

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN THE REGIONS...

August 2009

A MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Celebrate Advances In Space!

Prior to Buzz, Alan, and Yuri there were several unknowns who paved the way for their venture into space. From April to May 1959, McDonnell engineers customized couches for several Yorkshire pigs to test the impact of landing and to eliminate major consequences. They strapped the swine into their testing equipment and dropped them. The scheduled "pig drops" became quite popular, and numerous McDonnell employees and Space Task Group engineers watched the event. Shockingly enough the pigs withstood the test (with acceleration peaks of 38 to 58 g) with "minor internal injuries." The fact that the pigs walked away significantly encouraged the scientists and engineers since NASA had just selected their Mercury astronauts. More test launches utilized monkeys before NASA was ready to send humans.

Sam, a rhesus monkey, was one of the best-known monkeys of the space program. His name was an acronym for the U.S. Air Force School of Aviation Medicine at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas. He was launched on

December 4, 1959, housed in a cylindrical capsule within the Mercury spacecraft atop a Little Joe rocket in order to test the launch escape system (LES). Approximately one minute into the flight, traveling at a speed of 3,685 mph, the Mercury capsule aborted from the Little Joe launch vehicle. After attaining an altitude of 51 miles, the spacecraft landed safely in the Atlantic Ocean.

Sam was recovered several hours later with no ill effects from his journey. He was later returned to the colony in which he trained, where he died in November 1982 and his remains were cremated.

If the animals that were part of the Space Program survived, both pigs and monkeys eventually ended up enjoying a great life at the National Zoo with lots of celebrity status.

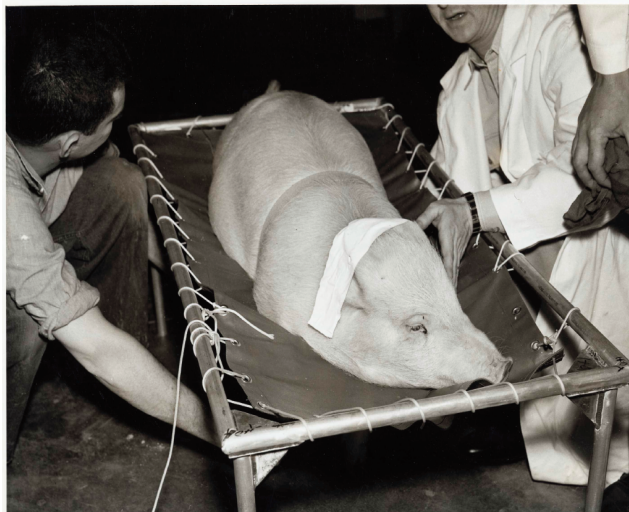
Miss Sam, another rhesus monkey and Sam's mate, was launched on January 21, 1960, for another test of the LES. The Mercury capsule attained a velocity of 1,800 mph and an altitude of 9 miles. After landing in the Atlantic Ocean 10.8 miles downrange from the launch site, Miss Sam was also retrieved in overall good condition. She was also returned to her training colony until her death on an unknown date.

This information came from <http://history.nasa.gov/animals.html>.

