

October 2006

A MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Message in a Bottle

A. Richard Sadon's Tragic Last Words

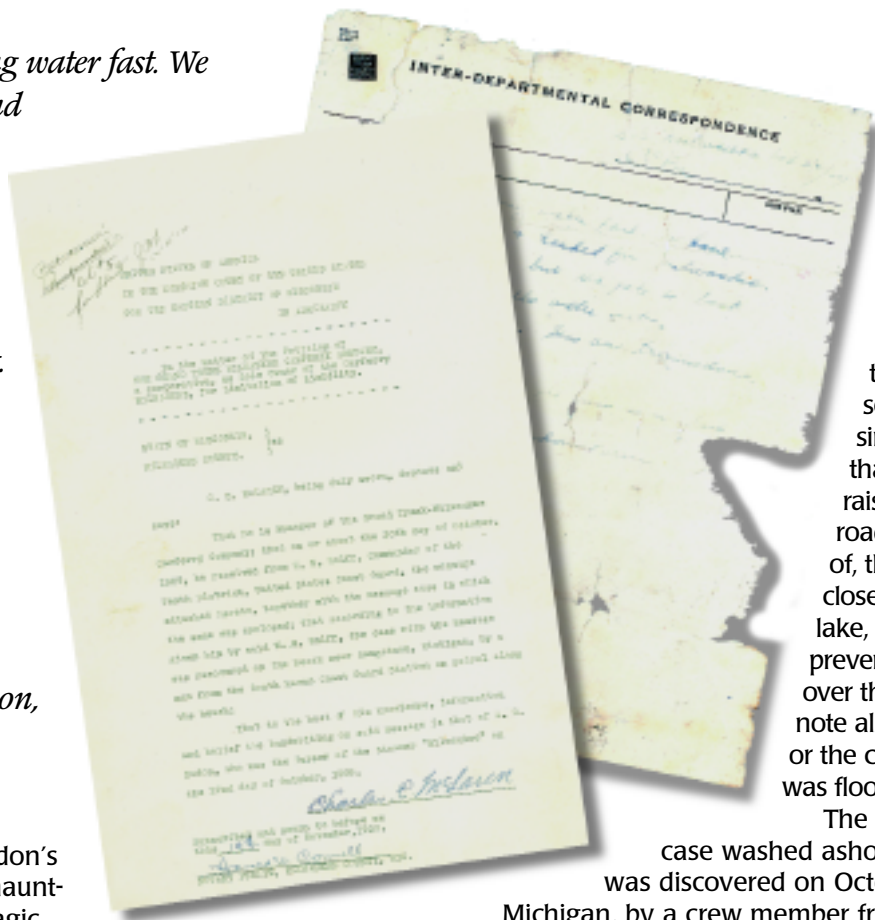
"The ship is making water fast. We have turned around and headed for Milwaukee.

Pumps are working but sea gate is bent in and can't keep the water out. Flicker is flooded. Seas are tremendous. Things look bad. Crew roll is about the same as last payday."

*[Signed] A.R. Sadon,
Purser*

Purser A. Richard Sadon's final written words hauntingly describe the tragic end to the Lake Michigan railroad car ferry *Milwaukee*. On the night of October 22, 1929, shortly after the 350-foot car ferry *Milwaukee* departed its namesake city with a load of railroad cars bound for Grand Haven on Michigan's western shoreline, the ship sank in a storm. Captain Robert Heavy Weather McKay, Sadon, and the crew of approximately 46, all died either from drowning or exposure in the frigid waters.

Captain McKay, Sadon, and the *Milwaukee's* crew routinely crossed Lake Michigan's treacherous waters. Car ferries daily hauled loaded railroad cars back and forth across the lake to avoid the long roundabout rail trip along its southern shoreline. This night, however, turned disastrous as a series of events, alluded to in Sadon's handwritten note, spelled catastrophe for the ship and its crew.



