

Redfields Re-Visited Japan, This Time Landing At Kobe For Sight-seeing Trip

The Redfields review their recent trip to the Orient, with another article telling of some of their experiences with the Asiatics.

May 6 at 7 a. m. we landed at Kobe, Japan. After breakfast about 9:30 a. m. we took the ship's shore tour. We were thankful the sun was out. We were each given a carnation as identification on boarding the bus. Drove through the waterfront business center of Kobe and on to Kobe station. There we changed for an electric train for Kyoto, called "Classic City" of Japan. Awaiting the train we noticed a great number of elevated rail-ways everywhere you looked and trains coming and going every few minutes. The Japanese boast that their trains are always on time, and I can fully believe it as they are a very efficient people.

After a short wait we were escorted to our seats aboard the train for Kyoto, the capital of old Japan.

The country side of Japan is quite picturesque, passing through groves of bamboo, farming country, villages and through several large cities, Osaka being the larger and the main manufacturing city.

We saw many flags representing carp and another fish, its name I do not recall, flying from flag-poles in beautiful colors from nearly every home we passed.

We were told that these flying fish, the carp, were to help their children grow big and strong, and smaller fish stood for their religion and to guard over them. We thoroughly enjoyed the 55-mile train ride through the country between Kobe and Kyoto. Kyoto station was like a spider web of

stairways leading to the many different trains, and the people were like ants, they were so numerous.

We were taken by bus to the Hotel Rakuyo for a short rest, then taken through the city of Kyoto and on to the elaborate Buddhist temple, Higashi-Hongan-ji, which is the headquarters of the Shin-shu sect of Buddhism.

Here the Japanese put coverings over our shoes before we went up the steps of the temple. Entering here we saw many Japanese sitting on their feet in worship, many had their lunch with them and we were told they sit in worship the full day. This temple was erected in 1895 and is surrounded with pure white sand, which they call their sand garden.

Hundreds of children, girls all dressed in blue pleated skirts and white middies, boys dressed in blue coats and pants.

After leaving the temple we were taken back to the Hotel Rakuyo for luncheon where most of us took filet Mignon au Campignon, which was excellent. We ordered from the menu, pointing to what we wanted.

Luncheon over, we were taken to Heian Shrine. This Shinto shrine is famous for its formal gardens, filled with flowering trees, oriental shrubs, many ponds spanned by tiny bridges or stepping stones. We also visited the old Imperial palace, where the coronation of the Emperor of Japan takes place. The gardens are lovely with lakes, bridges, flowers, and all its Japanese beauty. The old palace itself is closed to the public but the grounds are lovely from which one may view interesting architecture of the buildings of the palace.

We were then taken to a lacquer-ware factory, several large rooms of the most beautiful and useful ware I ever expect to see. The hand-paintings on these articles are rare and now becoming priceless, as the old art is fast becoming a lost art. We brought back two lovely pieces and wished we could have afforded more.

We were brought back to the hotel for a short rest and then taken to the Kyoto station to board the electric express train for Kobe, and again enjoying the beauty of the Japanese country. Arriving at Sannomiya Station, Kobe; the bus took us to ship-side, just giving time to brush up before the dinner chimes rang. That evening at 9 p. m. (May 6) the ship sailed for Yokohama.

Next day, about 5 p. m. we arrived at Yokohama, the second call and the weather was perfect. After dinner Lyle and I walked

to town; so we through, but we learned that we went the wrong direction. Instead we came to a street which was purely Japanese—both sides of the street were filled with taverns, eating places, penny arcades and Japanese music coming out of little holes in the walls. The street was jammed with Japanese and we saw no other Americans. I was a little frightened but thoroughly enjoyed the fantasy of everything. There we really saw the true Japan.

Next morning (the 8th) we braved it alone to go to Tokyo. We took a cab and gave the name of the station; which we failed to put down in our diary. We walked to the ticket office, there the man spoke English, and he pointed out the stairway we came and gave us the track number for the right train. Going down this stairway we came to a long wide hall with many, many stairways leading upward. Finally we came to one of them labeled Tokyo so we followed it and on to the track number and boarded the electric train for the city of Tokyo, a 55-minute ride.

Lyle and I had to stand the entire distance, and we learned that we were on the third-class coach, while we had first class tickets.

En route we felt the train jerk pretty hard and wondered if it were going to leave the track. Later we learned that we had experienced an earthquake, which, if it had lasted longer might have caused severe damage, probably wrecking the train, too.

On reaching Tokyo, we stepped off the train, followed the crowd down the stairway into another wide hall with many more stairways. I stopped about a dozen persons asking for the way out for Tokyo, and finally one of them understood English and escorted us out and to a cab and told the driver to take us to the Imperial Hotel.

Here we did some shopping in the hotel arcade. Later, according to a previous appointment, we met our Japanese-American born guide which we had met on the ship. She had disembarked on the first call for Yokohama, and was con-

nected with the American embassy in the Mitsubishi main building. We purchased our cultured pearls through her. After visiting, she took us to our station and put us on the right train for Yokohama. There the ticket man called a taxi for us and we reached our ship in safety and felt real proud to have gone on our own in Japan. That same day at 4 p. m. our ship sailed for Hawaii.

exhibitors, and will include not only agate and minerals from Lincoln county beaches but also specimens from all over the world. Members of other agate and mineral societies throughout the entire northwest have been invited to bring displays.

All steps of polishing agates will be demonstrated continuously during the show.

Agate Society Sets Display July 26, 27

OCEANLAKE, Ore.—The North Lincoln Agate Society will hold its tenth annual agate show on Saturday and Sunday, July 26 and 27, in the Lions club room, opposite the theatre, here.

Doors will be open Saturday from 10 a. m. until 10 p. m. and on Sunday from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. Every visitor will receive a free beach agate as a souvenir of the 1952 show.

The show will feature collections of amateur and commercial

Just About Folks!

Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. Peterson left last Friday for a ten-day vacation trip which will take them to Asoria, where Mrs. Peterson will visit a relative, and to Tacoma where Mr. Peterson will visit an old boyhood friend. Mr. Peterson is employed at the Pilot.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Chambers and family of Portland left last week after spending a week visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Chambers of Chambers Fir Courts. They enjoyed the lily parade and thought it grand. "How can such a small community do so much," was his comment.

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