

POINT COUNTERPOINT

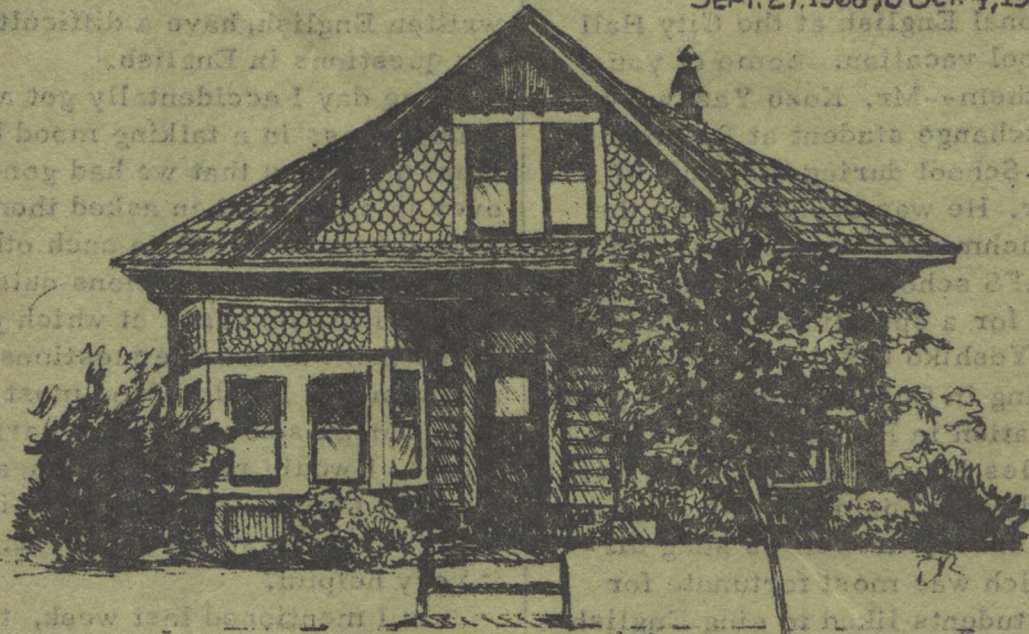
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1. Views of Shimada



by George Hagen

I arrived in Shimada on Sunday, July 7. On Monday I met with several people concerning my teaching schedule in Shimada. I also met my two assistants, who had been selected to help me teach conversational English at the City Hall during school vacation. Some of you may know them--Mr. Kozo Yazawa was a senior exchange student at Richmond Union High School during the 1966-67 school year. He was sponsored by the Shimada-Richmond Friendship Commission, as AFS scholarships cannot be guaranteed for a specific city. The same year Miss Yoshiko Oishi was an AFS student living in Ogden, Utah. She spent Easter vacation in Richmond, staying with the Jules Mayer family. Both Mr. Yazawa and Miss Oishi were excellent English teachers, as well as song directors, which was most fortunate for me. The students liked to sing English songs, and I can barely follow myself.

We decided to write short conversations and spend most of the two-hour class time repeating and memorizing a conversation, and drilling sentence patterns used in the conversation. This is the way we were taught Japanese at Ross. It almost eliminates the need for an interpreter.

We had three different types of classes: Junior high school students, Senior high school students and adults. Usually we had the use of three rooms, which meant that junior high classes could be separated into grade levels. We had over 40 seventh graders, about 25 eighth graders, and 16 ninth graders. (My favorite class-- the boys taught me "Go", Japanese Chess). The teachers rotated among classes, when they were divided. We had prepared three different sets of lessons, which proved sufficient. The lessons prepared for seventh graders

were also used by beginning adults. Some of the advanced adult classes could converse well in English, and we spent some time in free conversation. High school students, even with a fair knowledge of written English, have a difficult time asking questions in English.

One day I accidentally got a high school class in a talking mood by asking them questions that we had gone over and over in class. I then asked them to address these questions to each other. Soon they were asking questions outside the scope of the lessons, at which point I asked them to ask me questions. To their amazement, I understood most questions, even though some were not correctly stated. I would re-state them, and answer. My host family used this technique when I was trying to speak Japanese. I found it very helpful.

As I mentioned last week, the Language Laboratory in the Shimada Library has many materials, both printed and on tape, available for English study. We used these in class also. One day we played a circle game with a pronunciation drill. Any student unable to repeat a word would become the lowest number in the circle. The words were: light-right, lice-rice, lake-rake, lent-rent, collect-correct, play-pray, glass-grass. Sounds easy, doesn't it? Remember, the Japanese 'r' sounds something like an English 'l' or 'd'. They did quite well, though, while concentrating on the drill. (continued, page 17).



