

## WHAT I HAVE GAINED FROM THE RETREAT

Frequently we find ourselves at a loss in attempting to express adequately our thoughts and feelings concerning a certain experience or occasion. Thus do I discover myself as I look back upon the hours of the Retreat spent in Christian fellowship.

However, there are certain impressions that stand out clearly in my mind. To enumerate and discuss each one would be impossible within the limits of this page. It would require more than mere space to picture and describe fully those quiet moments of communion with God, the stirring messages rekindling within us a greater desire to serve our Master, the happy fellowship in fun and in song recreating us for a more joyous and cheerful life, and the peaceful and sheltered atmosphere preparing us for needed inspiration and resolve. I can only mention these things and know that those who have been with me sharing these experiences understand their deep significance and effects upon our Christian life.

I cannot help comparing the Retreat with those frequent occasions of seclusion that Jesus held with his disciples in prayer and quiet exhortation away from the crowds and from the ceaseless hustle and confusion of daily life. When we realize how often He found these mountain top experiences necessary to carry on His work, to receive renewed strength and courage for the heavy tasks and burdens, we wonder why we haven't given as much time to withdraw ourselves into secluded spots where we can open our hearts to God and receive the spiritual  
(please turn to next page.)

## IMPRESSIONS OF A FIRST-YEAR DELEGATE

On the light-green cover of the now-treasured Retreat program is written: "Three Days of Earthly Heaven." And so the few happy days spent at the Retreat seemed to me -- a veritable heaven on earth.

I came with eager anticipations and I was not disappointed. The first sight that greeted our eyes and impressed me as we arrived at the foot of the flight of stone steps leading up to the Seminary hill was the picturesque castle-like building towering above against the clear blue sky.

Reaching the Seminary grounds I saw that we were surrounded by mountains and hills dotted thickly with trees. The scene was beautiful; the weather was grand and it was a perfect setting for the enactment of the scenes to be played at the Retreat.

Of the three days' program, I still recall vividly:

Friday evening on the hilltop with its quiet hour of singing, sentence

prayers, and scripture readings. Prayer circles out in the soft hush of the night.

Rev. Tanabe's ringing message at the Sunday Church service.

Early morning watch services on the hilltop while we basked in the warm rays of the morning sun.

Saturday's outdoor supper and weenie roast where hot dogs were consumed with surprising facility and girls with 3 or 4 weenies balanced on their arms were not uncommon sights.

Dave Tatsuno as the laugh-provoking master of ceremonies at the bonfire rally.

Victory circle on a beautiful night under starlit skies. Better at the last Retreat, according  
(please turn to next page.)

## THE ADVENT OF NIGHT

The sun sets ....  
Leaving a tinge of pink  
On the deep western sky.  
Shadows lengthen on the  
                                yonder hillside  
Making grotesque forms.  
Myriads of twinkling stars  
Like thousand diamond jewels  
Appear one by one,  
Here, there, and everywhere  
Across the infinite void.  
The azure blue becomes black;  
More stars appear.  
Night has fallen ....  
Bringing rest to the weary  
                                world.

-- Dave M. Tatsuno

Winner of the girls' tennis tournament is TANEKO AMEMIYA, who beat out ALICE SERA in the finals. FRED HOSHIYAMA copped the boys' singles. REV. TANABE and MAS SUGIYAMA split the kisses (Her-sheys)-prize for the horse-shoe pitching champ. Uncrowned girls' horse-shoe pitcher is EUREKA SATOW. Quite fitting was the award to REV. & MRS. TANABE as the most outstanding newly married couple at Retreat. Rev. & Mrs. Oda in '32 and Rev. & Mrs. Aiura in '33 were predecessors. Back in '32, Muck Sakakihara was crowned "most bashful boy". Harry Hara was so dubbed in '33. We nominate TIM YAMAZAKI for '35. ELSIE HIRAYAMA claims two victories out of three checker games played against TETSUO SUGIYAMA (not counting the kibitzing.) For the '35 Retreat clown, we suggest TORU YAMAUCHI.

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Three outstanding events mark the scandal column of the '35 Retreat: the unshaded lights from the second floor rooms which bothered REV. TANABE's prayer circle; VERLIN YAMAMOTO's worthy efforts to douse the second story glimmers; and FRED HOSHIYAMA's interrupted shower.

The last two Retreats had large representation from the Oakland M. E., but this year, MICHI KAJIWARA, SACHI YAMADA, ALICE OKADA, TOM OKADA, and TYLER NAKAYAMA composed the OME bunch.

Loomis sent DAVID and MARY TAKAGISHI, SHIG MATSUMOTO, and HELEN NITTA. They were well represented last time, too.

#### WHAT I HAVE GAINED (cont.)

food expedient for fulfilling our tasks as followers of Christ.

The Retreat has brought to me a fuller realization that we need to ascend often to higher realms, to the mountain top of deep spiritual experiences, if we are to live and carry out our Master's teachings to the point where our lives are living examples of His life.

Let us seek to lay aside more of our time for quiet meditation and prayer, for a more searching and earnest study of his truths, and for brighter and happier thoughts to enable us to give and receive fully of all that is noble and worthwhile.

-- Dave Masato Okada

We remember:

among musical talents, MATSUKO HAYASHIDA, DAVE OKADA, and REV. SUIZU with their vocal renditions. the "starry Retreat" of this year, and the many astronomy lessons given principally by WILBUR TAKIGUCHI and HENRY TANI. (It was the "moonlight Retreat" in '33). the registrar's helpful helper in MITSU MORI, unofficial treasurer. dramatic efforts of EUREKA SATOW at the campfire. the singiest singing singers at the informal singfests. that "kiss" on the head of the past supreme ruler during the initiation ceremony. the license plates. HEISHIRO TAKAO with his peppy dinner table and songs. MIYE KASAI's pet flea, Hanako. the S. F. boys, NOBU NISHIMOTO, MIN ENDO, TOM HOSHIYAMA and MITSUO KANEKO getting lost Saturday night.

