



Historical/Archive Department Report

4-6-2018

Work continues during the winter on some of the archive materials that have been received last year.

A couple of donations have come in during the winter and will be inventoried and placed into the archives next month.

We continue to get inquiries from members, and the general public, on materials that we may have in the archives. As we open the museum for this season, we will be looking for the requested materials and getting answers back to the requestors.

While not all the inquiries have been answered yet, we are still looking into pulling the information out of the Historical/Archive files in order to answer the questions. This has become a large task as most of the archives are not cataloged yet. I have been able to answer some questions, however others are still pending.

In order to answer one of the requests, I was able to find some drawings in my files at home and sent them to the requestor, with an indication that as soon as I could get to the museum, I would look for any other drawings for them. The requestor was looking for WP Depot information for the Hayward and Livermore stations. He is going to use them in creating a model for a model railroad layout.

During the last month Eugene Vicknair, Frank Brehm and I have been able to answer several inquiries to the museum about various questions about the Western Pacific Railroad. Several of these inquiries have been from individuals researching the WP for their own personal work and interests in the WP.

Several of these inquiries came via email to the Museum Store, which in turn sent them to both Eugene and me for answers.

I have been fortunate to have Frank Brehm as a resource on the Historical/Archive staff to help me in obtaining answers or the correct resource to look for answers for these inquiries.

For part of the past two months, I have been scanning several WP manuals, and our webmaster has placed them on the web site.



Paul Finnegan (the webmaster) and I have been working on getting more items/articles ready to be published on the web pages for the history of the WP and the FRRS. Paul has been a great resource in this endeavor, he has provided me with great insight in reviewing documents prior to us publishing them.

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.

http://wplives.org/wphistory_wp_documents.html

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 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.
- Archive Storage boxes for 35mm slides
- Archive Storage boxes for 8 1/2 X 11 materials

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 archive department.

Kerry Cochran
Director, General Superintendent.