The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

★Remember September 11, 2001★ arv@colorado.edu

Number 165

November 1, 2011

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.

Query on Bob Wilson

Do you have any info on Bob Wilson, JLS '43, who went into the Navy and I think served on a warship? He was a good friend of Dick [Greenwood]'s, became a college professor after the war. (They fished in what my uncle said was a very good trout stream within walking distance of the Boulder campus.)

Prof. Christopher Hanson Philip Merrill College of Journalism University of Maryland, College Park, MD, 20742 Nephew of Dick Thomas Greenwood JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: Here is a great obituary for Bob Wilson.

Yes, I am always amazed that Boulder Creek, rendered into riffle by placer mining, part sluice for upstream mine tailings, part drain for flour, gold, tungsten, and radium mills, channel for a number of landfills and who knows how much road and parking lot trash, could and can still support stocked and native rainbow and brown trout. People still fish it successfully, from under busy downtown overpasses. I guess the cold runoff still supports fish and their food supply.]

Robert Arden Wilson History: Los Angeles 1910-1991

Professor Emeritus

Robert Arden Wilson, JLS 1943, who taught Japanese history at UCLA from 1949 to 1978, passed away on November 29, 1991. He was a member of the pioneering cohort of Japan scholars in the United States in the immediate post-World War II years. But Bob was more than a scholar. He was above all a modest and generous human being. As Gerhart Ladner, one of his UCLA history colleagues noted, "Bob was one of the most human and kindest persons whom I met during my academic life." He is survived by his wife, Margaret, daughter, Ann, and two sons. Lee and Bruce.

Bob Wilson was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on July 17, 1910. and grew up in Gladstone, Oregon. As he once put it, he was the typical "youth of the depression." Born into a poor family, he learned early to shift for himself. A stint as a merchant seaman was followed employment on the Bonneville Dam as a framer, leading to an industrial accident that left him with a life-long disability. This also led to a shift of careers. Bob returned to college, took a B.A. from Willamette University in Salem in 1939, and in 1940 married Margaret Macy, a fellow Willamette graduate, who gave up her teaching career in Ashland to accompany Bob to the University of Washington, where he took an M.A. in history

Pearl Harbor and the outbreak of war in the Pacific further altered Bob's career. Listening to Roosevelt's speech, Margaret recalled, Bob declared "We must be a part of this!" Although 31 and ineligible for the draft, Bob decided to build on his Japanese language studies, begun at the University of Washington, by applying to the Navy's School of Oriental Languages in Boulder, Colorado. This led to a

commission and to a tour of duty in the Pacific as a Navy intelligence officer from 1943-46.

With the war over, Bob returned to the University of Washington to complete his doctorate in Japanese history, receiving his Ph.D. in 1949. In the same year he joined the UCLA history department as its sole Japan specialist. Bob Wilson's early writings on Japan, including his Genesis of the Meiji Government in Japan (U.C. Press, 1957) continue to be cited by contemporary scholars, and his mid-career shift into the field of Japanese American studies resulted in his major study, East to America: A History of the Japanese in the United States, which was coauthored with Bill Hosokawa in 1980. Bob's earlier research on Japan was supported by the Fulbright Commission and by grants from the American Philosophical Society: his later work on Japanese Americans received support both from the university and from the Japanese American Citizen's League.

East to America was the product of Bob's growing involvement with Japanese-American matters and Japanese-American history. Bob served as an important early director of UCLA's Japanese American Research Project, which was supported and funded by the JACL. He was joined in these efforts by men such as Joe Grant Masaoka, who, like Bob, were convinced that UCLA should become a major depository for the historical documents of the Japanese American community. Both the community and the University are indebted to these men for the foresight and vision that made UCLA into the major center for the study of Japanese-Americans in the U.S. that it is

Among Bob's best qualities was his dry sense of humor and the ability to laugh at himself as well as at others. He was remarkably unpretentious and could communicate easily with people from all walks of life. His earlier experiences taught him never to judge others too quickly. And living through the depression made him unfailingly generous. If there were two things that he particularly treasured, they were his family and trout fishing. As a fisherman he was a true genius and nowhere was he more in his element than on an Eastern Sierra trout stream, under the trees and the warm sun with his line flicking near some bank or pool. Few who went with him can remember a time when he did not catch his limit, often by noon. How he liked to clean and prepare those fish for a delicious campfire meal with the setting sun! To appreciate Bob one had to be there for such an outing. Here was the complete man: scholar, friend, teacher--and trout fisherman.

