

*The Interpreter*

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★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

[arv@colorado.edu](mailto:arv@colorado.edu)

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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.*

### Lyne Starling Few Passing time: A fascinating Tar Heel from that great generation

Lyne Starling Few, JLS 1944, 91, a diplomat, linguist and accomplished storyteller, died on December 19, 2004, a fascinating Tar Heel from that great generation

Are you in a contemplative mood? If so, the news of Lyne Starling Few's death may be of interest. It is noteworthy as a sidelight to a fleeting bit of Tar Heel history.

It is a story from that Greatest Generation. There is a Goldsboro connection, too, even though Dr. Few was born in Durham, spent his last years in Raleigh, and in between lived all over the world.

His was a fascinating life. At age 12 he was the world's youngest Eagle Scout. He was good at languages and learned German and French during a year in Switzerland before he went to college. He studied at Duke University, Yale and Harvard.

All of that happened before World War II. When the war started, he joined the Navy. He graduated from the US Navy Japanese Language School in 1944, and having added Japanese to his languages, served in the Pacific as a language officer. One of the first Americans to enter the bombed city of Hiroshima right after the war, he collected information throughout Japan about the devastating effects of the bombing. Discharged from the Navy in 1946, he taught philosophy at Swarthmore College and then philosophy and humanities at Amherst College, where he inspired his students using the Socratic method.

Later he became a diplomat and returned to Japan. He also served in Germany, Italy and Malaysia before he retired. He and Mrs. Few moved from Westport, N.Y., to Raleigh during the 1990s to be near a daughter.

The Goldsboro connection? Lyne Starling Few was a son of Dr. William Preston Few. Few the elder was president of Duke University. In fact, he helped bring the Duke Endowment into fruition in the 1920s, helped move Trinity College to Durham from Randolph County, and led its transformation into Duke University.

William Few died in 1940, the Belks in the '70s. Lyne Starling Few was 91 when he died recently in Raleigh, among the last of a generation whose contributions to our country and our state should not be lost in the darkness of passing time.

*By Mike Rouse  
Goldsboro News-Argus  
March 20, 2005 01:38 AM  
The Herald-Sun (Durham, NC)  
March 20, 2005 Sunday  
Pg. B2  
& David M. Hays  
Archivist & Editor*

*[Ed. Note: You folks may make light of that "Greatest Generation" talk, but I don't. Until Brokaw's book, I thought my bunch thought they were the "greatest".]*

### Roger Hackett, Professor Emeritus of History

*"Zuru Zuru Koko Ni Kimashita"*

(Cont'd) In 1961, with an opportunity to narrow his focus and work with graduate students, Professor Roger Hackett joined the history department at Michigan. He signed on specifically as a Japan historian and would now spend 80% of his contact time with graduate students. At U-M's Center for Japanese Studies (CJS) he joined Bob Ward, Richard Beardsley, James Plummer, Joseph Yamagiwa, Mischa Titiev, Bob Hall, and a young Bill Malm among others. Given Michigan's size, Hackett was for the first time at a place where it was possible after a year not to know all of the faculty members even within his own department (History). This was not the case at the Center for Japanese Studies however, which was a close-knit group of scholars whose families often met at Center social engagements. Intellectually, CJS was moving toward scholarship based around principles of "modernization." During professor Hackett's tenure, the publication of the "Twelve Doors" book, as well as the final scholarship on the Okayama field station were completed. He also saw first "modernization" and then the auto industry and business take hold as essential center projects. During this time as well, the Center received a million dollar endowment from the Japanese government and greatly expanded its faculty. At the beginning of Hackett's association with the Center (he would be Center Director from 1968-71 and again from 1978-79), there was a large cohort of MA students. One of Roger's teaching assignments was the coordination of the core MA course in Japan Studies, commonly referred to as the "Twelve Doors" course, complete with oral exit interview

and multiple teachers. This was a time in the development of Japan studies when many of the resultant MA essays were on the cutting edge of scholarship. Throughout his time at Michigan, Roger Hackett worked as an administrator and more for the Center while supervising more than two dozen Ph.D. theses and continuing to research, publish, and teach at the undergraduate and graduate levels. His goal as a teacher has always been to "excite the undergraduates about the things that excite me" and to "learn from and teach the graduate students at the highest level possible."

