

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 210

★ 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.

Lawyer, Arts Supporter

Henry Warten

dies at 97, USMCEL & USN OLS

A retired Joplin attorney known for his support of the arts and who was instrumental in commissioning famed muralist Thomas Hart Benton to paint "Joplin at the Turn of the Century," which hangs in City Hall, has died.

Henry Warten, who also was known with his late wife for providing money and help toward the restoration of the Missouri Governor's Mansion when Christopher "Kit" Bond was governor in the 1980s, died Saturday night at his home at the age of 97.

"He was a wonderful gentlemen and friend over many years," said Bond, now a U.S. senator, who returned to the United States on Monday from a trip to Iraq. "Along with his wife (Mary Curtis Warten), he was a generous supporter of the Missouri Mansion Preservation Fund. He will be deeply missed," Bond said by telephone.

Warten came with his parents

to Joplin when he was a teenager. He graduated from Joplin High School, earned a law degree from the University of Arkansas and returned to Joplin to practice law.

With the onset of World War II, Warten enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves in 1942. He was sent to the Marine Corps' Japanese Language School [actually, he also entered the US Navy Japanese Language School in May 1945] and served as a translator on the front lines as well as teaching the language to troops in classrooms. He was permitted to resign his commission in 1945, and he returned to his law practice in Joplin.

The firm where he practiced now is Warten, Fisher, Lee and Brown. One of the partners, Bo Lee, said Warten was "a very honest and hard-working, detailed person. He taught me a great deal in the time I worked with him." Lee said Warten's clients were of the utmost importance to him. "He was a gentleman lawyer as well as a gentleman," he said.

Warten and his wife were known for being actively involved in the arts in Joplin and in Kansas City. They were among the founders of the George A. Spiva Center for the Arts in Joplin.

He was an associate with the Kansas City Club, a fellow of the Nelson Gallery/Atkins Museum and a charter member of the Thomas Hart Benton Associates of the Kansas City Art Institute.

Benton was a native of Neosho and credited Joplin with giving him his start as an artist. Warten's wife led a campaign to commission Benton to paint a mural for Joplin's centennial in 1973. Warten assisted her in getting the elderly Benton to agree to do the mural and raising the \$60,000 that Benton wanted to be paid for the project.

An art scholarship named for the Wartens was endowed by Joplin donors and is given each year at Missouri Southern State

University.

After Warten retired from the active practice in law, he and his wife moved to Santa Fe, N.M., and later California for health reasons. In California, Warten used his wartime study of the Japanese to help acquaint the Japanese wives of business executives who immigrated to the United States with the English language and American social customs. He returned to Joplin in 1991 after the death of his wife.

During the following years, he continued an active social life, according to his friend Nancy Righthouse, of Joplin.

"Every time we went places, people always surrounded him to chat with him," she said. "People just really liked him."

Righthouse said Warten's health began to fail two years ago.

"No matter how he aged or how his health began to fail, on every good day, he was interested in everything," she said. "He liked to have company, and he liked to plan so that everything was perfect. He never lost enthusiasm for life. He was quite a remarkable man."

Though Henry Warten was a Democrat and Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond is a Republican, Warten and his wife were honored Jan. 26, 1984, when then-Gov. Bond proclaimed it "Mary Curtis and Henry Warten Day" in the state.

Debby Woodin
Joplin Globe
May 7, 2007

"Bright Kid" in Boulder Albert S. Karr

I was always one of the bright kids in school. By the time I got to Boulder I soon learned that being bright was not quite the same as being brilliant. The Competition at Boulder was beyond anything I had experienced and I eventually felt pretty good about surviving and graduating and having done well.

I don't know why, but I was sent to the translation section at the Naval Intelligence Headquarters at Pearl Harbor. By translating some technical documents in a pile of stuff we were first assigned, I convinced the head of the translation section, Jack Ashmead, that I hoped he would send the technical aircraft documents to me. This was fortunate for me since as a young boy I tuned up our family car, read the mechanical engineer's handbook and was fairly knowledgeable about aircraft and aircraft engines.

