

Historical/Archive Department Report

11/8/2021

Kenneth Finnegan was at the museum on the weekend of October 9th to help out with the archives, he took ten 5-inch audio tapes and 36 audio cassette tapes from the Vigil Staff Collection back to the South Bay with him. Kenneth was able to borrow a reel-to-reel tape drive from a friend. Paul Finnegan already had an audio cassette deck left over from the 1970's. Kenneth and Paul are working at digitizing the tapes to upload to our cloud storage system for preservation. The 5-inch tapes and at least seven of the audio cassettes are interviews Virgil did during the 1960's and 1970's. There are hints in the material that there are more tapes. We will look for them in our archives so we can digitize and preserve them.

Thanks go out to Kenneth and Paul for kicking off this project and saving more history of the WP's willing people.

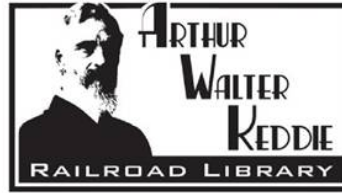
This same weekend, Dale Sanders from Washington State, made arrangements to visit us and the archives, unfortunately I was not able to meet with Dale, however Eugene Vicknair and Kenneth Finnegan were able to meet with him. Dale took some materials for scanning.

Dale has been a very big help in scanning several pieces of WP materials for us.

We have been making more improvement to the H/A webpages and are bringing a new level of access to some of the collections donated to the society by our members, railroad employees and the general public.

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.

Each month we release new materials to the archives pages. Please be on the look-out 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/wphistory_wp_documents.html

As I point out in each of my reports, we still need some donation help with the materials needed to keep the archives moving forward and protecting them. I list the current needs in these reports and so far I can say that a few member have come through and provided us with donations as have been listed in the “Needs for the Archives”.

I would hope that other members will step-up and take notice and be kind enough to help us out.

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.

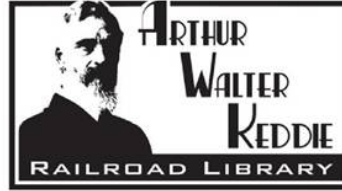
Needs for the Archives:

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.

A couple of members have stepped up and donated some storage boxes that will help store some of the archive materials. This allows us to get some of the archives out of cardboard boxes and stored properly.

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!)
- Large archival storage boxes

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, Archive Manager