

Archives Department Report
Submitted by Frank Brehm, Archivist
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There has been no activity in the archives due to cold weather at the museum. Planning continues for long term storage for the archives at the museum, evaluation of archives management software, creation and issuing of standard operating procedures for archives work as well as inventory of the collection.

I would also like to bring the following to the attention of the Board of Directors.

Item 1:

As all directors know I asked Mr. Monger 4 questions concerning the Meeker collection recently. One question was answered, but that answer brings up other questions that I believe should be brought to the board's attention.

The question was: Could you please forward to me a list of the items donated thus far to the FRRS from the Meeker Collection.

The portion of his answer that brings up other questions is: "To bring you up to date since you are the designated "Archivist" of the FRRS/WPRRHS, the items that had ownership transferred in December 2012 were the 5,222 black & white 2 1/4" negatives of the Western Pacific Railroad Corporate photo collection dating from 1945 through 1972, the special fire-proof/fire-resistant negative storage safe purchased by Ken Meeker in the early 1980s to store this collection of company negatives.

There are currently 5 complete sets of these scans in existence, each set comprises 34 4.7GB DVDs (or equivalent storage). Dale has one stored on multiple portable hard drives at his office in Washington State."

As many of you may or may not know Dale Sanders works for White River Publications as shown on their web site. Also on their web site is this item concerning images they have scanned and have kept copies of on their system.

From the White River Publications Web Site:

In June 2005 Dale Sanders, who had edited and produced CTC Board Railroads Illustrated for 27 years (the last 10 under Hundman Publishing), transitioned into books for Hundman, leaving the reins of CTC Board after nearly three decades. In November 2005 WRP hired Dale Sanders, who brings not only magazine experience but overall publishing experience and additional book production capabilities. His books have long been favorites in the industry, beginning with The Milwaukee Road by Fred Hyde.

ARCHIVING & COLLECTING

In support of our publishing efforts, we regularly scan railroad slide, negative, and print collections. We collect images from any and all railroads from the largest Class 1 to the single-unit shortline. We've scanned collections as large as 20,000 images. Your images can't be published if they're not available, and simply sending a list doesn't work. We often are looking for a particular image right before a publishing deadline, and don't have the time to contact numerous photographers looking for that image of interest. By putting your images on file here, you can be sure they're available when we're looking for a particular subject.

What is not there and what I could not find on their web site is:

1. Do they ask permission to use the image and in our case who do they ask.
2. Is there any payment made.
3. What credit line is used.

Using any of the images without the Societies permission and/or payment would be in violation of the Policies and Procedures for the Archives.

Item 2:

I request answers from Mr. Monger in open session to these previously asked questions which have not been answered.

1. Have the items given to John Walker for the scanning project been returned and placed back with the rest of the collection in Reno? (they have been according to the spreadsheet) Are there copies of the scans on disk and in the possession of the FRRS? If so where? (Mr. Mongers previous answer has nothing to do with this question. The items referenced in his answer are not part of the Meeker Collection and the question did not pertain to those items).

2. What is the status of scanning the negatives, slides and photos sent to Dale Sanders? If not complete is there an estimated time of completion?

3. Are there master disks of the scans you made in the collection and in the possession of the FRRS? If so where? (See item 3)

(There is a spreadsheet attached to refer to concerning the above questions. I recommend all directors look at this spreadsheet and the time that some items have been out "on loan" and not in our possession)

Item 3:

Mr. Monger in his email of October 30, 2013 states; "I have in my possession at home only 3 files (approx. 400 pages) at any one time, and when done they are taken back to Reno for secure storage to exchange for another set of files to be digitized."

The ARTHUR WALTER KEDDIE RAILROAD LIBRARY COLLECTION MANAGEMENT POLICY states as follows:

X. SECURITY AND ACCESS

2. No object of the collection is to leave its assigned location without a written record noting its new location.

I have now been to the secure storage facility in Reno twice and there is no record of Mr. Monger removing any items from storage.

This is a violation of the Policies and Procedures. In the past Mr. Monger has referred to these Policies and Procedures as my policies. These are not my policies but the policies of the Feather River Rail Society. I would hope that at least the directors of the organization would follow the Societies Policies and Procedures.

Item 4:

What items from the Meeker Collection constitute the fractional donation to the FRRS effective December 1, 2013 per the contract?

Item 5:

In his email to myself and all directors on November 15, 2013 Mr. Monger stated that the items I had removed from Reno for inspection by Lawrence and Bill Meeker totaled \$50,000.00. How was that figure arrived at and how did Mr. Monger know what I had removed from the storage area in Reno?