

Historical/Archive Department Report

8/7/2022

As we move through the 2022 season, the Historical/Archive Department is in the process of working on the physical archive storage and projects.

Speaking of archive storage, we recently received a donation of an original WP boxcar #56059 (rebuilt #61180) from the hospital in Cheater California. The boxcar was moved on June 23rd from Chester to the museum by Bragg Crane Service.

During the last few weeks, David Elems and Phil Schmierer were able to find two couplers in the bone yard and clean them up. They then went to work installing them on the archive car WP 61180 so that the car could be moved if necessary.

As we progress with this new archive car, a work plan has been made and work will continue so that we can get it weather tight and start the process of cleaning up the interior and reworking the shelving in the car.

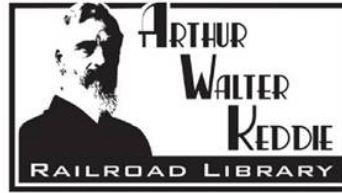
This new addition to the archives will give us some needed breathing room to store and sort incoming donations.

Please visit the website page:

["https://wplives.org/gallery/New_Archive_Car_2022.html"](https://wplives.org/gallery/New_Archive_Car_2022.html)https://wplives.org/gallery/New_Archive_Car_2022.html

To see the movement of this car to the museum. We plan on getting this car moved into position next to the Cotton Belt archive car and adding it our archive storage areas.

We will be using the rebuilt number of the boxcar (WP61180) as the designation of the storage location for the archive materials.



Some of the work that is taking place in the archives:

- Paul Finnegan, continues to scan Norm Holmes slide collection
- Frank Brehm, was contacted by the Boston and Main Railroad Historical Society about sharing some photos of the WP from the Robert E. Chaffin Collection at BMRRHS. Frank sent them some information that they were looking for and in return they gave us copies of the Chaffin Collection. Those photos are now posted on the H/A pages on our website.
- Kerry Cochran is working on several of the documents, photos and negatives from the Virgil Staff Collection

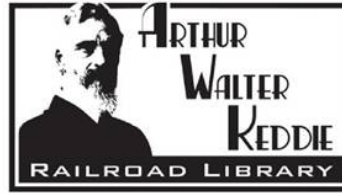
In September of this year the archive staff will welcome member Jim Atkins, who will be spending a week at the museum working with the archive staff to become an active member of the archive. Jim has been working with the archive staff at CSRM and some of the Virgil Staff collection that is with CSRM.

Several things that take time, such as scanning of slides and other documents that normally are not done at the museum, are moved into the winter months to get completed. These items are normally in the hands of the archive staff and are worked on while not at the museum. This gives the archive staff more time to work uninterrupted during this sometimes long hard work.

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

One of the museum’s larger collections, the Virgil Staff Collection, is being inventoried so that we can start the process of scanning all of the black and white negatives in this collection. This is an on-going project with several hundreds of negatives to be cataloged along with several boxes of 3X5 cards of information.

We have used several other parts of the Virgil Staff collection in publications and films that have been scanned and used at the annual conventions.



If you have not visited the Historical/Archive Department web pages recently, please consider looking at them to see “What’s New”, <https://wplives.org/archives.html>.

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:

https://wplives.org/news_items/2022_Western_Pacific_Historical_Convention/pdf/HA_Website_Presentation_at_2022_WP_Historic_Convention_-_220402.pdf

Please take a visit and learn more about what the Historical/Archive Department is doing.

As I point out in each of my reports every month, we still need some donations help with the materials needed to keep the archives moving forward and protecting them.

Needs for the Archives:

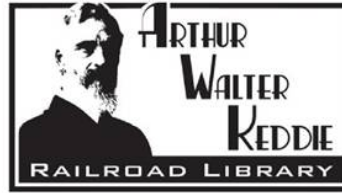
I know that I place this in almost all of my archives reports, however there is still a need for materials to keep the archive stored safely and accessible to be used. As we inventory more and more of the materials in the archives, we need more proper storage materials to keep the collection in.

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.

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 one of the archive staff or archive committee to make sure we properly address the donation or inquiry.

Thank you to all the archive staff who take the time to help us out.

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

Kerry Cochran
Director, General Superintendent, Archive Manager