

———— The Official Newsletter of the ————
Peninsular Railway & Lumbermen's Museum
& **Simpson Railroad**

A lot of Big News in this issue!

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Peninsular Railway and Lumbermen's Museum is a registered nonprofit 501(c) 3 Organization dedicated to preserving and interpreting the rich railroad and logging history of the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State.

Breaking News

Northern Pacific Baggage Car 233 is heading to the Simpson Railroad!

Exciting news for the Simpson Railroad - Northern Pacific Baggage car #233 is coming to Shelton! The ink has not even dried on the sales receipt. This baggage car was recently put up for sale by its owner. Since listing for sale, volunteers, along with museum supporters have been working to bring the car to our railroad. This car was purchased by a donation to the museum from a museum volunteer and supporter, but donations have not stopped there. Right now the museum has already received pledges of just over \$6500 towards transportation of the car to our site. With an estimated total shipping budget of \$12k or more, donations are still needed and greatly appreciated.

One of the reasons that the car was so attractive to purchase is its overall good condition. The roof and car body are in solid condition. The interior is clean of any major damage with the floor only needing a spot repair. Very little work is needed, considering cars of this age are always in need of repairs and attention. The nearby location and overall condition made this car a very attractive addition to our collection. Though it is not a coach, passengers can ride sitting or standing near the baggage doors when weather permits. In the short term, it offers many uses, including dry space during events, moving or stationary, and a place to house museum displays or education space. The possibilities are many!

Baggage car #233 was built in 1963 by Pullman -Standard. Some of its features include a length of 73 feet over couplers and features a double sliding door on opposite corners with regular baggage car doors opposite those double doors on each side. This car has reportedly spent time on the Portland to Seattle pool trains. We will share more of the cars history as more historic information become available.

The Peninsular Lumberman

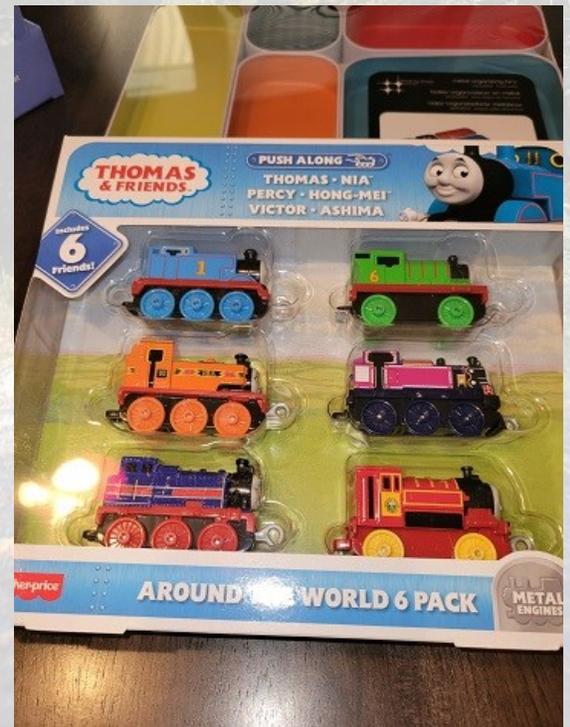
*Northern Pacific Baggage car 233
is heading to the Simpson Railroad!*



Easter Bunny Special

It's that time of year again! Last years Easter bunny Special was a big success one its first year. This years event looks to be build on that success. Last year we had 400 guest despite torrential cloud burst on Sunday. This year the Easter egg patch, face painting will be at our operations center inside the Stillwater Industrial Park. Our new building is moving along our volunteer crews are rushing to have it usable for the event. The two new tents will also help provide space for activities and rain avoidance. New this year is face painting for the kids. And of course, like last year, special eggs will have prize slips redeemable at the ticket booth for something special (see a couple of the cool prizes below).

