

*The Interpreter*

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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.*

**Eulogy to  
Robert H. Butman**

...The named professor was, of course, Robert H. Butman, (OLS 5/45 - ?) whose arrival on Haverford campus was during my class' senior year. He wasn't much older than we were, having been Christopher Fry's personal secretary in London after a stint in the Navy.

During the years to come, Bob became a most important intellectual and moral influence on hundreds of students at both Haverford and Bryn Mawr. His direction of serious dramatic works ranging from the Greek classics through Shakespeare and Webster and Shaw greatly enriched the two-college culture. The productions were almost always first-rate and indeed often of professional caliber. Audiences frequently left the hall in earnest discussions of the works that went on for days and weeks thereafter.

More important, perhaps, was the educative experience that Bob afforded to his student actors, directors and production people. Nobody associated with

one of his productions merely worked on putting on a play or an opera. Far better than that, excellent as the productions almost always were, were the insights to which Bob led his student cast and company, about moral lessons of religion and love and hate and war and peace in the great masterpieces of the stage. More than any other teacher I ever knew, Bob Butman quite literally transformed the lives of a great many young people.

Later, Bob also took responsibility for years of seminars in the College's basic humanities course. Here too, having Bob as one's teacher made that course a very special intellectual and spiritual adventure. He was widely read and eclectic in his interests – and a fascinating individual both as a teacher and as a friend.

Bob Butman died not many years ago, prematurely, of complications of diabetes. His wonderful wife, Flo, died soon thereafter. Their passage left a hole in the lives of a great many of us.

*Steven Henning Sieverts  
Haverford, 1956*

*Alumni Magazine of Haverford  
College, Summer 2001, p.3*

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment, USMC  
& the "China Marines"  
(4)**

Most of the USMC generals and many other permanent status Marines serving during WWII had seen duty with the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment USMC in Shanghai. Our 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division commander in our Pacific battles, MG Clifton B. Cates, later USMC Commandant, had been in Shanghai as a junior officer. His son was a 6<sup>th</sup> grade classmate of mine. General Evans F. Carlson, the famous "Colonel Carlson" of the Marine Raiders on the Makin Island raid, was also a China Marine and had been in Peking (now Beijing) as Naval Attaché and possibly at one time with our Legation Guard Marines there. Likewise,

most of our USN admirals during WWII, including Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, had served as junior officers with our Asiatic Fleet, actually headquartered in Manila, but usually in Chinese ports. For some reason, pre-Pearl Harbor Marines, who had served with the 4<sup>th</sup> in Shanghai or in North China, spoke of "China Marines" as a mark of their distinction, denoting extra, but unspecified, superior qualities. That superiority, or at least the title, accorded to any Marine serving in China, was soon to be extended to hundreds, and then, after VJ Day, to thousands of Marines involved in the North China Occupation, including a number of JLS/OLS graduates.

More than 35 Navy JLS graduates had lived in China and had some experience with the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment USMC in Shanghai, with the Peking (now Beijing) Legation Guard, or other North China Marines. Included were: Ernest Beath and George McClure of the October 1942 Class; Newton Steward, Houghton Freeman and Robert Sheeks of the February 1943 Class; David Anderson, Charles Cross, George Sheeks, and Dan Williams of the July 1943 Class; John Decker, John Farrior, and Wendell Furnas of the Fall 1943 graduates; and others from those and later classes. Some entered the Marines from Boulder, and others, the Navy. Their personal observations, from childhood days, of the US Navy and Marines in China, certainly provided a prior familiarity to their service choices and, as many have said, beneficially influenced their wartime decisions and work.

*Dan S. Williams  
JLS 1943*

*[Ed. Note: In Issue #23, Dan Williams mentioned the names of other JLS graduates who are alumni of the Shanghai American School: Harry Allen, William Allman, Leo Ball, Hugh Harnsberger and Henry Krisel. That same issue mentioned WAVE Emma McCLOY Layman and*

*Halsey Wilbur. All but Farrior Decker, McClure and Krisel (or their next of kin) are on our mailing list. Beath, Steward, and Decker have passed away.]*

**Charles E. Shumaker  
OLS (Chinese) 1945  
(1916-1983)**

Charles Eli Shumaker was indeed my father. He was born in Lewisburg, OH in 1916 and died in Rochester N.Y. in 1983. The Navy Language School literally determined the course of his life.