From way down Fresno came the foursome, HELEN KAZATO, MASAKO SAITO, YAYEKO NAGAI and REV. F. HAYASHI.

The lesser noticed of the two Berkeley HAYASHIDA sisters is MIKIKO, younger sis of MATSUKO.

TOSHI "Tish" KIYOMURA, from Mt. View was a S.F. girl for a spell a few years ago.

Alameda's large representation was swelled on Sunday with the arrival of NELLIE ITAHARA, SPRING KIDO, EMILY YAGYU, HENRY YAMAMOTO, and HARUO IMURA.

Sunday visitors from the city included EIKO HOSOI, TAEKO and SACHI YAKI, SUMI TERAMOTO, VIOLA IMAI, CHIYE TATSUNO, YOSHI MORIOKA, and MAE FUJITA.

The Retreat was aided by the following ministers: REV. S. KOWTA, REV. J. TSUKAMOTO, REV. N. SUIZU, REV. F. HAYASHI, REV. J. FUJIMORI, REV. S. TANABE, and REV. F. H. SMITH

#### IMPRESSIONS (cont.)

to old-timers, yet deeply impressive to us first year delegates.

Monday morning came all too soon, and reluctantly we returned--back to the hustling, bustling world--back to the trivialities of everyday life, but richer by new friends made, ideas exchanged, closer intimacy with friends, and contact with Christian leaders, with minds refreshed, faith renewed, and a resolution to become better Christians.

-- A First Year Delegate.

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Editor - - - - - Henry Tani

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# JANITORIAL

Picked-up after the Retreat.  
(Written on July 12)

WILBUR TAKIGUCHI has been entertaining his sister, Alice, of L.A. this past week. CHIYE TATSUNO helped entertain. DAVE TATSUNO shows blisters as evidence of an afternoon at Lake Merritt last Sunday. ALICE OKADA was in the party. HELEN KAZATO and MAE FUJITA are attending a YW confab at Asilomar this week. HELEN is headed for Huntington Lake for another month of camp. VERLIN YAMAMOTO ends two weeks at Scout camp on Monday. MASAKO SAITO recuperated for a week as guest of MITSU BEPP in the city. Visitors to Alameda since the Retreat included DAISY TOMIZAWA, GEORGE KYOTOW, MITSUO KANEKO, WILBUR TAKIGUCHI, and FRED HOSHIYAMA. REV. & MRS. TANABE, REV. HAYASHI, and DR. SMITH led the Fresno region Methodist Y.P. camp last week-end. HENRY TAKAHASHI has the best collection of Retreat pictures. MASA HANAMURA and LILY TANI knew each other ten years ago but it wasn't revealed until the Retreat. TANEKO AMEMIYA and TOSHIKO KAKO became pals through a mutual American friend. VIRGINIA Chiyoko "Ginger Snailly Brains" KADOIKE claims Japan, Ogden, Stockton, Monterey, and San Jose as her home. TAD FUJITA is reported to have spent the Fourth at Salinas, home-town of EDNA MAGANO. We read of MARGE KAJI-MURA's surprise birthday party for her frere, LEROY last Sunday. ARI INOUE is thankful that he has a married sis in San Jose. (A good excuse, we say.) MRS. UYEI, formerly Margaret Tann, is a real old-timer in YPCC. She was first chairman of the Northern Calif. Conf. KUWA YOSHIDA seems to be the subject of many "unaware snapshots". Plans are in the offing for a post-Retreat get-together and a farewell rally for POP SMITH in the middle part of August.

Again, we were able to come to the mountain top for "three days of earthly heaven" -- an experience that will be an everlasting memory. From the Morning Watch to the Prayer Circles at night, new inspirations were added and a chain of golden friendships increased. Though the number may have been small, more of us were brought closer to God during these days.

The success of the Retreat was due largely to the co-operation of each delegate through the contribution of their talents and the participation in the program. In such a way was the Retreat planned. I feel that the delegates were satisfied because they were able to give what little they could to make the affair a success. The members of the executive board should not be given all the glory, but each and every member should have a part of it.

May I, as chairman of this year's Retreat, thank each delegate for coming to the Retreat. I hope that you have received something from those three days spent on the Mountain Top. For their participation in the program, I would like to thank the various chairmen. Mere words are not enough, but in God's sight you shall be rewarded fully.

Furthermore, I hope that you will tell those in your respective groups more about the Retreat, so that they, too, may plan to attend.

If plans turn out as I want it to, the Retreat in the coming three years will fall on the Fourth of July week-end, and thus give those of us who work more opportunity to attend full time. Let us take this opportunity, and make the most of it. Start now to save your money for next year.

--Wilbur Takiguchi

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Figures from the registration list shows that: 8 came for the third time, 17 for the second, and the rest of the 70 for their first; 35 can be considered full-time delegates (paid more than \$3.00) and 11 came for one day only. Several did not register.

Veterans (third time) at the Retreat were HENRY TAKAHASHI, MASA HANAMURA, ARI INOUE, ALICE OKADA, LEROY KAJIWARA, HENRY YAMAMOTO, MIYE KASAI, and DR. F. H. SMITH.

The 11th annual N.C. Y.P.C.C. will be held on October 25, 26, and 27.