Roger Fleming Hackett, Born: Kobe Japan; HS diploma from the Canadian Academy, Kobe; BA Carleton College; MA, Ph.D. Harvard University; Faculty, Northwestern University; Editor *Journal of Asian Studies*; Faculty, University of Michigan; Director, Center for Japanese Studies; Chairman, Department of History; scholar; teacher; student; son; husband; father; uncle; grandfather; jock; traveler; writer; sports fan . . . is fond of describing his journey thus far with the phrase "zuru zuru koko ni kimashita". It is a phrase that captures the affect that unknowable situations, obstacles, and achievements have in causing one's life path to be filled with uncontrollable twists and turns. If you're lucky, one of your twists or turns might involve Roger Hackett. It is quite possible as you are taking or teaching your next class at U-M, Roger will be there (he is attracted to both good teachers and interesting subjects). If you talk with him, you will certainly catch a glimpse of the 17-year-old who left his family behind on the Kobe docks, the love-struck college student still married to his college sweetheart, the man who misses his brothers, the battle-weary Marine, the proud uncle, the skilled administrator, the scholar, and the student. You will also encounter a man who

has been both further from and closer to Japan than most of us could ever conceive of as possible.

"A Song to My Brothers in This Hour"

Let us sit in a circle  
cross-legged in the old fashion  
Singing sad songs . . . .  
For the country of our birth is  
turned upon us;  
The green hills of our gestation  
are fanged in  
desperate defiance;  
About us everywhere the fires of  
hate are kindling.  
The people of our youth-days -  
the proud and kindly people -  
They are despised!  
Already I see the teeming cities  
infernoed:  
The people, the proud kind  
courteous people  
are burnt to their blindness;  
nailed to a desperate hour.  
It is a sad time  
needing a sad song.

- Harold W. Hackett, Jr.

*Portion of a poem given to his  
brothers on the  
outbreak of hostilities between Japan  
and the U.S.*

*Center for Japanese Studies  
University of Michigan  
Winter 2000 Newsletter*

## A Real RUM Run

I'm glad that you've been making progress in locating more former OLS students, and appreciate the info you sent about Joe McCracken, George Fox, Joe Bitzan, and B.G. Herbert, who were in my cohort there.

Enclosed are copies of 6 pages from a small photo album I kept while at the OLS, which should replace the hastily photocopied versions I sent originally. Although they're not shown in the photo on page 2, we hired horses to ride out just across the town line to purchase serious liquid refreshment; Boulder was a "dry" town. On page 5, although not identified in the caption, Jim Hester is second from the left, and I'm 3<sup>rd</sup>. The photos on pages 3 through 6 were taken in Stillwater. *Kurasu no aida ni* (page 6) = between classes.

*David H. Green  
OLS 4-9/45*

## 4th Marine Division Language Officers 3: An AD & PR Career

[cont'd] As a result of the show, I obtained an interview with the head of all news for CBS (Ed Murrow's boss) and hit him up for a job in Tokyo as their correspondent. I told him I had a degree in journalism from the University of Washington, had worked as a reporter for a national news service while in college, and had a modest command of the Japanese language. He said I had all the credentials and would give me a job but CBS had no transmitter in Japan to send out radio reports. Also, he said, the war is over, they are all coming home, and there will be little real news. Five years later -- Korea. Some crystal ball.

So, unlike many of my colleagues who used their Japanese for lifetime careers -- in academia, the state department, CIA, etc.-- I went back to Seattle, helped found an advertising agency, and spent my work years creating advertising and doing public relations for State of Washington businesses and political leaders.

My only immersion in Japan again occurred in my retirement when the Port of Seattle and the trans-Pacific airlines asked me build a tourist promotion program to make the Pacific Northwest a highly attractive tourist destination in Japan. I hired a PR firm in Tokyo and for five years we brought hundreds of writers, reporters, photographers, and TV crews to Seattle to cover this part of the country. The effort resulted in millions of dollars in free space in newspapers and magazines and free time on TV. We also conducted travel shows and seminars for travel agents and travel bureau executives in every major city between Kyushu and Hokkaido. After five years of heavy travel, enough was enough and I bailed out.

