

第2章

フレドニアの田舎大学生に日本語を教える

ちょうどこの頃は、アメリカ国が日本の文化・歴史・商慣行などなどに、それまで以上の興味を持ち始めた時でした。フレドニアの田舎大学が、日本語を教え始めたというのもこのためで、政府からの補助金を利用した“Experimental Program”実験教科として、日本語クラスが設けられました。

私が受け持ったその初回クラスは生徒5人。そのうち二人が途中で脱落。結局1966年のSpring Semester(1月から5月まで)と Fall Semester(8月から12月まで)の2学期を通し、3人を教えました。教科書はなんとかという名の日本人力ップルが編纂した、分厚いものだったこと記憶しますが、内容は一体どんなものだったのか、まるで思い出せません。生徒達は、とてもじゃないが勘の悪いボーカルばかりで、日本語の平たい発音を、どうひねくり回しても真似することができない。私は責任を持って教えましたが、全力投球は出来なかったこと、白状します。

住居は、日本語 Instructor として到着した最初の一週間のみ、フレドニア村の郵便局長だった人の未亡人、エドナ・トゥーミー夫人の家に、ゲストとして滞在。次いで Semester ごとの契約で、学生達に部屋を貸す家庭が、キャンパス周辺にあまたある中から、大学側が選び斡旋してくれた、チャップマン夫妻の家に移り、結局2学期通して夫妻の家に住みました。

Chapter 2

I Teach Japanese in a Small U.S. Town

America was beginning to show more and more interest in Japan's culture, history, business practices, etc. It was for this reason that a remote college at the northern tip of New York State started to include Japanese language in its curriculum. It was called the “Experimental Program,” and they had a government subsidy for it.

The very first class to which I was assigned had only five students. Out of five, two dropped out later. I taught the remaining three from January through May, and again from August to December, two semesters. The textbook we used was quite voluminous, compiled by a Japanese couple. I don't recall the name of the textbook, or the authors' names. None of the three male students had a flair for the language: they were totally unable to mimic the flat and monotonous Japanese sounds. I taught them with proper manners befitting a responsible teacher, but I confess that I did not give one hundred percent.

For the first week after my arrival, I was a guest at Mrs. Edna Toomey's beautiful house. She had recently been widowed. Mr. Arthur Toomey, who was the postmaster of the Fredonia Post Office, died only six months prior. After a week, I moved into Mr. and Mrs. Alan Chapman's household. Many families around the campus offered their rooms to students. The college selected the Chapman house

エドナ・トゥーミー夫人は(あだ名がテッド)最初会ったときは、ほんの半年前に夫が病死したという話し。頼りとなる子供も居なかつたのに、めそめそしたところはその気配すら無い、気丈な初老婦人でした。郵便局長となると、村の有産階級であつたらしく、彼女はかなり豪奢な家に住んでいました。

初めて接する東洋の娘が珍しかつたに違ひなく、近隣の仲間の有閑婦人らを集めて、私を紹介するパーティをしたり、教会へ連れてってくれたりしました。教会はカトリック。私がチャップマン夫妻の家に移つてから間もなくして、ニューヨークのニコン・オフィスの修理工2人が、週末に私を訪ねて來てくれた折は、彼らに一夜の宿を提供してくれたりもし、翌年私が日本に帰国し、またその二年後に再度渡米してシカゴに住むようになってからも、彼女とは交信が続きました。

チャップマン夫妻は、テッドからみたらずっと質素な家に住み、教養もあまりなさそうでしたが、私のことを「私達の東洋の娘」と呼んで、ことのほか大事にしてくれました。私も居心地がよかつたにちがいなく、最初一学期の約束だつたのが、続いて第二学期も彼らの家に住みました。

夫妻には、既に結婚した娘3人がおり、3人ともフレドニアからさして遠くない地域に住み、お孫さん達がぞろぞろ、よく遊びにきました。チャップマン氏は、近くのセネカ・インディアン保留地にあつたバプティスト教会の Lay Minister で、私は日曜ごとに夫妻に連れられて、その教会に行きました。

as my boarding place. I stayed with them through the two semesters.

