

Japanese Schools Harsh Compared With American Teacher Finds on Tour

Miss Kirtley Gives Interesting Insight on Nippon's Educational System Gained on Summer Visit

"Medford students shouldn't complain of having to go back to school after three months' vacation," stated Miss Josephine Kirtley of the high school faculty, in a recent interview. "The children of Japan only have six weeks of vacation and are given assignments to prepare for the reopening of school which require daily work while they are having that vacation."

Miss Kirtley, with 14 other teachers from California, Oregon, Washington and Arizona, spent several weeks in Japan this summer as guests of the department of railways in the Japanese board of tourist agency. Among the innumerable tours arranged for the travelers were visits to all types of Japanese schools, from primary through universities. Educational institutions in the island empire are divided into four classes: Primary, which takes in the first six years; middle, which includes the next five years; higher schools, which have varying terms; and colleges, universities and normal schools.

"The outstanding difference between their system and ours," Miss Kirtley pointed out, "is that the whole Japanese educational structure is highly centralized under one administration, thus dispensing with

the frequent difficulties met with when students transfer from one district to another here. All textbooks are the same for each grade in every school in the country and there is never the slightest disruption in the student's curriculum in changing from one school to another.

No Co-Education.

"Also, there is no co-education in Japan. From the time children enter school the sexes are completely separated. In the primary grades they are sometimes housed in the same building, but from then on boys and girls are sent to different buildings. There are practically no universities for women except a few private schools, and the state-supported normal schools.

"Of course," Miss Kirtley continued, "we were shown the very best examples, but the buildings and classrooms we saw were in general better equipped than ours. We were amazed at the numerous aids to fine education. For instance, many of the buildings we visited were equipped with extensive scientific laboratories, even in the primary grades, offices for resident doctors and dentists, x-ray rooms, radio apparatus and innumerable other facilities. They place great emphasis on physical edu-

cation and scientific and nature study, and provide every means for furthering these lines. Even the youngest children study sciences that are not taken up here until the secondary period."

Few Women Teach.

According to Miss Kirtley, there are very few women teachers, even in girls' schools, over two-thirds of the instructors being men. She also described the attention being paid to vocational education, a large number of technical schools teaching trades and industries having been established in the past few years. The Japanese, she said, also stress moral training much more than American schools do, giving much time to character, patriotic and personality training.

Another great difference in the educational system of this country and Japan, she pointed out, was that grade averages in our schools are based on both examination and records of work previous to the examinations, while in Japan the student's standing depends entirely on his showing in the examinations, which are always very difficult and constitute a frightful bugaboo to the pupil. A small tuition fee is paid by all students, but those unable to pay are aided by the government.

Little Illiteracy.

"Contrary to general opinion," added Miss Kirtley, "there is scarcely any illiteracy in Japan. Practically everyone can read and write, the literacy rate being about 95 percent. Everywhere you see people reading, in department stores, on the streets, anywhere they can stop for a minute and find a book."

All students in Japan dress in uniform, except in private schools. Miss Kirtley continued, with the girls wearing skirts and middle blouses, and the boys plain gray or navy blue western-style suits.

Speaking of other phases of the trip, Miss Kirtley said that the party was received with every courtesy and were taken to all of the most outstanding resorts, cities and other spots of interest in the country. Accommodations, both as to hotels and transportation, were of the very best at all times, and the visitors were lavishly entertained, at least three affairs being arranged in their honor every day.

"The real reason for the tour," she said, "is that Japan is expecting a record number of visitors within the next few years and is making every effort to acquaint other nations with the modern facilities and scenic attractions of travel in that country. Next year the World Federation of Teachers will convene there, a peace conference is also scheduled and the 1940 Olympiad will climax the series of numerous events of the next few years which the Japanese expect to bring a record number of visitors. We were frequently called into conference with officials to offer suggestions or criticisms as to travel and recreation facilities which we had come in contact with.

"The railroad service was marvelous. Trains there are never late, nor do they wait for anyone, leaving each station exactly on the scheduled time. All the trains we saw were extremely modern and comfortable, and their system has been greatly enlarged in the past few years."

Miss Kirtley spoke enthusiastically of the scenery of Japan. "I have absolutely never seen anything to compare with the greenness of the country. We had hardly a glimpse of the bare earth all the time we were there. Everything is covered with shrubs, flowers, trees or agricultural crops, and the colors are so vivid as to be almost unbelievable.

"Every imaginable type of scenery can be enjoyed within a short radius."

The group of teachers sailed from Vancouver, B. C. June 27, and arrived in Seattle August 30.

ELEANOR POWELL PICKS ALL-STAR TAP DANCE TEAM

Bronze Haired Hooper Thinks Bill Robinson, Astaire, Whitney, Rogers and Bolger Tops in Tapping.

By HENRY SUTHERLAND (United Press Hollywood Correspondent.)

HOLLYWOOD, Sept. 15.—(UP)— Succumbing to the all-America picking vice, Eleanor Powell, bronze-haired film hooper, names her selections for the five "world's greatest" tap dancers.

Powell nominates: Bill Robinson, negro who never took a lesson in his life, "because he is the grandfather of tap dancing," Fred Astaire, because he is No. 1 "style," Ginger Rogers, because "she mixes gracefulness with a superlative amount of charm"—whatever that means.

Ray Bolger, because he's the most eccentric, and Eleanor Whitney, because she's the fastest.

Powell modestly refrains from naming herself, but since she has been widely touted as top tapper her nominations are probably not for the "five world's greatest," but for the five next greatest.

