

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 66

★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

August 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.

Baker Hall Roommates: 60 Years Apart!

Dear Mr. Wald:

Hello, My name is Elizabeth Campbell. I am new to the Archives at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and I am working on the Japanese Language School Project. As an army brat I am finding this project to be most interesting. World War II has always been a fascinating period of time for me.

I recently came across a photo, while searching for a picture for one of your fellow JLS students, that was taken for Life Magazine with five men bowing over their books studying in a dormitory room. One of the men was identified as George H. Sheeks. On the back of the photo it said: property of Roy Wald, which has led me to you. Well in viewing the photo I noticed a shocking resemblance to my room. I currently live in Baker Hall room 114. I don't know if you recall this photo or the room, but I

thought I would ask. I am unsure as to whether this was your room or if you knew who lived there. If you were one of the previous residents of this room and would be interested in a photo of it today I would be more than happy to send you some, but any information that you could offer regarding this room would be of great interest to me. Thank you for your time.

Elizabeth Campbell
CU 2006
Baker Hall 2002-03

Dear Elizabeth: Your note was a very pleasant surprise. I do indeed remember the photo (which was taken in our room) and the room itself, which I shared with John (Jack) A. Harrison, from June 1942 to about February 1943 (wow, that seems pretty ancient!). We knew the building only as the "Men's Dorm", which had been taken over by the Navy when the JLS arrived in June 42. I looked up the building during the reunion last June, and it looked in remarkably fine shape, at least from the outside (I didn't venture in). But I had a hard time finding it, because of the many buildings that had sprung up around it, instead of the uncluttered vistas I remember. It was a surprise (but not a shock, thank you) to learn from your note that there are persons of a non-male gender inhabiting it.

I have fond memories of the room as being fairly large, light, and airy. We had desks back to back beside the window, with our beds at either end. To the right of the entry door was a closet. The room was at the end of the corridor. I don't remember the room number. If you have a photo, it would be a nostalgia trip to see it.

You may be interested in some personal notes: Jack Harrison and I were again together at Berkeley after the war, when we both studied and got our Ph.D.s in East Asian (mostly Japanese) history, married, and went our separate ways although keeping in touch. He taught Japanese

history at the University of Florida and later went to the University of Miami where he ended up as Provost. Sadly, he passed away about a year ago. A summary of my career is in your Archives, I think, and there is also a little piece I did of "Recollections" of my year in the JLS, which mentions the dorm.

Let me know if there is any further info you would like.

I wonder who had identified one of the men in that photo as "George H. Sheeks"? There was no Sheeks in our class, and the only Sheeks I know is Bob Sheeks who was in a later class.

Roy Wald
JLS 1943
Baker Hall 1942-43

Mr. Wald:

I am thrilled to hear that I have the honor of residing where a former JLS student once engaged in the same activities that I now find myself involved in; from spending time with friends to cramming until 3 in the morning for a test the next day! I was sad to hear that your roommate had passed as I had hoped I might have had the opportunity to speak with him as well. You and your fellow JLS classmates did our country a great service and will remain alive with the combined work of the Archives and its distinguished donors.

I would be more than pleased to send you some photographs of the room as it is today. I would also be glad to hear any stories you might have about your times in the room. Baker Hall is in the midst of several buildings today. Baker is now a co-ed dormitory, which provides for some interesting stories in the making!

The Archives had attempted to get in contact with your former roommate, John Harrison, in 2001, but our contact appeared to have been made too late. Any information or stories you can provide us about Mr. Harrison will be added to the individual files in the JLS collection, or will be placed in *The Interpreter*.

In regards to your question about George Sheeks, the identifications on many of the photographs in the Pineau Collection were made by Roger Pineau who often was making his best guess or acting from word of mouth. Today we have more manuscript and printed information and have an advantage over Captain Pineau. As the Roman saying goes: *Verba volant, scripta manent* which, I am sure you know means spoken (words) fly, written (words) remain. With the help of Dave, I was able to do some fishing around and found Robert B. Sheeks entered one day after you on June 24, 1942 and was a transfer from Berkeley like yourself. His brother, George H. Sheeks, entered the JLS on July 2, 1942 indicating that he was among the first classes to start at CU Boulder. While it is physically possible that either one of the Sheeks brothers could have been in the picture, it is highly unlikely that they would have been there without your knowledge.

