



Monday, April 1st, 2002

Yu Hay Ting (Chow Mei Leung's daughter)

Today my mother took me to a Szechuan Restaurant for lunch. There, I met one of her old classmates, Anita Sze Yue, and her Japanese American husband, Mr. Stan Enomoto. They currently live in the United States, and came up to Vancouver to visit their relatives and take a vacation. My mother informs us that Anita and she have not seen each other for around 30 years, and was surprised that they recognized each other at first glance. It seems that neither of them have changed much in appearance since they were in high school. Mr. Enomoto replied that if it has been 30 years, then the last time that they have seen each other would have been when they were babies! I could see from there that he is a very charismatic man.

Just after we arrived at the restaurant, Stella auntie (Poon Kam Ming) called from Hong Kong to speak with Anita auntie. Stella and Anita are very good friends, but unfortunately, Stella auntie had to go back to Hong Kong before Anita came to Vancouver, and so Stella auntie stayed up till 5am to talk to Anita auntie.

After ordering our food, we began to make proper introductions. Mom asked Anita and Mr. Enomoto about life in the US, and we in turn were asked about life in Vancouver. My mother informed Mr. Enomoto that I have learned a semester of Japanese in school and thus knew how to speak the basics, which was only very little. He told us that he did not speak much at all, and that I probably speak more than he does because he has never been to Japan and was born in America. Then Anita auntie asked me an interesting question: did I prefer life in Vancouver or in Hong Kong? Mom answered first, and says that since she lived in Hong Kong for a longer period of time, she is more used to the lifestyle there than in Vancouver. I thought about

it before replying that I would not mind living in either place since there are pros and cons for everything.

Throughout the conversation, I noticed that Anita auntie was not very good at speaking Cantonese. My mom voiced my thoughts and she replied that she came from North China, and also did not practice speaking Cantonese in the States, only Mandarin and English. Mr. Enomoto was very polite through our conversations in Cantonese, and my mother and Anita auntie tried their best to translate and remember to speak in English as much as possible, but he insisted that he did not mind. The character of both Mr. and Mrs. Enomoto can be described as friendly, outgoing, easygoing, and both had a wonderful sense of humour. Mr. Enomoto was especially charismatic and made many jokes throughout the lunch, which always made the three of us laugh.

Anita auntie viewed the yearbook after lunch and told us that she did not remember many of these people. Mom told her that even if that is so, many of the classmates remembered her because she was very nice, beautiful, and popular, but auntie insisted that it was because of her unusual name with only two characters. The two of them strolled down memory lane and mom told Anita auntie where some of the classmates are today.

I still find it very amazing that classmates from around 30 years ago are still in contact with each other and have come together to compile such a wonderful yearbook. Almost all classmates know each other and are friends, but I do not see that in my school. Maybe it is because of the many different races in my school, or the class system, but I still have not spoken to around one-third of my grade. Whatever the reason is, I wish that all schools could be like Pui Ching Middle School, where all classmates are friends, or at least know each other, and that we will also have reunions that bring back such fond memories in the future.