The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

★Remember September 11, 2001★

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August 1, 2006

Our Mission

Number 102

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.

Knecht Recollects

... This week our class of six girls had two encounters with the Japanese assistant to the head of the school [Susumu Nakamura, Head Instructor and Assistant Professor]. He is the top Japanese here. Our first meeting was very unpleasant. He was the chairman of our oral examination board. Our class had been averaging the best grades of our group for the past few weeks and evidently he wanted to take us down a peg, which he did! The oral was terrible. In the first place, he kept us each 20 minutes instead of the usual 10. For some reason or other, we all seemed to go to pieces. We were upset afterwards and sure we had failed. When the grades were posted, however, we all had passed. The next meeting with Mr. N... was much pleasanter. Last evening the six of us were invited to dinner at his home. During the course of the evening, Mr. N... brought up the subject of our oral exam and said we had done very well. To that statement

we immediately protested. We also told him how nervous and upset we had been. He then told us that the woman teacher on the examining board had cried for half an hour afterward and had told him he had been too mean to us.

Betty Knecht, JLS 1944, to her Mother, Winter, 1943

WAVE 50th Reunion Entry, 1993

Learning Foochow: A Significant Crossroads

My eighteen months as a Chinese language student in Boulder proved to be the significant crossroads in my personal and professional life.

It all began in the fall of 1944 at the Navy's midshipman school at Columbia when I went through an interview in French with the redoubtable CDR Hindmarsh. He said little afterward other than mentioning the term "Foochow", and it was that dialect I found myself beginning to study as a brand new ensign at the University of Colorado at the outset of 1945.

The next year and a half brought very special infusions into my young life. There was the challenge of learning to speak, read and write Chinese. And, I was to meet the lovely coed Angie, daughter of a Colorado rancher and the drum majorette of the University women's band. Angie would become my wife and the mother of our five sons.

For the season of 1945-46, after World War II had ended, I got the Navy's permission to play varsity basketball for Coach "Frosty" Cox and our CU team made it to the NCAA tournament in 1946. I led the team in scoring that year.

When language training ended, I was ordered to the Naval Communications Annex in Washington where I got my first exposure to the world of communications intelligence. After my discharge from service, I remained in the active Navy

Reserve in my hometown of Pittsburgh.

With the advent of the Korean War, I was recalled to active duty in 1951 and I spent the next two years - some of it in Japan and Korea - with AFSA (the forerunner of the National Security Agency) - in the Washington area. I was part of the contingent keeping a close eye on the Chinese Communist military forces, particularly the air force which went from zero aircraft in 1950 to the world's third largest two years later, thanks to the largesse and support of the Soviet Union.

Discharged again in 1953, I joined the ranks of the CIA as an intelligence analyst. Over the next several years I was named to a variety of senior posts in that great agency. The assignments were varied, including U-2 reconnaissance matters, programming and budgeting, and directing the work of several analytical offices in CIA.

In 1976, President Ford named George H. W. Bush to be the Agency's new director. Ford and Bush selected me to be the new deputy director, the Agency's #2 position. For that role, I was confirmed unanimously by the Senate.

In 1977, Bush resigned and incoming President Jimmy Carter asked me to stay on as Acting Director.

After almost 30 years of military and civilian service, I retired in the summer of 1977.

Along the way, I was honored with several awards, including the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Service. I was named to the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame a few years back.

Angie and I have lived in retirement in Denver for the past 23 years.

E. Henry "Hank" Knoche OLS (Chinese-Foochow) 1946

ALIEN JAPANESE NATIONALITY LAW FACES TEST LOS ANGELES (UP) - A test case to determine constitutionality of withholding American citizenship from Japanese aliens was filed in federal court late Wednesday.

The suit was brought by the American Civil Liberties union in behalf of Gensuke Matsuda, Sh_suke Nitta and Choyei Kondo [former Kondo Sensei], with Immigration and Naturalization director Albert de Guercio named as defendant for refusing to accept their citizenship applications.

The complaint outlined that one of Matsuda's sons was killed while fighting with the American Army in Italy and posthumously was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Kondo during the war had taught Japanese at a U.S. Navy school and had a son wounded in Italy and Nitta has a son serving in the Army now as a lieutenant.

The suit said all three had come to the United States more than 40 years ago and in all respects were qualified for citizenship.

> Watsonville Register-Pajaronian, April 25, 1946. p.8

[Ed. Note: H. Morris Cox, Jr., lamented that we had not found out more about what had happened to the sensei. So I searched "Google" and found a number of stories, obits, and some information on a few of the sensei. I do not know how this case was decided.]