It is easy to pick a quarrel with her "team," since she has merely chosen current box office tops among dancers, apparently without any recourse to other standards of ability.

At random, a few names conspicuously absent which are hard to laugh off in any league are Paul Draper, Ruby Keeler and Charles Collins.

Further, the Powell all-America suffers from the malady of all all-Americas—the selector hasn't seen all possible selections.

By her own estimate there are no less than 25,000 professional tap dancers in the United States, and probably at least four times that many amateurs.

But it goes to show what a menace tap dancing has become.

Hero Hunts A Job



Bryan Untied, hero of a tragedy in 1931 when five children and the driver froze to death in a school bus near Tower, Colo., shown now as he looks for a job. After Bryan's rescue of some of his schoolmates, he was invited to the White House by President Hoover. (Associated Press Photo.)

voted to dispense with the next meeting as every effort is to be made to make "boosters' night" a real success. A covered dish supper will be served and a good program and social hour will follow.

All members are asked to invite any prospective members and anyone interested in Grange work. All are asked to please come and help "boost your Grange."

FOR PERSONAL LOANS OF ALL KINDS W. E. Thomas, 45 S. Central

John Hollywood Doubles Contest Corley Photos, 215 E. Main.

PLAQUE PRESENTED TO KIWANIS CLUB; AERO TALK GIVEN

A hand-carved madrona plaque depicting a pioneer was presented to the Kiwanis club at its weekly luncheon-meeting in the Hotel Medford yesterday by the Kiwanis club of Roseburg. It was made by the Grey Gipsy Craftsmen of Eugene who are providing the panels for the new library at the University of Oregon.

The plaque was originated by the Kiwanis club of Eugene to commemorate Trail Days, held in the university city every three years and scheduled for 1937. It is to be presented in turn to each of the 93 Kiwanis clubs in the Pacific north-west district, the name of each unit to be inscribed on a metal plate at the bottom of the plaque. The Medford club will present it to Klamath Falls Kiwanians within the next two weeks.

The plaque was presented to the Medford club by the following Roseburg Kiwanians: Paul E. Geddes, Chester Morgan, Wallace A. Rapp, Robert D. MacLay, Thomas Parkinson and F. L. Crittenden.

Max Peirce, president of Medford chapter of the National Aeronautic association, gave a talk on aviation, emphasizing the rapid strides being made by this latest method of transportation. Mr. Peirce traced the development of travel and pointed out that aviation is progressing so systematically that radical changes are being made with astonishing rapidity.

Mr. Peirce said that Medford at present has the best airport in the state and that when improvements now in prospect are completed it will

be given a department of commerce top rating of A plus A.

Dr. C. H. Paske, vice president, was in charge of the meeting.

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CANADIAN PACIFIC TRAVELLERS CHOOSE GOOD THE WORLD OVER

Talent Club To Meet TALENT, Sept. 15.—(Sp1)—Talent Community club will meet Wednesday, at 2 p. m. All members and others wishing to join the club are requested to attend.

Use Mail Tribune want ads

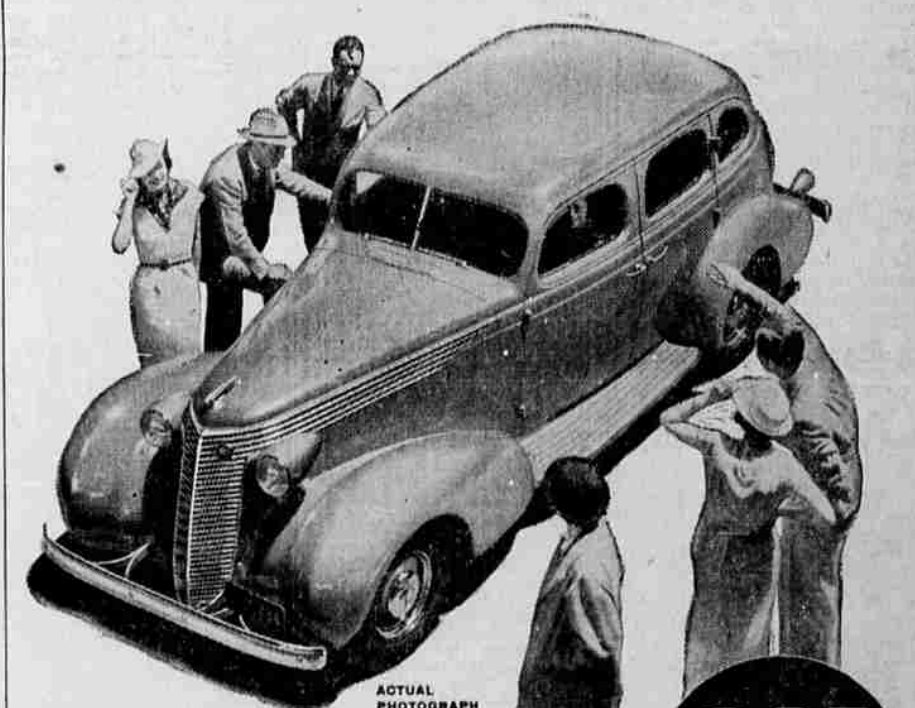
The Grange Jacksonville Grange Grange met September 11. After business session Brother Dew surprised the members with a melon feed which was appreciated. It was

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★ ★ NEWS FLASH! ★ ★

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Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bomm of Milwaukee, Wis., were delighted when their entry won in Your Lucky Strike "Sweepstakes." But as Mr. Bomm writes: "Imagine what a kick we got when the cigarettes arrived on our fifteenth wedding anniversary."

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