

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 234

★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

arv@colorado.edu

August 1, 2017

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.

embraced peace and understanding through President Eisenhower's concept of Sister Cities and establishing our relationship with Tateyama as a way to heal the divisions of World War II.

Jack has passed on now (2002), but many of us in Bellingham remember him not just for his work in helping establish our program, but also as the professor of Geography (Far East and Economic Geography) at Whatcom Community College. You know that the Bellingham/Tateyama sister city relationship was only the second in Washington State? Or that Bellingham was the 11th one in the United States to establish a program? It was people like Jack that helped us establish where we are today.

*By Administrator
Bellingham Sister Cities Association
January 31, 2015*

Sister Cities Celebrate 4-Decade Relationship

People: Eisenhower set tone and Bellingham cooperated, veteran recalls.

Jack Pierce recalls the response of some World War II veterans in 1958 when Bellingham established a sister-city relationship with Tateyama, Japan.

"They raised hell," said Pierce.

The veterans stormed into the office of then-Mayor John Westford, who with Pierce's help had established the sister-city program.

Westford pointed out that President Eisenhower proposed the concept of people-to-people diplomacy and asked the veterans, "You guys got any better ideas?"

"They just crawled out of there," Pierce said.

Pierce, 79, is scheduled to leave today for a week-long trip to Japan, part of a 24-person Bellingham delegation that will celebrate the 40th anniversary of

the city's relationship with Tateyama.

Pierce served as chairman of Bellingham's Sister-City Committee for seven years, resigning in 1996, and is writing a history of the program. This will be his fourth trip to Tateyama. He also visited Bellingham's sister-cities of Port Stephens, Australia and Nakhodka, Russia. He has yet to visit Punta Arenas, Chile.

The group going to Tateyama will include Pierce's son, Steve; city officials, including Mayor Mark Amundson and city council member Louise Bjornson; and Larry Ishi, chairman of the Sister-City Committee. All but Amundson are paying their own way; taxpayers are footing the mayor's bill.

Amundson said the relationships built through the program can have a long-term positive effect on international relations.

"It establishes personal ties between members of communities that withstand the forces of changing political tides," he said.

Pierce has experienced the benefits of sister-city relationships firsthand.

As a Marine during WWII, he fought the Japanese on Okinawa, Guam and Bougainville, yet his best friend in Tateyama was a surviving kamikaze pilot. The man died three years ago.

"I look at this as part of the healing process," Pierce said. "I have ever since I got involved in the sister-city movement."

Bellingham and Tateyama established the second sister-city relationship in Washington state – after Seattle and Kobe, Japan – and the 11th in the United States.

Responding to Eisenhower's proposal, Westford had visited Japanese freighters docked in Bellingham. He asked Pierce to go along because Pierce knew Japanese history and had studied the language as part of his WWII duties.

"John just wanted to make friends with them to start with," Pierce said.

He captain of one of the Japanese freighters initiated the sister-city relationship by contacting the Friends of the World organization in Tokyo, which made the Bellingham-Tateyama match.

"I've always felt we should build more bridges and fewer fences," Pierce said, "and the sooner the better."

*John Harris
The Bellingham Herald
September 9, 1998*

Reprise E. Hugh Taylor Berkeley/Boulder JLS 1943

I'd like to take you up on your kind offer to forward my questions about my dad to his classmates at the Japanese Language School [Donald Keene, Robert Sheeks and William deBary]. Here goes:

Gentlemen:

My dad, Hugh Taylor, died recently. I've attached his obituary. Unfortunately, he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's about 7 years ago. His family learned too late just how significant his experiences at the Japanese Language School and in World War II were to his life. I want to preserve Dad's legacy by writing a small piece about those experiences. Although we have some photographs and newspaper clippings, our information is pretty limited. I would be most grateful if you have any memories to contribute. My questions are really basic:

- 1) Do you have any memories of my dad?
- 2) What was the school like in Berkeley? In Boulder?
- 3) Do you know what type of work Dad performed during the War?

I deeply appreciate any information you can provide. I especially want to write this piece for my two young

From War To Peace – Remembering Jack Pierce, One of BSCA's Founders ...



In going through some old materials, we happened upon a 1998 article that was posted in *The Bellingham Herald* about Jack Pierce [JLS 1943], one of the founders of our Bellingham Sister Cities Association back in 1958. He was a man who fought the Japanese at Okinawa, Guam and Bougainville, but who

grandsons, Carter and Luke; some day they will be old enough to understand what a special person their great-grandfather was. Thank you all.

