

Historical/Archive Department - Happenings in 2022

- Kerry Cochran
Archive Manager

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

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

While spending nine days at the museum in September, I was able to sort more of the boxes of materials that we have in both the archive car (MP 14144) and the Cotton Belt car (SSW 23908).

This has given me the opportunity to consolidate several of the collections into one place and to start to inventory each of them.

During this process, I have found several more boxes of slides that will need to be checked and inventoried. These slides have come to us from several sources and each will have to be investigated to find who the donor was so we can place them in the proper collection.

This includes some of the Virgil Staff slides that were not in marked boxes, however they did have some notes with the slides that indicated where they came from. (Please if you take something in for the archives, make sure you make notes and attached to the items or boxes.)

Several boxes of railroad magazines have been received and most have been moved into the Simplot car (JRSX 5021). An effort will have to be made to see how we will continue to handle these magazines. While they are very good reference material, we need to get them sorted and inventoried so we have a current list of what we have and what we no longer need.

While working on the magazines, a new list was

created on articles on the FRRS/WPRM that have appeared in the various railroad magazines (not at all complete) and this new list has been posted on the website for our use.

Jim Atkins spent three days with me reviewing the archives, the policies and procedures along with helping inventory some of the Virgil Staff collection. Jim will be a great addition to the archive staff.

Several years ago, we received several black and white photos from Carl Allen Walker. At the time I found these photos, I did not know where, when or if we had permission to use them in our publications and museum exhibits. Through Roger Stabler, I found out that Chris Allen had received the photos and Mr. Walker had given us permission to use the photos.

On Thursday, September 29th, I met Carl Allen Walker at his home to pick up a donation. During this meeting I asked him about the photos and he indicated, yes they were indeed from him and we now had them for our use.

Mr. Walker donated to us eight boxes of hard & soft covered books, several old railroad tools and a small box of black and white negatives. These have all been inventoried, except the B&W negatives which will take some time to sort and get into proper storage sleeves.

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.

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 on the Historical/Archive home page.

I plan on presenting an updated version of this at the 2023 joint NMRA/PCR/FRRS convention in Sacramento April 26th to 30th 2023.