> Robert Burr and Fred Notehelfer University of California In Memoriam, 1994 pp. 251-252

CONVERSATION BETWEEN MARINES

Dear Aubrey [Farb]:

The CO at the Marine Barracks was Col. Kendall, He said I shouldn't seek quarters in DC because he was sending me to the President's Camp David about miles into Maryland. At the camp I found two other 1st Lts, Carroll Rowe and Cloyd Hines, both senior to me by file numbers. Rowe was married and lived in the small town of Thurmont, at the foot of the Catoctin Mts. Hines was single and lived on post. A big central lodge in the Catoctin Mt Park was taken over by FDR in 1942 and made it his presidential retreat, calling it his "Shangri-la". Eisenhower later renamed it Camp David, after his son. Near the lodge was what I was told had been a Girl Scouts' Camp and this was taken over to house the 100-odd Marines who would be needed to protect the POTUS and perform other duties. Our Marines were comfortably housed in a number of cabins. There was a central building used for guests and officers who over-nighted. Another building had our detachment hqs and another, a small PX and Sick Bay, run by a Navy Pharmacists Mate. In good weather there was no trouble driving up to Camp, but when it snowed we would hitch a ride with the Pharmacists Mate, who had a governmentsupplied jeep. We had a 1st Sergeant, of course, a motor pool sgt., etc. We were charged with maintaining the whole area's crushed gravel roads and had the equipment to do it. Foremost, a huge roaring rock crusher and a front-loader to pick up the rocks for the grinder, Also a grader, a small Caterpillar, dump truck etc. I was taken aback when I was appointed Motor Pool Officer, which required that I learn to drive all this equipment. Motor Sgt. Antoine told me not to sweat it, he would give me a crash familiarization course [ho, ho, ho] - which he did. Luckily I was never required to do any real life driving. We did a lot of hiking up and down the mountains to keep the Marines in trim

We had the last dozen Marine War Dogs - the recalcitrant ones that refused to be socialized for adoption into civilian life [canines, not people, I think, But I suppose there were many of the other type as well]. They were kept in individual chain link enclosures. Periodically a trainer would take out his dog on a leash and another Marine in a wellpadded outfit would harass the dog by whacking it with a rolledup piece of blanket. The dog of course became furious and the trainer would then release him and tell him to GO - which he did. During daylight hours we had patrolling guards within the Camp enclosure and at night the dog patrols covered the outside area.

Truman didn't come to the Camp often, when he did, arriving by limo rather than chopper, but he allowed a lot of his subordinates to use the place. When Truman was there, we lieutenants took turns manning the guard post near the front entrance of the Lodge. One

morning I was there when Truman popped out with his cane, ready for his morning walk. He bade me good morning. I saluted and returned his greeting. He bustled off on his walk. On weekends we ran a liberty bus into Hagerstown, about 16 miles away, to give the men a break from their sequestered lives at the Camp. Now and then the local law would phone us to retrieve some over-exuberant gyrene from their pokey [I remember calls like that when I was inl. We usually let them sit there until the next day.

After some months of this pleasant duty, I was called back to 8th and Eye. Col. Kendall told me I was being seconded to the State Department to go to Europe to augment their Diplomatic Courier Service, which was going to be overburdened during the Moscow Conference.

Next: Schlepping Diplomatic Bags. [RIP Glenn]

Semper Fi Glenn Nelson JLS 1944

John Y. Toshiyuki Sensei? & Tomomasa Yamazaki Sensei, USA MIS Died Serving during the Occupation

I am attempting to clarify/confirm the possibility that John Y. Toshiyuki was an instructor at the Japanese Language School at Boulder and Oklahoma A&M. His name does not appear in Jessica Arnston's "Journey to Boulder".

