

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 69A

★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

November 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.

Sono Hi No Uwasa Quips

Vol 1, No 3:

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ryder and Mr. Robert White and Mrs. White went on a picnic in the mountains Sunday.

Vol 1, No 4:

It was love over the long-distance telephone recently, when Gerald A. Hoeck of Seattle called Miss Rosemary Elliott at her home and proposed.

Believe it or not, everyone in the Language School is to be given the chance to ask the U. S. Navy any and all questions that he wants to -- providing -- that they are pertinent to the course and that they are not too silly. Answers to these questions will be printed in *the Uwasa*.

Miss Walne and Captain Welch will consider all questions handed in and will answer all those which are serious enough to deserve an answer. Just drop your query in the Uwasa box which is in the entrance hall of the Faculty Club (Quick

Throckmorton, a bigger box) and -- you don't have to sign them.

Please don't abuse the privilege of remaining anonymous. Insulting, humorous or just plain damn fool questions are not likely to place the entire group in a favorable light.

Bill Amos
JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: The Interpreter prefers to accept as many "insulting, humorous, or just plain damn fool questions" or comments. You folks are already placed "in a favorable light."]

From the Pineau Collection

...Morris Cox was in our noble class of seven (started with 35). H. Morris Cox, incidentally, is one of only two Japanese Language Officers I have managed to keep in touch with since the War. The other is Duane Flaherty, who is now living in the Kansas City area. They were the two closest friends I had at Boulder, but needless to say there were many others who come back to haunt me at odd moments, including two British officers who were in our class of seven, Heath and Quine, both delightful guys to be around and both veritable storybook Englishers. Heath was a very sharp Cockney [Ed. Note: Not really and especially not with Heath's wife reading this, Portsmouth & Cambridge are not Cockney country, but perhaps an excusable American mistake for someone with strong English accent] whose mind worked like a flash; he had the second highest grade average in the history of the Language School. I can tell you it was all I could do to nose him out at the last. Quine, his roommate, was relaxed, easygoing, much slower to react: an absolutely perfect example of the Englishman of legend who is slow to catch the point of a joke [Ed. Note: Perhaps explained by the difference in transatlantic time zones].

I remember one class wherein somewhere along the way, following the sensei's explanatory pronunciation of some word or other involving the elision of a vowel or syllable, one of us in class, I no longer remember who, perhaps it was Cox, remarked offhand, "I see. It's silent like the pee in swimming." We went on with the lesson without further comment until at least two or three minutes had elapsed, when Quine suddenly exploded with a roar and all but fell out of his chair, choking with laughter about "silent like the pee in swimming."

My brief career in the Pacific was all of a piece and anything but spectacular. After NAVTECHJAP moved to Tokyo and I thought, "ah, I am out of Mess Officer," I was made Billeting Officer. When I talked my way out of that, I was sent to Yap Island to evacuate the Japanese Prisoners there. When I got there I found that they had all been evacuated long since. However, tables of organizations being what they are, I had trouble getting off the island. Spent Christmas there. Finally released to Guam, where there was nothing to do but play volleyball and eat three times a day; then sent to Pearl to finish out my time.

Excerpt from
Thomas Kerr (d. 1999)
to Roger Pineau,
February 28, 1992,
Roger Pineau Collection, 16-9,
Archives, UCB Libraries

Rush Reports: OLS, OK, and Tinian

After a few months at Boulder we were indeed transferred to Stillwater. I had heard it was at the request of a senator from Oklahoma. We spend a very warm summer there. One of my memories is of playing softball at night with the Navy team for the entertainment of the citizenry. When the war ended we were given the choice of finishing or leaving. Many of

us chose to leave (myself included) and eventually ended up in Military Government on small Pacific islands. I was stationed on Tinian and was given the high responsibility of "souvenir" officer, per Arthur Kruckeberg. When people were demobilized, I and one other officer and a dozen enlisted men were left. Since I was a senior by one hour-the difference in the time zones of our Midshipman's graduating class -- I became Commanding officer of Camp Churo and environs. We repatriated the Okinawans, Koreans, and Japanese from Camp Churo in the Spring of 1946 and Camp Churo was no more. Before that, a Japanese journalist was murdered at night in the camp for saying that the war was over and Japan lost. Navy Lt. Fred Olafson was sent in to persuade the perpetrators to come in from the hills where they were hiding. They did, under a flag of truce, and led by a Japanese Naval officer. As far as I know they were never tried after being sent home [I think Fred Olafson was a graduate of JLS and became a professor of philosophy at Vassar [Ed. Note: Frederick Arlen Olafson, JLS 1944, but not a contact, I will check at Vassar]]. I have pictures of this but I can't find them.

