

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.

Bastille Bastards 1942



Those of us enrolled in the first class at Boulder in the summer of 42 along with those transferred from Berkeley found the Grotto the place for therapeutic relief from the weekly pressure on Saturday nights. Unfortunately, within three months of our arrival it was torched. We all blamed one of our Anglo missionary sensei. There was still Timber Tavern and also Bill's Place, but the Grotto was a sad loss.

At about the same time the word was out that some of us would be transferred from the dorms to a couple of fraternity houses. A very enterprising Stanford grad named Bob Newell had the bright idea to recruit about twenty of us and volunteer to make the move. It worked. There was one hitch. We got the old house, and others were sent to the newer and more elegant house. That's why we dubbed our new home THE BASTILLE and actually it was a great place even though we slept barracks style and studied two to a tiny cubicle. However it did have a great living room with a huge fireplace, and, best of all, the basement level was one huge party room. We had our substitute for the Grotto. Every Saturday night was New Years Eve with Danny Holtom as honorary bartender with his banana daiquiris. Dates were plentiful in wartime Boulder. One advantage was the location of the Bastille directly across the street from our mess hall in what I think was then called The Faculty Club. The food was outstanding and a far cry from rations.

Danny also gained fame or infamy after the first October snowstorm by sculpting a snowman of Commander Hindmarsh on the front porch complete with colored sleeve stripes.

A photo is enclosed. Incidentally, Danny's brother, Gerry, was the language officer with the 2nd [Marine] Raiders and was the only officer killed in the Makin raid. Nabe Pierce and I were his replacements in the 2nd [Marine] Raiders.

The Bastille was not just a party pad. From Sunday through the final exams we had each Saturday morning, it was twenty four hours of grinding with little sleep except for Dave Osborne who was probably the best natural-born linguist to attend the Japanese Language School. Many of the Bastille inmates went on to become ambassadors, attorneys and distinguished

professors of Asian Studies. My roommate Tom Smith became a professor at both Stanford and UC Berkeley.

But the end had to come. The Navy just couldn't let the good times roll. First they stated the Bastille constituted Navy quarters, and booze was against Navy regulations, so Saturday night bacchanals came to an end, and then they moved everyone back to the dorms. I always wondered whether part of it was caused by the complaints the Southern Pacific registered about Danny, Frank, Woody and my alleged conduct going west on our first leave in November. The ONI gumshoe did spend a lot of time at the Bastille trying to sort out our imaginative stories.

I had moved out shortly before they closed the Bastille to get married. Of course the artist studio/apartment we rented just happened to be a suitable party pad. Guess what, all my buddies kindly accepted our bottle party and hospitality every Saturday night as a substitute Bastille. Thankfully my new bride liked a party.

The Bastille inmates from the Berkeley class were gone in January to the Navy, but a large percentage of the rest of us accepted the opportunity to volunteer into the Marine Corps. I am enclosing photos of some of us in front of the Bastille.

During the June reunion three of us still-standing Bastille inmates had our pictures taken together in front of the Bastille, which we discovered was being gutted as a prelude to complete restoration. I'm enclosing the photo, which shows Richard Moss, who came all the way from South America to the reunion, Ray Luthy, who lost a leg on Iwo and has been a life-long friend, to me.



One of the most gratifying things about the Reunion was to see how familiar the campus looked in all its beauty after six decades. We all appreciate the care, which Dave Hays and his colleagues provided in arranging the Reunion.

Glen Slaughter
USMCR, JLS 1943

Jualita: a fond memory for a JLS graduate

"Jualita" as Gurdon Wattles, an Omaha businessman and banker, called his forty-nine acre estate, is the last remaining intact example of this phenomenon in Hollywood.

In 1907, the Wattles family commissioned noted architects Myron Hunt and Elmer Grey, whose portfolio also included the Beverly Hills Hotel, Huntington Library, and Pasadena's Rose Bowl. The team of Hunt and Grey designed this Mission Revival residence with extensive grounds that featured a Japanese Garden, an Italian Rose Garden, a Formal Spanish Garden, Palm Court, and orchards, as well as boasting exotic plants from around the world. In the early days of this century, the Wattles Mansion and its gardens, along with the estate of painter Paul De Longpre and the Sturtevant family's giant lily pads, generated nationwide interest, and soon became Hollywood's first tourist attractions.

After Gurdon Wattles' death his wife, Julia, and his son, Gurdon Jr. continued to live on the property. During World War II, Gurdon Jr. served as a Japanese language officer. He attended the Japanese Language

School in Boulder, CO from 1942-1943 After leaving the Navy in 1946, he attended Harvard law School, graduating in 1949. He taught at Harvard for two years and then took a position with the United Nations Secretariat in the fall of 1950, working as an international lawyer, his career for more than twenty-five years.

With the maintaining of the residence and the gardens becoming a burden Gurdon Wattles Jr. began to negotiate the sale or transfer to the City of Los Angeles. In March 1965, the City of Los Angeles Board of Recreation and parks commission adopted Resolution 5135 designating the Wattles estate as an acquisition area. The city purchased the property for \$1,917,000 in June of 1968.

Regarding this period, Gurdon Wattles Jr. stated, "As for Jualita, the costs of maintenance and the taxes rose far beyond what my mother and I could afford so we sold the place to the

Just happened onto your web site. I studied at Boulder and Clearwater [Stillwater] in 1945. Left after 5 months of study, the war having ended. Transferred to Naval Military Government on Okinawa. Stayed there 1 _ years, the last year as a civilian working for the Army which had taken over military government. Ended up being able to converse on social topics.

I used the language for social purposes in business. After city...but the city allowed my mother to stay on in the house for the rest of her life. My mother kept pretty well until she was eighty-eight, continuing to drive her own car, doing gardening work, etc., but in January 1972 she had the first of a series of strokes...she died in November 1977, at the age of ninety-four. We then gave up the house at Jualita."

*Submitted by Allen Meyer
US Army MIS
Edited by Elizabeth Campbell*

was worse than my Japanese, but I found I could get along adequately. Also was a tourist in Japan and found I could navigate without an interpreter.

I doubt that these recollections would be of much use to you, but let me know if you want any more detail. I'd be interested if you have fairly current addresses for those I might have known at the school.

*Bob Rickert
Winston-Salem, NC*

[Ed. Note: This is just one of the many examples of how the JLS can pop up at the least expected times. The graduates came from all different backgrounds and settled into careers from professors to lawyers to Congressmen. The Archives gives special thanks to Allen Meyer for spotting this JLS grad in the papers.]

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

New Collections

The following are further collections promised, held or recently received by the Archives:

- Charles Cross

\$Donations Received

The Archives has recently received generous donations from:

- Kathleen F. Leddy
for Mike Foley
- Duane Flaherty

Robert Rickert Reports In

retirement, I went back to Okinawa to visit Okinawan friends who had achieved prominence there. Their English

Contact

David Hays, Archivist,
Archives,

\$Donations Accepted

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.