I got Harry Muheim and Sol Levine out of a bunch of new arrivals out to work for me. There were others who helped, but picking Harry, we called him "Mu", and Sol, was a really smart thing to do. Mu already knew a lot about aircraft and although Sol didn't, he learned so fast that we soon were managing a new small translation subsection specializing in Japanese aircraft.



JICPOA Building

Pineau26_03_00_05, AUCBL.

We worked hard and began to earn the respect of others and our superiors. I was eventually given a citation from Admiral Chester Nimitz. I earned it and am proud of it, but I think I would not have received it without the help of Mu and Sol. I never got around to thanking them as I should have. Should they happen to read these words, I wish to express my very great thanks. Others were helpful but Muheim and Levine were the very best. *[written in 2003, and alas, Karr, Muheim and Levine have all passed. Their descendants will have to accept these thanks, instead].*

Boulder and Pearl Harbor were great experiences for me. I learned much about language, other people, the US Navy and much, much more. And I learned to do my best, whatever my assignment. This learning was a great help in finishing my M.A. and Ph.D.

So Boulder has always, during the war and after the war, been a very important part of my life. I feel very fortunate to have been part of it at Boulder.

P.S. Bill Hudson told me recently of Herry Muheim's passing. He was a genius. And so was Sol.

*Sincerely,
Albert S. Karr
JLS 1944*

[Ed. Note: This letter arrived in 2003 and was slated for printing and placement in The Interpreter. Unfortunately, it did not happen and was set aside. We place this letter to provide the thanks of Dr. Karr to the Muheim and Levine families.]

C. K. Woodard JLS 1944

WOODARD Charles Kenneth (C.K.) Woodard passed away on March 19, 2003 at the age of 87. He was born May 10, 1915 in Muskogee, OK, and, at a very young age, he and his mother moved to Oklahoma City. He attended McKinley Grade School, Webster Junior High, and Central High School in Oklahoma City, graduating in 1933.

He attended Oklahoma City University, where he was president of the Sophomore Class and Blue Key and a

member of Beta Epsilon and Delta Psi Omega. He was graduated from OCU in 1942 with a law degree and later taught at the Law School there. As a hobby, Kenny studied the Japanese language. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, he was accepted in the U.S. Navy's Japanese Language School at Colorado University in Boulder, CO. He became a Lieutenant, JG in the Navy's Intelligence Service.

After the war, he joined the law firm of Everest, Gibbons, McKinsey and Crawford. In 1952, he went into a 34-year partnership with Ted Elliott. The Elliott and Woodard firm grew through the years to include Joe Rolston, III, who was a partner for 33 years, Shirley Rolston, Jim Kelly, Gerald Kelly, J. Mitch Gregory, Monica Amis Wittrock, and Steve Metheny.

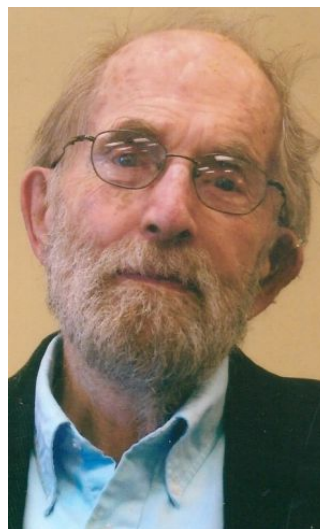
Kenny was a member of Oklahoma County Bar Association, Oklahoma State Bar Association, Northwest Optimist Club, Men's Dinner Club, Methodist Men's Club, Petroleum Club and Toastmasters. He was an adult leader in the Cub Scouts and YMCA baseball programs. He was named to the Oklahoma City Urban Renewal Authority in 1962. Kenny was very active in First United Methodist Church. Later, he and his wife, Ruth, became members of Bethany First Nazarene Church. Kenny retired after 50 years of practice as an attorney. In 2002, the Oklahoma County Bar Association honored him for being a member of the Bar for 60 years.

