

*The Interpreter*

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 62A

★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

April 15, 2003

**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.*

**Woody Pitts Speaks**

Forrest "Woody" Pitts (JLS 1946) made the long train trip from Northern California to Santa Barbara to share with UCSB faculty, staff, and students his special knowledge about Korea. He worked and lived there in the 1960s, and co-founded the first Korean study center in the United States in 1972. His lecture was very timely, since North Korea has been much in the news lately. Last year, President Bush declared North Korea part of the

"axis of evil." This year, the 1994 agreement North Korea made with the U.S. about nuclear power and weapons has fallen apart. Tough rhetoric from the Bush Administration has sparked even tougher stances by the North Korean government. With Woody Pitts visit, UCSB heard from someone with firsthand knowledge.

*[Ed. Note: This is my first attempt at including a photo from another web source.]*

## Les Fowler, JLS 1946 (1924-2003)

Les Fowler, businessman, former legislator, and accomplished amateur golfer, died Saturday in Boulder of colon cancer. He was 78. A memorial service was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the First Presbyterian Church, 1820 15<sup>th</sup> St., Boulder. Mr. Fowler worked 38 years for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co., retiring as district manager, in addition to a long career in public service. He served on the Boulder City Council from 1956 to 1962 and was a Republican representative in the Colorado House from 1966 to 1968.

He served in the Colorado Senate from 1968 to 1988, and was chairman of the Finance Committee. Mr. Fowler was among the legislators behind the 1973 School Foundation Act, the establishment of Eldorado Canyon State Park and the Regional Transportation District. "Les Fowler was a real American hero," said Eric Schmidt, a longtime friend and colleague in the Colorado legislature. "He served his country, his community and his state. He was the unpaid golf coach at CU for 29 years and served 20 years on the University Hospital Board of Trustees. He was the most unselfish, caring gentleman I have met in my life. "My father

had enough accomplishments in one life to fill three lifetimes," said Marty Fowler, his son. "It shouldn't be lost in all that, that he was also a great dad."

Mr. Fowler was born June 21, 1924, in St. Louis. He graduated from high school in Memphis, Tennessee. He started at the Oriental Language School, University of Colorado in April of 1945, graduating in Stillwater, OK in 1946. He married Jane Ladergard on Nov. 4, 1945 in Sidney, Neb. They moved to Boulder permanently in 1946. He attended CU and played on the golf team. He became player/coach in 1957 and remained the volunteer coach until 1976. Among his top players was three-time U.S. Open winner Hale Irwin, who visited Mr. Fowler in his home shortly before his former coach's death.

We are deeply saddened by Les's death," said CU Athletic Director Dick Tharpe. "He will be greatly missed by everyone in the golf community and the CU Athletic Department." As a golfer, Mr. Fowler won all of Colorado's amateur championships, the Stroke Play, the Match Play, the Senior Stroke Play, the Senior Match Play, holding some of these titles numerous times. He was president of the Colorado Golf Association and a member of the Colorado Golf Hall of Fame.

Survivors include his wife, Jane, of Boulder; a daughter, Nancy Denton, of Vail; and two sons, Mark, of Longmont, and Marty, of Vail. Memorial contributions may be made to the Les Fowler Golf Scholarship, in care of the University of Colorado Foundation, P.O. Box 1140, Boulder, CO 80306.

Mike Patty  
Rocky Mountain News  
2/10/03

*[Ed. Note: Mr. Fowler is the first from the other language groups to be recognized in this newsletter. If you know of any Russian, Chinese, or Malay taught OLS graduate, Please let us know.]*

**A Diary Returned**

Mrs. Heath's moving account of her husband Stanley's return of a battle flag in your February issue parallels a similar return of wartime memorabilia of my own.

