

Foreign visitors find a home

Guest house built and decorated in Japanese tradition

by SUSAN ROMANITIS
Staff writer

BORING — For some Japanese, a visit to the guest house at Vanport Manufacturing Inc. is a little like going home.

Located on the lumber mill grounds is a model Japanese house built and decorated like a traditional Japanese home. It is a guest house for Vanport's Japanese customers.

"Here, our customers can come and stay overnight," Vanport president Adolf Hertrich said.

The scene is surprisingly peaceful and beautiful, considering the house is located practically in the middle of Vanport's sawmill operations.

A Japanese garden and pond, complete with Japanese carp and a waterfall, surround the home, which was built by Japanese carpenter Nobuyuki Matsushita of Portland.

The single-story structure was designed by Japanese architect Shingo Mito. The landscape design was by Japanese landscaper Hoichi Kurisu, who worked on the Japanese Garden in Portland.

"Some of our customers suggested we do something like this," Hertrich said. "They're not that fussy but they still appreciate having it."

The house — where Vanport's customers may eat, sleep and conduct business around a table made out of Douglas fir — was erected about five years ago for several reasons, according to Hertrich.

"Since almost all of our production is Japanese lumber, we wanted a model home to show the Japanese what our lumber looks like in a typical Japanese home," he explained.

"We also wanted a nice, comfortable place for our customers to stay in," Hertrich said.

In addition, Hertrich said he wanted Vanport workers to learn how lumber is used in the Japanese home to aid them in the manufacturing and grading processes.

Lumber generally makes up the frame of the typical American home, so it can be marred or dirty-looking because it eventually is covered, Hertrich explained.

Lumber for the Japanese home, which is constructed in the post-and-beam style, must be graded for looks as well as strength because a lot of it remains visible inside and outside the structure, he said.

With few exceptions, the house is built with wood obtained from Oregon forests and milled at



Adolf Hertrich reviews guest book signed by Japanese visitors. The Japanese-style house serves as model and accommodations for customers.

Vanport, Hertrich said. There are no nails in the main frame, which is all notched, he said.

Inside, the house is furnished and decorated in the traditional Japanese style.

Some of the items, a Shinto shrine and a cedar cabinet, for example, are gifts from Japanese customers. Other things, such as the kitchen door curtain and the futon or bedding, have been imported from Japan especially for the house.

Like most Japanese homes, the house features a tokonoma, an area for a scroll, flowers, pictures and a special vase or something the homeowner wants to display in a special way, Hertrich explained.

Located adjacent to this particular tokonoma is a special cedar post. It was retrieved from Mount Kitayama outside Kyoto, he said.

The rest of the home is very simple.

Visitors to the house have included dignitaries such as Kichitaro Nakasone, brother of the

prime minister of Japan, and Richard Lyng, U.S. secretary of agriculture.

Vanport has been catering to the Japanese lumber market for years. The Japanese market is a lot steadier than the U.S. market, Hertrich said. The Japanese import almost 70 percent of their wood, he added.

"Almost 90 percent of our business is with Japan," Hertrich said. "Our product here is a small percentage of their total need."

About 10 years ago, Vanport remodeled its sawmill so lumber could be cut here according to the metric system based on Japanese specifications, Hertrich said. The company brought in Japanese lumber graders to teach workers the Japanese grading system, he added.

"We really don't make domestic lumber," Hertrich said, "because we don't know how to make it."

In brief

Computer group sets meeting

The Commodore Computer Users Group will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 26, in Room 1 in the West Building of Cottrell School.

People are asked to take their own computers. For more information, call Linda Rigby at 668-7342.

Church plans special services

The Sandy Church of the Nazarene, which meets at the Sandy Seventh-day Adventist Church, 17150 University Ave., will be holding special services Feb. 22 through 25.

Guest speakers will be the Reverends Gary and Kathy Crawford, who have a program that includes music and puppets.

