

Laura Greico, B.V.E., R.T.(R)(M).
 “Laura attended meetings in the 1970s as a student, and she’s still attending them. She’s very active in both the CSRT and the ASRT.”

Sister Agnes Therese said she continues to be amazed at how many of her former students are still practicing at St. Jude. “One is in charge of cardiac care special procedures, one is teaching and one is in MR. It is interesting to see the people I have trained still working. It makes me feel good.”

Until recently, she kept busy



Ward Keller and Jan Sisler join Sister Agnes Therese, center, in cutting the cake at the 1995 ASRT Annual Conference, the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the x-ray.

volunteering at the front desk of the assisted living center answering phones and directing visitors, all while thinking up ideas for craft projects that bring her love of the profession to ASRT auctions.

Sister Agnes Therese is about to begin work on a patchwork quilt made of T-shirts from all the meetings she has attended over the years. “Every convention I went to sold T-shirts from National Radiologic Technology Week®, and I’d buy one. They are all boxed up but I plan to pull them out and start the quilt soon.”



Paul Ichino *Dedicated to the Profession; Still Teaching at 83*

By Sandra Gurvis, Contributing Writer

When he graduated from high school in 1941, Long Beach, Calif., resident Paul Ichino planned on becoming a laboratory technician. But World War II intervened, and this first generation Japanese-American was sent to an internment camp in Manzanar, Calif., for 14 months, where people of Japanese descent were separated from the rest of the population “for the duration.” Mr. Ichino, who is now 83, recalled how Japanese-Americans were uprooted from their homes, stripped of their possessions — including property — and relocated because of fear they were aiding the enemy. “The experience matured me,” he said. “I worked in the hospital and the lab there, and that’s where I learned about x-ray.” Although Mr. Ichino went to Chicago after his release from the camp, he soon returned to California to help his parents purchase a house. “No one would sell to them because they were not American citizens.” Ironically, his brother was in

the Army in Europe, where he used his Japanese translation skills for decoding messages. “He really confused the German soldiers,” added Mr. Ichino with a chuckle.

School and work took its toll — some 84 hours a week — but he graduated in 1948 from the School of X-Ray Technology at the College of Medical Evangelist at White Memorial Hospital, which is affiliated with Loma Linda University Medical Center. He passed his radiography certification exam in 1949

and joined the ASRT the same year.

“Back then, radiologic technology was a relatively new field, with many ideas being put forth as to how to improve things,” he recalled. “There weren’t a lot of books [about radiography] so it was important to be a part of an association so you could learn more about the profession.” He took his own advice and is also a long-time member of the Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Science (formerly the Association of University

Radiologic Technologists), the International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists, Association of Collegiate Educators in Radiologic Technology and many others.

“X-ray people are friendly and always willing to help each other out,” he continued. “While visiting my daughter in Columbus, Ohio, I called Phil Ballinger, Ph.D., R.T.(R), FASRT, to ask a question about his book. He invited me to stay at his house the next time I was in town.”

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gems of a generation

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Paul Ichino was president of the California Society of Radiologic Technologists in 1964.

His sense of humor and ability to maintain equilibrium served him well throughout his career. Along with writing several papers and presentations on topics from protecting oneself from radiation to proper patient positioning to clinical evaluations, Mr. Ichino was active in the California Society of Radiologic Technologists, serving in many capacities including two terms as president.

Mr. Ichino gleaned knowledge from more than his fellow R.T.s. "For years, I worked at an orthopedic office at St. Mary's Hospital in Long Beach. The orthopod was internationally known and always encouraged me to produce the best films possible. He encouraged my interest in positioning. We modified a number of positions and

developed positioning aids."

But the early years were often a struggle for Mr. Ichino and other radiologic technologists. "Wages were low, so many of us worked more than one job to make ends meet." In

Mr. Ichino's case, he had a wife and three daughters to support, two of whom had dreams of becoming professional ballerinas, and the necessities of life ate up a lot of income, "not to mention private classes, piano lessons and sports activities." Nowadays, the challenges are different. "Although the

money is much better,

there are so many new developments and things move so fast, it's hard to keep up. Yet more than ever, we need to stay current with the latest technology."

Not surprisingly, he found himself drawn to education. "LACC [Los Angeles City College] was one of the first community colleges in the nation [in 1967], so my boss, Gertrude Pearson, R.T.(R), FASRT, and I had to develop lesson plans and produce our own teaching aids." In 1972 Mr. Ichino got an associate's degree at Long Beach City



Paul Ichino in 1948.

College, his community college teaching credential at UCLA a year later and, in 1976, a bachelor's degree in vocational education. He taught at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa until his retirement in 1989.

Even in retirement, he works part time at El Camino College in Torrance. "One of my former students, current program director Don Visintainer, R.T.(R), called and invited me to help with clinical coordination and lecturing."

Mr. Ichino also participates in the international goodwill organization "Sister Cities" in nearby Downey. Along with hosting visitors, he and his wife, Junet, travel to cities in Mexico and Costa Rica to lend a hand at schools and establish clinics.

His hard work has paid off elsewhere. Daughter Yoko Ichino, an internationally acclaimed ballerina, was the first American to win a medal at the prestigious Third International Ballet Competition in Moscow, and has danced with such stellar troupes as the American Ballet Theatre and the Joffrey Ballet. She has even danced with icon Rudolph Nureyev.

"Thanks to the ASRT and other organizations, I got to where I am today," Mr. Ichino said. "I was able to give my daughter this opportunity and watch her perform in Japan and meet royalty." Talk about coming full circle.



Claire Haynes

She Did It All

By Sandra Gurvis, Contributing Writer

Many people might consider 85-year-old Claire Haynes, R.T.(R), a pioneer. Along with caring for seven young daughters and establishing herself in a field that was also in its infancy, she and her husband William, a physician and surgeon, built and ran a hospital and a doctor's office in Henryetta, Okla.

"My mom met my dad in a hospital in Shreveport, [La.], in 1938 when she was 17," recalled daughter Dorothy Haynes, who moved in with her mother after Mrs. Haynes suffered a stroke in 2002. "She grew up in New Orleans and he was born in Arkansas." Mrs. Haynes graduated from St. Vincent Girl's College and Academy in 1937. Employed in the medical records department, she also was being trained in lab work and radiography. Her future husband "gave her a stick of Juicy Fruit gum and that was it," Dorothy Haynes said.