

Historical/Archive Department Report

12/7/2020

While this year has been constrained because of the COVID-19 virus, we have still been able to work on some items for the archives.

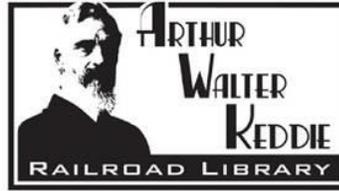
If you have not noticed, the archive team has been posting to the website new materials each month since September. One of the last articles to be posted this December is an article written by the late Virgil Staff, Western Pacific's Western Division 1910-1930. This article comes from our archive collection and I would like to point out the amount of work that took place to bring this to being able to be published.

The original document was a printed document, it was necessary to separate each page for scanning. Once all the pages were ready, the document was scanned and made into an electronic file. Then this file had to be read and compared to the original document and to make any necessary corrections.

However it did not stop there, our webmaster spent several hours changing the document from a very large file into a document that could be made to fit the web pages. Once all that was done, he posted the document into the website with a release date for the 1st of December 2020.

Like several other documents that have been placed on the Historical/Archive pages, a lot of time and effort goes into getting these documents and files set-up and posted on the website for our members and the public to view.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the members that have helped over this trying year to keep our collection ready to be able to answer questions from the members and public, plus several members help with questions when I cannot answer or cannot find the correct information.



I would like to thank our president, Greg Elems for all the help with the archives so far this year. Without his help, I don't know what would have taken place since I have been unable to visit the museum since February 2020.

We continued to get several questions during the last month and we have answered all of those questions. Some of these questions are about the Western Pacific Railroad, the WP Employees and there has been an increase in modeling the WP.

One thing that we hope to expand on is the modeling section of the website with some new and added information. I hope to start this in early 2021 and will have updates posted on the website what's new, so that members can see new materials as they are posted.

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>

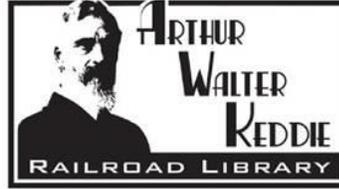
Should there be any questions on donations or the archives, please contact the Archive Department or any of the contacts on our website and someone will get back to you.

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. Some of these people are past members of the FRRS/WPRM and without their help also, it would be difficult to answer some of the questions.

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 2020. 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

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

Kerry Cochran
Director, General Superintendent, Historical-Archive Manager