

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

## ***NORTHWEST NEWS***

This quarterly progress report is being published to summarize the activities at the Archive for the *Friends of PNRA*. This edition covers Quarter 3 of 2015.

### **Friends of PNRA**

Each November we hold PNRA's Annual Membership Meeting at the Archive which is preceded by a Pizza Supper to celebrate our *Friends of PNRA*. Our Friends have volunteered their time to work at the Archive or have Contributed Funds to help cover PNRA's operating costs. If you have worked more than 30 hours or contributed \$50 or more in the last twelve months, you are a *Friend of PNRA* member and entitled to vote at our Annual Meeting.

This year the **Pizza Supper celebration will be on November 4th starting at 6:00 PM** and followed by PNRA's Annual Meeting.

**All *Friends of PNRA* are invited to attend!!**

### **Community Outreach**

PNRA is starting a major Outreach program intended to recruit additional volunteers from the population of seniors who reside in south King County. The majority of the work on the collection's at the Archive is done by seniors who volunteer at PNRA one day each week. They enjoy the work and the comradery of the other crew members – many who have worked at the Archive more the two years.

We feel that other seniors in the community would benefit from participating PNRA's Seniors Program and have formed a partnership with the *Burien Parks & Recreation Department* to help develop all aspects of the Program. In addition, PNRA joined *Discover Burien*, a local non-profit that has a mission to create and sustain a vibrant economy and dynamic community through promotion and education. *Discover Burien* will help us create an effective promotion plan to reach seniors.

Our goal is to add an additional 100 senior volunteers working at the Archive and expand our crews to meet seven days each week. After the Senior Program is running in the Burien Community, we would like to extend it to the nearby communities in South King County.



*A handicapped space, access ramp and five regular spaces have been added to the newly sealed parking lot on 153rd Street.*

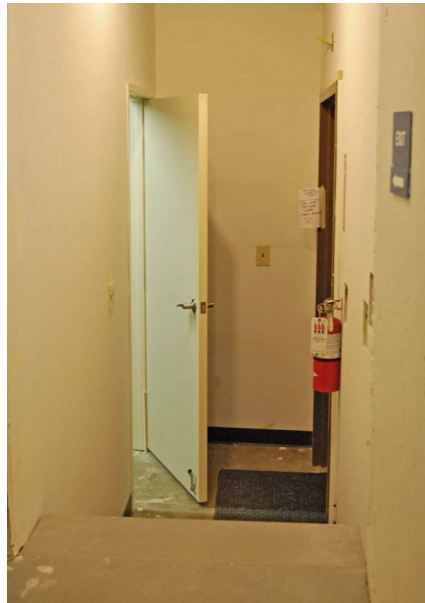
### **Facility Improvements**

PNRA continues to work on the permit-related projects that we would like to complete by the end 2015. Fred High managed the completion of the project which sealed and striped our 153rd Street parking lot asphalt. Also, he framed of roof-beam support poles on each floor. These frames will be covered with drywall sheeting to protect the steel from collapse in case of fire.

Rod Olson and Bob Kelly completed the drywall and painting of the Receiving hallway. Then, Don Larson hung the fire door between Receiving and the hallway. We only need to install the Exit signs with egress lighting to complete this hallway project.

This next quarter, we plan to insulate and drywall the ceiling of the west bay of the lower floor and are working with a contractor to handle the project. During the installation, the mobile shelving will be sealed in plastic to keep the dust out of the boxes stored on the shelving. We plan to have the contractor also drywall the upper Floor, but that is not required by our building permit.

An economical design of the lighting over the mobile shelving has been developed using the existing wiring in the west bay of the lower floor. Finally, the rest of the handrails on the stairs to the lower floor are being fabricated from steel tubing and will be installed to complete the last of the permit-required facility improvements.



*Receiving Hallway with new drywall.*

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## Capital Campaign

Last quarter two mortgage principal payments were made to reduce our monthly interest payments using funds contributed to PNRA's Capital Campaign. On July 15th, we made a \$60,000 payment, followed by a \$55,000 payment on August 6th, reducing the total note principal we owe to \$330,000 from the original \$475,000. Additional major contributions are being pursued to fund the payoff of the entire principal over the next two years.

## Web Site Update

The SharePoint operating system was updated to the latest version in late August which significantly improved the performance of the five web sites maintained by PNRA. Last quarter five important new collections were posted on the web sites which included the:

- First 500 slides from the Dan Perkins collection on PNRArchive.org.
- Index of NP Standard Plans from the Larry Schrenk and Mel Iszley collections on NPRHA.org.
- First 955 images from Walt Ainsworth's NP Steam photo print collection on NPRHA.org.
- Index of the SP&SRHS subject folders on Research.SPSHS.org.
- Jim Fredrickson's NP timetable collection on NPRHA.org.

## Preservation Activities

4Culture, the cultural services agency for King County, Washington, awarded PNRA a Collection Care grant of \$4,000 in August. 4Culture supports our program with revenue derived from an investment of Lodging Tax funds collected in Arts and Culture programs by King County.

With this award, we are developing a Digital Archive Plan and associated processes to manage our digital data and improve the online finding aids at the Archive. The Plan will act as a roadmap to improve handling and care of the digital assets in PNRA's collections and assure the preservation of this important heritage for future generations. This is the initial phase of a larger project to establish a Trusted Digital Repository at the PNRA which will be implemented in subsequent phases.

This quarter a contractor installed heavy-duty shelving to store the over 18,000 train sheets in the GN, NP and CRF collections. The shelving was funded from the grant administered by the Washington State De-

partment of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, which also has funded the scanning of train sheets for posting on appropriate Railroad Heritage Organization web sites. The new shelving is 10-foot long by 2-foot wide by 9-foot high.

## Help Preserve Collections

We continue to receive new collections of Pacific Northwest railroads documents, maps or photos each week. However, we know there are many railroad collections that will need a new home in the future, but the owners or their families may not know of PNRA and our preservation mission. It is critical that we talk with the responsible people before the collections are discarded. PNRA has a significant amount of Archive space where collections will be honored and preserved. **If you know of such a collection, please contact us.**

Gary Tarbox,  
PNRA Executive Director  
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*Train Sheet storage shelving being loaded in the east bay of the Archive's lower floor.*