

Tacoma Historical Society Honors C. Mark Smith and David Burns

By Dale Wirsing

Two men – C. Mark Smith and David Burns – were honored April 13 by Tacoma Historical Society for their roles in conserving and presenting the city's history. The presentations were made at the society's 25th anniversary meeting, held at the University of Puget Sound.

Smith received the 2015 Murray Morgan Award for significant efforts to preserve and communicate local history.

Retired from a career in economic development, Smith is the biographer of one of Tacoma's best-known mayors, Harry Pulliam Cain. Smith's book, *Raising Cain, the Life and Politics of Senator Harry P. Cain*, appeared in 2011.

The award also cited Smith's work in researching the life and career of University of Puget



C. Mark Smith

Sound history professor Lyle S. Shelmidine.

Smith's biography of Tri-Cities civic leader Sam Volpentest, *Community Godfather*, was published in 2013.

Burns received the Society's 2015 Alan Liddle Award for achievement in historic preservation. The award recognizes his perseverance in locating and pur-



David Burns

chasing a 1910 Northern Pacific Railway diner car, bringing it to Tacoma, and at length finding a home for it at the LeMay Family Collection at Marymount.

Burns is noted as a Tacoma history buff. He is a graduate of Central Washington University and an engineering construction manager for Tacoma Public Utilities.