

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

## NORTHWEST NEWS

This progress report is published for the *Friends of PNRA* and summarizes the activities at the Archive during the first quarter of 2017.

### GiveBIG Day Is May 10, 2017

The Seattle Foundation holds its annual *GiveBIG* campaign this year on May 10th, although you can start donating on April 27th and be credited as donating on May 10th. This event promotes community support for non-profit organizations serving Washington State's King County, and is the third largest non-profit fund raising event in the United States.

PNRA is eligible to receive a \$2,500 *Dollars For Change* award based on the donations we receive. So, your donation could make a BIG difference!!

This is the fourth year that PNRA participated in *GiveBIG*. We will use the *GiveBIG* funds to support the Archive's mission of: *Preserving the history of the Pacific Northwest railroads and making it available over the internet*. We thank the many *Friends of PNRA* that have contributed to PNRA during the *GiveBIG* events in past years and encourage you to contribute this year.

We request donations from each of our supporter-members only once each year, so if you contribute during *GiveBIG*, you will not be asked again in 2017. Contributions can be made quickly and easily by opening our web site, [www.PNRArchive.org](http://www.PNRArchive.org), and clicking the **Donate Now** link near the top of the Home page. This takes you to the PNRA page on *Seattle Foundation's* web site where you can make your donation securely using a card from April 27th through May 10th to be counted. If you would rather contribute by check, mail it to the address at the bottom of this page.

### Preservation Activities

We are very sad to report that Elizabeth Knight, our consultant who has led PNRA's Digital Archive Project passed away on January 15, 2017. Elizabeth started working with PNRA in 2011 helping the Archive establish our preservation processes and training our volunteers. In 2016, she completed our Digital Archive Plan, a 90-page roadmap for how PNRA will integrate our collections into the international databases and allow people world-wide to find operating information and photos from our region's railroads. Elizabeth was a great friend and resource to the Archive and will be missed a great deal. We are searching for a consultant that can help PNRA complete our Digital Archive Project.

In the last quarter, PNRA received twenty-nine new collections which included: 1) Additional slides from the Harold F. Stewart collection; 2) 45 boxes Field engineer's note books; 3) Seattle North Coast collection of car ferry operations; 4) Five NP station plats from the Tacoma Division; 5) Three boxes containing research materials on the survey of the NP line through the Yellowstone River valley; and 6) A bridge diorama with a locomotive and a caboose.

Walt Ainsworth's Great Northern steam locomotive photo collection of is being scanned with the first 1000 photographs now completed.

Patricia Brady and Bill Petryk are now posting new collections to the web sites when scanning and cataloging is complete. Collections recently posted include the Pacific Coast photos and additional Dan Perkin's railroad photos to [PNRArchive.org](http://PNRArchive.org), and Walt Ainsworth's location photos, freight cars, and passenger cars

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to [NPRHA.org](http://NPRHA.org).

A full set of GN condensed profiles have been scanned and are being prepared to be issued as a digital set for researchers and modelers.

The SP&S map collection has been scanned and is being cataloged for posting on the [Research.SPSHS.org](http://Research.SPSHS.org) web site.

The large collection of Montana Rail Link (MRL) AFEs, most of which are from the NP era, were removed from their file cabinets, repacked into 90 bankers boxes and stored on the new mobile shelving. The MRL AFE Index cards for the files have been scanned and posted on [NPRHA.org](http://NPRHA.org) which has started generating requests for those AFEs.

Cascade Rail Foundation has started inventorying its boxes of Milwaukee material so that those boxes can be posted on their research web site as a finding aid for their collection.

When master NP modeler, Ed Ursem lived in the Seattle area, he obtained the depot sign for Kanaskat, a station on the Stampede Pass mainline. The sign went to Minnesota when Ed and Rita moved to Bloomington. With Ed's passing in 2013, Rita started finding homes for much of Ed's collection. The sign is now in Burien, thanks to Mike Lustig who felt it should be on the west-end and on permanent display at PNRA.



### Help Preserve Collections

PNRA was founded on the need to gather all collections of railroad documents, maps and photos from the Pacific Northwest region into a facility where they can be preserved and made available to the general public over the internet. The Archive's success in pursuit of this goal, has led to receiving collections at a rate of five to eight each month with the total now at 350 collections.

