

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.

Sandy Sims Remembered

My father might have portrayed himself, rather than Robert Taylor doing so. He had small parts in movies before and after the war, had professional publicity shots taken and hired an agent, was a DJ on radio briefly, and in the late 40s and early 50s had a band. He interrupted a budding music career to move from Los Angeles to Japan, where I was born. My father also was born in Japan (in Kobe), which fact ties into your mention of Byron White. A version of the following anecdote is in my father's memoirs.

At the end of the war my father was transferred to Op-20-G in Washington. Driving from California to the East Coast, my father and mother decided to visit Glenn Shaw, head of the JLS in Boulder. Shaw was a good friend of my father's parents, from his days in Japan. My grandparents were part of the Methodist Mission there. My folks hadn't told Shaw they were

coming, and when they got to Boulder they discovered that Shaw was in Longmont to give a Speech to the Lions or the Rotary Club or some such organization. To make a long story short, they got to Longmont during Shaw's speech and joined him at the head table for the dinner that followed. Shaw introduced my parents to the audience, at which point the editor of the local newspaper got up and said, "Lt. Sims, Mr. Shaw says you served on carriers in the Pacific. Well, another man who served on carriers, a man we're mighty proud of, is Byron 'Whizzer' White, a native son of this state and All-American at the University of Colorado. I wonder if you ever happened to meet him." My father got up, paused for effect, and replied, "Not only did I meet him, I'm wearing his shirt." There was momentary silence, then gasps and cheers from the audience. The editor's jaw dropped. My father explained that he and Byron White served together on the staff of Admiral Mitscher, Commander Fast Carrier Task Force. When the carrier *USS Bunker Hill*, flagship of the task force, was hit by a kamikaze, my father lost all of his gear, and borrowed some of Whizzer White's gear. My father finished his story saying, "If you looked inside the collar of this shirt, you'd see 'B. White' printed on it," and then sat down. A roar of applause followed. My father told me that never before or since did he get a reaction like that to anything he said to anyone.

My father visited Byron White several times during his Supreme Court tenure. I met Mr. White during one of those visits, when I was a teenager. I was thoroughly impressed, not only with the man but his surroundings. He took us to the chambers to see the famous nine chairs, of various sizes and shapes, each custom-made to suit the dimensions of a Justice. While we were chatting in the

hallway Chief Justice Warren Burger came by and we were introduced to him. I don't recall meeting Justice John Paul Stevens, although he and my father shared a car in Hawaii during the war. (He was at JICPOA and my father at FRUPAC, and these were in adjacent buildings on Makalapa Heights near CINCPAC headquarters.)

Uh, I think that's enough. (You probably regret mentioning Byron White's name - to me, anyway.)

Sincerely, Sheridan Sims

[Ed. Note: Au Contraire, at CU Boulder, there is never enough information on the former Supreme Court Justice. He is indeed a favorite alumnus of the school.]

In Memory of Bert Alfred Gerow JLS 1943

Bert Alfred Gerow, 85, died Aug. 9. He was born on Dec. 26, 1915 and raised in Lafayette, (CA).

He served as an interpreter in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Theatre of Operations during World War II, and later served as a civilian attached to the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He completed his doctorate in anthropology at UC Berkeley in 1950 and later became an anthropology professor at Stanford University from 1948 until he retired in 1979.

He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi and received the California Association for Archaeology Lifetime Achievement Award in 1989 for the contributions he made to that field.

He is survived by his wife, Marjorie W. Gerow of Palo Alto; his five children, Ward G. Gerow, Ann B. Gerow, Claudia J. Gerow, Laura Dayharsh, Mark E. Gerow; and seven grandchildren.

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CU Faculty III

I read with great pleasure Robert Schwantes's note (in your issue of September 15) about Muriel Sibell and Francis Wolle. For me and my wife, as for others mentioned by Schwantes, these were the permanent Boulderites who did the most to make our stay in Boulder enjoyable.

And we learned a lot from them. Muriel, especially became a good friend. She took us on many trips to Colorado ghost towns, which were her passion. She introduced us to Central City and especially to Georgetown, a really fascinating place then unknown to tourists, especially exciting when its old buildings were outlined by snow. We often saw Francis Wolle at her house. At that time he wore a long black cloak, probably the only one in Boulder. Later, Muriel sent us her very good book on ghost towns. We learned later from Muriel that Francis became first a deacon and then, at an advanced age, a priest of the Episcopal Church.

*Henry F. May
JLS 1943*

Comment on "Summer Group"

The Oct. 15, 2001 issue of *The Interpreter*, 2nd column, Dan Williams says: "After July 1943, all USNJLS students wore uniforms, *since they were commissioned immediately upon reporting for duty (Italics Mine)*. I, and my class, reported many months after that date and we were NOT "commissioned immediately on reporting." We remained Naval Agents for up to 4 or 5 months after starting instruction [while background checks were carried out; the explanation given us was that they wanted loyal, stable "intelligence officers."].

*Norman Juster
CDR, USNR-Ret
OLS, 1944*

Over

Faculty IV

The Interpreter that came today was particularly rich in associations, not only because you were kind enough to print my letter but because two other names brought fond memories. Nort roomed with Sidney Mashbir in Honolulu, perhaps in the home of Mrs. Fullard Leo. Also, Ben Galland was one of the great friends of my sister Victoria and was also a friend of mine. I had no classes with him, but found him a most charming and friendly person - gallant, if you will.

It was a rich experience for an undergrad to know so many faculty on a wider social level. But then, that was the kind of place Boulder was and no doubt still is. By the way, adding the quote from the Library entrance was nice, but I have to wince at your changing "His" to "Their". Old Cicero and Dr. Norlin would be aghast at what Political Correctness has done to the logic of the English Language! Please do not let the chisels change the quote as it stands!! You are doing a great job on the newsletter. Keep it coming!

Marylou and Nort Williams

Memories Wanted

The Archives contain some information about JLS Sensei who taught at Berkeley, Boulder, and Stillwater. Jessica Arntson, through her research in the *JLS* and *Pineau Collections*, and the CU Regents' Minutes, has discovered the names of 151 Sensei, as well as recovering some of their stories and their commitment to their teaching jobs, their students, and the United States. To write a more complete story of the role Sensei played, we need recollections of their teaching styles. You may know, Hindmarsh studied

under Naoe Naganuma in Tokyo in the late 1930s. When Hindmarsh established the JLS in the United States, he adopted Naganuma's curriculum including his "Direct Method" of instruction. Please send any recollections you have of your Sensei's teaching technique, both in formal and tutoring sessions

From all the former Marine JLOs, please send any descriptions of how you used your Japanese in carrying out your duties.

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