Best regards,
Cynthia Taylor

Gentlemen:

E. Hugh Taylor, one of your Berkeley-Boulder USN JLS classmates, passed away in November and I was notified in January by his daughter, Cynthia Taylor. I have since sent her information about our project, the books written on the JLS, and provided her a list of her father's classmates. I also offered to forward a message from her to you, the surviving classmates. Here is Mr. Taylor's obituary.

David M. Hays
Editor and Archivist

Dear David Hays:

I studied at the Navy Japanese School at the same time as E. Hugh Taylor, but I did not know him well. I cannot recall ever having a conversation with him. He stood out as the one intellectual who lived in the dormitory favored by the BIJs (Sons of missionaries or businessmen who were born in Japan). We who lived in the main dormitory thought of those in the Bastille, as I think the frat house where they lived was called, as playboys who were not really interested in learning Japanese. This may have been a mistake! Anyway, Mr. Taylor stood out in their company and I wondered why he chose to live there. The bulk of the students worked very hard to learn the language and some kept up with it even after the war. I don't recall meeting Mr. Taylor in Hawaii during the war.

I am afraid that I have so little to tell you about Mr. Taylor. I hope that the others you have contacted knew him better.

Donald Keene
JLS 1943

Dear Professor Keene:

Thank you very much for your reply. Would you mind if I sent on your comments to Ms.

Taylor? And can I post this exchange in the newsletter?

Your response prompts me to forward Ms. Taylor's email to Dick Moss, who was likewise a "Bastille Bastard." I think Glen Slaughter, another BB, would have chuckled at your description, as he had admitted that the boys in the fraternity house had a bit too much informality and fun to suit LT Conover, who chased them all back to the Men's Dorm in short order.

Otis Cary, David Osborn (US Ambassador), Tom Smith (Historian of Japan at Stanford), Houghton Freeman, Robert Newell, Tad Van Brunt, Glen Slaughter, Dick Moss, Ray Luthy, the Holtom brothers, Frank Woodey, William Allman, Dave Anderson, and Gordon Weber. Many had gone to the Shanghai American School or to the Japan American School together. Van Brunt certainly has been described as a playboy on several occasions: not sure how many others fit that bill on his level. Dan Holtom made a snow man effigy of Conover when told they were being moved to the Men's Dorm (so irreverence was there). Luthy, Smith, Moss, Van Brunt, Weber and others went into the Marines, so they extended their camaraderie into the Corps as well.

David M. Hays
Editor and Archivist

Dear David Hays,

Yes, you certainly can send my comments to Ms. Taylor and post it in the newsletter. I am sorry it was not more substantial. I would like to amend your statement on the schooling of people mentioned.

Otis Cary attended the Canadian Academy in Kobe, not the Japan American school.

David Osborn went to school in Arkansas and Tennessee. He did not attend any school in China or Japan.

I don't think Conover chased them "in short order" to the Men's Dorm. They were there quite a long time, probably from July until the snow fell.

Donald Keene
JLS 1943

Professor Keene:

Thank you for your clarifications and permission.

I had been led to believe that Conover was a spring 1943 arrival to the school, my reference being Glen Slaughter as well as the irreverent JLS song:

"Twas in the town of Boulder
In the spring of '43
A man by the name of Conover
Came from across the sea...."

The "short order" I was referring to was, soon after he arrived and surveyed the situation (his short order, not necessarily the Bastille's). By that time, those of your February class were either graduated or close to it, and June and July entrants were half-way through the program. We have a photo of Mr. Holtom making a snow effigy, in response to the transfer order, so the move was made in winter. The first six months of the school at CU was noted for more informality by many JLO veterans who said they later chafed at the stricter Navy regulations after Conover's changes.

David M. Hays
Editor and Archivist

Dear Dave:

I honestly don't know of E. Hugh Taylor. When did he graduate from the JLS? It must have been early on, if he had also studied at Berkeley.

Might he have graduated before I got there in early October of 1942? I have no recollection of him, and it wasn't long after I arrived in Boulder that the JLS students living in the "Bastille" were ordered to move into the Men's Dorm, but even then I think I would remember at least his name if I had known him in the "Bastille". We who were housed there weren't all that many, and I've forgotten just when the move to the Men's Dorm took place, but I guess I lived in the former for, say, at least two or three months—perhaps more. Have you a record of the guys who did live there? The reason I was billeted in the "Bastille" in the first place was that Ray Luthy and Leo Lake, both old chums from the

American School in Japan, had arranged it, and when they met me at the Denver R.R. station, they took me directly there, where they were also housed.

