

Historical/Archive Department Report

2/3/2020

Donations continue to be sent, dropped off, picked-up and received by the museum.

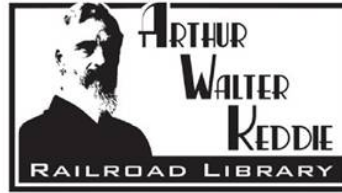
Should any member receive a donation, please contact the Museum Store (they have a donation form) and/or me and we can place the materials in the container for safe storage until they can be processed.

The new HVAC/Humidifier system. This will be an entirely new system for the archive car and the units have been ordered. Member Ed Powell (who is a HVAC Tech) will be donating his time to get this installed and working for the museum. Ed Powell has continued to work on this project and it is close to being completed. On-going work continues on the archive car.

A big thank you goes out to members Greg Elems, Charlie Spikes, Ethan Doty and Janet Steeper for all the help in moving some of the archive materials into temporary storage while we work on the archive car. Since I have been unable to get to the museum over the last two months, these members stepped up to help out the Archive Department.

Ethan Doty and KC in the museum store, have been helping in making sure that items dropped off at the museum get placed into the container, which has a special spot marked for the Historical/Archive Department. This makes it easy to have all the donations in one place so that nothing gets misplaced. KC has also been very good at letting me know when things arrive and sending me an inventory so that I may send out donation letters. This is a big help during the months that I am not at the museum.

Other members also take part in receiving and notifying me of donations during the winter months when the museum is closed, thank you to all.



#### 2019 H/A Accomplishments:

Received two very large photo/slide collections, one from our founder Norm Holmes and the second one from charter member Jack Palmer.

Both of these collections have enormous amounts of WP equipment photos and other materials. While the Jack Palmer collection is inventoried on paper, it will take some time to get it copied over to an electronic file. Norm Holmes collection will take quite some time to get inventoried, I would estimate that there are over 5,000 slides that need to be inventoried.

While there have also been several book collections donated in 2019, one stands out. Don Douglas (an SP employee, Retired) and supporter of the FRRS has made two different donations of over 240 railroad books. Most all of these books are hard cover books on various railroad related subjects including the Western Pacific and the Southern Pacific.

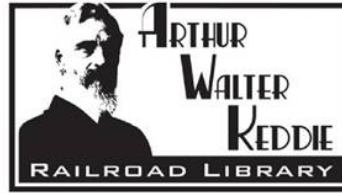
Along with Norm Holmes' donation, he donated 32 Locomotive Reverser and Brake control handles that he had collected over the year working on the WP.

Longtime member Garth Groff donated approximately 800 slides of the WP, SN and other various railroads.

Longtime member John Ryczkowski also made two donations in 2019 of books, official railway equipment registers, timetables, several drawings, maps and a box of his modeling files.

We were also able to inventory all the WP Mileposts in our collection, we have verified we have at least one copy of every issue.

We also received a donation from the Myron M. Christy Estate of several WP items.



New for 2020. We created a new T-Shirt for the Historical/Archive department these can be ordered by invitation only for the H/A Staff. (Contact Kerry Cochran)



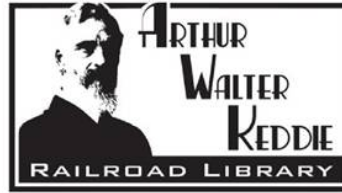
I have been fortunate to have Frank Brehm, Paul Finnegan, Kenneth Finnegan and Eugene Vicknair as resources on the Historical/Archive staff to help me in obtaining answers, or the correct resource to look for answers, for these inquiries.

There are several members that have helped with the archives that it goes beyond me just saying thank you. The help I receive is great and I could not do it without this help from all the members.

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](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.

I have been in communications with member Frank Brehm and he tells me that he has two computers that he will donate to the archive department for the desks in the archive car. Thank you, Frank.

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
- 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