

**PERSPECTIVE
MY MEMORY OF HIROE CLOW
BY NORIKO ADCOCK
SAN DIEGO**

I have encountered many people in my lifetime. One woman who made a strong impression upon my life was Mrs. Hiroe Clow.

In 1964, my whole family moved from San Diego to Seattle due to my husband's job transfer. There I met Mrs. Clow, who was the chapter leader. It took two hours from where I lived to drive to her home, which served as a center for our SGI activities for propagation. At times, after introducing people to Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism, we would drive back to her place late in the evening, cheerfully singing Gakkai songs in the car such as "Takeda Soldier". We all felt so refreshed after sharing this practice with others. My memory of those days are still vivid, as if they happened just yesterday.

At that time, I was only a year-and-a-half member. Hiroe Clow really took good care of me in faith. Her honesty and straightforwardness captured my heart. I really liked her. Her remarks were succinct yet profound, and at times she was strict, yet warm. The depth of her passion was awesome. Indeed she was an amazing leader.

Then, due to changes in my circumstances, I returned to San Diego with my three children. Thus I no longer had opportunities to spend time with Mrs. Clow. I wish I could have practiced even longer with her. Had I been able to practice longer with her, I could have probably grown much more in faith.

In 1974, our organization's convention was held in San Diego, and I happened to hear that Mrs. Clow was in town for this event. Delighted, I looked for her all over the convention site. When we were able to see each other again, we hugged each other and cried together.

As years passed by, I had began practicing with Nichiren Shoshu and was astounded to hear that Hiroe Clow sued High Priest Nikken Abe about the Seattle Incident. I was convinced that Mrs. Clow was telling the truth, but since I belonged to the temple, I was not in a position to express my trust in her. And even if I had defended her, I doubt anyone in the temple would have believed me.

At that time, I really wanted to hear directly from her about this matter. I knew she would tell me the truth.

Incidentally, I had received a letter from her in which she says, "Please come and see me in Los Angeles since I have moved from Seattle to Los Angeles." Tragically, however, I lost her letter and could not contact her. In those days, since the SGI leaders knew that I was a member of the temple, I doubted they would give me her address. While I gave up visiting her, I heard the sad news that she passed away. I deeply regret that I did not see her before she died.

I chanted all day for her before I wrote this. While I was chanting I sensed that Hiroe Clow was by me, smiling, and I could not stop crying. It was a wondrous experience. I now firmly believe she is the one who feels happiest about my return to the SGI. At the same time, I vowed to follow in her footsteps in faith, trying to build up my faith even to the point where my faith is an inch closer to hers.

Hiroe Clow, I will pray for your peace and lasting happiness. You were a great senior in faith and a friend for whom I deeply cared. Toward the verdict of the Seattle Incident trial on March 21, I will chant for justice to be proven.