

Historical/Archive Department Report

5/9/2021

A visit to the museum on Wednesday April 28th, provided Paul Finnegan and me with a chance to look over the archives and the archive car to get an idea of what may be needed to be done this year.

Several donations have been mad that I was unaware of. I need to be made aware of when donations are delivered to the museum, either in person, by mail or a package arriving. When I am not aware of some of these donations, we fall behind in getting a donation letter out to the donors in a timely manner.

As you know, this had been a priority since I began working with the archives. Getting donation letters out in the mail to our donors is a very important issue. In the past I have had many conversations with our member at the WP Convention, asking did we receive the donation as they have not received an acknowledgment and/or a donation letter.

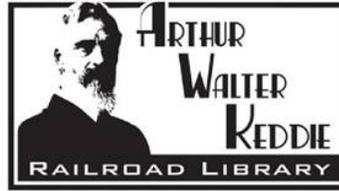
This very important fact (Donation Letter) keeps the donors informed and it brings them to give us more WP articles.

Please remember when you receive a donation at the museum in any form, let me know the donors name, address and inventory of the materials so I can get the letter out as soon as possible.

During the last few months, our webmaster Paul Finnegan and Steven Baldwin have completed scanning and posting to the website the complete set of Western Pacific Railroad's *Milepost* magazines.

This project was a large undertaking and now we have more history of the WP posted on the website for our members and the general public.

One of the next projects that the archive team is working on, is posting some of the photo collection that we have in the archives. During the last year, behind the scenes work has produced several photo collections which should be ready to premier in the next month.



These photo collections have come from several of our long-term members. We hope to be able to provide some early pictures of FRRS members working at the museum.

Frank Brehm is working on scanning several of the Garth Groff slides that Garth donated to us a few years ago. Hopefully these too will go into this new photo collection of WP, SN and TS photos

If you have not noticed, the archive team has been posting to the website new materials each month since September 2020. The new posting will appear on the 1st of each month. This work continues with a new postings with materials that we continue to find within the archive.

Moving on to the modeling section of the archives, I have been working on more materials for the modeling section of the website.

If you have not visited the “MODELING the WP & Related Lines” on the website, I encourage you to visit at this link:

<https://www.wplives.org/modeling.html>

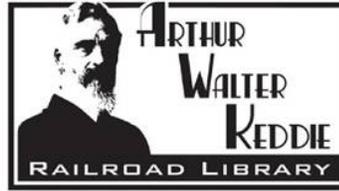
If you have not visited the Historical/Archive Department web page recently, please consider looking at them to see “What’s New” in the Western Pacific Documents page.

https://wplives.org/wphistory_wp_documents.html

As I point out in each of my reports, we still need some donation help with the materials needed to keep the archives moving forward and protecting them. I list the current needs in these reports and so far I can say that a few member have come through and provided us with donations as have been listed in the “Needs for the Archives”.

I would hope that other members will step-up and take notice and be kind enough to help us out.

Should there be any questions on donations or the archives, please contact the Archive Department or any of the contacts on our website and someone will get back to you.



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.

A couple of members have stepped up and donated some storage boxes that will help store some of the archive materials. This allows us to get some of the archives out of cardboard boxes and stored properly.

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

Kerry Cochran
Director, General Superintendent, Historical-Archive Manager