

## **NET Television's "History Detectives" Investigate Mysterious Window to the Past**

LINCOLN, Neb. (July 30, 2008) -- A window in the door of a farmhouse in Eastern Nebraska could be connected to the Spanish-American War and a turning point in American foreign policy. Sleuths from the PBS television series "History Detectives" visited Fremont, Neb., in April to search for clues connected to the mysterious glass. Their findings will be revealed on "History Detectives" airing Monday, Aug. 11, at 9 p.m. CT on NET1 and NET-HD.

Etching on the 24-inch square glass window depicts a ship cruising through open waters, smoke pouring from its stacks. Homeowner Earl Pedersen believes the ship is the USS Olympia, the cruiser commanded by Commodore George Dewey when he defeated a Spanish squadron in 1898. The battle marked the beginning of the Spanish-American War and catapulted the United States into the role of superpower.

The window came from a farmhouse bought by Pedersen's father in 1943. The original home was torn down, and the door with the window was placed in Pedersen's current house in the 1960s. Visitors always inquired about the history of the window, and in 1977 Pedersen began research to answer their questions and his own. He discovered the etching depicted the USS Olympia which was decommissioned in 1922 and is exhibited at the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia, Penn.

Pedersen wrote to officials at the museum who requested he send the entire door for display, believing the window could have adorned Dewey's stateroom window on the ship. But Pedersen kept the window and the letter from the USS Olympia Association until 2007, when his son contacted the "History Detectives" program about the unsolved mystery.

This "History Detectives" episode repeats on NET2 Tuesday, Aug. 12, at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. CT and Wednesday, Aug. 13, at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. CT. "History Detectives" is devoted to exploring the complexities of historical mysteries, searching out the facts, myths and conundrums that connect local folklore, family legends and interesting objects. The team of experts uses traditional investigative techniques, modern technologies and plenty of legwork to give new insights into our national history.

NET1, NET2 and NET-HD are part of NET Television, a service of NET. For more information about NET programming, go to [netNebraska.org](http://netNebraska.org).

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### **NET Television:**

**NET1** is Nebraska's first public television broadcast service and includes PBS and award-winning, locally produced public television programming; **NET2** offers live coverage of the Nebraska Unicameral and other news, public affairs, history and science programs; **NET3** is a 24-hour channel featuring the most popular how-to, travel and lifestyle series; and **NET-HD** presents high-definition digital broadcast programming displayed in a wide-screen format.