Richard Moss
JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: This comment answers one of Professor Keene's questions as to how the Bastille's roomers were selected. It appears from Dick Moss's comment that those living there recruited people they knew to live with them, including those who attended the American schools in Japan and Shanghai.

Digital Collection: The Takeda Family Collection

The Takeda family was incarcerated at Heart Mountain Relocation Center from 1942-1943. Prior to their removal from the West Coast, the Takeda family lived in Los Angeles, California.

In 1943, the Takeda's were granted leave from Heart Mountain after Shiro Takeda was hired as an instructor at the U.S. Navy Japanese Language School in Boulder, Colorado. The materials posted online include photographs taken at Heart Mountain and several documents collected in a scrapbook revolving around Shiro Takeda's service to the United States during World War II.

Japanese American Internment
Collection
Washington State University
Libraries Digital Collections

BEATE SIROTA Mills College

Small, petite, and energetic, Beate, is the artistic member of the class. She excels in creative dancing and is a gifted pianist. In reward for all her efforts in studies, she has achieved a knowledge of many languages. She is always willing to help any struggling under-classman with his mathematics—This year, also, she worked hard in filling her position of Literary Editor of the *Chochin*. Beate was one of the speakers for the Commencement Exercises. When she came two and a half years ago, she made friends quickly; our only wish is that she could have been with us

longer. After graduating, Beate intends to continue her studies and hopes to become a lawyer; in this, again, her persuasive powers ought to help her.

The Chochin
1939
p.15

[Ed. Note: See Richard Moss's reprise on Beate Sirota in Issue #231, a comment on the T. Ashmead-Keene exchange in #205. For more on the remarkable career of Ms. Beate Sirota Gordon, see her obituary in the New York Times, January 1, 2013.]



New York Times, January 1, 2013.

Oliver C. Schroeder Jr.
Co-founded
Case Western Reserve
University's Law-Medicine
Center
1916-2008

CLEVELAND -- Oliver C. Schroeder Jr. had been teaching at the Western Reserve University Law School for only a few years when he co-founded the university's Law-Medicine Center in 1953.

He collaborated with Dr. Samuel Gerber, then the Cuyahoga County coroner, and Dr. Alan Moritz, a forensic pathologist at Harvard University, to offer forensic science courses to students and professionals in the fields of law, medicine and law enforcement.

Schroeder, who died September 25, 2008 at the Burton Healthcare center at age 92, directed the center until he

retired from Case Western Reserve University in 1986. Under his leadership, the program expanded to address other health law issues.

Now the country's oldest law school-based center for legal medicine and health law, it offers courses related to such subjects as medical malpractice advocacy, bioethics and government regulation of health care providers.

Schroeder, whose father ran a bookstore on Public Square, was born in Cleveland and grew up in East Cleveland.

He graduated from Shaw High School in 1934, Adelbert College of WRU in 1938 and Harvard Law School in 1941.

During World War II, Schroeder was a lawyer for War Department before joining the Navy. While serving in radio intelligence, he helped translate Japanese messages after they had been decoded [JLS 1944].

Schroeder served as a lawyer for the Navy Inspectors Office in Cleveland at war's end.

He remained in the Naval Reserve until 1967, when he retired with the rank of captain and as commanding officer of the U. S. Navy Law Company.

As a civilian lawyer, Schroeder represented the Cleveland Transit System before joining the WRU faculty in 1948. He was acting dean of the law school from 1960 to 1965.

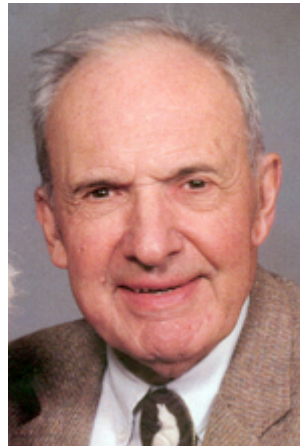
He lived in Cleveland Heights for 50 years before moving to Judson Manor in Cleveland in 1990. He served on Cleveland Heights City Council in the 1960s and '70s and was mayor for one term.

In his later years, Schroeder spent summers at a small ranch in the Colorado Rockies. He became fond of bolo ties and such folksy expressions as "Holy Kiddiehumper."

He often spoke at Memorial Day observances and public forums. He regaled fellow members of the Cheshire Cheese Club of Cleveland with talks on such topics as the history of presidential executive privilege and sex and the presidency.

In a 2002 edition of the Washingtonian magazine, former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld identified Schroeder as the teacher who changed his life.

