

Redfields Tell Of Trip To Japan

Continued from last week

The ship sailed from Honolulu at 6 p. m., April 15, with the band and singers and much serpentine throwing. All the people, both on and off the ship had lei around their necks. Was rather sad when the ship pulled away from the pier, hearing "Aloha," in our ears and leaving such friendly Hawaiian boys swimming and diving for coins. As we were about opposite Pear Harbor many leis were tossed overboard to float back to the islands, there being an old superstition that in so doing you will return and from the leis floating on the waters below there must be many who believed.

On going down to our stateroom we found two lovely arrangements of the different exotic flowers from the islands given us by our chief steward. Both Lyle and myself caught terrible colds, from the air conditioning. I could

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not talk above a whisper for three days, but due to the good ship doctor I was up and enjoying everything and did not have to go to bed. On retiring Sunday night, April 20, we woke to find the next morning to be Tuesday, April 22 as we had crossed the International Date line, causing us to lose Monday.

Each and every night our clocks back a half hour. This made it very nice going over as we could really take life easy, but returning we found the reverse to be very rough. By now we had begun enjoying life of leisure and had quit our restless walking of miles around the ship.

Each night before landing in a different port our captain would give an eventful dinner, each table covered with balloons, colorful hats, noise makers and everyone in evening dress, and the ship photographer going around taking flash-bulb pictures of the different tables.

April 24, Thursday, at 6:45 a. m. the ship nosed into the Yokohama harbor where a Japanese band was playing in the rain. The climate in Japan is similar to our own climate here in Brookings with much rain and similar wild flowers, with many azaleas.

The Japanese immigrant and bank officers came aboard before docking and looked our papers and passports over, and exchanged our American money to yens, as it is unlawful for the Japanese people to accept any other money than the yen, and you cannot exchange the yen back to our money, so we were careful not to exchange too much to yen and we found ourselves quite broke before returning to the ship. One American dollar equals 360 yen.

Right after a hurried breakfast we took the motor coach for an 18-mile drive through Yokohama and along the Keihin highway to Tokyo. Two charming Japanese ladies were our guides, dressed in Japanese kimonos and each speaking fair English. We saw some of the late pink double cherry blossoms, the early ones had already dropped. We went through the bombed manufacturing area which was laid low by our accurate bombing and now built up with shacks and a few industries.

We passed Shiba Park, Zojoji Temple, Hibiya Park, the Dai-Ichi building, the Imperial Diet building, where the guides gave a brief outline of the Japanese system of government. Then we came to a large stone building, the Art Gallery, and entered.

All the halls, walls, and stairs were of inlaid marble and the

silken drapes hung in tatters. The dome was of beautifully colored glass. All walking areas were covered with a heavy material like sail cloth. Up the marble stairs there were two huge marble wings—each wall lined with 40 huge life-size paintings of the first Emperor's life from his birth to his sickness and death. Each painting was by a different artist and each was a masterpiece.

The building was cold, damp, and reminded us of a tomb. We were next taken to the Hotel Teito for luncheon, where we picked our choice from the menu by A. B. C. D, 1, 2, 3. There, the Japanese waiters speak no English. You find very few English-speaking Japanese in Japan, making it hard to go on your own. After lunch we were taken to the Imperial Hotel Arcade, where there were many shops about 6x8 feet in size, filled with kimonos, silverware, prints, jewelry, china, lacquerware, toys and the famous Miki Motos cultured pearls.

We return to Yokohama by way of the famous Ginza, through the shopping and business streets, and residential sections. All the homes with tiled and thatched roofs are quaint. Every little speck of land is utilized with either flowers, shrubs, or a wee garden.

Driving through their farming country, we find that they plant their fields differently than here. They plant in plots of about 50x100 feet and their rows consist of about six planting per row and everything grows so very lush.

Arriving at the ship at 4 p. m. we found we were again very tired from a full day. The ship sailed from Japan about 8 p. m., April 24, for Manila, and it was still raining, and rained throughout the day.

To be continued later

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