Mrs. Edna Toomey, known among her friends as "Ted," was a robust elderly woman with no children. One would think she might be lonesome and disconsolate due to the very recent loss of her husband. She was far from it. A no-nonsense type. Well-to-do. She took a great interest in me. She invited her wealthy lady friends to her regal house to introduce me. She took me to her church on Sunday. She was Catholic. Not long after I had moved to the Chapman's, two young men from Nikon came to Fredonia to visit me one weekend. Ted was so kind as to offer them an overnight lodging in her house.

I returned to Tokyo the following year. After two years, I came back to the U.S. and started to live in Chicago. All through the years, Ted and I stayed in contact, writing back and forth.

The Chapmans were less polished than Ted. They lived in an unpretentious house, some distance from Ted's. They were extremely nice to me, though. They called me "our daughter from the Orient." I must have liked living with them, for I ended up staying with them for two semesters, contrary to the initial agreement to stay for the first semester only. The Chapmans had three married daughters. They all had children and they all lived nearby. The Chapman house was deluged by small tots quite often. Mr. Chapman was a lay minister of a Baptist church on the Seneca Indian Reservation,

チャップマン宅では、初めの春の学期は、フレドニア大学の4年生で、卒業したら結婚する予定になっていたアニタ・ケニッヒが同居人。秋からは、部屋を借りてたのは私だけ。夫妻はことごとに私を可愛がり、私は単なるテナントで、月々の部屋代を払っていたわけですが、食事は殆ど夫妻と一緒にでした。

2人がフィラデルフィアまで車旅行をした折は、ちょうど Spring break で学校は休み、他にすることもなし、私は一緒にくつついて行き、途中 Pennsylvania Dutch Country を横切って、風変わりなアーミッシュの人々の生活ぶりを、ちょくら垣間見たりしました。

一学期はあっと言う間に終わりましたが、その間私は、私と同じような実験教科プログラムで大学に来てた、フランス人とベルギー人の女の子と知り合いました。アネットはパリ出身、週3回くらいフランス語を教授していましたが、アメリカ人のことは、おおむね見下していました。

ベルギー人のマリーフランスは音楽の講師で、二人は機関銃のごときスピードで、フランス語を喋りました。二人共、英語はカタコトだったので、これをよいことに私は、彼女等と話すときはもっぱらフランス語を使ったのですが、アネットのほうは、日本人のつたないフランス語なんぞ聞きたくないよ、という態度をあからさまに示し、私がフランス語で質問すると、必ずヘタクソ英語で返答するという無礼さ。マリーフランスは、少し年長でもあり優しい人で、私の間違った表現をすぐ訂正してくれました。

somewhere north of Fredonia. I was taken there on Sundays.

There was another student tenant who lived in the Chapman house during the first semester. Anita Koenig was a senior at Fredonia, and she was to marry as soon as the spring semester was over. In fact, I was invited to Anita's wedding which took place in early summer in a town not too far from Fredonia. During the fall semester, I was the Chapmans' only tenant. Even though I was their tenant, paying a monthly rental fee, the Chapmans treated me as though I were their daughter. Indeed, I had all my meals with them in their kitchen. When they took a trip by car to Philadelphia, crossing the vast Pennsylvania Dutch Country, I went along with them.

During the first semester, which came and went quickly, I became friends with two European girls as well: One was French and the other was Belgian. Annette hailed from Paris. She taught French in the same experimental language program that enlisted me to teach Japanese. She looked down upon American students, in general. Marie-France, the Belgian, taught Music. They talked with each other in French at machine-gun speed, but struggled to speak rudimentary English to me. I took advantage of this, and used French in talking to them. Annette had no patience with my elementary French, and showed her displeasure at once. If I asked her a question in French, she would respond, quite rudely, in her poor English. Marie-France was a little older, and she

もう間もなく夏休み、という頃になったある日、アネットとマリーフランスと大学食堂でランチを食べてた折、二人から「私達は大学が外国人学生に提供してる VISIT Program に参加して、グレイハウンドバスでアメリカ横断旅行をするつもりだが、貴女一緒に行きませんか？」と誘われました。

