

*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.*

## John L. Fischer (1923-1985) JLS 1944



Fall (Dec) 1943 group. Russ Stevens, Rich Woodard, Hoekje, Jack Fischer (all Marines), Hudson, 19\_01\_00\_26, AUCBL

John Lyle "Jack" Fischer, born July 9, 1923, in Kewanee, Illinois, died May 16, 1985, in New Orleans, Louisiana. He began his education at Harvard in 1940; however, like many of his generation, his schooling was interrupted and strongly

influenced by events connected with World War II.

Fischer left Harvard in 1942 to undertake training in Japanese language at the University of Colorado, and he then served as an interpreter and translator in the Marine Corps from 1943-46.

With the war at an end, he returned to Harvard to complete his B.A. in 1946. Graduate training at Harvard and the New School for Social Research led to his master's degree from the former institution in 1949. In the same year he married Ann Kindrick Meredith, an outstanding anthropologist in her own right, who died prematurely of cancer in 1971 (Halpern 1973).

As newlyweds, Jack and Ann began an exciting chapter in their lives. Jack became a District Anthropologist (1949-51) and a District Officer (1951-53) in the newly created U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under both the Navy and Department of the Interior administrations. After a year in Truk, during which they learned Trukese and had their first daughter, Nikko (Madeleine), the family moved to Pohnpei (Ponape) for 3 years. Jack again used Japanese as a contact language while he learned Pohnpeian in his usual meticulous manner. On Pohnpei, another daughter, Mary Ann, was born. The Fischers' field research and intellectual growth from this time on showed a strong interest in comparative child-rearing, socialization, and the cognitive development of children.

Along with others assigned to the Coordinated Investigation of Micronesian Anthropology, Jack Fischer pioneered a new style of applied anthropology. When the United States took over Micronesia from Japan after World War II, anthropological and other scientific investigations were funded to provide both practical and scientific information. Anthropologists like Fischer opened up Micronesia as a research area

to American scholars, and their role as professional advisors and cultural interpreters to a colonial administration probably altered the course of Micronesian history. Fischer's contributions in developing civil and domestic laws, land tenure policies, and new political structures helped bring the insights of anthropology into the American colonial administration of a remote island area. This was much more than ordinary fieldwork.

Nevertheless, Fischer resumed his interrupted academic career and finished his doctoral dissertation at Harvard University (Fischer 1955). With the data and experiences he had collected, he prepared a comparative study of language and folktales in Pohnpei and Truk. The dissertation presaged lifelong interests in folklore and in linguistics, areas to which he made numerous subsequent contributions (e.g., Fischer 1959, 1966a, 1966b, 1969). It also presaged a long-standing interest in comparisons between Truk and Pohnpei - what he called "microethnology" (e.g., Fischer 1956, 1957, 1965, 1966c, 1968; Fischer and Swartz 1960). Throughout his life Jack retained an active involvement with Micronesian anthropology, especially Pohnpei. He and Ann also did joint fieldwork in New England (1954-55), which was published as part of a major theoretical study of comparative child-rearing (the Six Cultures Series).

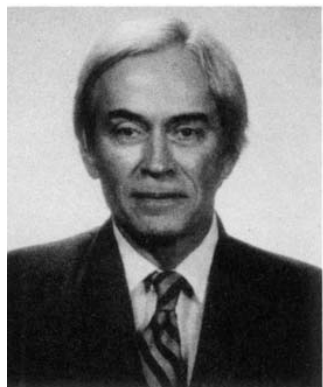
He also maintained a strong interest in Japan, going there for fieldwork in the early 1960s where he used innovative methods to explore the psychological dynamics of family life. At his death he was planning a return to Japan for further research. Late in his career Fischer established professional contacts with Soviet ethnographers, learned Russian, and taught at the University of Leningrad in 1979. He served as U.S. Co-Chairman for the

Symposium on Ethnic Processes in the U.S. and U.S.S.R., held in New Orleans in 1984 under auspices of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences and the American Council of Learned Societies. This marked one of the few occasions during the Cold War when American and Soviet academicians have gathered to discuss sensitive issues of ethnicity and national policies.

