

THE MOUNTAIN TOP REVIEW



1936

MOUNTAIN TOP REVIEW - 1936

Heaven Indeed by DAVE TATSUNO

Three Days of Earthly Heaven" were the words printed on the cover of the program of the Retreat of 1935, and how true they are. Many are the hours spent by many a youthful heart upon the "mountain top" during the past four Retreats. How can one ever forget that inspiring first year's Retreat with its unforgettable consecration service....just as the service led by our dear old Dr. Smith ended, a full moon in all its glorious splendor peeked out over the silent hills and slowly rose beyond the silhouetted trees... it was like an act of the Almighty, and our souls leapt in response with hymns which flowed spontaneously from our hearts. The fellowship there was wonderful--we laughed with joy and cried with humbleness and inspiration--in other words, we truly lived as in Heaven.

Then can one forget the beauty of the star-studded skies of the Retreat of 1933? For three heavenly nights the skies were flittering with myriads of stars like thousand diamond jewels or like fluttering fire-flies. Again, the same scene, except that time had marched on another year on the long milestone pathway of life. The fellowship was wonderful--but to those who had attended the first year's Retreat, it was "not as good." Of course, one expected too much because the first year's Retreat came out so unexpectedly well.

The Retreat of Melodies--such

can we call the third Retreat of 1935. It was packed with music with Hoishiro Takao acting as the ol' maestro. Truly, there was music in the air. Again, the scene was the same...the trees, the hills, the buildings...but the group was greatly changed from those of the first and the second year, due especially to the fact that the Retreat of 1934 was regretfully cancelled because of the prevailing infantile paralysis epidemic.



And, now, the fourth year's "three days of earthly heaven" has gone by on the wings of time like lightning. And though the place was still the same...spirited personalities of the past Retreats haunted the grounds...their smiles, their jokes, their vigor came back to join all of us in our retreat for strength up into the quiet and joyous hills. Some day in the future, we who were so fortunate

to attend these Retreats, will look back and live in memories and smile, and there will come a glow of warmth around the heart--one of life's happy ecstasies.

Rev. Orr's series of lectures were the feature of this year's Retreat. His resume of lectures entitled "Affirmations of Faith" will be found on the following page. The idea of having one lecturer deliver all the lectures over the three day period is a new one and the consensus of opinion is that it was a very successful innovation. We would certainly like to see the idea continued next year.

Affirmations of Faith
by REV. W. I. ORR

Although living rather than believing is the final test of our Christianity, belief is of vital importance because it is usually the source and motivation of our living. Great lives such as those of Jesus, Paul, St. Francis, and countless others have been the result of profound faith; and viewed in this light, their lives are seen to be the necessary expression of that faith.

In these days of questioning, when we are called upon to examine critically the intellectual basis of our faith, it behooves us to think in positive and constructive terms. We could mention dozens of things which we do not believe but if we tried to live upon negations, our thinking would become paralyzed and our living sterile. In our periods of thinking together, we have examined and affirmed our belief in four great doctrines and have worked out what may be thought of as a basic creed which is not complete or closed, but which can be expanded as long as we continue to think affirmatively.

We affirm our belief in God who is the creator and sustainer of the universe and who is so close to the individual that He may best be referred to as "Father." Then, we affirm our belief in the uniqueness of Jesus and accept the challenge which he brings to us. Next, we affirm our belief in the inevitability of the coming Christian social order, believing that civilization will some day identify itself with the Kingdom of God. This shall be brought about with the co-operation of men and women responding to the challenge of the idealism of Jesus. In the fourth place, we affirm our belief in personal immortality, basing our faith upon the nature of God and our belief that in a rational and ethical universe the Good, the True, and the Beautiful are not limited by either time or space.

TO
GEORGE SHIGERU KOBA

Christian Leader
Fellow Retreater
and Friend

WE DEDICATE
this issue of the
MOUNTAIN TOP
REVIEW

Sun set and the evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning
at the bar
When I put out to sea.

But such a tide as moving
seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from
out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness
of farewell
When I embark.

For tho' from out our
bourne of Time and place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my pilot
face to face
When I have crost the bar.

"Crossing the Bar"
Tennyson

Sports

The recreational period of this year's Retreat, featured several innovations in the form of "Go-narabe", checkers, and handies, which augmented the old stand-bys of horseshoes, and tennis tournaments. As in former years however, there was no time in which to completely play out these tournaments, making it necessary in at least one case to resort to "jan-ken-po"(!) to determine the "champion".