Sadon, the *Milwaukee's* 38-year-old purser, placed the note in a water-tight message case shortly before the ship plunged beneath the heavy waves. The message said that the *Milwaukee* was taking on water at an alarming rate through the vessel's bent sea gate. The sea gate was a single gate on the ship's stern that while in port, could be raised or lowered to allow railroad cars to roll onto, and off of, the ferry. The gate was closed during runs across the lake, and while not water tight, prevented waves from breaking over the ship's car deck. Sadon's note also mentions that the flicker, or the crew quarters below deck, was flooded.

The damaged and battered case washed ashore several days later and was discovered on October 27, near Saugatuck, Michigan, by a crew member from a nearby U. S. Coast Guard Station. The tragic note subsequently became an exhibit in an admiralty court case heard in the U. S. District Court in Milwaukee regarding liability for the ship's loss. The records, from Record Group 21, Records of District Courts of the United States, are available for review at the National Archives and Records Administration-Great Lakes Region, Chicago.

A. Handwritten note, October 22, 1929, Exhibit, Admiralty Case 2787, Eastern Division of Wisconsin, U.S. District Court, Milwaukee, RG 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration-Great Lakes Region, Chicago.

B. Affidavit of Charles E. McLaren, Manager of the Grand Trunk-Milwaukee Carferry Company, November 19, 1930, Admiralty Case 2787, Eastern District of Wisconsin, U.S. District Court, Milwaukee, RG 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration-Great Lakes Region, Chicago.

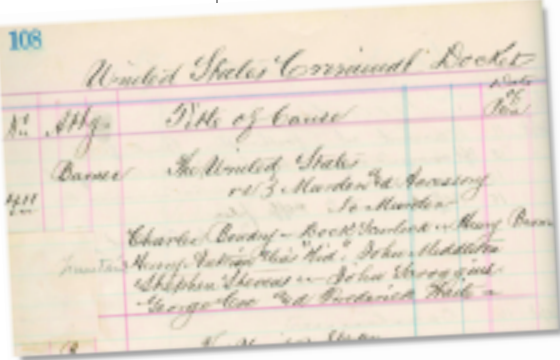
NARA West Coast October 2006

Discharged from the U.S. Navy Seebees just three weeks earlier, Joseph Hickey drives his newly purchased 2-ton cargo truck away from a surplus property sale held in February 1946.



RG 270, NARA's Pacific Alaska Region (Seattle)

**Exhibits:
Pacific Alaska
Region
Seattle, WA
Picturing the
Century**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	2	3	4 Juneau, AK Museums Alaska/Alaska Historical Society Conference Information Booth Archival and Allied Professionals 907-261-7800	5 Boise, ID ID History Educators Conference Conference/K-12 Teachers 206-336-5115 Denver, CO Hispanic Genealogy Using NARA Holdings Workshop/Genealogists 303-407-5749 Seattle, WA Scandinavians in the Pacific Northwest Workshop/General Public 206-336-5115	6 Juneau, AK Museums Alaska/Alaska Historical Society Conference Lecture/Archival and Allied Professionals 907-261-7800
8 	9 Columbus Day All NARA Facilities Closed	10	11 Seattle, WA Archives Fair Information Booth Graduate Students 206-336-5115	12 Oakland, CA American Studies Association Annual conference Information Booth Academics 650-238-3478 Seattle, WA Brick Wall Discussion Workshop Genealogists 206-336-5115 Seattle, WA Pandemic Flu Seminar Information Booth /Federal Agencies 206-336-5115	13 San Rafael, CA Annual California Indian conference Information Booth General Public 650-238-3478
22	23	24	25 Chico, CA California State University History Club Lecture/General Public 650-238-3478	26 San Jose, CA California Council for the Promotion of History Information Booth General Public 650-238-3478	14 Denver, CO Arvada Family History Fair Information Booth/General Public 303-407-5740 Laguna Niguel, CA An Ounce of Prevention Lecture/Archival and Allied Professionals 949-360-3426 Seattle, WA Using Federal Land Records Workshop/General Public/206-336-5115 Seattle, WA Using the Census for Family and Community History Workshop/General Public/206-336-5115
29	30 Boulder, CO. Oral History Interviewing/Genealogical Research Using Census Records/Non-Census Research at NARA's Rocky Mountain Region Workshops General Public 303-407-5749	31 Denver, CO. Immigration and Passenger Lists at NARA Workshops General Public 303-407-5749	28 Lancaster, CA Lesser-Known Resources for Genealogical Research Lecture/General Public 949-360-2641 Boulder, CO. History Day Teachers Workshop Symposium/K-12 Teachers 303-407-5740	21 Seattle, WA Hidden Treasures of the National Archives Workshop/General Public 206-336-5115 Seattle, WA Picturing the Century Teacher Workshop Workshop/K-12 Teachers 206 336-5115	