Kenny is survived by his loving wife of almost 63 years, Ruth Woodard; their children: Dan Woodard, of Oklahoma City, and Larry Woodard & wife Juanita of Milwaukee, WI; former daughter-in-law Jan Woodard Miller of Tuttle; grandchildren: Doug Woodard & his wife Heij Chung of Pasadena, CA, Laura Woodard of New York City, Ryan Woodard and his wife Stacy of Tecumseh, and Brad Woodard of Oklahoma City; great grandchildren: Gracie and Tatum Woodard of Tecumseh; brother-in-law: Tom J. Love, Jr., of Norman; nephew: Tom J. Love III and wife Linda

and daughter Lara of Tahlequah; niece: Nancy Vanden Bos and husband Mike of Ponca City; great niece: Grace Hamilton and her father Neil of Norman.

*NewsOK
March 22, 2003
Obituaries/Death Notices*

Edgar Whan JLS 1943



COLUMBUS — Dr. Edgar William Whan died in Columbus on April 13, 2013, after a long and influential life.

He leaves behind his dear wife of 70 years, Shirley (née Westrick); sons, William of Columbus, Ohio, and Peter of Manchester, Ohio; and daughter, Anne of Columbus. He also is survived by a younger sister, Mary Anne Fisher of Bellingham, Wash.

Born in Billings, Mont., on Nov. 18, 1920, Dr. Whan was the son of the Rev. William Whan, a Baptist minister with a social-gospel mission to the poor, and Esther (née Lungren), a gifted musician and teacher. After graduation from Eastern Michigan University in 1942, he enrolled in the Navy's Japanese Language School in Boulder, Colo., then served with honors in U.S. Naval Intelligence in the Pacific as a lieutenant from 1943-1946. He served in Okinawa, was among the first U.S. personnel on the scene after the bombing of Hiroshima, and discovered and translated maps of the mines in Tokyo Harbor, saving many lives.

He and Mrs. Whan, who he had met earlier in college, were married on Feb. 28, 1943, and upon his discharge from the Navy, he went on to earn a PhD degree at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, for which he was later employed in Ann Arbor and Battle Creek. In 1955 he accepted an appointment to the English Department at Ohio University in Athens, a position he was to hold as professor until retirement in 1984, whereupon he continued teaching one quarter a year until 1991.

While at OU, he was to serve as chairman of the English Department and director of the Honors College, and established a number of innovations, among them the Cutler Program for inventive degree programs, the Honors College, and a Creative Writing Department led by nationally known authors. He deeply influenced generations of undergraduate students, and was presented with OU's Professor of the Year award so often that the university eventually appointed him Professor of the Year in Perpetuity in 1982.

He brought to teaching his deep commitment to human potentials and rights, participating in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963 and many demonstrations thereafter on behalf of peace, human dignity and opportunity for all. One of his courses, The Bible as Literature, was for years a favorite among students, many of whom took it several times.

Many-sided but steadfast, he volunteered for — and wrote about — hospice, food pantries and homeless shelters, organizing advocacy for prisoners, the poor, and the disadvantaged. He encouraged others to reach deep within themselves while acknowledging as deeply their fellows' humanity, and left a permanent legacy of the art of literature and service to mankind among several generations of his students.

His 50-year hobby of baking bread demonstrated his dedication to the nourishment of both the body and the soul in the cause of serving others. May we see his like again.

No public memorial services are planned for the immediate future.

Athens Messenger
AthensOhioToday.com

Posted: Thursday, April 18, 2013

[Ed. Note: "Brother" Whan was a longtime correspondent, submitter, and supporter of the USN JLS/OLS Archival Project. Unfailingly gentle, kind, and humble, his sense of humor was present in each of his letters. We will miss him. One can see his stories and references in Issues # 12, #13, #25, #70a, #90, #91a, #111, #146, #147, #156, #171, #181, and #191.]