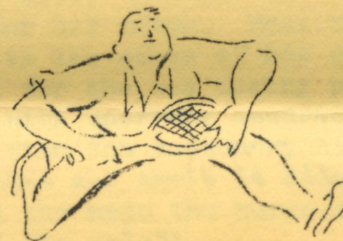
The close of the "go" tournament found Yoneo Futatsuki, Henry Tani, and Rev. Jun Fujimore all tied up in the semi-finals. Rev. Jun had to return home, leaving Yoneo and Hank at the finals. As no time was available to play this out, Lady Luck was called in and she cut up Hank's paper hopes with Yoneo's scissors. The girls' title was annexed by Marian Nakashima of Stockton, who breezed thru her opponents to win.

The same reason that Rev. Jun had to default his "go" match, figured in leaving the checkers finals to Tats Sugiyama. There was no separate division for the girls in this tournament, and consequently all of them were eliminated during the second round by the "brainier sex."

Yoneo completed his sports day by taking down last year's tennis champ, and this year's favorite, Fred Hoshiyama in straight sets, 6-4; 7-5. In the semi-finals, Dr. Smith's game leg came through to help defeat Tim Yamasaki 6-3, and Toru Yamauchi stopped Sam Rokutani at 6-4. Pop and Toru defaulted to Yoneo leaving him in full possession of the tennis crown which he added to his already laureled brow.

At the last moment the handies tournament was called off because of the scarcity of entries and ideas. Hope is expressed that contestants will come better prepared to future tournaments.

The horseshoe finals found Fresno's Rev. Hayashi and Champ Mas Sugiyama of San Francisco offering to default to each other in order to break the tie, but everything was settled when it was recalled that the title was awarded to Mas last year because Rev. Hayashi had to leave. Mas did the sportsmanlike thing this year and defaulted to Rev. Francis which gives each of them a win. Next year's tournament will be plenty exciting with both of them getting a by into the semi-finals by virtue of their wins.

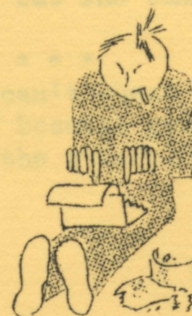


Thanks to :

Toru Yamauchi....Cover Design
Mimeographing

Verlin Yamamoto..Sports Editor

Kiku Shimazaki...Typist
Stencil Cutter



Jots in Jest

It seems as though the saying, "ignorance is no excuse" applies to the retreaters also, for a few of the male retreaters were reprimanded publicly by the Dean of Women for visiting the second floor. "We didn't know we weren't supposed to," was the excuse but that didn't pass with our Dean of "No man's land."

Toru Yamauchi's morning exercises were novel as well as corking. Especially novel was the throat exercise. We were coming up from the station this morning and we thought the rooster crowing exercise was the real McCoy until we got near enough to hear the 1-2-3- and the chorus of crowing "monkey drillers." Regimentation of youth, we call it.

The women's "go-narabe" tournament was ably coached by Hank Tani and other male contestants. One of the contests was won by a Tani protégé, Evelyn Onoye, who naively asked after the game was over "who won?" She was a semi-finalist.

* * *

Rev. Jun:--"Nish", do you attend a place of worship?

"Nish":--Yes, sir, - I do. In fact, I'm on my way to see her now.

* * *

Toshi Nagano:--Do lions go to heaven?

Rev. Orr:--No, Toshi.

Tosh:--Well, do ministers?

Rev. Orr:--Why of course. Why do you ask?

Tosh:--Well, suppose a lion eats a minister.

* * *

Henry Tani:--Where there's smoke, there's fire insurance.

We always thought that "bull session" were sort of spontaneous discussion on pertinent topics but we were abashed when the Dean of Women announced that a cow session would be scheduled for Saturday night on any topic of interest.



Speaking of bull sessions--what happened to them anyway? Last year it was one of the highlights of the retreat. We'd like to see stag discussions rather than boudoir invasions.

Miss Toshiko Kako received her initiation into the manly art of throwing the iron shoes Saturday afternoon on Horseshoe Hill, when she was found practicing for her match. When we inquired as to the cause of her glum countenance, for she was making point after point with unerring accuracy, she replied with the customary Alameda naivete that she tho't it didn't count unless she made the horse-shoe "curl around the pole"!

* * *

Shig Saito:--How's your health "Doc"?

"Henry":--Fine!

Shig Saito:--And how're the wife and caddies?

* * *

Virginia:--I heard Kuwa went over big in San Anselmo.

Emi:--Yeah, but she came back slim.

* * *

Toru:--You can't cheat in checkers because you have to play on the square.