

THE HISTORY OF CHIGASAKI

Ohyama-michi

The tallest mountain that people in the city may look at to the right of Mt. Fuji toward the northwest is called *Ohyama*. The mountain is 1,252 meters high and is in the Tanzawa National Park located at the border of three cities; Isehara, Hatano and Ebina, a part of old *Sagami-no-kuni* (present Kanagawa prefecture that Chigasaki belongs to).

Now, at an area close to the Yotsuya crossing in Fujisawa, a fairly narrow road branches out of Tokaido, Route 1, toward the northwest and that is *Ohyama-michi*. It takes you to the final goal of roughly 30 km to *Ohyama*, and, close to the top of the mountain, there is a shrine called *Ohyama AFURI JINJA*.

In Horeki years (1750's), the middle Edo era, it became very popular among people in Kanto (Tokyo and neighboring cities) to visit the shrine, and it was not only for worship but for pleasure trips too. A number of people used *Ohyama-michi* to get there. In the meantime, when they visit *Ohyama AFURI JINJA* they always dropped by a shrine on Enoshima on the way back. The two of them were a sort of pair, and visitors wanted to worship the God of *AFURI JINJA* and the Goddess of Enoshima.

As *Ohyama* mountain has a shape resembling Mt. Fuji, it came to be the sacred mountain and many people climbed up to worship in those days, it is said. The shrine was prayed at by farmers to the God for rain especially when drought continued or famine increased. In other words, the purpose of these people's visits was in obtaining faith, good crops and praying for rain. The expression of *Ohyama mairi* refers to this.

Ohyama-michi went through villages in Chigasaki; Akabane, Takada, Enzo and Kagawa, crossing over the Makado bridge of Koidegawa, and also went through Ichinomiya in Samukawa. Then it crossed over the large Sagami-gawa by ferry at Tamura to get to Hiratsuka, and went on to *Ohyama* through Isehara city. (The road is called Tamura-dori these days.) Actually, there are quite a few *Ohyama* highways for people to visit *AFURI JINJA* from all directions, and *Ohyama-michi* is one of small local roads that goes to *Ohyama*.

There are many guideposts and stone markers all along *Ohyama-michi*, and one of them as well as a *Torii* (sacred gateway at the entrance to a Shinto shrine) at Yotsuya are special as their location is the parting point from Tokaido. There were many tea shops, temporary lodging houses, and so forth, and they flourished in those days.

If you close your eyes standing in front of the guidepost, you may feel the bustling atmosphere of *Ohyama-michi* in the Edo era. The feeling still remains there.



RENTA CYCLE FOR SHOPPING AND SIGHTSEEING IN CHIGASAKI

Working together with citizens including shop owners, manufacturers, students, and so forth, the city is providing 100 bicycles to be used for shopping, sightseeing, businesses, or for whatever purposes at the cost of ¥300 per day. These bicycles are available at 7 shops near Chigasaki station and at 12 shops in other areas in the city. Recently, while they are being used by businessmen too, it's a good ecological tool to go to the beach, hill side, cultural assets or specific buildings, and to do shopping as well.

If you go to the information counter at the Station lobby, there is a free tour map. It's called "*CHIGASAKI Renta Cycle Map*" and you will know where you can rent a bicycle. Also, you will notice CHIGASAKI is working hard to demonstrate this particular program.

Actually, the city is aiming at building an *ECO* friendlier society where citizens can live in health and peace, and on traffic issues, they are trying to upgrade its system to include a bicycle lane, flat or barrier free streets, mirrors at crossings, road signs, etc.

A new life style of healthy bicycle riding in a sea breeze will symbolize the city as *THE TOWN OF BICYCLE*.



レンタ号

"ECO-LIFE" My Bag Daythe 5th, 15th and 25th every month

The picture here suggests we bring MY BAG to do shopping in super markets in Chigasaki on such designated days as those that end in 5 every month.

It is said that you can reduce the amount of garbage by 600 tons a year in the city if everybody will stop using plastic bags that you receive at the register.



A GOOD LITTLE THING

ちょっといい話 AN EVENTFUL TRAIN RIDE

In a morning of the examination season this February, there was a young girl and her mother who got on the "Shonan Liner", the so-called rapid train of the Tokaido line, at Fujisawa station to go toward Tokyo. After the train passed Ofuna station, there was a conductor's announcement notifying the names of the stations the train was going to stop.

Then the couple started to feel nervous and looked at each other. Suddenly, the mother started to run backward to the train's rear part, and the daughter followed her mother hurriedly. The purpose, apparently, was to talk to the conductor.

After leaving Yokohama, the Liner approached Kawasaki and what happened was that the train stopped at Kawasaki for roughly 10 seconds, a really short period of time. All the passengers wondered why because the train was not supposed to stop there, but the circumstances became clear to them by the conductor's later announcement. The daughter was going to attend the entrance examination for a school in Kawasaki escorted by her mother, but they got on the train without knowing it was the Liner and wouldn't stop at Kawasaki.

The conductor heard their urgency and took an instant action to stop the train. The minimum temporary stop was his quick decision even though his action was a sort of violation. The mother and daughter could get off the train through the small door of the conductor's room. The young girl could probably receive her examination thanks to his wonderful gesture.

The conductor's explanation for the short but sudden stop made the passengers feel relieved and smiled, according to one of them who happened to be on the train.

WHAT IN CHIGASAKI WILL APPEAL TO FOREIGNERS?

One of the NPOs in Chigasaki is trying to advertize the city and Shonan area so that more people from overseas will become interested in coming here. They are looking for some foreign people who live in Chigasaki, know it well, and are able to give some idea as to how they can attract foreigners from overseas. And whoever is interested in such a project are requested to join though the number of participants needed would be only about five or six.

The NPO is prepared to have meetings and discussions at some time in the near future at a convenient time for the participants.

Whoever is interested in this project, please let us know and we will be happy to help coordinate this for you. They are in need of your help.

THE THIRD SHONAN INT' L MARATHON ON NOVEMBER 16

The Shonan International Marathon is coming up on November 16, and there will be some traffic regulations or closures as follows:

8:30-5:30 Seisho Bypass (Ninomiya IC) ~ Route 134 (New Enoshima Aquarium) **Both Lanes**

Shin Seisho Bypass (Chigasaki Nishi IC) ~ Chigasaki Kaigan IC

Down Lane only

8:30-10:30 Route 1 (Oiso/Kokufushinjuku ~ Chojamachi)

~ Hiratsuka/Togahara **Both Lanes**

~ Sagami Kamotsu-eki **Down Lane only**