In Memory of William C. Hoekendorf

William C. Hoekendorf, Eastern Washington University professor of economics emeritus and dean of the College of Letters and Sciences emeritus, died October 17, 2004 in Bellevue, Washington, following an extended battle with cancer.

He was born March 17, 1924, in Everett, Washington, and graduated from Marysville High School in 1941. Bill graduated from the University of Washington in 1944, when he was commissioned an ensign in the US Navy. We was then assigned to study Japanese at the Oriental Language School at the University of Colorado and at Oklahoma A&M for future assignments as an interpreter/translator. He eventually worked as a civilian for the postwar occupation government in Japan.

Bill met Yoko Sato, a Japanese citizen, in Sapporo, Japan, and despite countless legal hurdles and acts of discrimination from both cultures, they married in 1950. They moved to Seattle and Bill obtained a MA in economics. In 1958, Bill received a Fulbright Scholarship and the family returned to Japan, where he worked on his Ph.D. dissertation; he later received his doctorate from the University of Washington.

After teaching economics, Japanese and Japanese money and banking at the University of Montana, Kansas State University at Emporia, the University of Washington, and Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo, Japan, Bill began teaching economics at EWU in 1967. While at Eastern, he traveled to Afghanistan, South Korea and Japan to serve as a liaison in Eastern’s sister university program. He later was named Dean of the College of Letters and Sciences. He retired from EWU in 1989.

Bill is survived by his wife, Yoko, daughter Jeanne McNae and her husband, Bruce, son David Hoekendorf, two grandsons, and a brother Donald Hoekendorf.

Office of Annual Giving Eastern Washington University

[Ed. Note: I have been in contact with Ms. Jeanne McNae, who has graciously consented to donating the bulk of his papers.]

60 YEARS AFTER THE WAR: #6: BATTLEFIELD DIARIES

“Done”. The word in red ink is stamped on many, many pages of the diaries of Japanese soldiers that are to be found in the US National Archives in Maryland. It is the mark indicating that the document was translated by one of the American military and naval Japanese language officers.

Wendell Furnas (87), who lives in California, repeated says, “They – the diaries – were a treasure trove of intelligence. In the American armed forces, soldiers were forbidden to keep diaries; there was no such custom. But in the Japanese forces, every combatant kept a diary – which was a great surprise to us.”

Today, in the fifteen hundred diaries and letters, there are [items written in] sōsho [grass writing] and with misshapen characters. There are portions of the diaries that are difficult for even the journalist of today to read. Yet the specially trained American language officers translated them.

“When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, the American armed forces realized that they knew hardly anything about Japan. And so a school to teach Japanese was established at [the University of Colorado] Boulder, Colorado,” [a journalistic simplification, I suppose] said Roger Dingman, Professor of History at the University of Southern California, who is studying the language officers. Students from Harvard and Stanford, the sons and daughters of missionaries who had been born and raised in Japan, and very bright young men from all over America were chosen to enter the Navy Japanese Language School [in Boulder] which opened in June 1942.

“The instruction consisted of reading, conversation, and taking dictation every day for four hours. In the dormitory, Japanese was heard and spoken every day. There were those who suffered nervous breakdowns, there was even a suicide,” said Furnas. “Conversation at meals was in Japanese and Japanese movies were shown. And people even had telephone conversations in Japanese,” he added.

After studying for 12 to 18 [sic 14] months, the students graduated and became language officers. “Because there was prejudice and distrust toward Japanese Americans then, only Caucasians could become language officers,” Dingman said.

Furnas was sent to the Joint Intelligence Center Pacific Ocean Area (JICPOA) in Honolulu. There the American military translated documents brought back from the battlefields. Information about the Japanese forces was analyzed, and Japanese thinking about the war was examined.

The Japanese literary scholar, Donald Keene (83), a resident of Kita-ku in Tokyo, was one of the language officers. “The Japanese soldiers put down the smallest details in their diaries. The sentences were awkward, but the words poured out from their hearts,” he said. Keene, who had been in charge of translating instructions for machinery and such printed matter, one day discovered a large box. A disgusting smell of blood mixed with fresh water and sea water came out of it. Inside were diaries and letters collected from the corpses and uniforms of Japanese soldiers.