After graduating from the US Navy Language School (Chinese) he was shipped to China in 1945 to serve as a translator/interpreter in Shanghai. He fell in love with China and upon his discharge in 1947 (1948?) began searching for a position that would allow him to return. He found a job with the Methodist Board of Missions and was posted to northern China. However, just weeks before we were scheduled to sail, in 1949, the Communists overran the country and the family was sent to southeast Asia where he spent ten years building and operating schools in Malaysia and Indonesia.

In 1954, he took a position with the State Department, spent a year in Washington and then was appointed Cultural Attaché first to the US Embassy in Jordan, then in Indonesia and finally in Taiwan. He finished his career with the African American Institute, building schools for southern African political refugees in Tanzania.

We heard many stories about the Navy Language School as we were growing up. Decades later, he could still recite entire pages from his Chinese language textbooks by heart. He told us they had to learn forty characters a week, spoken, written and read, that they were tested at the end of every week and that any score lower than 100% on a test put the students in jeopardy of being dropped from the program. His love of the language endured till the end. I remember him

studying with a Confucian scholar when we lived in Indonesia, writing characters in the dust with a stick in order to communicate with a Cantonese speaker, and giving speeches in Mandarin.

I would like to know more about this extraordinary interpreter mill. Has anything been published on the subject or are there plans to do so? Look forward to hearing from you.

*Yours sincerely,  
Ms. Penny Pietré*

*[Ed. Note: I told her of the JLS research and gave her our website and sent a packet. I thought it was an interesting coincidence that this story also carries a Shanghai reference. She was surprised that both her father and she had been contacted 'out of the blue'. I assured her that Commander Hindmarsh spotted summa cum laudes and PBKs and hauled them 'into the blue'. I found her on the web in my search to have all entrants "present or accounted for".]*

honored Rev. McAlpine with the Fourth Order of the Sacred Treasure in November of 1968 for his twenty years of service on the official boards of several schools in Japan.

In 1975, Rev. and Mrs. McAlpine retired to Weaverville, NC, where his attention then turned to a term of service as the business manager for The Presbyterian Journal, from 1975 - 1978. He also remained active in preaching, serving in this way nearly every Sunday up until the time of his death. A final literary effort was the translation from Japanese into English of a book covering 100 years of

evangelism, as conducted by his grandfather, his father and himself. The book had been written by friends and co-workers in Japan and the work of translation was nearing completion at the time of his death. Final completion of the work was left to his daughter Jean.

James A. McAlpine died on May 20, 1982 at the age of 76.

*From the  
James A. McAlpine Papers  
PCA Historical Center  
St. Louis, MO*

## **James A. McAlpine BIJ, Sensei, Missionary (2)**

In 1947 Rev. McAlpine was able to return to Japan with his family and settled in the city of Gifu where he continued evangelistic work and church planting efforts along with a radio ministry. In 1952 the McAlpines relocated to Nagoya where Rev. McAlpine began to work as the pastor of a newly organized congregation of the Reformed Church. Here he also served as the Director of

Radio Evangelism for the PCUS Japan Mission. The radio program that he produced, "The Hour for Christ" was heard over five stations in Central Japan and was broadcast from Quito, Ecuador and from Manila in the Philippines. His work in radio evangelism and as pastor continued for 23 years, during which time he also translated and published five books concerning Christian faith and life, as well as numerous articles in the monthly magazine produced under the auspices of the radio ministry. The Japanese government

## **Chinese Language Students, 1944-1946 (Cont'd)**

**Edwin Bock** was a young second generation Chinese-American who came in the program about a year after the rest of us. I don't know if he ever finished the program. All the rest I mentioned here graduated from the full eighteen month course, I believe.

**Burt Brody** - No post-Boulder contacts.

**Don Dalley** - We kept in touch with Don and his wife Dottie until they both passed away in the late 90s in Seabrook, MD.

He was quite an accomplished artist and I believe worked for the government. He is survived by a daughter.

**Bob Fabik** - My room mate for the first year. I got married and moved off campus for my last six months. We did not have any contact after that. I have searched and found his phone number recently, I believe.

**Bob Fields** - No post-Boulder contacts. *[No contacts with those above.]*

**Charles Latimer** - No post-Boulder contacts. *[On our mailing list.]* (To be cont'd)

*Mel Dieter  
OLS (Chinese) 1946*