



Pacific Currents

A Regional Newsletter

National Archives and Records Administration
(Laguna Niguel, Riverside and San Bruno, California)

March 2005

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BUILDING ARCHIVES EDITION

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Riverside Federal Records Center Dedication March 29

NARA's new Riverside facility officially opens on Tuesday, March 29, 2005, with a brief ceremony at 11:00 a.m. followed by refreshments and tours until 1:00 p.m. The Blue Eagles Honor Guard from March Air Reserve Base will present the colors.

Federal agencies' staff, local government representatives, and Congressional staff will join NARA management and staff in launching this new Federal operation in Riverside County.

The project, developed by Aardex Corporation, is a leased facility with



184,000 sq. ft. of floor space on a 11.5 acre site. In addition to storing up to 849,000 cubic feet of records, the records center will provide reference and special project services to Federal agencies and public access to court records.

The new Records Center provides modern offices and a fitness room for staff. Other features include a

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BUILDING AN ARCHIVES - 70 YEARS AGO

by Rodney A. Ross



The construction of the National Archives Building, June 1934.

The creation of the National Archives of the United States seventy years ago was almost a classic example of "hurry up and wait."

Since the early nineteenth century, those concerned about the history of our nation had called for a central archives to preserve federal records. Beginning in 1908, J. Franklin Jameson, a prominent historian, directed a campaign that led in 1926

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Interior of new Riverside facility

Riverside Dedication Ceremonies (continued from page 1)

records containment room for damaged or contaminated records, complete with its own self-contained ventilation system; space for electronic records projects; and a public research room for use of Federal court records.

As soon as NARA took occupancy of the facility in December 2004, a vendor began moving 720,000 cubic feet of records from Laguna Niguel into the new space--a move expected to take 12 months. At the same time Laguna Niguel staff began relocating to Riverside in addition to recruiting from the local area.

During the present fiscal year, the new center will hold only Federal records

center records (records still in the legal custody of Federal agencies). Archival records will remain in Laguna Niguel.

NARA's Pacific Region invites the Federal community to attend our dedication ceremony and tour our new state-of-the-art records center. Please be sure to RSVP by March 22, 2005, to Bruce MacVicar at bruce.macvicar@nara.gov.

Building An Archives

(continued from page 1)

to funding for the construction of the National Archives Building.

By the time legislation creating the agency was introduced on Capitol Hill in spring 1934, the building, located along the National Mall midway between the Capitol and the White House, was well under way.

On February 20, 1933, outgoing President Herbert Hoover had laid the cornerstone for the building, on the northeast corner, just two weeks before he yielded the presidency to Franklin D. Roosevelt.

But Roosevelt, faced with the need for measures to begin pulling the nation out of the Great Depression, didn't put a high priority on legislation creating the agency that would use the building. This isn't to say FDR, who later in his administration would be actively involved in matters archival, especially in relation to his own presidential library, was uninterested. Early in June 1934 FDR had told Senator Alben Barkley of his desire for action on the National Archives bill.

NARA Dedicates New Atlanta Federal Records Center that Compliments New Regional Archives Facility

Last month, NARA dedicated a new 350,000-square-foot records center south of Atlanta, in Ellenwood, GA. The new center can accommodate about 1.75 million cubic feet of records, 75 NARA staff, and 100 visitors and researchers. It is also home to the NARA Southeast Region's record management program and will complement the region's new Regional Archives facility located in Morrow, GA.



Federal Records Center, Ellenwood, GA, January, 2005

(Continued on page 4)

NASA Records in Laguna Niguel Provide Inside View of Southern California Aerospace History

Newly acquired NASA records reveal a remarkable era in aerospace engineering, when fantastic imagination met technological possibilities. The researcher follows the progress of the Cold War, U.S. space exploration, and gains an insider's view of the early development of commercial aviation.

In 1939, NASA's predecessor, the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics (NACA) established an Office of the Coordinator of Research to monitor the progress of aeronautical research, by working with industry, government agencies, and the scientific community. Units were established in Washington, D.C. and in California.

