

Historical/Archive Department Report

2/1/2021

Since we are in the closed portion of the museum operation and because of the COVID-19 virus. I will be suspending some of the activities that need to be performed on-site until we can return to the museum.

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

While the archives car is now fully heated and materials have been returned to the new shelving, we still have not been able to get to the museum to perform some other work, this will occur after the virus gets under control.

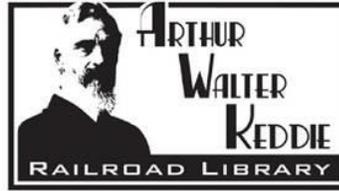
While last year (2020) was constrained because of the COVID-19 virus, we have still been able to work on some items for the archives.

Although we have been closed, I still receive several questions through the website and by email. My policy is to try to answer each of the questions within a couple of days, some of the answers take a bit of research to find the answer and get back to the member or general public.

In all cases, I do answer the inquiries within about 48 hours so the person knows that we received the question(s) and are working on getting answers. There are some of the questions that will be held open for quite some time as we need to research the archives to find the answer.

In 2020 we had a total of 26 inquiries with all but two being answered. The two that have been unanswered are questions that will require us to search the archives and find the appropriate answers and the people have been informed about the delay.

If you have not noticed, the archive team has been posting to the website new materials each month since September 2020. One of the last articles to be posted this February (2/2021) is a document, "Consolidated Seniority Roster of Road Brakeman" January 1, 1983. This document is from our archives and is on the Historical Archive Department home page on the "History of the WP" list and makes for very interesting reading.



Even with 2020 being a slow year because of the COVID-19 virus and us being closed, several members and people have still made donations to the FRRS/WPRM.

During the year we received 18 donations to the society and the archives. Some were large donations of passenger car parts, WP documents and timetables, with Joseph Strapac making a large donation of books. We also received a dissertation from the University of California from 1996 on the WP from Salt Lake to Oakland on the WP by William Charles Odisho.

We received a very large collection of WP materials from Mike Holt in Reno along with Steve Martindell, who has been making donations of railroad materials to us each year for the last couple of years.

Our society founder, Norm Holmes, made a donation of 64 boxes of railroad magazines that will round out our collection of various railroad magazines.

The ones that I have named above is just a partial list and thank you to all of them.

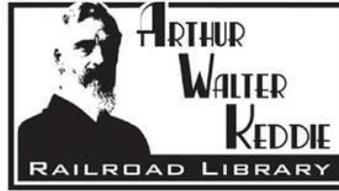
For those that asked, yes a written donation letter gets sent to each member or person who donates to the FRRS/WPRM and if you made a donation and did not receive a donation letter, please let me know.

I do an audit at the end of each year to make sure I get the letters out and this year I found one letter did not go out as I have no address for the person. That was taken care of within one day after I was able to contact the person and get the correct address.

On the most part, once I get the inventory from the museum, (those silent helpers) I get a donation letter in the mail, normally within a week. I also keep track of all the donations in a spreadsheet so that we have a record of all donations.

As I have reported in past reports, I expected to start to expand the modeling section of the website with new and added information.

I am happy to report that the material I was working on has become available this last month and has started to be posted to the website. The first posting has taken place and a new document was added on February 1st. Look for new materials and information through 2021.



If you have not visited the “MODELING the WP & Related Lines” on the website, I encourage you to visit at this link:

<https://www.wplives.org/modeling.html>

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

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 have added more materials to the Historical/Archive web pages. There is a scheduled release of new material each month throughout 2021. Please take time to view the Historical/Archive web pages and see what’s new.

Needs for the Archives:

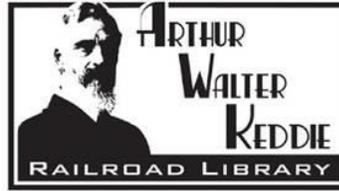
We are always looking for help in getting materials properly stored and we need the support of the membership with helping supply storage materials for the archives.

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!)

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

Kerry Cochran
Director, General Superintendent, Historical-Archive Manager