Karen Marshall, Dolton School District 148, Information Services, K-8

**Name of Story:** “The Day Chicago Cried”

**Description of Story:** My story is an informational telling of the Eastland Disaster. The intent of the story is to inform the viewers about this tragic time in Chicago History.

**Description of its use in the classroom and the lesson:** This story would be used in the classroom to introduce the students to the events of the Eastland Disaster during a unit on Chicago History. The students would learn then research both the Titanic Disaster and the Eastland Disaster. They would then compare and contrast the two events.

**Higher order thinking skills used and developed:** The students would take the information that they learned and compare can contrast the events of the Titanic and Eastland disasters. They would also create a project that shows what changes they would have made to make the ships safer, and lower the death rates.

**Script:**

Almost everyone knows of the tragic sinking of the Titanic and the great loss of life. Do you know that we had a similar tragic accident right in our own back yard? The date was July 24th, 1915 and the employees and friends of the Western Electric Company were rushing to the Chicago River to ride the S.S. Eastland to their company picnic in Michigan City, Indiana.

But the top heavy vessel tipped and fell into the river.

Screams were coming from the ship, but no one could get to them. The firemen arrived and they brought with them workers from a nearby construction site to torch openings into the side of the ship to try to pull people out. Unfortunately, this becomes an operation of recovery rather than rescue.

Many people standing on the streets of Chicago try to help the victims. Other ships are called and they try to pull people out of the water. Divers like Harry Halvorsen try to find survivors, but end up recovering the bodies of the victims.

The day ended in tragedy. Throngs of spectators watched the event in horror. Some people were saved, but many lives were lost. Family members try to find their loved ones. Many of the victims were women and children.

Bodies were recovered. A makeshift morgue was set up in a warehouse, which now houses Harpo Studios. In the end 841 passengers and 4 crew members lost their lives. Whole families were wiped out, and many children were orphaned.

This is a piece of Chicago history that should never be forgotten.
The Eastland Disaster – Documentation of pictures

1.  http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/pan:@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3c26620))


3.  http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cdn:@field(NUMBER+@band(ichicdn+n065017))

   SUMMARY
   Bird's-eye view of water being forced from the hold of the overturned Eastland steamer in the Chicago River in the Loop community area of Chicago, Illinois. After divers made the capsized hull water tight, a tugboat named the Favorite pulled up near the Eastland to pump the water out. The LaSalle Street Bridge is visible in the background.

4.  http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cdn:@field(NUMBER+@band(ichicdn+n064932))

   SUMMARY
   Image of a print of the Eastland, a steamboat. Text on the print reads the Great Steamship Eastland. This image was taken in Chicago, Illinois. The Eastland overturned on the Chicago River, killing over 800 people.

5.  http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cdn:@field(NUMBER+@band(ichicdn+n064980))

   SUMMARY
   Image of the Eastland steamer, lying on its port side in the Loop community area of the Chicago River in the Loop community area of Chicago, Illinois.

6.  http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cdn:@field(NUMBER+@band(ichicdn+n064998))

   SUMMARY
   Image of three men standing on a wooden platform near the overturned hull of the Eastland steamer in the Chicago River in the Loop community area of Chicago, Illinois. One of the men is holding a rope attached to a diver who is standing in a ladder in the water

7.  http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cdn:@field(NUMBER+@band(ichicdn+n064987))

   SUMMARY
   Image of men with acetylene torches working on the hull of the overturned Eastland steamer in the Chicago River in the Loop community area of Chicago, Illinois. A ladder is in the foreground of the image.

8.  http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cdn:@field(NUMBER+@band(ichicdn+n064972))

   SUMMARY
   Image of pumps pumping water out of the overturned Eastland steamer in the Chicago River in the Loop community area of Chicago, Illinois.
9. [Link to Image]

**Summary** Image of rescuers removing bodies from the overturned *Eastland* steamer in the Chicago River in the Loop community area of Chicago, Illinois. They are standing over portholes and on the deck's railings. The LaSalle Street Bridge is visible in the background.

10. [Link to Image]

**Summary** Image of spectators watching the *Eastland disaster* rescue efforts. Buildings are visible in the background, with signage reading A. J. Raymond, Prop., Restaurant (and other not completely legible wording). This image was taken near the Chicago River in the Loop community area of Chicago, Illinois. A wicker baby carriage is partially visible on the left side of the image.

11. [Link to Image]

**Summary** Image of the Kenosha, a tugboat, rescuing survivors from the hull of the overturned *Eastland* steamer in the Chicago River in Chicago, Illinois.