After discharge I roomed with Bert Wechsler, who was a fellow student as JLS. He was attending Harvard Law School and I was a graduate student in physics at Harvard. I then switched to medicine and was in the practice of internal medicine for many years at Harvard University. Commander Hindmarsh was a patient of a friend and a colleague of mine in Los Altos, California in his retirement years. My only other contact with the JLS was a brief visit decades ago with Charles Cook, attendants at a lecture at Stanford given by Arthur Kruckeberg and volunteer hawk watching with Bob Ward whom I found to be a fellow alumnus of JLS. My regards and thanks to Cathy Woods.

Dr. Leonard Rush
OLS 1946

[Ed. Note: F.A. Olafson is an emeritus faculty member in the Department of Philosophy, University of California, San Diego. The Department webpage said that he still spent time around the department, so we sent a packet to him there. Burton D. Wechsler is Professor of Law Emeritus in Residence at American University's Washington College of Law. The Wechsler Moot Court Competition is nationally renowned. I emailed him there. I have word back from both individuals.]

Language & Empathy

It is my personal belief that it is next to impossible for anyone to learn a foreign language without unconsciously developing sympathy for and understanding of the peoples who speak that language. This is a conviction that comes to me from my own experience. I learned Japanese while in the US Navy during wartime. One might think that such circumstances would simply produce a pragmatic accommodation to the exigencies of the times, but the opposite was true. I embraced the

opportunity to learn a new foreign language with all the avidity of an explorer entering a new world; and I believe the others of our group did the same thing. One of our number [Donald Keene] went on to become the foremost expert in Japanese literature for American readers.

Edward L. Hart
"The Need Beyond Reason,"
More than Nature Needs,
Charles E. Merrill Monograph
Series, No. 10, BYU, p.80
JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: Another gem from the JLS/OLS files. I have a longer story from him in a future issue.]

New Collections

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

- Marion Levy
- Lionel Casson

SDonations Received

The Archives has recently received generous donations from:

- Sol and Betty Levine
 - Dr. Leonard Rush
 - Lance La Bianca
 - Verner Chaffin
 - Victor Suzuki
- (For his father, David Susumu Suzuki)

Alfred Oxenfeldt JLS 1944

Chapel Hill – Alfred Oxenfeldt, age 85, died after a brief illness on May 22 in the presence of his loving wife, Martha.

He is survived by a daughter, Joan, of New York; a grandson, Jordan Sawyer, of Roslyn, NY; a step-son, Daniel Stodt; and grand-daughter, Ona Stodt, of Barcelona, Spain; and a step-daughter, Shain Stodt of New York. Mr. Oxenfeldt was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and completed his

graduate degrees at Columbia University. During World War II he worked as an economist for the War Production Board and was a US Navy Japanese Language Officer in the Pacific Area.

After the War, Mr. Oxenfeldt was a professor of economics at Hofstra University, followed by 29 years at the Columbia University Graduate School of Business as a professor of business economics and marketing. He was a business consultant throughout his career.

In 1998, Mr. Oxenfeldt and his

wife retired to Chapel Hill, NC. In recent years he focused upon his deep interest in the education of youth. He worked with local educators developing courses that taught thinking skills to children and parenting skills to teenagers.

Alfred requested that his remains be cremated. A program celebrating his life was conducted during the summer of 2003. In lieu of flowers, contributions were sent to the American Associates of the Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

Obituary provided by
Martha Oxenfeldt

To Whom It May Concern:

I thought you might want this obituary for your archives or newsletter. Alfred always spoke with enthusiasm about his training and service as a Japanese Language Officer.

Sincerely,
M. Oxenfeldt

[Ed. Note: I have forwarded this obit to Columbia University Hofstra University and the University of Pennsylvania. Alumni Associations have been extremely helpful to us in searches for JLS graduates.]

Ralph O. Winger Passes

(9/26/03) William Hudson sent us the sad news. Modified obit will follow.