In 1973, Fischer married Simonne Cholin Sanzenbach, a professor at Newcomb College, Tulane University, who shared and expanded his intellectual interests, particularly in comparative literature, drama, and modern cinema. They spent most summers in Paris and combined their respective academic talents to publish, for example, an article in Japanese comparing French and Japanese proverbs on speech attitudes (Fischer and Fischer 1983). Jack Fischer's contributions to anthropology are of great breadth. He was an accomplished linguist, a keen student of social organization, a painstaking folklorist, an advocate for psychological anthropology, and a major figure in Pacific ethnography. He taught courses in all of these areas as well as introductory cultural anthropology, the Far East, kinship, cultural evolution, and hunter-gatherers.

Fischer began his academic career as an Instructor and Research Associate of the Laboratory of Human Development at Harvard (1955-58). From there he went to Tulane, on whose faculty he served for the remainder of his life. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1960, to Full Professor in 1963, and chaired the Department of Anthropology from 1969-71. Fischer was a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford in 1965-66, and a Visiting Professor at the University of Pittsburgh in 1975-76. Not only did he play a leading role in his own department at Tulane, but

Fischer also lent his good counsel to numerous professional societies. He served as President of the Southern Anthropological Society (1969), Chairperson of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania (1981-82), and as a member of the Executive Board of the American Anthropological Association (1973-75).



Fischer was also a consultant to the National Academy of Sciences and the National Science Foundation (1967-69), and to the National Institute of Mental Health (1963-70). Jack was fascinated by the subtleties of the human mind, which may be why his research focused on folklore, linguistics, socialization, and psychological anthropology. His articles on speech and social structure (e.g., 1966c, 1969) provided impetus to the field of socio-linguistics, and his article on the cross-cultural study of art (1961) was a seminal piece in that area of research. He proposed solutions to such far-ranging problems as the dilemma of Natchez Indian social organization, the origin and spread of kuru in the New Guinea Highlands (with Ann Fischer), and the purpose of consonantal sandhi in certain languages. He also did extensive "salvage" linguistics work among Koasati speakers in Louisiana. A prolific writer, Fischer co-authored eight books and published over 70 articles and book chapters. He was, as well, deeply involved in numerous academic debates via published comments, letters to editors, and reviews. Although he did fieldwork in New England and Japan, it will be Fischer's continued interest in and major contributions to the anthropology of Micronesia for which he will

be most remembered. His survey of what was then known of the anthropology of the Eastern Caroline Islands (1957), his debate with Good-enough over the classification of residence in village censuses (1958), and his edited and translated presentation of a valuable Pohnpeian manuscript history (1977) must be counted among his most significant contributions. Jack Fischer loved children, gardening, and caring for his animals. He was an excellent amateur musician. He was generous with his time and thoughts. Quiet, somewhat shy and self-effacing, it is easy to see why he had extraordinary rapport with his Micronesian friends. He was held in such high repute on Pohnpei that in 1972 he was admitted to the traditional nobility with the title Soumadawen Sekirinleng 'Lord of the Sea of the Back of Heaven'. We have lost one of the best of our number.

#### Acknowledgment.

We wish to thank Munro S. ("Ed") Edmonson for his assistance. A John L. Fischer Memorial Fund has been established in the Department of Anthropology of Tulane University, and a complete bibliography of Fischer's works is to be published in *Human Mosaic*, Tulane's anthropology journal.

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MAC MARSHALL

University of Iowa

MARTHA WARD

Department of

Anthropology and Geography

University of New Orleans

Mac Marshall and Martha Ward

American Anthropologist,

New Series, Vol. 89, No. 1

(Mar., 1987), pp. 134-136

## Memoirs Of Ari Inouye

### Ida Inouye's Notes to the Memoirs of Ari Inouye

*Here are a few notes that I thought you might find interesting, which Ari did not include in his memoirs.*

While attending the University of California, Berkeley, after his return from Japan in 1938, Ari worked for Mr. Thomas Church, a well-known landscape architect who wrote the book, *Gardens are for People*. He is known to have "opened the door to the Modern movement in landscape architecture with what came to be known as the 'California Style.'"<sup>1</sup> His design process was governed by four primary principles: unity between house and garden; function; simplicity; and scale.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Church also made use of integrating the surrounding landscape into his garden design, known to the Japanese as "borrowed scenery."

