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POINT RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

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VIEWS OF SHIMADA

BY GEORGE HAGEN

The Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission for the last five years has selected a person from Richmond to teach conversational English classes in Shimada while serving as an ambassador to our sister city. Hence the term "Teacher-Ambassador". All previous teacher-ambassadors had been teachers in the Richmond Unified School District; however, this was not a stated qualification. I was granted a two leave of absence from Standard Oil Company in order to participate in the program.

The teaching schedule set up for me by the Shimada-Richmond Friendship Commission was similar to that of previous teachers. The schedule did allow for more industrial visits and the opportunity to spend more time with my host families. But it was essentially a teaching schedule, and a most enjoyable experience. Some junior high school classes were very similar to classes I had taught to my Chinese school students in Malaya while in the Peace Corps. Other classes with adults were equally rewarding. Both students and adults in Shimada are very eager to learn to speak English. The Shimada City Library has a language laboratory with many taped English conversation lessons. Students, teachers and citizens use these taped lessons in order to improve their spoken English. English is taught in the schools beginning with the seventh grade, where some time is spent on oral English. After the seventh grade, there is insufficient English class time to continue the oral approach in school.

The first two weeks in Shimada, I visited all the junior high schools and high schools in the city. Most of the time, the English teachers asked me to teach their classes. I usually used the

textbook as a guide, and gave the students oral drills on sentence structures they were studying or had already studied. Several English sounds are foreign to the Japanese language (th, si, and l, for example); therefore much time was spent on pronunciation drills.

Fortunately for me, the Japanese language does not contain any sounds which are foreign to English. A few are difficult, like tsu or ng, but all are present in English. Quite often I taught one each of the seventh, eighth and ninth grade classes in a morning, so I became familiar with all the sentence structures junior high school students were learning. Many times classes were combined which made individual repetition impossible; but usually I made it around the class once or twice.

Student reactions, when they were puzzled, were very amusing to me. If girls couldn't say the right thing on cue, they would slap themselves in the face. Boys would scratch their heads in a similar situation. When Japanese ask, "Me?", they point to their nose with their index finger; not to their chest with their hand.

During the lunch period, I would eat and talk with the English teachers. They (and the students also) wished mostly to hear a native speak English. They tried very hard to use the opportunity to improve their own English, short though the time was. During the afternoon, I often met with student groups to answer their questions about Richmond, California, my family, etc.

During the school vacation, which began in mid July, I taught classes in the City Hall for all interested students and adults. I'll write about some of my experiences in these classes next week.

--Hagen - san

Reminiscing *with Don Church*

Interesting and sometimes amusing
articles from old Richmond and Point
Richmond newspapers, courtesy of the
Richmond museum.
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1921

September 30, 1921:

## "POETRY OUTBURST LEADS TO DIVORCE"

"Ernest Calhoun's soul was filled  
with poetry when his wife left town. He  
composed a sonnet  
fairly tingling  
with color,  
verve, intrig-  
uing matter  
and real  
tough luck.

Armed with  
the sonnet as  
Exhibit A of  
masculine un-  
faithfulness,  
his wife appeared  
before Judge  
Shenk and secured  
a divorce.

Following is the fateful lyric, now  
reposing in court records:

### 'When my Wife's Away'

Of all the insidious  
Temptations invidious  
Devised by the Devil

For pulling men down,  
There is none so elusive,  
Seductive, abusive  
Than the snare to a man

When his wife's out of town.  
He feels such delightfulness,

Stay-out-all-nightfulness  
And sure to get tightfulness  
I owe it with pain,  
A sort of black rakishness,  
What will you takishness,  
It's hard to explain.

His wife may be beautiful,  
Tender and dutiful,  
It is not her absence  
That causes delight.  
But the cursed opportunity  
That baleful immunity  
That scatters his scruples  
As day scatters night.

(That did it!)

~~~~~

September 11, 1914:

"FISHERMAN HAS EXPERIENCE WITH MARINE MONSTER"

"Hooking a submarine
instead of a salmon
is some feat, but this
was done yester-
day afternoon by
Captain Martin Ul-
richs of the launch
Germany while
he was fishing
off the quaran-
tine station at Angel
Island. On the launch with

Ulrichs were William Lindsey, Robert
Jansen and Percy Fox, all of Alameda.
The quartet was seeking salmon, when
Ulrichs hooked something big.

The captain tried to reel in, but
it was no use. Suddenly the launch
commenced to ride backward through
the water at great speed. Ulrichs' line
held and he stayed with the quarry.
He thought he had a whale.

Suddenly the submarine rose out
of the water and it developed it was
the K-27 of the government fleet.

Ulrichs received a few sharp com-
mands from the officer in charge
and he severed his line and the war
vessel resumed her maneuvers.



THE Following article from an old Richmond newspaper was sent to Helen Kocher by Anna Schwartz:

MANY ENTERTAINED AT WHIST PARTY

MRS. M'DUFF IS DELIGHTFUL HOSTESS

The whist party held at the St. Francis hotel on Saturday evening by Mrs. McDuff for the benefit of Our Lady of Mercy church was attended by close to two hundred people. The interior of the hotel had been beautifully decorated for the occasion and the party was one of the biggest events of its kind held on the west side of this city for some time.

The prize winners for the evening were: Ladies' first prize, cut glass dish, Miss Kate Riordan; ladies' second prize, cream and sugar bowls, Mrs. Walsh; gentlemen's first prize, silver shaving set, D. Gerrity; gentlemen's second prize, flash light, M. Corcoran. Following the awarding of the prizes dainty refreshments were served by the hostess. The remainder of the evening was taken up with a short program which consisted of several vocal and musical selections by Miss Terest Gabbally of San Francisco and Miss Josie Boyd of San Jose.

Now "at home" in Fort Lewis, Washington is Stanley Hawkins.

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We wish strength to members of our weaker sex, namely Frances Smith, Helen Crim and Mrs. Robert Walker.

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In noting the passing former Point resident George Byers and father of Kay White, friends will recall some of the chef dinners he assisted with at the Methodist Church.

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Belated congratulations to Dodie Perry for being "hostess of the week" in that other local paper.

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There is much to be said about the new men's turtleneck sweaters -- they do preserve the family ties.

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What image do you project? When you look in a mirror, do you see an inner happiness???

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2021

BY Mid Dornan

Welcome home Mildred and Jack Paeth after a summer traveling in Alaska, then to Oregon, Los Angeles, and Yosemite, using Richmond for home base in -between. Ah retirement! Didn't leave Jack much time to miss the Fire Department.