



Historical/Archive Department Report

9/6/2022

As we move through the 2022 season, the Historical/Archive Department is in the process of working on the physical inventoring several of the collections within the archive.

Several things that take time, such as scanning of slides and other documents that normally are not done at the museum, are moved into the winter months to get completed. These items are normally in the hands of the archive staff and are worked on while not at the museum. This gives the archive staff more time to work uninterrupted during this sometimes long hard work.

Again I would like to remind all that most all the work taking place in the Historical/Archive Department is a **“Work in Progress”**.

One of the museum’s larger collections, the Virgil Staff Collection, is being inventoried so that we can start the process of scanning all of the black and white negatives in this collection. This is an on-going project with several hundreds of negatives to be cataloged along with several boxes of 3X5 cards of information.

We have used several other parts of the Virgil Staff collection in publications and films that have been scanned and used at the annual conventions.

Part of Virgil Staff’s collection of WP materials is also located at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento. I plan to visit CSRM and look at what they do in their archives and how they handle large collections like the Staff collection.

If you have not visited the Historical/Archive Department web pages recently, please consider looking at them to see “What’s New”, <https://wplives.org/archives.html>.

If you were unable to attend the WP Convention this year, there was a presentation *“Guided Tour of the H/A Web Pages at WPLives.org”*. The presentation is now available on the society’s website:

https://wplives.org/news_items/2022_Western_Pacific_Historical_Convention/pdf/HA_Website_Presentation_at_2022_WP_Historic_Convention_-_220402.pdf

Please take a visit and learn more about what the Historical/Archive Department is doing.



As I point out in each of my reports every month, we still need some donations help with the materials needed to keep the archives moving forward and protecting them.

Needs for the Archives:

I know that I place this in almost all of my archives reports, however there is still a need for materials to keep the archive stored safely and accessible to be used. As we inventory more and more of the materials in the archives, we need more proper storage materials to keep the collection in.

We are always looking for help in getting materials properly stored and we need the support of the membership with helping supply storage materials for the archives.

We still need help in getting funding and storage materials for the archive department. Should you be able to help out, please let us know!

Items listed below are still needed to help keep our collection stored properly and should you wish to help us out, we certainly would like your donation and help.

- Computer program to track all the Historical/Archive items
- Original copy of Windows 10 to be used in the Archive Department
- Archive storage boxes for 35mm slides. (We need more, as we have over 20,000 + slides and counting!)
- Large archival storage boxes

Should any member receive any donation and/or get an inquiry about a donation, please get in touch with one of the archive staff or archive committee to make sure we properly address the donation or inquiry.

Thank you to all the archive staff who take the time to help us out.

Thank you to all the members of the FRRS/WPRM who contribute to the society and the archives.

Kerry Cochran
Director, General Superintendent, Archive Manager