

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

NORTHWEST NEWS

This progress report updates the Friends of PNRA on the activities at the Archive from 7/1 to 9/17/2019.

Community Outreach

Continuing sales of our book: *Pacific Coast: Seattle's Own Railroad* have been strong with Newcastle, Maple Valley and Black Diamond libraries all receiving their complete allotment of 100 books, and the GNRHS Online Store having sold nearly 150 of the 200 copies they purchased. In addition, other locations now selling the PCR books include: Northwest Railway Museum in Snoqualmie, Electric Train Shop in Burien, and Elliot Bay Book Company in Seattle. The publication of this book has proven to be a successful way to reach new populations with our railroad history message.

The group in Roy WA doing a cosmetic restoration of their 20,000 gallon water tank asked and received a standard plan for the water spout that had been removed from the tower decades ago.

Oregon Rail Heritage Center (ORHC) in East Portland, Oregon, requested and received GN car diagrams for two cars in their collection: an Empire Builder coach GN 1210, and former round end lounge car GN 1147 rebuilt in 1962 into a 68-seat, square end coach.

Tacoma Country & Golf Club in Lakewood WA requested the history of a railroad right-of-way that ran into their property in 1905. After some research of our map collection, it was determined that the tracks were for the Tacoma Railway & Power streetcar that paralleled old Highway 99 and made a stop on the Club's property.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife asked if we could identify a flat car used as a bridge at their Beaver Creek Hatchery near Cathlamet WA. From the brake level plate riveted to the frame, Rich Wilkens found that it was a GN 69500 to 69999 series flat car built in 1929 by Seims-Stemle Co. of St. Paul MN.



Andrew Klamka loading the POD at JSRH

Events on the PNRA calendar include:

- White River Museum: PCR presentation, Oct. 4
- NW Railway Museum: PCR Presentation, Oct 5
- PRRT&HS meetings at PNRA, Oct. 18
- Judson Park Senior Living in Des Moines, Stevens Pass History, Oct. 28
- BEMRRC 40th Annual Railroad Swap Meet, Kent Commons, Nov. 9
- PNRA Annual Meeting & Pizza Supper: Nov. 13
- BEMRRC-PNRA Holiday Open House at PNRA: Nov. 29 to Dec. 1

Preservation Activities

Mike Bergman's initial draft text for his new Seattle Municipal Railway book has been reviewed and revisions made. This will be the second book to be published by PNRA to promote railroad history of the region. Dave Cooley is drawing the maps for the book on digital software and Mike is selecting photos from the Ainsworth-Wing Collection for the book. We are seeking funding for the layout and printing of the book in the mid-2020 timeframe.

In August, Connie Vetter donated the letter, postcard and photo collections of her grandfather, Elmer Vetter, an NP engineer 1896-1915, who was killed when his train came around a curve on the P&L branch and on to a bridge that was on fire.

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John Webb purchased three *North Coast Limited* cars from the Mike Gelhaus collection and is restoring them as NCL cars for service on Amtrak trains. PNRA provided Painting & Stenciling drawings and twenty-four digital images of the cars from Bill Kuebler's collection.

Significant volunteer effort is going into sorting collection boxes to select the material that will remain in the permanent collections. After the sorting is complete, the retained material is inventoried and then repacked to consolidate the collections into minimum box space.

Lance Lassen, a recently retired BNSF dispatcher in Texas, made a return trip to the Vancouver WA area in July where he had previously been a BNSF locomotive engineer. He drove to Burien to donate two boxes of SP&S and NP drawings and books and to receive an Archive tour.

A POD with 100 boxes of "west-end" material from Jackson Street Roundhouse in St. Paul arrived at the Archive on August 8th. Six volunteers unloaded the boxes into our Receiving area where they are being sorted, repacked into banker boxes and inventoried before being moved into their permanent location on the mobile shelving. This shipment included 36-boxes of records from the Camas Prairie Railroad.

Facilities

On April 30, 2019, the Washington State Legislature voted for full funding of the Washington State Heritage Capital Projects (HCP) which will allow PNRA to complete our mobile shelving installations of 2012 and 2016. The award will provide \$45,538 to fund most of the new mobile shelving cost. \$5,000 of additional funding has been received from BNSF Railway Foundation on June 4th and \$2,000 to be provided by PNRA.

Administration

Funding of \$3,500 each has been received from the GNRHS and NPRHA for the Phase 3 of PNRA's Digital Archive Project. The Phase 3 project is being developed by Bill Petryk with the goal to design and implement a user-friendly front-end to the generic Access-To-Memory (AtoM) search portal

which is compliant with the international-standards and will interface with the collection materials at PNRA and JSRH. Addition funding of \$4,500 has received from the sale of photos of "out-of-region" railroads.

Become a *Friend of PNRA*

Our members, *Friends of PNRA* support the Archive and our mission to preserve the history of our region's railroads and make it available on our internet web sites. Our members live throughout the United States, as-well-as in the Puget Sound area. There are two ways you can become a *Friend of PNRA*:

- **Joining a work crew** at one of regularly scheduled weekly sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays evenings or Saturdays. Email us to get started working on a collection that interests you at a time you are available.
- **Contributing funds** each year to help cover PNRA's operating costs. You can join the hundreds of contributors that regularly support PNRA online at www.PNRArchive.org, or mail a check to the address below and become a *Friend of PNRA!!*

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