VISIT とは Ventures for International Students Interested in Traveling で、外国人学生及び講師たちが対象、大学がスポンサーとなってくれ、長距離グレイハウンドバスの特別料金『99日間99ドル』を利用して、全米好きな所を自在に訪ね回れる、且つ行く先々には VISIT Program に参加しているアメリカ人家庭が、Host family として待機してくれ、宿を提供してくれる、というものでした。

日本語クラスは、最初の一学期のみと思っていたところ、秋からの第二学期も継続する、ということになっていました。私は、チャップマン夫妻の裏庭の芝生にひっくり返って本を読んだり、彼らとテレビの『ペリー・コモ・ショウ』を漫然と見たり、セネカ・インディアンの教会に行ったりばかりで、長い夏休みを過ごすつもりは無かったので、二人の誘いに躊躇無く応じ、このあともう一人ジェニーというギリシャ人の女の子も加わり、四人で、真夏のアメリカ大陸を、長距離バスで縦横斜めに駆け回ることとなりました。行く先々の Host family 情報を、しっかり大学側から取り、何日かけて、こまごまとした旅行プランを練りました。

ただこの時、不運にも、私の米国滞在期限が間もなく切れるということが判明し、その延長手

was a gentle soul. She would patiently correct my inept French.

The long summer break, customary for U.S. schools, was approaching. One day, while we were having lunch together at the school cafeteria, Annette and Marie-France said to me: "We are planning a bus trip across the U.S., taking advantage of the "VISIT Program" that Fredonia College sponsors. Would you like to come with us?"

VISIT stands for "Ventures for International Students Interested in Traveling." It was a program that Fredonia College offered to its foreign students and instructors. We would travel to various cities and sites all over the U.S., riding the Greyhound Bus, using its special rate "99 Days for \$99," which was available only to foreign nationals.

"Besides, wherever we go, there'll be an American host family, who is a participant in VISIT, waiting for us. We get to stay at their house, and they are supposed to show us around! C'est merveilleux! Viens avec nous! Ryoko!" they exclaimed joyously.

I had no plans for the summer break, but I didn't want to spend the whole summer, lying on Chapmans' backyard lawn, reading books, or watching with them the Perry Como Show on TV at night, or going to their Seneca Indians' church. Therefore, I did not hesitate to join in the wonderful adventure plan. Soon afterwards, a Greek girl, Jenny, joined. We worked on the detailed itinerary, making sure that we had

続きをビザのスポンサーである Japan Society が始めており、その結論が出るまで、私はフレドニアの地を離れるべからず、というお達しが、ダグラス・オーバートン氏のニューヨーク・オフィスから入ってきました。

このため私は、結局3週間近く足止めを食らい、全旅程の前半をミスする羽目となりました。

ヨーロッパ組3人が出立したあと、夏季休暇で学生達が居なくなつて死んだようになつたフレドニア村(なんせ、ここには畠とぶどう園しかないんだから)で、チャップマン夫妻相手の退屈な日々を過ごしました。

滞在期限延長なるの報せが Japan Society から届くや、直ちにグレイハウンド・バスに飛び乗つて、私の最初の Host family が待つシカゴへ。

先行のアネット達も、シカゴが先ず最初の訪問地で、彼らはそれぞれに異なる、VISIT プログラム参加ファミリーの家に2晩泊まつた後、西へ西へと移動していった筈。カリフォルニア州はロス、サンフランシスコ、サンディエゴを訪問、そこからネバダ・アリゾナ州を経てコロラド州デンバーへ、ここで私が彼らに合流することになつていました。

シカゴにおける私の Host family は、市の北部、ミシガン湖沿いのハイランド・パークに住む、超金持ちといった感じのアロン・シャインフェルド夫妻でした。夫妻は、市のだまん中にあるグレイハウンドのバス・ターミナルで私を迎えてくれ、

all the information about the host family at every destination.