In 1940, Edwin P. Hartman, a Senior Aeronautical Engineer, was sent to lead the California office, known as the Western Coordination Office. Over the next 20 years, Hartman fulfilled the mission of his office by compiling information on aerospace industry players like Boeing, North American

Aviation, McDonnell, Douglas, Martin, Aerojet and Hughes Aircraft. He visited with scientists and engineers at the California Institute of Technology, the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of Washington and Stanford. And he listened to the research concerns of the United States Air Force, Navy, and Army.

While the original function of these records was to inform administrators about development in aeronautics, sixty years later, the records provide a snapshot of a newly developing industry full of brilliant minds, futuristic plans, and burgeoning companies destined to be giants of the military-industrial complex. Hartman was praised from within NACA for providing detailed background information regarding the facilities that he visited. His facility reports were valuable, but he also provided valuable insights into the background of the companies and their representatives.

(continued on page 6)

"...sixty years later, the records provide a snapshot of a newly developing industry full of brilliant minds, futuristic plans, and burgeoning companies..."

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Photo Courtesy National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Photo Library.
Found in: *Weatherwise*, Volume I, no. 3, June 1948. P. 52.

“The Archivist could inspect materials wherever they might be housed and arrange for their transfer to the National Archives...”

Building An Archives - 70 Years Ago (continued from page 2)

Later that month FDR was pleased to sign into law "An Act to establish a National Archives of the United States Government, and for other purposes." However, even after legislation for an agency had been enacted, FDR waited more than three months before he named as a recess appointment the North Carolina history professor R.D.W. Connor to be the first Archivist of the United States.

The impetus for the June 1934 legislation came from Congress, with Senator Kenneth McKellar and Representative Sol Bloom championing rival bills, S. 3681 and H.R. 8910. Ultimately it was H.R. 8910 that served as the basis for the measure approved by FDR.

In April 1934, when the chair of the House Committee on the Library had submitted a report to the full House advocating passage of H.R. 8910, the report had noted:

“The great National Archives Building on Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues is nearing completion. The interior arrangement of shelf space, equipment,

etc., providing for the custody of Government documents, is ready for consideration. Legislation governing the future administration of the national archives and the appointment of an archivist to cooperate with the architects is therefore much to be desired at the present time.”

The Senate's own report of March 28, 1934, had added a sense of urgency by stating "it is necessary that this bill be passed at the earliest possible moment."

The bill created the Office of Archivist of the United States, with presidential appointment and Senate confirmation. The salary of the Archivist was to be ten thousand dollars per annum. Persons to staff the "National Archives Establishment" could be appointed by the Archivist "solely with reference to their fitness for their particular duties and without regard to civil-service law," with the provision that employees making five thousand dollars or more be appointed by the President with approval by the Senate.

"All archives or records" of the U.S. Government, legislative, executive, or judicial "and other" were to be under the charge of the Archivist. The Archivist could inspect materials wherever they might be housed and arrange for their transfer to the National Archives, subject to regulations decreed by the National Archives Council. The council was to be composed of the secretaries of the executive departments, the chairmen of the House and Senate library committees, the Librarian of Congress, the Secretary of the Smithsonian, and the Archivist. (When the National Archives became part of the General Services Administration fifteen years later, the council was abolished.)



Detail of page 1 of the National Archives Act of 1934. (General Records of the United States Government, RG 11)

(continued on page 5)

Building an Archives (continued from page 4)

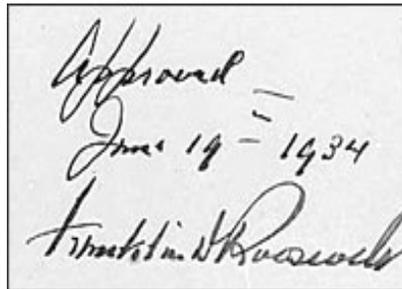
The same legislation created a National Historical Publications Commission, gave the National Archives authority to accept motion-picture films and sound recordings illustrative of historical activities of the United States, declared that the National Archives should have an official seal, stated that the Archivist was to make annual reports to Congress and submit lists of records deemed worthy of destruction, and repealed any records-related existing laws inconsistent with the act's provisions.

