

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 214

★ 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.

AT THE 48TH GENERAL HOSPITAL, SAIPAN

A couple of asides, Dave, that you might enjoy, both related to my hospitalization in the Army's 48th General Hospital on Saipan:

When I was checked into the tent ward, it was natural for me to comment to the nurse on duty there that my sister Peg was an Army nurse. She asked me what unit, and I told her the 39th General Hospital. She exclaimed "they're here". I said no, that the 39th was in New Zealand, adding that only two weeks ago I had received a "V-mail" from her, from New Zealand. The nurse insisted that was old news, got on the field telephone, connected to the 39th which was not far off, and within an hour Peg came to see me.

Another incident that happened at the 48th was a massive food poisoning. When my condition had improved substantially, Peg came early one afternoon to take me out for a jeep ride, but not long after we departed the field hospital, I had to ask her to stop the jeep so that I could get out to vomit. I felt

very poorly and she took me right back to the tent ward. Upon entering, the nurse there exclaimed, "Not you, too!" Everyone was getting sick. Trucks were going around the hospital compound picking up people who could no longer walk. Doctors and nurses had to abandon surgeries in the middle of them, and Peg and others who had not eaten at the 48th were pressed into action. The problem stemmed from contaminated rice pudding. With IVs for hydration, everyone got over the problem in a couple of days, but it was chaos for a while! Right out of MASH!!

Dick Moss
JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: Reminiscent of the Ham Rolph and Phil Burchill story about how they skipped a meal at JLS to see a movie, For Whom the Bell Tolls, at the Boulder Theater, and everyone else came down with food poisoning. Having myself dined in mess halls, from marmites, and on C Rations; military chow and food poisoning sometimes seemed synonymous. At least that instance happened where he could get immediate help.]

"Polly" Fleming Remembered

The enclosed vita of Polly, widow of Rudd Fleming, JLS 1944, reflects her remarkable life. She was a dear friend, and on our annual visits to DC always included time with her. She saw a lot of the large colony of JLS alums in the DC area. She was indeed lucid to 108. I hope you can include part of this in *The Interpreter*.

Frank Tucker
JLS 1944

Mary "Polly" Fleming

BLOOMINGTON — Mary "Polly" Duke Wight Fleming, 108, Chevy Chase, Md., formerly of Bloomington, passed away at noon on Thanksgiving

Day, Thursday (Nov., 28, 2013) at Manor Care Nursing Home, Wheaton, Md.



Polly was born Dec. 3, 1904, in Bloomington, a daughter of John and Grace Cheney Fletcher Wight. She married Rudd Fleming on Dec. 27, 1932. He preceded her in death on Oct. 22, 1991.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Illinois Wesleyan University Drama Department. Kibler-Brady-Ruestman Memorial Home, Bloomington, is assisting the family with arrangements.

She is survived by two sons, Jonathon (Cris) Wight Fleming, Chevy Chase, Md., and William (Catherine) Rudd Fleming, Bloomington; two daughters, Mary (Robert) Cheney Sheh, Palos Verdes, Calif., and Joan Sample DeVrieze, Seattle, Wash.; 15 grandchildren; and 32 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, Rudd, Polly was preceded in death by her parents and son-in-law, Theo DeVrieze.

She was descended from early settlers of McLean County and raised in Bloomington. She attended Miss Hall's School in Massachusetts and graduated with a degree in French literature from Smith College in the Class of 1927. She received a doctorate in French literature at Bryn Mawr College and Brown University. From 1928 to 1952, Polly taught in the French departments at University of

Illinois, Brown University, University of Maryland and the Institute of Contemporary Arts in Washington, D.C. Her husband, Rudd, was a popular professor in the English department, University of Maryland.

She loved the theater and was a member of Theatre Lobby. She was active in the Tricouleur Theatre Club and for many years produced an annual Christmas play at the Metropolitan A.M.E. Church in D.C. She was a member of The Women's Club of Chevy Chase and the Washington Bridge League, and the History and Art Club of Bloomington. Swimming was an integral part of her exercise program and she remained vigorous and alert until she broke her hip at the age of 107.

The family spent many summers in Bloomington, visiting Polly and Rudd's parents and later their son, William, who practiced medicine in Bloomington.

http://www.pantagraph.com/news/local/obituaries/mary-polly-fleming/article_f1d69222-5bb0-11e3-95b8-0019bb2963f4.html
December 03, 2013 12:00 am

*Arthur Watres,
founder of
Lacawac, 1922-2014*



Contributed Louis Arthur Watres, founder of Lacawac Sanctuary

The founder of Lacawac Sanctuary, known around the world by the scientific community for its virtually

pristine glacial lake, is dead. Louis Arthur Watres died January 10, 2014 at the age of 91.

He had a heart for the environment and early on recognized the value of the property his family owned on the west shore of Lake Wallenpaupack near Ledgedale. Surrounded by private communities and close by to the recreational pursuits on the lake was this area of woodlands with its rare lake of high quality water. In 1966 he and his mother Isabel founded the Lacawac Sanctuary and dedicated it to the cause of preservation, environmental education and scientific research. Today it covers 545 acres.

"He was truly an environmental visionary and all those familiar with his engaging personality, his environmental work and Lacawac will surely miss him," commented Steve Lawrence, chairman of the Board of Trustees at Lacawac.

Watres' legacy became recognized worldwide. The property, with its 1903 Adirondack-style lodge is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Natural Landmark. It is a field research station where cutting edge science is performed on climate change and water quality. Lawrence noted that Watres' legacy is continuing to be felt. The Sanctuary has become part of a consortium with member universities, namely Drexel and Miami (Ohio), as well as the Academy of Natural Sciences. Watres was present this past fall (Oct. 25) to turn the first shovel full of earth in a ceremony heralding a modern laboratory funded by the National Science Foundation.

This laboratory promises to help showcase the environmental cause of Lacawac to local school students and the general public, as well as attract scientists from around the globe. A research hub is being created at Lacawac for the Ecological Observatory Network, linking data gained at Lacawac with field stations around the planet.

"This basic concept is something that Arthur embraced years ago."

Watres' legacy is also well known to the public for its hiking trails, nature and music programs. A solid base of volunteers serve at the non-profit Lacawac Sanctuary from the community.

He was one to promote Lacawac in any way he could and would embrace visitors like old friends, showing them around and telling the story of Lacawac's history and significance.

His son, Chad Reed-Watres, was born in 1966, the year Arthur and Arthur's mother started Lacawac Sanctuary. Now living in Australia, Chad is on the board at Lacawac. He related that his father had a degree from Yale in fine arts but had a keen interest in science.

Reading books on ecology in the 1950s, he had a growing sense that Lake Lacawac was a special place worth protection and study. He went to New York pursuing scientists in the field to come and take a look. With interest raised, in 1966 he first turned over 400 acres to the Nature Conservancy for a research station, having helped found the local chapter. Later, the site was transferred to an independent nonprofit organization that had been formed, by the name of Lacawac Sanctuary.

*By Peter Becker
Managing Editor
Wayne Independent
Jan. 13, 2014*

[Ed. Note: a second, different obituary for this JLS/ OLSer].

Vernon Roger Alden A Biography



Vernon R. Alden, President-Emeritus of Ohio University, also served as Chairman of the Boston Company and Associate Dean of the Harvard Business School. He is a leader in education, business, the arts and international activities.

From 1969 through 1978 he was Chairman of the Boston Company and its major subsidiary, the Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company. He helped transform an essentially local financial company into a national and international organization and attracted to its Board of Directors such well-known executives as Lee Iacocca, then president of Ford, as well as heads of Continental Oil, Trans World Airlines, Armco Steel, and Royal Dutch Shell.

Investment management entities were acquired in five other regions as well as the Personnel Resources Division which made the Boston Company the first major financial organizations to fulfill a need for professional athletes and entertainers. He also helped to establish The Boston Consulting Group and attracted a friend, Bruce Henderson, as its founder.

He is a Life Trustee of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Museum of Science, the Children's Museum, and the French Library and Cultural Center in Boston. He has served on visiting committees at Harvard, MIT, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Three Massachusetts Governors, Sargent, Dukakis and King, appointed him Chairman of the Massachusetts Council on Arts and Humanities. During his twelve-year tenure, State appropriations to the arts grew from \$125,000 to over \$18 million. Alden also served as Chairman of the Foreign Business Council under Dukakis and King. He served as a trustee and member of the Board of Fellows of Brown University, his alma mater.

Alden was president of Ohio University in the decade of the 1960's. During his tenure enrollment more than doubled and total assets more than quadrupled. One of the

hallmarks of his administration was the ability to attract and develop outstanding administrative talent. Seven members of his administration went on to become presidents of other colleges and universities. Upon his retirement from Ohio the Trustees named the new library. "The Vernon Roger Alden Library" and he received the Governor's Award, a Citation from the State of Ohio Senate, and the Outstanding Civilian Service award from the United States Army.

A primary school in Nigeria is named the "Alden Rainbow" following several of his visits to Ohio faculty members teaching Nigeria on USAID grants. Alden frequently receives letters, poems, cartoons and art work from young Nigerian students.

President Lyndon Johnson appointed Alden in 1964 as Chairman of the Task Force Planning and The United States Job Corps and Chairman of the Education Advisory Committee of the Appalachian Commission. Under Alden's Leadership, Ohio University spearheaded the economic revitalization of Southeastern Ohio, including development of the Appalachian Highway Network. He accomplished a major re-routing of the Hocking River that had annually flooded the Ohio campus, and he built six branches of the University in eastern and southern Ohio. President Johnson announced the Great Society Program on the Ohio campus.

As Associate Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration between 1951 and 1961, he taught advanced management seminars in Japan and assisted in the creation of Japan's first graduate school of business at Keio University. He also established the Institute for College and University Administrators, which conducted case study seminars for college presidents, deans and trustees.

An active corporate director, Alden served for thirty-nine years on the board of Digital Equipment Corporation and for more than twenty years each as a Director of Colgate-Palmolive Company, McGraw-Hill, The Mead Corporation, The Boston

Company and Sonesta International Hotels. During World War II, Alden attended the Navy Officers Japanese Language School in Boulder Colorado [OLS 4/30/45-], before serving on the aircraft carrier USS *Saratoga*. He is active on several Japan related advisory boards and foundations, including the Policy Advisory Committee of the Harvard program on U.S. Japan relations. In 1985 the Emperor of Japan conferred upon him the Order of the Rising Sun, Star Class.

Vernon Alden is well known in Japan. For over forty years he was President or Chairman of the Japan Society of Boston. The Japan Society of Boston was the first to be established in the United States. When he became president in 1969, however, it was no more than a small group of Bostonians who met occasionally to discuss their interest in Japan. He was able to attract a five year grant from the US-Japan

Friendship Commission which provided an opportunity to hire a full-time Executive Director and to increase membership and the number of program offerings. Soon membership increased to more than 2000 with 150 additional corporate members.

Alden is a member of several Japan-related advisory councils: the Harvard Program on U.S. – Japan Relations, the Massachusetts-Hokkaido Sister State Committee, and the Newport-Shimoda Black Ships Festival. He is also a Director of the Boston-Kyoto Sister City Foundation.

He served two terms as Chairman of the National Organization of Japan-American Societies consisting of forty state-wide organizations. When he recruited a full-time president of the Boston Japan Society, he became chairman until 2009, becoming Chairman Emeritus.

In 1972 Alden participated with Japanese and American business, academic, and political leaders in the Japanese-American assembly held at Shimoda. He was a member of the late Ambassador Edwin Reishaurer's seminar at the East Asian Studies Center, Harvard University, and served on the Advisory Board of the Japan-

United States Friendship Commission.

In response to the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yohei Kono, who also serves as chairman of the Inter-University Athletic Council in Japan, Alden has arranged for several years to have runners from Ivy League universities participate in the national championship Ekiden relay races.

In 1978 Alden led a Massachusetts trade delegation which Ambassador Mansfield described on 'Meet the Press' as "one of the most successful trade delegations to visit Japan." He led delegations to Japan from Rhode Island as well as the National Association of Japan-America Societies. Alden has traveled to Japan several times a year since the mid -1950's and has a wide range of acquaintances among Japanese and United States business, academic, and political leaders. He and his late wife Marion, were invited by the Imperial Family to attend the wedding reception of Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako. In 1990 Alden was appointed Honorary Consul General in Boston for the Royal Kingdom of Thailand. In 1996 His Majesty the King of Thailand presented him with The Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand and in 1997 he was presented with the Royal Decoration, Commander (Third Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant. He has written three books: *Speaking for Myself, An Oral History and Presidents, Kings, Astronauts and Ball players: Fascinating People I have Known*.

Alden with his late wife, Marion is well known for his philanthropy, having established endowed funds at Brown University, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Science Museum, Ohio University, Ohio Wesleyan University, MIT, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Northfield Mount Hermon School, the Boston Public Library, and the French Library and Cultural Center in Boston, in addition to annual gifts in support of the many

organizations with which he is associated.

Vernon Alden was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1923. He attend public schools in Moline, Illinois and Providence, Rhode Island, before attending Brown University, from which he graduated Phi Beta Kappa. He received an MBA from the Harvard Business School. Thirteen colleges and universities have conferred honorary degrees upon him, and in 1975 the Harvard Business School Alumni Association gave him its Business Statesman Award. He received a similar award from Brown University alumni in 1987. Alden was elected to Ohio University Hall of Fame in 2006. The French Library and Cultural Center honored him as "Man of the Year" in 1981.

Until he had hip replacement surgery in 2003, Alden ran three miles a day. He had running routes wherever he traveled: New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, London, Tokyo, and even Bangkok. He established the record for runners over 70 on the hilly Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard, 5k road race which is yet to be broken.

Alden is a member of the Somerset Club, the Commercial Club of Boston, The Country Club, the Edgartown Yacht Club, and the Farm Neck Golf Club on Martha's Vineyard.

He has four children, Robert, Anne, James and David, as well as three grandsons, William, Anderson, and Thomas and five granddaughters, Acadia, Lydia, Mara, Lucy and Christelle.

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Vernon Roger Alden

<http://www.vernonalden.com/>

Forrest R. "Woody" Pitts

OLS 3/20/45-

1924-2014

**College and the Navy
Intertwined**

"Upon my graduation from high school in 1942, our family moved to Sand Point, Idaho. After a summer's job as a plumber's assistant helping to build the Farragut Naval Training Base on Lake Pend

d'Oreille, I took my \$950 in wages and entered the University of Idaho at Moscow. Only \$50 remained by the end of the spring semester. I enrolled in geology courses, mostly paleontology and geomorphology, but the scorn poured on my head when I let it be known that I believed in Wegener's "floating continents" was enough to put me off geology on my postwar return to college.

During my freshman year, where fifteen credits were the norm, I took twenty one and got good grades, even in remedial algebra and Algebra I, which I took concurrently. During this time, I enlisted in the Navy, where I later went through a course in celestial navigation and differential calculus. After a year at Pocatello as an apprentice seaman, I entered the Navy V-5 flight program at St. Olaf College in Minnesota, only to be transferred once again. The Navy was losing fewer pilots than anticipated, so all who wanted to go to a midshipmen's school were released. I reached Throgs Neck in the Bronx (where a bridge now exists) for my training. Toward the end of my four months, a Commander Hindmarsh visited, and I was selected for the Lapanese language school in Boulder Colorado. He gave me the spiel, 'With you, Pitts, we are reaching the bottom of the barrel.' I learned only a few years ago that that was what he told everyone he recruited.

While I was at the Naval Language School in Boulder, in June 1945, I met a young lady at a Friday evening picnic. I asked Miss Jones to go with me to Eliche's Gardens in Denver the next day, and at the end of that day I proposed to her. She wanted to think it over, and on Sunday night she said yes. We were married three months later, in September, just after the war ended. We had three daughters, who live in Santa Rosa near us, and a son whom we lost to leukemia at the age of six months. We celebrated our fiftieth anniversary with a cruise though the Panama Canal, a long-time dream for Valerie. Almost four years of navy service gave me another year of

college, fifteen months of Japanese-language school, considerable experience in teaching gunnery to people more warlike than myself, and several months in Washington, DC, document facility, which was later incorporated into the CIA. I left the Navy in November 1946 with a commendation in hand from the admiral in charge of Naval Intelligence. The GI Bill had become available, and I enrolled in Barnes School of Commerce in Denver for a few months to learn typing and shorthand. Without the GI Bill, which paid for my education, I would have spent a life snaking logs out of the forests of the Grand Mesa.

Valerie and I then moved to Berkeley for the 1947 summer school. The visiting professor that summer was Robert Burnett Hall, who taught a course on Japan and was a close friend of Carl Sauer. When Professor Hall learned of my language training, he persuaded me to transfer to the University of Michigan, where they were just starting their Center for Japanese Studies. My third year in college proved to be my senior year (I had been given a year's credit for my language stint), and in 1948 I entered the center at Michigan for an M.A. in Far Eastern Studies. In November 1997, I was guest speaker at the fiftieth anniversary colloquium for the center, reading a paper called, 'Japan: Twelve Doors to a Life.'

Life at the Ann Arbor campus was interesting, especially for the annual Easter-season arrival of disillusioned graduate students of Finch and Trewartha in Madison, asking us if we had room for them. Hearing we were full up, they departed sadly to careers in government.

My own career plans were not fixed. After a semester and a half studying Mandarin Chinese, I went to the former Washington Document center location and asked to be given language tests to join the CIA. On the Japanese tests, I had no trouble, but on the Chinese I scored seventy-two points. For the lack of three points, I was saved from a life at the agency. I never made it to China, nor did I become a China watcher in Hong Kong. Returning to Ann Arbor to attend

field camp at Waugashaunce Point, I then wrote my M.A. thesis on a regional study of Mt. Fuji, translating materials from geological journals in Japanese."



Forrest R. Pitts (Ph.D. Michigan, 1955), University of Hawaii, Professor Emeritus, <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~copyrght/image/solstice/win00/reunion.html>

Forrest R. Pitts, "Sliding Sideways into Geography", in Peter Gould and Forrest R. Pitts, eds.,

Geographical Voices: Fourteen Autobiographical Essays, (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2002), pp. 274-276

[Ed Note: No obit yet, so I substituted this. There is much more in this article on his life. I had been in contact with Woody for close to 14 years and was unprepared, having exchanged emails in December 2013, for his passing in January 2014. He had been editing our newsletter for almost 10 years (not willing, I think, to abide the mistakes that got through our process in The Interpreter). I think he enjoyed the preview of issues to come, affording, him as it did, a way to comment on many stories at a time. His stories appeared in numerous issues of The Interpreter: #62a, #63a, #97a, #135, #148, #155, #159, #161, #165, #166, #167, #171, #176, #186, and a few others.]

Heffner, Ray OLS 5/14/45-

Dr. Heffner began his teaching career at Indiana University in 1954 and held academic and administrative positions there and at the University of Iowa before being hired at Brown in 1966 as the Ivy League

university's 13th president.

He served three difficult years in the job. The period coincided with the Vietnam War and violent protests on many campuses. Brown was spared such violence, but there were protests and other debates about the university's future, according to *Encyclopedia Brunoniana*, a history of Brown.

Ruth Heffner described her husband as a pacifist who nevertheless thought students should not be allowed to defer military service if drafted because the burden then fell to those who were poor or black.

He also opposed a move by the faculty to ban ROTC on campus, arguing that it was better to have military leaders who are broadly educated at high-quality nonmilitary institutions such as Brown, Harvard and Princeton, she said.

"The faculty disagreed with him, and because he did not have the support of the faculty, he resigned," she said.

Brown still does not have an ROTC program, although other Ivy League schools have reinstituted it.

Dr. Heffner resigned with a straightforward message to the school's governing board: "I have simply reached the conclusion that I do not enjoy being a university president."

After handing in his resignation, Dr. Heffner returned to the University of Iowa and taught there until retiring in 1996.

For the past 16 years, he had taught literature classes at the Johnson County Senior Center in Iowa City. He taught three to four classes a year on topics ranging from Shakespeare to the literature of South Africa, Ruth Heffner said.

Ray Lorenzo Heffner was born in Durham, N.C., on May 7, 1925. Dr. Heffner's father was an English professor, and he grew up near college campuses in North Carolina, Maryland and Washington.

The younger Heffner won a scholarship to Yale University, where he graduated in 1948. At Yale, he also earned a Master's degree in 1950 and Ph.D. in English in 1953, specializing in Elizabethan literature.

He served in the Navy during World War II, serving time as a dynamite man on a construction crew in the Pacific. *[Mr. Heffner attended USN OLS in Japanese in 1945.]*

Associated Press
Michelle R. Smith
Washington Post
December 3, 2012

Ernest Dale Saunders OLS 1945 (1919-1995)

Dr. E. Dale Saunders, an emeritus professor of Japanese studies who was widely known for his writing and teaching, died on October 19, 1995 at the age of 76.

Dr. Saunders, who joined Penn in 1955 as assistant professor, became associate professor in 1963 and full professor in 1968. Teaching courses on Japanese Buddhism, Classical Japanese Literature, and East Asian Civilization, he was the author of *Mudra: A Study of Symbolic Gestures in Japanese Buddhist Sculpture* (1960), *Mythologies of the Ancient World* (1961), and *Japanese Buddhism* (1964).

After taking his A.B. degree from Western Reserve University in 1941 and an M.A. in Romance Philology from Harvard in 1942, Dr. Saunders entered the U.S. Naval Reserve, where he continued his studies of Japanese. He earned a Certificate of Proficiency from Colorado in 1944, an M.A. from Harvard in 1948, and the *Doctorat de l'Universite de Paris* in 1953.

Dr. Saunders was a teaching fellow in Romance Languages and Literature at Harvard in 1942 and again in 1945-48. Prior to joining Penn he also held the positions of instructor in French at Boston University in 1946; Charge de mission ^ titre etranger, Musee Guimet, in Paris in 1950; Lecturer at the University of Paris in 1951-52; and Assistant Professor at the International Christian University, Tokyo, 1954-55.

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