

# The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 51

★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

August 15, 2002

## Our Mission

*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, letters, photographs, and records of graduates of the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1942-1946. We assemble these papers in recognition of the contributions made by JLS/OLS instructors and graduates to the War effort in the Pacific and the Cold War, to the creation of East Asian language programs across the country, and to the development of Japanese-American cultural reconciliation programs after World War II.*

## Emma McCloy Layman

**JLS 1944****Dies at 91**

Long-time psychology professor at Iowa Wesleyan, Emma McCloy Layman, 91, of Oberlin, died Sunday at Kendal at Oberlin following a long illness. Born in Danville, Va., her parents took her to China, where she was educated in the Shanghai American School. She was sent back to the United States for further education. She graduated from Oberlin College in 1930, and received her master's degree from New York University in 1931 and her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in 1937. She graduated from the US Navy Japanese Language School and was commissioned in the WAVES in 1944, serving as a Navy Ensign and Lieutenant until World War II ended. She was a professor of psychology and chair of the psychology department at Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa for 20 years before retiring in 1975. She resided in Mt. Pleasant,

Iowa, moving to Oberlin in 1981. Dr. Layman received an Honorary Human Letters degree in 1981 from Iowa Wesleyan College. She was a member of Christ Episcopal Church of Oberlin and the Church Women United. She is survived by her brother, Edward McCloy of Niantic, Connecticut.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James W. Layman; parents, Charles and Florence (nee Fisher) McCloy; brothers William A. and Robert McCloy; and a sister, Amanda R. Capen. There was no visitation. A memorial service was held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, 26 February at Christ Episcopal Church, South Main St., Oberlin. The Reverend Brian K. Wilbert officiated.

A second memorial service was held at 1:30 p.m. the same day, and a luncheon to followed, at Kendal at Oberlin, 600 Kendal Drive.

Private burial was held in Memory Gardens Cemetery, Iowa City, Iowa.

from the  
Elyria Chronicle-Telegram,  
February 25, 2002,  
and the  
US Navy JLS Archival Project.

*[Ed. Note: She was concerned that she and others might not last until the Reunion, which was why I pushed for regional reunions last Summer. I hope that her involvement with the JLS project cheered her last years. DMH]*

## A Prize Crew

Dean Towner to Mother,

As you can see I have moved twenty miles down the bay to Yokasuka. Another language officer and I came down by boat Monday afternoon to report for our temporary duty aboard the Japanese light cruiser *Sakawa*. As I may have told you in Sunday's letter, the Commander who became CO of the ship was formerly on our staff and asked us to help him so long as the Jap

crew is aboard and trying to give the Americans an idea of how to run the ship. We found that there are as yet no quarters ready aboard the cruiser so meanwhile we are sleeping and eating aboard the *Baham*, a repair ship tied up at the next buoy. This ship, formerly a *Liberty*, is very crowded, so we are living in the CPO quarters. It is not too comfortable an arrangement, but we can put up with anything for a week, I guess. The trouble is that we have been spoiled by the comfort of Mt. Olympus, I guess.

I have found the past few days extremely interesting, and certainly they have offered an entirely new experience. I have been in parts of this ship that I have never before gotten into, in an American ship. Yesterday I spent all morning in one of the engine rooms, tagging all the gauges and valves and getting the Japanese engineers to explain the intricacies to their American counterparts. Today I got down into the very bilges, almost, in a little compartment where the speed of the ship is measured by a long tube which is projected through the hull of the ship. To think I should have to go aboard a Japanese ship to see such things!

The American crew seems to be gaining a healthy respect for the Japanese ship and crew, though they are quite prone to condescension. They all agree that it must have been a pretty good ship though it was completed during the war when many materials were scarce. If the whole thing were given a paint job, it would be a really sleek looking thing, though the guns, catapults, torpedo tubes, etc. have been removed in accordance with the surrender terms. The engine rooms and boiler rooms, parts which really count, are in fine working order. The *Sakawa* has been making runs to New Guinea, Korea, etc. bringing back Japanese troops for demobilization.

The Japanese themselves have been cooperating

exceedingly well with our efforts, for they are pretty anxious to get off. Most of the crew will go home after leaving the ship, but the [Japanese] Captain and Exec. (respectively a Captain and Commander, graduates of the Naval Academy) expect to have further assignments in repatriation ships. The Exec. speaks very passable English, and we have talked with him a good deal. A young Lieutenant, just 24, has been in the Navy since 1940 and is now looking forward to going home to Tokyo and entering a university to study Engineering. All the crew seem good-tempered and certainly of better morale than we should have under similar circumstances, I am sure.

We are just cleaning up enough space for a small crew to live and work, for the ship has not long to live, and the Captain's job is merely to get the ship partly across the Pacific.

Today we had the first really hard snow storm yet. The decks had a couple of inches on them before the afternoon was over. For some reason, the *Sakawa's* decks are covered with linoleum which is very slippery when wet. Like all Japanese installations, there is no heating system, so the engine room is the most comfortable space in such weather.

7 February 1946  
Dean Towner Collection, 1-2

## Marching & Watering Holes

I wanted to add that the photo from the 1943 yearbook that was in the latest *Coloradan* reminded me of a similar scene after Sec Nav Knox died and the whole Boulder Navy had to learn the slow march for a very impressive funeral parade. Also in connection with marching, I remember Ed "Taisho" Snow giving commands in Japanese. "Migi e muke!" or "Hidari e muke!" (right and left turn, respectively.) [cont'd over]

As for watering holes, there were Canyon Park, just out of the city limits up the canyon, and Blanchard's, now the Red Lion. Also we ventured out to Louisville to the Blue Parrot, where the wonderful Italian mama made handmade linguini and served lavish platters of antipasto and plied us with vermouth. She loved the fellows and they loved her. The other clientele looked on our group with what seemed like passive hostility. Boulder was dry but the environs were not!

*Cheers,  
Marylou & Norton Williams*

## **Bill Weil, 1918-2002**

Many of those who attended the reunion probably wondered where Bill Weil was, his residence being so close by. We just found out from his daughter, Ms. Kathe Jervis that he died on May 24 after an accident involving a stroke in Barcelona, Spain. She said the JLS meant a lot to him. Write to her at:

Email: [kj@columbia.edu](mailto:kj@columbia.edu)

1170 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
New York, NY 10029

## **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](mailto:arv@colorado.edu)

### **New JLS Website:**

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

## **\$Donations Received**

The Archives has recently received generous donations from:

- Boller, Paul F.
- Croyle, William, Sr.
- Flaherty, Duane
- Imai, Yuji (by Martha)
- La Bianca, Lance
- [Wilco]
- Meyer, Allen H.  
USAR, MIS
- Weil, William (by  
Kathe Jervis)