REMINISCING

With DON CHURCH

Interesting and sometimes amusing articles from old Richmond and Point Richmond newspapers, courtesy of the Richmond Museum.

----- 1914 -----

September 26, 1914:

SNAKE FRIGHTENS GIRL INTO FAINT:

"The appearance of the head of a snake, with eyes gleaming and its tongue flashing, through a hole in the sidewalk at San Pablo almost caused Miss Anna Bibbel, of Berkeley to go into hysterics yesterday afternoon. Miss Bibbel was visiting at the home of Miss Fannie Fagerstrom and the two were out for a walk. Of a sudden, Miss Bibbel fell into a dead faint on the sidewalk. Revived some minutes later she told of the cause of her sudden fright. A party of men headed by John Furie returned, found the reptile and killed it. It was of the gopher variety and measured six feet."

September 30, 1914:

MEXICANS THOUGHT PONCHO VILLA HAD INVADED DEAR OLD U. S.

"No. It was not a Marathon race nor a cross country run either,

that attracted the attention of residents along the Santa Fe right of way yesterday, but merely Road master Bullock of this city, at the head of a gang of Mexican section hands, beating a hasty retreat.

Close at the heels of the last shoveler was a Muir farmer with a double-barreled shot gun in his hands, and from the way he fingered the trigger, it was evident that he intended to shoot at the least sign of resistance.

The trouble arose over the fact that section hands had been dumping dirt down into the vineyard of this Muir farmer who, after repeatedly requesting they stop, finally took the law into his own hands and started to enforce it. A careful inspection made last night by the overwrought railway help showed that nary a "clod of dirt" had fallen off the railway right of way into the vineyard."

September 30, 1914:

ATTORNEY GRADY IS LODGED IN THE COUNTY HOOS-GOW.

"W. D. Grady, local attorney, is peering through the lattice work which covers the windows of Hotel deVeale this afternoon. He will continue... until tomorrow morning. At ten o'clock he will go into court and offer his arguments in defense of Geo Hall of this city.

Grady entered court in good spirits, and just as the jury was about to be impanelled, went over to his partner-in-law and in an audible voice warned him to not "let these Martinez fellows slip anything over on him". He was ordered into custody for 24 hours."





The Richmond Art Center announces an exhibition of prints and sculpture by the San Francisco Women Artists, and graphics by Rick Bersin. This exhibition opened September 26, and will remain up through October 20.

Rick Bersin, who was born in Cleveland, was educated at the Cleveland Institute of Art, San Francisco Art Institute, the Art Center School and the California College of Arts and Crafts. He is currently employed as a dress designer for Flying Circus Designs.

This is his first one-man show, and will include drawings, watercolors and etchings.

The San Francisco Women Artists, with headquarters at the San Francisco Museum of Art, are having a series of five juried exhibitions this year. The showings will be located throughout the Bay Area and will expose all media in the membership. The show at Richmond is limited to printmakers and sculptors.

GO THROUGH THE CLINIC!

Clinics are being set up, manned by parents, in the local junior high and high schools, to track down rumors being spread about happenings in the secondary schools. "Clinic" is an appropriate name, since the diagnosis and cure for rumors is the truth. The rumor clinics will be prepared with factual accounts of what is going on---for people that really want to know.

The fears created and harm done solely by rumors is hard to estimate. Numbers are listed here, so that parents may call other parents stationed at schools, when questions arise.

Also, in regard to recent events 4. at Kennedy High School, the Principal, Mr. Reynolds, recently issued to each student a complete statement concerning what really happened. The factual two-page report was handed to every Kennedy student. Ask one of them, if you would like to read it.

The following schools will have volunteers on hand with information:

Kennedy High: 235-2296

Downer Jr.: 234-3852

Helms Jr.: 233-3989

El Cerrito High: 525-0235

Adams Jr.: 235-5465

Richmond High-North: 234-3412

Richmond High-South: 234-4184

Pinole Valley High: 758-4668

Portola Jr. High: 524-0406

Administration Building: 525-3698 (handled by members of the PTA Council Executive Board.)

No listing has been given for Roosevelt Junior High, although a volunteer may be available--and will be listed in that case. The reason stated for leaving them out was that there has been no significant problem at that school.

Besides rumor clinics, security measures will be taken at Kennedy, and identification cards will be made for all secondary students (with photos).

If some one insists on telling you horrifying tales concerning school-related events, don't repeat the tale until you have called the appropriate number above. You might suggest to the person telling the tale that he or she, too, call the rumor clinic, to verify the facts.

Festival

The Ninth Annual Fall Festival Bazaar-Carnival sponsored by the Children's Home Society Chapters will be held Saturday, October 5, from 10 to 4, at 3200 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland.

Food, entertainment for children and great varieties of gift items will be available.