Okinawa, June 1945 – Thornton, Towner, Whan, and Decker in helmets without liners, b&w, 5x7, Pineau27_26_00_11j

Dean Hamilton Towner JLS 1944 (1919-2013)

Dean Hamilton Towner, Senior Master Emeritus of St. Stephen's Episcopal School, Austin, died peacefully on November 5, 2013, at the age of 94, after a long career in Episcopal schools.

A native of Saranac Lake, NY, Mr. Towner was born on May 20, 1919, and earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Classical Languages and Literature at Cornell University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He volunteered for service in the US Navy in 1943, and was assigned to the USN Japanese Language School at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he was trained as a translator and interpreter. He served until 1946 as a Lieutenant USNR in Naval Intelligence, stationed in Hawaii, Okinawa and Japan. His time in Japan fostered a lifelong love of the country and its culture.

Mr. Towner began his church school career at St. Mark's School, Southborough,

Massachusetts, and in 1950 became a founding member of the faculty of St. Stephen's Episcopal School, Austin, where he taught Latin and Greek and served as college advisor. In 1963 he married Velberta Asher Millerick, and their home on campus welcomed students, colleagues and alumni for the next 22 years. Alumni of the school happily remember receiving a card from him every year on their birthdays until his retirement in 1985.

Since Ed Whan and Dean Towner were foxhole buddies, I thought it best to include this image with their obituaries.

During sabbatical leaves and after retirement, Dean and Bert taught English at Episcopal schools in Osaka, Japan. At that time they were instrumental in establishing an exchange program between St. Andrew's High School, Osaka, and Episcopal schools in the United States. Over the years, well over one hundred Japanese and American students took part in the program.

Mr. Towner served as a Member and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Austin, during its expansion into both Middle and Upper Schools, and was an enthusiastic supporter of St. James' Episcopal School.

He was preceded in death by his wife Bert, his daughter Karen Millerick Pedersen and his nephew Stephen Ford Thomas. He is survived by his son Richard F. Millerick and wife Wendy; grandchildren Belinda Kindschi, Brent Bond, Marie Lindahl and Ryan Millerick; great-grandchildren Savannah Hammontree, Adrienne

Kindschi, Cole Kindschi, Elliot Bond, Max Lindahl, Ella Lindahl, Sydney Millerick, Jeremy Bond and Ally Bond, all from the Seattle area of Washington; by his niece Nancy Worthley Thomas of Albany, NY, niece Martha Thomas of Rainbow Lake, NY, and her daughter Jennifer of Saranac Lake, NY. The list of his survivors also includes the legions of students he taught, counseled and led by example. His legacy at St. Stephen's includes a dormitory, Towner House, named in honor of Dean and his wife Bert.

A Requiem Eucharist was celebrated at St. Stephen's Episcopal School Chapel at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, December 7, with interment of ashes in the Brewster Memorial to follow.

Austin American-Statesman
from Nov. 9 to Nov. 11, 2013

[Ed. Note: Along with Roger Pineau and Bill Hudson, Dean Towner was one of our first USN JLS/OLS archival supporters in 1992. He attended the 50th USN JLS Reunion at CU that year and sent some early archival materials. When we began our newsletter in 2000, he was an enthusiastic backer. His submissions and references in the newsletter can be found in Issues #1, #4, #41, #51, #117. We will miss him.]

William C. Sherman 2011 Recipient of the Marshall Green Award



Citation

For your unparalleled contribution to strengthening relations between the United States and Japan over more than half a century. You have held more high level positions dealing with Japan than any other "Japan hand" in the post war generation of Foreign Service Officers. No

one has been more dedicated to building a strong alliance and foundation between the two countries, and no one has been a greater mentor to younger Americans involved with US-Japan relations.