12. [Link to Image]

**Summary** Image of a rowboat filled with survivors of the *Eastland disaster*, in the Chicago River in the Loop community area of Chicago, Illinois. Other survivors are seen standing on the foundered boat in the background.

13. [Link to Image]

**Summary** Portrait of Harry Halvorsen, a diver in the *Eastland disaster* rescue efforts. He is standing on a ladder near the overturned hull of the steamer in the Chicago River in the Loop community area of Chicago, Illinois.

14. [Link to Image]

**Summary** Group portrait of Harry Halvorsen, Iver Johnson, Charles Gunderson, and Barry Sullivan, *Eastland* disaster divers. They are standing amidst a group of unidentified men on the deck of a barge in the Chicago River in the Loop community area of Chicago, Illinois.

15. [Link to Image]

**Summary** Image of Harry Halvorsen, a diver for the *Eastland disaster*, leaping off a ladder leaning against a
quay to go in the Chicago River in the Loop community area of Chicago, Illinois. A man holding hoses connected to Halvorsen's helmet is surrounded by spectators.

16. [Link](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cdn:@field(NUMBER+@band(ichicdn+n064958))

SUMMARY
Image of a fireman cradling a dead baby whom he had tried to rescue from the overturned Eastland steamer in the Chicago River in Loop community area of Chicago, Illinois.

17. [Link](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cdn:@field(NUMBER+@band(ichicdn+n064970))

SUMMARY
Bird's-eye view of crowd at the Eastland disaster site, standing behind a police line on LaSalle Street looking south from Water Street Market in the Loop community area of Chicago, Illinois. Two for rent signs are visible on the building on the left side of the image.

18. [Link](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cdn:@field(NUMBER+@band(ichicdn+n064943))

SUMMARY
Image of a boy who survived the Eastland capsize, wrapped in a man's jacket. He is walking beside a man who has his arm around him. Other men are looking on, and it appears that one man, with his back to the camera, is helping another survivor. This image was taken in the Loop community area of Chicago, Illinois.

19. [Link](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cdn:@field(NUMBER+@band(ichicdn+n064957))

SUMMARY
Image of men loading corpses from the overturned Eastland steamer in to a truck in the Loop community area of Chicago, Illinois. Signage in the background reads Your Summer Vacation, Beautiful Saugatuck

20. [Link](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cdn:@field(NUMBER+@band(ichicdn+n064947))

SUMMARY
Image of a female survivor of the Eastland disaster, wrapped in a blanket, standing on the upper deck of a boat on the Chicago River in Chicago, Illinois and looking out at the water. Folded deck chairs are stacked around her.

21. [Link](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cdn:@field(NUMBER+@band(ichicdn+n065015))

SUMMARY
Image of a policeman holding a waterlogged teddy bear by the ear. The teddy bear had been found by a diver in the hold of the overturned Eastland steamer in the Loop community area of Chicago, Illinois. The Reid Murdoch building is visible in the background.

22. [Link](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cdn:@field(NUMBER+@band(ichicdn+n064955))

SUMMARY
Image of men carrying a corpse on a stretcher to a waiting hearse on a cobblestone street in the
Loop community area of Chicago, Illinois. Signage in the background reads O'Donnells and Haven Steamer.

23. In line at warehouse

24. http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cdn:@field(NUMBER+@band(ichicdn+n064994))

SUMMARY
Image of the interior of the floating morgue for the victims of the Eastland disaster at the Wells Street bridge in the Chicago River in the Loop community area of Chicago, Illinois. Two men are handling the lid of a coffin, one of many lying in a row across from another row of coffins. The morgue is a tent structure, with what appears to be an earthen floor.

25. http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cdn:@field(NUMBER+@band(ichicdn+n064960))

SUMMARY
Image of a funeral procession for victims of the Eastland disaster in Chicago, Illinois. The Eastland was a steamship that capsized in the Chicago River, leaving over 800 people dead.

26. http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cdn:@field(NUMBER+@band(ichicdn+n064919))

SUMMARY
Portrait of Eleanor Froelich, a toddler, standing on a chair on the porch of her home at 2453 West Thomas Street in the West Town community area of Chicago, Illinois. Text on the image reads that Froelich was the only survivor of her family from the Eastland disaster.

27. http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cdn:@field(NUMBER+@band(ichicdn+n064944))

SUMMARY
Bird's-eye view of survivors and rescuers standing on the hull of the overturned Eastland steamer in the Chicago River in the Loop community area of Chicago, Illinois. Several tugs are pulled up alongside the steamer. A building is visible in the foreground, and a bridge is visible in the background.

Background information:
The Biggest Sea Disaster in United States History.