We know many more collections will still need a new home in the future. However, many of the owners or their families don't know of PNRA and our preservation mission. It is critical that we talk with these people before the collections are discarded. **If you know of such a collection, please contact us.**

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## Facilities

In mid-2016, PNRA submitted a Heritage Capital Project grant application to the Washington State Historical Society to increase the energy efficiency and security of our Archive building. In September we were informed that our application was ranked twentieth on the list of thirty-five applications which total \$9 million, and sent to the Washington Legislature for funding.

The Heritage Capital Projects program is important to our State in that it strengthens the heritage organizations which educate our adults and school children on local and regional history. The Washington State Legislature is currently setting the level of funding for the State's Capital budgets.

If you reside in Washington, **PNRA and all of the Heritage Capital Projects need your help** to contact your Representatives and Senator in the State Legislature and request that they support full funding of the Heritage Capital Projects. If you are a Washington State resident, you may send a brief message to your district legislators through the toll-free Hotline at 800-562-6000.

This last quarter we completed additional shelving on the east wall in the Receiving area and are now ready to set up the work area where all new collections will enter the Archive, be sorted, placed in bankers boxes, and inventoried before assigning a permanent location on the mobile shelving. This will also free up space on the Main floor which is currently used for these tasks.

## Community Outreach

The 4th Division of the National Model Railroad Association which covers western Washington and Alaska, conducts a series of monthly clinics throughout its region. On January 26th the 4th Division held its first "Burien Clinic" at PNRA to serve the community of South King County. The Burien Clinics are scheduled for the fourth Thursday of each month and are open to any interested modeler.

PNRA is assisting the Skykomish Historical Society with photos for a new exhibit documenting the building of the GN Cascade tunnel that opened in 1929 and is still in use today. PNRA volunteer Louie Read is constructing the display for the Sky society.



*Louie Read sizing photo prints for Skykomish Historical Society exhibit on the Archive's main floor.*

The GNRHS provided Right of Way maps to the US Forest Service in Troy, Montana, to assist with a large land survey project.

PNRA hosted the members of Burien's Highline Historical Society at the Archive on Feb. 4, 2017, where Mike Bergman presented the history of the *Highland Park & Lake Burien Railroad*

(HP&LBR) to a standing-room only audience of 48 people. The HP&LBR was a streetcar line that started in 1912 and traveled from Spokane Street and Iowa Avenue in West Seattle to 152nd street and Seahurst, a few blocks west of today's Burien downtown.

The Society operates the Highline Heritage Museum and met at PNRA as their museum building is under construction. They plan to assemble a temporary HP&LBR exhibit for display at the Burien Community Center and later at the SeaTac City Hall. In addition, PNRA will assist Highline Heritage Museum in constructing a permanent HP&LBR exhibit in their new exhibit space.

If you missed Mike Bergman's HP&LBR presentation, he will give it again for the Seattle Public Library at their Delridge Library on May 21, 2017, at 2:00 PM.



*Members of Highline Historical Society enjoying Mike Bergman's presentation of the Highland Park & Lake Burien Railroad.*

## Administration

PNRA's general access email is now [info@PNRArchive.org](mailto:info@PNRArchive.org) which is a simplification of our previous email. Please update your email to reflect this change as our ISP, Comcast is dropping their email service in the fall.

Edwina Colley was hired as our bookkeeping contractor last quarter and has been very effective at maintaining our financial records and preparing payments for signing and mailing.

We made a mortgage payment in March which lowered total building principal due to \$254,495 with an additional \$20,804 in challenge grants to be matched.

## Become a Friend of PNRA

PNRA has members throughout the United States as well as in the Puget Sound area. Our members support the Archive and our mission of preserving the history of our region's railroads and making it available on our internet web sites. There are two ways you can become a member and *Friend of PNRA*:

**Join a work crew** at one of regularly scheduled weekly sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays evenings or Saturdays. Send us an email and we will get you started working on a collection that interests you at a time that works for you.

**Contribute funds** each year to help cover PNRA's operating costs. Join the hundreds of contributors that regularly support PNRA. Go to [www.PNRArchive.org](http://www.PNRArchive.org), call or email us for more details on becoming a *Friend of PNRA*!!

Gary Tarbox,  
PNRA Executive Director  
2017-Quarter 1 *Northwest News*



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