Anyone interested in volunteering to help us with this event, please drop us a message at contact@simpsonrailroad.org or on Facebook @ Peninsular Railway & Lumbermen's Museum. Or stop by our work party March 26 10am to help set up and prepare for the event. Message for directions if



Museum Gets Grant

The PRLM has recently been awarded a Mason County Heritage Commission Grant. The museum applied for a grant to pay for patio pavers as a flooring inside our new building. Your newsletter editor put together the application and supporting materials. Mason county resident and project lead Ted S attended a zoom meeting with the Commission and other applicants. The final award was for \$2,000, the max for this years' grant budget cycle. Also of note is that we scored 100 out of 100 points on our application & ranking process which is a real accomplishment. Once everything is approved and paper work finalized we will get approval to "spend the money". This is a reimbursement grant, so we will purchase the pavers, install them, write a project final report to the commission and get the reimbursement. This will be our first ever MCHC grant and look forward to working with them in the future. Once pavers are ordered we will set a work party date to install them — watch for the date, we wish to wrap up this project in a timely and professional manner.

Again, thanks to the Mason County Heritage Commission!

Museum Video

More local support, this time in the form of a interview and video by a local media outlet. Fiberone, KMAS AM 1030, FM 103.3, the voice of Mason County since 1962, recently came out to take a look and learn more about our fairly new organization. They produce a video series called Community Connections. It highlights local business, people and non-profits in and around the Shelton area. Jeff Skaley from Fiberone was shown around our operations area by Dale Campbell to explain who we are, some of our railroads history, our goals and to get an overall sense of the what we want to accomplish as a museum. The video can be found at <https://youtu.be/ifjtnNFZTyY> The video is about 18 minutes long and highlights many pieces of our historic equipment collection. Follow the link to view it and if you like it leave a comment and thank them for taking their time to highlight us.

City of Shelton Surprises Museum

Despite our continuing efforts to engage the public in their community, the City of Shelton remains indifferent to our non-profit museum and mission. Our museum is one that is dedicated to preserving the logging and railroad heritage of the Olympic Peninsula, the city's and areas very own heritage. When the city of Shelton acquired the Simpson Railroad ROW from Simpson Timber inside city limits in 2019 the PRLM strongly responded to ensure the Railroad remained intact to keep options open for future historic preservation and be available for our use. The response we received indicated that when the time comes we can negotiate the use of the RR, suggesting it was to remain. Well that time has come. Over the past two years the PRLM had been working to reconnect to the general railroad system and start car storage services with the possibility of adding switching services (Freight). That work is now paying dividends with that connection in final stages of planning, with work to start sometime this summer. With that development, we will be able to start car storage this year. Car storage in and around the Stillwater Industrial Park is estimated to produce revenues for the Simpson Railroad of around \$130-150 thousand dollars annually. For a museum those revenues are considered an unrestricted fundraising tool. They would help offset insurance and routine maintenance costs of running the railroad. Those funds would place us on stable financial ground while we develop and stabilize our long term viability. With that step moving forward it was time to finalize an official use agreement with the City of Shelton that had been indicated earlier. The museum made regular contact with city staff and elected officials, sending them this very newsletter, along with board members making personal contact. It was an effort to keep the lines of communication open and a way to keep all interested parties updated on our progress. The organization believed an agreement should have been a fairly straight-forward process with some expected negotiations. During those two years the city remained silent when attempts were made to initiate communication. We never received positive nor negative feedback nor were any questions asked. We still remained positive as we worked towards our goals. We formally asked to negotiate that use agreement in late 2021. Shelton's City Manager, on behalf of the city council, informed us that a lease was not going to be negotiated - which stunned us. No discussions, no information, no reasons given. Then in a shocking communication, we were informed that on Monday, February 14th city public works crews had started removing part of the Simpson RR mainline at 10th and Cota, still without any correspondence from the city. We quickly and strongly responded that morning and were successful in stopping the demolition.

City of Shelton Surprises Museum

Allow us to give everyone an idea of what a living history museum means to a city and geographical area, such as the heritage railroad we envision. In our case, preserving the history and industrial development that led to the direct founding of a city and of a geographical area. Like many towns and areas across our nation, the railroad brought settlement and prosperity. In essence, it was the glue that held the development of our great nation together in those early years, and one that continues to this day. In this case, bringing logs to the mill from the forest lands and sending them through the mill it gave companies like Simpson Timber valuable product to ship that cut lumber to far away markets. The aforementioned material transportation, as well as continued development of the city and region into the forest product hotspot it has become, could not have been possible without the railroad. Shelton and Mason county would not be what they are today without those early railroads. A living history museum today offers an experience of yesteryear. One that is not limited to a diorama or a building, but one you ride in, one that you experience and let yourself become immersed in. One of our goals is to offer a ride to a replica logging camp that you can walk in and around as you explore what life would have been like in the days of camps Grisdale or Govey.