Today, every month or so, I have lunch with Chuck Cross and Rich White (another Marine language officer) and we joke about the old times in Boulder and the marvelous characters we met, but seldom reminisce about the war.

After all, it's been a long time-- over 60 years. But thank God, we can still remember. [end]

*Jerry Hoeck JLS 1943  
6535 Seaview Ave. NW,  
Apt. # B-202  
Seattle, WA 98117  
(206) 782-1744*

## Further Note on 4th MARDIV JLOs

(Cont'd) Our formal training in Japanese ended at Camp Savage. It had been the most practical we had received because we dealt with actual Japanese documents and learned to tell their significance at a glance. But despite the aid more of this specially tailored study would have given us in combat, we were glad to receive orders to the gigantic Marine Corps base at Camp Pendleton, near Oceanside, California. There we joined the Fourth Marine Division, which was training hard to go overseas. I was assigned to the Regimental Intelligence Section of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Marines, one of the three infantry regiments in the division, and spent the rest of the war with that unit." This is from my memoir, *Born a Foreigner: A Memoir of the American Presence in East Asia*, (Rowman and Littlefield, 1999), pp. 44-45. (end)

*Charles Cross  
JLS 1943*

## Still Vivid in My Memory

Many thanks for the bulging envelope. I've been immersed in its contents for hours but finally had to break away to convey my thanks and send you the check I promised in support of the Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project. [No, I wasn't trying to dun him for money right away, honest guys.]

I'd forgotten the exact date I started at JLS (8/12/44) but I knew I was a mere youth of 21 years. I got to Boulder by financing a trip to Washington, DC, myself, just to wave my Phi Beta Kappa Key under the nose of Cmdr. Hindmarsh. Getting to Washington was easy but getting a berth back to California was a challenge. I managed to convince a Navy Yeoman in

Chicago that I was about to join Naval Intelligence; that did the trick.

At Boulder, my class was M54 -- with George Beckmann, Tim Manley, Keith Mann and Curt Prendergast [see *Issues #30, #77, #88, and #91A for stories about this class*]. We got along well with each other, with our Sensei and, most important of all, with *Nihongo*. We were within a month of finishing the course when the War ended. We were "shipped out" at once and never saw each other again.

Except for Tim Manley, I learned where all the others ended up -- George Beckmann as Vice Chancellor at the University of Washington, Keith Mann as Professor of Law at Stanford and Curt Prendergast as reporter for *Time* magazine, stationed in Paris. For my part, I returned to UC Berkeley five years after my Ph.D. and served as Professor of Physics until retiring in '82 [Now here was a math/science guy studying language. I wonder how he avoided Oak Ridge, Livermore, Los Alamos, or Chicago.]

On leaving JLS, it was my hope to get into signal intelligence, where I had some skill with Morse Code. But my assignment was disappointing as I was attached to a Civil Censorship Detachment of the US Army in Korea. The Navy's responsibility was supposed to be "foreign communications", but those were all destroyed in the War. So I had little to do, beyond translating/interpreting for social contacts with the Koreans.

From my remarks on the phone, I'm sure you understood that the JLS experience is still vivid in my memory -- all the people I met in Boulder and the language as well. I am amazed at how much *Nihongo* I still remember, even the opening lines of the story of *Momotaro!* But most important of all, at JLS I learned how to study.

*Robert R. Brown  
OLS 8/44-9/45*

[Ed. Note: I greatly enjoy finding JLS/OLsers, who respond to my contact with a wondering laugh, telling me they hadn't thought of the School in 50 or 60 years.]

## Re: "Wing over Thin Air"

I was surprised and pleased to see the letter from Norm Juster about Duane Flaherty (#107 January 1, 2007). I was in Fukuoka with these guys. Norm was in charge of censoring telegraphic communications between the mainland (Pusan, Korea) and Japan, and I was in charge of telephone communications. Norm and his group of a dozen or more covered heaps of traffic whereas my fellow officer, Andy Rice, and I had too much free time. I spent hours running up and down a nearby basketball court. I remember Norm had a mind like a buzz saw which cut through to the core fast, and Duane was laid back with a great sense of humor.

