

W.S. students experience life in Japan

by Marsha Shewczyk

"It was a chance in a lifetime," says student Travis Wells as he told of his experiences following his trip with ten other Warm Springs youth to Japan. For one month these students lived with Japanese families and became a part of their world, unfamiliar to us.

The eleven Warm Springs youth and one Madras youth spent their month with host families in Mito, Japan. Arrangements for the trip and the host families were made through the New York based Council on International Educational Exchanges.

The students who were able to participate in the program include; Eydie Switzler, Allie Smith, Anita Bryant, Rowena Begay, Melissa Johnson, Sonja Bryant, Travis Wells, Jamie Smith, Bridgett Macy, Minnie Yahtin, Kristin Englebretson and Madras student Bruce Courtain. Mike and Pat Darcy acted as chaperones for the group.

Upon arriving in Japan students were introduced to the Japanese way of living before actually going into the homes of their host parents. According to chaperone Pat Darcy they were shown such things as how to sleep on tatami mats. She says, "After a long while it got easier."

They were also introduced at this time to a full Japanese supper called Hoo-no-ma. Chopsticks were the eating utensils. Pat Darcy says, "The kids had problems but they learned to use them after a while and use them well."

After orientation the



Two Warm Springs students show their expertise in using chopsticks while on a recent exchange trip to Japan.

students boarded a train to Mito where they were met by their host parents and their Japanese advisor, Katsutoshi Kogure, who was wearing a western hat. The reason for the hat he explained to Pat Darcy, "I understand to Americans we all look alike."

Travis Wells was able to give an overview of the city and the home in which he stayed. He says, "Most houses are two stories because of space." He says also that the streets are very narrow and people drive small cars or motorcycles.

Travis goes on to say, "I liked where I stayed. There were no chairs, they sat on mats... We ate with chopsticks."

"The high school students dressed like the 50's. Their favorite star is James Dean."

"They are a very clean people. When taking a bath they wash themselves off first and then soak in a hot tub."

Travis says, "The people I met were always happy. They express disappointment if you don't like the food." He also commented, "There is not a

problem with obesity like there is here."

Pat Darcy mentioned that, because of his size, many Japanese people would stop and look at Travis. He did not wear a uniform shirt to school like the other boys because they were unable to fit him for one.

"Our kids were really pampered," says Pat Darcy.

There was one unexpected and unfortunate occurrence which caused anxiety for many people, especially for the host parents and chaperones. After being in Japan only three days

Eydie Switzler became ill and had to have her appendix removed. Mrs. Darcy says, "She was homesick and scared," but "she was treated royally there." Her doctor would take her to his home a few hours a day and his wife would visit her at the hospital. Eydie was able to join in activities only a part of the last week the students were there.

The students were welcomed to their Japanese school with an assembly in their honor during which the band played America The Beautiful and the Madras High School loyalty song. It was an emotional experience for everyone, Pat Darcy commented.

During their stay in Japan the Warm Springs students were given the opportunity to attend a Japanese tea ceremony, a wedding and a funeral. They visited a Buddhist shrine, went swimming in the warm ocean and were given a birthday party. Throughout their stay they received many gifts.

In turn, the Warm Springs youth gave a demonstration of Indian cooking and Indian dancing. By the end of their stay several students were able to give speeches in Japanese.

After spending so much time together both the students and host families had grown very fond of one another. Pat Darcy explains, "Parting was a tear-jerking situation."

By means of this cultural exchange students were able to be a part of a different way of living. As chaperone Mike and Pat Darcy say, it was a successful experience. And Travis Wells sums it up by saying, "I know a lot more about the world, now."

"Wounded Knee" to become TV mini-series

Production of the television mini-series "Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee" is one major step closer to reality.

Evergreen Foundation Films, Inc., (EFFI), based in Seattle, Washington, has won a favorable court ruling, upholding the company's claim to the television rights to the literary work **Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee**, written by Dee Brown.

The book, which the author describes as a "history of the American West from the viewpoint of the American Indian," was a best seller in 1971.

The first order of business within the next week or so, will be a treatment of "bible," according to Jim Thebaut, president of EFFI and project producer, who is relieved the year-long delay on the project is over. Thebaut is now looking forward to lots of hard work that will ultimately result in a rewarding mini-series for television viewers around the world.

"For the first time, the true history of the American West will be presented in a very honest, comprehensive manner," Thebaut said. "I think one of the most significant reasons that this project can do so much good is that until a country deals with the past, it can't really come to grips with its future."

The point is not to make people feel guilty, according to Author Dee Brown. But, the real reason for telling the story to a mass television audience is "so we don't do it again," he said.

The sensitive, important nature of the subject matter of "Wounded Knee" has attracted interest in the project among some of the biggest names in Hollywood.

For the first time in their acting careers, the Fonda family — Henry, Jane and Peter—will participate in the same film production. And Thebaut has also received commitments from many other top actors including Burt Reynolds, Marlon Brando and Will Sampson.

Most major roles, in what is planned to be a five-part mini-series, will be filled by American Indians. In fact, Thebaut said, "only American Indians will play American Indians."

"Wounded Knee" is the first of several projects planned by the company which is currently being reorganized into a larger multi-faceted motion picture production company, Evergreen International, Ltd., (EIL). The goal of EIL is to become the first major motion picture company to be situated within the Seattle-Vancouver, B.C. market place.

Shaker Church vandalized by bikers

A person or persons gained entrance to the Shaker Church September 17 by ripping off a ten-foot screen on the rear porch of the dining room and breaking a window pane to get into the church. Several window panes were broken and fixtures inside the church were

damaged.

The vandals opened the door and rode motorcycles inside. It was believed the same people broke into the Agency Longhouse and also rode motorcycles around on the floor there. However damage was not so bad there as it was

at the Shaker Church.

The damage was estimated to be around \$1,000 which the Tribe will have to pay for. The Shaker Church, just recently remodeled to the tune of \$76,900, will cost the tribes even more to repair the damage the vandals created.



SENSELESS—Motorcycle-riding vandals entered the Shaker Church September 17 through the above window after tearing off the heavy screens. Wooden crosses were strewn on the floor, several other windows were broken and fixtures damaged. Repair costs to the tribes are estimated at about \$1,000. Nearly \$77,000 had just been spent to renovate the church.