Background

After studying Japanese at the US Navy Japanese language school, Ambassador Sherman served in the US Embassy in Tokyo and the Consulate General in Yokohama in the 1950s. Following a European diversion, Bill returned to Japan, first as Consul General in Osaka (1969-70), followed by Political Counselor in Tokyo, Country Director for Japan in Washington, and Deputy Chief of Mission to Ambassador Mike Mansfield from 1977 to 1981. In 1981 he was appointed ambassador and head of the US delegation to the Trusteeship Council at the US mission to the United Nations. He concluded his career as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, 1984-86.

After his retirement, Ambassador Sherman spent eight years at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies as diplomat in residence and director of the SAIS Yearbook on US-Japan relations.

Bill Sherman's great contributions to American foreign policy toward Japan have been matched by the mentoring role he has played, and continues to play, for the younger generation of "Japan hands," including many in this room tonight. For all of us, Bill was the best boss we ever had because he cared about us. He took the time to impart his knowledge and experience, and he always offered encouragement and positive feedback.

"100 Years, 1912-2012:
Centennial Celebration
of the Gift of Trees"
Japan American Society

[http://www.jaswdc.org/Resources/Documents/2011%20Dinner%20Program%20Inside%20Pages%20FINAL.p](http://www.jaswdc.org/Resources/Documents/2011%20Dinner%20Program%20Inside%20Pages%20FINAL.pdf)
[df](http://www.jaswdc.org/Resources/Documents/2011%20Dinner%20Program%20Inside%20Pages%20FINAL.pdf)

WENDELL JESS FURNAS JLS 1943, COL USMC

The good Lord extended his hand to Wendell Jess Furnas, 94 years old, taking him gently home November 15, 2011. His family was by his side.

Captain Wendell Jess Furnas was a man of faith and conviction. He was also a man of distinction, direction, and accomplishment.

Wendell was a World War II Veteran of fame, and was asked to lecture all over the world on his experiences in Shanghai China during the war, and on his 33 year Naval Intelligence career - which included The Pentagon in Washington D.C. and tours of duty in London, England. He is credited in the book *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo* for bringing important information to the United States in World War II, and will be mentioned in an upcoming documentary and book about those days.

Wendell was born in Wichita, Kansas July 27, 1917 to Edgar and Dottie Furnas, the middle child of three brothers. Although his early childhood was as a Quaker on a farm in Kansas, he came to Santa Paula in his early teens, and graduated from Santa Paula High School in 1934.

He was very active in the Methodist Church and in the "Epworth League" with his friends the Hyde children: Charles, Elmer, Esther, and Gladys, as well as Reola Maland and Loren Ayres.

Wendell was a self-made man. His life has been described by many as one amazing adventure after another.

After working his way through college, he graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Berkeley in 1939 in History and English Literature. He then accepted a unique teaching position as a professor for the Shanghai American School in Shanghai, China, where he taught a variety of subjects, including Shakespeare. Simultaneously, he was the editor for two Chinese American newspapers.

The timing of this job, in relation to events occurring in world history, changed his life dramatically. It was 1940, and by this time Shanghai had been shelled, a British boat sunk, and

the city was taken over by Japan. Americans were asked to leave immediately, and schools were shut down. Wendell, then in his early twenties, suddenly found himself with nothing but the clothing on his back, trying to escape with a band of POW Marine escapees led by Chinese guerilla freedom fighters.

There are many amazing stories as they traveled through the Chinese countryside at night, hiding in small villages along the way, and with almost nothing to eat. Wendell was captured by the Japanese and taken to the Bridge House Prison, a place of torture and death. He was there alongside some of the Doolittle Raiders, who had also been captured, some who died there.

Wendell was sentenced to death. He was, however, traded at the last moment in the first United States exchange prisoner program. He was titled "the luckiest man in China."

