



News

From TACOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Contact Dale Wirsing, 253-564-7843
Timothy Smith, 253-219-7345

July 21, 2010

Aug. 14 event to highlight South Tacoma history

“The South Tacoma That Was” will be featured when the Tacoma Historical Society holds a free history walk from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 14.

Events begin at 10 a.m. at Northwest Motor Scooters, 5428 South Tacoma Way, with an opportunity to meet Darlyne Reiter, author of the “Images of America” book, South Tacoma.

At 10:15 railroad historian Jim Fredrickson will discuss the Northern Pacific Shops, a major employer in South Tacoma from 1891 until their closure in 1973.

At 11 a.m. architect Gerald Eysaman will lead a walk through the historic business district. Departure point will be Northwest Motor Scooters.

At 11 a.m. and also at noon, Bill Habermann will conduct tours of historic Oakwood Hill Cemetery and Columbarium. The columbarium features a unique stained glass dome. The cemetery, which dates to 1874, is at 5210 S. Alder Street.

Tour participants are invited to stop by 5312 S. Alder Street to view a recently discovered trove of stained glass and to learn about plans for a South Park Historic District, a community-based effort to preserve 1.8 square miles of urban forest, pioneer cemeteries, legacy commercial buildings and parks. The effort is modeled after similar efforts in Tacoma’s North Slope and Wedge neighborhoods.

“In the 115 years since it was called Edison, South Tacoma has been workshop, marketplace, economic engine, home, and final resting place for generations of Tacoma families,” society vice president Dale Wirsing commented.

Information on the society’s activities is available at www.tacomahistory.org. The society can be contacted at 253-472-3738, info@tacomahistory.org, or PO Box 1865, Tacoma WA 98401.