

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 205

★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

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.

Conversation Between Ann Ashmead & Donald Keene

Dear Dr. Keene,

I read an article in the *NYTimes* on your becoming a Japanese citizen. This prompted me to write you about my husband, John Asmead, [and his experiences in] during the war years.

My daughter, Theodora (Teddy) is the executor of her father's estate. John died February 7, 1992, after a long fight against lymphoma. He left massive files, slides, articles, and works in progress on Burns, Hearn, two more novels, stories and tapes. Teddy donated John's Japanese and literature books to local academic libraries. She has returned to dealing with the papers this whole past year; she has arranged for this material to go to the Archives at Haverford College [Great! It is going to an

Archives!]. I have been helping her with much of the early material, as I am familiar with it. We have sorted through about 18 bins.

John kept up his Japanese and his interest in Japan all his life – he spoke, read, and wrote it at every opportunity. We have found a considerable correspondence in Japanese. John wrote his Harvard Ph.D. thesis on the opening up of Japan (one of only 25 theses chosen for publication). We lived in Kyoto 1955-1966; John had a Fulbright to teach at Osaka Gaigo (sp.?). He renewed his acquaintance with Kawabata Yasunari, whom he had met at the end of the war, and with some of the other Kamakura writers and artists. I especially remember dining alone with Kawabata and John at a Tokyo restaurant once, in 1956; and going to the finale of a Kabuki performance with him and sitting in the manager's booth because there were no free seats at such short notice; and spending a day at his home with his wife and daughter.

John's novel, *The Mountain and the Feather*, is based on his war experiences, among others the landing at Leyte Gulf. John was on Admiral Spruance's staff when he entered Occupied Japan.

We are trying to sort out John's role during the war. As you know, he was a naval officer. He spoke to me of living in Honolulu, and running an office for translating, with over 70 people. He also hinted at certain work in cryptanalysis, - but he was forbidden to discuss this. I believe he was involved with Magic, the code breaking center in Honolulu. Do you know anything about his decoding work? Did you run into him after the language school in Japan? Were you in the class at Boulder where he learned Japanese?

John corresponded with Kawabata and other Japanese. I am trying to identify some of the unknown English-speaking

correspondents before giving these letters to Haverford. We found a letter to Willie, Vice Consul in Bremen, who seems to have married a German named Lotti. But I find no last name. I wonder who Willie might be.

There is a reference to Beata whom I assume is Beata Sarota-Gordon who recently had a long obit in the NYT. Was she a decoder? Do you know where John might have met her?

I am enclosing a copy of a letter John wrote to you in 1960. His last sentence refers to "those four extraordinary years that we shared." It is those historical years that you shared with John - the language school and World War II, that I am curious about. I will look forward with much anticipation to whatever light you can shine on this period.

Ann Harnwell Ashmead

Dear Mrs. Ashmead:

Your letter of March 5 has taken three weeks to reach me – from New York to San Francisco, to Tokyo, where I now live.

I knew your husband quite well, both at the Navy Japanese Language School, which we entered on the same day, and in both Berkeley and Boulder, where the school was located. I also worked in the same office with him in Pearl Harbor. I met him later in Kyoto when he was living there.

As far as I know he did not do decoding. The office where decoding took place was across the hall from the room where translations were made of captured Japanese documents. I believe that he also spent time interrogating prisoners. But normally officers who translated or interrogated were not permitted in the place where decoding was carried on. John may have been an exception, but I think it unlikely.

I don't know who Willie was. Conceivably it was Howard Nelson, another member of our group, who knew German as well as Japanese. Yes, Beata is

the person mentioned in the letter and in the obituary. John probably met her in 1942 or 1943. She was then studying at Mills College in Oakland, California. She and her friends were known casually to members of the Navy Japanese Language School. I believe she was born in Japan of Austrian parents. Her father was a conductor of the Tokyo Symphony, I believe. But she could not have decoded messages during the war. She returned to Japan after the war ended, and because of her fluent Japanese, served at Headquarters of Allied Forces.

Yes, the four years were those of the war. John remained for a time in Japan after the war ended, but I was sent to China and did not see him again until some years later.

