

Another Richard, Richard L, was also an old classmate. Again we were together in the JinLing Middle School in 1946-47, in Shi Yuan Fu Zhong in '49-50, and in Taida in '50-54. We did not know each other in JinLing, and he was in the Mechanical Department in Taida.

We were very close off and on. We were bridge partners when we were members of the Bridge-Club of Taiwan University (BTU). I should remark that BTU had produced World Champion for contract bridges. When we were all lived in Southern California during '60s, we regularly made weekend overnight visits to each other, and we were god-parents to their kids and vice versa. However he did not join the Rong Rong Club I started, although I went to discuss with him constantly at the initial preparatory stage.

He had a "modern" family. His father had studied in the US. When we were in high school, his mother was doing graduate studies in America. She later returned to Taiwan and became professor and the chairperson of the department of home economics at the Taiwan Normal College. His father was a technocrat in the State Owned Sugar Corp and later the Fertilizer Corp. The relatives on his mother's side were quite prominent. One of her cousin was once the head of the Resources Commission (资源委员会委员长). Her brother was the economics tsar in Taiwan. Her sister was member of Control Yuan and a confidante of Madame Chiang Kai-Shek. They had a piano at home, and he had been taking piano lessons from a leading pianist in Taiwan. But I do not think he was a music lover in later life.

He was a very good student. But he was not very lucky in academic progress. He wanted to study electric engineering. But Taida was accepting only 40 incoming students in EE. He was number 41, and he was sent to the department of mechanical engineering. He could transfer to EE in sophomore year, as quite a few students did. But he was so proud that he won't consider that. He majored in aeronautics in the US. After finishing his master degree in Texas, he would like to pursue his PhD at Caltech, the prime school of aeronautics. However he had to settle in Stanford which is fairly good in aeronautics but not as good as Caltech. His advisor was Van Dyke, a graduate from Caltech and a student of Lagerstrom.

After graduation, he also joined McDonald-Douglas, the Boeing, until his retirement. Two Richards were colleagues and neighbors for over 40 years.

When we came back to Southern California, we became close friends again. But they lived in Huntington Beach. 40 minutes driving is a little too far for us. We could get together only two or three times each year.

He had strong opinion on many things, and he had low opinions on most acquaintances, and also often showed. However he was always polite to me, and I also always showed my understanding of his views.

His wife told me about his opinion on me: "DY has too many outside interests. If he had focused on his research, he could very much further." I am not sure about that.

Richard passed away in 2008.

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另外一个 Richard, Richard L 也是位老同学。我们也先后在金陵中学 1946-47 年、师院附中 1949-50 年、以及台大 1950-54 年同学。在金陵中学的时候我们彼此不认识，在台大时他在机械系。

我们不时地靠的很近。我们都参加台大桥牌协会时是打牌的搭档，台大桥协可是出过合约桥牌的世界冠军。六十年代都在加州时，我们规律地在周末作竟夕之访，而且我们也是对方孩子的教父母。不过，虽然在初创期我经常去跟他探讨，他并没有加入我创立的融融社。

他的家庭比较“现代”，他父亲在美国留学过。我们上中学时，他母亲在美国读研究生，她后来回到台湾，担任台湾师范学院家政系的教授和系主任。他父亲先后在国有的糖业企业和肥料企业任技术专家。他母系的亲戚很有影响力，她的一个表兄弟曾出任资源委员会的委员长，她哥哥是台湾的大亨，她的姐姐是[监察院检查委员](#)，跟蒋介石夫人关系密切。他们家里有钢琴，他曾跟着台湾的名钢琴家上钢琴课，不过我并不觉得后来他算不算个音乐迷。

他是个非常优秀的学生，但学业上不太顺利。他想学电机工程，可台大当时电机只收 40 个学生，他排名第 41，于是送到了机械工程系。二年级时他也可以转到电机系，有不少同学这么转了，但他比较傲，不想考虑转系。在美国时他学的航空，从德州完成硕士工作后，他想到航空最强的加州理工读博士，可他最终只能在斯坦福念，那里的航空也很强但比不过加州理工。他的导师 Van Dyke 是从加州理工毕业的，Lagerstrom 的学生。

毕业后他去了麦道公司、波音公司，直到退休。这两个 Richard 做了四十多年的同事和邻居。

我们回到南加州后，又跟他们成为挚友。他们住在亨廷顿湾，大概 40 分钟车程，对我们而言稍稍远了点，每年只能见上两三面。

他对诸事皆有很强看法，对很多熟人常常看不上，而且还往往表露出来。不过他跟我一直很客气，我也总是表现出理解他的观点。

他太太告诉过我他对我的看法：“定裕兴趣太广，要是集中精力做研究的话，他能干得深入很多。”我自己可没那么有把握。

Richard 于 2008 年过世。