In attempting to trace relatives of a KIA in WWII named Shigeo Tabuchi, the name of John Y. Toshiyuki came up as a decorated instructor of the Navy.

I am a gofer for the Echoes of Silence of AJA memorial alliance trying to finalize the KIA. But in so doing we run into other interesting tangents.

I kind of got lost reading some of the memories by the sensei of the Japanese Language School and their relatives in *The Interpreter*.

Tomomasa Yamazaki is on the list of sensei at Boulder.

Ruth Yamazaki, wife of Tomomasa, was also a sensei at Boulder. Because the parents of Tom Yamazaki had been proprietors of a oriental art goods store in San Francisco. They chose to return to Japan rather than be interned.

Tom attended the University of California and worked on the editorial staff of a Japanese newspaper in San Francisco and Los Angeles and married Ruth who was on the staff of the California Daily News in L. A.

After serving the JLS, Tom enlisted in the Army as a private, taking a cut in pay. Tom was in the class 45-09 A-14 at the Army Intelligence School Fort Snelling. Tom re-enlisted to serve in Japan in June 1946.

While on a routine flight from Itami Army Base near Osaka to Fukuoka, in Kyushu on December 10, 1946, T/Sgt Yamazaki was killed when the air transport he was on crashed two minutes after take off from Itami. Twenty-two of the twenty-three occupants died in the crash.

Included were: Shigeru Mori of Sandy, Utah; Daniel Ota from Topaz Internment Center in Utah, and Frederick M. Hirano, formerly of Granada. I do not have any data whether Tom was able to see his parents or siblings in Japan.

Tomomasa is buried at the Los Angeles National Cemetery.

Mits Kojimoto Echoes of Silence AJA Memorial Alliance mitskojmoto@pacbell.net

Dear Mits:

We have emailed before on another matter. It is good to hear from you again. Thank you for your informative email. I am glad you have been enjoying The Interpreter. I get lost placing the stories, as well

Most of our best information regarding the USN JLS/OLS sensei was provided by Ms. Jessica Arntson's research. Unfortunately, the main USN JLS/OLS office files have not survived, to our knowledge. So her list of sensei (and ours) had to be gleaned from several sources: Donald Irish's MA thesis, the CU Regent's Minutes, and a list of Oklahoma A&M sensei. Mr. Toshiyuki does not

appear on those lists. I have also looked in CU student & faculty directories, as well as Denver and Boulder City Directories, and did not find him there, either. Nevertheless, our lists may not be complete. As we do not have the complete USN JLS office files; they may never be complete.

The Navy and the Army also had other small, satellite Japanese language operations at a few universities across the country, which were not officially connected with the Berkeley/Boulder/Stillwater JLS progression. I am uncertain how one would be able to trace those other sensei.

I will place your email in a future issue of the newsletter and see if our readership recalls Mr. Toshiyuki.

Best Wishes, Dave

[Ed. Note: May Tomomasa Yamazaki rest in peace and be recognized for his service and sacrifice for his country.]



ALLAN L. LEVINE

Allan Lewis Levine, 85, a resident of Albuquerque since 1998, died Wednesday, September 17, 2008. Mr. Levine was born in Lowell, MA, son of William and Bessie Levine.

He attended Lowell Public Schools and graduated from Phillips Academy in Andover. Mr. Levine received his A. B. Magna Cum Laude from Harvard College prior to being commissioned in the U.S. Navy. He served in the U. S. Navy during World War II, in the Pacific Theatre, participating in the invasions of the Gilbert Islands, Marshall Islands, Hollandia, Saipan, Guam, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He entered the USN Oriental Language School at the University of Colorado in May 1945.

After the war, Mr. Levine entered the family business. Towers Motor Parts Corporation. in Lowell, MA. He retired in 1998. Mr. Levine was active in many Civic Organizations to include the Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce, United Fund for Greater Lowell, Greater Lowell Council of Social Agencies, Harvard Club of Lowell, Harvard Club of Boston, Harvard Alumni Association. Vesper Country Club and the Automotive Service Industry Association.