Thomas Church, along with William Penn Mott, Jr., were the leading landscape architects at the time. Charles Lee Tilden, though not a landscape architect, led the effort to obtain and preserve the land to create the East Bay Regional Park system. Ari was fortunate to learn from Thomas Church while a Cal student and then to work with Mr. Mott and Mr. Tilden in his

<sup>1</sup> "Thomas Dolliver Church," from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas\\_Dolliver\\_Church](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Dolliver_Church), accessed April 20, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

role as the university's landscape architect.

In addition, while still in private practice, Ari had the privilege of designing and constructing the garden for Mr. Henry J. Kaiser, the founder of Kaiser Permanente and Kaiser Steel, at his home in Lafayette, California. He often speaks of Mr. Kaiser as truly a remarkable man, a man of honor and integrity; Ari had the greatest respect for him.

In spite of all his abilities and power, Mr. Kaiser was a very humble man. Ari remembers when he and several of the people who helped install his garden were invited for a luncheon at Mr. Kaiser's home; Mr. Kaiser wanted to thank each one of them personally for the work that they had done. Ari recalls so vividly the times that Mr. Kaiser invited him to sit with him on the back steps of his home and share a glass of grape juice as he watched the progress of his garden.

Ari designed and implemented several award winning gardens in both the Oakland Home and Garden Show and at the San Mateo Garden Show. He also designed and implemented a garden featuring the *bonsai* at the San Francisco Strybing Garden Center in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, with Mr. Frank Shinoda, a well-known Japanese Landscape Gardener. Ari was twice nominated for *Who's Who in the West* and invited to serve as a council member for the City of Oakland. Although he felt extremely honored and humbled to be asked and appreciated both the nomination and invitation, he felt that he could not devote the time and energy that such a prestigious and responsible position required.

After his retirement, Ari did serve on a committee with the Friends of the University of California Botanical Garden in regard to the renovation and restoring of the Japanese section of the garden. He continues to be asked or consulted by family and friends and always feels it is an honor. Just recently he received a letter from Bill Fujita, a Cal alumnus, regarding a project by the California Japanese Alumni Association; he

was asked for his input regarding the planting of cherry trees along the West Circle and entrance to the Berkeley campus.

## **JUDGE RUSSELL L. STEVENS**

Born: November 9, 1917 in Miami, OK

Died: January 17, 2010, in Woodland, CA

Judge Russell Stevens, a retired Federal Judge for the National Labor Relations Board in San Francisco, died at peace at the age of 92 after living a full and rewarding life. He married Oleta Kloehr in 1936 and together they went to Hawaii and started building their lives together. They were living and working in Waikiki when WWII broke out on December 7, 1941. They left the Island soon after so Russell could enlist in the Navy and pursue learning the Japanese language. He was accepted at the Japanese Language School at the Univ. of Colorado after being inducted into the Navy. After 15 months of study, he spent approximately 5 years in the Marianas Islands as a Japanese interpreter of prisoners, among other things. In 1946, he moved the family to Yap Island, while working for the USCC; and in 1947 moved back to Boulder to attend Law School, and then for one year lived in Deland, Florida while he studied for the Bar Exam and worked on a number of high profile cases. In 1950, the family (now including a son, Doug, and daughter, Joan) moved back to Hawaii for about a year and then settled in Guam from 1951-1957, where Judge Stevens had a private law practice, served as Attorney General, and wrote and had published 2 books about Guam's history. From 1957 to 1958, they lived in San Diego while he worked as Purchasing Manager for Solar Aircraft Co. One year later, he received a job offer as a judge with the US Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands (Okinawa). The position lasted from 1958-1966 and his knowledge of the Japanese language was a perfect fit for his working with the Okinawan judges, who spoke little English. In 1966, he and Oleta moved to

Seattle, WA to be closer to their grown children. His position was Western Region Counsel for the Dept. of Commerce. For a short time in 1972 he was employed as an Administrative Law Judge for HEW and then moved to San Rafael in 1973 working as an ALJ for NLRB.