Yours sincerely,
Donald Keene

[Cont'd in #208]

[Ed. Note: When Mrs. Ashmead contacted me and mentioned that John Ashmead worked with 70 language officers in Hawaii, I advised her that he likely worked in JICPOA and was likely not either in FRUPAC or in decoding. I provided Professor Keene's address and directed her to our project website and to the books recently written on the topic.]

Post War Russian Work

Subsequent to the war I was appointed to a position in the Hoover Institute and Library in Palo Alto, where I was charged with translating non-book materials in several Slavic languages. Slavic languages are close enough for knowledge of one to carry over to others. In any case, I had two years of Polish in addition to my major in Russian. The materials in question had been obtained, by the train load, by Herbert Hoover after the war in exchange for which he had distributed food and necessities.

Lloyd Kramer
OLS 1945 (Russian)

LAWRENCE C. VINCENT
USMCR, ACTOR, STAGE
MANAGER, DIRECTOR, &
PROFESSOR OF
THEATER ARTS



Lawrence C. Vincent, 1LT, USMCR, Pineau10_06a_05_03j, AUCBL

Englewood, NJ – Lawrence C. Vincent, 92, passed away Friday, March 1, 2013 at the Actor's Fund Home. He was born June 2, 1920 in Detroit, MI, the son of Oliver and Pearl Vincent.

Mr. Vincent was a character actor, stage manager, and director in New York and Ohio for more than 50 years, and was also a professor of Theater Arts from 1951 until his retirement from teaching in 1982. During that time he directed more than 70 productions, and helped launch the professional careers of many students who remained friends throughout his life.

He served as head of the Theater Arts Department of Cuyahoga Community College Western Campus in Cleveland, Ohio. Before that, he was head of the Theater Arts Department at Edinboro State Teachers College (Now Edinboro University) in Edinboro, Pennsylvania, where he raised his family with his wife Margaret (Cotton), deceased, who was also an actor, stage manager, and director.

Mr. Vincent began his acting career at The Cleveland Playhouse, and performed in summer stock productions at Cain Park Theatre in Cleveland Heights. From 1955 to 1963 he appeared in a variety of roles, and served as a stage manager and acting coach to the resident company at Musicarnival in Cleveland. In addition, he

performed in many summer stock productions for Kenely Players, from 1964 to 1982.

After he retired from teaching, he spent many years as a character actor in New York, for film, television, and theatre. A highlight of his acting career was playing the role of Windy in the 1989 production of "Showboat" at the Papermill Playhouse in New Jersey, which aired on *Great Performances*, a PBS television special.

He retired to the Actor's Fund Home in 2003, where he served as head of the Residents' Council. Mr. Vincent was a member of Actor's Equity, Screen Actors Guild, and the American Federation of Television and Recording Artists.

served as a Marine JLO with the 3rd Marine Division on Bougainville, Guam and Iwo Jima. He worked closely with Laurence Thompson, Walt Williams, Tad Van Brunt, and Jack Craig.] He served as a Japanese language interpreter in the US Marine Corps during World War II, and was responsible for assisting in the surrender of numerous Japanese troops in the Pacific Theater.

Mr. Vincent is survived by his children Eleanor Vincent of Oakland, California, Catherine DiNardo and her husband Gene of Hiram, Ohio, and Paul Vincent and his wife Kathy Presciano of Ashtabula, Ohio, and by many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

his pride in his USMC service, and the attitudes he ran across in the Corps, with regard to taking Japanese prisoners. The story he told, in which he and Jack Craig recruited a Japanese POW on Iwo Jima, to enter caves and convince Japanese soldiers to surrender, is especially indicative of JLO humanity in a particularly brutal battle.

Above all, I recall Mr. Vincent's attendance at the 60th Anniversary USN JLS/OLS Reunion at the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2002. Karen Gifford took him to the hospital for minor care and they also checked in on a rehearsal of the *CU Shakespeare Festival*. His commentary was utterly hilarious. Shakespeare's perception that the world was a stage seemed notably true with Larry. The Archives holds both the Lawrence Vincent and John & Helen Craig Collections.