There was a small problem. In those days, I was totally ignorant about the U.S. Immigration Office's "authorized temporary stay" rule. That authorization was about to expire and the Japan Society, as my sponsor, had begun applying for an extension of my stay in the U.S. I could not leave Fredonia until the extension was approved. My three European friends left on our venture trip, but I was held behind. I believe I missed the first three weeks of our meticulously planned trip. Fredonia was a quiet town, with nothing but farmlands and vineyards. Now the college students were all gone, and the place was dead. I was bored. The moment I heard from the Japan Society that my extension had been approved, I took off. I got on the long-distance Greyhound bus, and headed for Chicago, my first stop.

Chicago was the first stop for my three European friends, also. They stayed there three days, each staying with a different host family. From there, they headed West, all the way to California, doing the sights of Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego. They then turned around and traveled eastward, going through Nevada and Arizona, finally meeting me in Denver, Colorado.

I was met by my Chicago host family, Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Scheinfeld of Highland Park. They were waiting for me at the downtown Chicago bus terminal, and took me to dinner to the now defunct Blackhawk Restaurant. What a hugely

そこから、今はもう数年前に閉店している、名高い Blackhawk レストランへ、夕食に連れてつてくれました。久しぶりに身を置いたアメリカの大都市！ダウンタウンのそこらをちょっと歩いただけで、怒涛の如く押し寄せてくる精神の高揚！私はやはり、都会人間だ。

二日間の滞在中、記憶に残っているのは、夫妻の豪邸のすぐ鼻の先にあった Ravinia Park での名高いサマーコンサートに案内してもらい、日本の小澤征爾が大変な人気者であることを目撃したこと、夫妻の家の目を見張るような美しいプールで、訪ねてきた夫妻のお孫さんたちと泳いだこと、私が26歳で日本にボーライフレンドもいないと知った夫妻が、私の身の振りを心配して、知人である日系米人の家に私を連れてって、そこの息子を私に引き合させたこと、などです。ウーン、このアメリカにも、日本の仲人式のことをやりたがる人が居たのか！

シャインフェルド氏は、既に引退のご身分とお見受けしましたが、その長男が、当時マンパワーという名の、今で言う人材銀行の要職についてるお方である、ということを夫妻はその折私に話し、「マンパワーは東京にも支店がある故、お前も帰国した暁にはそこへ名前を登録すべきである、。。。」

少々脱線しますが、その翌年日本に帰ってから、私は実際にそのマンパワー東京支店に名前を登録し、短期間ではありました、仕事をしました。その頃は、『戦後日本』という言葉はすでに廃れ、後にその名世界に轟くこととなる『ジャパン・インク』がめきめき成長しだす直前で、欧米のビジネスがひきもきらずに日本に押

different place Chicago was, coming from the sleepy village of Fredonia! I felt my heart leap high as I walked its bustling streets with the Scheinfelds.

A few things I recall from my three days with the Scheinfelds were: They took me to the renowned Ravinia Park Concert (they lived a few blocks from the Park). The Japanese conductor who was performing that night, Seiji Ozawa, was enormously popular. I swam in the beautiful Scheinfeld swimming pool with their grandchildren. When they found that I didn't have a boyfriend here or in Japan, they took me to their Japanese American friends' house to introduce me to their unmarried son. Wow! Matchmakers in the U.S.! Well, I was preoccupied with catching up with my European friends in Denver, you know. Besides, the guy was not my type.

Mr. Scheinfeld was a retired man. He told me that his son headed a job placement agency called "Manpower," which had a branch office in Tokyo. He said, "When you go back to Japan, Ryoko, make sure that you register with Manpower Japan."

Let me go off on a tangent here. After going back to Tokyo the next year, I did register with "Manpower Japan," briefly. It was the time when "Japan, Inc." was just about to flourish on a global scale, and businesses from the U.S.A. and Europe were pouring into Japan, wave after wave. Being equipped with the ability to use English and English stenography, I was on regular call from Manpower Japan to be assigned to work temporarily with business executives from the U.S. One of them was

し寄せてきていました。英文速記や英会話が達者だった私は、当時来日し続けてた外国企業・ビジネスマン等の臨時秘書的な仕事をし、東京狭しと駆け回ったのです。その時、アメリカン・ビジネスマンの一人が私の英語力を高く買い、アメリカで仕事をしませんか、とて、結局私のために米国永住権を取得する手続きをしてくれました。