On the final day of the Seventy-third Congress, the legislature sent to the White House for the President's signature the "enrolled" bill copy, signed by both Speaker of the House Henry T. Rainey and Vice President John N. Garner, in his capacity as president of the Senate.

Upon receiving the legislation, the White House referred it to the director of the Bureau of the Budget for his

concurrence. On June 19, 1934, Director Lewis W. Douglas recommended that the measure be approved.

Consequently, that very day in black ink on the third page of the enrolled bill, the President wrote:



Approved -
June 19 - 1934
Franklin D. Roosevelt

"...Roosevelt, faced with the need for measures to begin pulling the nation out of the Great Depression, didn't put a high priority on legislation creating the agency..."

Reprinted from *Prologue*, a Quarterly Publication of the National Archives and Records Administration, Summer, 2004, .

What's New in the Past? Find out in Prologue! For 35 years, Prologue has been bringing readers stories of the rich resources and programs of the National Archives and Records Administration from our facilities across the nation.

The author, **Rodney A. Ross**, joined the National Archives in 1977 and since 1988 has been an archivist with the Center for Legislative Archives. His article "The National Archives: The Formative Years, 1934-1949," appeared in *Guardian of Heritage: Essays on the History of the National Archives* (1985).



The cornerstone for the National Archives Building was laid in a ceremony in 1933. (121-BA-3977-1)

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Unveils Exhibit Celebrating Courthouse Centennial

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit recently unveiled a historical exhibit in San Francisco, featuring court records from the NARA Regional Archives in San Bruno. The exhibit celebrates the court's 100th year in the classic beaux-arts courthouse at Seventh and Mission Streets. It traces the court's role in development of the West over the past century.

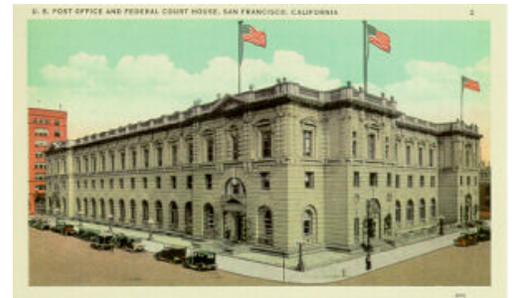
The exhibit is open during the Court's regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. It will remain in San Francisco through the summer, and then become a traveling exhibit on display in other courts of the Ninth Circuit.

Each station in the 10-station exhibit features text and pictures that summarize a decade of history and highlight an important

case heard by the court during that period. The case panels display a photograph of the author of the opinion and brief biographical information. The exhibit also provides a timeline that highlights historical and cultural milestones.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is the largest appeals court in the United States, covering all the states west of the Rockies except Utah, as well as Hawaii and the Pacific Trust Territories. The Ninth Circuit Court accounts for one fifth of the entire appellate cases heard by U.S. courts. All of the case papers of the court are archived in San Bruno when they are no longer needed for current business.

The Court and the NARA Regional Archives have been working together to preserve and make accessible the Court's records, including access to case indexes and the recent creation of a list of the Court's 150 most important cases through the 1970s.



1905 postcard, "United States Court of Appeals Building for the Ninth Circuit," General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service, Washington, DC, page viii.

California Aerospace History (continued from page 3)

Hartman's reports contain detailed discussions about the development of new aeronautical wonders such as flying cars, helicopters and flying boats. He visited Hughes Aircraft Company while work was being done on the H-4 flying boat, commonly called the "Spruce Goose." Hartman witnessed the 1947 flight of the ship and his reporting gives life to the atmosphere surrounding the tests as well as the technical aspects of the flight. He wrote, "The H-4, lightly loaded of course, picked up speed rapidly, was up on the step in a couple of thousand feet, and, just before it reached our boat, lifted clear of the water...Some of the men present, including some of the Hughes staff, were surprised that Mr. Hughes had decided to take the ship off; but others were not."

