

*The Interpreter*

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

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★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

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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.*

## Philip Lehner, 88, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist

An adventurous entrepreneur with a gift for languages, Philip Lehner began achieving early, entering the US Navy and serving as an intelligence officer during World War II when he was barely in his 20s.

Mr. Lehner went on to create and lead businesses that thrived in Nicaragua and elsewhere in Central America, despite political strife.

He also helped build his father's business, now called Leigh Fibers, into one of the largest companies of its kind and did so by giving "people freedom to do the best possible job," said his son Carl of Holderness, N.H., who in 1990 succeeded Mr. Lehner as president of the company.

"He set high expectations, and he led by example in terms of working hard and focusing on what was important," Carl said.

Mr. Lehner - a philanthropist who contributed to environmental and educational

programs and established funds at schools such as Harvard University, Smith College, and Buckingham Browne & Nichols - died of congestive heart failure January 5, 2013 in his Hingham home. He was 88.

In the 1970s, while two of his sons and his brother, Peter of Hingham, were helping to run Leigh Fibers, Mr. Lehner started Grasas y Aceites with a couple of Central American friends he had met in Boston.

Along with Grasas y Aceites, which became a cottonseed oil mill in Nicaragua, Mr. Lehner pioneered other businesses in the region, among them several that are considered models of "ecologically sound management," said his son Peter of New York City.

Alfonso Robelo, a Nicaraguan businessman and founder of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, said the companies he and Mr. Lehner helped launch succeeded because of Mr. Lehner's leadership and management style.

"We were always following Philip's ideas," Robelo said. "I learned so much from him, not only about business per se, but about how to treat workers, how to respect nature, and how to be loyal to the country where you were establishing a business."

In Hingham, international guests often were present at the Lehner home.

"One of the wonderful things about our childhood was getting to know so many of our father's friends from around the world," Peter said. "His view of the world, from knowing all these people, was a very generous and hopeful perspective toward humanity."

Born in Boston, Mr. Lehner grew up in Cambridge and Hingham. His father had emigrated from Germany, his mother from France.

He graduated from what was then Browne & Nichols School in Cambridge. In 1941, he began attending Harvard College, where he rowed crew and

developed a lifelong love of the sport, which he passed down to his children and grandchildren.

At the end of his freshman year, he enlisted in the Navy and was sent to Boulder, Colo., for a one-year program studying Japanese. His family said he picked up languages easily and also spoke German, French, and Spanish.



"He was phenomenally intelligent and phenomenally good at languages," Peter said.

While stationed in Hawaii during the war, Mr. Lehner translated Japanese messages that had been intercepted. He also analyzed ship and troop movements and was promoted to lieutenant 11 days after his 20th birthday.

"My father didn't talk much about the war," Peter said. "He didn't like war, but he chose to enlist, I think, because he knew he could contribute more in intelligence than as a line soldier or sailor."

In 1945, Mr. Lehner interrogated Japanese prisoners captured during the Battle of Okinawa.

He worked as a translator when Japanese naval forces surrendered and was part of an intelligence team that traveled through Japan to determine the country's military capacity.

Returning to Harvard after the war, he graduated in 1948 with a bachelor's degree in economics and joined what was then called the Leigh Textile Co.

Mr. Lehner worked with his brother and his father to build the business, which became Leigh Fibers, into an international presence in the textile and fiber reprocessing field. Until recently, Mr. Lehner was chairman of the company's board of directors.

His job required plenty of international travel, which he relished. In 1948, he was returning from a business trip aboard the Queen Elizabeth ocean liner when he met Monique Brancart of Belgium, who was traveling with her family from Cairo to the United States so she could attend Smith College.

They married in 1951 at Mr. Lehner's parents' home in Hingham, where the couple later settled.

"They were both very worldly and loved to travel," their son Peter said. "And my mother was an extraordinary host, so we got to grow up with people from all over the world around our dinner table."

Mr. Lehner, who worked hard and traveled often, also "was a very loving father," son Carl said. "He certainly enjoyed taking walks and going fishing with us. And he enjoyed the successes of his children at every stage of our lives."