Guam, Sept. 1945, Walt Williams, Jack Craig, Larry Brown, Ralph Hirschtritt, Earl Swisher, Roger Pineau, Larry Vincent, b&w, 5x5

[Larry Vincent graduated from the University of Michigan and the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School at the University of Colorado. None who attended can forget his "Hildegard" in the "Revue", "But Thinking Makes It So" stage production that included Paul Hauck, Harry Muheim, Jim DiCrocco, Tad Van Brunt, Bill Voelker, and Paul Brown. He

[Included are several University of Michigan alumni, as well as 3rd Marine Division JLOs at the 3rd MARDIV HQ, see the hut in the background.], Pineau31_07_02_06j

*The Family of
 Larry Vincent, JLS 1943*

[Ed. Note: Larry was ever insightful, cheerful and humorous. I could hear his laughter on the telephone even before I could answer his call. His stories were always wry and teasing. One can read them in Issues #69, #71a, #81, #82, #83, #83a, #101a, and #117a. There are references to him in other issues as well. In early conversations, he was torn between

Please join me in wishing farewell to this colorful, engaging, and funny individual. We will miss him. His archival collection finding aid can be found on <http://rmoa.unm.edu/>.]

Reprise on Tony Wong

I've been meaning to write to you regarding the mention of Tony Wong on Page 3 of the June 1, 2013 issue of *The Interpreter*, [Issue #184, "CPT Forrest R. Biard, USN (Ret.)"].

Her photo certainly attracted my attention, for I knew Tony when I was a boy.

She was probably a good 15 years older than I, but I often saw her at the home of Richard and Ethel Andrews, whose daughter Marian was a close and dear friend of ours. The Andrews had adopted Tony (whether it was a full legal adoption or not, I don't know), for she had lived with them for many years, and I remember her as a vivacious and very attractive young Chinese lady who had many beaux among the young U.S. Army and Navy officers sent to Japan to study Japanese, as well as among young bachelors in our Embassy there. The Andrews summered in Karizawa, where our family also did, and they had a very large and comfortable log house, with an outdoor swimming pool we frequently played in. Richard and Ethel Andrews were long-time residents of Japan. He founded the company Andrews & George, which as far as I know, may still be in existence. Their son Bill Andrews (who was older than Marian and whom I remember as having attended Culver Military Academy and being a member of the Black Horse Troop there!) was heading it up when I visited him in his office in Tokyo in 1969. Sometime before WWII, the Andrews family moved to Vancouver. I had a few exchange of letters with Marian after that, but came WWII and I lost track of them. Whatever happened to Tony Wong, I wish I knew.

In the early 30's, Dick (as he was called by people of his vintage) Andrews built a sumptuous new home in Shibuya, a district of Tokyo, which in the occupation was taken over by the Occupation Force and assigned to a very high ranking U.S. officer in SCAP.

Bet you didn't expect to get this background on Tony Wong and family!

Dick Moss
JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: One never knows where old friends will pop up. Due to my service brat upbringing, I myself have run into classmates 10-14 years later in completely different circumstances and places. Here is where having an army uniform

name-tag can come in very handy. But what beat any of my-old-home-weeks was when Halsey Wilbur showed up at the same retirement facility as Emma McCloy Layman. Not only had they attended the Shanghai American School together, they were both Oberlin College alumni and had both attended the USN JLS/OLS! As she later said to us, upon hearing that he would be joining their number at her facility, "There could not be another person by that name." And there wasn't. As Bryan Battey used to say, "Narrow World".]

Music & the USN JLS/OLS

I continue to enjoy immensely receiving the issues of *The Interpreter*. As you may recall, my father was 1st Lt Cliff Graham, USMC, one of the relatively early attendees at Boulder, having been recruited in the Spring of 1942 out of the University of Michigan by, I strongly suspect, CDR Hindmarsh.

Your comment that "I find it fascinating how many JLS/OLsers loved classical music and were even musicians, etc." caught my attention. Having studied the Pacific War for some 40 years in addition to the information my father gave me prior to his passing in 1980, this is the reason, as I understand it:

In the months leading up to the Pearl Harbor attack, Joe Rochefort and the boys at Station Hypo were working feverishly on the Japanese codes, mostly JN-25 and Purple. They were a relatively few guys working in impossible conditions with way too much work to do.



USS California in 1938
http://www.navweaps.com/Weapons/WNUS_14-50_mk11.htm



The USS California band aboard the USS Rawlins APA-226 near the Caroline Islands May 1945.