In 1986, upon retirement, he and his wife moved to Fallbrook, CA where he successfully grew over 100 fruit trees. In July 2009, because he was suffering from severe dementia, he was moved to a memory care unit about 15 miles from his daughter. His wife Oleta had passed away in February 2003 and his son unexpectedly passed away in September 2009. He is survived by his daughter, Joan Tolentino, 4 grandchildren who live in KS and AZ, and 7 great grandchildren.

His cremated remains will be returned to Coffeyville, KS, to be spread alongside his wife's, on the Old Kloehr Farm.

*Joan Tolentino*

*[Ed. Note: In her note to me, Ms. Tolentino wrote that "his bio is hard to do because it frankly makes me tired just thinking about all of his accomplishments in his lifetime. He sure kept busy. I have his dog, Ekahi, whom he dearly loved so it's like having Daddy around still." I told her that having written about JLS/OLSer accomplishments for ten years, that I am very acquainted with that "tired", humbled reaction.]*

## **SAKAI FOUGHT TO OWN PROPERTY HE LED RENT STRIKE BY WALNUT GROVE'S JAPANESE AMERICANS**

Toshio Sakai, a longtime Walnut Grove resident who helped lead a battle by Japanese Americans to overcome the vestiges of a historical racial ban on land ownership, died Thursday at age 95.

He died of health issues related to old age, said his granddaughter, Kiyomi Burchill.

With a sharp memory and a gift for storytelling, Sakai was an unofficial historian of Walnut Grove, where he was born in 1913 and reared by Japanese immigrants. He lived with his family in Japan during the Great Depression and in Los Angeles

before being interned with Japanese-Americans during World War II.

He returned to Walnut Grove after the war, opened an insurance agency and put down roots.

He served for 27 years on the Walnut Grove Fire District and was on the Walnut Grove School District board. He was a past president of Walnut Grove Buddhist Church and chairman of its 75th anniversary celebration in 2002.

Sakai also fought to end a legacy of discrimination created by California's 1913 Alien Land Act, which barred Japanese immigrants from holding title to the parcels on which they owned their homes.

Although the law was struck down in 1952, generations of his family and others in Backtown -- the Japanese section of Walnut Grove -- continued paying rent to landlords.

## **RENT INCREASE LED TO STRIKE**

Residents also paid for improvements, including a gravel road, weed spraying and a sewer tie-in. The landlords refused to sell the property to residents but agreed not to raise rents.

When a hefty rent increase was set in 1968, Mr. Sakai and his neighbors decided to fight back.

He helped organize a rent strike by residents with support from the War on Poverty's Operation Grass Roots, the Sacramento County Legal Aid Society and the Japanese American Citizens League.

After two years, the landlords agreed to sell to homeowners.

"It was a courageous thing to do," longtime family friend Ralph Sugimoto said. "Most issei (first-generation Japanese Americans) and nisei (second-generation Japanese Americans) were passive after the war. Tosh was very well respected in the community."

Sakai recounted the events on history tours he led in Walnut Grove, where he was raised by farm workers. He showed visitors the site of the segregated "Oriental" elementary school he attended before graduating from Courtland High School.

"He thought it was very important to tell the story of Walnut Grove from the Japanese American perspective," said Holly Pauls, recording secretary for the Walnut Grove Buddhist Church.

He earned an associate degree at Sacramento City College. He taught Japanese to Navy officers during the war.

*"I was gathering obits and ran across this one, didn't match any of my Vets until I read the last line."*

Roger L. Eaton / Researcher  
AJAWARVETS Memorial Alliance / JALL

[Ed. Note: We have three Sakai's on the list of University of Colorado JLS sensei, but not Toshio. However, our list may not be complete. Also, he may have taught at the USN JLS when it moved to Stillwater (or for that matter, at Berkeley, Harvard, or other non-affiliated Navy schools).]

## Reprise on Sidearms



**M1911 45 caliber automatic pistol and holster.**

In one of the letters in #145, it was stated that the writer was on his way to the invasion of Japan. That was before the surrender.

I was a Japanese Language Officer attached to Hq. Co Hq Bat MarDiv on Guam. We were training for operation Olympic, the invasion of Japan at Nagasaki to take place in late October 1945. So the statement that he was on his way for the invasion of Japan was a bit of an overstatement. He was probably on his way to a way station.