After recovering from an illness in the 1960s, Mr. Lehner began jogging every day, even while traveling.

"If he had a 6:30 a.m. flight to catch, he would get up and jog at 3:30," Peter said.

Mr. Lehner loved sailing in Hingham and Scituate harbors and in Maine and skiing with his family.

In a eulogy, Peter recalled that his father "would lay out five snowsuits in a row and have us lie on them. He went down the line, zipping us up, and then laced 10 ski boots."

A service has been held for Mr. Lehner, who in addition to his wife, two sons, and brother leaves two daughters, Christine of Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y.,

and Brigitte Kingsbury of Cape Elizabeth, Maine; another son, Michael of Boston; 15 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

"If you want to find someone who fits the description of a gentleman, that was Philip," Robelo said. "He was very clever and very positive, always saying nice things about people. He had an outstanding analytical mind, which is unusual in a person who was also so kind and gentle, and such a very good friend."

Kathleen McKenna  
[kmck66@comcast.net](mailto:kmck66@comcast.net)  
The Boston Globe  
January 21, 2013

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May 12, 1981

Dear Phil:

The enclosed squib tells what I am trying to do. All I know about you is that you registered at Boulder 19 April 1943, were graduated in a class of fifty-six on 27 May, 1944, #298449. Your home address was at Boulder, i.e. your given residence was in Hingham, Mass., but when you registered with NAVTECHJAP it was 185 Summer, St., Boston.

Also, Admiral Jerauld Wright tells me that you were his interpreter at Admiral Yamaguchi's surrender of the naval base in South Korea, and JW says you were a damn good interpreter, too. He also tells me that Memaguchi brandished his sword before handing it over to JW.

Please fill me in on what you did between Boulder and Yamaguchi, where you were assigned, who you served with, under, and anything that you found interesting about the experience, your colleagues and the like. You may be certain that anything you found of even passing interest will be of great interest to me. If you still have copies of your orders I'd like a copy of them. Tell me anything you can about your colleagues then, and what you know of them since.

Best Wishes  
Roger Pineau  
CPT, USN

[Ed. Note: Roger Pineau sent such notes from the mid-1970s through the 1980s, seeking information for a book he was intending to write on the USN Japanese/Oriental Language

School. Many never answered. Some exchanged lengthy correspondence. Philip Lehner wrote this reply.]

June 22, 1981

Dear Captain:

I would like to acknowledge your letter of May 12 and want to wish you good luck on your project of writing a history of the Japanese Language School in the United States Navy. I am afraid I cannot be too helpful as I do not have any old copies of orders, or many photographs left.

As far as my own activities are concerned, as best as I can remember, they were about as follows:

After leaving Boulder I was assigned to the Advanced Intelligence School in Manhattan for 2 or 3 months. From there, I went to Hawaii and was attached to JICPOA [Joint Intelligence Center Pacific Ocean Area]. I was with them for more or less a year and then went to sea with, I believe, Amphibious Group 5 which was Admiral Wright's Task Force and I believe we were on a ship called the Ancon [USS Ancon], or some such name, which was an amphibious command ship. We were involved in activities in Taiwan and also spent a lot of time sailing around the ocean [Amphibious Group Five - Operation Iceberg - Kerama Retto (1945). In November 1944, Rear Admiral Jerauld Wright took command of Amphibious Group Five, a newly created unit of the Amphibious Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet, commanded by Vice Admiral Richmond Kelly Turner. Wright's group would be involved in the invasion of the Ryukyu Islands (Operation Iceberg), the island of Okinawa being the key objective. Once taken, U.S. forces would use Okinawa as a staging area for the eventual invasion of Japan, and a base for the B-29 Superfortress bombers of the U.S. Seventh Air Force to attack the Japanese home islands. Amphibious Group Five would transport the 2nd Marine Division, Major General Thomas E. Watson, USMC, commanding, with Wright flying his flag from the USS Ancon (AGC-4).

