

Historical/Archive Department Report

6/2/2024

In our mission statement we make the statement: “The Feather River Rail Society is dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and education of the public as to the history and people of the Western Pacific Railroad.”

While we have been closed for the winter, we reopened the Historical/Archives Department on Memorial Day weekend to intake several donations that had come in over the museum closed period during the winter.

Several of the donations contained various WP magazines and related WP materials. One of the donations is still in progress is from Helen Webb (former Zephyrette) and her late husband. More on this donation will be announced as we inventory the donation and get it ready to display in our museum display room.

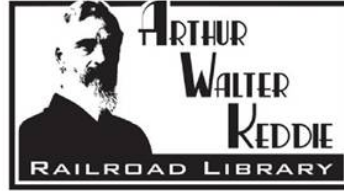
Another great donation is from Doug and Patty Peterson. Several signals, semaphore masts signal cabinet along with a Wig-Wag mast from Locust Street on the east side of Lodi. A Derail Frog, (WP) Terminus Jct. and several other RR artifacts.

Phil Schmierer donated a Headlight Display, an M3 Air Horn some Diesel Engine connecting rods and one original WP 3071 number board.

Several other donations have been coming in and during the summer we will be inventorying them and getting them ready for either a display or having them available for research.

There is still a lot of work that needs to be done in the archives and several of the archive staff have been busy behind the scenes working on cataloging, scanning and preserving our collection.

This is just a start as to what we envision on releasing to our members and public. Please understand this is a “**Work in Progress**” and several collections have not been inventoried or processed as of yet.



We have been very fortunate to have Dale Sanders help us in scanning several parts of our collection. As these get scanned we will be adding them to the online galleries so that they become available to be viewed.

These are some of the other documents that are starting to show how much WP materials we have and are making available to our members and the public.

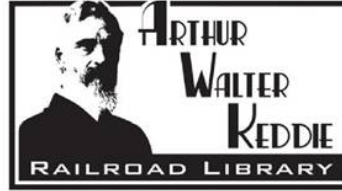
Each month we release new materials to the archives pages. Please be on the lookout for these new items. The new material is announced in the Latest Museum News column on the website.

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/archives.html"](https://wplives.org/archives.html)[https://wplives.org/wphistory\\_wp\\_documents.html](https://wplives.org/wphistory_wp_documents.html)

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

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!



### **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 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 the archive committee to make sure we properly address the donation or inquiry.

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