



Historical/Archive Department Report

7/6/2022

As we move into the 2022 season, the Historical/Archive Department is in the process of working on the physical archive storage and projects.

During the July 4th weekend, 42 boxes of hardcover books were moved from the secure archive car to the Cotton Belt archive car. This is where all the hardbound books are stored. These books will need to be added to our book inventory so that members can see the collection of railroad books that we have.

This allowed the movement of more critical archives into the secure storage archive car. These archives have been stored in our office car which has been used for the archive office and storage and receiving area for the last few years.

Speaking of archive storage, we recently received a donation of an original WP boxcar #56059 (rebuilt #61180) from the hospital in Cheater California. The boxcar was moved on June 23rd from Chester to the museum by Bragg Crane Service.

Please visit the website page:

<https://wplives.org/gallery/New Archive Car 2022.html>

To see the movement of this car to the museum. We plan on getting this car moved into position next to the Cotton Belt archive car and adding it our archive storage areas.

We will be using the rebuilt number of the boxcar (WP61180) as the designation of the storage location for the archive materials.

This car will need some work done on it prior to us being able to use it at archive storage. This will include making sure the roof is fully water tight, resealing the plug doors, adding electrical power and lights along with various mechanical parts so it will be able to be moved on the rails.



Several things that take time, such as scanning of slides and other documents that normally are not done at the museum, are moved into the winter months to get completed. These items are normally in the hands of the archive staff and are worked on while not at the museum. This gives the archive staff more time to work uninterrupted during this sometimes long hard work.

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

One of the museum’s larger collections, the Virgil Staff Collection is being inventoried so that we can start the process of scanning all of the black and white negatives in this collection. This is an on-going project with several hundreds of negatives to be cataloged along with several boxes of 3X5 cards of information.

We have used several other parts of the Virgil Staff collection in publications and films that have been scanned and used at the annual conventions.

Speaking of the Virgil Staff collection, we have a Charter Life member (L0151), Jim Atkins who has been working at CSRM on the Staff collection that was given to them. While at the 2022 WP Historical Convention in Reno, I was discussing various archive issues and the presentation given on the archives with Jim and he volunteered to work in our Archive Department.

Jim is planning on joining the archive staff this September when he visits the museum and the manager of the archives to start to get him orientated with our archive processes and procedures.

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

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