In early 1944 at JICPOA, I completed a translation of a professional notebook kept by a Japanese ensign killed on Tarawa. It ran to about 70 pages, so I was proud of it and kept a copy. Fifteen years ago I thought that perhaps ensign Nakamura might have relatives who would appreciate receiving my translation. I asked for help from our embassy in Tokyo and within less than a month it had located his 100-year-old mother and a younger sister taking care of her. I sent the translation to our embassy, that forwarded it to the younger sister, A Mrs. Yumura, living in Takayama City in Gifu prefecture.

Since then, Mrs. Yumura and I have been exchanging letters, at least once a year at Christmas time. Ensign Nakamura's mother, who died at 102, was apparently unable to fully appreciate the significance of receiving a memento of her son's wartime experience. His sister, though, never knew what had happened to her brother during the War and greatly treasured the translation. In fact, she has since taken advantage four times of the tours of the Pacific Island wartime battle sites, which are offered to the relatives of WWII servicemen by the Japanese Government.

Her interest in life outside Japan ignited by these tours, she traveled to England in 2000 to attend the graduation of a grandson at Bath University and then went with him and his mother over to France.

Now she has a desire to meet me, and I likewise. A few years ago, she came down from Takayama to meet our soldier son in Tokyo, who was then on a reporting assignment for *Aviation Week and Space*

*Technology* magazine. He was very moved by the experience. Mrs. Yumura, in her late 70s, has written to propose that we meet in Bethesda in September or October. I'm looking forward to it too, and just hope that developments in the Middle East and other unforeseen happenings will allow us to meet.

Arthur Dornheim  
JLS 1943

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### Ingersoll Response

If it will keep the Newsletter alive I'll write every day. It was Oct. 26, 1944 when the graduating class at Columbia Midshipmen's School was formally commissioned Ensigns. Two weeks before, the PA system in the dining hall at dinner told all Phi Beta Kappas to remain after dinner. I already had my orders to a DE (Destroyer Escort to you landlubbers) but I stayed back anyway, was interviewed by Cmdr. Hindmarsh, assigned on the spot to Japanese at Boulder,

and that, as Robert Frost would say, has made all the difference. Yes, he was particularly interested in my sturdy grades in German and Spanish, but unless his minions were editing his announcement, the Phi Beta Kappa was the hook.

Bryan Battey  
JLS 1946

*[Ed. Note: We would like to thank many of the JLS graduates for sending in an increased amount of stories over the past few months to help keep the Interpreter alive. We love to publish two issues each month but unfortunately at times we don't have the stories to do so. So keep them coming!]*

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#### New JLS Website:

<http://www-libraries.colorado.edu/ps/arv/col/jlsp.htm>

### Remembering A.W. "Mike" Foley JLS 1943

Julia, Frank Tucker, and Wendell Furnas are all very saddened by the unexpected death of Arthur W. "Mike" Foley, our close friend.

Hammond Rolph  
JLS 1944

*[Ed. Note: We too were saddened by Mr. Foley's passing. We will publish Mike Foley's obituary when we receive it.]*

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### Alba Dairy Comment

*The Interpreter's* recent story on the Alba Dairy brought back memories of the many evenings several of us would take a late evening study break and walk down the hill to be fortified by those fabulous milkshakes and then back up the hill to resume work. Alba's was a uniquely welcome contribution to the war effort

John McCubbin  
JLS 1944

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### Correction ATIS

In the last *Interpreter*, dated March 15, 2003, no. 61A, there is a correction to be made in the 4th column regarding ATIS under General McArthur's command. ATIS is the *Allied Translator and Interpreter Section* under G-2 (or rather was). I served in this section for a year and a half.

John H. Brady, Jr.  
JLS 1943

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### New JLS Student

Elizabeth Campbell (CU 06) has taken over Scott Shaver's post as my main assistant with the JLS project. Aside from filing and processing acquisitions, she has assumed a greater role with correspondence and the newsletter. Her enthusiasm may stem from her being an Army Brat from Ft. Carson. Her Dad is in Saudi Arabia.

DMH

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