"I remember Professor Oliver Schroeder, who taught me in a constitutional-law class during summer school. It was a 7:40 class in the morning three days a week, and one of them was Saturday. And this guy came in with such energy, such excitement, such enthusiasm, that I couldn't help but pay attention. I learned some constitutional law that summer, but I also learned that people respond in direct proportion to how much you reach out to them."



Oliver C. Schroeder

Schroeder belonged to the Western Reserve Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, which in 2002 gave him its highest award, the Archibald Willard Silver Trophy.

He received numerous professional honors over the years. In 1999, the retired law professor was inducted into the Cleveland Medical Hall of Fame as a health law educator.

Survivors: Daughter, Jill Bischoff of Chardon; and a granddaughter. His wife of 57 years, Gladys, died in 1999. Their son, James, died in 1987.

Alana Baranick
Cleveland.Com
October 06, 2008

[Ed. Note: We posted a letter from Professor Schroeder in issue #76a.]

C. Harvey Gardiner
JLS 1944
Japanese/Latin American
Scholar

C. Harvey Gardiner was born August 1, 1913 in Newport, Kentucky. In 1931, Gardiner attended the Western Teachers

College in Kentucky and graduated with a Bachelors degree in History. In 1937 he began teaching High School and married his wife, Katie Mae Nelson. In 1940, he completed a Masters degree in History at the University of Kentucky while continuing to teach. He volunteered for the U.S. Navy in 1942 and was sent to the U.S. Navy Japanese Language School at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Throughout World War II, he worked as a Japanese language interpreter and translator.

While in the Navy, Gardiner completed his PhD in History from the University of Michigan. In 1946 Lieutenant Gardiner returned home from the war and began working as a professor of Latin American History at Washington University in Saint Louis, Missouri. In 1956 he published his first book, *Naval Power in the Conquest of Mexico*. He was hired as a professor of Latin American History at Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 1957, where he remained until his retirement in 1974.

While at SIU, Gardiner was most known for his public campaign against the Center for Vietnamese Studies. His most famous speech, which he was not able to give due to the University being shut down, was his Honors Day Address in May, 1970. In the speech, Gardiner called for the retirement of President Delyte Morris and the resignation of the Board of Trustees. Due to his outspoken criticism of the University and the Center for Vietnamese Studies, the SIU administration cited "disservice to the University," and denied him a salary increase. Gardiner filed suit in 1972 and settled in 1975.

During his teaching career, Gardiner published thirty-three books and countless articles. He also testified before the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians in September, 1981. In his testimony, he described the internment of Peruvian Japanese in the United States during World War II. After retiring, Gardiner and his wife moved to Zephyrhills, Florida, where he died on March 29, 2000.

C. Harvey Gardiner Papers
1785-2000
University Archives
Southern Illinois University

[Ed. Note: In what may not have been entirely a coincidence, I worked with Harvey Gardiner for more than 10 years before I found out that his father was Professor C. Harvey Gardner, a JLSer.]

The USN JLS/OLS Poorly Kept Secret

Class of '95

.....Walter Buckingham is our only classmate in the state of Colorado. He has lived at Boulder since he graduated from Princeton. He and his brother Charles '97 supervise the management of several farm properties. The State University is in Boulder and Walter tells me the Navy is using a large part of it for a Japanese language school – “a stiff course, with only six students to each instructor.”

“Class Notes”
Princeton Alumni Weekly
April 14, 1944
p.9

[Ed. Note: The US Japanese/Oriental Language School was reputedly a military secret. However, I have found frequent references to the school, its sensei, attendees, and operations during WWII in Life Magazine, the Phi Beta Kappa Key, at CU in the Silver and Gold student newspaper, the Navy students' Knots & Fathoms, the Boulder Daily Camera, various local Colorado newspapers, and here in the Princeton Alumni Weekly, and who knows where else? Charles and Walter Buckingham were not going to CU, nor were they in the USN JLS/OLS. So this school was a Non-Secret Secret.]

Attorney and Writer John S. Robinson 81, JLS 1944

John S. Robinson, a lifelong bachelor who lawyered for his paycheck but wrote for his soul, died last week at the age of 81.

He was raised in the Denny-Blaine neighborhood in Seattle, the son of a state Supreme Court justice, and attended Garfield High School. He hobnobbed with old-money families — the Bullitts, Baillargeons and Bloedels — and became politically aligned with a

generation of liberal Republicans.

Mr. Robinson volunteered for the Navy in World War II, becoming a Japanese-language translator and codebreaker.