“I want to return home soon!” “There are eleven beans and three of us; how shall I divide them?” “All of my buddies are dead! What kind of person have I become?” “I’m hungry!” As one turned the pages, what was in the hearts of the soldiers revealed itself. “They were human beings just like us,” Keene said.

Scurrying to [their] Japanese-English and English-Japanese dictionaries and translating late into the night, [the Japanese language officers] became able to read any difficult kanji [Chinese characters] There were Tanka, or short poems; comic verses; and diaries of high literary value. “In a three year period, there were about one thousand diaries. I came to know the depths of the hearts of Japanese who had been writing diaries since the Heian period,” Keene added.

According to Professor Dingman, there were approximately 1100 men trained as language officers at the Navy Japanese Language School. [Captain] Furnas reports: “At war’s end, unfortunately a huge number of captured documents...
were burned in Hawaii. There were fifty truckloads [destroyed].” Keene says, “After the war works of contemporary fiction such as those of Tanizaki Junichiro and Shiga Naoya were translated into English and became well known abroad. Their translators were former Japanese language officers.”

“The war was an unfortunate thing. But even so, because there was a war, it deepened, in one aspect, our concern and understanding of Japan. If we know and understand one another well, then we can avoid war.

These articles in this series [this was #6] were produced by Mori Futoshi and others.

Mori Futoshi, et al.
Yomiuri shimbun
August 15, 2005
Translated by Roger Dingman

**WW II Vet Reflects On Days as Code Breaker**

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the U.S. declaration of war on Japan was, for Bill Amos [JLS 1943], like someone suffering the bitter divorce of his parents.

The World War II veteran grew up in the Far East, spending his high school years in Tokyo where his father was the headmaster at The American School in Japan.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor and a year’s training, Amos became a code breaker with the U.S. Navy - one of most secret tasks of the war. He also helped interrogate Japanese prisoners.

“My loyalties were unquestionable,” he said, “but it was difficult to grasp.”

After the war was over, Amos and the other code breakers were ordered to not speak of anything they had done for at least 20 years.

He resumed his life as a civilian, reuniting with his young wife and focusing on his love of biology and research - following a path that eventually led him to the Northeast Kingdom.

“Everything in the past kind of receded,” he said. However, at age 84, he has begun to reflect on the experiences he had so many decades ago. Many of the materials he gathered as souvenirs during the war have never been shown publicly. This fall he is organizing displays of World War II memorabilia at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum and St. Johnsbury Academy.

Amos was born in 1921 in Newark, N.J., and moved a few years later to Baguio, Philippines, where his father became the headmaster of The Brent School. At the time, Amos said, head hunting was still practiced in the Philippines.

It was while living in the mountains of the Philippines that he became interested in natural history. The family lived in a house on concrete stilts because of termites, and for a while a cobra lived below the floor of his bedroom. A monkey and a mongoose were his childhood pets. As a former U.S. territory, Americans were treated with gratitude and courtesy in the Philippines.

In 1934, the family moved to Tokyo. “Living in Japan was wonderfully rewarding,” he said. “I came to admire the art, culture and literature.” It was in Japan that he honed his biologist leanings, spending time during high school at a marine lab. About 32 nationalities were represented in the student body of the school where Amos attended and his father served as headmaster.

“To my father, people were people,” he said. “It didn’t make any difference who they were.”

It was very clear to his family, however, that foreigners were visitors and there at the tolerance of an increasingly militaristic government. Some Japanese maintained a sense of superiority, he said, over those they felt were inferior to them socially and politically. "Koreans were treated by the Japanese the way blacks were treated in our country," he said. Some Russians during the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 emigrated from Russia to Japan. Arriving with little or no money, Russians were only given menial jobs.

“Living in this country with the protection we have, we don’t always realize how others are treated,” he said. “It was a shock to see little blond-haired, blue-eyed kids carrying charcoal and being beaten.”

He described Japan in the ’30s as being a very militaristic nation. His family lived in a Western-style home with a military base at one end of the street. He remembers looking out his bedroom window and watching troops and equipment pass by. “We were very much aware it was a nation with an active military,” he said.

Tensions were high at the time between Japan and Russia. From the ceiling of a Japanese department store hung a Russian fighter plane pierced with red wooden arrows, representing the bullets that had brought the plane down. "Newsreels were filled with films from the front, sometimes showing long lines of Russian prisoners," said Amos.