NARA's Pacific Region

Laguna Niguel 949-360-2641
laguna.archives@nara.gov

San Bruno 650-238-3501
sanbruno.archives@nara.gov

NARA's Rocky Mountain Region

Denver 303-407-5740
denver.archives@nara.gov

NARA's Pacific Alaska Region

Seattle 206-336-5115
seattle.archives@nara.gov

Anchorage 907-261-7800
alaska.archives@nara.gov

NARA East Coast October 2006

Exhibits:
Mid-Atlantic Region
Philadelphia, PA
Education in Black & White
Around the World With
the USS Olympia



Classroom, c. 1951

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1	2	3 Pittsfield, MA Beginning Your Research at NARA Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600 Waltham, MA Local History in Federal Records Lecture/Genealogists 866-406-2379	4	5 Morrow, GA Barnes & Noble Teacher Appreciation Day Information Booth K-12 Teachers 770-968-2555 Waltham, MA Census, Naturalization, & Passenger Lists Lecture/Teachers 866-406-2379	6 New York NY Federal Hall Rededication Preview Information Booth General Public 215-606-0112 Philadelphia, PA First Friday Genealogy Open House 215-606-0112	7 New York NY Federal Hall Rededication Preview Information Booth General Public 215-606-0112 Scranton, PA Family History Conference Workshop/Genealogists 215-606-0112	
8 Archives Week 10/8-10/15 New York NY Federal Hall Rededication Preview Information Booth General Public 215-606-0112	9 New York NY Federal Hall Rededication Preview Information Booth General Public 215-606-0112 Columbus Day All NARA Facilities Closed	10 Pittsfield, MA Using Federal Census Records Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600 New York City, NY Libraries and Local Government Records Lecture General Public 866-840-1752	11 Philadelphia, PA Introduction to the National Archives Workshop Genealogists 215-606-0112	12 New York City, NY Immigrant Research Day! Hands on genealogical assistance Workshop General Public 866-840-1752	13 Morrow, GA Georgia Genealogical Society Conference/Genealogists 770-968-2555		
15	16	17 Pittsfield, MA Using Federal Military Records Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600	18 Philadelphia, PA Exploring the Census Workshop Genealogists 215-606-0112	19 Morrow, GA Georgia Council for the Social Studies Conference/K-12 Teachers 770-968-2555 Ellis Island, NY Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestor Lecture/General Public 866-840-1752	20	21 Saratoga, NY Heritage Hunters Annual Meeting Conference Genealogists 413-236-3604	
22	23 Pittsfield, MA Guest Lecturer: Steve Morse Lecture Genealogists 413-236-3604	24 Pittsfield, MA Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor at NARA Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600 New York City, NY Introduction to Archival Research Workshop/K-12 Teachers 866-840-1752	25 Murfreesboro, TN Tennessee Council for History Education Lecture K-12 Teachers 770-968-2555	26 Cobscook Library, CT Introduction to NARA's Immigration Resources Lecture Genealogists 866-840-1752	27	28	
29	30	31	Exhibits: New York, NY <i>From NARA's Holdings: New York Photographs</i> Morrow, GA <i>Firsthand History: A Preview</i>			 TVA Photograph Citation: RG 142, NARA's Southeast Region.	