Toward the war's end, as American ordnance rained on Japanese cities, he wrote a letter urging the bombers to spare the picturesque city of Nara, home to an eighth-century wooden monastery and a 53-foot-high image of Buddha. He recalled decades later in the Seattle Weekly that “this letter may have been the important act of my life.”

He graduated from Yale Law School in 1949 and joined the firm that is now known as Preston Gates & Ellis. A few years later, he drafted documents to support the bond financing of the Evergreen Point Floating Bridge.

In 1960 he left for what was supposed to be a three-month journey into Africa. Instead, he stayed three years and mailed travelogues to the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

He was expelled from South Africa, after interviewing a tribal chief in the territory of South-West Africa, because the government believed he was a spy for the United Nations.

Mr. Robinson later worked for then state Attorney General Slade Gorton. In Olympia, he organized a coalition to fight development plans near The Evergreen State College at Cooper Point. He volunteered his legal services to preserve what is now the 153-acre Watershed Park.

Each morning, he went to the Spar Cafe, a favorite legislators' hangout, for conversation and a bowl of oatmeal. In 1980 he was campaign coordinator for independent attorney-general candidate John Miller.

He wrote long, amiable profiles for the *Weekly*, where he argued with editors to keep even a few words of his painstakingly crafted prose from being cut. Founding publisher David Brewster valued his erudition, his optimism and the trust interviewees placed in him.

At the same time, “there was an undercurrent of sadness in his writing, because the things he was writing about had been

supplanted” by a coarser and gloomier political culture, Brewster said.

Mr. Robinson rarely cooked and seemed to subsist on oranges and hors d'oeuvres at parties, said his niece, Kathryn Robinson.

While very much a socialite, “at the same time he had a great deal of resentment for what Teddy Roosevelt called the ‘malefactors of great wealth.’” said journalist and friend Mike Layton. The pair made birding trips to Grays Harbor County to admire the sandpipers and migrating dunlins.

Mr. Robinson died March 11, 2003 of heart failure. Shortly before that, his niece said, he asked in a barely perceptible voice: “Are we at war?”

“He was a citizen of the world and strongly cared about world affairs,” she said.

Mike Lindblom
Seattle Times
March 21, 2003
mlindblom@seattletimes.com

[Ed. Note: University of Washington Special Collections holds 65.76 cubic feet of the John S. Robinson Papers.]

Reprise on Japanese Language Newspapers

The discussion about Japanese newspapers [in #207, May 1, 2015] brings to mind an unusual assignment for this Japanese Language Officer. After the war ended III Amphibious Corps headquarters was sent to Manchuria, ostensibly to oversee the repatriation of Japanese civilians from their occupation of Manchuria but also, I believe, to establish an American presence in Manchuria to confront the Chinese Communists who had been holed out not far from Peking and Tientsin. I worked with my Japanese counterpart, Hayashi San, to assist the Japanese community in Tientsin but also to edit a series of Intelligence reports from Corps headquarters.

Among the sources for such intelligence as we produced were Japanese newspapers circulated among the occupiers and Japanese radio broadcasts. I

don't recall any great facility in reading the newspapers, but I do recall their assistance in assuring the [former] occupiers that they would be repatriated peacefully.

I also wrote in one of my Intel reports (which I still possess) an accurate (and early [1945]) prediction of the breakdown of negotiations between Chiang Kai Shek and the Communists. No great scoop for anyone who cared to look — Chiang's “troops” consisted of what clearly appeared to be fifteen-year-olds and Mao's followers in Tientsin were flashing their “secret” code, an inverted thumb and forefinger to signify “eight” — hachi — for Mao's Eighth Route Army.

Jack Bronston
JLS 1944

Conversation with Leathernecks

I'm preparing to write a short article for *Leatherneck Magazine*. They've asked for 8 to 10 photographs. If you have a few photos of USMC JLS students in ranks that would be excellent, as well as some interviewing POWs. Photographs of Iwo Jima and Okinawa with the JLS students employing megaphones or speakers would be greatly appreciated. I'm currently reading about Mr. Sheeks and I was unaware that he was still among us. Is it possible that you have contact information for Mr. Sheeks?

Thank you for your help, sir, and please let me know if there is any further clarification that you need in order to locate appropriate photographs.

Nicholas Efstathiou

[Ed. Note: I connected Mr. Efstathiou with Bob Sheeks, Dick Moss, Tom Flournoy, and Jack Bronston. What follows in subsequent issues will be part of their conversation, shared with me, So, TO BE CONTINUED.]

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