

Historical/Archive Department Report

5-8-2019

Now that the museum is fully open, we can start to resume work on the archives at Portola again.

I expect to be able to get to some of the materials that have been delivered to the museum during the winter and get them inventoried. This along with some member and public questions that need to be researched at the museum so that we can get answers out to them.

We are still processing archive requests and are creating a list of things that need to be done now that the museum is open.

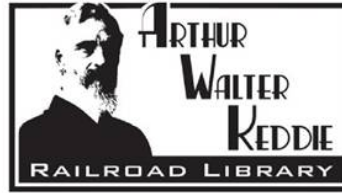
While at the museum for the first crew training day, I was able to get some more questions answered for members and respond to those questions. Getting photographs and some measurements off a couple of locomotives in our collection, we were able to answer two requests for specific information. Both parties that requested the information responded very happily to our responses and thanked us for the support.

Kenneth and Paul Finnegan have been a big help with some of the computer records and consulting on how to store electronic data and files for the archives. As we progress this year, I expect to be able to discuss with the board of directors a direction that the FRRS/WPRM can take for storage of our electronic files, records and electronic archive materials.

I have been fortunate to have Frank Brehm, Paul Finnegan and Eugene Vicknair as resources on the Historical/Archive staff to help me in obtaining answers, or the correct resource to look for answers, for these inquiries.

Frank has passed more archive materials to me that he has scanned so that we have more in electronic format, this along with more photos we received from John Walker to help us in some of our publications and articles on the Western Pacific. Frank is also working on some scanning of slides/photos that we will have permission to use in some of our publications and that we used for the 2019 convention.

Also during the winter months, Greg Elems has received several items that he has taken to the museum for us, thanks Greg.



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

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 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 Historical/Archive Department.

Kerry Cochran
Director, General Superintendent