Elizabeth Campbell
CU 2006
Baker Hall 2002-03

Winds of Change Topic of Orlando Panel Discussion

Old Asia Hands gathered in Orlando to explore what current trends and new leadership in Beijing and Washington many mean for Sino-American relations. Veteran Asia watchers being lined up for the panel and in the audience will bring rich backgrounds in diplomacy, military intelligence, education, business, journalism and other fields.

Subject to unforeseen events, the panelist, drawn from both slopes of WWII watershed were: Former Ambassador to China J. Stapleton Roy, Retired U.S. Navy Captain Wendell J. Furnas [JLS 1942], retired English teacher Betty Barr and Dan S.

Williams [JLS 1942], retired investment broker.

Captain Furnas, after 33 years working (1942-75) grows oranges and lemons in retirement, but still attends U.S. national intelligence briefings twice a year. His career followed two years in Shanghai, 1940-42, teaching history, English and physics at SAS, English one summer at St. John's and Shakespeare at Shanghai U. He was also assistant editor of the *China Weekly Review* and reporter for the *China Press*. But after Pearl harbor the Japanese

seized him on charges of spying, gun-running to Chinese guerillas, and helping U.S. Marines escape. He was sentenced to death and imprisoned in the notorious Bridge House until repatriated on the first Gripsholm exchange. He brought out news of the Doolittle Raid crew in the cell next to his (three were later executed) and gave *Life* its first pictures (smuggled Japanese magazine clips) of U.S. military prisoners in captivity

Dan Williams '38 has been an investment banker in the San Francisco Bay area since 1954.

After SAS (which he attended for 10 years), university graduate school and the US Navy's Japanese Language School in Boulder, Colorado, he served as a Marine Corps intelligence officer and translator in the Central Pacific. During his years in business, he has made many trips to China and has lectured at the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics a half-dozen times since 1944. He retired from Morgan Stanley in 2001, though his business interests in China, and trips, continue.

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New JLS Website:

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

Blue Parrot History?

Dear David:

Thanks to you and fellow JLS-ers I've enjoyed the pieces on the Grotto, Timber Tavern and other weekend oases.

One spot I don't recall seeing mentioned was the Blue Parrot. This was a small Italian restaurant way up in the hills, *[actually east of Boulder in Louisville, hilly on the plains]*. Since I never drove myself I can't pinpoint the location. The food was good and they had plenty of "dago red" (gomen!),

probably vintage of '43. Even without a designated driver, we always managed to get back to the Men's Dorm.

On one occasion one of our party took on a heavy load of the red and, in the middle of the night, felt and urgent need to go to the head, down the hall. In the dark he mistook the handle of the radiator for the door handle. In his haste *[and desperation]*, he pulled the radiator off the wall and there was a gushing fountain – fortunately not hot. When someone who heard the ruckus rushed into the room, it was, to

put it delicately, a carmined mess. My buddy is no longer with us, but I'll not mention his name *[I do the same thing, withholding, or changing, names to protect the guilty]*. Our later trips to the Parrot were perhaps a bit more restrained.

Glenn Nelson
JLS 1943

P.S. I thoroughly enjoyed the book review in the June 1 issue, and would welcome more.

[Ed. Note: I have called the owners of the Blue Parrott. You will be pleased to know that they are still in

businesss, with the same owners! One of the granddaughters of the folks you knew will be calling me back. I told them that I could print a history of their writing or I could do one myself. As far as book reviews go, I have some more books I can recommend, the ones my father ended up liking, I can tell you THAT does not happen very much. I once sent him several books and forgot to put a note in the package. The next time I saw him, he teased me about having read the books thinking there was some sort of hidden meaning. He said, "They sounded like me." I told him that I guess he hadn't needed a note. He ended up realizing why I sent them to him, after all.]