それが私の2度目の渡米(1969年)、引いては終生の友ジムとの邂逅につながるわけで、私は運命論者では少しもないのですが、あのVISITプログラムで旅行した折、最初のHost family シャインフェルド夫妻に出会って、マンパワー東京支店の名を聞いたことは、どこか運命的だったかもしれません。

シカゴの次の訪問地はコロラド州デンバー、そこまで一気に、一人でグレイハウンドバス。ここで、既にカリフォルニア、ネバダ、アリゾナの各州あちこちを回ってきた、ヨーロッパ・ガール達と合流し、そのあとはコロラド州のコロラド・スプリングス、ニューメキシコ州のサンタフェ、ロス・アラモスからテキサス州ダラス、フォートワース、サン・アントニオ、ルイジアナ州ニューオリンズ、ジョージア州アトランタ、フロリダ州タンパ、デイトナビーチ、続いて首府ワシントンを経てニューヨークへ、全行程7月から8月にかけての真夏の一ヶ月を、4人仲良くこなしました。

Host family それぞれには、別れを告げ次の目的地に向かうバスに乗るやすく、お礼のカードを書きました。アネットたちは、それぞれにカードを書いた時もあったようですが、私の書いたものに便乗してサインしたこともありました。

particularly impressed with my written English. He later took the trouble of applying for my U.S. permanent residency, which brought me back to the U.S. in 1969, this time to live in Chicago.

I would not have returned to the U.S. without working with Manpower Japan, as suggested by my VISIT host, the Scheinfelds, and subsequently meeting that American businessman in Tokyo, who went out of his way to obtain the U.S. permanent residency for me. I would not have returned to Chicago, where I met my future husband. It was destiny!

From Chicago, I went to Denver, where I joined my three friends at a roadside Greyhound bus stop, which was our meeting point. I was taken there by my Denver host family, and my friends arrived there on the Greyhound Bus. I was so very happy to see them. They had been to various locations in California, Nevada, and Arizona over the prior three weeks.

From there we travelled together. The places we visited were: Colorado Springs, Colorado; Santa Fe and Los Alamos, New Mexico; Dallas-Fort Worth and San Antonio, Texas; New Orleans, Louisiana; Atlanta, Georgia; Tampa and Daytona, Florida; Washington, D.C., and New York. The entire trip took about four weeks, in the sweltering heat of mid-summer.

We had wonderful host families, one after another. We would say goodbye to the host family and get on the Greyhound Bus, heading for the next stop. I wrote "thank-

またこの旅行中、何でも書くことが好きな私は、毎日簡単な英文日記をつけたこと、はっきり記憶にあるのですが、残念ながらそれは、日本に持ち帰ったあと喪失しています。

私達が利用した『99日間99ドル』(註)という格安料金は、外国人のみが対象で、アメリカ人たちに聞かせるとみな羨ましがった記憶がありますが、実に驚揚なことに、99日間は全米どこへでもバス旅行ができ、また同じ2都市間を何度も行き来しても良い、というおまけまでついていました。

ニューオリンズは Host family が居なくて、私達は安ホテルに泊まりましたが、町自体はみんな気に入って、もう一度行きましょうよ、と意見が合い、またそこへ舞い戻ったりもしました。

ニューヨークが4人で作った旅行プランの最終訪問地で、グループはここで解散、私はニコンの青年達と旧交を温めたのち、フレドニアに戻りました。3人のヨーロッパ組は、ニューヨークからそれぞれ帰国したと記憶します。

マリーフランスのみと、日本に帰国してからも暫く交信がありました。

フレドニアでは続く第二学期を教えました。私の任務が終わる少し前に、椎木さんという日本女性が私の交代として到着し、彼女もチャップマン宅を滞在先と決めたので、家中は急に賑やかになりました。

私は、1967年1月、無事東京の両親の元に帰りました。このときアメリカ中西部を襲った

you" notes, as soon as we got on the bus. I let my travel companions sign their names on my card. Occasionally, they wrote their own "thank-you" notes. I remember distinctly that I kept a diary written in English throughout our trip, and that I took it home to my parents. Regrettably, it's been long lost.