Michael Jameson, 79 Expert on Antiquity

Michael Hamilton Jameson, JLS 1944, a scholar of Greek antiquity who in the 1960s helped unearth the relics of battles fought more than two millenniums ago, died on August 28, 2004 in Stanford, California. He was 79 and lived in Palo Alto, California.

His family said his death followed a brief illness.

Previously associated with the University of Pennsylvania, he retired in 1990 as Crossett professor emeritus of humanistic studies at Stanford.

Mr. Jameson led explorations that shed new light on the Peloponnesian War, in which Sparta defeated Athens in 404 B.C. His field work also discovered significant evidence from the Persian Wars (500-449 B.C.) described by Herodotus. Mr. Jameson's most notable finds included remnants of the town of Halieis, a strategic harbor on the Argolid, the easternmost peninsula of the Peloponnesus.

Mr. Jameson wrote books about the Tragedies of Sophocles and agriculture and slavery in classical Athens. He was cothe JLS/OLS Archival Project and on our mailing list.]

author of "A Greek Countryside: The Southern Argolid from Prehistory to Present Day."

Michael Jameson was born in London. He graduated in 1942 from the University of Chicago, where he also got his Ph.D. in 1949. He started teaching at the University of Missouri before his nearly two decades at the University of Pennsylvania. He joined the Stanford faculty in 1976.

New York Times Obituaries Morgan, Bill Shaw, Jim Hurley. Remembered instructors September 16, 2004

[Ed. Note: William Hudson thought this Michael Jameson to be JLS. The JLS/OLS Entrance Roster gave the right middle name and gave his town of origin as Chicago. So I added the "JLS 1944" to the obituary.]

The Pineau/Bohr Connection

I never met Maxine Pineau, but we had corresponded occasionally years ago, when Roger died. Once, I met a skier on the gondola at the Big Sky ski ended up being ordered to the Washington Document Center (ONI, area. This chap, a William Bohr, turned out to be the grandson of the Nobel laureate, Neils Bohr, who was there for a medical convention. I had told this fellow that there were a lot of languages to be heard on the slopes that weekend. I told him I recognized Japanese. I told him why I knew it. He asked me point blank if "I ever knew Roger Pineau". I almost fell out of the gondola over the revelation of both Pineau and Neils Bohr. It turned out that he had lived near Roger Pineau and had gone to his

Arlington Cemetery funeral.

Later, I wrote Maxine. She replied, "Oh, you met Willie!" Maxine said that Bohr still did not tell me everything, ... his wife is a Japanese.

Cal Dunbar USMCEL 1944

[Ed. Note: This is the second of two stories from a Cal Dunbar letter. The relative size of the world always amazes me. It seems so far to walk, but so small when friendships and acquaintances are considered. We always welcome any Roger and Maxine Pineau stories. Their children are generous supporters of

An OLS Salute to Earlier Classes

I was commissioned as a Deck Officer at Notre Dame Midshipmen's School in March 1945 and issued orders to be an Ass't Navigator on an AKA - "Attack Cargo Auxiliary". Then those orders were rescinded and I was ordered to Navy School of Oriental Languages at CU Boulder to study Japanese. The school moved to Okla. A & M, Stillwater, Oklahoma that June and we graduated in June 1946. Director was a Mr. Mc Alpine.

Close friends were Wayne Montgomery, Hal McGinnis, Walter included Mrs. Saibara, Miss Mishima, George Saka(y)eda, Grace Nakasone, (First name?) Kurokawa, There was an internal radio program at lunch time and we would be called upon to perform such things as reciting "Momotaro", singing "Shina no yoru", etc.

Around graduation time I recall being told we could be assigned to the Army of Occupation if we would resign our Navy commissions in exchange for Army or Civil Service commissions - since General McArthur did not want a lot of "smart-ass" young Navy Officers over there who knew Japanese better than his Army Officers. I don't recall knowing anyone who did that. I

Op 32-F5) to work on captured documents until receiving transfer to inactive duty in Sept. 1946. We later heard our class had been programmed for "Operation Coronet" - the Spring 1946 invasion of Honshu which was to follow "Operation Olympic", the Fall 1945 invasion of Kyushu (as per the David Westheimer historical novel "Lighter than a Feather"). I have always had great respect and admiration for members of earlier classes who were sent into "Harm's Way" with their Japanese Language Training to help win the war - or the peace.

Bernard J. Martin, OLS 1946 4780 St. Elizabeth's Terrace