

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.

**60th Reunion
of US Navy JLS at CU
6-9 June 2001
Will Dedicate
JLS/OLS Plaque**

One of the feature events at the 60th reunion will be the dedication of a plaque recognizing the US Navy JLS/OLS at the University of Colorado, 1942-1946. We had hoped to keep this event a surprise. But we did not want to hear, "If I'd known about the plaque, I would have come." So, now you know about the plaque. Its appearance, size, and included material will remain *sub rosa*.

Ms. Maxine Pineau recently wrote us to say that each time she saw her husband's name, she felt as if he was being honored. I would like to tell her, on behalf of the Archives' US Navy JLS/OLS Archival Project, that every time we write his name, or those of other graduates, we intend to honor them.

David M. Hays, Editor

Bringing

Camp Churo Alive

My husband and I returned to the U.S. mainland in April, after serving as curators for nearly three years at the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Museum, on Saipan (in Micronesia). I was perusing the February issue of the *Coloradan*, (the University of Colorado Alumni magazine) in our forwarded mail, when I spotted the photo of a Japanese soldier's WWII flag (from the Swanfeldt Collection) - there is one such flag at the CNMI Museum.

The snapshot of the joyful Asian children on Tinian eating sugarcane (from the *Captain Roger Pineau Collection*), for good reason, resembled others I'd seen of kids in the civilian internment camps on Tinian. I read with great interest the article, "Boulder Boys Shape Japan-U.S. Relations" by Teresa Watanabe about the students (men and women) of the Japanese Language School (JLS) at CU Boulder during WWII.

Only a couple months before, I had completed cataloguing 14 large boxes of souvenir items that a young Navy LT Henry Groehn had gathered from the Mariana Island in 1944-5 and sent home to his wife in Detroit. Groehn was stationed at Camp Churo on Tinian, a civilian internment camp for Japanese, Okinawan, Korean, and Chinese. Five decades later the items returned to the South Pacific, donated to the museum by LT Groehn's widow (via the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas).

When visiting Boulder, I went to Norlin Library at CU to find archivist, David Hays, and to learn more about the JLS. Hays graciously and enthusiastically regaled me with "Boulder Boys' (and Women's)" history and stories. As we looked through photos of Tinian and the camp and literature files donated by the "Boulder Boys" (and Girls/Women), Camp Churo

took on new dimensions for me. I was elated to find out more about the JLS and those young students who walked the same walkways, and occupied some of the same classrooms where I spent so many hours as a student in the 1970s.

I personally want to thank those of you who donated this invaluable material to the CU Archives. I hope to obtain copies of the photos and information for incorporation in future exhibits at the CNMI Museum, to bringing history alive for the islands' residents.

Gigi York

Archaeologist and Museum

Specialist

September 8, 2001

[The CNMI Museum web page is www.saipan.com/community/museum/. And, you can reach me at rgyork@yahoo.com]

Sensei Project II

So far, results of this survey are better than I had hoped. I have successfully contacted three former instructors and received either their responses to the survey or the commitment to send their surveys when they are completed.

Hoshino sensei (Mr.

Hiromichi Hoshino) and Inoue sensei (Mr. Ari Inoue) are both currently living in California and Hirabayashi sensei (Mr. Martin Hirabayashi) is living in Minnesota. Furthermore, I have received information regarding Ike sensei (Dr. Nobutaka Ike) and await a response from him. I also have spoken with several wives of former language instructors who have passed away and obtained even more contact information for sensei whom I might still contact. I spoke with Mrs. Sadamu Eejima (Eejima sensei) and received information on Miyamoto sensei (Mr. Sumio Miyamoto) who, interestingly, was also selling insurance during his employment at the JLS in Boulder. I spoke with Mrs. Etsuo Hirose (Hirose sensei) and received information on Nakatsu sensei (Ms. Masako

Nakatsu), the late Teshima sensei (Mr. Ray Ichiro), and Yamasaki sensei (Mr. Tomomasa Yamasaki), who moved to Kyoto to become a Buddhist Priest after the war. I contacted Mrs. Grace Igasaki, daughter-in-law of the late Igasaki sensei (Mr. Masao Igasaki). Each person I have met and spoken with via email (a large number of sensei actively correspond over the internet) or over the telephone has provided me with more detailed information about both their personal experiences and about the historical moment when all Japanese Americans were suddenly unsure of their future.

I hope to compile the results of my survey for an oral history project that will deepen our understanding of the former language instructors as Japanese Americans in a time of crisis.

In addition to sending out a survey to former JLS sensei I have also compiled a list of the 151 former language instructors of the JLS by gleaning the University of Colorado Board of Regents Minutes from 1942 to 1946 in the Archives at the University of Colorado. Using employment information such as hiring date, salary increases, resignations, re-hirings, and payroll lists I have pieced together a list of all language instructors at the JLS/OLS school from the opening in 1942 to its closing in 1946. Though this list may not be entirely comprehensive, I can say with confidence that I obtained the names of all former instructors who received a paycheck from the University of Colorado. I have been using this list along with search engines to try and locate more sensei in order to contact them in the future.

I have had much help with my research along the way, especially from a former student of the JLS, Mr. Glen Slaughter who was kind enough to lend me his video tapes of the Pomona Conference held in April 2000 that looked at the U.S. Navy

Japanese Language School at Boulder Graduates and Japanese-American Relations. The "Bridge to the Rising Sun" Conference also included a videotaped segment of interviews with two former sensei of the school, Dr. Ike and Mr. Okamoto along with an interview with Mrs. Imai, the wife of former sensei, Yuji Imai. Though brief, these interviews have also helped me in piecing together a narrative of the sensei.

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.

\$Donations Accepted

There are those of you who may not have papers to donate to the Archives, but who may wish to support the Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project in other ways. We are setting up a cash account to fund Archives activities regarding the JLS/OLS Project. To date, the Archives has spent in excess of \$10,000 of its own funds on the project. If you wish to donate, make your check out to The University of Colorado and mail it to our contact address.

Contact

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:
arv@colorado.edu

New JLS Website:

<http://www-libraries.colorado.edu/ps/arv/col/jlsp.htm>

The Facility and Hours

