Pacific Northwest Railroad Archive

Northwest News

ARCHIVES ACTIVITIES FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2024

PNRA particiipated for the third year in Arts-A-Glow, the City of Burien's annual lantern festival. The event consists of light-based art installations throughout the city, and people wearing imaginative costumes that often have lighting incorporated into the designs.

PNRA's contribution to the event involved projection of a video loop of train and rail footage onto the front of the PNRA building. The effect was interesting and eye-catching from across the street, which led to people coming over to check us out.

Inside the main work area of the archive, we set up the screen playing classic railroad films from Great Northern's "Railroad Classics" DVD.

Boeing Employees Model Railroad Club hosted an open house throughout the day and into the evening, allowing the public to come through and view the layout in operation.

Between the day and the evening, more than 150 people came through the PNRA facility, many of whom had not previously known we existed. We look forward to participating again next year.

Guests watching the video after visiting the BEMRC layout

PNRA President Emeritus Bob Kell;y and volunteer Randy Hammond in front of the projection during Arts-A-Glow

Upcoming Events:

October 9, 2024 1:00pm - Roy Hemmingway, Past President, Oregon Rail Heritage Foundation. *Online*

October 23, 2024 1:00pm - Bob Kelly, Chairman Emeritus, Pacific Northwest Railroad Archive and GNRHS. *Online*

November 6, 2024 1:00pm - Paul Didelius, President, Columbia Rail. *Online*

November 9th, 2024 5:00pm - Volunteer Appreciation Party, *PNRA*

November 20, 2024 1:00pm - J Craig Thorpe. *Online*

December 4, 2024 1:00pm - Andrea Capiola. *Online*

Northwest News

Russell Holter ..... Board President
Richard Wilkens ..... Director of Collections
Virginia Wright ..... Editor, Interim Executive Director

PNRA receives support from 4 CULTURE

COLLECTIONS

Third Quarter Collections Update

by Richard Wilkens

This quarter saw the first work on the integration of the PNRA Burlington Northern material into the Friends of the Burlington Northern (FOBNR) collection. The first material to be worked was the system and regional employee news magazines, annual reports, telephone directories, and a large series of files from the Portland Division covering train operations, motive power, special agent matters, and more.

Besides the library maintained by the PNRA the Boeing Employee Model Railroad Club also has a library of books and magazines. Most of the magazines that were in the archives were organized earlier this year and in early September additional magazines that had been stored off site were brought in and indexed. Other magazines have also been donated to fill in missing ones and these came from Aric Van de Vord, the Columbia Gorge Model Railroad Club in Portland, and from Richard Wilkens.

For quite some time Dean O'Neil has been working to scan a number of drawings in the Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association collection using the large format scanner. This work was done by work parties that saw the scans and data entry all done at the same time.

During the quarter a number of donations were made and this includes:

- The Bill Kajdzik Collection of many railroad books
- The Bob Hutchison Collection of books, model trains, slides, and material from Walter Hutchison, Bob's father, who worked for the Union Pacific out of LaGrande, OR. This is additional material to be added to the original collection donated in 2021
- The C. Douglas Auburg Collection of railroad slides taken in the 1970's to 2000's
- The George Cockle Collection which was donated by Thornton Waite and this includes approximately 20,000 medium format black and white negatives of Burlington Northern diesel locomotives, two bankers boxes of Union Pacific rule & instruction books, as well as Official Guides from the 1970's.

From PNRA President Russell Holter

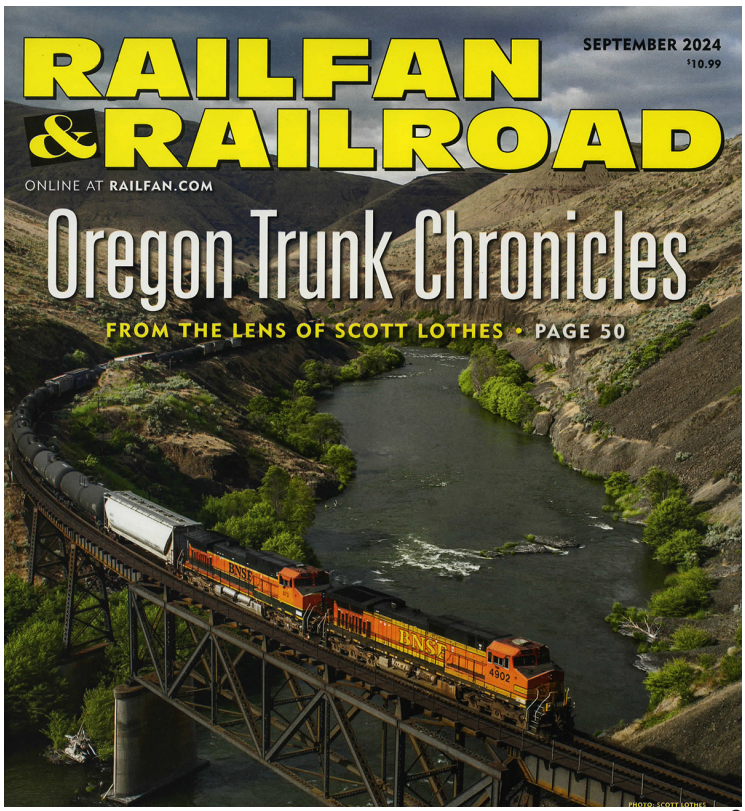
Your PNRA is actively seeking ways to better engage with our RHO partners and our capable volunteers. Last year we held a volunteer appreciation dinner as a way of showing our gratitude for all the hard hours put into to making the archive useful to user. Collections have been in-processed, records and photos scanned. The pandemic had slowed our operations significantly, but visiting the archive today, you may struggle to find a work station to conduct archival business. To show our appreciation, the second annual volunteer dinner will again take place the second weekend of November. This year, we will invite members of the Metro Employees Historic Vehicle Association to join us and discuss their plans for large object restoration and the potential for starting a new museum.