When he came back to the United States on the Swedish ship *Gripsholm*, because he had brought back important information he was asked to join the Navy as a Japanese language student and work in Admiral Nimitz's Intelligence Center in Pearl Harbor. He interpreted codes that only he could decipher, and he found himself landing with the marines on Guadalcanal and sharing a foxhole with the man who took the famous picture that inspired the well-known statue in Washington D.C. of the men raising the flag in Iwo Jima. He served on a critical amphibious unit, which took the last troops into Korea in World War II.

Wendell was dedicated to Naval Intelligence for 33 years, where he served on numerous units including Head of Naval Intelligence Collection for Western Europe, the Mid East, and Africa. He was the Officer-in-Charge of organizing and automating all the Intelligence reports for the Navy (early computers!). He commandeered many critical Task Forces, one of which required him to fly blindfolded in the President's helicopter to attend a meeting at Camp David.

He was well known in the Pentagon, and in his last tour of duty as Commandant of the

Defense Intelligence School he put together and obtained an agreement through Congress and the Defense Department to make the Defense School a Master's Degree College in which to train attaches from all the armed services. Through this program, which he initiated, attachés from his school were successfully sent to all of the capitals of the world.

Captain Furnas was also a distinguished author who enjoyed writing numerous articles on various subjects for *Esquire* and *Colliers*, his most famous ones being on Japanese swords and on unique bird wildlife throughout the United States. Both of these articles caused him to receive numerous requests for more.

Most of all, Wendell was a devoted family man.

He was preceded in death in 1977 by his wife, Esther Hyde, who had long time Santa Paula roots. He is survived by his wife Karen, his daughter Tammi, his grandchildren C.G. and Vanessa Gray, Maryrose Gray, and a brother Raymond. He also leaves many friends all over the world who loved and respected him... and whom he loved and respected.

He was an inspiring educator, a world traveler, a decorated military officer, a Japanese linguist, a code expert, an interpreter, a citrus grower, a sought after lecturer, an author, a scholar, and a loving husband, parent, and grandfather. He was a poet, a patriot, a philosopher, and a gentleman.

He felt you could never go wrong by doing the kind thing. His true identification was fully and truly expressed in his own words: "Whenever you get a chance... put a drop of kindness into the pot of humanity."

To his family and friends he leaves behind a legacy of kindness, love, laughter and adventure, which will remain tucked in our hearts forever. We know he has now entered the eternal Church triumphant.

Santa Paula Times
December 09, 2011

[Ed. Note: COL Furnas was a long-time active supporter of the USN JLS/OLS Archival Project. Articles by and about him appear in Issues #23, #31, #42, #62a, #66, #103a, #104a, #105, #107a, #108, #115,

#147, #164, #168, #178, #182, #190, #191, #192, and #198. Issue #198 carried a long comment by Paul Boller, and Issues #115 and #164 hold long stories about him. We will miss him.]

Abbie Jane Bakony 1922 - 2013 JLS 1944, WAVE



AJ passed away gracefully (and unexpectedly) in her sleep. She was born in Eugene, Oregon, but lived much of her life in the Seattle area. She had an adventurous life: a Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Oregon, Navy WAVE, interpreter in Tokyo after WWII, career CIA employee, real estate broker, and English teacher in Kobe Japan.

She was also a natural born piano player. Her family will greatly miss her humility, generosity, and sense of fun. A private service was held in Eugene.

Eugene Register-Guard
Dec. 29, 2013

[Ed. Note: Abbie Jane Bakony (né White) was an enthusiastic supporter of her fellow WAVES and assisted us in contacting them and staying in touch with them. Comments in The Interpreter can be found in Issues #93a, #133, and #138.]

Griffith Way's Kyoto Art

Seattle attorney Griffith Way, who practiced law in Japan for more than 40 years and helped establish the first Japan trade shows in the United States in the 1950s. His collection of Kyoto paintings from the late 19th through the early 20th century were exhibited at the Seattle Asian Art Museum in 1999.

The Foley Institute Report
Vol. 6, No. 1 (Spring 2006)
Washington State University