

Part 3
The second stage of my life

(6)

The volunteer activities through the Lions Club

One of the things that I can never forget, in the memory of 32-year life as the trucking top manager, is the Lions club activity. Especially the one that happened during the last one year period is worth of keeping in the records. Let me use the Lions language.

In those days, I was the committee chairman of the PR Information committee, 336-District International Lions Club. It consisted of some 98-clubs with 5,262 members in Hiroshima prefecture. One of my main works was to play the editor-in-chief of the District Bulletin, which was published four time a year with some 40-page each.

I am the type of a man who, once given an obligation to do something, I get it done with all my effort to my heart content never to regret later days and years. During my term as the chairman of the committee and the editor-in-chief of the bulletin, I attended some 120 various conferences and assemblies together for my aim at covering for the bulletin reports.

The bulletin was named “Wagokoro, in Japanese ‘Spirit of harmony’. My editing style was unique compared with others in that I attended, as mentioned earlier, all possible meetings held throughout the prefecture which amounted to some 120 times. Later years, the people concerned said to me, that neither in the past nor in the future, there was and will never be the editor-in-chief like me.

The series of the bulletin, four editions all together, were good memories of my past record. However, the four copies of them were taken out and lost on the way to the Philippines for the over weight penalty.

As it is well know, the Lions club is, like the Rotary Club, which is the older, the voluntary organization for the businesspersons. I had a chance to make a short speech in the district convention, and I said something to the following thought of mine.

“My motivation of joining the club came from my simple belief that a businessperson must be thankful to various people and circumstances surrounding him. In my case, as a trucking businessperson, I cannot help but think that the company is in a place where it gives noise and environmental troubles or sometimes even traffic accidents. In other words, because of those things, the company is allowed to exist. Furthermore, company is managed with the help of stockholders and employees, customers and suppliers and

others. When I think of those factors, I strongly felt that something must be done by what little I have, or I could, for the good of those people who support me and our company. However, I found that nothing could be made by a personal effort and capacity. This brought me to the Lions Club activities by joining with other businesspersons through the organization. The so called the collective powers.”

In the party after the convention, there came to me a Japanese doctor lions, who is one of the International Lions Club directors. The international Lions club director is quite a status in this world.

An interesting thing about the words that came from him was that he admired me so much for my presentation as to what is really meant by the spirit of the Lions club. He even said to me that he was so impressed to my testimony of the Lions spirit of Service, that he felt as if he was awakened with a shock. As for myself, I wondered what made him that much of admiration when I spoke a very simple things.

The director of the International Lions Club is quite a status which cannot be easily obtained no matter how long he stays in the club. I was content anyhow that my simple presentation made the man say that.

One more thing that I could tell with good memory in my Lions club life was about the official visit of the International Lions Club President, Mr. William L. Woolard, in February 1990. I wrote a letter to him in advance, telling him that one of his international directors, Mr. Shizuo Onishi of Hawaii, is my relative.

When I met him at the Hiroshima station of the Shinkansen, bullet trains, he quickly noticed me with shaking hands. He knew that I am crippled with walking cane. My identification is always clear to the people, you know.

As the editor-in-chief of the bulletin, I could have quite a chance to be with him. He was well known as the firm believer of “the Lions Code of Ethics”. Therefore, I tried to memorize it so that I could tell him about it when he comes to Japan, and I made it to his surprise. He said to me, “Oh, I love the Ethics but not as much as to memorize it!”

By the way, the Lions Code of Ethics begins with “To show my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I may merit a reputation...”, and ends with “To be careful with my criticism and liberal with my praise; to build up and not destroy.” This Ethic consists of some 250 letters. I began to make the recitation of the Ethics every morning in the bath tab until I clearly learned by heart.

My effort of memorizing the Ethics was the beginning of my making a hobby of trying to challenge to be able to make

English recitation of some other poems and speech. They are the Lord's Prayer, Lincoln's Gettysburg address, the Youth and May Way. I take eight minutes to recite them all in the straight. This has been one of my daily exercises ever since. This daily exercise comes again in the latter part.