

The Interpreter

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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.

John W. Atherton (1916-2001)

(Claremont, CA, Oct. 31, 2001)
John W. Atherton, OLS 1945, the founding president of Pitzer College and a former dean at Claremont Men's College (now Claremont McKenna), died on Oct. 30; he was 85.

Dr. Atherton was founding president of Pitzer College, the youngest of the undergraduate Claremont Colleges, from 1963 to 1970. During his tenure as Pitzer's president, the faculty grew from 13 to more than 50 members, the student body from 150 to 650, and the campus was completed.

"Pitzer College owes a great deal to Dr. Atherton's leadership and vision, demonstrated not only in his presidency but also in his invaluable support in subsequent years," said Marilyn Chapin Massey, Pitzer's current president. "He will be greatly missed."

Dr. Atherton resigned his presidency in June 1970 to return to teaching college English "where my basic interests have always been." In July 1970, he

joined the faculty at the State University of New York at Brockport as professor of English and chairman of the English Department. Dr. Atherton later served as dean of humanities and dean of liberal studies at SUNY Brockport.

He also lectured internationally, as a Fulbright Lecturer in American literature at the University of Malta, Msida (1976-77), as a visiting professor of English and American literature at Loughborough University in England (1980-81) and as a Fulbright Lecturer in American literature at Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt (1984). He was a Fulbright Lecturer in American Literature at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in 1955-56.

He returned to Claremont after retiring from the Brockport faculty in 1985.

Prior to his appointment as president of Pitzer, Dr. Atherton served as dean of faculty and professor of English at Claremont Men's (now Claremont McKenna) College from 1961 to 1963. He joined the CMC faculty in 1949. He also taught at the Claremont Graduate School from 1956 to 1970 and served as provost of The Claremont Colleges in 1966-67. He began his academic career as an instructor at Iowan State College in Ames in 1941.

Outside of academia, Dr. Atherton served as a U.S. Naval Reserve officer for many years, performing active duty as a torpedo and gunnery officer during World War II. He studied the Russian language in the Navy School of Oriental Languages in Boulder, Col., in 1945. A poet and the author of several short stories, Dr. Atherton's writings were published in the *Saturday Review*, *New Yorker*, *Yale Review* and various anthologies.

Dr. Atherton graduated from Amherst College magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in English in 1939. He held an M.A. degree in English and

American literature (1940) and a Ph.D. in English literature (1952) from the University of Chicago. Dr. Atherton is survived by his wife, Virginia Richards Atherton, and three children: John, Jr., Thomas and Carolyn.

*Director, Public Relations
Pitzer College
& David M. Hays, Editor*

So You Want to Study Japanese...? (6)

One day [on Saipan] we received warnings of a large storm building up in the Pacific [as I write this up during September 2004, the Caribbean coastlines had just been hit by Charlie, Francis, Ivan and Jean]. It reached "tidal wave" size. I believe they call it a *tsunami*. Because all our habitation, Chamorro, Japanese and Korean, as well as the Military Government Unit, was located on or near the shore, a decision was made to evacuate the coastal areas and send everyone up the hillsides to higher ground where we could outlast the storm. I took my jeep and one enlisted man and began a sweep of the outlying areas. Everyone seemed to have obeyed the evacuation order, and we drove along a deserted road parallel to the shore and about a half mile inland but still level ground. Then we saw an elderly couple walking along at a good rate, going in the same direction we were. We stopped and gestured for them to climb in. The man wasted no time hopping in the back seat but the woman stayed on the ground, pulling at who I presumed was her husband to get him out of the jeep. I had trouble understanding what her reason was, and then it became apparent. She touched her face in several places, and perhaps elsewhere on his or her bodies and pronounced two words I understood...*dai byo*, i.e., Big Sickness. I acknowledged her explanation, thanked her and started to drive on. My companion wanted to know what

that was all about, so I explained what I had concluded from her gestures and the two words. He turned a bit pale as we continued on into the hills. The two were victims of *leprosy*.

Later that evening as we waited out the storm, I busied myself with some task or another when I heard a new, different language being spoken by a tall, thin, fair skinned man standing nearby. With a combination of languages I managed to put together his story. He was a so-called 'White Russian', opposed to the communist regime ruling in Moscow. He had fled to the east and finally to Japan where he expected to sit out the War in some fashion. The Japanese authorities conscripted him along with the other workers they had sent down to the Mariannas and so there he was, a man without a country,... at least until the War ended. (to be cont'd)

*Charles D. Cook
OLS 1945*

A Few Random Thoughts

David: Included in the materials you sent to me were two listings of language school attendees. One was a photocopied list of names, hometowns, and entrance dates, between July 1, 1944 and July 1, 1946 [part of the *JLS/OLS Entrance Roster*]. The other was a more formal "JLS Mail Merge Address List" dated April 2, 2004.

