

Newsletter of the
West Oahu Y's Men's Club
of Mililani YMCA,
Oahu, Hawaii

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Brother Club Affiliation
HIROSHIMA Y'S MEN CLUB



West Oahu Y's Men's

Y's WORDS

JAPAN

#2

Other Website of Interest
www.ysmenusa.com
www.hawaiiysmen.org

Chartered
January 14, 1984

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



by Walter Osakoda

We (Duke and Linda Chung, Bob and Jeanette Kuwahara, and Dorothy and Walter Osakoda) had a great trip! Too much to cover in one issue. So we will be including articles over the next several issues. In this issue is our time in Tokyo and Mt. Fuji/Hakone. In coming issues, we will report on our fun filled journey through Hiroshima, Kyoto and Nagoya.

TOKYO, Mt. FUJI & HAKONE ..

we left Honolulu International Airport with great anticipation. On arrival at Narita Airport (outside Tokyo), we were met by our land based guide and asked him to assist us to change our JR voucher to the JR Pass and complete our seating reservations.

With that task completed, we boarded our airport bus to go to our hotel ... the Grand Prince New Takanawa in Shinagawa. We were greeted to our first Japanese traffic jam ... just like the Honolulu rush hour. I guess the bus driver had past experiences as he steered the bus off the highway to side streets in hope of bypassing the congestion. But, eventually, he had to merge back onto the freeway.

We finally arrived at our hotel about two and a half hours after leaving Narita (it usually takes 1 1/2 hours). After checking into our rooms, we felt tired and elected to find something close by ... something in the hotel. The only reasonable place was a buffet dinner. With our senior citizen's rate plus the 20% off as hotel guests, we got a good reasonable meal deal.

Day 1 .. The next morning, we were met and boarded the bus for our "Talk of the Town" Tour. Our group of six and a group of eight from Malaysia comprised the tour. The tour included the Imperial Palace Plaza and its double bridge over its moat, passby of the Parliament Building, Tsukiji Market, and Ginza District, a stop at the Rappongi Hills Tower, a stop at the Asakusa Kannon Temple, lunch, visit of the Hamarikyu Gardens, a cruise across Tokyo Bay to Odaiba and back. I think we spent more time getting there than enjoying "there".

Day 2 .. We took the train to Kamakura. Our tour group included our six and a "Russian" from Kazakhstan named Sergei. Sergei is relatively young,



Imperial Palace Plaza



Asakusa Kannon Temple



Statue of Liberty at Odaiba Island in Tokyo Bay

CALENDAR

July 12
(Monday)
BUSINESS MEETING

Mililani YMCA
7 pm

July 23
(Friday)
Mililani YMCA
FAMILY FAIR
Prep: 12 noon
Fair Opens: 1:00
Fair Closes: 6:30
Cleanup

August 1
Semi-Annual
Dues and Rosters

August 9
(Monday)
BUSINESS MEETING

Mililani YMCA
7 pm

Aloha to our
Friends in Japan
for a Wonderful
Time!



Our group at The Giant Buddha, Kamakura



With Mt. Fuji in back ... we must be in Japan!

and spoke very good English. We enjoyed the Kase Kannon Temple and the Great Buddha. The lunch was great. With a small tour group (and we controlled as there were only seven in the group), we could control the rate of our tour.

Duke paced himself to allow him frequent rest periods (especially around the smoking areas) to make the timing of the tour.

With the time remaining after lunch, we had to decide to do the shops in the area or visit last temple up the "loooong" street. We elected the shopping. (Sergei and the tour guide did go to the temple.)

Day 3 ... Nikko was another great national treasure with his historic religious background. It was a long ride out, so it allowed us time to rest. But after getting there, it was a walk UP. Duke paced himself, but I do not think he made it up to the upper temple.

We visited Kagenotaki Waterfall. Jeanette recalled the great pottery shop in the parking lot ... so the ladies made a stop there!

In Tokyo, trying to find a restaurant where everyone was agreeable to is very difficult. Especially since we had no knowledge of their quality of food or history of visiting the restaurant before. We did find a ramen shop in the Shinagawa Station that was close to the hotel shuttle stop. There Duke could have a beer and smoke while enjoying his ramen. So we ate there twice.

Day 4 ... we took the Mt. Fuji/Hakone tour. On our last visit, Mt. Fuji was not visible with much fog and damp weather. This time, we heard from other visitors that they had a great view of Mt. Fuji, increasing our optimism for getting a view of Mt. Fuji. And, we were not disappointed.

The tour itself was a little different from our tour three years ago. I think the last tour was by Grayline and this tour was by Sunrise. I thought the Grayline had better stops ... a dragon ship cruise ... a cable car ride over a sulfur pits, to a stop with some shops with the local crafts. But the Sunrise tour had Mt. Fuji in its full view.

After leaving the tour in Odawara (our tour guide helped coordinate with our hotel to have a car waiting along the way), we had our night at a ryokan. On our last trip, we sat on Western chairs. But, this time we had the tatami mats. So, Duke had a difficult time getting down and up from the sitting position. The food was great! We enjoyed the amenities there ... the foot bath ... and the hot springs bath.

To be continued