Thanks for printing the letter.

Don Knode  
JLS 1944

## Brown's Lessons Remembered by Student 25 Years Later



Brown

Some professors so greatly affect students that they are remembered and recognized decades later. Sidney Brown [OLS 1946], professor emeritus of history, was a member of the OU faculty from 1971 to 1995, specializing in Asian Studies. He is remembered fondly by his students and well respected by fellow faculty members. "He was so good that I could visualize his lectures in my mind's eye and 'transport' myself to the period of time or subject area on which he was lecturing," said LTC Charles Brantley (BA '73) Special Forces and former student of

Brown's. "I am not articulate enough to describe what an excellent lecturer he was," continued Brantley. "In all the years of civilian and military education I received, he is one of the very best teachers I ever had."

Brown's interest in Asian Studies and Japanese history began during World War II, when he was sent to the U.S. Navy Japanese Language School in Boulder, Colorado, from 1944 to 1946. "I was being prepared for the invasion of Japan, which didn't happen," said Brown.

After the war, he was sent to Washington, D.C., to work for the U.S. Navy. "Using written Japanese and Naval intelligence, we were preparing for war crimes trials." (to be continued)

Arts & Science News  
University of Oklahoma  
Spring/Summer 1999, 8

## Boulder to Bombay, To Burma & Back

(Cont'd) [In Rangoon] Finally we had heard of a fight between the British and the Americans. I was not involved. It happened downtown and was a pretty even fight until Lord Mountbatten got in it and brought chains for his men [for self defense, not restraints]. After that, the fight became one-sided, so our men retreated. The British were a little jealous of us because our cars and planes were better. In addition, we arrived in Rangoon before the British got there, so we were hailed as liberators by the population, which we weren't. The people had been glad to see us and made us semi-heroes [Yep, I suppose that would irritate Bill Slim's boys].

After a couple nights, we went down to the American ship. A British ship had come in and the British were throwing a little party for them. I went up and told tremendous stories to the girls who were party hostesses, all fibs, just to see what would happen. In the morning, I got all the stories back. It turned out that the girls were all in intelligence, taking in all they could from us in the way of information and feeding it back. So we got it. We didn't mind. (to be cont'd)

William Morganroth  
OLS (Malay) 1945

[Ed. Note: This story keeps getting better and better.]

## Kayoko Takeda's Research on the Manila War Crimes Trials

[Ms. Kayoko Takeda, who teaches at the Graduate School of Translation and Interpretation at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California, was working on her doctoral dissertation on the interpreter arrangement at the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal.] In reviewing my files I realized I'd promised you an "after action report" on my meeting with Takeda San on 27 Dec. '05. She arrived safely from Monterey, despite the heavy rains, accompanied by an Argentine professor from the same school. I guess he just wanted to visit the "wine country".

The 2 hour session went quite smoothly and she taped a large part of it. Her interest was in the Manila trials and my handling of the Army Nisei interpreters. She particularly wanted to know how I screened them and how they were used in the trials. I pointed out that the Yamashita trial started a couple of days after my return from Tokyo, so I really had to screen them "on the job" [Ah, OJT, the preferred military method of training.] She was interested in their performance on the floor. I told her that my responsibilities covered all interpretation for accused and both defense and prosecution. For this reason, I turned most of the Japanese over to the Nisei and supervised enough to ensure that correct military terms and usage were used and that very senior Japanese officers were properly addressed. We were also using 3 dialects of Philipina, 3 of Chinese, plus Spanish. I found that, in general the Nisei were very competent in spoken nihongo, but limited in their knowledge of the early combat operations in the Pacific and specific military terminology concerning weapons and Japanese Army usages. I felt my job was to ensure that the questions put to the accused were a correct rendition of the

English used by the U.S. and Philippine officers of the prosecution. Since General Yamashita had his own personal interpreter, and Gen. Homma spoke English and said he understood the spoken testimony, the work for the Defense was not as critical.