Hartman reported on military contracts, a series of formerly "Secret and Confidential" reports containing descriptions of the Cold War Era concerns and military plans to deal with those concerns. Following a briefing on the lunar observatory, SR-183, in January 1959, Hartman reported that, according to the United States Air Force, "The moon is considered a favorable vantage point from which to observe enemy actions in space, also, because of its low gravity, the moon is believed (by some people) to be a good platform for launching defensive vehicles."

Hartman's work, conducted from 1940 to 1959, presents a balance of technical detail and narrative background in a unique series of historical documents.

"The moon is considered a favorable vantage point from which to observe enemy actions in space..."

Records Management Training Schedule Update

Records Management Fundamentals

Knowledge Area 1

March 22, 2005, Riverside, CA
March 23, 2005, Riverside, CA
April 26, 2005, Sacramento, CA
June 14, 2005, Reno, NV
July 12, 2005, San Diego, CA
August 2, 2005 Eureka, CA

Records Scheduling

Knowledge Area 3

May 3-4, 2005, Las Vegas, NV
June 1-2, 2005, Riverside, CA

Asset and Risk Management

Knowledge Area 5

June 8-9, 2005, Phoenix, AZ
July 26-27, 2005, Riverside, CA
August 23-24, 2005, San Bruno, CA

Records Transfer and Reference (Free Session, 8:30 am-12:00 pm)

March 10, 2005, San Bruno, CA
May 19, 2005, San Bruno, CA
July 28, 2005, San Bruno, CA
September 8, 2005, San Bruno, CA

Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information

Knowledge Area 2

March 24-25, 2005, Riverside, CA
April 11-12, 2005, Riverside, CA
April 27-28, 2005, Sacramento, CA
June 15-16, 2005, Reno, NV
July 13-14, 2005, San Diego, CA
August 3-4, 2005, Eureka, CA

Records Schedule Implementation

Knowledge Area 4

April 5-6, 2005, San Bruno, CA
April 14-15, 2005, Phoenix, AZ
April 19-20, 2005, Las Vegas, NV
July 6-7, 2005, Riverside, CA
July 19-20, 2005, Riverside, CA
August 2-3, 2005, San Diego, CA

Records Management Program Development

Knowledge Area 6

April 7, 2005, San Bruno, CA
April 21, 2005, Las Vegas, NV
June 10, 2005, Phoenix, AZ
July 21, 2005, Riverside, CA
July 28, 2005, Riverside, CA
August 4, 2005, San Diego, CA

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Re-Scheduled Due to Popular Demand:

Disaster Preparedness and Response

May 5-6, 2005, Boulder City, NV

To register, or for more information on Records Management Workshops, please contact:

Laguna.Workshops@nara.gov (for workshops in Boulder City, Laguna Niguel, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Riverside, and San Diego)

SanBruno.Workshops@nara.gov (for workshops in Eureka, Reno, Sacramento, and San Bruno)

You are cordially invited...

NARA's Pacific Region invites members of the Federal community to attend the Dedication Ceremony and Reception at our new state-of-the-art records center in Riverside, CA on March 29th, 2005 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please be sure to RSVP by March 22, 2005, to Bruce MacVicar at bruce.macvicar@nara.gov.

Directions from San Diego:

CA-163 North toward Escondido
Merge into I-15 North
Take I-215 North toward Riverside/San Bernardino
Exit Romona Expressway toward Cajalco Expressway
Turn left onto Romona Expressway
Romona Expressway becomes Cajalco Expressway
Left on Harvill Avenue
Right on Cajalco Road to end of street

Directions from Los Angeles:

Take US-101 South to CA 60
Take CA 60 East toward Pomona
Take I-215 South toward San Diego
Exit Cajalco Expressway toward Romona Expressway
Right onto Cajalco Expressway
Left on Harvill Avenue
Right on Cajalco Road to end of street.

National Archives and Records Administration
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