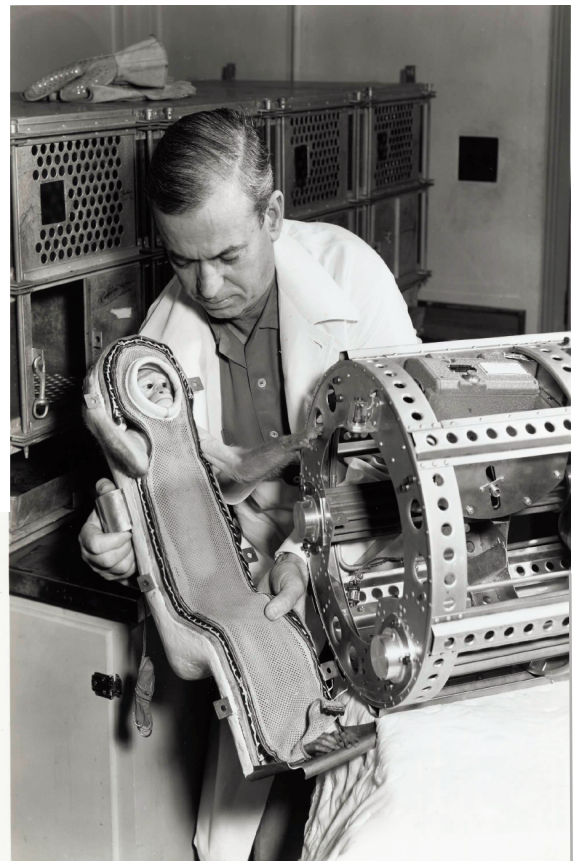
Tara Gray, author, 1998; Steven J. Dick, NASA Chief Historian; and Steve Garber, NASA History Web Curator. Site design by NASA HQ Printing and Design.

These images are located among the Source Files of Project Mercury, Records of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration RG 255, Johnson Space Center (JSC), Entry 70. The records include correspondence, memoranda, TWX's, minutes, reports, drawings, draft and final versions of publications, procedures, press releases, reports on press conferences, photographic prints and slides, and audiotapes. The JSC History Office collected these records for researching and writing the Mercury chronology and history, and they include records from various sources including the Public Affairs Office. These records were formerly deposited with Rice University.

Courtesy of The National Archives at Fort Worth.



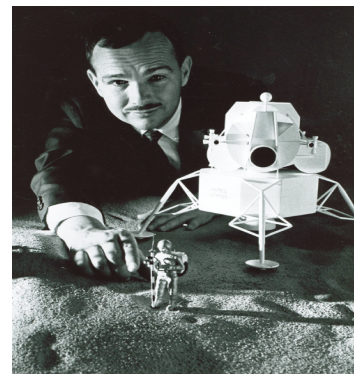
Space Pig Image, RG 255, Source Files of Project Mercury
Johnson Space Center
Courtesy of The National Archives at Fort Worth



Monkey In Space, RG 255
Courtesy of The National Archives at Fort Worth

NARA WestCoast August 2009

Model of the Apollo Lunar Lander
RG 57
Courtesy of the National Archives at
Laguna Niguel



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
	Exhibit: Seattle, WA Picturing the Century in the Pacific Northwest 5/6/08-Ongoing	Exhibit: Anchorage, AK Pribilof Islands Historical Photographs 8/12/09-5/1/10		Exhibit: Seattle, WA Blue vs. Gray: The Civil War in the Pacific NW 9/1/08-Ongoing		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Seattle, WA Teachers Summer Institute "Primarily Teaching" 8/3-7/2009 Symposium K-12 Teachers 206-336-5115				Fresno, CA Early Asian American Immigration History/ Records Lecture/Federal Agencies 650-238-3478	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
				Seattle, WA Brick Wall Discussion Group Workshop Genealogists 206-336-5115	San Bruno, CA Federal Land Records Workshop and Tour/Genealogists 650-238-3478	San Bruno, CA NARA Japanese American Genealogical Records Workshop General Public 415-921-5007
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

The National
Archives at

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

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

Denver
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Seattle
206-336-5115
seattle.archives@nara.gov
Anchorage
907-261-7800
alaska.archives@nara.gov

NARA EastCoast August 2009



Inmate's Postcard
RG 129, Cedartown, GA
Courtesy of the National Archives at Atlanta