He also served on the Boards of Merrimack River Savings Bank, which merged into Lowell Five Cent Savings Bank, and Saint John's Medical Center. In Albuquerque, Mr. Levine served as treasurer of the Bernalillo County Democratic Party and as a board member of the Albuquerque Committee of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Levine was a member of Temple Beth El, in Lowell, MA from 1945 to 2005 where he served as a Trustee, Assistant Treasurer, President, and Chairman of various committees. He also served as Board Member and Chairman of the Cemetery Committee for Congregation Albert Albuquerque.

He is survived by his children, Erica Levine Powers of Newburgh, NY and John B. Levine, M.D., of Cambridge, MA; grandson, Llewellyn A. Powers of Oakland, CA; brother, Morey Levine of Lexington, MA; cousin, Joan B. Pinck of Cambridge, MA; the children of Carol N. Kinney, Tom Roberts and wife, Leah Albers, Margaret Roberts, M.D., Shelley Roberts and husband, Duane Moore, all of Albuquerque.

Mr. Levine was preceded in death by his wife, Pearl S. Levine and by Carol N. Kinney.

French Mortuary & David M. Hays Archivist & Editor

Reprise on Tad Van Brunt

This is a note to add to the Tad Van Brunt story that was in the last issue of *The Interpreter*, Issue #129. November 1, 2008.

I was in Boulder after Tad had left there and I did not meet

him until we were both recalled to active duty in the Marine Corps in July 1950 (not 1948 as reported in your story). Both of us were attached to the First Marine Division Intelligence Section and we traveled together on a ship to Kobe to stage for the landing at Inchon, Korea in September 1950. Tad possessed an engaging personality, always a bright smile and fun to be around and in a short period we became close friends.

When we landed in Kobe he was met by a bevy of friends he had not seen since he left eleven years earlier. Included among the greeters was his former Japanese nanny who embraced him and broke into a torrent of tears. Also in the group were several gaijin, principally of Italian descent, including a stunning woman of our age with whom Tad had gone to school before his departure from Japan in 1939. The chemistry between them was instant. It was a combination of his fascination with this charming Italian woman and alcohol that nearly cost him a court martial within ten days after our arrival. I would like to claim that my skill as an attorney saved him from this calamity but it probably was due more to the urgency of our division's mission commanding that our officer limited punishment to a severe admonition.

Before deployment from Kobe to Korea Tad and I were temporarily assigned to regimental staffs, he to the 7th Marines and I to Chesty Puller's 1st Marines. After our assignment I never saw Tad again.

Perhaps one or two years ago a story appeared in The Old Breed, the magazine of the 1st Marine Division, that related that during the Chinese intervention in the Chosin Reservoir (Nov. 1950) that a U.S. Army unit on the east side of the reservoir had been driven by the Chinese onto the frozen lake and that the soldiers tried to reach the western shore protected by the 7th Marines. Once on the barren frozen ice they were "sitting ducks" for the Chinese and many were wounded, killed, or frozen to death. A group of Marines, including Tad, disregarding their

own safety, made several forays onto the ice to rescue wounded and half-frozen soldiers. The narrator in this piece was a participant and he stated that Lt. Van Brunt exhibited extraordinary bravery in this action. I seem to recall, but am not sure, that Tad was decorated for his heroic deeds.

Best regards, Elmer J. Stone JLS 1945

Marines: Cross, Van Brunt & Pratt

Just as I was about to email you about two items, your email re: Chuck Cross, sadly brought a third. Within a week, I will send you some comments on that outstanding JLS friend. We not only started together, at the beginning, in the "very famous" July 1943 graduating class, joined the 4th Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, participated in all 4 battles of the 4trh MarDiv, were practicing written and spoken Japanese language at JICPOA at Pearl Harbor when V-J Day occurred, but were two of the three Boulder Marines (Dave Anderson was the third) sent to join the USMC III Corps in North China (to take the surrender of the Japanese in Beijing, Tianjin, and Qingdao, and "protect" the soon to arrive Chinese Nationalist troops from the Communist 9th Route Army roaming round the region), because of our years of China residence and familiarity with the Chinese language.