12/7/41 and the Fleet is at the bottom of Pearl Harbor. One of the ships that sank relatively intact, was the USS California, thanks, to the actions of Lt. j.g. Jackson Pharris who got a damage control party together, risked his and the others' lives by going below and counter-flooding the ship, thus avoiding the fate of the Oklahoma, and for which Pharris received the Congressional Medal of Honor -- his son Jack Pharris Jr. is a friend of mine.

Anyway, once the attack was over, the USS California band had survived to a man but was out of a gig. If the recent book "Joe Rochefort's War", which I devoured, is to be believed, Rochefort recruited the bulk of them to help with traffic analysis and code breaking simply because they were available and he "needed bodies." In the next few weeks and months, it became obvious to Rochefort that most of these guys had an unusual aptitude for language [Music, like math, is after all a different language, I guess].

That spring, when Hindmarsh began going around the country to recruit for the new Japanese Language School, his criteria, among others, were that the successful candidates had to be Phi Beta Kappa, and it would help their chances greatly if they were musicians. My father is one who was recruited by Hindmarsh out of University of Michigan upon his graduation in June, 1942 (he played trumpet in

John W. Parmer, 24th NCB (1944-1946) http://www.maritimequest.com/warship_directory/us_navy_pages/uss_california_bb44_message_board_25_49.htm

the University of Michigan band and belonged to Phi Beta Kappa).

It doesn't seem like too big a leap to think that word of the aptitude of the USS California Band members working under CDR Rochefort had reached Hindmarsh and influenced his selection process. My father always told me that musicianship was one of the major criteria the Navy was looking for in candidates for the Japanese Language School.

Dana Graham

[Ed. Note: Although Mr. Graham had mentioned this in issue #185, this a further explanation that musical ability (or the ability to read music) was one of the aspects looked for by Hindmarsh and Shaw. It explains why so many of the USN JLS/OLsers were both musical performers and appreciators. I found a shot of the USS California Band, but later, in 1945. I wonder if any of the 1941band-members were there? The JLS/OLS musically-minded and -abled included Kay Herriger Clauser, JLS 1944 (#105a); Bryan Battey, OLS 1945 (#66a, #97a, #161, #162); Charles "Sandy" Sims, JLS 1943 (#36); Ralph Hills, OLS 4/45- (#112); Vincent Canzoneri, JLS 1943 (#172, #196); Mary Louise Hendricks, JLS 1944 (#132); Joseph Levinson, JLS 1943 (#146); S. O. Thorlaksson, JLS 1943 (#177); Sherwood R. Moran, JLS 1943 (#163); Robert Walker OLS 3/45- (#70); Robert Gideon, JLS 1944 (#188); "Mac" H.S. McGinnis, OLS 6/45- (#188, #193); John Wolaver, JLS 1943 (#70a); Charles Hamilton, JLS 1944 (#148); Stanley Heath, OLS 1945 (#60); William Scott, OLS Stillwater 1946 (#177); E. P.

Boardman, JLS 1944 (#178); John Oliver, JLS 1944 (#193); John Fischer, JLS 1944 (#190); Roger Hackett JLS 1943 (#117); Laurence Thompson, JLS 1943 (#117); Marylou Seigfried Williams, JLS 1944 (#117); and many more. By the way, Elliot Carlson's Joe Rochefort's War was also researched (a bit) here.]

The 2013 Colorado Flood & Memory



Boulder Creek at Broadway,
<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2013/sep/13/colorado-death-toll-rises-4-after-body-found/?print>

I was so relieved to learn that the Japanese/Oriental Language School archive was not harmed by the rushing water. What terrible devastation to the lives of so many people. In my mind I could see the flood streaming down 9th Street where we lived that year in a basement apartment [Due to the blockage of storm drains by silt and debris during the rains and runoff, Arapaho, Baseline, and other north/south avenues as well as the east/west 3rd through 9th Streets were running streams to Boulder Creek, 7 feet above normal between September 12-14, 2013].



Water flowing down the Boulder Creek Path, September 2013,
<http://fredw->

I remember, too, wading in the little creek that crossed through the downtown area of Boulder; we wore our tennis shoes because of the rocky base of the creek.

Incidentally, my husband Lawrence A. Olson, Jr. was honored by the Japanese Government for his post-war work in strengthening relations between Japan and the United States.

