

## Two NPRHA Grants Issued

Two preservation grants have been issued for Northern Pacific Railway related projects for 2016.

The first grant of \$5,000 was made to The Northwest Railway Museum in Snoqualmie, Washington. <https://www.trainmuseum.org/> The purpose of the grant is to fund American Iron boiler jacketing on Northern Pacific Railway steam locomotive 924, a 0-6-0 Rogers locomotive built in 1899. This jacketing was iconic for locomotives of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This work is part of the complete restoration of the locomotive. Once completed the 924 is expected to be fully operational under steam beginning in 2017. The locomotive is expected to pull most trains during the museum's regular operating season, and in the first year approximately 25,000 people are expected to ride behind the 924. The train will travel between Snoqualmie Falls and North Bend on the Northern Pacific Railway Snoqualmie Branch and over Northern Pacific Railway Bridge 35 in North Bend. *Information and photo provided by Richard R. Anderson, Executive Director.*



October 28, 2014 NPR 924 paused in front of the Snoqualmie Depot for a pre-restoration photo.

The second grant of \$5,000 for 2016 was made to Craig S. Gantner of Fergus Falls, Minnesota. This grant is for the restoration of the original paved brick passenger and freight loading platform adjacent to the NP Depot in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. This work is part of an ongoing project to restore the depot. Mr. Gantner is supported in his efforts by Mr. Gordon Hydukovich, the Fergus Falls Community Development Director, Fergus Falls Port Authority Director and an ex-officio member of the Fergus Falls Heritage Preservation Commission. The project is also supported by "The Mainstreeter City Emporium" an informal affiliation of 20-25 vendors, artisans and historical preservation advocates located in Grant and Ottertail Counties of Minnesota.

The Fergus Falls Depot was constructed by the Northern Pacific Railway in 1920 after the devastating cyclone of June 22, 1919. The concrete, block and brick passenger/freight depot was abandoned by the NP in the early 1970's and subsequently sold by the BNSF. The present owners, Craig and Anna Gantner, purchased the building and site in October of 2012. The depot has been undergoing significant renovations, hopefully to be completed later this year. This project will be the restoration of the 4300 square foot brick paving that existed on the south boundary of the property along the railroad tracks, a distance of 360 feet. Most of the original bricks remain in place or on the site. The project will consist of lifting the pavers, leveling the site, installation of concrete curbs and resetting of the pavers in sand in the traditional method. *Information and photo provided by Craig S. Gantner*

Mr. Gantner has expressed a need for help from the NPRHA in assembling material for an educational display. Following is the text from his grant application:

*Although some local historical information is available on the building and the Fergus Falls branch of the NP, it is sufficiently lacking to develop a meaningful understanding of the context of the NP's contribution to the communities history. Therefore we would ask for additional assistance from the NPRHA in pulling together the content of such a display in the form of expertise, research and informational resources on how this type of combination depot functioned, and then through our depot building and pavilion, how the Fergus Falls branch interacted with the rest of the country through the NP system.*

Anyone interested in helping Mr. Gantner should contact him at any of the following:

Cascade Street Station  
423 S Cascade Street  
Fergus Falls, MN. 56537  
Email - [cgantner4905@charter.net](mailto:cgantner4905@charter.net)  
or call 612-209-0337



### Changes in the Grants Program

A few things have changed in the NPRHA Preservation Grants Program and hopefully there will be more to come following the convention. First, the maximum grant has been increased from \$2,500 to \$5,000. This will hopefully attract more and bigger projects for consideration by the NPRHA. Second, questions about grants and grant applications can now be submitted to a new email address... [Grants@NPRHA.org](mailto:Grants@NPRHA.org). Instructions and application forms will be updated following the convention.

Harold Shannon – Chair- NPRHA Grants Committee