

Depot Report for April 2024

Restoration

- 1) CMR – Design West continues to communicate with CMR looking for solutions to the delays in completing the final tile work and gutter installation. The company is dealing with cash-flow issues, and we have decided it would not be wise to sue – rather keep positive and hope all will be completed soon. In the meantime we are still holding 5% of their contract amount.
- 2) JK Greystone – Their workers are doing a bang-up job installing the T&G soffits – despite the fact that they rarely find any truly square section. After the old soffits were removed, including all the bird poo, conduit was installed within the exposed soffits to hold wiring for the exterior lights and new security system. The company will caulk any remaining cracks before the final painting and reinstalling of the old lights. They are working with Electricians NW, a Pullman company, who is doing the electrical upgrades.
- 3) DePaulo Painting – The removal and restoration of windows began in mid-March. Several windows have already been replaced – which can now be opened and closed! After all the windows are completed, the exteriors will be restored and painted in place. In the meantime we are madly searching for answers to the numerous windows which were penetrated by various wires – mostly internet and telephone. There is a large Avista conduit that entered the building through the bathroom, which we have discovered actually holds a fiber-optic cable installed by the Port of Whitman. After numerous on-site meetings, emails, and phone calls we are on our way to finding a solution, which will involve moving the Zply and Avista lines to the basement and temporarily re-attaching the Spectrum main line to the soffit. This will include a new contract with Electricians NW.

Programming/Events

- 1) The Education & Events Committee is preparing the freight room and passenger car for our annual Vintage Quilt Show – April 20, 27, and May 4. A program on historic quilts will kick off the show on April 4 at 10AM. Entry for the show is \$5.00 with WCHS members getting a reduced price of \$3.00.
- 2) Phoenix Conservancy volunteers are continuing their work on the native plantings on the hillside adjacent to the depot. Postcards to help finance this endeavor are for sale and the depot and Neill's Florist.
- 3) Upcoming evening programs include "Fallen Cougars" on May 23.

Fundraising/Rolling Stock

- 1) Plans are underway to promote a campaign to fund the restoration of the caboose and passenger car. A brochure and mailing list have been completed. The focus will be on the impact made by Ken Vogel to the perpetuation of railroad history and WCHS. Sally Vogel is lending her support. Contact with various train restoration companies and grant opportunities are being explored.
- 2) Cooperation continues with the McGregor Company to fabricate and install a replica "Cougar Special" platform to the passenger car. Financing this endeavor is being explored.

Director's Report

***Donations and letters**

*We have gotten 5 requests this month for people to get their clocks fixed by Jim Martin. The way this works: The people contact me; I send the request to Jim. Once Jim fixes the clock the person pays him for the parts but donates to us for the services.

*Lost apple project has sold lots of trees. Their customers pay online through our site. I keep a report for them on who has bought the apples.

*I found a contractor to come and look at the Perkins house, but I need Ronda to meet with us to show us exactly what needs to be fixed. So far, no luck on getting that set up.

*No takers on the organ at the Perkins house. And we have had 4 more people call about donating organs to us. Not sure why everyone is getting rid of organs. But we have no room for them. Nancy and Jim may just trade out their older organ for the one at the house and try to find someone to take the other organ.

*Trying to work with the Post office on mailings and nobody at the local level can help me. We have mailed as a non-profit since 1972 and now they say our permit is not coded for that. I have met with them and asked how we can fix it, so it is a non-profit and nobody knows the answer. They started a new online form for direct mail pieces, and it has not gone smoothly. The depot is going to have J & H mail their items under their permit. Which will help us out and the volunteers won't have to drive to Colfax to do the mailing or pay with their own check.

*Sent Ed and Alex the current list of members. We have 291 as of right now. Ed's list that he pulls from Past Perfect has 412. We are trying to clean up that to make sure we only send bunchgrass to current members. We have gotten a lot of returned bunchgrass magazines and a lot of people are deceased. That is what prompted us to look at what is going on.

*I created and ordered 100 more tour brochures for Frank at the Perkins house. He has been asking the lead volunteer for 5 months and hasn't gotten any. So, I went ahead and did this for him.