The US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School Archival Project

The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

*Remember September 11, 2001*  arv@colorado.edu

December 1, 2015

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.

AT THE 48TH GENERAL HOSPITAL, SAIPAN

A couple of asides, Dave, that you might enjoy, both related to my hospitalization in the Army's 48th General Hospital on Saipan:

When I was checked in to the 48th General Hospital on Saipan, you might enjoy, both related to a telephone, connected to the 39th Army nurse. She asked me what there that my sister Peg was an Army nurse. She exclaimed “Not you, too!” Everyone was getting sick. Trucks were going around the hospital compound picking up people who could no longer walk. Doctors and nurses had to abandon surgeries in the middle of them, and Peg and others who had not eaten at the 48th were pressed into action. The problem stemmed from contaminated rice pudding. With IVs for hydration, everyone got over the problem in a couple of days, but it was chaos for a while! Right out of MASH!!

Dick Moss  
JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: Reminiscent of the Ham Rolph and Phil Burchill story about how they skipped a meal at JLS to see a movie. For Whom the Bell Tolls, at the Boulder Theater, and everyone else came down with food poisoning. Having myself dined in mess halls, from marmites, and on C Rations; military chow and food poisoning sometimes seemed synonymous. At least that instance happened where he could get immediate help.]

Polly Fleming

Polly was born Dec. 3, 1904, in Bloomington, a daughter of John and Grace Cheney Fletcher Wight. She married Rudd Fleming on Dec. 27, 1932. He preceded her in death on Oct. 22, 1991.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Illinois Wesleyan University Drama Department. Kibler-Brady-Ruestman Memorial Home, Bloomington, is assisting the family with arrangements.

She is survived by two sons, Jonathon (Cris) Wight Fleming, Chevy Chase, Md., and William (Catherine) Rudd Fleming, Bloomington; two daughters, Mary (Robert) Cheney Sheh, Palos Verdes, Calif., and Joan Sample DeVrieze, Seattle, Wash.; 15 grandchildren; and 32 great-grandchildren.

Another incident that happened at the 48th was a massive food poisoning. When my condition had improved substantially, Peg came early one afternoon to take me out for a jeep ride, but not long after we departed the field hospital, I had to ask her to stop the jeep so that I could get out to vomit. I felt very poorly and she took me right back to the tent ward. Upon entering, the nurse there exclaimed, “Not you, too!” Everyone was getting sick. Trucks were going around the hospital compound picking up people who could no longer walk. Doctors and nurses had to abandon surgeries in the middle of them, and Peg and others who had not eaten at the 48th were pressed into action. The problem stemmed from contaminated rice pudding. With IVs for hydration, everyone got over the problem in a couple of days, but it was chaos for a while! Right out of MASH!!

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Mary “Polly” Fleming


Polly taught in the French department, and later their son, William, who practiced medicine in Bloomington.

http://www.pantagraph.com/news/local/obituaries/mary-polly-fleming/article_f1d69222-5bb0-11e3-95b8-0019b62963f4.html  December 03, 2013 12:00 am

Arthur Watres,  
founder of  
Lacawac, 1922-2014

Contributed Louis Arthur Watres, founder of Lacawac Sanctuary

The founder of Lacawac Sanctuary, known around the world by the scientific community for its virtually
Vernon R. Alden, President-Emeritus of Ohio University, also served as Chairman of the Boston Company and Associate Dean of the Harvard Business School. He is a leader in education, business, the arts and international activities.

From 1969 through 1978 he was Chairman of the Boston Company and its major subsidiary, the Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company. He helped transform an essentially local financial company into a national and international organization and attracted to its Board of Directors such well-known executives as Lee Iacocca, then president of Ford, as well as heads of Continental Oil, Trans World Airlines, Armco Steel, and Royal Dutch Shell.

