

**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 2002  
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*.

David M. Hays, Editor

[Ed. Note: Larry Vincent wins the prize for noticing that I had used 2001 instead of 2002. I plan to repeat the message of the Reunion timing every few weeks, in order to maximize the number of those going to the event.]

**Sandy Sims  
Remembered  
Continued**

I mentioned at the end of the anecdote about Byron White that my father and another future Supreme Court Justice, J. P. Stevens, shared a car in Hawaii During the war. The car was my father's, but Stevens asked if he could share it in exchange for some cash. My father agreed, and the arrangement was that Stevens would use the car while my father was out with the task force and my father would use it when he was back in Hawaii. Of course, it was a good deal for Stevens, as my father was away for extended periods. The one inconvenience for Stevens was how he'd find out that my father had returned: He'd go out to the parking lot after work and the car would be gone.

That's it for that story. One more thing anecdote-wise. The "meeting" that Glenn Shaw spoke at and at which my father talked about Byron White was a convention, and the audience was sizable. It was a Lions or Rotary or such some organization's convention.

Sheridan Sims

**Soviet Scholar Broke  
Cold War Barrier**

The late John A. White, a Soviet specialist, University of Hawaii history professor for 30 years, [and JLS, 1944] was one of the first scholars allowed to observe conditions in Russia during the Cold War. "It was not common at that time," Geoffrey White said of his father's 1960 trip, "Russia was not open to scholars." His father spent six weeks in Nikita Khrushchev's Russia, where he attended the 25<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Orientalists in Moscow and toured 16 cities and Russian Central Asia. On his return home, he reported that Russian citizens held friendly attitudes toward their American counterparts, but the American

government, they thought, was "aggressive, a bunch of warmongers."

A UH professor emeritus and former department chair, White died Aug. 8 in Houston. He was 90.

White was fluent in Russian and Japanese and spent a year in Japan as a Rockefeller fellow, researching material for his 1964 book "The Diplomacy of the Russo-Japanese War 1904-05."

He also wrote three other books, including "The Siberian Intervention" in 1950, a study of Russia's relations with China and Japan. His study of Russia's relations with Asian countries was unique at the time, said Patricia Polansky, the Russian bibliographer at UH's Hamilton Library and a former student of White's. Polansky remembers him as a "terrific professor" whose lectures were always "chock full of information".

She said White was instrumental in starting a Russian Area Studies group on campus, which was popular in the 1970's. He even tried to get the East-West Center to develop a Russian program but was turned down by the State Department, Polansky said. For two decades, Polansky said, White was the primary person building the library's Russian collection, and he had to fight for every addition. "I always felt that every single book on the shelf had his blood on it," she said. "My job was very easy because I just tried to build on what (he did)."

White served in the Pacific during World War II [as a JLO] and graduated with a doctorate from Stanford University in 1948, the same year he joined the UH faculty. After retiring in 1979, White moved to Houston, where he lived in a retirement home, Geoffrey White (his son) said. He is survived by sons Geoffrey and Kenneth, three grandchildren and daughter-in-law Cary.

Lisa Asato,  
Honolulu Star-Bulletin  
September 10, 2001

**Response to Sensei I**

Ms. Arntson's article in the 1Nov01 *The Interpreter* on the JLS Sensei was thorough, and I look forward to II and beyond. Sensei Nakamura of UC Berkeley and Sensei Tatsumi of the U of Washington were academics and experienced heads of their respective Japanese language departments at those universities. Sensei Nakamura, as you know, was considered the deputy director of the JLS, under Florence Walne. Our "Summer Group '43" was the first class to begin at Boulder, so I had no firsthand observance of the bureaucracy and worse encountered by the sensei and other Japanese Americans on the West Coast.

As mentioned in the article in the 15Oct01 *The Interpreter*, the internment of Nisei on the West Coast was ridiculous, when Nisei (also 100% loyal) lived in very close proximity to vital naval and military installations in Hawaii (e.g., NAS Kahanui, Maui and around the many extremities of Pearl Harbor, Oahu) and were never bothered. I knew some of them personally.

A question: Does she plan to include mention of the Caucasian sensei at Boulder? There were several at Boulder during my 1942-1943 stay, including Sensei Topping and Sensei Elizabeth McKinnon, whose father was American and mother Japanese. I was in none of their classes, but they were all friends. On one of my two, lowest novice, skiing ventures to Winter Park, I noticed that Betty McKinnon was an expert skier, having become so in Japan. In my observation, all sensei were treated equally, and all were considered very close friends.

Our class, S-17, was of course the very best class ever at Boulder (!), and our sensei was John Yumoto, who later taught at the Monterey CA armed forces language school.

The next to the last sentence in your *Interpreter* article was

garbled, was miscopied, as I am sure you have noticed.

Best wishes on your project. I look forward to being at Boulder 6-9 June 2002 (not 2001, as the notice reads), if not sooner.

Best wishes to all of the JLS project group.

Dan S. Williams  
JLS, 1943

[Ed. Note: A close double second place in the "find the mistake" contest goes to Dan Williams for noticing two mistakes in one email.]

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[Ed. Note to **Faculty IV**: Yeow!!! I dumbbed out again! Of course it's "His". I guess I have been flogged by the PC police so much in the past 25 years that I automatically degender language without thinking or consulting the quotation. No chisels are about to change that even though their is a campus legend that the 70s feminists forced the campus to fill in the initial "He". Since the engraved quotation is centered and the masonry undiscolored in any way, we can be certain the sentence began with "Who." The school is much larger, but as a grad student & staff I have developed connections with a wide circle of admired faculty. So it is still possible.]

### Revue in the University Theatre

Professor of English, Francis Wolle urged us to put on a revue in the University Theater. It was written by Gene Sosin and Harry Muheim. Larry La Bianca played the central character, Dallaban. Paul Hauck was in it, as well as others. I was asked to play the role of Hidegarde in drag and sang "Darling, Je Vous Aime Beaucoup," one of the favorite numbers.

Lawrence C. Vincent  
JLS, 1943

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#### New JLS Website:

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