Regional archives creates name index for World War II anti-discrimination records

The Second World War witnessed significant social change in the United States, with the movement of women and minorities into vastly expanded war industries. Munitions and aircraft factories, shipyards, transport, and many other industries employed millions of workers, many representing groups previously excluded from such employment.

But change did not come easily. Women and minorities encountered a wall of discrimination, especially in the period just before the war. As a result, civil rights leaders threatened to lead a massive March on Washington to protest racial discrimination.

A. Philip Randolph, a prominent civil rights and labor union leader who headed this effort, called off the march when President Franklin Roosevelt promised to issue an Executive Order banning discrimination in war industry. The Executive Order, issued in June 1941, created the Committee on Fair Employment Practice, commonly known as the "FEPC." This agency would investigate and rectify discrimination claims of thousands of workers during the War.

The permanent records of these cases are in the holdings of the National Archives. The case records of the

President Roosevelt in 1942   A. Philip Randolph in 1942

FEPC's San Francisco Regional Office, covering California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, are in the Regional Archives in San Bruno.

Until recently, these records were indexed only by the name of the entity that was the subject of an investigation – in other words, the company, agency, or union that was accused of discrimination. This has made it difficult for people looking for records concerning individuals, possibly family members, who might have made discrimination complaints during the War.

Now, thanks to the efforts of Archives volunteers, a new index has been compiled in spreadsheet format, allowing searches not only by companies or other institutions, but by the names of individuals charging these entities with discrimination.

Archives.gov has "new look" plus Online Public Access prototype

The National Archives has launched a redesigned Archives.gov web site with an Online Public Access prototype. The web site makeover is part of our flagship Open Government Initiative to develop online services to meet the 21st century needs of the public.

It features a new home page design; streamlined access to historical documents and military service records; topically organized sections focused on the needs of both casual browsers and professional researchers; and easy links to NARA social media sites, including Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and YouTube.

Both the public and NARA staff participated in the redesign process, which included a multi-faceted participatory approach, including online card sorts, voting on home page designs, and usability testing.

FEPC records have new index

Continued from Page 1

People interested in researching FEPC West Coast records should contact the Regional Archives in San Bruno by email at sanbruno.archives@nara.gov or by phone: (650) 238-3501. Find directions, hours, and other information at http://www.archives.gov/pacific/san-francisco/

Women at work at Mare Island Naval Shipyard during World War II - US Navy photo, Records of Mare Island Naval Shipyard, RG 181, National Archives San Francisco.

Daniel Nealand

San Bruno Archives Director retires after 38 year NARA career

After four decades of dedicated service to the National Archives, San Bruno Archives Director Daniel Nealand is headed for a well-deserved retirement. Dan started his long NARA career in 1972 as an archives aid in the newly-constructed San Bruno Federal Archives and Records Center (as it was then called), part of the National Archives and Records Service of the U.S. General Services Administration. ("NARS," as it was then called, was renamed the National Archives and Records Administration when it became independent of GSA in 1985.)

In 1982, Dan transferred to the National Archives regional office in Denver, then returned to San Bruno in 1989 as assistant director of the regional archives. He was appointed archives director in 1998. Dan was known by all as a tireless worker and outspoken innovator and reformer in our agency. He worked for years to bring archives long held by agencies into the regional archives for preservation and public use.

Among his many achievements were preservation of immigration records documenting the experience of Asian Americans, and his efforts to bring original historical documents to the teaching of history in our schools.

NARA staff, volunteers, and members of the public gathered in December to pay tribute to Dan.

These included a representative of Congresswoman Jackie Speier, and leaders from the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, the Chinese Culture Center's *In Search of Roots* program, the National Japanese American Historical Society, the Asian American Studies Department at San Francisco State University, the Chinese Historical Society of America, and the *Save Our National Archives* consortium. All spoke of Dan's enthusiasm for serving researchers and his readiness to form partnerships promoting NARA records. Educators from Alameda, San Francisco, and Sacramento counties also applauded Dan's collaboration through the *Teaching American History* grant program.

Dan's colleagues from across the agency also called in via a conference call to give their best wishes, representing NARA regional facilities in Riverside, California; Anchorage, Alaska;

NARA's "new look" web site

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The Online Public Access prototype at http://www.archives.gov/research/search is another key component in NARA's Open Government plan. It is also a key component of our agency's Transformation Plan, to be customer-focused and ensuring our nation's heritage is accessible to all.

The Online Public Access prototype is the public portal that provides access to digitized records, and information about our records. It also provides a centralized means of searching multiple National Archives resources at once.

Currently, researchers perform separate searches in the Archival Research Catalog (ARC) for catalog descriptions, histories, and biographies; Access to Archival Databases (AAD) for electronic records; and Archives.gov. The new interface illustrates a streamlined search experience for users,

searching across all of these resources.

The prototype currently contains all of the data from ARC, and seven series from AAD, containing 10.9 million permanent electronic records. Additionally, the prototype provides access to one million electronic records currently in the Electronic Records Archives, which are not available elsewhere online.

The National Archives will add additional functionality in the coming year, including an image-zooming feature that will enable users to zoom and pan our online holdings, and social sharing through Facebook, Twitter, and other sites.

The National Archives is asking the public for feedback to ensure a user-friendly search and display. Please send your comments and feedback to search@nara.gov.

