

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.

Richard B. Sanborn OLS (Russian) 1945

Richard B. Sanborn, 80, of Brunswick, died Wednesday, June 23, 1999 at Maine Medical Center in Portland. Born in Augusta on August 16, 1918, he was the son of Walter M. and Nita L. Sanborn.

He attended Cony High School for two years and graduated two years later from Phillips Exeter Academy. At Bowdoin College he was president of his fraternity, Alpha Delta Phi, a varsity track man, and Marshall of his class. He graduated in 1940 Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude. He then attended Harvard Law School where he was treasurer and an editor of the Harvard Law Review.

After Pearl Harbor he volunteered in the U.S. Navy and served four years until the end of World War II. He received his L.L.B. from Columbia Law School.

Returning from the war he practiced law with his father and later formed the firm of Sanborn, Moreshead, Schade and Dawson.

In 1949 he was elected as the then youngest mayor in the history of the city of Augusta and served two terms.

Very active in the civic life of the community, he was a director and president of the Augusta General Hospital, president of the Kennebec Bar Association, and charter member and president of the Augusta Junior Chamber of Commerce.

For about 20 years each he was a director of the Bank of Maine, the Kennebec Savings Bank and the Augusta Federal Savings Bank, becoming chairman of the latter.

Mr. Sanborn served as director of the Augusta Board of Trade, the Boothbay Region YMCA, the Indian Point Association, the Barter's Island Association, the New England Carriage Association and the Maine Standardbred Breeders and Owners' Association. He was a member of the Maine Bar Association, the Republican State Committee, the Litchfield Planning Board and trustee of the South Parish Congregational Church of Augusta.

He held memberships in the Brunswick Rotary Club, the Litchfield Lions Club, the Kennebec Yacht Club, the Abenaki Ski and Outing Club, the Augusta Country Club, the Kennebec Valley Bowdoin Club and the Friends of Bowdoin.

In 1965 the Franco-American Calumet Club made its first award to him as the Outstanding Citizen of the City of Augusta.

He greatly enjoyed the outdoors, including extensive mountain climbing in his early years, skiing from his chalet at Sugarloaf, sailing and scuba diving at least once a year from various Caribbean islands.

After his retirement he operated a 200-acre farm in Litchfield from which he bred and raised Standardbred harness horses and competed in carriage driving contests in the New England states. At one time he had a collection of 65 antique carriages.

A couple of years following the death of his wife Helen, he moved to his college town of Brunswick and married Priscilla A. Keene of Old Orchard.

Survivors include his wife Priscilla A. Sanborn of Brunswick; his children, Stephen W. Sanborn of Dresden, Jeffrey M. Sanborn of Owings Mills, Maryland, and Carol A. Sanborn of Livermore; several grandchildren; a great-grandchild; step-children; his brother, John M. Sanborn of Augusta; and sister, Margaret S. Hodgdon of Boothbay.

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WAVE Reprise

In some articles I have written about the JLS at CU Boulder and some for the Shanghai American School (past and present) I have listed the names of all of the SAS graduates (as well as other former residents of China) who were with us at JLS, CUB [University of Colorado at Boulder]. It has been mentioned that none of the above included WAVES. So, in the February 1, 2005 issue is mention of the passing of Elaine Healy Burnell, a JLS WAVE from SAS, whom I remember well as our school was rather small (600 students total K-12). Elaine was in the SAS Class of 1939, same class as Houghton Freeman and Bill Allman (Feb '43 Boulder grads), and was Class Historian (Bucky Freeman was Class Prez). George Sheeks and I and others were in the Class of '38. So, my pertinent historical records stand corrected, thanks to TI [*an acceptable acronym for The Interpreter*]. Interesting.

Dan S. Williams
JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: Emma McCloy (Issues #23 and #51)) attended SAS too, but preceded the later graduates above. She had a BA from Oberlin, 1930, MA from NYU, 1931, and a Ph.D., from the Univ. of Iowa, 1937.]

Reprise on Swisher Letter

Number 86, 4/1/05, of *The Interpreter*, has a story by Earl Swisher relating his experience at the Camp Elliott EMJLS on 9/10/42. I began class there in 10/1/43. Somehow our paths never crossed [*USMC Privates mix with Captains much?*]. Neither do I recall him nor do I recall his name.

However he cited people I do recall.

