

The History of Chigasaki Station

Chigasaki station opened on June 15 of Meiji 31 (1898). It was much later than Fujisawa and Hiratsuka because both of them had developed as major post towns already at the time *TŌKAIDŌ* (the present National Route 1) was running between Edo (present Tokyo) and Osaka. In those days the area where Chigasaki is now located was just a clump of 24 villages where travelers stopped to take a rest or have something to eat or drink. That's why the area had been called Chaya-Machi; a town of tea houses literally speaking. There were no places to stay over night like in Fujisawa and Hiratsuka.

The person who worked on the Japan National Railway to build a station in Chigasaki was *Satonosuke Itoh*. He thought he could revitalize Chigasaki village by having a railway station.

He intended to invite people from other cities and to increase the population by introducing residential areas on the seaside with beautiful nature, and to advance economical and cultural development of the village.

The opening of the station brought an unexpectedly big effect. It greatly helped transportation of fresh fish and vegetables to cities and also increased the number of people who enjoyed beachcombing in the summer making the local economy pick up to an unexpected level.

The full transportation service of the Tokaido railway between Shinbashi and Kobe Station was opened in July of Meiji 22 (1889).

The operation of the present Shonan Line started in Showa 25 (1950) between Tokyo and Numazu in Shizuoka Prefecture. That is after World War II.

The charms of Chigasaki city was thus brought about by *Satonosuke Itoh*, chief of the old village in those days.

Confucius says.....

"Do not worry that the others do not know about you, but rather worry about not knowing about the others."

Private Workshop Series III NOGUCHI Shoe Studio

On the Tomoe Street that runs from the JR station toward Nango across the Southern street, there is a shoe studio on the right side. The studio called Noguchi Kutsu Kobo (Shoe Studio) is traditional Japanese style architecture. The front of the house is not so conspicuous that you might pass by, but the house is 50 years old and inside you can also see an old large beam supporting the roof.

The owner of the studio, Mr. Masaji Noguchi who used to be a public officer became a shoe maker and started teaching shoes making. They are very popular among those who want to wear their own shoes, especially women. His career of a shoe maker began with a small piece of an article in magazine which he happened to see. At that time, he was looking for some other work which will satisfy him life-long.

The present studio is the second one since he had opened his first studio in Chigasaki in 2001. Recently the classes are full. So, it might take some time to join class but you must be able to make shoes of your own style as you desire.

Entrance Fee ¥10,000, Monthly Fee ¥10,000, material costs may range from ¥6,000~¥10,000

NOGUCHI Shoes Studio "Lobby Chigasaki"

Address: 1-11-15, Tomoe, Chigasaki

Tel/Fax: 0467-88-6967 E-mail: info@nogutsu.com

URL: <http://www.nogutsu.com/>



Subsidy for Child-seat Purchaser

The city is offering a rebate for child seats equipped in cars for children under 6 years of age, and those who purchased child-seats are given partial rebate though it is necessary to apply within one year after the purchase. To equip child-seat is regulated by the law.

The object: Those who purchased a new child-seat for a second baby and satisfy the following conditions: (1) The one who has his/her address in the city at the time of purchase. (2) The one who supports more than two children.

The amount: The city will subsidize 50% of the amount paid although the amount is maximized at ¥5,000 for a second baby and up to ¥10,000 for a third baby on, though only one rebate is allowed for the same baby.

The application requires you to attach (1) Application form filled in (available at the Child Section of City Hall), (2) The original receipt (which clearly shows the day of purchase, the amount, and the commodity name), (3) A copy of quality guarantee card, (4) A copy of the car inspection certificate, and (5) The bank deposit note of the applicant (excepting the post-office savings note).

In the case of new car purchases with a child-seat already equipped or if there are any other questions, it is required to consult with the Child Section of City Hall.

A Good Little Thing

A reader's column

One of our readers contributed the following story.

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My wife and I went to a local city in Chiba Prefecture last year to see my son's family. His home was in Tokyo but he moved to Chiba recently so our visit was the first one.

Since it was a weekday, we had a fairly large case filled with gifts for his first daughter, and the departure time of our train was during rush hour, so we bought green car tickets. We didn't want to stand a long time holding the luggage.

When we were waiting for our train, I tried to confirm if I had all the tickets; six in all as we had bought return tickets too. But, I found there was a ticket missing.

I checked all the pockets of my coat, jacket, etc., but couldn't find it, so I went back toward the entrance gate area assuming the ticket might have dropped somewhere. No ticket was seen on the floor, so I gave up and thought it would be OK if I explain the situation to a conductor.

The green car was full, we couldn't get seats, and had kept standing until we got to Totsuka Station. Even so, we needed to show a lady conductor all the tickets including green car and common fare tickets. Needless to say, I needed to explain I had missed a ticket somewhere. She politely responded for us to explain about it at the final station.

At Totsuka we needed to change trains in order to get to Chiba directly. We got on a green car again and I had the same conversation with another conductor. She was also agreeable. Then we needed to change trains again at Chiba to get on a local line to get to our final destination. Naturally we were asked to show if we have right tickets. This way, we had the same conversation three times repeatedly. We couldn't help doing it because to our final destination there is no line to go direct from Chigasaki Station.

After we arrived at the final destination, we went directly to a window and tried to explain to the man in charge that we lost one of our tickets. The response given to us soon was, "Well, we got a phone call from Chigasaki Station earlier and we know you had bought the ticket. So you may go through here all right."

Presumably, somebody picked that ticket up somewhere and brought it to a window at Chigasaki Station.

When I got back to Chigasaki Station in the early p.m., I went to a window and expressed my sincere thanks to the staff, leaving a little thank you note. That's the only thing I could do and wanted to show my appreciation somehow.

The day's experience was really a good surprise, and it was the most pleasant trip I had in my long life.

TIPS

The following website may be useful.

●Back Issues of Chigasaki Breeze

http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/newsection/bunsui/chigasaki_breeze/inc.ex.html

●Train Route Finder (English)

<http://www.jorudan.co.jp/english/http://www.jorudan.co.jp/english/>

●The Kanagawa Prefectural Government Homepage

<http://www.pref.kanagawa.jp/osirase/kokusai/tagengo.htm>