For Operation Iceberg, Wright's force was designated Demonstration Group Charlie

(Task Group 51.2), whose mission was to serve as a decoy force working in conjunction with the Southern Attack Force (Task Force 55) commanded by Rear Admiral John L. Hall while the Western Islands Group (Task Group 51.1) under Rear Admiral Ingolf N. Kiland and the 77th Infantry Division secured Kerama Retto and other offshore islands before landing at Ie Shima. Task Group 51.2 would subsequently serve as a floating reserve for the U.S. Tenth Army (Task Force 56), commanded by Lieutenant General Simon B. Buckner, USA, before returning to Saipan.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerauld\\_Wright](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerauld_Wright)]. When the war was coming to an end, if I recollect correctly, I was transferred to a large battle cruiser and then a destroyer squadron for a while, followed by the Peace Ceremony with Admiral Wright (the destroyer and battleship experience could have come after the Peace Ceremony in Seoul) [Cruiser Division Six - USS San Francisco (1945) - Rear Admiral Jerauld Wright took command of Cruiser Division Six (CruDiv 6), with the USS San Francisco (CA-38), a New Orleans-class cruiser heavy cruiser, serving as his flagship. In early October 1945, CruDiv 6 was assigned to assist the post-surrender activities and general-purpose peace-keeping duties throughout the Yellow Sea and Gulf of Bohai region as a unit of the U.S. Seventh Fleet under the command of Vice Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid. Wright's force showed the flag, making port visits at Tientsin, Tsingtao, Port Arthur, and Chinwangtao. At the final port call at Inchon, Wright acted as the senior-ranking member of the committee that accepted the surrender of Japanese naval forces throughout Korea. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerauld\\_Wright](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerauld_Wright)].

I remember the Peace Ceremony where I interpreted, quite well. One side note, is that the poor Japanese Admiral who was delivering his sword and signing the surrender documents, was so upset that he actually threw up in his handkerchief in the corner of the room.

Shortly after this, I was transferred down to a navy base in Southern Korea and was lucky to come away alive, as an ammunition depot there exploded just a few minutes after I had gone by it. The explosion was purely accidental.

I think that base was called Chinkai and was a rather pleasant former naval base [The Chinkai Guard District (鎮海警備府 Chinkai Keibifu?) was the major navy base for the Imperial Japanese Navy in Korea under Japanese rule before and during World War II. Located in southern Korea (at present-day Jinhae, Republic of Korea, Coordinates: 35°11'N 128°34'E), the Chinkai Guard District was responsible for control of the strategic Straits of Shimonoseki and for patrols along the Korean coastline and in the Sea of Japan.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinkai\\_Guard\\_District](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinkai_Guard_District)].

While we were there, we did a certain amount of hunting up in the mountains, which was quite pleasant.

For some reason, after this I seem to have gone to Shanhai and then up to Tensing, where I was associated with one of the Marine divisions [I believe the 6<sup>th</sup> MARDIV was sent to Tianjin]. From there we went to Southern Japan in an LST and I was with a group that was doing postwar analyses of what prewar preparations Japan had made in some of its equipment, particularly merchant ships. I left Japan somewhere around February or March and was stationed in Washington with a naval office until I had enough points to leave the Navy which was May or June [1946].

The only Boulder graduate I have kept in contact with is Frank Ecker, who lives at 607 Astor Blvd. Rockville, Maryland 20850 [Frank A. Ecker, 89, a former Central Intelligence Agency budget examiner who was mayor of Rockville from 1962 to 1968, died in 2010]. He has been mayor of this city and he might be able to give you some interesting anecdotes. He worked with the State Department or CIA for a while and has been with the government since leaving the



navy. Another Boulder graduate was Chris Dixie and he is a labor lawyer in Texas but I regret I have no address for him [Christian James Dixie].

At one time, if I remember correctly, Jerauld Wright was the youngest Admiral in the Navy and at that same point in time, I was one of the youngest Lieutenants. He was always very nice to me and we had many interesting conversations together. At the end of the war, he urged me to stay in but I decided to go into my family's business and go back to college.