In Japan, government censorship of the press and the prohibition of short-wave radios were a sharp contrast to the democratic culture of the Philippines. Amos said his family’s subscriptions to American magazines such as Time and Life arrived weeks late because “they had to go through the censors.”

Any political news was cut, not blackened, out of the publication. “The Japanese removed anything immoral or anything belittling or derogatory to them,” he said. And while American movies were played, any romantic scenes were deleted. Filmgoers would watch the main characters start to embrace and then immediately move away from one another.

(to be cont’d)

The Caladonian Record
PATIENCE DUSSAULT, Staff Writer
Monday September 26, 2005

**Maurice Hellner**
JLS 1944

Dr. Maurice (Maury) Henry Hellner died on Thursday, April 7, 2005, in the health care center of Buckingham’s Choice in Adamstown, MD, of complications due to Parkinson’s disease.

Dr. Hellner was the son of Lars and Mart Rothzen Hellner, who were Swedish immigrants. He was the devoted husband of Artye Reed Hellner and beloved father of Maurine Rosenberg of New York City, Cheryl Hellner of Silver Spring, MD, and Janet Hellner-Burris of Pittsburgh, PA.

Dr. Hellner is also survived by grandchildren Matthew Rosenberg, Cathy Roy, Jon Hall, Kaitlyn and Benjamin Hellner-Burris, and two great-grandchildren, Ian and Matthew Roy.

His son, Charles Hellner, preceded him in death in 1974, as did his brother, Arthur Hellner.

Dr. Hellner served in the US Navy from 1943-1945. He was trained and assigned as a Japanese Language Officer to the Pacific Theater, rising to the rank of Lieutenant, USNR. Dr. Hellner earned his Batchelor’s Degree at the University of Southern California and his Masters and Doctorate in economics from American University. He was chosen to attend the National War College in 1958-1959. At the time of his retirement, Dr. Hellner was the senior civilian and Deputy Director of the Intelligence Data Handling System of the Defense Intelligence Agency. He requested early retirement in 1974 so that he could care for his son, who was ill at home.

Dr. Hellner was a devout churchman, who served as an elder and Sunday school teacher in the National City Christian Church in Washington, DC. When asked recently what he would like to be remembered for, he wrote, “For teaching Sunday school for over 50 years at National City.” Since moving to Buckingham’s Choice in 2000, Dr. Hellner and his wife have been members of the Hyattstown Christian Church.

Frederick News-Post
April 10, 2005

**Chief Hedge**
Stayed in Boulder

["Visit to the grave of Criss Claud Hedge, August 7, 1992."]

Among the first persons that I ever came into contact with at Boulder was Chief Boatswain’s Mate Criss C. Hedge. He took his duties very seriously and was our athletic instructor. He loved giving us push ups and squat jumps. Later he was changed to Chief Athletic Specialist and was supplanted by Chiefs Magill, Thompson, Friels and Breslford, plus Robbins, who was an
Centroplex, the Boulder downtown business association, serving as president in 1966. He was also an active member of the Boulder Lions, the Country Club, the Elks Lodge and the Methodist Church. He was also a member of several Masonic orders: Columbia Lodge No. 14, Knights Templar, Queen Esther Chapter of the Eastern Star, and the Colorado Consistory. He was widely known in the close-knit Boulder business community and died in January 1970, just as Boulder’s population growth had altered the old small-town character of Boulder. Emma “Sis” Hedge passed away seven years later.

D.M. Hays
Editor & Archivist
William Hudson Collection
8-20

[Ed. Note: The apparent contradiction between Bill Hudson’s and the newspaper’s outline of the Chief’s Navy activities in Boulder can be explained, or complicated, by the CU Student/Faculty Directory, which never lists Chief Hedge on the JLS/OLS stuff at all (see earlier Interpreter staff lists). Early on, he may have been on loan from the Radio School, as there were no athletic specialists listed on the JLS Staff in 1942-43. He probably returned to the Radio School when suitable PT ratings arrived at the JLS. Hedge never appeared in the JLS/OLS listings. Csp Criss C. Hedge does appear in the 1943-44 and 1944-45 Directories in the Radio School Staff List. The 1945-46 Directory lists him in the V-6 Program as a Physical Training Instructor in the overall V-12 Program. So the newspaper information appears to be correct.]