Sunday services will be held at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. The program will continue Monday through Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Basket class scheduled

A special one-day class in Pine Needle Basketry will be held at the Damascus Pioneer Craft School on Friday, March 6. It will be taught by Ruth Merrill of Olympia, Wash.

It will feature an easy approach to a simply constructed, attractive, rustic basketry.

Tuition of \$20 includes materials. Call the school at 658-2704 for registration.

Sandy resident receives award

Sandy resident Sherrie Schmidt received the national Shawnequa Award Jan. 28 at the Mount Hood Council of Camp Fire's annual meeting in Milwaukie.

Schmidt has been a volunteer with Camp Fire for five years. During that time she has served as a group leader, day camp counselor, business coordinator, service coordinator and area product sale manager.

Preschool program offered

Sandy High School's child development program is offering a preschool for children 4 to 6 years old beginning Tuesday, Feb. 24.

It will operate from 9 to 10:20 a.m.

Dubrawsky named scholar

Zoltan Dubrawsky was named scholar of the month for January at Sandy High School for outstanding work in a Health II class. He was nominated by Molly Knudsen.

In nominating him, Knudsen said he received A's on all tests for the month and for a research paper.

"He has an excellent attitude," Knudsen said. "He is always positive in class and willing to offer opinions during class discussions."

Other nominees included Robert Kruger, who was nominated in two different areas. Kruger was nominated for "excellent contributions" to class discussions in personal finance, and for outstanding work in creative writing and Spanish IV.

Scott Digman was nominated for earning A's on tests and homework in geography, and Ben Fisk was nominated for helping other students in computer II class.

Sandy players plan trip

Reservations are now being taken by the Sandy Community Players for an annual trip to Ashland and the Shakespearean Festival on May 29,

30 and 31.

There are about a dozen openings remaining.

The cost for tour bus transportation is \$35; for two night's lodging at the Stratford Inn, \$85; and tickets to four plays, \$55.

While Sandy Community Players sponsors the trip, the theater group does not profit from it, said Steve Christensen, organizer.

To register, send name, address, phone number, number of people and names, along with at least \$25 per person, to Sandy Community Players, Steve Christensen, 36700 Dubarko Road, Sandy, 97055. Reservations may also be made by calling 668-8172 or 668-8011, extension 233.

The plays for which tickets will be bought are "She Stoops to Conquer," by Oliver Goldsmith; "Curse of the Starving Class," by Sam Shepard; "The Hostage," by Brendan Behan; and "Richard II," by William Shakespeare.

Davis reports for Marine duty

Marine Lance Cpl. Richard S. Davis recently reported for duty with First Marine Aircraft wing at the Marine Corps Air Station in Iwakuni, Japan.

Davis is the son of Richard and Dorothy Davis of Boring.

Sandy police arrest Portland man after Gresham robbery

A Portland man was arrested Sunday afternoon by Sandy police in connection with a robbery at a Gresham Plaid Pantry store earlier in the day.

Gregory Dale Taylor, 29, of 5918 S.E. Taylor St., was arrested at 2 p.m.

Taylor was charged with possession of a stolen vehicle and was transported to the Clackamas County jail.

Taylor also was charged in connection with the 11:31 a.m. robbery at the Plaid Pantry store at 23450 S.E. Stark St.

That robbery is believed to be connected to an attempted robbery at the Leathers Texaco gas station at Southeast 182nd Avenue and Division

Street about 10:55 a.m. Sunday, said Sgt. Jim Davis, Multnomah County sheriff's office spokesman.

During the attempted robbery, a man demanded money from the attendant at the station. When the attendant refused, the suspect jumped into a blue car and drove away, Davis said.

A few minutes later, a man walked into the Plaid Pantry store, handed the clerk a .32 caliber bullet for an automatic gun and demanded money.

The clerk told police that she saw no gun.

The man took \$80 in the robbery.

Taylor later was arrested by Sandy police.

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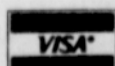
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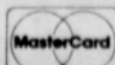
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