

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

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★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

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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.

Japanese Language passed to Post-JLS Generation

I am sorry that my wife Charlotte and I, Boulderites in 1944-5, could not attend the festive reunion in June. At age 82, with cancer, I've had to give up on traveling and, although I'm off "chemo" for now, the medics say I'd better be careful. Also, our daughter, Sharlie, who was born in Boulder, is busy teaching Japanese language here in Pennsylvania and I sometimes serve as her teaching assistant.

However, Boulder Japanese language training was a very important element in our lives. With me, after service in the Occupation of Japan, I returned to the University of California to earn a Ph.D. in Japan-East Asian History (then called Far Eastern History) under the tutelage of Professors Delmer M. Brown and Woodbridge Bingham, and then going on to introduce "Far Eastern History" to the University of Pennsylvania, where I taught for 39 years, retiring in 1990. During that time wife Charlotte, who had actually

heard about the program while working for the Navy in San Francisco and "signed me up" with Commander Hindmarsh, developed an "International Classroom Program" so that visiting students and scholars could share their cultural heritage with hundreds of Philadelphia area high school and community college students per year.

Also daughter Sharlie accompanied us on several sabbatical trips to Japan and majored in Japanese language and culture at Penn., Harvard and UCLA, married a Japanese fellow student and ultimately presented us with a Japanese heritage grandson, Steven Uchida, now a student at Penn. To say the least, Sharlie learned Japanese very well and became a teacher of Japanese, most recently developing a high school level Japanese program which began with a dozen or so and grew to some 150 students over some years.

However, our son FHC III (Rusty) preferred China to Japan. We called him a "junior Maoist" as he studied Chinese diligently and made several trips there. He became somewhat disillusioned when the Beijing authorities refused to allow him to visit Tibet, after which he returned to New Jersey, where he spent several months with Tibetan refugees at their Buddhist monastery while studying for his Ph.D. in philosophy, which he now teaches at the college level.

So much for family history. But enclosed, herewith are some memorable papers from a University of Pennsylvania -Kanazawa University-Japan exchange program we Conroys helped to establish some 40 years ago.

F. Hillary Conroy
Professor of Far Eastern History
Emeritus
Univ. of Pennsylvania
JLS 1945

[Ed. Note: From the JLS, such remarkable family legacies emerge. The Conroys' efforts exemplify one aspect of what we are attempting to collect.]

Kahului & Maui AJAs

Sharing with R. Stuart Hummel an appreciation of the correct writing and pronunciation of Hawaiian, as well as Japanese and other, names, I thank him for noticing (see *TI* of 1May02) that the name of Maui's main seaport, Kahului, somehow became incorrectly spelled "Kahalui" [Uh oh]. That was in a "Response to Sensei" report in the 15Jan02 *The Interpreter*, in which I had noted that Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJAs) living in Hawaii during WWII, even those near wartime sensitive bases, were not forced out of their homes and livelihoods as were West Coast AJAs on the Mainland...

For our 4th Marine Division, back from its first battle at Roi-Namur in the Marshall Islands, a Maui location had been designated as our training and recuperation camp for the interval between invasion operations. Accordingly, our particular ship arrived in Kahului on a rainy night in early 1944. From our new "tent city", located between Haiku and Makawao on the damper side of the Island, we could look down and across to Kahului, the Maui County seat of Wailuku and the mountains of West Maui. The Division's Boulder JLS graduates serving as Marine Corps intelligence officers, and the 20,000 other Marines, were pleased that we were in Hawaii, even temporarily, rather than at a remote and even less pleasant Pacific Island. Any *Interpreter* reader roaming the "Valley Isle" today may visit the Maui County memorial park, located at our campsite, honoring the "Maui Marines."

During the mid-40s, Japanese-Americans were the largest ethnic population group on Maui, we were informed. Their lives and employment in agriculture, retail, and the professions were affected by the War, as with other Americans, but fortunately not by their

ancestry, as would have been true had their residence been on the US Pacific Coast. Though they had valued their inherited Japanese cultural ties, they were fiercely patriotic US citizens. Seeing so many Japanese names, signs, shops and Buddhist temples, some of us were inclined to practice our Japanese in speaking to the AJAs we met. Understandably, because of their earlier questioning and surveillance after December 7th by various government agents, there was an initial reluctance to conversing in Japanese. Later, the mutual language capability and familiarity with Japan became the bridge to many lasting friendships.

To one family, living then and now, near Paia, I brought back from our Saipan and Iwo Jima operations a few such cherished gourmet specialties as Japanese soy sauce, canned fish, and certain and evidently delectable canned vegetables we had found in Japanese Army locations on those islands. This occasioned gatherings of invited *nisei* friends, to share the authentic flavors and to toast the hosts' two relatives serving overseas in the US Army, one in Italy and one in Mississippi (!). I am still in contact with that family and see them during every Maui visit I make.

We 4MarDivUSMC JLS graduates spent much of our Hawaii interval time at Pearl Harbor, temporarily attached to JICPOA, Admiral Nimitz's intelligence center, where we had the opportunity to maintain, and hopefully improve, our Japanese language and intelligence skills by strategic interrogation of Japanese POWs and examining captured documents. [Perhaps more helpful] was the valuable and informative privilege to meet and know AJAs in Hawaii, in a way, a continuation of *Sensei* family friendship in Boulder.

Dan S. Williams
JLS 1943

First Japanese Child

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the 60-year reunion in Boulder. However, I would like to note that my address has changed to 27 Springmist court Sacramento, CA 95831 and my name is now Evelyn Nakamura Davidson. This 60th celebration is particularly significant to me since I was the first Japanese child born in Boulder, CO and created quite a stir in the hospital since the medical staff had never seen and Asian baby. That is to say, they had never seen the

"blue" stripe down the lower back particular to Asian infants. I was born on July 19, 1942, within a week of the evacuation of my parents and older brother, Edwin, from Berkeley, Ca. As you may know my father, Susumu Nakamura taught Japanese at UC Berkeley and aided in the Voice of America effort after war was declared between Japan and the US. Please give my regards to your participants.

*Evelyn Sachiko (nee Nakamura)
Davidson*

Collections Processed

Cynthia Ploucher is working on the Sol Levine Papers, a sizable collection. Megan Applegate is finishing up the Owen Zurhellen, Jr. Collection and will be starting the Marylou and Norton Williams Collection soon. Scott and I have finished creating a "graduation" list (with some gaps) from the CU transcripts we culled and copied from Academic Records. We will be reorganizing the *Japanese Language School Collection*.

Navy to Cite Sensei

Pacific Basin Institute and JLS graduate, Frank Gibney, using his contacts, and PBI Archivist Pedro Loureiro, following up, have managed to convince the Secretary of the Navy to honor the Sensei of the US Navy Japanese Language School. The Archives, through our graduate intern, Jessica Arntson, is attempting to insure the greatest number possible of living Sensei and kin are notified. Time and location have yet to be fixed.
