The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries ★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

Number 63

May 1, 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.

Another Harvard/Yale Memory

The quip that Jack Craig quoted Bronston making to Ned Coffin must have been a taunt Bronston used more than once. I picture him saying that to Ned at a Harvard-Yale game a number of us attended immediately postwar. It was a gathering instigated by the Levines who were then ensconced at MIT.

Ned showed up in the most luxurious ankle-length raccoon coat, and waving a little Yale pennant. "Say something in Yale" was the perfect remark, and never to be forgotten. We were all bundled up in whatever we could find, as it was the coldest day I had ever imagined. I don't remember who won the game -- probably Harvard. Cheers for now,

Marylou Siegfried Williams JLS 1944

[Ed. Note: My East Coast correspondent comes through again. And I have just the method to pay her back 1

Response to

Betty Gregg's Reprise of Stories & Other Issues

My wife Julia and I continue to enjoy each issue of the newsletter, as well as rereading some of the past issues. Frequently we learn something entirely new from the letters of our schoolmates. It all partially offsets our disappointment that we couldn't attend the 60th because of Julia's illness.

One of the items of new "intelligence" was included in Betty Gregg's letter [and the Ed. Note:] in the October 1 issue. During our 1943-1944 period in the JLS, the general impression among our contemporaries was that the former Sig Ep House (1005 Broadway) was christened "The Bastille" by the WAVE group living there. Now we learn that it was earlier so dubbed by the JLS male occupants who were subsequently moved elsewhere to make way for the WAVES. We are happy to be enlightened on this bit of JLS history [Actually, Glenn Slaughter's full story is even better. I'll put it in the next

Quite belatedly, may I say that the extensive coverage of the term "Boulder Boys" in several 2001-2002 issues appears somewhat puzzling to me /Uh oh, just when that whole issue had died down]. Your response to Dallas Finn's objections (Feb. 15) and your editorial note in the May 8 issue seemed to cover the subject adequately, although Marylou Williams' comments seem legitimately addressed to recent "overuse". In the 7th Fleet and ATIS, where I served briefly with Dick Finn. I do not recall hearing the term. However it was apparently fairly common currency in JICPOA/FRUPAC (In his 1979 book, Double-Edged Secrets, Captain Jasper Holmes used the term at least twice. [Ed. Note: See Issue 25, July 1, 2001 for my longest reply to this issue.] Incidentally, Julia and I have fond recollections of the Tokyo Embassy in 1952-54, when Dick Finn was Second Secretary and I was Assistant Naval Attaché. [My family just missed yours as my dad was US Army Liaison to the 7th Fleet in 1956, staying in Yokohama. I was 4 years old.]

Reviewing more back issues, Verner Chaffin's report upon meeting Tyrone Power brings me back to a shared experience when several of us JLS types approached him about a hop to Omura. We could have accepted Power's invitation, but suddenly we found a "de lux" evacuation C-54 available for a flight to Shanghai. As this was an opportunity not to be turned down, four or five of us hopped aboard and just missed the "Typhoon of the Century."

Please continue with the great work of keeping us all in touch and reliving that time "when all the world was young."

> Hammond Rolph JLS 1944

JLS Sophisticates Out on the Prairie & Naganuma in Person

A recent issue of The Interpreter included recollections of a certain degree of good-natured exchanges among JLS students stirred up by their competing academic backgrounds, as to which school could claim the "elite" status. Although I sensed no "town and gown" separation during my months in Boulder, Stillwater was another story. Some of the men coming from the "Elite East" seemed irritated that the Navy had exiled them to the backwoods Okie-land, and their estrangement from the community was apparent. When the editor of the local newspaper claimed that Stillwater ought to throw its hat into the ring as a most suitable location for the United Nations n e w headquarters, it caused a small explosion among the above group. Tongue in cheek, they colluded to write letters supporting the claim, very elaborately written and signed by one "R. K. Vespucius" (R. K. as in "Riko na Kodomo" or "Clever Boy", Naganuma Volume ??) Every letter was printed and then displayed on the lounge walls, with the expected laughter. The editor apparently did not suspect that someone was pulling his leg, which only increased the pleasure among the guilty.

An added note about the Naganuma Naoe Sensei, author of the JLS textbooks, Naganuma Hyojun Nihongo Tokuhon. There was no little edge in the remarks many of us made about the stress endured in the first Naganuma book - those hundreds of Kanji, thousands of vocabulary, and our willingness to blame it on the author. Only half jolingly, some promised that, come victory, they would search out their presumed tormentor and exact an eztreme penalty. For myself, such was not the case. During my first summer in Japan in 1948, after a year at Meiji Gakuin, three of us who had "endured" Naganuma in print, Bob Barker, Hal Shorrock, and I, were permitted by N. Sensei to enroll in a special class in his postwar school in Kanda, where Sasaki Sensei wrought a miracle for me in speaking the language correctly. Later, I served on the board of Naganuma's new school for two years, and got to know him as the true scholar, author, administrator and gentleman that he was.

Robert Bruns JLS 1946

Plucked from the Sea: Comment

Your letter contained a message from Walter B. Williams. Walter and I served together in regimental headquarters of the 3rd Marines on Guam during August of 1944. I had just arrived with a replacement battalion from Pearl Harbor. Operations were pretty much

over except for cleaning up a lot of stragglers.

One of my jobs was to write a surrender leaflet in Japanese to be dropped from small planes to encourage Japanese hiding in the caves along the cliffs to surrender. I remember the last line: Come out with your hands over your heads or we will blast you from the land, air and the sea. As I recall we were moderately successful.

Walt was a great guy to work

that he is still alive and would like to get in touch with him.

When you first started this project, you called me and I promised to fill you in since I left Boulder. I will try to do that in the next few months. I am sorry I missed the reunion. I noted that there were a few guys there whom I served with.

Aubrey M. Farb JLS 1944 There are those of you who may not have papers to donate to the Archives, but who may wish to support the Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project in other ways. We are setting up a cash account to fund Archives activities regarding the JLS/OLS Project. To date, the Archives has spent in excess of \$10,000 of its own funds on the project. If you wish to donate, make your check out to The University of Colorado and mail it to our contact address.

Contact

David Hays, Archivist, Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Campus Box 184 Boulder, Colorado, 80309-0184 Phone (303) 492-7242

Thone (505) 152 72

Fax (303) 492-3960

Email:

arv@colorado.edu

New JLS Website:

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