Harry Pratt  
OLS 1945

## Saved by the JLS

Albert I. DaSilva, JLS 1944, told me this remarkable story on the telephone as I recruited him to our mailing list, so pardon me if the story is not as detailed as we would like. I was scribbling as fast as I could.

In March 1944, Ensign DaSilva was assigned to ATIS in Australia, interrogating Japanese POWs and translating documents in Brisbane. After several months, the order came down withdrawing all naval officers from that ATIS detachment leaving LT DaSilva, the lone remaining Navy officer, a mess officer at a sea plane outfit. After the Battle of Leyte Gulf, he was assigned to an Army Regiment and landed with them on Mindanao. He was assigned to their second line troops, headquarters, supply, and support troops.

When the regiment reached a river on their way to Davao, the first line units crossed the bridge and proceeded on. Then the Japanese blew up the bridge and sprung an ambush on the second line troops isolated by the blown bridge, raking the convoy with rifle and machinegun fire. LT DaSilva was in a jeep carrying all his Japanese/English dictionaries and books. When the firing began, he dove under the jeep. He told me, "You know when soldiers say that the Bible they were carrying stopped the bullet meant for them? Well, those fat dictionaries did the same for me."

Having killed, wounded, scattered, or caused the surrender of all the nearby regimental support troops, the Japanese unit came down from their ambush positions. From his hiding place under the Jeep, he watched the Japanese troops approaching. Knowing Japanese, LT DaSilva,

understood the Japanese officer's shouted order to kill the wounded and prisoners, so he quickly rolled out from under the jeep and snuck into the overgrown stream next to the road. He escaped by swimming and crawling silently away. He was the lone survivor of his party. The remainder were bayoneted by the Japanese soldiers.

His knowledge of Japanese saved him twice: because he was carrying those dictionaries (doubling as sandbags) and because he could understand the Japanese officer's orders.

David M. Hays  
Editor & Archivist  
From a telephone call with  
Albert. I. DaSilva  
JLS 1944

[Ed. Note: Wow! What an amazing story. It reads a bit like part of the Goettge Patrol, Chapter 15 in Don Richter's *The Sun Stood Still*, <<http://www.gnt.com/%7Ejrube/goe/tge.htm>>.]

## BURCHILL REPRISE ON MARCH 2006 INTERPRETERS

Someone here at Yountville, a Marine, spoke to me at breakfast-time, in Japanese, which he had learned somewhere else, near San Diego. His words sounded Japanese alright, but I had never heard of his school [I presume this to be another Camp Elliot enlisted Marine linguist. Camp Elliott was located by or in the giant Camp Pendleton, near San Diego. I will attempt to get his name from Mr. Burchill].

I shall write to Charles Cook, who was sent to Saipan after the War ended, and where I spent two months in 1946 before returning to Washington. He became an assistant to Henry Cabot Lodge at the UN, but I had lost his last known address. Thanks for that too [I had sent him a new JLS/OLS address list].

The injections in both arms that Betty Knecht recollected are being given here in Yountville, as well. But worse, the night that Hammond Rolph and I played hooky from Curtis-Joshi's dinner and saw *For Whom the Bell Tolls* downtown and returned to class in the morning. Well, the rest of the school was down with food

poisoning, and there we were, healthy and alone in class.

Philip G. Burchill  
JLS 1944

## USNR Supply- OLS-ONI-MA BELL

I am responding to your letter of January 24, 2006. Yes, I am one of the USN Officers who attended the USN Russian Language Program in 1945.

I was commissioned as an Ensign USNR Supply Corps on graduation from the University of California, Berkeley in May 1941. By 1943, I had attended a Naval Supply Corps course of instruction at Harvard Graduate School a tour of duty at Naval Supply Depot Norfolk, VA and almost 2 years on a destroyer in the South Pacific. I was in outfitting new ships under construction at Navy Yard Charleston, SC when I heard of the Navy's interest in training some Supply Corps officers in Russian. Having an interest in Russian history, I applied. I was interviewed by Captain Hindmarsh in Columbia, SC and was selected in October 1944. On completion of the program I was assigned to ONI, Washington, DC. In February 1946 I was released from active duty.