The other two items were some more comments about the memorable and unique Tad Van Brunt of our Boulder class, which I will send to you, and to ask if you have seen the October 2008 USMC magazine article about longer service Marine and later Boulder JLS grad, Harry Pratt, whose command of the Japanese language made him a valued prosecution team member at the Manila trials of Japanese generals deemed responsible for wartime atrocities [COL Pratt sent us that issue of The Leatherneck].

Do you have any details of Chuck's passing [Not at this 11/6/08 writing]? Having Gerry Hoeck's email address from your

message, I will contact him, as a longtime Seattle member (and also Boulder USMC) of our less numerous survivors, unfortunately.

Dan S. Williams JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: When I heard that Charles T. Cross had passed away, I immediately emailed those former veterans of the 4th MARDIV with whom he had served. Ambassador Cross had been a generous supporter of the USN JLS/OLS Archival Project. I met Mr. and Mrs. Cross at the 60th JLS/OLS Anniversary Reunion at CU in 2002. We will miss him. We will look forward to more stories by Dan Williams.]

G. William Skinner 1925-2008 OLS 1944-45, Chinese

William Skinner, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, University of California-Davis, died peacefully at home on October 26, 2008. The cause of death was cancer. He was 83. Educated at Deep Springs College and Cornell University, where he received his Ph.D. in anthropology in 1954, he began his scholarly career as Field Director for the Cornell's Southeast Asia Program, serving in Bangkok, Thailand, from 1951 to 1955. After teaching at Columbia and Cornell, in 1965 he moved to Stanford, where he was appointed Barbara Browning Professor Humanities and Sciences in 1987. From 1990 until his retirement in 2005, he taught at the University of California-Davis. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a past president of the Association for Asian Studies. G. William Skinner was one of the world's leading scholars of Chinese culture. working in many disciplinary fields from geographic information systems (GIS) and regional analysis to the study of family systems. His earliest published work on the overseas Chinese in Thailand and Indonesia was followed by studies of marketing and social structure in rural China and analyses of China's spatial history. At the time of his death he was engaged in comparative research projects applying spatial analysis and family systems

analysis to contemporary China, nineteenth-century France, and Meiji Japan. He is survived by his sons James Lauriston, Mark Williamson, and Jeremy Burr, and a daughter, Alison Jane. His eldest son, Geoffrey Crane, died in 1989. He is also survived by his wife, Susan Mann; by his former wife, Carol Bagger by Skinner; and four grandchildren: Catherine Althea, Colin Andrew. Duncan Geoffrey, and Aaron Alexander.

> Professor Susan Mann History Department University of California-Davis

Japanese American Redress Activist Tsuyako 'Sox' Kitashima Dies

(Cont'd) "There is no one in the Japanese American community who does not owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude for her advocacy on our behalf," said former San Jose Democratic Congressman Norman Mineta in the foreword of "Birth of an Activist: The Sox Kitashima Story," a biography penned by Kitashima and Joy K. Morimoto and released in 2003.

While in Congress, Mineta witnessed the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 granted which Japanese a governmental Americans apology and \$20,000 reparations for their wartime incarceration in American concentration camps.

"Her drive, her energy, her persistence and her dedication won some tremendous victories for us, and for the nation," Mineta added.

"She was a rare Nisei who was willing to stand up and mind," speak her said leader community Allen Okamoto. "She was a person who talked the talk but also walked the walk. community has lost a great one."

Birth of an Activist

Tsuyako Kataoka was born on July 14, 1918 in the East Bay city of Hayward, Calif., the second youngest of six children born to Masajiro and Yumi immigrants Kataoka, from Japan"s Yamaguchi Prefecture who worked as truck farmers. She was raised in the small town of Centerville, which is today part of the city of Fremont.

earned her famous nickname because her non-Japanese friends found pronouncing the "Tsu" in her name difficult. She was called "Socko" and other variations before it was shortened to "Sox."