WW II Vet Reflects On Days as Code Breaker
(Cont’d) After completing high school, Amos spent an additional year in Japan. He returned to the United States in 1939 for college and to become acquainted with the country of his birth. "I’d been an American all my life, but I didn’t know the United States," he said.

He originally planned to travel across Asia and Europe before returning to the United States, but in 1939, at age 19, because war had broken out.

Instead, he traveled from Japan through the Panama Canal to New York aboard the Komaki Maru, a fast Japanese freighter. Amos quickly became very friendly with the crew and its officers, often taking his meals with them and sharing his love of biology. A few years later this ship and the men on it would become a painful memory Amos would carry home from the war.

When we sailed from San Diego, our destination was Guam, but that was changed en route to what was to be our base camp on the big Island of Hawaii, up on the Parker Ranch. From there the division went to Iwo, then back to Hawaii to prepare for the invasion of Japan.

With that called off by Japan’s surrender, we, too, were sent to Sasebo and billeted in the former Ainoura Kaheidian.

Since I was born and grew up in Japan, never having left there until I was almost 17, I obtained a week’s leave in early November of 1945 to go to Tokyo to see what had happened to our home. It was a sad sight, reminiscent of “Gone With The Wind”. Nothing was left but two chimneys, and for kilometers around everything was levelled. Such is war unfortunately, but our family, with three siblings in the Pacific, was very lucky to come through with no casualties, although my brother, an Army language officer assigned to the Marine Corps at one point, did receive a Purple Heart for a minor wound on Saipan.

Since our USMCR experiences paralleled each other, I couldn’t resist the temptation to say hi. I live, and have been living for almost 50 years, in Quito, Ecuador. The annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball will be held next week, put on by the Guard Detachment at the Embassy, and once again I’m sure I’ll be the oldest Marine present, to share a piece of cake with the youngest. That ceremony, and the lone unoccupied table, set for one, in a corner, inevitably evoke emotional memories of years long gone by.

Semper Fi!
Dick Moss
JLS 1943

Michael Rogers
JLS 1944
UC Berkeley
Professor Emeritus

BERKELEY – Michael Courtney Rogers, a University of California, Berkeley, professor emeritus of East Asian studies who was honored by the Korean government for his contributions to the study of Korean culture,
died May 4, 2005 at his home in Grass Valley, Calif., following a long battle with the rare blood disease multiple myeloma.

"Rogers was a meticulous scholar and linguist," said Jeffrey Riegel, professor of Chinese, East Asian language and culture and chair of the Center for Chinese Studies at UC Berkeley. "He had mastered the literary forms of Chinese and Korean, and his translations - as well as his scholarly writings - are exemplars of elegance and clarity."

Rogers' love of languages started when he was at San Diego High School and San Diego State University, where he studied Latin and French. Rogers transferred to UC Berkeley in 1942 and dedicated himself first to Mongolian studies. He helped his department chairman compile the world's first Mongolian-to-English dictionary.

He completed his B.A. in 1944, and after the start of World War II, Rogers was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy and sent to its Japanese/Oriental Language School at the University of Colorado in Boulder. He delivered the valedictory address there in fluent Japanese when he graduated [in 1944].

After graduation, he changed his commission from Navy ensign to Marine Corps second lieutenant and underwent Marine Corps training at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Then he was sent to the Pacific, participating as a language officer, translating documents and interviewing prisoners of war in the Okinawa campaign that began in April 1945.

Rogers told his family that after Japan surrendered in August 1945, he was surprised that some Japanese prisoners thought his account to them of the surrender was a ploy. After the war ended, he finished his service with a several-month tour of duty in China and was promoted to first lieutenant.

Returning to UC Berkeley in 1946, he studied Chinese and Tibetan, and two years later received a Fulbright scholarship to study those languages in China and Tibet. He traveled extensively there, often on foot and alone. He also spent several months living with the monks in a Buddhist monastery in Tibet and was one of very few Caucasians ever given that privilege.

He returned to his studies at UC Berkeley in 1950 and received his Ph.D. in oriental languages in June 1953. He married Frances Branger in 1954.

