

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

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★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

February 1, 2005

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.

With Foley & Beasley in the UK

The two items [Sorry, almost a year ago], on Foley and Beasley, brought back many memories of the two of them. Mike and I did England in 1947, Ireland and Scotland too. I saw Beasley again shortly after I arrived in London and went to see *Rosenkavalier* at Covent Garden with our colleague Donald Gowing [entered JLS 10/26/43 from Herefordshire, England] in the cast. He didn't sing that night, but he was very much on stage, as the servant who lit the chandelier in pantomime. Someone turned on the lights in time to the music, but he was one candle ahead of Don, and we in the audience began to laugh. After the show we all met at the bar across from the stage door, and Don thought that his wig had crawled up the back of his neck.

Philip G. Burchill
JLS 1944

[Ed. Note: A fascinating world.]

Looking for Dick Greenwood

I am still searching for a Boulder-trained linguist who came to join H&S Co, 1st Marines, 1st Mar. Div. on the island of New Britain, Cape Gloucester area, just after Christmas 1943. His name was Dick Greenwood, his rank was Captain, USMCR, and I believe he hailed from Seattle. I was an enlisted interpreter, having attended a USMC Japanese Language School at Camp Elliot, California, right after I finished boot camp at USMCRD, San Diego. That school and its few students had an interesting history.

Gerald Allen Green, Ph.D.

[Ed. Note: I found a member of his family who wrote, "He was a memorable person. I am sorry to report to you that he passed away ten years ago." Stacy Greenwood

Donald B. Webster Reports In

I was very pleased to learn of the archival project after having put the Japanese Language School out of my mind for all of these fifty-five years.

My experience at Boulder commences in April 1945, and it was abruptly and disappointingly terminated about three months later when the Japanese Language School portion of the Naval School of Oriental Languages was transferred in its entirety to what was then Oklahoma A&M College, where I completed the course in August of 1946. I am sure the circumstances of that transfer are known to you.

After my graduation, I chose to enter law school immediately at Stanford University. Since my graduation from law school, I have been engaged in the general practice of law in Red Bluff.

Donald B. Webster
OLS 1946

[Ed. Note: We belatedly welcome aboard another of the Stanford contingent of the JLS/OLS. I wonder

if he knew Harry Muheim and Frank Bauman?]

A Navy Wife, III

The second problem, which was more obvious than the Navy hoped it was. Once they got the first group of smart young men committed to the school, they had to figure out the next step. Trust me when I say they hadn't a clue. They started the first day by having the newcomers run around the ball field once. Unaccustomed to the altitude, the recruits dropped like flies before they took more than a few tentative steps.

The Navy registered the students as "Special Agents" until they discovered that the Army was exercising its right to draft them out of their classes because "Special Agent" was no protection against being drafted as a private. In addition, everyone soon found that if the language students left the campus with the Navy's permission, the police stopped them every time, demanding to see their draft cards. (The Navy had thoughtfully collected their draft cards but did not think it was necessary to offer them a replacement. Nor had they been given uniforms.) They had to go with the police to the police station to have the commanding officer vouch for them over the phone.

Remember, the entire country (with a few notable exceptions like Lindbergh and the America Firsters) was heart and soul in support of this war, and the flower of the country's youth were volunteering in droves- not even waiting to be drafted. So when these "Special Agents" left the campus to go to a movie or visit the sights in Denver, young able-bodied and in civilian clothing, the outside world was convinced that they were slackers and did not hesitate to tell them so in clear and ringing rhetoric. It may have relieved some of the tension of the general public, but it didn't do a

thing for our morale. Since the JLS was supposed to be very hush-hush, no explanation or defense could be offered. (How hush-hush could it have been with every student's name posted on the bulletin board for all the world to see?) [Ed. Note: Yep, I remember hearing things in secret briefings on the East German Border that I read in Time the next week.]

Finally, about three or four months after our group had arrived in Boulder (soon to be followed by a third, much larger class) and after several Language School men had been lost to the Draft, the Navy promoted the rest to Yeomen 2nd Class.