When you do see Admiral Wright, please give him my best and I wish him all good health.

With Kind Regards,  
Philip Lehner

[Ed. Note: Roger Pineau and his associate and fellow JLO Bill Hudson never completed their book before his death, but donated their research files to the Archives, University of Colorado Boulder Libraries, where they became the core and impetus of the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project. Professor Irwin Selsnick and his wife Carole used the collections and others we acquired to write their book *Kanji & Codes, their splendid introduction to Japanese language training in the military during WWII*. Professor Roger Dingman used the USN JLS/OLS collections here to write his highly regarded book, *Deciphering the Rising Sun on the CU Boulder USN JLS/OLS trained Japanese Language Officers in the Pacific Theater during WWII*. So if Roger Pineau and Bill Hudson never finished their own book, their research files assisted others to write them instead.]

### **David Montgomery Hart '48, OLS 5/10/45-**

Dave Hart, a noted anthropologist and expert on the tribes of the Rif Highlands of Morocco, died on May 22, 2001, after a lengthy battle with liver cancer. He resided in Garrucha (Almeria), Spain.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Dave lived for many years among Berber-speaking peoples. He wrote a number of books on his Rif experiences. He also did field work in Pakistan and archival research in several European countries. He was fluent in two Berber languages as well as Arabic, German,

French, and Spanish. A research foundation in his name was founded at the U. of Granada.

Dave attended South Kent School and at Princeton was a member of Campus Club and the Oriental Club as well as president of the German Club. He graduated in June 1949 in modern languages and received his MA from Penn in 1951.

In the mid-1960s Dave married Ursula Cook Kingsmill, an Englishwoman who lived with him among the Berber tribes. She, too, was a prolific author. Ursula died about two years ago. The class will miss this illustrious scholar.

*The Class of 1948  
Princeton Alumni Weekly  
October 24, 2001*

### **President Obama Bestows National Humanities Medal on Wm. Theodore de Bary**



**Photo by Philippe Cheng/  
Columbia College Today**

While Columbia has long revered Prof. Wm. Theodore de Bary (CC'41, GSAS'53) as one of its own, America now regards him as a national treasure.

On July 28, 2014 President Barack Obama (CC'83) presented the noted Columbia scholar, the John Mitchell Mason Professor Emeritus and Provost Emeritus, with a 2013 National Humanities Medal celebrating his lifetime's work. The awards, were bestowed on 10 recipients this year, honor extraordinary achievement in the humanities.

The White House announcement cites how de Bary's "efforts to foster a global conversation have underscored how the common values and experiences shared by Eastern and Western cultures can be used to bridge our differences and build trust."

In an interview before he went to Washington, de Bary said, "I suppose the main feeling I have upon receiving this medal is that it is something I can share with my family, friends and colleagues in recognition of how much I owe to them."

At the age of 94, de Bary continues to teach Columbia students and publish a steady stream of books, the most recent one last year. Come fall, he will offer Asian Humanities to undergraduates, and he will also teach an upper level course on "Nobility and Civility." Based on classics of the East and West, it will discuss key values of leadership, raising questions such as "What does it mean to be a true leader?" and "What is nobility?"

"Ted de Bary is a Columbia icon," said Columbia University President Lee C. Bollinger. "As a scholar, teacher, mentor and citizen his influence has been felt

not only on our own campus and in his field of East Asian studies, but across higher education and our society at large. For many decades, there's been no more compelling voice for the transformative power of the liberal arts and humanities as a guide to meaningful life than Ted. So it is entirely appropriate that he be honored by our nation, and by our Columbia-educated president, with the National Humanities Medal."

The ceremony with President Obama marks a return for de Bary to the White House after seven decades. The year was 1941, and Franklin Roosevelt had sought to marshal support from those who backed neutrality or peace. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt invited a group of student leaders to the White House that included the young de Bary, who had been chair of Columbia College's Student Governing Board.