Many PNRA volunteers are subject matter experts on a variety of subjects. Next winter, we look to hold a day-long symposium and luncheon. Although the plans are still in the formulation stage, the idea is to give PNRA volunteers and the public an opportunity to gain knowledge of railroad subjects based upon the collections the PNRA keeps. Each of the RHOs will have an opportunity to present on a topic of their choice. At noon, the PNRA will host a luncheon. At the luncheon, the Executive Director and I will discuss the relative merits of becoming a Headlight Society member to the PNRA. The winter symposium will be designed to augment our RHO partner's and their annual conventions which normally take place in the fall. Check the newsletter calendar and save the date.

Bi-Weekly Presentation Series Returns

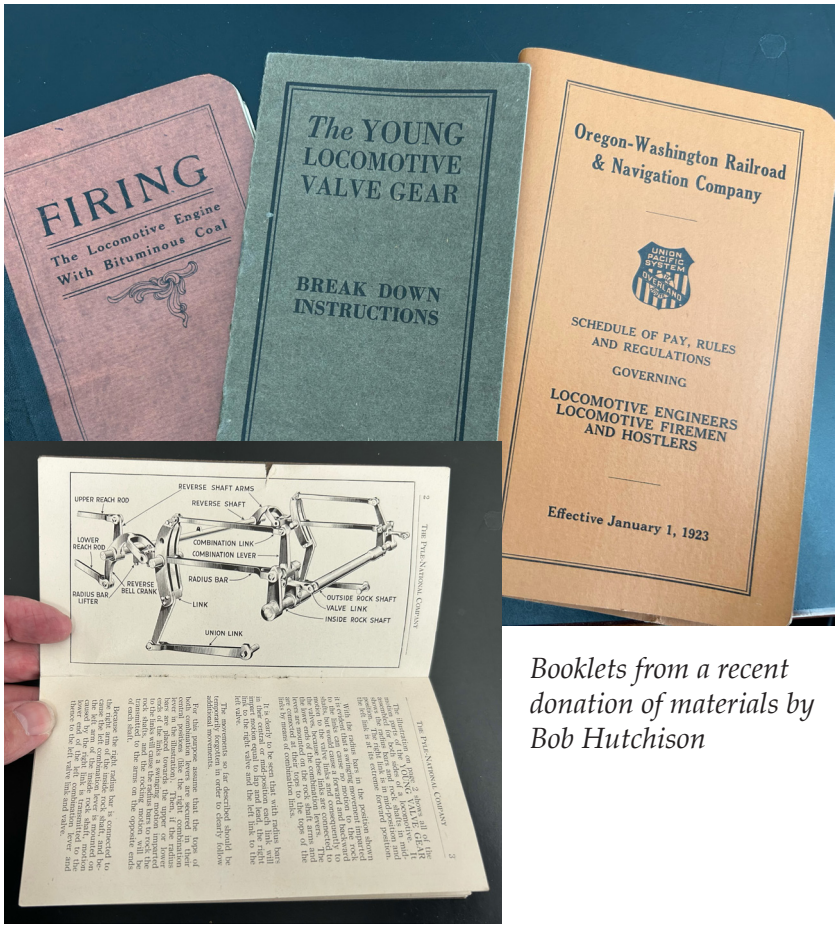
The bi-weekly online presentation series is back after its summer hiatus. Former PNRA Executive Director Jonathan Fischer has put together a lively and interesting group of guest presenters. (See list in Upcoming Events section.) The season started with a presentation by Scott Lothes, whose photography was featured in Railfan magazine this fall.

All are invited to attend the meetings. If you would like to be added to the email list to receive the invitations, send an email to info@pnrarchive.org. The announcement for each meeting will include the link to join the meeting on Zoom.



RHO Conventions

Fall is convention season and Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association (NPRHA) and Great Northern Railway Historical Society (GNRHS) both held their conventions in Everett in September. The conventions gave members from out of town the opportunity to visit PNRA during Open House events at the archives for each of the organizations.



Booklets from a recent donation of materials by Bob Hutchison

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