



Denis Rodill, a 14-year-old runaway from Manila, U.S. Army transport ship. He was among the earliest Filipinos to arrive in the United States, arriving well before the crest of the Great Depression. His saga includes working in Seattle's 1908 water treatment plant, Kodiak's 1915 salmon canneries, and the logging industry. His story reveals a rascal youth whose resilience and determination propelled him to overcome enormous challenges.

This presentation about the life of Denis Rodill, 1915-1995, explores the mostly unrecorded lives of early Filipinos in the United States and how they worked to fulfill the American dream.



Dr. Diane Rodill lives in Seattle and is a volunteer in Sorsogon, Philippines. She works for the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and has served in the U.S. State Department, D.C. and Peace Corps in Nauru. Her research on the discrimination of WWII Filipino Merchant Seamen inspired her to conduct research on her grandfather, Denis Rodill.