From 1946 to 1981 I pursued a career in telecommunications with the Bell System, with postings in California, New York and Massachusetts. In 1954 and 55, I was awarded a Sloan Fellowship to MIT for an advanced degree in Engineering. I retired as an Assistant Vice President of Pacific Bell in San Francisco in 1981.

Between 1946 and 1978, I remained active in the US Naval Reserve with annual duty assignments. In 1950, I transferred from the Supply Corps to the Navy Line and continued in various assignments in Naval intelligence in the Naval Reserve. In the mid-50s, I taught a class in beginning Russian to a group of Naval Reserve officers. My final assignment in the Naval Reserve was as Region Six Area Coordinator of intelligence programs. On retirement from the Naval Reserve in 1978 I

reached the rank of Captain. (to be con'td)

Dixon E. Wansbury  
OLS (Russian) 1945

[Ed. Note: Per my usual practice, I crafted this title. No disrespect intended for the use of "Ma Bell". I certainly would not expect one of its executives to use that term. It just shortens into a title better.]

## Graham G. Landrum English Professor & Mystery Writer OLS 4/45-

Graham Gordon Landrum, Princeton University, Ph.D. 1954, retired college professor of English and distinguished author of mystery novels, died July 31, 1995, in Bristol, Tenn. Graham was born in Dallas, Texas, received his bachelor's and master's from the University of Texas, and his PhD in English from Princeton. During WWII, he served in the Navy, attending the US Navy Oriental Language School, in Japanese, toward the end of the War. He then entered upon a divided career of study, teaching, and authorship. His teaching career found him in the classroom at Austin College in Sherman, Tex., and at King College in Bristol, Tenn. He was a well-known author of mystery novels. In his community he was an elder in the Presbyterian Church in Bristol, a church school teacher, a Rotarian, and a member of the SAR. He is survived by his widow, Mary, one daughter, and one son. To these and those friends whom he held dear, we extend our deep sympathy.

The Graduate Alumni  
PAW, 1995-96  
Princeton University

## JLS/OLS Contribution to Postwar Intelligence

It has always been told that the attendees of the USN JLS/OLS were some of the most intelligent young men and women with advanced degrees, language training, Phi Beta Kappa keys, honors, and long residence in China and Japan available to the Navy during World War II. All graduates were trained in Navy and Marine intelligence before assignment, and all, or most all,

served as intelligence officers during their tour of duty.

While many have written of the JLS/OLS contribution to Japan and Asia academia, and while I have written a multi-part article on JLS/OLS role in the nation's diplomacy, little has been written on the degree to which this JLS/OLS "intelligence" was put to national service in postwar naval and marine uses, as well as in the National Security Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the Central Intelligence Agency. Many even performed intelligence service in the State Department. This is the first of a multi-part article on JLS/OLSers in the nation's intelligence services.

Soon after the end of the War, the various governmental services were attempting to recruit people with specialized knowledge for tasks that lay ahead in the postwar world. The Foreign Service had recruited JLS/OLSers while on duty in China and Japan. With the onset of the Cold War, the establishment of the National Security Agency and the proliferation of intelligence agencies and offices throughout the Federal Government, intelligence recruits were much sought after. Individuals who had been working in Navy decryption, those with specialized language skills, those who were not intending to continue in naval or marine intelligence and who had worked in field intelligence during the war were approached by these new agencies.

What follows is a truncated version, as one can imagine, as "spooks" are rarely very forthcoming about their careers. (to be con'td)

David M. Hays  
Editor & Archivist

## \$Donations Accepted

If you wish to support the JLS/OLS Archival Project in ways other than giving papers you may contribute donations to our US Navy JLS/OLS Fund. We hire work-study students on this fund, tripling its value. If you wish to donate, make your check out to the **University of Colorado Foundation**, writing **US Navy JLS Fund** on the memo line to the bottom left of your check, and mail it to our contact address.

David Hays  
Archives  
University of Colorado at Boulder  
184 UCB  
Boulder, Colorado 80309-0184  
Phone (303) 492-7242  
Fax (303) 492-3960  
Email: [arv@colorado.edu](mailto:arv@colorado.edu)