

The Japanese Language School Archival Project

In the Spring of 2000, the Archives continued the original efforts of Captain Roger Pineau and William Hudson, and the Archives first attempts in 1992, to gather the papers, correspondence, photographs, and records of graduates of the US Navy Japanese Language School, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1942-1946. We assemble these papers in recognition of the contributions made by JLS graduates to the War effort in the Pacific, the successful occupation of Japan, the creation of Japanese language programs across the country, and the development of cultural reconciliation programs after World War II.

"UNCOMMON COURAGE"

Ms. Jolene Nakao, of Bridge Media, 44579 North El Macero Drive, El Macero, CA 95618-1064, told me her company was producing a video documentary for the Military Intelligence Service Association of Northern California. The documentary, entitled "Uncommon Courage: Patriotism and Civil Liberties," highlights the exploits of the Japanese American men who served in American intelligence activities in the Pacific from before the Pearl Harbor attack through the occupation and reconstruction of Japan.

The video briefly mentions that the Navy recruited Caucasian Americans from elite universities to learn Japanese in a crash course at the University of Colorado at Boulder. To illustrate this, they used a shot of a band playing during a parade in front of Baker Hall, with the Flatirons in the distance. It is a good shot, if I selected it myself. While profits will go to the MISA of NCA, videos can be purchased from Bridge Media.

Holtom Family Located

At long last, Scott Shaver located Tom Holtom of Newport Beach, CA, who referred us to Dr. Katherine J. Jones, Dorothy Holtom and Olive Holtom. We have sent each of the four packets with a full set of *The Interpreter*, a brochure, the two stories on the JLS, and a set of the addresses. When all of the family members we have contacted check in with us we will know whether or not we can provide their addresses to the readership. Tom Holtom has been in contact with the Marine Raider Veterans' group and sounds enthusiastic about our JLS project. His email address is tomholtom@aol.com.

JLS Officers reunited after life apart

Emma McCloy Layman and Halsey Wilbur met as children in Shanghai, China around 1916, when she was six and he was four years old. Their parents worked with the international YMCA, and the children attended the Shanghai American School.

The two were not particularly close as children; Layman was closer to Wilbur's older brother, who was her first boyfriend in the fifth grade. Halsey was the pesky little brother.

In 1921, Layman's family moved to Nanghing, but still spent summers at the same mountain resort. Then, when Layman was ready for college, the family moved to the United States, while the Wilbur family stayed in China.

Layman graduated from Oberlin College in 1930, and went on to receive her master's degree from NYU and her doctorate from University of Iowa. Halsey Wilbur graduated from Oberlin in 1934.

During World War II, both Layman (WAVE) and Wilbur attended the US Navy JLS at Boulder without being aware of each other. They served as Japanese language officers for the U.S. Navy. Then, after the war, Wilbur served in the U.S. Foreign Service until his retirement in 1975, when he moved to Wooster, Ohio.

In 1978, after the death of her husband, Layman moved to Oberlin at the urging of an old college friend. Then in 1994 she moved to Kendal retirement home in Oberlin. Wilbur followed in 1996.

"I saw that name on the list of people who would be moving to Kendal, and I said to myself, 'there couldn't be more than one Halsey Wilbur' and I was right."

--From the Oberlin News-Tribune, March 21, 2000

[Ed. Note: As it turns out, there were other JLS graduates who are alumni of the Shanghai American School: Harry Allen, William Allman?, David Anderson?, Leo Ball?, Ernest Beath?, Houghton "Bucky" Freeman, Wendel Furnas (faculty), Hugh Harnsberger?, Henry Krisel?, George McLure?, George Sheeks?, Robert Sheeks, and Dan S. Williams. from Dan Williams, "Recollections...", *The SASA News* Spring 2001, p.4

(? No Contact, ☹ Passed Away.)]

U.S. Confiscates Houghton Freeman's (JLS 1943) Sheep

The Agriculture Department seized a flock of sheep from a Vermont farm over concerns they harbored an illness related to mad-cow disease.

At about 6 a.m. one day, officials clad in overalls arrived at a Greensboro, Vt., farm owned by 79-year-old philanthropist Houghton Freeman and began herding the 234 sheep onto a pair of double-decker tractor-trailer trucks. The animals were driven to labs in Ames, Iowa, where

they will be killed; their tissues will be tested for the illness.

Mr. Freeman, who runs a foundation that tries to foster better relations between Asia and the U.S., will be reimbursed for the "fair market value" of the sheep, the department said, declining to name an amount.

--From the Wall Street Journal

More Sensei and Their Kin Found

We have recently been able to contact twenty-one JLS Sensei or their kin thanks to a list of addresses provided to us by Edwin Nakamura. His father was a senior Sensei at the JLS in Boulder.

We have sent packets including a complete set of the *Interpreter*, two articles about the JLS, and an offer of the dissertation by Paul Irish on the treatment of the Sensei.

If you would like a copy of our list of addresses of the Sensei and their kin, please contact us.

A Reprise on FDR

While dining together in Spring Valley, off Massachusetts Ave. in Washington, DC, fellow Lieutenants jg., Frank Tucker (JLS 1944), Rudd Fleming (JLS 1944), and WAVE Lucy Anne Porterfield (JLS 1944) were informed of the news of FDR's death. Ms. Porterfield, a noted Republican, shocked her escorts by irreverently retorting, "and not a moment too soon."

Phil Burchill offered the preceding story as a contrary response to the panegyric in Weissberg's letter. Mr. Tucker confirmed the tale, admitting that the departed lady might likely hold the same sentiment today.

[Ed. Note: FDR remains a hero to this "Yellow Dog" Democrat. Moreover, his biographers reveal him to have been a man who could share a laugh at his own expense – rare in his own time and rarer still, today. I doubt that Lt. jg. Porterfield

liked "Buck-stopper" Truman any better.]

The Facility and Hours

Archives is located in the basement of Norlin Library at the east end of the historic quadrangle on the Boulder campus of the University of Colorado.

The Archives is open MWF, 1100-1700, but is staffed from 0800-1700, M-F. Out of town researchers may arrange for early and every day entry. Photocopying and both photographic and audiovisual reproduction services are available.

To Donate

If you wish to donate your materials, please contact the Archives to insure the proper mailing address. For large shipments, the archives will reimburse expenses. Upon receipt of materials we will send the donator a deed of gift with instructions. The donator must return to the Archives signed deeds of gift. The Archives will then provide copies of preliminary inventories and guides to donors and donor families when available. Feel free to contact us at any time.

Contact

Bruce Montgomery, Curator,
or David Hays, Archivist,
Archives,
University of Colorado at Boulder
Campus Box 184
Boulder, Colorado, 80309-0184

Phone (303) 492-7242

Fax (303) 492-3960

Email:
montgomb@spot.colorado.edu
arv@colorado.edu

Website:
[www-libraries.colorado.edu/ps/arv/
frontpage.htm](http://www-libraries.colorado.edu/ps/arv/frontpage.htm)

New Collections

The following are further collections recently offered, promised or received by the Archives:

- Gerald Braley
- Marie Edwards
- Martin Hirabayashi
- Donald Keene
- Vickie [John] Yumito

New JLS Website:

[http://www-
libraries.colorado.edu/ps/arv/col/
jlsp.htm](http://www-libraries.colorado.edu/ps/arv/col/jlsp.htm)