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
	Exhibit: Morrow, GA Documented Rights 6/13/09-2/23/10	Exhibit: New York City, NY The National Archives at 75! 6/15-12/30/09			Exhibit: Philadelphia, PA Elusive Freedom 8/1/08-9/30/09	
2 Philadelphia, PA International Association of Jewish Genealogical Society 8/2-7/2009 Conference Genealogists 267-318-7092	3	4 Pittsfield, MA Beginning Your Genealogy at NARA Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600 Waltham, MA Facility Tour, 1 P.M. 781-663-0121 Waltham, MA Saving Your Heritage: Scrapbooking with Marcia Melnyk Lecture, 2 P.M. Genealogists 781-663-0121	5	6	7 Philadelphia, PA First Friday Genealogy Open House General Public 215-606-0112	8
9	10	11 Pittsfield, MA Using Federal Census Records at NARA Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600	12	13	14 Morrow, GA Researching Individual Native Americans Workshop/General Public 770-968-2555	15
16 Stephentown, NY Beginning Your Genealogy at NARA Lecture Genealogists 413-236-3604	17	18 Pittsfield, MA Navigating the Bureaucracy: Using Federal Web sites Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600	19	20 Ellis Island Museum, NY Family History Game Show Other/General Public Genealogists 866-840-1752	21	22 Morrow, GA National History Day Workshop Workshop K-12 Teachers 770-968-2530
23	24	25 Pittsfield, MA Finding Migration Routes in Federal Records Workshop/Genealogists 413-236-3600	26	27	28	29
30	31 Central, MA Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor at the National Archives Lecture/Genealogists 413-236-3604					

The National Archives at

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

Philadelphia
215-606-0100
philadelphia.archives@nara.gov

Morrow
770-968-2100
atlanta.archives@nara.gov

NARA Midwest August 2009

Space Pig Being Prepared For Flight, RG 255
Source Files of Project Mercury
Johnson Space Center
Courtesy of the National Archives
at Fort Worth

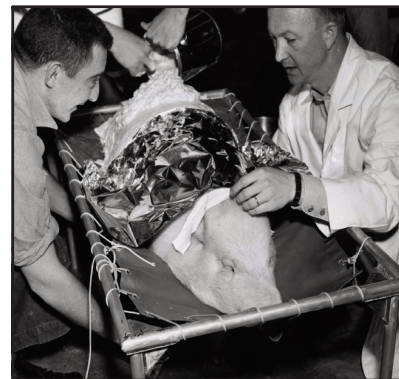


Exhibit:
Excelsior Springs, MO
The Central Plains
Region
8/17-31/09

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Exhibit:
Chicago, IL
Celebrity Draft
Registration Cards
4/1/09-12/31/10

Exhibit:
Kansas City, MO
Kansas-Nebraska Act
5/21/09-1/9/10

Exhibit:
Kansas City, MO
It's Big
5/21/09-1/23/10

Exhibit:
Lee's Summit, MO
Nothing for Something:
Oscar Hartzell and the Sir
Francis Drake Estate
8/1-15/09

Kansas City, MO
Indian Study Group:
Early Indian
Records
Workshop/General
Public
816-268-8000

Waltham, MA
Saving Your Heritage:
Scrapbooking with
Marcia Melnyk
Lecture, 2 PM.
Genealogists
781-663-0121

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Kansas City, MO
From the Big House
to the Big Leagues
Lecture/General
Public
816-268-8000

Chicago, IL
African American
Genealogical Re-
search
Workshop
Genealogists
773-948-9001

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Kansas City, MO
Genealogy
Workshop:
Leavenworth Fed
Penitentiary
Workshop/Genealogists
816-268-8000

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Kansas City, MO
Genealogy
Workshop:
Introduction to
Genealogy
Resources of NARA
Workshop
Genealogists
816-268-8000

Kansas City, MO
"Seeding Civil War":
Kansas in the
National News,
1854-1858
Lecture/General
Public
816-268-8000

Kansas City, MO
From the Curator:
Kansas-Nebraska
Act Exhibit
Tour/General Public
816-268-8000

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Kansas City, MO
Brown Bag
Lunch Series:
Headstone
Applications
Workshop
Genealogists
816-268-8000

28

29

30

31

Kansas City, MO
Indian Study Group:
The Trail of Tears
Workshop/General Public
816-268-8000

The National
Archives at

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chicago.archives@nara.gov

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