"She sent one of her lieutenants to Columbia, who knew that I had been active in the neutrality movement," de Bary recalled. "The First Lady knew that I could possibly be persuaded to join in a student effort that would support Britain undergoing attack from Hitler."

During World War II, De Bary was engaged in intelligence work with the Marines and Army on combat missions in the Aleutians and Okinawa. A future at the State Department lay before him, yet he has no regrets in bypassing the diplomatic field. "I'm fully satisfied that I returned to Columbia."

Today, De Bary still has something to offer Washington. Foreign policy experts might be well advised to read his 2013 book, *The Great Civilized Conversation – Education for a World Community* (Columbia University Press).

"For peace, you have to find common ground. This depends on being able to converse and exchange views with each other," he said. "One way to do that is through direct conversation or discussion. But if you consider that you have to bridge traditions and cross cultures, then it means not only having a common language like English, but means also understanding where others are coming from."

De Bary has served Columbia in a number of capacities: chair of Columbia's Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures from 1960 to 1966; as the first to chair the executive committee to the newly created University Senate in 1969, and then as University Provost in 1971, a position he held until 1978. He also established the Heyman Center for the Humanities, the Society of Senior Scholars and Society of Fellows in the Humanities.

The Humanities Medal joins de Bary's many other honors: he is an honorary member of the Japan Academy and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has also garnered just about every award Columbia can offer: Honorary Doctor of Letters (1994), Award of Excellence, by Graduate Faculties Alumni (1983), John Jay Award, Columbia College

(1971) Lionel Trilling Book Award (1983), Mark Van Doren Prize (1987), and Great Teacher Award (1969). He twice won the Alexander Hamilton Medal, in 1994 and 1999.

For all his accolades, De Bary would like to be known most for his early work in introducing Asia to the Core Curriculum. The coming 2014-2015 academic year will be de Bary's 78th at Columbia and his 62nd on the faculty.

De Bary told those assembled at the White House, "Now, at the age of almost 95, I thank God that I am still able to teach Core courses myself, and participate in many activities supportive of the Core, and now, finally, to receive this wonderful award from NEH and President Obama."

*Gary Shapiro  
Columbia News  
July 28, 2014*

*[Ed. Note: Professor De Bary remains a consistent supporter of the USN JLS/OLS Archival Project.]*

## James Albert Hand OLS 3/12/45-

June 3, 1925 – June 11, 2014  
The Reverend Doctor James Albert Hand, beloved husband, father, pastor, theologian and professor, died peacefully in the embrace of His Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on June 11, 2014 in Salem, Oregon. He was 89 years old. Jim was raised by strong and loving parents Irma Weems and Charles Connor Hand of Mobile. He joins them in the company of Heaven now with his three brothers, Charles Connor, Jr., John Weems, and William Brevard. His Southern heritage and Methodist formation equipped him with compassion, humility, a zest for life and learning, as well as a great sense of humor. The employment of his keen intellect and devoted heart was never more evident than when he married his sweetheart, Emma Jean Williams, also of Mobile, 63 years ago. The last fifty of their wonderful years together were spent in Salem, Oregon. After his graduation from Murphy High School in 1942 and an initial year at the University of Alabama, Jim enrolled in the V-

12 Navy College Training Program (Georgia Tech), then Naval ROTC (Rice Institute) and finally the Naval School of Oriental Languages (Stillwater, OK), with an emphasis in Japanese, for training as a translator/interpreter. This last experience was the seed for his later interest and further study of Japanese language and culture. Jim's professional career was built on a love for learning and the cause of Christ. Upon returning to civilian life after WWII, he graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Alabama in 1948. He then pursued graduate study at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Mentored by such great resident theologians as Reinhold Niebuhr and Paul Tillich, he thrived in what was considered the "golden age" of Neo-Orthodoxy and earned his Master of Divinity degree in 1952. Jim's ministry in the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the Methodist Church spanned ten years. As a newlywed pastor, he began with a circuit of three small churches in coastal Mobile County, Coden-Irvington-Heron Bay. After seminary, he was appointed to Mt. Vernon. Following his Ordination in 1953, he had pastorates in Livingston and Citronelle. During those years, Jim and Jean were blessed with two children, David Brevard and Sarah Elizabeth. In 1960, Jim traveled to hear his mentor Paul Tillich deliver the Cole Lectures at Vanderbilt University's Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee. The event inspired him to pursue a doctoral degree there with the goal of a new career in theological teaching. It became "academia for all" in the Music City as Jim then enrolled at Vanderbilt, Jean at adjacent Peabody College in pursuit of a graduate degree in Library Science, and David and Sarah in elementary school. Jim went on to earn his Doctor of Philosophy degree and his thesis was titled "Theological Aspects of Creation: A comparison of the Concepts of Being and Meaning in the Theologies of Jonathan Edwards and Paul Tillich." In 1964, his final year of study in