Dan Nealand retires

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Philadelphia, PA; Atlanta, GA; Fort Worth, TX; and Denver, CO. Richard Boyden, the region's records management program director, praised Dan's integrity and persistence as an archivist, recalling many joint projects and visits to federal agencies over the years.

Dan plans to pursue his career as a jazz/scat musician after his retirement from NARA.

Records Transfer, Reference and Digital Capture Workshop

Tuesday, February 15, 2011
Tuesday, March 15, 2011

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Riverside Federal Records Center
Perris, CA

There is no cost for this training

To register, contact Susie Bielawski at (951) 956-2060 or email susie.bielawski@nara.gov.

So what else is new? "Inside the Vaults" is NARA's new online video series

Ever wonder what it's like inside the secure stack areas in National Archives facilities, to shadow one of our staff members as they go about their daily tasks, or to hear about special projects and records that we are working on? You can find out by viewing the new "Inside the Vaults" videos online.

U.S. Archivist David Ferriero discusses "Citizen Archivists" in online video

This series covers a host of topics including highlights from the National Archives in the Washington, DC, area and from the Presidential libraries and regional archives nationwide. Created by a former broadcast network news producer, these shorts present "behind the scenes" exclusives and offer surprising glimpses of the National Archives treasures.

The latest in the series, "The Bill of Rights," describes the history of the document in the context of a long-term project to publish the

Records Management Training, January–September, 2011

To register go to archives.gov/records-mgmt/training/
or email our training registrar at laguna.workshops@nara.gov

Basic Records Operations
January 12, 2011, Sacramento
May 17, 2011, Riverside
June 8, 2011, Fresno
July 14, 2011, Reno
August 10, 2011, San Francisco

Records Scheduling
(Knowledge Area 3)
February 10-11, 2011, Las Vegas
August 4-5, 2011, San Diego

Records Schedule Implementation
(Knowledge Area 5)
March 9-10, 2011, Las Vegas
Aug 31–Sept 1, 2011, San Diego

Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information *(Knowledge Area 2)*
February 8-9, 2011, Las Vegas
August 2-3, 2011, San Diego

Asset and Risk Management
(Knowledge Area 4)
March 7-8, 2011, Las Vegas
August 29-30, 2011, San Diego

Records Management Program Development *(Knowledge Area 6)*
March 11, 2011, Las Vegas
September 2, 2011, San Diego

Emergency Planning and Response for Vital Records and Essential Information
January 26-27, 2011, Ventura, CA;   February 23-24, 2011, Sacramento;   May 18-19, 2011, Riverside

For more information on our workshops, go to https://nara.learn.com/learncenter

Recent research in San Bruno and Riverside archives

Public researchers use regional archives records created by hundreds of Federal agencies, courts, and military commands since 1850. A small sampling of research carried out in the Archives at Riverside and San Bruno, California, during the last three months of 2010, reveals the variety of subjects our collections support.

The California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento used our records to determine the location of Central Pacific Railroad land ownership. National Park Service records from the 1930s were used to research methods of preserving adobe structures.

Research by and about Native Americans is carried out every week at our two research facilities; researchers recently used records of nine different tribes and Rancherias.

An environmental lawyer researched the history of the Long Beach Army Airfield and the Long Beach Municipal Airport, looking for information about whether chemicals were stored or disposed of there during and after WWII. Another research project used the World War II-era battle damage reports and photographs from the naval shipyards at Mare Island and Pearl Harbor. Our documents related to the histories of the U.S. military bases on Guam were used to prepare the planned Marine Corps move from Okinawa to Guam.

A number of researchers used records from the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, including records relating

"Inside the Vaults" online videos

papers of the first Federal Congress. The other nine videos in the series include topics such as American Veterans, with an inside tour of the National Military Personnel Records Center; and the Nuremberg Laws, the infamous Nazi document captured by U.S. forces after World War II and recently restored to the National Archives by a private library in California.

Other topics include the Declaration of Independence, the Civil War, and "Citizen Archivists," NARA's effort to enlist independent researchers in identifying hidden treasures in National Archives records. Visit "Inside the Vaults" at http://www.youtube.com/USNationalArchives#p/c/5F66D151A2D578AA or Google "inside the vaults."

FRC Digital Capture Program

The Riverside FRC's Digital Imaging Staff produces digital copies of temporary records to make customer agency operations more efficient. For more information, contact:

Susie Bielawski (951) 956-2060 susie.bielawski@nara.gov or

Michael Wharrie at (951) 956-2034, michael.wharrie@nara.gov

Recent research in regional archives

to Japanese-Americans in Hawaii, and records about Sun Yat-Sen (the founder of the Republic of China) for an upcoming exhibit in Taiwan on the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Revolution.

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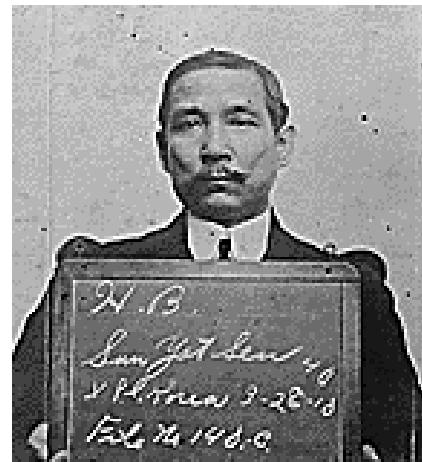
Sun Yat-Sen's immigration photo. RG 85, National Archives San Francisco

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