The Japanese Language School Project

The Interpreter

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April 1, 2002

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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, correspondence, photographs, and records of graduates of the US Navy Japanese Language School, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1942-1946. We assemble these papers in recognition of the contributions made by JLS graduates to the War effort in the Pacific, the successful occupation of Japan, the creation of Japanese language programs across the country, and the development of cultural reconciliation programs after World War II.

Camp Churo Response

“Bringing Camp Churo Alive” struck a most nostalgic note for this Japanese Language Officer. I was stationed on Timian at Camp Churo. I had been transferred there from brief duty on Hokkaido where I had been the JLO assisting in the Navy’s port preparations for landing the occupation Army (80th Division) on the Island.

Arthur Szatmary and I were the language interpreters for the Navy detachment overseeing Camp Churo. We had continuous contact with the internees in the camp. Notable was the Navy’s encouragement of “cottage industries” in the camp. I recall a flourishing production of soy sauce and the making of souvenirs for sale to Gis still on the island. They were often made from the natural products of Timian. One souvenir I acquired dated my stay at Camp Churo: a cribbage board (I still use!) made of local wood.

Marine Response

I am glad that my comment about the utility of Marine JLO’s merited mention in the Nr. 38 Interpreter.

One point I suggest you pass on to your writing/editing staff. “6th Marines” means the 6th Marine Regiment, NOT the 6th Marine Division. The 6th Marines were not in the 6th Division – nor was I in the 6th Marines. Glen Slaughter and I were in the 29th Marines, which was part of the 6th Marine Division. Confusing these units is not uncommon. Semper Fi!

Glenn Nelson
JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: Rather than “All the news that’s fit to print,” we print all the news we can get.]

60th Reunion of US Navy JLS at CU 6-9 June 2002

I give the following advice on apparel. Bring clothing you can layer: sweaters, a rain jacket, perhaps long underwear. It can go from 90° to below freezing.

Former SBS Dean T.O. Wilkinson Dies at 76 JLS, 1946

A life of service to the University of Massachusetts and the community of Amherst came to an end Dec. 21 when Thomas O. Wilkinson, 76, retired professor of Sociology and former dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences, died.

A recipient of the Distinguished Teacher Award in 1963, he taught at the University from 1953 until his retirement in 1988. He was also a visiting lecturer at Mount Holyoke College from 1954 to 1961, and he served the town of Amherst as a town meeting member for most of the last 16 years.

Known as a consensus-builder both on- and off-campus, he was a significant figure on campus during the years when the University’s population burgeoned from 8,200 to its present size. “T.O. did an immense amount for the University,” said Hilda Golden, retired professor of Sociology.

“He was a very good consensus-builder, someone who saw the function of the University as doing a lot for the state.

“He placed an emphasis on seeing the University as an organization that needs to serve students, faculty and society and less of an emphasis on climbing the professional ladder. He was a very good manager in the ideal sense of getting people to work together.”

He served as head of the department of Sociology and Anthropology from 1969-71 and as dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences from 1976-84. When he stepped down from being dean in 1984, it was with the good of the school in mind. “I have been here [in the deanship] eight years, and during that period of time, I’ve run out of creative ideas,” he said. “I want to give somebody new a look at it.”

Know as approachable by students and colleagues alike, he also served as director of the Population and Research Institute, coordinating dean of the Bachelor's Degree in Individual Concentration (BDIC) program, representative to the Five-College curriculum, adviser to the Class of ’65, acting chair of the Asian Studies Program, campus representative for the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Foundation, and counselor with the freshman summer orientation program. After retiring, he worked as a counselor at the College of Arts and Sciences Information and Advising Center.

His scholarly interests focused on the demography of Japan, where he served as a civil information and education officer from 1946-48, and took him to Tokyo Metropolitan University in 1964-65 as a Fulbright-Hays research scholar. A fellow of the American Sociological Association, he wrote “The Urbanization of Japanese Labor, 1868-1955,” which was published by the University Press in 1965 and a joint author of “World’s Metropolitan Areas,” published by the University of California Press in 1950.

He received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina, a master's degree from Duke University and a Ph.D. from Columbia University. He studied Japanese at the U.S. Navy language School in Boulder, Colorado and Stillwater, Oklahoma, 1945-1946.

He is survived by his wife, Edith; two daughters; one son; and five grandchildren.

A memorial service took place on January 22 in Memorial Hall.

By Sarah R. Buchholz
[UMass] Chronicle staff
January 14, 2000

Needs JICPOA Vet Experiences

CAPT Wendell Furnas, JLS 1943, writes: “Enclosed is a “Needs JICPOA Vet Experiences” item in the latest news letter, Periscope, of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers (AFIO).

Many Navy Japanese Language officers served at JICPOA during WWII. Some might like to contribute their knowledge and experiences.

AFIO itself is, I believe, the “broader” retired military personnel group. Its two-day annual meetings are frequently held inside such intelligence organizations of the government as CIA, NSA, ROA etc. The heads of those organizations, among others, speak frankly to their “old retired shipmates.”

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AFIO has an educational tie in to colleges. Its membership is (Cont’d) open, and it keeps one up to date and informed on what’s going on and gone on in the past in the intelligence world: “An SAIC/U.S. Army National Security Policy expert inquires: “My name is Jeff Moore, and I have written a manuscript on the history, structure, operational procedures, and impact of the Joint Intelligence Center, Pacific Ocean Areas [JICPOA], America’s first effective joint intelligence center. It operated in the Pacific Theater of WWII and primarily served Admiral C. Nimitz. One publisher likes the book, but would like for me to include a human side to it, and I need to interview several JICPOA veterans. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from members with JICPOA reminiscences.” Replies: Jeff Moore at (home) 703-567-7938 or email him at Jeffrey.moore@hqda.army.mil or at his personal email at jeffhk@msn.com.”

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.

Contact

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