

# NEIGHBORHOODS

## Highlanders bid farewell to the rails

By KAREN STORY  
For the Reporter

The Highlands has long had a special relationship with the Spirit of Washington Dinner Train – the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks form the north and west boundaries of our neighborhood. No matter where you live in the Highlands, you can hear the train whistle.

At the end of July, the Dinner Train will blow her whistle in our neighborhood for the last time. A group of Highlands neighbors and friends hopped on board for a farewell ride on May 20.

Connie Ballou, who helped organize the event, said “Neighbors were talking and realized the Dinner Train is soon to be history and some of us had never been on it!”

Connie and others remember many nights of walking down to the tracks with their small

children to watch the “twain” go by. “I grew up down near Peter Kirk Elementary. The school is now where our backyard and pasture used to be, said Stephanie Leckness. “So I grew up on these tracks. We used to race the train with our horses!”

About 50 Highlands adults and kids filled one train car. It was a fun and memorable event. Connie said, “Watching the look on Nevan Ada’s 2-year-old face, eyes wide, glued to the train window, mesmerized by the train scenery as it passed by, was unforgettable.”

Nevan’s mom, Hae Sue Park, who attended with her husband and three children, said, “The rain didn’t distract from the viewing at all. As we passed Peter Kirk Elementary, all the kids and a few parents started singing the school song ... what fun!”



Hae Sue Park/Courtesy photo  
Pete Ada, Hae Sue Park, and their children joined a group of Highlands neighbors for a dinner train farewell ride on May 20.