

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 86A

★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

April 15, 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.

Japan Occupation Tales

I had two assignments [during the Occupation]: from mid-October 1945 to mid-February 1946 I worked for the Naval Shipping Control Authority for Japanese Merchant Marine (SCAJAP), which was primarily responsible for the repatriation of some 5-6 million Japanese in Asia and the Pacific Islands; and from mid-February to mid-July 1946 I worked at the Language Reform (later Language Simplification) Office in the Civil Information and Education Section of SCAP, which would try to induce or seduce the Japanese Government into approving the future writing of the language in English (*r. maji*).

On a cold December evening the Japanese in Tokyo would be able to hear the first public playing of a western movie in several years. An Austrian who had once taught western music at the University of Tokyo, but who had been sent off to the countryside for his Jewish beliefs, had returned to Tokyo to be with his daughter, who would

later write the women's rights section of the new Japanese constitution. He was going to give a piano solo recital at the Hibiya Kaikan Concert Hall. Since all radiators had been removed from the hall to be melted down for the war effort [*Talk about hot lead!*], the hall was packed with persons anxious to hear western music again, all dressed as warmly as possible. Joe Levinson (JLS March 1943) and I had to sit on the stage. After playing the first piece, the pianist found his fingers getting too cold, so he went behind the curtain and warmed them up again for the next piece over a *hibachi*. This he did a few times again to finish his concert.

About the same time Joe and I decided to go up north to see the elaborate Tokugawa Tombs. We left on a Friday from Ueno Station in Tokyo. Joining us were hundreds of Japanese men going off into the countryside to buy or barter for food they couldn't find in the city markets. We returned on Sunday afternoon. Coming with us at each station back to Tokyo were the men with their *furoshikis* full of vegetables and other edibles. At one stop a man came in with a full *furoshiki* which he could not put on the car floor because all the available space was already taken with other *furoshikis*. He would have to hold his above the heads of the other male passengers for an indefinite period of time. Joe and I had the only seats so we told the man we would hold his heavy *furoshiki* for him. He assented and then a few stops later we passed it on to him on the station platform.

Through the car window, shortly thereafter we were watching a theft taking place in front of us. A man was trying to steal a *daikon* which his "neighbor" had skewered into the top of his *furoshiki*. A moral problem ... what should we do? Blow the whistle or look the other way? We decided not to intervene, thinking we Americans were already

intervening rather much into Japanese lives, and besides the person being robbed would learn a very valuable lesson about security in the future. Later a Japanese man suggested that we should have spoken to the thief, not about what he was doing but about some other irrelevant matter which would have told him that we knew what he was doing and it was wrong, and he could stop it without "losing face".

Arthur Dornheim
JLS 1943

**Margaret Jane Bein Hendon
WAVE, JLS 1944**

Margaret Jane Bein was born in Berthoud, Colorado on April 14, 1922. She attended the University of Colorado from 1939 to 1943, when she graduated with a BA. She applied for the language school in Boulder and was interviewed by Captain Hindmarsh. She entered the language school in July 1943, finished in September 1944. She went to the Midshipman Training School in Northampton for about a month, and then reported for duty in Washington, DC. She received her discharge in July 1946.

She met her husband, Rufus S Hendon, in Washington, who was also in the Navy and assigned to the same place she was, but in a different section. They were married on June 1, 1946 and stayed on for a year in the Civil Service.

In 1947, we came to Yale where Rufus started his doctoral course in anthropology. Mrs. Hendon went to secretarial school and got a job at the Yale Law School.

In 1950, Rufus Hendon received a grant to perform research in Malaya for his dissertation and they set out on a slow boat to Singapore. They came back for the next year to spend another year at Yale. Then Rufus Hendon got a job to direct

research on Java. This was a Harvard-MIT project and there were several doctoral candidates from Harvard who participated.

After that the family moved several times along the East Coast before Mr. Hendon was offered a job at Yale and the family moved there in 1964. Professor Hendon retired in 1988, spending much of his retirement time on the computer. Mrs. Hendon dabbled in politics, was appointed to the Hamden Library Board, and served as the Democratic Party assistant registrar of voters. The Hendons have two daughters living away from home. She was unable to make the 1993 50th Anniversary WAVE Reunion.