Investment management entities were acquired in five other regions as well as the Personnel Resources Division which made the Boston Company the first major financial organizations to fulfill a need for professional athletes and entertainers. He also helped to establish The Boston Consulting Group and attracted a friend, Bruce Henderson, as its founder.

He is a Life Trustee of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Museum of Science, the Children's Museum, and the French Library and Cultural Center in Boston. He has served on visiting committees at Harvard, MIT, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Three Massachusetts Governors, Sargent, Dukakis and King, appointed him Chairman of the Massachusetts Council on Arts and Humanities. During his twelve-year tenure, State appropriations to the arts grew from $125,000 to over $18 million. Alden also served as Chairman of the Foreign Business Council under Dukakis and King. He served as a trustee and member of the Board of Fellows of Brown University, his alma mater.

Alden was president of Ohio University in the decade of the 1960's. During his tenure enrollment more than doubled and total assets more than quadrupled. One of the hallmarks of his administration was the ability to attract and develop outstanding administrative talent. Seven members of his administration went on to become presidents of other colleges and universities. Upon his retirement from Ohio the Trustees named the new library. "The Vernon Roger Alden Library" and he received the Governor's Award, a Citation from the State of Ohio Senate, and the Outstanding Civilian Service award from the United States Army.

A primary school in Nigeria is named the "Alden Rainbow" following several of his visits to Ohio faculty members teaching Nigeria on USAID grants. Alden frequently receives letters, poems, cartoons and art work from young Nigerian students.

President Lyndon Johnson appointed Alden in 1964 as Chairman of the Task Force Planning and The United States Job Corps and Chairman of the Education Advisory Committee of the Appalachian Commission. Under Alden's Leadership, Ohio University spearheaded the economic revitalization of Southeastern Ohio, including development of the Appalachian Highway Network. He accomplished a major re-routing of the Hocking River that had annually flooded the Ohio campus, and he built six branches of the University in eastern and southern Ohio. President Johnson announced the Great Society Program on the Ohio campus.

As Associate Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration between 1951 and 1961, he taught advanced management seminars in Japan and assisted in the creation of Japan’s first graduate school of business at Keio University. He also established the Institute for College and University Administrators, which conducted case study seminars for college presidents, deans and trustees.

An active corporate director, Alden served for thirty-nine years on the board of Digital Equipment Corporation and for more than twenty years each as a Director of Colgate-Palmolive Company, McGraw-Hill, The Mead Corporation, The Boston
Company and Sonesta International Hotels. During World War II, Alden attended the Navy Officers Japanese Language School in Boulder, Colorado [OLS 4/30/45-], before serving on the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga. He is active on several Japan related advisory boards and foundations, including the Policy Advisory Committee of the Harvard program on U.S.-Japan relations. In 1985 the Emperor of Japan conferred upon him the Order of the Rising Sun, Star Class.

Vernon Alden is well known in Japan. For over forty years he was President or Chairman of the Japan Society of Boston. The Japan Society of Boston was the first to be established in the United States. When he became president in 1969, however, it was no more than a small group of Bostonians who met occasionally to discuss their interest in Japan. He was able to attract a five year grant from the US-Japan Friendship Commission which provided an opportunity to hire a full-time Executive Director and to increase membership and the number of program offerings. Soon membership increased to more than 2000 with 150 additional corporate members.

Alden is a member of several Japan-related advisory councils: the Harvard Program on U.S.-Japan Relations, the Massachusetts-Hokkaido Sister State Committee, and the Newport-Shimoda Black Ships Festival. He is also a Director of the Boston-Kyoto Sister City Foundation.

He served two terms as Chairman of the National Organization of Japan-American Societies consisting of forty state-wide organizations. When he recruited a full-time president of the Boston Japan Society, he became chairman until 2009, becoming Chairman Emeritus. In 1972 Alden participated with Japanese and American business, academic, and political leaders in the Japanese-American assembly held at Shimoda. He was a member of the late Ambassador Edwin Reishauer's seminar at the East Asian Studies Center, Harvard University, and served on the Advisory Board of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission.

