

**Historical/Archive
Department**

- Kerry Cochran
General Superintendent
Archive Manager



During the shelter-in-place order, we still have been receiving donations to the archives.

Thank you to our donors:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Don Jones | John and Diane Starr |
| Mark Bluth | Hubert Hanrahan |
| Elisa Swanson | Joseph Strapac |
| Renee Frantini | Robert Matthew |
| Steve Martindell | |

All of these donations will be added to our collection and are currently in safe keeping until we can open again and take inventory of the items.

We have received some additional other small donations to the archives during the last few months. They will be added to our collection and are currently in safe keeping until we can open again.

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

Several questions have come in during the last few months and we have answered most of those questions. There may be some questions that may take some time to research and try to answer, which right now with the museum closed, may take longer than some might expect. There are other questions that have come in that we have, so far, been unable to answer, as we have materials that have not been inventoried and some of that material is still in storage.

We continue to work on the inventory as time allows. Right now with the COVID-19 virus and shelter-in-place orders, several of the staff members of the archives department have not been to the museum in the last six months. By

the looks of current events, we may not be able to resume work on the archive until well after the start of 2021.

We are however, still processing archive requests through the museum closure (those that can be done remotely) and are creating a list of things that need to be done once the museum opens again.

We still need to obtain a good software package to help with the inventory process (see needs for the Archives)

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)

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 items 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.
- Original copy of Windows 10 to be used in the Archive Department.
- Archive Storage boxes for 35mm slides
- Archive Storage boxes for 8 1/2 X 11 materials

Thank you to the members, several FRRS/WPRM members have been helping behind the scenes to assist with the Historical/Archive Department. Without them during the shelter in place orders

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and the museum closure, we would not be able to continue to keep up with requests, donations and work at the museum even though most of that work is very limited.

Keeping in mind that social distancing and appropriate PPE is required and the restrictions on people in groups, we are still able to keep up with most requests to the archive department.

Thanks go out to:

- Greg Elems
- Steve Habeck
- Eugene Vicknair
- Tim Steeper
- Janet Steeper
- Tom Steeper
- Erick McKay
- David Elems
- Ethan Doty
- Ed Powell
- Dave Wallace
- Charlie Spikes
- Duane van der Veen
- Loren Ross
- Mary Ann Vicknair
- Jim Gray
- Paul Finnegan

I am sure that that there may be others that I have missed, Thank you to all who have helped with the Archive Project. I could not have done it without your help.

Some other behind the scenes work is done most every week with things like mail, donations in the mail and making sure I get informed about materials arriving at the museum.

Thanks to:

- Greg Elems
- Steve Habeck
- Eugene Vicknair
- Paul Finnegan

All play a great part in keeping the information flowing each week.



Milward Switch

- photo by Greg Elems

**Things Around the Museum:
The MILWARD Switch**

- Unknown

In September of 1986, a young, volunteer head-end brakeman, named Steve Milward, was riding on the front of Portola's GP-20, WP 2001. With plenty of time to spare, Milward stepped from the engine and walked to the upcoming switch to perform his duties. At the switch, he stepped into a wasp nest and was immediately attacked.

With wasps buzzing (and stinging) all around, he threw the switch as required. Unfortunately, his hand was caught between the switch stand handle and base crushing one his fingers. As the engine passed safely by, Milward waved to the engineer and shouted "Piss on this. I'm outta here."

The name of the switch was changed soon thereafter in Steve's honor.

Departure - Jim Ley

Long time FRRS Life Member Jim Ley passed away Monday, September 28th, 2020 in Washington state. We will try and share more information in the next issue of *The Train Sheet*.

Photo by Ed Warren from 1994

