

Ming Yin College Outings

Classes at Ming Yin College would from time to time have outings, often hikes and picnics. The school also had Scouts and Girl Guides clubs which had the occasional outings. I would sometimes join these outings though this seems to have been mainly (perhaps only) with the classes from the first Form 1 and Form 2. I don't seem to have gone on any outings after that. Again, I have a number of photographs of outings with comments written on the back. I think I sent these home to New Zealand for the folks to see. The details below closely follow what I wrote at that time.

Visit to the Skek Kong area

This was a hike and picnic to the Shek Kong area which I knew almost nothing about in those days. It was in the second year of the school (1967 - 1968) with a Form 3 class who were the original Form 2. How we got to Shek Kong I don't recall, but it was probably by bus. We began the hike on a road by the army camp that winds its way to the Tai Lam Chung reservoir (which I now know well because of my weekend running in this area.) We walked for what seemed like ages to the small reservoir shown in the photograph where the picnic was held. (I note that there seems to be more trees in the area now than then.)

Another picnic

This picnic, probably also in the same year, was with my Form 2B Science class who were part of the original Form 1 when the school was founded. This picnic is at some coastal area though the water was too rough for swimming.

On picnics, students always took plenty of food which usually consisted of chicken parts and beef for barbecuing, bread and fruit and water bottles. And, of course, plenty of equipment for a barbecue.



A picnic in the Shek Kong area. Note that at the back fourth from the right is a teacher - with a tie! On a picnic!



The usual way of cooking the meat is on a charcoal fire. To get the charcoal to ignite, it was not uncommon for it to be doused with a lot of kerosene. This second picture looks posed but it isn't. [In my comments I also added "Notice that all Chinese have black hair." Why I thought this comment was necessary I don't know.]

In the third photograph, the boys were having trouble getting this fire started. (Perhaps they did not have any kerosene on it!)

In the third picture, I am wearing my all-purpose green pullover, which I wore a lot; it was without any holes in it at that stage. (The wearing of a pullover suggests that the picnic was in the cooler months.) Notice the girl next to me holding a bowl of food. Bowls would even be taken on picnic then to hold food rather than just paper plates. The girl at the back left had a silly schoolgirl crush on me and was most upset when I said I may be leaving the school in July of that year (1968). [Remember my original intention was to come to Hong Kong to teach for only two years.]

I included the final picture (below) out of a morbid sense of humour (so I wrote on the back of the photograph). At first men were digging holes and burning rubbish. I thought they were good civic-minded citizens. Then along came the coffin with a corpse and the cameras. Our picnic was taking place behind and to the right of this scene.



Cooking chicken over a BBQ



Trying to start the fire



I had to cook my own food!



A grave scene!

Scouts and Guides

I went on a one-day outing with the school scouts and guides to a place called “Junk Bay” which in those days was hard to get to. The Chinese YMCA had a very good camp site there. Again the boys in this picture are having trouble lighting the fire for a barbecue. They are trying to blow air into it to get the charcoal to ignite.

The second picture shows the Girl Guides on the same outing. While playing a game, I was caught in the corner by the flagpole so to escape, I climbed it (and bent it in the process!).

In those days, old ships were broken up for scrap. The name “Junk Bay” does not derive from this however.



Boy scouts



Girl guides