

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

Overflow attendance (we have room for 138) may wish to stay in more luxurious accommodations in town. The **Boulderado Hotel** is connected to CU via the Hop (see last issue) and runs \$90 and up per room [1-800-443-4344, or (303) 442-4344]. The **Boulder Marriott** [(303) 440-8877] is also on the Hop route and is somewhat less expensive. Bed & Breakfasts, such as the **Pearl Street Inn** [(303)-444-5584](on the Hop Route) and the **Earl House Historic Inn** [(303)-938-1400](on the Skip Route) also combine fine accommodations with easy access to campus. Such bed & breakfasts as the **Boulder Victoria Historic Inn** [(303)-9381300] and the **Inn on Mapleton Hill** [(303)-449-6528] are several blocks from buses. Many traditional CU hotels and motels require more walking, or are off the circulator routes and are not recommended.

Contact With Dr. R. G. Gustafson

"I was pleased to read in the Dec. 1 *Interpreter* a reference to Dr. Gustafson, president of the university. It reminded me of a contact my husband, Albert O Weissberg, JLS 1944, and I had with the good doctor.

The story begins with my arrival in Boulder in January 1943. Al had already been there several weeks and had obtained housing for us "off base" in a duplex at 20th and Baseline. The other side of the duplex was occupied by sensei Martin Hirabayashi and his wife Joyce. We were all practically newlyweds.

It became clear to me very rapidly that my husband was going to be intensely occupied in Boulder so I cast about for something to keep myself busy, preferably with income attached. As a recent college graduate I thought the Boulder campus might offer opportunities, and without much difficulty I landed a job as teaching assistant in the chemistry department, which was headed by Dr. R.G. Gustavson.

I was not very well qualified for this job since I was a major in bacteriology with only a minor in chemistry. I and several other similarly unqualified young women were hired because the government had recently suspended all draft deferments for male graduate students. I worked almost as hard getting ahead on the chemistry as Al did with his Japanese. During the course of our fourteen months in Boulder I became pregnant, and by late winter of 1943 was no longer teaching labs and quiz sections, but was holed up in the stockroom making solutions. During all this time Dr. Gustavson was unfailingly supportive of my work.

Al and I left Boulder in March 1944. After a short tour of duty in New York he was sent to JICPOA in Pearl Harbor, while I

returned to my mother's home in Seattle to await the baby's arrival. Robert Charles Weissberg was born on June 29, 1944. Dr. Gustavson sent a very funny letter to us after having been notified of the event. In the mean time he had been made President of the University. We really appreciated the humorous letter, even though he got the baby's middle name wrong. Bob never attended the University of Colorado, but for a number of years has been Professor of English as a second language at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Muriel Weissberg

Sensei Response

[*The Interpreter*] brings back memories of an exciting and rewarding time in my life. It is particularly good to hear about our Sensei who were an admirable and dedicated group of people. As a nineteen-year old student in 1944 I was impressionable, and regarded them as role models.

Hoshino Sensei (Mr. Hiromichi Hoshino) was one of my teachers for the dictation course, a formal old-school sensei, who spent nineteen years in the Japanese public school system, teaching on a small island south of Tokyo. At the 1992 reunion I had the pleasure of meeting him again, and taking a scenic drive up Boulder Canyon into the mountains with him and his wife.


Dr. Nobutaka Ike was my reading teacher for Book III of the Naganuma Readers. He was a serious, diminutive man whose impressive scholarship was unknown to me at that time; but shortly afterwards, when I began my own study of Japanese history, I discovered that he was the author of fine article, "The Triumph of the Peace Party in 1873," in the *Pacific Historical Review*. He may have had the Ph.D. before he taught at Boulder, certainly he had it soon

after to begin a long, distinguished career as a political scientist at Stanford.

Is the Inoue sensei who is mentioned in the November 15th issue of *The Interpreter* the one we knew as Joe Inoue, baseball aficionado? Between classes Joe met his good friend Pat Katsura to go over the major league games of the day. Both were breezy young men who joked a lot in contrast to the dignified, serious older sensei. Katsura had been a graduate student in chemistry at the University of Maryland when the War broke out, and elected to stay in this country as a teacher of Japanese to naval officers than to be repatriated. That he would not take an oath of allegiance to the US Government, however, was to cause him a good deal of difficulty.

I believe that Katsura was the one whom Acting President R.G. Gustavson befriended, going so far as to allow him the use his laboratory. The author of the earlier letter said that it was a physics laboratory, and may be right; for Katsura held forth one day on something called S.T..51 (surface tension 51) when as medicine for the sore throat could penetrate sore throats more readily than other liquids (My memory may be faulty on such an arcane matter, but Katsura talked science to us). He was also more likely to socialize with students than the others. Once Katsura treated Fred Tremayne and me to dinner at the Boulder Steak House.

Ken Sato, our conversation class teacher, had his class in for New Year's Treats at his home soon after we started the course. He liked to talk about his drinking companion in Hollywood, the movie star Alan Couch. Johnny Saito wore stylish horn-rimmed glasses, and told us about the ideosyncracies of Japanese society through the eyes of an Americanized student abroad. He was a kibe. John Yumoto was a very serious

teacher who was, I discovered later, the author of a standard 
(Cont'd)

book on Japanese swords. I can see his solemn face yet, an erect, bushy haired man.

The stories brought back a flood of memories of men, and one woman, who transferred her hard work ethic to us. The woman was Grace Nakasone, an attractive young nisei from Los Angeles, whose bright personality automatically brought the most reticent of students to speak in conversation class.

I look forward to the reunion next summer.

*Sidney D. Brown
Visiting Professor of History
University of Michigan*

Correction


In #37 "Revue...", Larry Vincent called with the correct names: "Callahan", Lance (not Larry) La Bianca, and Hildegard. The mistakes were ours.

Jack Pierce, *Semper Fi*

I am sorry to let you know that one of your potential attendees in June won't be with us. Jack Pierce died of a heart attack on January 9th. He and I volunteered into the 2nd Raiders and were foxhole buddies throughout the Bougainville Campaign. He was a great friend, and we all will miss him.

*Glen Slaughter
JLS 1943*

Wisconsin JLS Meeting

Boulder Navy Japanese Language School students will be the subjects of two presentations at upcoming meeting of the Society of Military History in Madison, Wisconsin. On Saturday morning, April 6 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center. Dr. Pedro Loureiro will discuss the creation of a pilot video documentary about the school and its students entitled "Bridge to the Rising Sun." Professor Roger Dingman will follow with a paper entitled "From the Classroom to Combat: Marine Japanese Language Officers 

Remember Their War." Any and all who are in the Madison area are most welcome to attend.

New Collections

The following are further collections held or recently received by the Archives:

- Breece, Howard
- Kruckerberg, A (add.)
- Towner, Dean (add.)

\$Donations Received

The Archives has recently received generous donations from:

- Finn, Dallas R.