

WIMBERLEY REMEMBERS---

By JOY SEABORN

A pearl farm in which even the divers dressed in immaculate white... a factory with paper walls through which she could hear silkworms hungrily crunching mulberry leaves ... a visit to the Buddhist shrine at Kamakura .. all were among the fascinating experiences which Mrs. Cliff Wimberley of the Education Department, enjoyed in the 1957 - 58 school year, which she spent in Camp Zama. (Japan's own version of the Pentagon) teaching in the Army Dependent School.

Beginning with a shopping trip to Tokyo's renowned GINZA, a stay in the swank Imperial Palace Hotel, and a visit to the Imperial Palace itself, Mrs. Wimberley, through the auspices of a principal who really "knew his area," was able to travel weekly to many exotic places and to see many extraordinary sights.

Touring the countryside, Mrs. Wimberley soon lost herself in watching raptly as craftsmen worked painstakingly on jewelry, clothing, and beautiful carvings in cherry wood and ivory.

Plays and the theater also

captured her interest. Though given exclusively in Japanese, Mrs. Wimberley nevertheless enjoyed seeing the Kabuki and Noh players enact dramas of the sun goddess, historical themes, and scenes of Japanese tradition. Dressed in elaborate costumes, the players -- even of men's roles-- were, Mrs. Wimberley learned, women! When not attending traditional Japanese performances, she indulged in a passion for entertainment at the TAKARAZAKA, similar to our own Radio City Music Hall.

Through a friendship with a Japanese family, Mrs. Wimberley learned even more about Japanese life and customs. Boys' Day, on which the boys of the family hung their paper carp in sizes graduated according to age and rank in the family, took place in May. The girls got their chance for a holiday in March with HINA MATSURI, the doll festival. At that time, they ceremonially displayed their lovely handmade dolls (on seven steps covered with red silk) and entertained their friends. The whole family, however, had a chance for a holiday at the lunar New Year, which comes in

February, at which time rice cakes, made in a special ceremony, and the pine bough took on special significance.

Visits to industrial sites, such as the silk factories and the pearl farms, were equally diverting for Mrs. Wimberley.

The silk factory was particularly fascinating for her, since, through the rice paper walls, she could hear the silkworms munching their way toward ever-larger cocoons. The pearl farms, where little beads irritate oyster's flesh to produce iridescent jewels, had a rigorously high standard of cleanliness -- even the divers wore white!

For girls who would like to enjoy similar experiences, Mrs. Wimberley recommends the armed services' various schools for the dependents of servicemen and women. These girls will need a teacher's certificate and the personality requisite of adaptability. So, those of you who are interested, polish up your smiles and be prepared to laugh at yourselves when interview time comes!

A MEMOIR

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chers peddling intellectual hand-me-downs. Our students are looking for absolutes and certainties; text-books furnish these. Hopefully, in some future there will be the curriculum daily created to meet the daily needs of children. The curriculum will no longer be like the crinoline dress that covered everything and touched nothing. Our teachers may learn, somehow, that the journey from A to B can be more meaningful than the journey from A to Z.

"Ways of working with students". At the bottom of the scale Kilpatrick placed ridicule. Only slightly above ridicule was sarcasm. Next on the ladder was coercion, followed by fear of disapproval and desire for approval. Next to the top he placed reason. At the top he placed democracy, working with people on a basis of true equality, sharing likes and differences so that each learns from the other. What a blow to intellectual snobbery!

"The life situation". William Faulkner evidently learned about mules in a life situation: "The mule will draw a wagon or a plow but he will not run a race. He will not try to jump anything he does not indubitably know beforehand he can jump. He will not enter any place unless he knows to his knowledge what is on the other side. He will work for you patiently for ten years for the chance to kick you once." Children learn best in a situation that approximates the use of the learning. Any situation, really, can be a life situation if it has meaning and purpose to the student. When you are alone with a child he will almost always talk to you and talking to you is a life situation.

More than anything about Kilpatrick I remember his great pride of profession. To be a teacher was a way of life. It was a good way of life. It was the best way of life. Especially to be a teacher of teachers.

Heroes wear out so fast these days. People must be remembered otherwise they were never here at all, could become, like the characters in GODOT, "nothing people waiting for no-

thing." If we ever reach the New Jerusalem in education we must keep alive the memories of those who knew the way.

Health News

Swimming pool eyes... Everyone who swims often in fresh water, whether it is chlorinated or not, tends to develop itchy red

eyes -- conjunctivitis. This happens even to those people who are not especially sensitive to chlorine (as people sometimes are) and even if the level of chlorine in the swimming pool is kept at the normal level required to kill germs in the water. Although it is irritating at the time, there is no evidence that this sort of conjunctivitis can lead to permanent eye damage, even in professional swimmers. As a preventive measure before swimming and as a soothing one afterwards, a few drops of methylcellulose in the eyes often help.

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