*Drawn from an entry by
Margaret Jane Bein Hendon,
JLS 1944*

In Boulder WAVES

50-Year Reunion, July 16-19, 1993

[Ed. Note: This biography is well known to those at the 1993 WAVE Reunion, but I think the rest of the readership will appreciate it, as well.]

**Neal Jensen
JLS 1944
(1915-2003)**

Neal Frederick Jensen, 88, passed away in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on November 24, 2003, following a short illness. Dr. Jensen was born October 4, 1915, in Hazen, North Dakota to Nels P. and Sophie Frederickson Jensen, homesteading ranchers of the Red Butte area. He attended the Red Butte grade school and Hazen High School. In 1939 he graduated from North Dakota Agricultural College with a B.S. degree in Agronomy. In 1943 he received the Ph.D. degree from The Graduate School of Cornell University. Dr. Jensen joined the U.S. Navy as an Ensign in October, 1942. He participated in the Iwo Jima and Okinawa invasions in the Intelligence Section of Admiral Richmond Kelly Turner on board the *USS Eldorado*. He served three and one half years on

active duty in the Navy and retired from the Naval Reserve in 1963 with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. On June 22, 1946, in Washington, D.C., he married Mary Willard Webb of Nashville, Tennessee. They moved to Ithaca, New York, where Dr. Jensen was Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant Breeding and Biometry of Cornell University, and raised a family of four children. Dr.

32 years, was named Liberty Hyde Bailey Professor of Plant Breeding, and upon retirement in 1978 was granted Emeritus status. After retirement, the Jensens lived in Arizona until 1984, when they moved to Albuquerque. Dr. Jensen lived a full and productive life. He was known world-wide for his work in plant breeding and wrote numerous articles and a major textbook on the subject. Privately, he devoted time to

Jensen was working on a number of western-themed stories and his memoirs of World War II and Cornell University. He was also an artist and completed many paintings and three-dimensional works. Recreationally, he kept active with gold panning and coin hunting. He is greatly missed by his family and many friends. Dr. Jensen is survived by three children, Barbara L. Jensen, of Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Lawrence W.

Katherine, of Peacham, Vermont; and Thomas F. Jensen, of Archer, Florida. He is also survived by his five brothers, Raymond, Forrest, Orrie and David Jensen of North Dakota and Warren Jensen of Minnesota; and his sister, Grace Benz of New Mexico, as well as their spouses and numerous nieces and nephews. Dr. Jensen was predeceased by Mary, his wife of 57 years; a daughter, Margaret N. Jensen; his brother,

John Jensen; and two brothers, Kenneth and Curtis Jensen, who died as infants.

*The Albuquerque Journal,
December 28, 2003*

OLS and Its Life Influence

Thank you very much for the materials you sent concerning the US Navy Japanese Language School Archival Project. I am glad that Ken Ogren gave you my address. Your letter and its enclosures have unleashed a flood of memories. I'll try not to Jensen conducted research and taught at Cornell University for

ramble excessively.

Toward the end of my senior high school year in 1943, I enlisted in the Marine Corps V-12 Program. That sent me to Yale for two accelerated academic years, followed by boot camp at Parris Island, SC and then pre-OCS training at Camp Lejeune, NC [*Wonderful places both*]. It was there that I was interviewed and accepted for the Oriental Language School. When the time came I was given a few days' leave at home in Connecticut, then pursuant to my orders, took the train to New York, then another to Chicago -- my first venture west of the growing new varieties of peonies. In retirement, Dr.

Hudson River. I changed trains again in Chicago, heading for Denver.

As the train rolled through the prairie, snow began falling. It was still snowing in Denver, when I and several others were picked up by bus and taken to Boulder. We were assigned our quarters and settled in. We could see nothing of our surroundings. We woke the next morning to bright sunlight. When we looked out the window, the clear, crisp air made the Flatirons seem almost close enough to reach out and touch. (to be cont'd)

David H. Green, OLS 4-9/45

Jensen, wife Rebecca, and granddaughters Elizabeth and

Japanese Film Co. Is Making JLS Documentary

In the Summer of 2004, a Japanese film company approached the Archives with a plan to create a documentary on the US Navy Japanese Language School and its sensei. We immediately sent them our web site and our mailing list to provide them easy access to *The Interpreter* and to facilitate interviews and inexpensive sources to film. They made early contact with Dan Williams, Bob Sheeks and Jack Bronson. There will be more to come on this documentary.

DMH