NARA's Northeast Region
Pittsfield 413-236-3600
 pittsfield.archives@nara.gov

Boston 866-406-2379
 waltham.archives@nara.gov
New York 866-840-1752
 newyork.archives@nara.gov

NARA's Mid-Atlantic Region
Philadelphia 215-606-0100
 philadelphia.archives@nara.gov

NARA's Southeast Region
Morrow 770-968-2100
 atlanta.archives@nara.gov

NARA Midwest October 2006

Publicizing Vietnam War Protests, 1966
Citation: RG 21, NARA's Central Plains Region

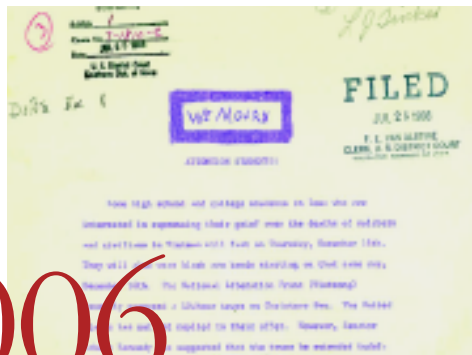
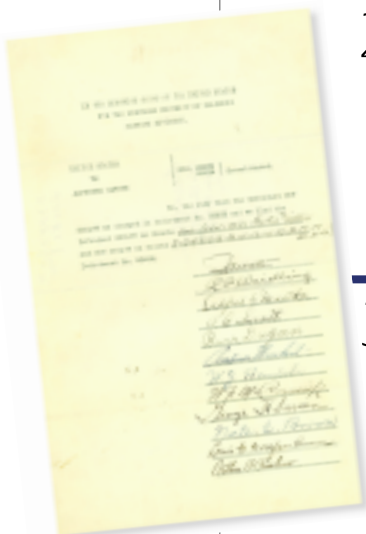


Exhibit
Great Lakes Region
Chicago, IL
A National Resource in a Local Setting

Jefferson Barracks, MO
Battle of the Bulge
(runs through October 29)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Fort Worth, TX Regional In-Depth Genealogical Studies Alliance Workshop Genealogists	Kansas City, MO Internet and the Genealogist Lecture Genealogists 816-268-8072			Chicago, IL Chicago Area Medical Archivists Annual Symposium Symposium Archival and Allied 847-825-5586	Itasca, IL Important but Overlooked Sources Lecture Genealogists 217-789-1968
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Columbus Day All NARA Facilities Closed	Lee's Summit, MO Can Your Heirs Follow in Your Footsteps? Lecture Genealogists 816-268-8014	Lee's Summit, MO Can Your Heirs Follow in Your Footsteps? Lecture/Genealogists 816-268-8012 816-268-8016 St. Louis, MO Western History Association Annual Meeting Information Booth/Academicians 505-277-5234		Fort Worth, TX Primary Sources: Historical Points of Reference Conference K-12 Teachers	Independence, MO Naturalization Records Lecture/Genealogists 816-268-8012 Fort Worth, TX Introduction to the Archives Southwest Region Open House and Tour K-12 Teachers
15	16	17		19	20	21
	Wichita, KS Connecting with the National Archives Lecture K-12 Teachers 816-268-8012				Kansas City, MO Indian Tribes In and Through Alabama Lecture General Public 816-268-8014	Thompson, MI Dedication of Christmas Tree Ship Historical Marker Opening/Dedication General Public/ 906-341-6338 High Ridge, MO Family History Fair Information Booth Genealogist 314-801-9132
	23	24	25	26		
		Gladstone, MO Tips for Successful Cemetery Research Lecture Genealogists 816-268-8014	Lee's Summit, MO Genealogical Resources in the Kansas City Area Lecture Genealogists 816-268-8014	Kansas City, MO Visiting NARA in Your Jammies Lecture Genealogists 816-268-8072	Forth Worth, TX Texas State Genealogical Society Conference Information Booth Genealogists 903.885.3523	
	30	31				
	Alphonse Capone Gulity Verdict Citation: RG 21, NARA's Great Lakes Region		Exhibit Chicago, Ill. <i>Surveys of Indian Industry</i>			
			NRDA <i>Christmas Tree Ship</i>			



NARA's Great Lakes Region
Chicago 773-948-9001
chicago.archives@nara.gov

NARA's Central Plains Region
Kansas City 816-268-8000
kansascity.archives@nara.gov

NARA's National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)
Archival Programs Division
St. Louis 314-801-0850

NARA's Southwest Region
Fort Worth 817-831-5620
ftworth.archives@nara.gov