map to Cowlitz county.

Bill Rowe, PNRA's librarian, finished the initial catalog of the books received in Walt Ainsworth's collection along with appropriate books from other donated collections to yield an 800+ volume reference library. The library is divided into books covering the eight railroads active in the Pacific Northwest region, logging railroads, technical railroad subjects and general interest railroad books. Look for the list of the reference library titles on the PNRArchive.org web site in the near future.

Community Outreach

We have scheduled our first presentations to independent living seniors residing in retirement communities in south King County. These presentations are intended to inform the community about PNRA's mission, that we are the place where railroad document collections will be preserved, and to recruit new volunteers who would like to join one of our work crews. We hope to present PNRA through a number of these shows over the next year.

If you know of an organization in western Washington who's members would be interested in seeing a presentation on railroad history and how PNRA is preserving it, please have the organization contact us. **HAVE PROJECTOR, WILL TRAVEL!!**

PNRA began discussions with a local Boy Scout Troop to provide leadership to Scouts wanting to earn the Railroading merit badge. In addition, the Eagle Scout award requires that the Scout candidate complete an extensive community project of their choosing. Some PNRA Volunteers have expressed interest in helping Scout candidates set up and complete their projects. In the longer term, we hope to extend the merit badge and Scout project support into Seattle, the Eastside and communities of the White River Valley. If you are interested in helping with this program please contact us.

Archive Operations

The effects of adding the Tuesday and Saturday work sessions and our increased number of volunteers has begun to show in PNRA's volunteer-hour records. From 2012 to 2013, the recorded volunteer hours increased 45% from 3,648 hours to 5,286 hours. The growth of the crews during 2014 is projected to continue to increase the hours worked at the Archive by an additional 40% by the end of the year.

The objective of our grant from the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation is to scan 6,000 train sheets from the RHO collections and post them on the internet. At this point, the scanning has reached the half-way point. The next task is to convert all the scanned sheets into the web site ready files using the Zoomfy software which maintains resolution as the user zooms in on the document. You can view the initial results of all these efforts by accessing the Cascade Rail Foundation site from the PNRArchive.org home page. When you click Dispatcher's Train Sheets link, you will be able to open one of the train sheets and zoom in on the page to read the smallest markings. We will be posting train sheets from the NP and GN in the near future.



Buzz Grant & wide-format unit scan a train sheet

Help Find Collections

Many collections of documents and/or photos of Pacific Northwest railroads still need a new home, but the owners and their families may not know of PNRA or our mission. **If you are aware of such a collection that will need a new home, please contact us.** It is critical that we talk with these collectors or their families before the collections are discarded. We have a significant amount of Archive space where collections can be preserved and honored.

Gary Tarbox,
PNRA Executive Director
2014-Quarter 3 *Northwest News*