Addie Busch
from the

Daniel and Addie Busch Collection

Elaine Healey Burnell JLS, 1944 Died July 13, 2000

Elaine Healey was born in Shanghai, China and was educated at the Yokohama International School, the Shanghai-American School and Smith College. She entered the US Navy Japanese Language School at the University of Colorado on July 19, 1943, graduated, and was commissioned on or about September 1944. She married a Naval aviator, Robert M. Burnell and had three children: Barry F., Bryan A. and Tracy A. Burnell.

She worked, briefly, for Encyclopedia Britannica, the Library of Congress, and the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She was also a landscape designer and commercial grower. She died during the summer when the US Navy JLS/OLS Archival Project was getting under way and was one of the many who never returned calls or letters. We confirmed her passing by calling her husband in Santa Barbara. This information was drawn

from material gathered from the 1993 WAVE Reunion in Boulder, now held in the *Japanese Language School Collection*. The Archives has been expanding its search for JLS trained WAVES.

DMH

William C. Sigerson
JLS 1944
(1919-2004)

William Carlyle Sigerson, 84, died on January 9, 2004 from

complications of Parkinson's disease. Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1919, Bill graduated from Harvard College and Yale Law School. He served as a naval intelligence officer in World War II and the Korean War, retiring from the Naval Reserve with the rank of Lt. Commander. As a corporate attorney for pharmaceutical companies in New Jersey and New York, he specialized in international licensing of patents and trademarks, a career which gave him the happy opportunity

of extensive foreign travel. His lifelong avocation was the playing of classical piano works; though he never thought himself skilled enough to perform in public, his music-making was always a joy to his family and friends.

On retiring to Albuquerque in 1989, Bill studied Western history at the University of New Mexico, and was an active volunteer with the Friends for the Public Library, where he was especially valued for his ability to assess donated books in

several foreign languages. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Ruth Webb Sigerson, whom he met and married when both were students at the Navy Japanese Language School in Boulder, Colorado during the Second World War; also by a daughter, Mariana Kano, and son-in-law Haruo Kano, and two grandsons, William Rodrigo and Richard Santiago Kano, of Cuernavaca, Mexico; a son, John Sigerson, and his wife Renée of Leesburg, Virginia; a brother, David K. Sigerson of Ormond

Beach, Florida; and several in-laws, nephews and nieces. He was interred with military honors on January 17, 2004, at the National Cemetery at Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Ruth Webb Sigerson
WAVE, JLS 1944

Recent Recruits

Thad Alton, David P. Appleby, Thomas Barton, Royce Beckett, Robert Berueffy, Glenn Bierman, Henry Bittner, Joseph Burgess, Howell Calhoun, John Dann, Melvin Dieter, John Donohue, Travers Durkee, Golden Faris, Edward Goldman, David Green, James

Gunn, Arthur Hass, Hutch Harnsberger, William Hoekendorf, E. Henry Knoche, Mrs. Graham Landrum, James Lasswell, Ms. Betty Lasswell, John Lasswell, John Magee, Bernard Martin, Alexander Mazzia, Ms. Anne McAlpine [Cowan], Hugh McLean, Robert McWilliams, Richard Mentzer, Richard Mentzer, Jr., Lew Micklesen, Ms. Ethyl Mussen, Harvey Nelson, Mrs. Nancy Norman, Gerard O'Brien, Kenneth Ogren, William Palmer, Lucien Pye, Benjamin Ringer, Ronald Spiers, Francis Stenstrom, Victor Schuster, William Smith, Ms. Marion K. Stocking, George Waddington (as of 11/03 - 4/15/04, includes kin)

A Sensei Reports

We just received *The Interpreter* today and always read with great interest all the articles that are continually being sent to you for the JLS Archival Project. We were saddened to hear of Mr. Takeo Okamoto's passing. His son, Alan was present at the JLS Reunion in Boulder in June, 2002 and then again at the Ponomia Pacific Basin Institute here the Sensei received their Navy Citation at the Award Ceremony in November of the same year. We are so very happy that the Archival Project has been such a great success, and

that it has been so well received by so many. I'm sure that this had always been your hope. You and your staff are really doing a tremendous service not only for the US Navy JLS but for the University of Colorado, in Boulder as well and we are truly happy that this is actually happening. We look forward to each edition as they arrive in the mail and thank you for sending them to us. (to be cont'd)

Ari Inouye
JLS/OLS Teaching Assistant
1942-

[Ed. Note: We are humbled by his praise and pleased to print his note.]