The Greyhound Bus' "99 days for \$99" (Note) program was truly amazing. Lots of Americans we met on the road envied us. It allowed us to go anywhere in the U.S. within the specified 99 days. We could repeat the same route, back and forth, if we wanted. We did not have a host family in New Orleans, and consequently, we stayed in a hotel. We enjoyed doing the sights of the city so much, however, that we returned there a few days later. New York was our final destination. We disbanded there. The European girls flew back to their respective home countries. I stopped at the Nikon office to say hello, and then returned to Fredonia. Marie-France and I corresponded not only during my second semester at Fredonia but also after I returned to Japan.

I resumed teaching Japanese at Fredonia in its fall semester. My replacement instructor, Ms. Shiiki, arrived in late December. She decided to board at the Chapman's, to their great delight.

I returned to Japan in January, 1967. That was the time when the entire Midwest region was hit by the great snowstorm. I

未曾有の大吹雪のため、バッファローからシカゴへの便が出ず、ニューヨーク回りで帰国したこと、記憶しています。

could not fly to Chicago, for O'Hare Airport was closed. I flew to New York, instead, to catch the international flight back home.

Note from prior page: I checked the history of "Greyhound Bus" in Wikipedia, and found the following passage under its "Post-War Expansion" sub-title:

"Since late 1950's, for many young people from Europe, Greyhound was the way they got to know America because of a special unlimited mileage offer: "99 days for \$99" or, in other words, a dollar a day, anytime, anyplace, and anywhere."

Regrettably, my search for the "VISIT," Ventures for International Students Interested in Traveling program, on the Web, produced nothing.



⟨ Pictures from my Fredonia days and from the VISIT trip will follow on this and on the following pages. >

⟨ End of Chapter 2 >



Mrs. Edna Toomey



Mr. & Mrs. Chapman and Mr. Chapman's mother



Mrs. Toomey's house



Seneca Indian children in front of the Church



Chapmans' house



Anita Koenig and me



Anita in Fredonia winterland



Anita in spring, in Chapmans' backyard



Anita with her fiancé on her graduation day



Anita and me



Baptist church on Seneca Indian reservation where Mr. Chapman was the lay minister.



One of the Chapman daughters Ann with her children



Two of my students



Mrs. Toomey and her neighbor, Mrs. Graff



I was met by Mr. and Mrs. Scheinfeld at the Chicago downtown Greyhound Bus terminal



Mrs. Scheinfeld on the beach of Lake Michigan in Highland Park



Mr. Aaron Scheinfeld at the pool-side of his residence



Mrs. Scheinfeld and me



The Scheinfeld swimming pool



Me, in Denver, Colorado



With the daughter of my Denver host family



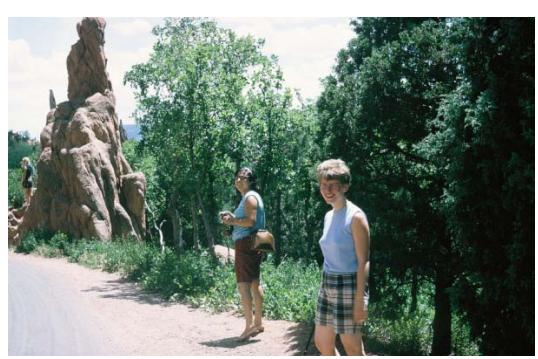
Me, in Colorado Springs, CO



Marie-France with her host family in Colorado Springs



Marie-France in Los Alamos, NM



Marie-France, with Jenny in the background, in Colorado Springs



From the left, Marie-France, Annette, and Jenny. Dallas, maybe?



Annette, in Los Alamos



With the host family in San Antonio



Busch Garden, Tampa, Florida



Marie-France and Jenny, in front of the New Orleans hotel



On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C.



Jenny and me, in front of the New Orleans hotel



Back in New York, Bronx Zoo



In front of the New Orleans hotel, getting ready to leave for Tampa, FL



The Chapmans and Ms. Shiiki, who was my replacement at the College. She decided to board at the Chapmans. I believe the photo was taken at the Buffalo Airport, as I was flying to New York, on my way back to Japan.