Rogers joined the UC Berkeley faculty in 1953 as a professor of oriental languages and eventually become chair of what is now East Asian Studies. At UC Berkeley, he taught Chinese, Japanese and Korean. His scholarly research included translating into English ancient Chinese dynastic histories that had never previously been translated. Among the best known is "Chronicle of Fu Chien: A Case of Exemplar History," published by UC Press in 1968 as one title in a Chinese Dynastic Histories Translation Project that was organized on the UC Berkeley campus.

Andrew Barshay, a UC Berkeley professor of history and chair of the Center for Japanese Studies, recalled Rogers' undergraduate Korean language classes during the early 1970s that were held in his office in the basement of Durant Hall.

"He had, as I recall, a practiced and graceful hand in writing Chinese characters and hangul, the Korean syllabary," said Barshay. "I think I remember him saying that he didn't speak colloquial Korean fluently, but he seemed to pronounce it with ease and had a good ear for correcting my pronunciation and getting the intonation of sentences right."

Rogers "had a pleasantly rumpled quality about him, and twinkly eyes, and just struck me as a contented person," said Barshay.

Rogers was honored by the South Korean government with the Bo-Gwan award in 1985 for his scholarly original research into Korean antiquity. After receiving the award, he and his wife set up the UC Study Abroad Program at Yonsei University in Seoul [where he ought to have met fellow JLO Horace Underwood]. Upon their return, they retired to Grass Valley, in the Sierra foothills.

His family said that throughout his life, Rogers' passion for knowledge never abated, and in retirement he focused on politics and Western civilization, resurrected a youthful passion for Latin, and wrote poetry.


Kathleen MacKay
Media Relations
UC Berkeley
24 May 2005
& David Hays
The Interpreter

WW II Vet Reflects On Days as Code Breaker

(Cont'd) Japanese was rarely being taught in the United States, and Amos was one of the very few men of military age who knew any Japanese. He was sent to the University of Colorado in Boulder for Japanese Language School.

"We were taught by wonderful, extremely patriotic Japanese-Americans whose entire families had been interned in remote camps, having been removed en masse from California," he said.

The intensive training program in written and spoken Japanese, designed for military attachés for ambassadors, was a four-year course the Navy condensed into 14 months. The naval agents spent about six hours a day in classes and six to eight hours a day doing homework. Weekly oral and written exams were the norm. "I barely made it," Amos said. "This was just hellish."

Following the brutal training, Amos was commissioned as an ensign in general intelligence and sent to Pearl Harbor for 2 1/2 years, where at first he assisted in interviewing Japanese prisoners of war. Most of them were in poor physical shape, as the Japanese avoided capture at any cost.

While stationed in Hawaii, he learned how to surf, which was the sport of Hawaiian royalty. At the time they used boards 10 to 12 feet long made out of heavy koa wood. "They were not at all like the surfboards today," he said. (To be cont'd)

The Caladonian Record

PATIENCE DUSSAULT, Staff Writer
Monday September 26, 2005

Daphne Shaw
Stegmaier
WAVE, JLS 1944

Daphne Shaw Stegmaier, widow of U.S. diplomat John Lloyd Stegmaier and translator of Kagoe Muraoka and Kichiemon Okamura’s “Folk Arts and Crafts of Japan,” died at her Maryland home Nov. 21, 2004, her family said. She was 81.

Born in Kobe in 1923 as the daughter of writer, translator and U.S. government official Glenn William Shaw, Stegmaier spent her childhood and many of her adult years in Japan. She attended the US Navy Japanese Language School at the University of Colorado as a Navy WAVE from 1943 to 1944. By the Spring of 1944, Glenn Shaw was the new Director of the School.

During her husband's stint in Tokyo, she was active in such organizations as the International Ladies Benevolent Society and the College Women's Association of Japan. While her husband was U.S. consul general for Kobe and Osaka, she cofounded the Kobe chapter of the International Toastmistress Club.

After her husband's retirement, the Stegmiaiers focused their activities on helping the mentally disabled, leading the Well Mind Association of Greater Washington and cofounding the New Hope Foundation.

The Japan Times
Dec. 8, 2004
& David M. Hays
Editor