Aside from our main purpose of preservation, a heritage railroad includes economic stimulus and is a dynamic draw to an area like Shelton. The Simpson Railroad projects out-of-town visitors of approximately 25,000 a year once fully operational to ride our train. In economic terms, according to a study performed by the University of Washington's William Byers and Tetra Tech EC Inc. of Bothell in 2007 titled "Economic Benefits of Historic Preservation", each heritage visitor spends an average of \$85.42 a day. With an estimated 25,000 out of town visitors that equates to just over \$2.1 million dollars. A good amount of that would be destination based and translate to new money into the Mason County and Shelton region. In a similar study conducted by the Northwest Railway Museum in Snoqualmie Washington in 2021, total program and museum visitation, not just train rides, is estimated to be in excess of 100,000 people annually. That equates to over \$4 million dollars in revenue, not including train revenues, for the local economy. And to note, these benefits come at no cost to the City. In fact the museum takes over liability & maintenance of the railroad right of way away from the city. We think this opportunity is something Shelton should be welcoming, rather than eliminating.

We are simply perplexed as to the reasoning behind removing the potential for heritage preservation and economic stimulus for the City of Shelton. We would love nothing more than a chance to discuss the benefits of increased tourism and freight revenue with city leaders.

City of Shelton Surprises Museum

We are very disappointed by the events that have transpired these last few months. We can be sure the disappointment will be shared by historical enthusiasts nationwide if the removing the Simpson Railroad is allowed to continued. After all, it is part of the very fabric & soul of a once thriving lumber town. That soul has been part of the community since its inception in the late 1880's. We believe these actions are very short sighted, and possibly discouraging to other local non-profits they may not always be supported by the communities they work hard to serve. We, however, remain positive that city officials in the end will realize the PRLM can be a fantastic asset to the local economy, all while keeping the city's founding element alive for future generations to experience. We have ever-increasing positive reviews form our visitors and support from the vast majority of area residents. We vow to continue to work forward through all present and potential setbacks to prove our worth to this community. The PRLM vows to remain flexible and in support of community needs as we always have. Our efforts will continue to work towards the goals we have set and place our museum on solid footing. We will obviously need to double down on efforts to inform and educate the community on who we are, what are goals are and what we bring to a community, which will be no trouble as our outreach initiatives and public events have shown.



Train Show Participation

With covid restrictions easing, the Simpson Railroad and speeder 5-5 have hit the road once again. First up was a return to the Great Train Show in Puyallup at the fair grounds on January 21st/22nd. One of the area's top railroad expos, the 5-5 was again one of the highlights for many kids who took their turn to sit in the operator's seat. Making their debut appearance were a pair of free-standing banners that had been donated by Mr. Les Bagley. New graphics for those stands included photos along Goldsborough creek taken from our train. They give brief information of our intention of being a living history museum and feature information on our parent organization, the PRLM, and our standing as a 501(c)3 nonprofit Museum. Standing around 6ft tall along with speeder 5-5 they made sure we were seen and stood out to visitors. They are easy to read with most visitors stopping to read about who we are. Armed with Easter Bunny Special hand outs and operating schedule flyers, volunteers made many contacts and new friends for our organization.

Second was a new first year show much more local to us at the Grays Harbor fair grounds. It was held on February 12th & 13th. Once again speeder 5-5 was the big deal in the room. Many visitors came from the more local the area. Many said they were glad to see us preserving area history, wished us well and vowed to stop by in 2022 and take a ride to support us. It proved successful enough that fair and organizers already are looking at dates next year and what improvements are needed. We will see you there!



Left Puyallup, above Grey's Harbor train shows.

Gilberts Donation

As the word gets out about our organization, a steady stream of donations in need of preservation follow. The PRLM recently accepted another one of those donations. Mr. Wayne Gilberts generously has donated many items to our Museum. The main item that was in need of a new home was an ex Great Northern MOW Spray cart. Long unused this cart will make a fine addition to our museum's maintenance equipment collection. Its intended use is to be towed behind a speeder, like one of our A-Cars or homebuilt 5-4. After refurbishing, its use will be concentrated during the dry season while train operations are taking place. This cart has a significant differences compared to the home built cart we already posses. It has extendable arms that reach out beyond the end of the ties and an operators station to monitor and ensure its effectiveness while moving. This means water can be sprayed while underway out to the full width of the right away. It has most of its significant pieces it just will need a new gas motor and overall restoration.