Ms. Jeane N. Olson

[Ed. Note: Written to us on September 28, 2013. Hallam Shorrock, OLS 3/45-, had advised me to send out the little insert in the October 1, 2013 issue of the newsletter, to let everyone know we were unaffected by the flooding. She was responding to that note. It was extremely fortunate that the rain fell in September. Had this storm hit during Mid-June and high water from snow melt, Boulder Creek's high water would likely have crested above 10-12 feet, causing far more damage.]

William F. Ryan OLS 3/45-

William F. Ryan, of Port Orange, FL, passed away January 19, 2013. William was born in Nankin Township, Michigan, the son of William Henry and Gertrude Mary Ryan. He graduated from East Detroit High School in 1942 as a valedictorian. He enrolled in the University of Michigan but left in 1943 to enlist in the Navy. He attended midshipmen's school at Fort Schuyler, NY and the Navy's Japanese Language

School at the University of Colorado [William Frank Ryan was listed as having entered on March 20, 1945 from East Detroit, Michigan]. He served in the Pacific and on occupational duty in post-war Japan.



William was a member of the VFW, American Legion and the Military Intelligence Service Veterans of Oahu. He graduated the University of Michigan in 1948, then pursued graduate studies at Georgetown University, Columbia University and the University of Padua (Italy).

During the Cold War he undertook diplomatic assignments in the Soviet Union, Italy and Japan. He married Polynesian Princess Loke Waiau in 1956 and they made Hawaii their home until her death in 1968.

In business, William was an investment broker, and director and officer of numerous corporations. He spent the last 20 years of his career as Risk Manager for the University of Michigan. He was a founder and president of the American Society for Hospital Risk Management of the American Hospital Association, and founder and president of the Veritas Insurance Corporation. A pioneer in funded self-insurance, William was known as the "Father of Hospital Risk Management."

In 1981, Business Insurance named him "Institutional Risk Manager of the Year." William retired in 1988 and in 2001 became a resident of Florida's Spruce Creek Fly-In. He was a member of Our Lady of Hope Parish in Port Orange, FL and St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Ann Arbor, MI.

Daytona Beach News-Journal
January 22, 2013

GERALD A. GREEN USMCEL

GREEN, Gerald A. (88), of Los Angeles, CA. Born in Kansas, raised in Iowa, and remembered as a longtime resident of Los Angeles, Gerald was the sixth child of James Martin Green and Alpha Pearl Allen. During WWII, he served in the Pacific in the 1st Marine Division as a Japanese interpreter and later became a founding member of earliest Japanese-American cultural association. He received his Bachelor's, and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at USC. Worked as Associate Dean of Admissions, USC Medical School, until 1970; Dean for Students of the Health Sciences Center, and Professor of Psychiatry and Family Medicine at SUNY Stony Brook, 1970-92. He is survived by his first wife, Frances K. Green, and their children, Michael Green (daughter-in-law Polly Green, their sons Ben and Andrew, and Andrew's wife Liz) and Catherine Green (son-in-law Jas Dzienanowski and their sons Steven and Alex). He is further survived by the children of his predeceased second wife, Miriam Schocken: Sara Michael (son-in-law Nathan Lane and their son Peter), Paul Michael (and his partner Karen Quinn), Eve Koltuv (son-in-law Max and their daughters Miriam and Dora), and Eli Michael. Among his favorite things: savoring good food and wine with family and friends. reading the *L.A.* and *N.Y. Times*, birdwatching, perusing the OED, experiencing foreign cultures through languages, foods, lands, and peoples; listening to jazz and classical music, especially the Berlin Philharmonic and the LA Phil under Dudamel.

*NYTimes.com from
March 7 to March 8, 2013*

- See more at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/nytimes/obituary.aspx?pid=163507324#fbLoggedOut>

[Ed. Note: Gerry Green was a frequent contributor to The Interpreter, see Issues: #71, #84, #104, #104a, #105, #191, #192. He had served with JLO Dick Greenwood, and was one of several USMC Enlisted Linguists on the mailing list.]

[com/2013/09/colorado-flooding-hearbreaking.html](http://fredw-com/2013/09/colorado-flooding-hearbreaking.html)