On the night of the announcement of the surrender, I was in my tent and heard the broadcast in Japanese on my radio. Just to make sure I found it in English. I ran down to the Officer's Club and stopped the

music and announce that the war was over. No one would believe me. Fifteen minutes later the sergeant from G-3 (Operations) found his colonel who announced that the war was over.

I traveled extensively over Japan during the occupation and never had a firearm, with one exception. In November 1945 while stationed at Sasebo, I was asked by an Army Officer friend from Houston to accompany him to Fukuoka to interrogate a person who had reportedly made threats against the USA. So I took a carbine with me.



**M1 Carbine**

Aubrey M. Farb  
JLS 1944

[Ed. Note: Funny thing: right after a peculiarly bloody and tough war, most JLOs went without side arms or weapons of any kind in Occupied Japan. On the other hand, I served in West Germany some 30 years after the war, Germany long having been transformed from the "occupied" into an ally, and I probably went armed (as pay officer, escort officer, officer of the guard, and Staff Duty Officer, and training) far more frequently than did the JLOs in Japan.]

## Jean C. Morden Eulogy

At the start of this New Year [2010] I learned with great sadness of the death of Jean Morden (1923-2010). Over thirty years ago I walked into a high school French class that would change my life. When Mrs. Morden began a pilot Japanese language program in 1974, my high school was known as the first of its kind to offer Japanese east of the Mississippi. She was my first *sensei* and an *onshi*, a teacher to whom I will owe gratitude for the rest of my teaching career. Whenever I stand before a university class, I realize that her dedication to the field of Japanese language education and tremendous love of learning are always with me. I will forever remember the way she lit up a room with her contagious enthusiasm, her love of discipline and precision, her respect for Japan and its people,

and her genuine sparkle. She taught us about the concept of *ganbaru* by giving 110% to any project. Her husband, Colonel Chaplain Roy Morden, who passed away in 1990, was always at her side urging us all on with his guiding spirit and gentle humor.

One of Mrs. Morden's greatest gifts to us is the Japan Bowl. She wanted a forum where outstanding high school students would gather from around the nation to prove that learning, above all else, could be challenging and fun. She was the consummate lifelong learner. There was never a moment when she did not have a new word or *kotowaza* to share with me. Some of my fondest memories are of spending hours with her going over the Japan Bowl questions. She was an unrelenting perfectionist who wanted this contest to go beyond winning and losing. She wanted the Japan Bowl to be one of your most memorable educational moments.

Towards the end of her long career, Ms. Morden was recognized in 2003 by the Emperor of Japan with the Order of the Precious Crown, Apricot. As I led the toast at the Japanese Embassy, I realized that gratitude, much like that in the Japanese folk tale *Tsuru no ongoeshi*, is something not so easily returned.



**the Order of the Precious Crown, Apricot**

Let us honor Mrs. Jean Morden and one of the most sacred and noble professions – the teacher.

Janet Ikeda, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean of the College  
Washington and Lee University  
Incoming President  
Association of Teachers of Japanese

## REPRISE ON WENDELL FURNAS

I don't know whether you know that Furnas had graduated from Berkeley, California, and was teaching English in China when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He became a prisoner of the Japanese, with some soldiers, and when the latter escaped from the prison, he went along with them. But the Japanese captured them and condemned them to death. Fortunately, because Furnas was a civilian, they let him go, and he returned to the United States on the *Gripsholm*, a Swedish ship. He soon entered the Navy Language School at Boulder.

Here's another Furnas story. When I was stationed at Pearl Harbor, we had one day off a week, and Furnas always hitched a ride from Oahu to Maui. None of us knew why until the war ended. His wife had procured a teaching job on Maui, so he got to see her one day a week.

Paul F. Boller  
JLS 1943

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David Hays  
Archives  
University of Colorado at Boulder  
184 UCB  
Boulder, Colorado 80309-0184

## Contact

Phone (303) 492-7242  
Fax (303) 492-3960  
Email: [arv@colorado.edu](mailto:arv@colorado.edu)

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