

# THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN THE REGIONS...

# July 2008

A MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

## 1928 Campaign to "Oust the Rat"

In 1928 several counties in Arkansas were plagued by a rat infestation. The infestation resulted in heavy losses for area farmers and businesses. The rodents caused great damage to buildings storing grain and ruined entire fields of crops such as corn. In the Extension Service's Annual Narrative and Statistical Report for Mississippi County, Arkansas, it was reported that the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey calculated the cost of destruction per rat at \$1.87 per year. The rising costs urged the County Extension Services to work with local organizations, school boards, and individuals to initiate rat removal campaigns.

In Northern Mississippi County the campaign encouraged the public to "Oust the Rat" by any method including poisoning. The favored poison was barium carbonate mixed with food. However, the poster indicates that red squill should be used around domestic animals and irresponsible people. Red squill is a type of sea onion that produces a red powder used as a rat poison.

The "War on Rats" campaign in Northern Mississippi County extended to include all rodents that were detrimental to the public welfare. A letter from the County Extension Agents to individuals in the community states, "Three mice equal one rat, one mole equals two rats, and one gopher equals three rats." The desire to rid the county of all types of rodents is evidence of the epidemic's severity.

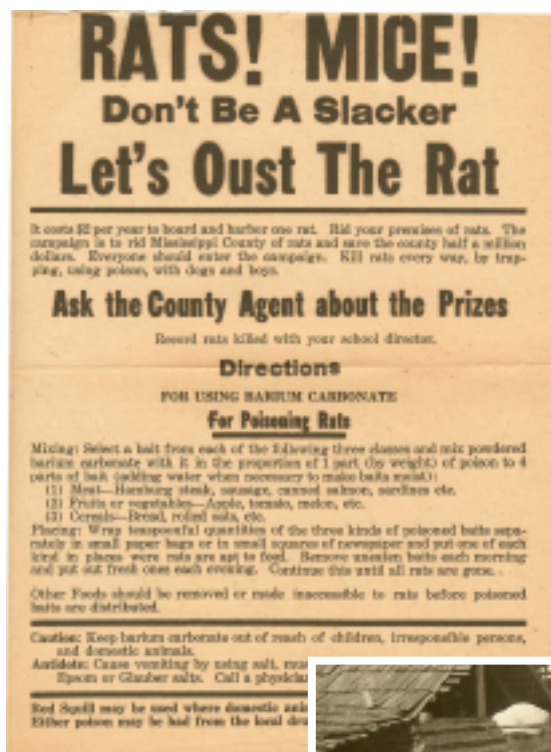
The most successful rat removal campaigns were those that enlisted the help of school children. In Miller County the campaign was launched through the schools and encouraged participation at an individual and school level. The Chamber of Commerce backed the campaign by providing prizes for participants. The first place prizes in each category included: \$50 in books for the schools, a Winchester Repeatin' Rifle worth \$22.50 for the boys, and a \$25 wrist watch for the girls. There were three prizes in the school category and four prizes for the individual

boy and girl categories. The County Extension Agents and Superintendent of schools sent out letters to every teacher explaining the campaign rules. The Miller County school rat removal campaign lasted six weeks, and a total of 50 schools and 649 children participated. The Extension Agent reported that the campaign was a success with an astounding 95,849 rats removed.

In the Southwest Region, the Records of the Extension Service (RG

33) include the Annual Narrative and Statistical Reports for the state of Arkansas between the years of 1911-66. Most of the narrative reports include photographs, maps, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and other publications pertaining to extension activities. The function of the Extension Service is to coordinate extension activities of the Department of Agriculture with those of state agricultural colleges. The service provides counties with both agricultural and home demonstration agents.

**Narrative Report of County Extension Workers**  
North End of Mississippi County, 2/1/27-12/1/28  
Mississippi County North; Annual Narrative & Statistical Reports, 1911-66; Arkansas; Records of the Extension Service, RG 33, NARA-Southwest Region, Fort Worth, Texas



**Narrative Report of County Extension Workers**  
South Half of Mississippi County, 12/1/27-1/1/28  
Mississippi County South Half; Annual Narrative & Statistical Reports 1911-66; Arkansas; Records of the Extension Service, RG 33, NARA-Southwest Region, Fort Worth, Texas

# NARA West Coast July 2008

**The Ogden Arsenal 'Bombshell, August 1944**  
Ogden Arsenal History, Quarterly Period July–Sept 1944  
Orders, Reports, and Memorandums, 1940-50  
Ogden Arsenal; Records of the Office of the Chief of  
Ordnance RG 156; NARA–Rocky Mountain Region,  
Denver



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
<b>Exhibit:</b> <b>Seattle, WA</b> <b>Picturing the Century in the Pacific Northwest</b> <b>5/6/08–Ongoing</b>				Denver, CO <b>Heart Mountain Symposium and Conference</b> General Public 303-407-5749		
6	Colorado Springs, CO <b>Teaching American History Workshop</b> Workshop K–12 Teachers 303-407-5749	7	8	9	10	11
	San Bruno, CA <b>Federal Land Records Workshop/Genealogists</b> 650-238-3485			Seattle, WA <b>Brick Wall Discussion Group</b> Workshop/Genealogists 206-336-5115		12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Denver, CO <b>4-day Primarily Teaching Workshop–Denver Symposium</b> K–12 Teachers 303-407-5749 7/14–7/17/08				San Bruno, CA <b>4-Hour Genealogy Workshop 9:00 AM.</b> Workshop General Public 650-238-3485	Eugene, OR <b>"Ask The Experts" Table</b> Conference General Public 206-336-5115
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		Seattle, WA <b>MOHAI Cultural Resource Fair</b> Information Booth & Exhibit K–12 Teachers 206-336-5115			Seattle, WA <b>Tour of NARA Seattle Facility</b> Tour/General Public 206-336-5115	
					Seattle, WA <b>Methods of Finding &amp; Using NARA Records</b> Workshop/General Public 206-336-5115	
27	28	29	30	31		
				Seattle, WA <b>Immigration and Naturalization</b> Workshop/General Public 206-336-5115		

**NARA's Pacific Region**

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