Only a few Nankai teachers can I remember vividly. One was the music teacher Ruan Bei Ying 阮 北英. He might be the only music teacher in the whole school. There were a total 36 classes in the school. Each class had one hour lesson of music every week. So his teaching load was at least 36 hours a week. He seemed just sitting in front the piano in the music room all day long every day. He was very nice. When we went into the music room, he just gave us a sheet with a song, and then with the accompaniment of the piano we started to sing over and over. He also organized chorus group and gave individual voice lessons to talented students. But we the youngsters did not know about that. I think everyone from Nankai remembers Ruan Lao Shi.

I also remember the English teacher Yu Xian Wen 喻娴文. Her father Yu Chuan Jian 喻传鉴 was the Director-in-Chief of Nankai Middle School. There were the senior middle school, the junior middle school and the girl's school. Each had a director. The Director-in-Chief supervised all three schools. The principal was Zhang Bo Lin 张伯苓. But Zhang was already quite old. So it was Yu who was in charge of the whole school. Yu also came from Sheng Xian and was a friend of my father. So I remember Xian Wen partly because of family relations. I revisited Nankai in the summer of 1980. She had already retired. But as an experienced special-classed teacher, she was recalled to service again. She came out to guide me to tour the campus for my visit. Her father had passed away in 1966.

A few months after Yu Xian Wen took over teaching English in our sophomore year, she had to take time off because of child birth. The substitute teacher was her younger sister Yu Xian Shi 喻 嫩土 who just graduated as a mathematics major from the National Central University. It turned out she was in the same class as my elder brothers in the university, although not in the same department. They knew each other. Xian Shi later married Fung Yuan Cheng 冯元祯. Fung also graduated from the Central University, but a few years senior to his wife. He was already a professor of aeronautics at Caltech when I went there to study in 1957. We became fairly close later on.

Another teacher almost every student remembers was Di Zi Chu 狄子初. He was the teacher in charge of the boy scouts. He was the one who imposed discipline and handed out warnings and punishments. Everybody hated him. Thinking back, he was not really that bad.

只有几位南开的老师至今还音容宛在。一位是音乐老师阮北英。他或许是全校唯一的音乐老师。全校 36 个班,每个班每周有一小时的音乐课,因此他的授课量至少每周 36 课时。他似乎是每天都整天坐在音乐教室的钢琴前。他很和气。我们进到音乐教室时,他就给我们一页纸,上面有一首歌,然后随着钢琴伴奏我们就一遍一遍地唱歌。他还组织合唱团,并给有天分的学生个别辅导,但我们这些低年级的孩子们并不知道这些。我想,南开所有的人都记得阮老师。

我还记得英语老师喻娴文。她父亲喻传鉴是南开中学的总主任。南开中学有高中、初中和女中,各有一个主任,而总主任则管着全校。校长是张伯苓,但他当时已经很老了, 其实是喻主任在负责全校工作。喻主任也是嵊县人,是家父的朋友。因此我部分是因为亲 友关系而记得喻娴文的。1980 年夏天我重访南开中学,她当时已退休,但作为一个经验丰富的特级教师而被返聘。我重访时,她出来带我参观校园。她父亲于1966 年过世。

在带我们二年级英语后几个月,喻娴文因为要生孩子而请假。替代她的老师是她妹妹喻娴士,娴士当时刚刚从国立中央大学数学系毕业。她跟我两位哥哥在中央大学是同一届的,但不同系,他们相互认识。娴士后来嫁给冯元祯。冯元祯也是中央大学毕业的,但比她高好几届。我 1957 年去加州理工求学时,冯元祯已经是航空系的教授。后来,我们关系相当密切。

另一个几乎每位同学都记得的老师是狄子初。他是童子军教官。他负责学生纪律、发 布警告和处分。每个人都恨他。不过回想起来,他也并不真的那么坏。