The simple life gave way to a loss of innocence with the aftermath of the Dec. 7, 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Kitashima was 23 when she and some 120,000 persons of Japanese descent were forcibly relocated from the West Coast to wartime concentration camps, an experience that would later both define and motivate community activism.

After four months in the Tanforan Assembly Center "a temporary camp at a horse race track in San Bruno, Calif." she was sent along with others to the (Central Topaz concentration camp.

She married Tom Kitashima on Aug. 11, 1945 in Salt Lake City after a nine-year courtship. They had one child, son Alan, in 1949

Kitashima worked at the local VA Hospital until forced to retire in 1981, and then devoted herself to community work.

Because she wanted to be a part of the struggle to right the wrong done upon the Japanese American community, Kitashima joined the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations in 1980, the year it was founded.

"I wanted most of all to educate the general public about the truth of what happened during the war, even though each time I spoke about my experience, it brought back dark memories," she wrote.

Inspired by the determination and commitment by the younger Sansei, Kitashima decided to testify at the San Francisco hearings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, held on Aug. 11-13, 1981.

"I spoke about the humiliation of being fed discolored cold cuts, overcooked Swiss chard and moldy bread," she wrote. "I told of my brother"s losses as a farmer, the horror of being placed in a horse stall with manure on the floor, hay-filled mattresses that served as our beds, the lack of privacy, the terrible sanitation, and the irony of holding memorial services for our Japanese American soldiers while behind barbed wire fences." (to be cont'd)

> Kenji G. Taguma Nichi Bei Times January 12, 2006

Reprise on Seidensticker, Keene, & Cary

Here's a check to help out with The Interpreter. I look forward to each issue. I particularly enjoyed the material about Ed Seidensticker whom I knew in Boulder. I recall that when the Chief lined us up by height for marching, Ed and I ended up in the middle, with me on the slightly higher side. This upset Ed. "I'm taller than you," he'd exclaim and move around to the higher side of me. When the Chief came back, he'd cry "Seidensticker, get back on the other side of Boller!" So Ed had to return to the shorter side. I didn't care one way or the other, but felt sorry it meant so much to

also enjoyed Donald Keene's memoirs. I never knew him personally, but I always knew he was one of the Boulderites with a superior knowledge of Nihongo. Some years ago, when I was in New York City, I heard him give a talk on Japanese culture in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He didn't look much older than he did in Boulder.

When I visited Japan in the late 1980s, for the first time since the Occupation, Otis Cary put me and some of my friends up in one of the Dormitories at Doshisha University in Kyoto, where he did some teaching. He and his wife treated me royally. After World War II, I did my doctoral dissertation on Doshisha: its founding by American missionaries in the late 19th century, the clash of American and Japanese cultures, and the eventual taking control of the university by the Japanese. A few years ago, Doshisha arranged to have the dissertation, with a new introduction by me,

translated and published in Japanese. I have a copy but it would take years, with the help a Japanese-American dictionary, for me to read the translation!

> Paul F. Boller, Jr. JLS 1943 Professor of History Texas Christian University

Reprise on G. William Skinner. George Beckmann & Seidensticker

William Skinner was a close friend of mine, whom I met in the mid-60s in Hawaii, when he was using the UH computer to analyze data that he had collected in Singapore on Chinese families. He was the author of one of the most famous of articles on rural marketing in China. The articles went through multiple re-printings by the Association for Asian Studies.

George Beckmann [in #153] was another person whom I knew well, having seen him many times at work in Seattle, at conferences. He was both a physical and intellectual giant.

photo of Seidensticker in Issue #153 really captures his coy and slightly doubting self. He used to ask me, "What the hell are your Koreans up to now?" Slyly blaming me for their acts.

> Forrest R. "Woody" Pitts OLS 1946

Contact

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

JLS/OLS Website:

http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/archiv es/collections/jlsp/index.htm

\$Donations Received

The Archives has recently received generous donations from: