

The Interpreter

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★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

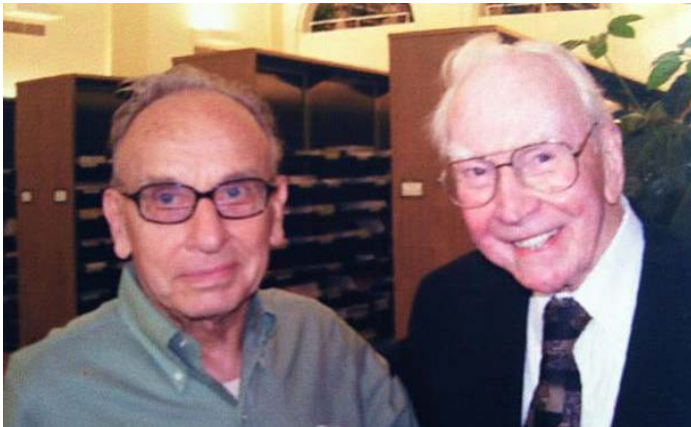
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January 1, 2016

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.

Paul Boller Well-Known presidential scholar and a TCU professor emeritus, dies at 97



Paul Boller with former

U.S. House Speaker Jim Wright.

FORT WORTH — Well-known presidential historian and author Paul Boller often regaled his students and friends with stories about his experiences as a Japanese-language translator

during World War II and of the lives of many presidents chronicled in his books.

But he was also known as a man of great compassion.

Mr. Boller, a professor emeritus of history at Texas Christian University, died last week in Fort Worth after a brief illness. He was 97.

Mr. Boller never married, but his niece Marina Jones of Palm Desert, Calif., said he was like a father and friend.

“When I think of him, the first word to come to my mind is fun,” she said. “We were so much alike, and we were always on the go. I just idolized him.”

During visits Mr. Boller often had parties to introduce his niece to his friends and colleagues, and she reciprocated, inviting her friends to meet him.

Jones also recalled that she always made sure to have 10-pound weights, dark chocolate and port wine on hand because Mr. Boller was concerned about his health and the environment. “He was a 97-year-old man in a 60-year-old body,” she said.

Jones said she and her uncle also loved discussing presidential history and would often analyze the inaugural speeches.

Dan Williams, director of the TCU Press and an honors professor of humanities, said he met Mr. Boller five years ago when there were concerns that the press might close.

“He came in and asked what he could do to help,” Williams said. “Paul was a man of unlimited compassion and friendship. We became quite close.”

The press published a collection of Mr. Boller’s essays two years ago, Williams said, and Mr. Boller submitted a draft for another book recently.

Ken Stevens, chairman of TCU’s history department, said Mr. Boller was always on hand to talk to students. “He knew hundreds and hundreds of people,” he said. “He was an all-around good guy, and he was a good storyteller and a listener.”

After his retirement, Mr. Boller devoted his life to scholarship, and his books provided insight into the lives of the presidents. Titles include *Presidential Anecdotes*, *Presidential Wives and Presidential Diversions: Presidents at Play From George Washington to George W. Bush*.

In *Presidential Diversions*, Mr. Boller described how John Quincy Adams was the only president to swim nude in the Potomac River, and on one occasion a tramp stole his clothes. Adams had to ask a boy to go to the White House to fetch something for him to wear.

Mr. Boller was born Dec. 31, 1916, in Spring Lake, N.J. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Yale University in 1939 and pursued graduate studies there.

During World War II, Mr. Boller attended the Navy language school in Boulder, Colo., where he learned Japanese. He served as a Navy translator in Honolulu and Guam.

In 2011, Mr. Boller was featured on the History Detectives TV show for his work creating leaflets that were dropped from B-29s calling for

the Japanese to surrender and to encourage civilians to evacuate from cities that were possible bombing targets.



During the 1980s, longtime friend and retired attorney David Broiles persuaded Mr. Boller to return to Japan. Mr. Boller insisted on “relearning” Japanese, Broiles recalled, and the two traveled to a museum in Hiroshima where the pamphlets he helped to create were on display.

After the war, Mr. Boller returned to Yale and earned a doctorate. He taught history at institutions including Southern Methodist University, the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Massachusetts in Boston.

Mr. Boller joined TCU in 1976 as the Lyndon Baines Johnson Chair of United States History and retired in 1983 to become a professor emeritus and scholar.

He earned many awards, according to an article in TCU Magazine, including the Henry Seward Fellowship, the Ford Foundation Faculty Fellowship, the Foote-Sheldon Clark Fellowship, the Macy-Howard Fellowship, the TCU Brachman Award for Excellence in Teaching, Mortar Board Top Professor Award, Honorary Alumnus Award, the John H. McGinnis Award, the Honors Faculty Recognition Award and a 1993 honorary doctorate in literature from Texas Wesleyan University.

Although Mr. Boller was well-known and recognized for his work, his friends and students were always a priority in his life, recalled another longtime friend, Jeff Barnard of St. Louis.

"Paul always knew how to defend his beliefs," Barnard said. "He was just so personable and likable that he could talk to right-wing religious fanatics without antagonizing them.

"Someone called Paul a 'Sermon on the Mount Democrat.' He wasn't really religious, but he believed in doing unto others as they would do unto you. He had a good heart."

Elizabeth Campbell

Twitter: @fwstliz

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Mar. 22, 2014

Read more here: <http://www.star-telegram.com/2014/03/22/5671892/paul-boller-well-known-presidential.html#storylink=cpy>

[Ed. Note: Paul Boller was one of our most enthusiastic contributors and correspondents. He appeared in Issues #50, #145, #146, #147, #148, #161, #165, #166, #168, #169, #170, #171, #172, #174, #181, #182, #190, #191, #192, #196, #198, #199, and #213. His papers are at TCU, but he left quite a record in the newsletter. His unfailing humor, cheer, and humility pervaded all of his correspondence. I will miss him.]

JOHN PELZEL USMC, HARVARD HAWAII JLS 1941

I am continuing my autobiography, by drafting a series of memoirs or episode descriptions. With hope it can be of interest to you, I am taking the liberty of sending you another draft text, focused on John Pelzel but including a bit about other Japanese language officers you have mentioned in *The Interpreter*.

As always,
Bob Sheeks
JLS 1943

John Campbell Pelzel

John Pelzel was one of the most admirable Americans I ever met. I say this although I never got to know him very well. From the time I first met him, however, during WWII in mid-1943 in Wellington, New Zealand it was

apparent to me that here was a brilliant, scholarly, dedicated gentleman and Marine Corps officer. In Wellington, John was serving as the Second Marine Division's top Japanese language intelligence officer, part of a team busily working on plans for the forthcoming capture of Tarawa scheduled for later that year. Eight years older than I, he was a Marine Corps veteran of the battle for Guadalcanal that had recently ended.

Within the Division's Intelligence Section, John ranked as my immediate superior Japanese Language officer from the time I joined the Second Division in New Zealand, and then afterward continuously through the Tarawa campaign, followed by the Saipan and Tinian campaigns.

At Tarawa we shared a harrowing experience. At the end of the third day (November 23, 1943) John and I together with Col. Colley and his assistant, Capt. Tom Dutton, had walked across the airfield and were trying to dig safety foxholes in hard coral rubble at the edge of the airstrip. With our foldable entrenching tools, John and I were achieving only a shallow grave-like trench. About six feet away, toward our right, Colley and Dutton were doing the same. Suddenly out of the blue, we heard and saw a single, very low-flying Japanese plane headed right at us and the airfield, firing its machine guns as it came. Lying helplessly on our backs in our shallow trenches, we saw the flames of the machine guns zooming toward us, and felt the impact of bullets hitting the ground only a yard away between our shallow trenches.

By amazing coincidence, after the war when he was stationed in Japan, John Pelzel unexpectedly met the pilot that had almost killed the two of us, Jack Colley and Tom Dutton. John had been provided living quarters in a Japanese house in Tokyo, the lady owner of which introduced to him a young Japanese man also living there. In conversation John learned that the young man had been a pilot stationed at Tarawa; had flown his plane away to the nearby Marshall Islands when the U.S.

attacked the Gilberts. Inquiring further, John learned that the pilot had once flown back to strafe the airstrip on Tarawa several days after Americans had taken it. Only one Japanese plane had strafed Tarawa. There could be absolutely no doubt that this was the pilot who had almost killed us. The two became friends, the ex-pilot went into the toy business; John returned to academia.

Although we had never met before the war, when the war ended, John and I separately returned to Harvard, I as a student, he as a faculty member. John served as best man for my wedding at the on-campus Harvard Memorial Church in 1946 to Radcliffe College student, Jane Packard Pratt, a fellow student of mine in Chinese History and Language studies at Harvard's Benching Institute.

What was John Pelzel's life before and after WWII? I learned almost nothing from him about his background. Although he had a distinguished professional career, including as a faculty member of Harvard University, there is only scant written record to be found about him. Most likely that is because he was extremely modest, and reluctant to say or write anything about himself. Of special interest to me has been his background in Asia and wartime study of Japanese, both of which happen to have paralleled my experience. By coincidence I also spent thirteen boyhood years in Asia, I in China; he in Korea, and we both studied Japanese to become Japanese Language officers in the Marine Corps. The following is what little I have pieced together about John from a few limited sources.

John Campbell Pelzel was born in Philadelphia in 1914, a few days before the outbreak of WWI. Immediately following that war in 1918 at the age of four, John's parents took him to Korea, where it seems they served as teachers of English and Christian educational missionaries. Several years after repatriation of the Pelzel family back to the U.S. in 1931 when John was 13, he became a freshman at the University of Chicago; received

his A. B. in 1935 at age 21, and enrolled for graduate study at Harvard.

According to comments written by contemporaries, John had an intense interest in foreign cultures and anthropology, initially focused on Mexico, and in 1936 John reportedly, conducted "an exhaustive study of Mexican manuscripts." His main interest then shifted to Asia, and in 1940 he joined a team of about half-dozen students led by the Chinese scholar, Cheng Te-k'un for study of archaeological projects in Siberia, Manchuria, China, Japan, and Southeast Asia. Remarkably, that was a year before Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, but war had been raging across north and east China since 1937. Dr. Cheng was based at the Chinese wartime capital of Chengdu, in Sichuan Province, as curator of the West China University Museum. Before, during, and after the war, Dr. Cheng was affiliated with British academic institutions, particularly the University of Cambridge, with which Harvard University was long affiliated. (In fact Harvard has been described as an "offshoot" of Cambridge University) After the extensive expedition to Siberia China Japan and Southeast Asia, John returned to the U.S. to complete graduate studies in Archaeology, earning his M.A. degree at Harvard in 1941.

Sometime in 1941 prior to the Pearl Harbor, John volunteered to join the US Marine Corps for Japanese language training in a school the U.S. Navy had established at Pearl Harbor. According to a letter of commendation regarding a group of six US Marines stationed at Pearl Harbor, John and the five others had begun Marine Corps service in 1941 prior to the Pearl Harbor attack, and were on duty there during the attack. The six commendations were made by Rear Admiral C. C. Bloch, Commandant of the 14th Naval District and Hawaiian Sea Frontier. Those named were two Second Lieutenants, John C. Pelzel, and Gerald P. Holtom; two First lieutenants, John R. Shively, and Donald R. Nugent-- all four of whom I met and I came to know during the war.

(The other two Marines commended but whom I never met were Major James S. Monahan and Lt. Colonel William J. Whaling) Other Marines who graduated from that Navy School, with whom I later became good friends and closely associated, include Paul Dull, Eugene Boardman, and Richard Gard. Gene Boardman, a close colleague at Tarawa, Saipan, and Tinian, served in the Second Marine Division as a Regimental Japanese Language Officer. (2nd Regiment)

I have learned about interesting circumstances of John Pelzel's joining the Marine Corps, and training in military Japanese language and intelligence. On record is a US Marine Corps Oral History Program described by Eugene Boardman in taped interview February 2, 1982. According to Boardman, the Marine Corps did not have Japanese language officers until after 1940. In the autumn of 1940, a Marine officer named Col. Bayles stationed in Peking became concerned that were war with Japan to occur, the Marine Corps would be without benefit of Japanese language interpreters, especially as the U.S. Navy had authority to preempt away Marine personnel.

Col. Bayles went to Washington and thereafter arranged for newly-recruited First Lieut. John Shively to visit East Asian Studies Centers to help recruit others. He was able to recruit twelve people with some background relevant for further Japanese language training. Gene Boardman himself was one of these, working on his PhD thesis at Harvard. There were two others at Harvard, Paul Dull and John Pelzel. All three then were commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in the Marine Corps and sent to the Marine base at San Diego. In July 1941 they were sent onward to the University of Hawaii, where three Japanese teachers, one of them a Professor, provided intensive instruction focused on military Japanese. A part of their training included watching Japanese movies in Honolulu theaters. Among training aims in Hawaii was to

enable the students to read diaries and letters hand-written by Japanese, and eventually to have one Japanese language officer at least in each Marine Regiment. Seven of the twelve trainees made it through the course; five failed.

Regarding those six Marines commended by Rear Adm. Bloch, the commendation reads:

"In addition to augmenting the ground defenses and interior protection and establishing effective traffic control within the Navy Yard, your organization took part in setting up and operating antiaircraft machine guns; it rendered exemplary service in damage control; it aided in collecting and ministering to the needs of the wounded and/or creating a food station for all hands during the emergency. These services are in keeping with the highest tradition of the Naval Service, and are appreciated".

I have an impression that this Navy commendation inspired John Pelzel later to help write commendations about others, including the Bronze Star awarded to me at Saipan in 1944. Confirmation of the award was first sent to me in a letter signed by John's "boss", the Commanding Officer of the Second Marine Division Intelligence Section. Thomas J Colley, Lt.Col., USMC After the war the Bronze Medal was sent to me in the U.S., accompanied by the Permanent Citation document signed "For the President" by Secretary of the Navy, John L Sullivan. Before that, I had received from Washington, a Temporary Citation document, signed by H. M. Smith, Lieut. Gen., USMC, Commandant of the Second Marine Division. Basic texts in each Citation document were almost identical although each version showed minor editorial modification. I believe it possible the text might originally have been drafted by John Pelzel for Lt. Col. Colley. The final version reads:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the BRONZE STAR MEDAL to FIRST LIEUTENANT ROBERT B.

SHEEKS, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE, for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

"For heroic achievement as an Interpreter of the Intelligence Section of the Second Marine Division, during operations against enemy Japanese forces on Saipan and Tinian, Marianas Items, from 15 June to 1 August 1944. Pioneering in devising the methods of directing combat propaganda at the Japanese prior to the Marianas Campaign, First Lieutenant Sheeks prepared several means of propaganda used during the campaign. When large numbers of civilians were driven into hiding by our advance during the latter stages of the operations, he moved with front-line units despite considerable personal danger and utilized public address systems to call civilians and soldiers out of hiding, thereby effecting the surrender of large numbers of the enemy. By his ability, perseverance and devotion to duty, he materially reduced hostile resistance and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service." First Lieutenant Sheeks is authorized to wear the Combat "V".

For the President, John L Sullivan, Secretary of the Navy

By the end of the war, John received promotion to the rank of Major in the Marine Corps Reserve. After the war he was at Harvard only briefly and began research on a subject of keenest interest to him, namely, problems of stratification in modern Japanese society. While still engaged in research, he was called to serve in the occupation and reconstruction of Japan under General MacArthur, and became Chief of the Public Opinion and Sociological Research Division. Concurrently, John completed his Harvard PhD dissertation, titled: "Social Stratification in Japanese Urban Economic Life". In 1950 he began a teaching career at Harvard in Asian cultural anthropology and linguistics.

At Harvard, John had a multifaceted career. While teaching, he also served Harvard's Peabody Museum as

Curator of Far Eastern Ethnology. Between 1964 and 1977 he was at times in Japan and Korea for applied anthropology projects. Upon his return to Harvard it was as Professor of Anthropology. He also served as Director of the Harvard-Yenching Institute, succeeding Prof. Edwin O. Reischauer, when Reischauer became the U.S. Ambassador to Japan. John retired in 1979; moved to live in Arizona, but for a decade continued to serve as a consultant to the U.S. military on Japanese Affairs. He wrote or co-authored a dozen books and numerous learned articles about Japanese ethnology, sociology and history. We kept in touch intermittently for a while, he became reclusive; I lost track of him and could not find any address to reach him. I was extremely sad to learn some years later that John had died at the relatively early age of 85 in Tucson, Pima County, Arizona on October 18, 1999.

During the war, John Pelzel, Gene Boardman, and Donald Nugent were awarded the Legion of Merit. Gerald Holtom, was killed at Makin and honored posthumously.

*Robert Sheeks
JLS 1943*

Wilvan G. Van Campen 1920-2012

Wilvan Graham Van Campen, 92, of New York, a retired federal government diplomat, died in Manoa Cottage. He was born in Tacoma, Wash. He is survived by son Wilvan I., daughters Mariko and Hana, and a grandchild.

Bill Van Campen had attended the US Navy Japanese Language School at the University of California Berkeley, graduating in June 1942. He was on Adak in 1943 with Donald Keene, Otis Cary, Harrison and Miller.

Honolulu Star Advertiser
Dec. 23, 2012
& David M. Hays
Archivist & Editor

[Ed Note: Bill Van Campen was always cheerful and humorous in his correspondence. He appears in Issues:#06, #31, #59, #80a]

John F. Magee

OLS 1945

(1926-2014)



John F. Magee of Concord died Monday, May 6, 2014 at his Concord home. He was the beloved husband of the late Dorothy (Hundley) Magee who died in 2009. Born in Bangor, Maine in 1926, he was the son of John H. and Marie (Frawley) Magee.

He attended parochial schools in Bangor, leaving after his junior year at John Baptist High School to attend Bowdoin College. In 1944, shortly before his eighteenth birthday, Mr. Magee enlisted in the United States Navy and was assigned to the Navy Oriental Language School in Boulder, Colorado for intensive training in Japanese. He was commissioned Ensign, USNR, in March of 1945, and later served as an interpreter and translator in the Office of Naval Intelligence.

He was released from active duty in July of 1946 and returned to Bowdoin College. He received an honorable discharge from service in the United States Navy in June of 1956. Mr. Magee received a B. A., summa cum laude, from Bowdoin College in 1946, an M. B. A., with high distinction, from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration in 1948, and an M. A. in mathematics and economics in 1952 from the University of Maine.

While at the Harvard Business School, John Magee met Dorothy Hundley, a member of the class of 1948 at Wellesley College. Later they both moved to New York where she was employed at the Institute for

International Relations, he did further graduate work at Columbia University before being employed by the Johns-Manville Company in Manville, New Jersey. They were married at St. Patricks Cathedral on November 19, 1949 and lived briefly in Somerville, New Jersey before moving to the Boston area in 1950.

After living in Arlington, Massachusetts, in 1954 they moved to a new home in Concord where they have remained. John and Dorothy Magee have three children, Catherine M. Milligan, John J. Magee and Andrew S. Magee, five grand children and three great grandchildren. Mr. Magee also leaves his good friend Kathryn Hollett. Mr. Magee joined Arthur D. Little, Inc. in 1950 as a member of the Operations Research Group, of which he became head in January of 1959. From 1963 to early 1968, he headed the Management Services Division.

He was President of the company from 1972 until 1986 and Chief Executive Officer from 1974 until July 1988. He was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors in 1986 and retired in 1998.

During his professional career, Mr. Magee worked with clients on assignments in marketing research, production planning and inventory control, financial analysis, organization and strategy, and economic regulation, and with clients in North and South America, Europe, Japan, India, Australia, the Middle East and Africa. During his leadership as head of Management Services and later as President, ADL dramatically expanded its presence around the world, opening management consulting offices in several parts of Europe, Latin America and Asia. A technical contract R & D laboratory was established in Cambridge, England, and project offices in the Middle East and Africa.

He also oversaw the establishment and growth of the ADL Management Educational Institute, unique as a subsidiary of a profit-making firm authorized and accredited to grant M. S. degrees in management, its student

participants were drawn from throughout the world.

Mr. Magee is a Life Fellow of the Phi Beta Kappa Society and Member of the Phi Kappa Psi Honor Society. In 1996, he was awarded an honorary degree, L. L. D., by Bowdoin College.

Mr. Magee is the author of Production Planning and Inventory Control, first edition, published by McGraw-Hill in 1958, which has been published in French, Dutch, Japanese, Italian, and Portuguese editions, and a second edition published in 1967. He is also the author of Physical Distributions Systems, published by McGraw-Hill in 1967 and 1968, respectively. He has contributed to many other texts, and is the author of several technical papers and survey articles in the fields of management and management science.

Mr. Magee is a founding member of the Operations Research Society of America, and was president during the year 1966-67. In May of 1978, the Society awarded him the George E. Kimball Medal for distinguished service. He is a past president of the Institute of Management Sciences.

In 2002, he was elected a Life Fellow of the Institute for Operations Research and Management Science. He is a former member of the Boards of Directors of Houghton Mifflin Company and John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company. He is a trustee emeritus and former chairman of Bowdoin College, an overseer emeritus of the Boston Museum of Science, a former trustee and governor of the New England Aquarium, a member of the Trustee Council of the Boston University Medical Center, Honorary Trustee of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, former member of the Board of Trustees of Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center where he was its chairman from 1994 to 1999, and a member and President (1992-1994) of the Commercial Club of Boston.

Mr. Magee also served for a number of years as a trustee of the USS Constitution Museum and as a member of the Boards of Directors of the Associated Industries of Massachusetts, the

New England Council, the Massachusetts Business Roundtable and the Massachusetts High Technology Council.

In Concord, he served for several years as a member of the Board of Directors of the Concord Municipal Light Plant, two terms as a member of the Board of Governors of the Concord Country Club and for several years as a member and Secretary of the Board of Directors of Emerson Hospital. In addition to the Concord Country Club, he is a member of the Country Club and the Somerset Club.

Mr. Magee's management responsibilities, consulting and leisure travel have taken him and his late wife, Dorothy, to every continent including Antarctica. In addition to an active life of travel, he has enjoyed skiing, golf, sailing, working in his garden and painting. His watercolors have appeared in a number of exhibits in the Concord area. Concord's town flag flew at half-staff on Tuesday in recognition of Mr. Magee's service to his country in the U.S. Navy. Arrangements are under the care of Susan M. Dee and Charles W. Dee, Jr., Dee Funeral Home of Concord. To share a remembrance in Mr. Magee's guest book visit www.deefuneral.com.

The Concord Journal
May 9, 2014

[Ed. Note: Mr. Magee was a lively correspondent when I finally located him. His comments and references appeared in our project newsletter in Issues #84, #90a, #94, #94a, #95a, #96a, #98, and #142 in The Interpreter.]

\$Donations Accepted

To support the JLS/OLS Archival Project, make your check out to the **University of Colorado**, writing **US Navy JLS Fund** on the memo line to the bottom left of your check, and mail it to our contact address.

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