

Historical/Archive Department Report

7-7-2019

Donations continue to be sent, dropped off, pick-up and received by the museum.

Over the last month we have received several book donations, framed photos and model train materials.

Ethan Doty has been helping in making sure that items dropped off at the museum get placed into the container, which has a special spot marked for the Archive Department. This makes it easy to have all the donations in one place so that nothing gets misplaced.

Every month when I make a trip to the museum, I receive the materials, inventory them and send thank you letters to the donors.

On June 30th, I received a message from President Habeck, that Mr. Don Douglas (old Pacific Limited group) who retired from the SP, has a collection of railroad books that he wished to donate to the museum. After contacting him and making arrangements, I made a trip to Gilroy and met with Don and picked-up the books (seven boxes) for my next trip to Portola.

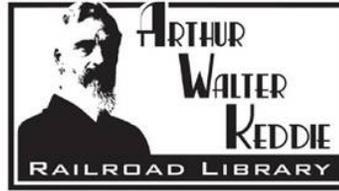
Should any member receive a donation, please contact the Museum Store (they have a donation form) and/or me and we can place the materials in the container for safe storage until they can be processed.

Three Projects:

One of the ongoing projects is to get a new power feed to the archive car. This has taken a bit longer than expected. While at the museum in late May and early June, it rained almost every day, preventing us from installing conduit and wiring for the new electrical panel.

Now that it appears that the rain will not visit us for a while, we should be able to get it installed in the next couple of months.

The second project is the new HVAC/Humidifier system. This will be an entirely new system for the archive car and the units have been ordered. Member Ed Powell (who is a HVAC Tech) will be donating his time to get this installed and working for the museum.



The third project is a new data storage system. This new system will be explained to the FRRS Board of Directors at the August board meeting. Part of this system is already in use and has been very useful in the sharing of data between staff members for information and publications.

We fully expect to expand this system to include membership access once all the parameters of the system are set-up and working properly.

This is a large step in having all the electronic data for the museum and the Archive Department in one place so that we do not rely on one member to store museum data and have the possibility of any loss of data or materials.

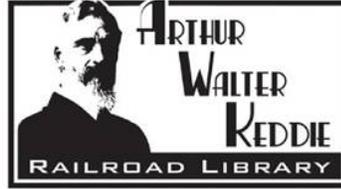
I have been fortunate to have Frank Brehm, Paul Finnegan, Kenneth Finnegan and Eugene Vicknair as resources on the Historical/Archive staff to help me in obtaining answers, or the correct resource to look for answers, for these inquiries.

There are several members that have helped with the archives that it goes beyond me just saying thank you. The help I receive is great and I could not do it without this help from all the members.

If you have not visited the Historical/Archive Department web page recently, please consider looking at them to see "What's New" in the Western Pacific Documents page.

http://wplives.org/wphistory_wp_documents.html

We continue to add more materials to the Historical/Archive web pages. Please take time to view the Historical/Archive web pages and see what's new.



Needs for the Archives:

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.

Items listed below are 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 (PastPerfect) is the computer program that I have been looking at, however I have not received a cost for that program as of yet.
- Archive Storage boxes for 35mm slides
- Archive Storage boxes for 8 1/2 X 11 materials

Should any member receive any donation and/or get an inquiry about a donation, please get in touch with Eugene, Frank, myself or any member of the board of directors so that we may follow up with the donor to make sure we properly address the donation or inquiry.

I would also like to thank all the volunteers that help us in the Historical/Archive Department.

Kerry Cochran
Director, General Superintendent