



Engine 557 Restoration Company

November 25, 2017

Dear Friend of Engine 557,

Thanks to you and many other supporters of ex-Alaska Railroad steam locomotive #557, her restoration continues at a steady pace. In the 75 months since the first wrench was turned, our volunteers have invested over 75,000 hours in the restoration. The effort continues to be watched by train fans and rail preservation professionals throughout the U.S. and from around the world.

During the past year we continued to add to the list of accomplishments towards returning 557 to operation. The long-awaited new tender axles and wheels are now on hand and are being installed into the tender trucks so we can soon complete the finishing touch on the tender. Many of the boiler stays are now in place. In October our volunteers spent over 1,000 hours assisting our contracted boiler expert and his assistant during their 10-day visit from the Lower 48. Four leaf spring assemblies have been placed on order (and paid for) from a firm in the U.K. We contacted several U.S. and Canadian spring manufactures but none were interested or had the capability to custom manufacture the springs. We had better luck with coil springs - they came from a U.S. firm. The springs and other suspension parts being acquired, manufactured in-house, or rebuilt to complete the overhaul of 557's suspension. We are also working on the lead truck and making some decision on how to best complete its overhaul.

Several times a week we have both local and out-of-state visitors to the Engine House. Earlier this year a film crew from Japan filmed for a 557 segment in a documentary about Alaskan railroads. We continue to share the 557 and Alaska Railroad stories with historical and community groups and at a booth at Fur Rendezvous.

We have obtained two former Alaska Railroad passenger cars from the period 557 operated. Unfortunately, they will require a lot of work (and money!) before they can be used.

I am again asking for your financial support towards bringing 557 back to life. I am kicking off the effort with my personal commitment to match up to \$5,000 for contributions made through December 31, 2017. Please join me with your support.

If you haven't recently looked at 557's Facebook and Internet pages, check them at the addresses below. If you haven't paid a recent visit the Engine House, give a call and we will arrange a personal tour.

To have your contribution matched, send a check to "Engine 557 Restoration Company" at the address below or contribute on-line at <http://557.alaskarails.org/support/donate.html>. Thank you for your support, and as always, "Dream Big, Dream Steam."

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard T. Morris".

Richard T. Morris
Secretary/Treasurer