A few random thoughts occurred to me and I can pass them along for what they are worth.

Paul Kigar was in my Foochow (Chinese) Class. Marvin Tepperman, also in my class, is deceased. Eugene Sullivan was also in my Foochow Class [Mr. Yoder writes that Sullivan is deceased.]. Francis R. Carpenter was a Mandarin Student. James Farrigan was also a Mandarin Student. McCanlis, I'm pretty sure, was a Foochow student. Kenneth Cole was a Mandarin

Student. Duarte was an Amoy student. Yoder, I believe, was an Amoy student, but I'm not sure of this [*Yes, Amoy, and on our mailing list*]. Joe Seltzer, a particular pal of mine, was the only language student I know who went through the language school twice. The first time was for Japanese and later (in early 1946) he returned for Russian.

*E. Henry Knoche
OLS (Chinese – Foochow) 1946*

sandwich shops, drug stores, and college restaurants, haunts of CU students. One such haunt for JLS/OLS students was *The Anchorage* on 1135-1137 13th Street, on the west side of the street about a half block south of the Sunken Gardens. *The Anchorage Nite Club* came by its role honestly, as the property had been the site of J.E. Marshall's

established in early 1943 by Hitoshi Ogata. The club featured chop suey, beer and dancing and was a favorite of the JLS/OLS. Dr. John Bitzan remembered the place specifically. The Navy student magazine, *Knots & Fathoms*, carried the club's advertisements from 1943 through 1945, boasting Miller's High Life on tap and Juke Box

the Anchorage Bar & Grill and was owned by Ray Imel. May Ogata continued as a waitress.

For those wondering what became of Hitoshi Ogata, he and his wife Meyeko later managed the Starlight Drive Inn, on 1600 Broadway. They lived on the Hill. Phillip Ogata (son?) was a CU student in 1955. In 1958 Mrs. Meyeko Ogata opened the

Mikado Curio Shop on 1833 Broadway. Tomo and Tsugue Ogata joined the Starlight as cook and waitress. In 1959, Hitoshi Ogata passed away. His widow continued with the Curio Shop on into the 1970s. A Mary and Madeline Ogata were students in the late 60s and 70s and Philip Ogata taught public school in Boulder during this time. No idea if they are all relations. The Ogata family were Boulder business people of some standing. Interestingly, Makizo Ogata was a JLS Teaching Associate, leaving the program in June 1944 (another relation?).

The Anchorage

13th Street on the "Hill" in Boulder has long been the site of

After 1951, the 1135-37 13th property became the Fox Theatre, the Buff Cafeteria, Ted's Buff Café, Robinson's Café and Sugar & Spice Confectioners, although the Arthur Murray School of Dancing kept the tradition of dance going within its walls for a time. One reason why that property ceased being a dance club, was that soon after running the Anchorage Bar & Grill in 1949, Ray Imel and Rex Bailey opened Tulagi Night Club, right up the street at 1129 13th. Tulagi went on to become a Boulder landmark as a music venue. Its *Buffalo Club*, featuring dancing during the late 1930s. After a short period of vacancy, *The Anchorage Nite Club*, was

name is a constant reminder of the War in the Pacific.

D. M. Hays, Editor

[Ed. Note: Several have requested a history of this night club. At long last I have produced it. The club and its family management had a much longer life in Boulder than I had at first imagined.]

GRACE K. FUJII

Grace Keiko Fujii, 87, died Feb. 16, 1997. She was a retired civil service worker for the Library of Congress for seven years and was previously employed with Voice of America for 23 years. dancing every afternoon and evening. City Directories show a change of name and owner by 1949. The Nite Club had become

She was a Palo Alto, Calif., native and a member of the Japanese-American United Church of Christ. She was a Japanese language instructor in the U.S. Navy Language School at the University of Colorado from 1942 to 1946.

Survivors included her husband, Shozo Fujii; two daughters, Carol Fujii Goto of Virginia Beach and Joyce Fujii Yamasaki of Gaithersburg, Md.; brother, Minoru Nakamura of Santa Rosa, Calif.; and three grandchildren

*The Virginian-Pilot
February 18, 1997*