Nashville, Jim was offered a position on the faculty of Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. He gladly accepted the "call of the West" and transferred his Methodist affiliation to the Oregon-Idaho Conference. For the next 24 years he relished his career in academia at Willamette, advancing to Professor of Religion and Department Chairman. Jim retired in 1988 to travel, study, be with his children and grandchildren, and further serve his Lord. He cherished keeping in touch with former students and colleagues, many of whom went on to choose Christian missionary service or related pursuits that he delighted in supporting. He loved classical music, hymnology, as well as the works of Gilbert and Sullivan. A committed Conservative, he was a devoted patriot who loved his Country and its exceptionalism. His last 17 years among caring friends and neighbors at Capital Manor Retirement Community in Salem were happy and full, a true blessing. Jim is survived by his devoted wife Jean, son David (Mary Dan) and grandchildren Wesley, Jared, and Kara Hand of Columbia, Maryland, daughter Sarah (Sean) and grandchildren Trevor and Erin Murphy of Atlanta, Georgia. He was uncle to beloved surviving nieces Jane Hand Dukes (David), Allison Hand Peebles (John), both of Mobile, Virginia Hand Hollis (Bill) of Germantown, Tennessee, Helen Hand (Michael Bender) of Denver, Colorado, and predeceased by beloved nephew John Hand, Jr., also of Denver. A celebration of life service will take place at Capital Manor in Salem on Saturday, August 9th at 2:00 p.m. A later private interment will be at Pine Crest Cemetery in Mobile. Gifts in Jim's memory may be directed to any of the following: The Capital Manor Foundation; First United Methodist Church, Salem; St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Salem.

Mobile Register and Baldwin County  
from June 20 to June 22, 2014

- See more at:

<http://obits.al.com/obituaries/mobile/obituary.aspx?pid=171428878&sthas.h.iOgOdxxX.dpuf>

## Chester Shelby Holcombe 1915-1987

Chester Shelby Holcombe was born on 21 October 1915 at Rochester, NY. He was the son of Chester Frank Holcombe and Louise Shelby. Chester Shelby Holcombe was graduated in 1937 at Syracuse University, Syracuse, Onondaga Co., NY. He married Ada Elizabeth Slaughter, daughter of Samuel McTeer Slaughter and Mary Helen Mills, on 25 June 1942 at Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co., CA. Chester Shelby Holcombe died on 9 July 1987 at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Co, CA, at age 71.

Graduated from Syracuse University, NY; worked as newspaper reporter at age 14 years, editor at 17, in world travel (encircling the globe); visited 5 continents and 14 countries as newspaper man, radio commentator, lecturer, before the mast, big game hunting; was under fire in Chinese war, being in the midst of swift moving events in China and Japan from 1939-1942; served with Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC; spent 1 year in Tokyo in US Naval Reserve, assigned to further study of reading and writing the Japanese language, which he spoke; stationed at Navy School at the University of Colorado. He worked for thirty four years at the *Santa Barbara News-Press* as a reporter, but left his mark on Santa Barbara also as a frequent speaker at club meetings, as a morning radio commentator on KTMS as Santa Claus in the annual downtown Christmas parade.

<http://www.holcombegenealogy.com/data/p181.htm#i9009>

### \$Donations Accepted

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