In response to the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yohei Kono, who also serves as chairman of the Inter-University Athletic Council in Japan, Alden has arranged for several years to have runners from Ivy League universities participate in the national championship Ekiden relay races.

In 1978 Alden led a Massachusetts trade delegation which Ambassador Mansfield described on 'Meet the Press' as “one of the most successful trade delegations to visit Japan.” He led delegations to Japan from Rhode Island as well as the National Association of Japan-America Societies. Alden has traveled to Japan several times a year since the mid-1950’s and has a wide range of acquaintances among Japanese and United States business, academic, and political leaders. He and his late wife Marion, were invited by the Imperial Family to attend the wedding reception of Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako. In 1990 Alden was appointed Honorary Consul General in Boston for the Royal Kingdom of Thailand. In 1996 His Majesty the King of Thailand presented him with The Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand and in 1997 he was presented with the Royal Decoration, Commander (Third Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant. He has written three books: Speaking for Myself, An Oral History and Presidents, Kings, Astronauts and Ball players: Fascinating People I have Known.

Alden with his late wife, Marion is well known for his philanthropy, having established endowed funds at Brown University, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Science Museum, Ohio University, Ohio Wesleyan University, MIT, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Northfield Mount Hermon School, the Boston Public Library, and the French Library and Cultural Center in Boston, in addition to annual gifts in support of the many organizations with which he is associated.

Vernon Alden was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1923. He attend public schools in Moline, Illinois and Providence, Rhode Island, before attending Brown University, from which he graduated Phi Beta Kappa. He received an MBA from the Harvard Business School. Thirteen colleges and universities have conferred honorary degrees upon him, and in 1975 the Harvard Business School Alumni Association gave him its Business Statesman Award. He received a similar award from Brown University alumni in 1987. Alden was elected to Ohio University Hall of Fame in 2006. The French Library and Cultural Center honored him as “Man of the Year” in 1981.

Until he had hip replacement surgery in 2003, Alden ran three miles a day. He had running routes wherever he traveled: New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, London, Tokyo, and even Bangkok. He established the record for runners over 70 on the hilly Chimilark, Martha’s Vineyard, 5k road race which is yet to be broken.

Alden is a member of the Somerset Club, the Commercial Club of Boston, The Country Club, the Edgartown Yacht Club, and the Farm Neck Golf Club on Martha’s Vineyard.

He has four children, Robert, Anne, James and David, as well as three grandsons, William, Anderson, and Thomas and five granddaughters, Acadia, Lydia, Mara, Lucy and Christelle. © 2006–2007 Vernon Roger Alden http://www.vernonalden.com/
Returning to Ann Arbor to attend the agency. I never made it to points. For the lack of three tests, I had no trouble, but on the to join the CIA. On the Japanese asked to be given language tests Document center location and full up, they departed sadly to in Madison, asking us if we had students of Finch and Trewartha of disillusioned graduate studies who was widely known for his writing and teaching, died on October 19, 1995 at the age of 76.


After taking his A.B. degree from Western Reserve University in 1941 and an M.A. in Romance Philology from Harvard in 1942, Dr. Saunders entered the U.S. Naval Reserve, where he continued his studies of Japanese. He earned a Certificate of Proficiency from Colorado in 1944, an M.A. from Harvard in 1948, and the Doctorat de l’Universite de Paris in 1953.

Dr. Saunders was a teaching fellow in Romance Languages and Literature at Harvard in 1942 and again in 1945-48. Prior to joining Penn he also held the positions of instructor in French at Boston University in 1946; Charge de mission ‘titre étranger, Musée Guimet, in Paris in 1950; Lecturer at the University of Paris in 1951-52; and Assistant Professor at the International Christian University, Tokyo, 1954-55.

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Associated Press
Michelle R. Smith
Washington Post
December 3, 2012

**Ernest Dale Saunders**
**OLS 1945**
(1919-1995)

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