Betty Gregg’s Reprise of Stories & Other Issues

My wife Julia and I continue to enjoy each issue of the newsletter, as well as rereading some of the past issues. Frequently we learn something entirely new from the letters of our schoolmates. It all partially offsets our disappointment that we couldn’t attend the 60th because of Julia’s illness.

One of the items of new “intelligence” was included in Betty Gregg’s letter [and the Ed. Note:] in the October 1 issue. During our 1943-1944 period in the JLS, the general impression among our contemporaries was that the former Sig Ep House (1005 Broadway) was christened “The Bastille” by the WAVE group living there. Now we learn that it was earlier so dubbed by the JLS male occupants who were subsequently moved elsewhere to make way for the WAVES. We are happy to be enlightened on this bit of JLS history [Actually, Glenn Slaughter’s full story is even better. I’ll put it in the next issue.]

Quite belatedly, may I say that the extensive coverage of the term “Boulder Boys” in several 2001-2002 issues appears somewhat puzzling to me [Uh oh, just when that whole issue had died down]. Your response to Dallas Finn’s objections (Feb. 15) and your editorial note in the May 8 issue seemed to cover the subject adequately, although Marylou Williams’ comments seem legitimately addressed to recent “overuse.” In the 7th Fleet and ATIS, where I served briefly with Dick Finn, I do not recall hearing the term. However it was apparently fairly common currency in JICPOA/FRUPAC (In his 1979 book, Double-Edged Secrets, Captain Jasper Holmes used the term at least twice. [Ed. Note: See Issue 25, July 1, 2001 for my longest reply to this issue.] Incidentally, Julia and I have fond recollections of the Tokyo Embassy in 1952-54, when Dick Finn was Second Secretary and I was Assistant Naval Attaché. [My family just missed yours as my dad was US Army Liaison to the 7th Fleet in 1956, staying in Yokohama. I was 4 years old.]

Reviewing more back issues, Verner Chaffin’s report upon meeting Tyrone Power brings me back to a shared experience when several of us JLS types approached him about a hop to Omura. We could have accepted Power’s invitation, but suddenly we found a “de lux” evacuation C-54 available for a flight to Shanghai. As this was an opportunity not to be turned down, four or five of us hopped aboard and just missed the “Typhoon of the Century.”

Please continue with the great work of keeping us all in touch and reliving that time “when all the world was young.”

Hammond Rolph
JLS 1944

JLS Sophisticates Out on the Prairie & Nag安娜在人在

A recent issue of The Interpreter included recollections of a certain degree of good-natured exchanges among JLS students stirred up by their competing academic backgrounds, as to which school could claim the “elite” status. Although I sensed no “town and gown” separation during my months in Boulder, Stillwater was another story. Some of the men coming from the “Elite East” seemed irritated that the Navy had exiled them to the backwoods Okie-land, and their estrangement from the community was apparent. When the editor of the local newspaper claimed that Stillwater ought to throw its hat into the ring as a most suitable location for the new United Nations headquarters, it caused a small explosion among the above group. Tongue in cheek, they colluded to write letters supporting the claim, very elaborately written and signed by one “R. K. Vespuccius” (R. K. as in “Riko na Kodomo” or “Clever Boy”, Nag安娜 Volume ??) Every letter was printed and then displayed on the lounge walls, with the expected laughter. The editor apparently did not suspect that someone was pulling his leg, which only increased the pleasure among the guilty.

An added note about the Nag安娜 Naoe Sensei, author of the JLS textbooks, Nag安娜 Hyojoin Nihongo Tokuhon. There was no little edge in the remarks many of us made about the stress endured in the first Nag安娜 book — those hundreds of Kanji, thousands of vocabulary, and our willingness to blame it on the author. Only half jokingly, some promised that, come victory, they would search out their presumed tormentor and exact an extreme penalty. For myself, such was not the case. During my first summer in Japan in 1948, after a year at Meiji Gakuin, three of us who had “endured” Nag安娜 in print, Bob Barker, Hal Shorrock, and I, were permitted by N. Sensei to enroll in a special class in his postwar school in Kanda, where Sasaki Sensei wrought a miracle for me in speaking the language correctly. Later, I served on the board of Nag安娜’s new school for two years, and got to know him as the true scholar, author, administrator and gentleman that he was.

Robert Bruns
JLS 1946

Plucked from the Sea: Comment

Your letter contained a message from Walter B. Williams. Walter and I served together in regimental headquarters of the 3rd Marines on Guam during August of 1944. I had just arrived with a replacement battalion from Pearl Harbor. Operations were pretty much
over except for cleaning up a lot of stragglers.

One of my jobs was to write a surrender leaflet in Japanese to be dropped from small planes to encourage Japanese hiding in the caves along the cliffs to surrender. I remember the last line: Come out with your hands over your heads or we will blast you from the land, air and the sea. As I recall we were moderately successful.

Walt was a great guy to work with. He knew the ropes. Guam was either his second or third campaign. I am pleased to know that he is still alive and would like to get in touch with him.

When you first started this project, you called me and I promised to fill you in since I left Boulder. I will try to do that in the next few months. I am sorry I missed the reunion. I noted that there were a few guys there whom I served with.

Aubrey M. Farb
JLS 1944

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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New JLS Website:
http://www-libraries.colorado.edu/ps/arv/col/jlsp.htm

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