

Historical/Archive Department Report

10/3/2022

As we move through toward the end of the 2022 season, the Historical/Archive Department is in the process of working on the physical inventorying several of the collections within the archive.

Again I would like to remind all that most all the work taking place in the Historical/Archive Department is a **“Work in Progress”**.

While spending 9 days at the museum in September, I was able to sort more of the boxes of materials that we have in both the archive car (MP 14144) and the Cotton Belt car (SSW 23908). This has given me the opportunity to consolidate several of the collections into one place and to start to inventory each of them.

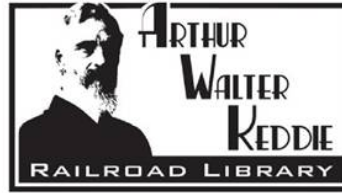
During this process, I have found several more boxes of slides that will need to be checked and inventoried. These slides have come to us from several sources and each will have to be investigated to find who the donor was so we can place them in the proper collection.

This includes some of the Virgil Staff slides that were not in marked boxes, however they did have some notes with the slides that indicated where they came from.

**(Please if you take something in for the archives, make sure you make notes and attached to the items or boxes.)**

Several boxes of railroad magazines have been received and most have been moved into the Simplot car (JRSX 5021). An effort will have to be made to see how we will continue to handle these magazines. While they are very good reference material, we need to get them sorted and inventoried so we have a current list of what we have and what we no longer need.

While working on the magazines, a new list was created on articles on the FRRS/WPRM that have appeared in the various railroad magazines (not at all complete) and this new list has been posted on the website for our use.



Jim Atkins spent three days with me reviewing the archives, the policies and procedures along with helping inventory some of the Virgil Staff collection. Jim will be a great addition to the archive staff.

Jim, along with Clair Phillips (CSRM Archive Staff), have invited me to the CSRM Library and Archive storage facility. I, along with Paul Finnegan, will be visiting them on Tuesday October 4<sup>th</sup> and I will give a verbal report on that activity at the board meeting.

Several years ago, we received several black and white photos from Carl Allen Walker. At the time I found these photos, I did not know where, when or if we had permission to use them in our publications and museum exhibits. Through Roger Stabler, I found out that Chris Allen had received the photos and Mr. Walker had given us permission to use the photos.

Last Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, I met Carl Allen Walker at his home to pick up a donation. During this meeting I asked him about the photos and he indicated, yes they were indeed from him and we now had them for our use.

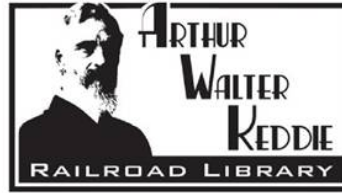
Mr. Walker donated to us 8 boxes of hard & soft covered books, several old railroad tools and a small box of black and white negatives. These have all been inventoried, except the B&W negatives which will take some time to sort and get into proper storage sleeves.

If you have not visited the Historical/Archive Department web pages recently, please consider looking at them to see "What's New", <https://wplives.org/archives.html>.

If you were unable to attend the WP Convention this year, there was a presentation "*Guided Tour of the H/A Web Pages at WPLives.org*". The presentation is now available on the society's website:

[https://wplives.org/news\\_items/2022\\_Western\\_Pacific\\_Historical\\_Convention/pdf/HA\\_Website\\_Presentation\\_at\\_2022\\_WP\\_Historic\\_Convention\\_-\\_220402.pdf](https://wplives.org/news_items/2022_Western_Pacific_Historical_Convention/pdf/HA_Website_Presentation_at_2022_WP_Historic_Convention_-_220402.pdf)

Please take a visit and learn more about what the Historical/Archive Department is doing.



As I point out in each of my reports every month, we still need some donations help with the materials needed to keep the archives moving forward and protecting them.

### **Needs for the Archives:**

I know that I place this in almost all of my archives reports, however there is still a need for materials to keep the archive stored safely and accessible to be used. As we inventory more and more of the materials in the archives, we need more proper storage materials to keep the collection in.

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.

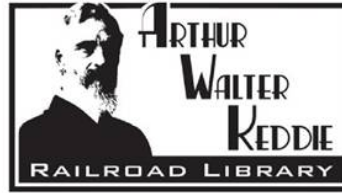
- Computer program to track all the Historical/Archive items
- Original copy of Windows 10 to be used in the Archive Department
- Archive storage boxes for 35mm slides. (We need more, as we have over 20,000 + slides and counting!)
- Large archival storage boxes

Should any member receive any donation and/or get an inquiry about a donation, please get in touch with one of the archive staff or archive committee to make sure we properly address the donation or inquiry.

Thank you to all the archive staff who take the time to help us out.

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



Historical/Archive Department Report

10/5/2022

## Official Visit to California State Railroad Museum Library and Archives (I kept this visit very low keyed to see what the outcome would be.)

In September I made arrangements to visit the California State Railroad Museum (CSRM) Library and Archives in Sacramento. The visit was confirmed the last week of September for Tuesday October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 10 a.m.

I invited archive staff member Paul Finnegan to accompany me on this visit. (In his capacity as both a member of the archive staff and the webmaster.)

This was an open invitation from FRRS member Jim Atkins (who works on the archive staff at CSRM) and Clair Phillips (CSRM employee). Clair was present at our annual convention in Reno this year. She was very enthusiastic about being at our convention and we discussed many things. During our conversations, she invited the FRRS/WPRM Archive Staff to visit them at Sacramento.

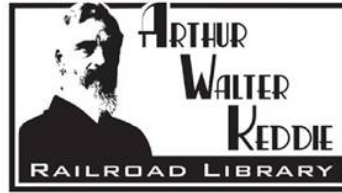
The visit started at the CSRM Library offices at 10 a.m.

Attending the meeting were:

- Clair Phillips, CSRM
- Chris Rockwell, CSRM
- Jim Atkins, CSRM & FRRS
- Kerry Cochran, FRRS
- Paul Finnegan, FRRS

We met in the offices for 2 ½ hours. During this time we discussed several items including:

- Several of CSRM collections – including Virgil Staff, Western Pacific Railroad and related WP items
- Collection management best practices
- Types of collections
- Archiving of manuscripts
- Archiving books and publications
- Archive policies and procedures



- CSRM shared suggestions for how the FRRS may want to approach indexing of our collections based on their experience. It is more important to catalog our collection, rather than focus on getting materials digitized.
- Photograph reproduction guidelines and practices
- Payments for services
- Processing of requests
- Fees for services
- Permission to publish archived materials
- Copyrights and requirements
- Software programs – CSRM shared opinions and thoughts about several software programs available to manage archive collections.
- Support of public ability to search archives for materials

After these discussions, we adjourned for lunch.

Upon returning from lunch, Paul and I were given a tour of the new National Model Railroad Association exhibit in the museum.

After that tour, we traveled to the California State Parks archive warehouse for a tour of where all of the State Parks archives are stored (including the CSRM archives).

CSRM has approximately ¼ of the 165,000 square foot facility in McClellan Park.

The warehouse is sectioned off into various areas for receiving, sorting, cleaning, office space and storage. The entire facility is climate controlled year round with controlled access to all areas.

The storage area has 20 foot ceilings with shelving layout in each section to accommodate the various collections, from standard office boxes to very large items (including motor cars, train headlights and train whistles) along with several other items such as a curved cocktail bar from an SP lounge car.

I can say this was an enlighten visit with CSRM and it have opened up a new line of communications and cooperation between museums.

Kerry Cochran  
Director, General Superintendent, Archive Manager