



Signal Department Report

Kerry Cochran

Date: July 7, 2021

The FRRS/WPRM Signal Department has completed some major improvements that have been made at the museum. Kenneth and Paul Finnegan worked with me opening week to address a list of projects.

These improvements include the following:

Phone and Network improvements:

- 1) Improved the network wiring in some locations within the museum building.
- 2) Extended the network permanently into the MP 14144 archive car (no longer relying on WiFi).
- 3) Traced and tested existing network cables and removed some cables no longer in service.
- 4) Removed unused telephone wiring that was causing induction of noise into the phones.
- 5) Telephone and network service was moved as required for the new layout of the Museum Store.
- 6) Kenneth Finnegan installed a managed power over Ethernet switch that will enable us to power cycle the main WiFi access point remotely if necessary.

On Friday July 2nd, the Signal Department manager traced out the issues with the museum's main telephone line. While the telephone has been out of service for some time, with the opening arriving we needed the telephone service back.

Once the trouble was found, a call to AT&T (our service provider) was made and a technician was dispatched to the museum. Working with the Signal Department, AT&T tracked the trouble to some outside cable plant and made repairs.

Our main telephone service is back in service.

We need to get a new RAL phone/answering machine. (The old phone/answering machine is not working properly and the messages on the answering portion of the machine can no longer be recorded or retrieved.)

We have worked on cleaning up the Signal Department room (the old Stockroom). In addition to organizing the room, several pieces of old equipment went to E-waste.

One of the improvements completed was rewiring the telephone service to the FRRS Board Room and making the conference telephone a permanent installation to prevent future damage to the system.

Archive Department improvements:

A new display system called *Screenly*, was deployed in the Display Room. This system is an electronic stored screen display with content that we create to display various items and information. It is an automated system that will come on and go off with the museum public hours.

Within the first 15 minutes after it was turned on, a visitor was standing in front of the new system and watching the information provided.

This system is intended to expand our historical/archive information and be able to display to the public without having to have any volunteers or museum store staff turn it on and off each day.

This will vastly improve the visitor experience at the museum.

Three fully functional Windows 10 systems were delivered for service in the MP archive car. Originally donated by Frank Brehm, Paul and Kenneth Finnegan had taken them home in April and got the equipment's software and hardware configured for our use.

The operating system was updated on both the Board Room computer and the Operating Department computer. The old O/S was no longer in support.

Wig-Wag display.

The proof of concept of the coin acceptor for the Wig-Wag was successful. Visitors have a new way to operate the Wig-Wag.

Kerry Cochran
Director/General Superintendent/Signal Department Manager