Capt. F.O. Wolf of Guadalcanal interpreter fame was the Major who was the CO of the EMJLS while I was there (10/43-4/44). He never taught my class but supervised the school. Major Wolf never went to any language school, so no list will have him. He had lived in Japan and was an expert in *kaiwa*, the spoken colloquial Japanese, but he never instructed us in anything. He signed my framed graduation certificate in 4/27/44 as F.O. Wolf, Major, Officer in Charge. I think F was for Fred.

As for the Ginger Rogers bit, I never saw her but I did see the PFC that married her as he lived in the same barracks as I did. It was a two-story clapboard barracks with the sleeping areas at each end, top and bottom. This particular barracks, #44, housed several components of the school battalion, such as JLS, QM, cooks and bakers, even the Navajo code talkers. Also included on the lower deck was a band. In this band was the PFC who had married Ginger Rogers. He was pointed out to me at a distance once when the band was dismissed from formation and individually entering the barracks. I don't recall what particular instrument he played, but it must have been a brass. They had all sorts of drums and brass even including a glockenspiel. About that time Ginger was featured in a *Life* magazine story on her newly acquired ranch on the Rogue River in Oregon and it was

mentioned that she was married to a Marine. I don't recall what happened to him, but apparently she divorced him in due time *a la* usual Hollywood practice. At the time I was not as impressed by all of this Ginger Rogers stuff because I had grown up on the edge of Hollywood where movie stars came and went in public with frequency. According to Swisher's story, this husband got a commission so he must have had some pull from Ginger along the way.

Cal Dunbar
USMCEL 1944

A human biography must include obituaries. If there is a subject of this letter, it is TOO

Reprise on Helen Craig McCullough

In reference to an item about Helen Craig McCullough in the July 15th issue of *The Interpreter*, you indicated that Helen may have erred in saying that Nancy Pierce was her roommate "for the next 13 or so years". It is very likely that Helen was correct. The time period was certainly not 13 months for Helen and Nancy were together in Boulder, in Washington, DC, and again in

to infantry training near San Diego. He was ordered to the 21st Regiment of the 3rd Marine Tokyo where they worked for the War Department during the Allied Occupation. I was not surprised to see them together at the WAVES 50 Year Reunion functions [at CU] and to see them between-times strolling together in downtown Boulder. The Boulder experience truly resulted in a life-long friendship for them.

Irene Slaninka Thiel
WAVE JLS 1944

[Ed. Note: I stand corrected. I thought she was referring to her JLS time. Certainly no one was there for 13 years!]

CU student, as I recall, married in 1943, and his extended family. Larry's academic achievements

Too Many Obits

You and your staff are doing and have done a superb job in constructing a history of what we knew as the U.S. Navy Japanese Language School at the University of Colorado in Boulder, during World War II. Your comprehensive archives and *The Interpreter* accounts represent the defining review of the beginnings, development, instruction details, and the learning experiences of both the Navy and CU in working in a new realm of essential high speed levels of Japanese

language teaching and learning. Your accumulation and publishing of the 'during and after' personal reports of the people, the sensei and the students, who participated and made it all happen, have evolved into the principal source of information, for those interested, on the personal and group challenges and lifelong career effects of that WWII selection and assignment of learning and using spoken and written Japanese.

MANY OBITS. In somewhat reverse order, here are comments on four, four friends.

Yesterday, July 31st, the *LA Times* contained an obituary for Laurence G. Thompson, with a brief and splendid life review, including WW2 Boulder and USMC experiences and his Asia related career experiences thereafter. Larry, who I had known as a fellow schoolmate in Shanghai, was in our July 1943 JLS graduating class, and we both were in its USMC contingent, moving immediately

Division, which served in the battles of Bougainville, Guam, and Iwo Jima, as confirmed by JLS classmate, and fellow Marine, Walter Williams, also in the 3rd MarDiv, by phone today. During Larry's subsequent work in Asia with the USIA, State Department, and Asia Foundation, he was at times associated with fellow Boulder graduate, Marine, and 'China Hand', Bob Sheeks, as confirmed in a phone conversation with Bob on July 31st. Larry is survived by his wife, Grace, a

truly accord him the title of 'sinologist' (distinguished authority, scholar, and specialist on China), and he will be missed. (To be continued)

Dan Williams
JLS 1943

Robert H. B. Wade JLS 1943, Passed Away

Bob Wade, ATIS JLO, Far Eastern Analyst for ONI, liaison

between DOD and NSA, and US
Permanent Representative to
UNESCO, passed away in
January 2005. Obituary to follow
in a future issue.