Other donated items included CB and VHF radio equipment, heavy-duty wire, a deck mount crane boom, railcar blueprints, lumber, sheet metal, hard hats and more. Some of this material was donated with the idea that it would be sold to raise funds for the museum, while other items such as lumber and equipment would be used on our railroad down the line. Items such as railcar drawings will be added to the museums archives, while the radio equipment will be sold or auctioned off.



Multi Use Building Update

If you follow us on our Facebook page, the Peninsular Railway & Lumbermen's Museum or Simpson Railroad, you have seen our progress on this building donation. This is an exciting project for us because it give us a sense of stability and something tangible to build upon. It can be used to host visitors and provide a shop environment to work in, all while keeping volunteers and visitors dry. To give you a sense of value, a gravel pad for the building done by a contractor would cost about \$4,000, and the building kit delivered and installed would around \$15,000. To have this building built for us would be estimated in the area of \$20,000. So far we have raised \$893 dollars from last year's GIVE BIG fundraising campaign. In addition As previously reported, the Mason County Heritage grant for \$2,000 will go towards a patio paver floor. Other out of pocket expenses totaling around \$700 will make this donation project finally come together.



New Simpson Railroad Souvenirs

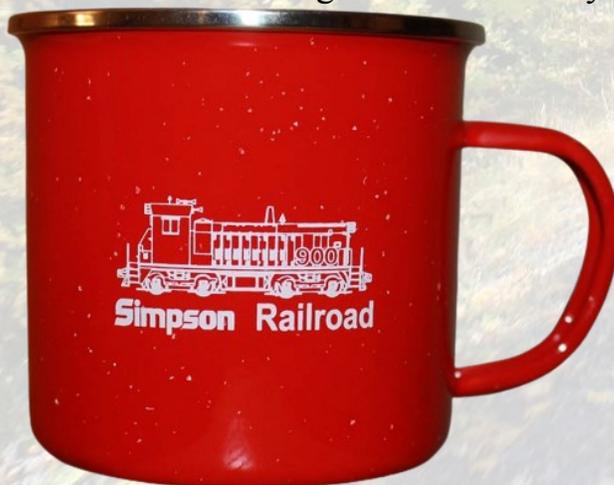
Leather Key Chains

These classy key chains, maybe too classy for a logging railroad, measure 3.4 inches by 1.5 inches in size. Made with real leather they have our railroad name debossed into them for better durability than ink. They Retail for only \$5 buck so they make a great little gift for yourself or a friend into trains. Come on out to the Easter Bunny Special and pick one up at the ticket office (no ticket necessary)!



Steel Enameled Coffee Mugs

These 16oz steel coffee mugs stand out in a crowd, decked out in bright red with white speckles and the 900 line drawing logo. They have a white interior and polished rim making for another classy keepsake. These steel coffee mugs are reminiscent of the early mornings spent in the round-house, logging camps and most everywhere the Simpson company worked in years past. They retail for \$12 each and are sure to be a unique favorite. These will also be available during our Easter Bunny Special!



Please help preserve a part of Shelton's heritage by considering a donation or membership to the PRLM at [peninsularrailway.org /Donate](http://peninsularrailway.org/Donate) or membership Paypal enabled

Or send it to the following with the form below to: **Peninsular Railway and Lumberman's Museum**

P.O. Box 1333, Shelton Washington 98584

Membership \$25 per year

Donation

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

All donations are tax deductible Peninsular Railway and Lumbermen's Museum is a registered non-profit 501(c)3 Organization dedicated to preserving and interpreting the rich railroad and logging history of the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State.

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Submission and publication policy: Submissions should be concentrated on logging and railroading on and around the Olympic Peninsula and PRLM activities and information in particular. All submissions should be positive in nature and reflect the values of the PRLM and the community's for which we serve. We reserve the right to withhold any submitted articles which do not meet these requirements or are deemed inappropriate for this publication.