

IMPRESSIONS of BERKELEY

1970 Sakai-Berkeley Student Exchange

Nobuko Aburatani

The days passed very fast as a dream. My first impression of Berkeley was that the streets were very clean and quiet. Even though the circumstances were different in each home, I experienced the same type of kindness in each home. I have enjoyed very many interesting tours. Through the kindness of your beautiful City, I was able to see the Cal Band perform at the San Francisco Opera House where the elegance of the Opera House made me feel as though I was in a king's palace. The tours were very valuable to me, but I was always rushed for time. My trip to America will always be one of my most beautiful memories in my life, and I shall always treasure it in my heart.

Takakiyo Akasaka

Thank you very much for a warm welcome of citizens of Berkeley. I will not forget a very happy stay in Berkeley for good. I was much impressed with friendly people in Berkeley. For example, when I was taking a picture on the roadside, a stranger approached and said to me, "What kind of a camera do you have? Are you interested in taking a picture?" I could have such a pleasant experience few times. I think it very important for Japanese to learn such action. Of course, people in Berkeley are not only friendly, but also kind.

Then, I was surprised to see many hippies in Berkeley. It is novel for me.

I visited many places in Berkeley, but I could not find rubbish anywhere. It shows American public spirit is very high.

When I visited University of California, I could feel the University had much relaxed feeling. I think it very wonderful because students can study very easily.

I had a very good time in Berkeley. I say thank you very much for my two host families, Mrs. J. Nakamura and her family, Mrs. B. Gregg and her family's kindness. Mrs. Gregg and her family congratulated me on my birthday (August 7) very much. I could not forget such a nice birthday forever. And then, I say thank you very much for Mrs. Harger's and Mr. Jio's kindness again.

Mio Amatsu

I was very impressed by Cazadero Music Camp because in Japan, we couldn't have very nice facilities of music camp. We have natural facilities in camp. I want to have that kind of facilities in Japan.

People of Berkeley are very kind. I was pleased to meet people of Berkeley. I was surprised by the Fathers of Americans because they helped their wives always. My Father never worked in his home. Thank you.

Masafumi Harada

My first impression in the United States was that there were few people on the street. In Japan many people are crowded on the street every day except on New Years Day. So when I came to Berkeley, I thought people on the street like that of New Year Day in Japan.

Most Americans are very open-hearted and spoke to me cheerfully, so I felt friendly. I had many good times by staying in Berkeley for two weeks. Thank you

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Takumi Hirakawa

There are two things that I was surprised at in Berkeley. One thing is the cool weather. In Japan they have very hot and sticky summer and also they are suffering from mosquitos. But, in Berkeley, the weather is very mild and it has been fine since we arrived here though it was chill sometimes.

On the other hand, I was surprised at so many Japanese products here, from foods, for example, Nigirizushi, Tempura, to cars, Toyota, Datsun. So, I didn't feel at all

I was in a foreign country for the first week. Then I stayed at George Mallman's house, and I had to speak and listen to English from morning till night. So, I felt I was in an English language laboratory booth room all the day. I hope my English speaking and hearing ability become better.

We are so grateful that all of you warmly welcome us to Berkeley and let us stay at host families. We never forget forever that we had a swell time in quiet and beautiful Berkeley, California. Thank you so much everyone, especially Mr. & Mrs. Harger. I wish I would come here again as a leader of the Sakai Group.

Hideyuki Kaneko

I'm very glad to be able to come to America and stay in wonderful Berkeley on my first trip abroad. I am happy indeed that I talked with many people and came to know many kinds of things.

Yoshio Matsumura

Thank you for your kind invitation to visit Berkeley. When I came here, the weather was very cold. When I left Japan, the weather was very hot. I was surprised.

My thanks to the host families. I have a difficult time speaking English, but in my heart, I will always remember this experience. Mrs. Harger and the other people helped me to enjoy my stay here, and I am so glad that I became an exchange student. I hope to visit here again, but in the meantime, I will await the students from Berkeley who will visit Sakai next year. We can only try to match the fine Berkeley hospitality. Thank you again. My nickname is Momotaro.

Yoshiaki Moriwaki

I am interested in two problems, first, man in the future must be man of the world; second, the problems of industries in the future are the abridgement of human power and the prevention of public nuisance. I could study a part of these problems in Berkeley. First, I stayed at three host families (Koch, Abrahamson, Yamasaki) and could understand a part of American nationality, Japanese-American nationality and their family traditions.

And I got some reports on pollution (through the kindness of Dr. Koch) ;and I could visit the computer rooms in Kaiser Center too,(through the kindness of Mr. Abrahamson) but I regret to say that I could not assimilate my knowledge more, because I had not enough time to visit various factories and to see various automatic systems.

I'll never forget the days that I spent in this beautiful Berkeley, and I will visit this country again in three years, when I assimilate my technical knowledge on mechanical engineering and pollution.

I am praying that Berkeley City keeps its beauty forever.

Yuzo Nara

The extremely good weather and very beautiful town caught my mind deeply. And, I was surprised to find that people are very kind and very concerned about our happiness. If I were given the opportunity to go abroad again, I would come to this City.

Yoshio Onishi

I am very grateful for the kindness of people here. American food is very nice. and I am getting fat.

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Yoshie Onishi

I am very grateful for the kindness of people here. American food is very nice and I am getting fat.

I think American mothers are strict in the care of the children, but they teach their children with love.

There are many trees in Berkeley. I have never seen a beautiful place like this. I will never forget the people here and this beautiful place.

There are many hippies in the town. They walk with bare feet. They seem very strange. I wanted to talk with them. I'm disappointed at the little time we have here.

Kimiko Sato

First of all, thank you very much for your kind hospitality. I noticed that when I enjoy myself, the time seems to fly. I hope to revisit America sometime in the future.

because I have pleasant memories to bring me back. On the third day, at Cazadero Music Camp, I had three troubles. As soon as I reached there, I got into a boat, but my boat capsized and all my clothes got wet. And, after that accident, when I played baseball, my glasses were broken. And, after that happening, my camera was out of order. But, all people took care of me very much. I'll never forget your kindness.

The Berkeley-Sakai Association is a very worthwhile project, and I am very thankful for being able to have benefited from it. I hope that many more students can enjoy the same things that I have enjoyed during my stay in Berkeley. My special thanks also to Mrs. Harger and all the countless others who have so well planned such a fulfilling tour schedule. I hope that I can repay the favors that I received when students from Berkeley visit Sakai next year. Thank you. My nickname is Mr. Hamburger.

Eiko Shimono

First thing in my impression, it is very cool. In a morning and night, I always said that it is cold. My host family asked me when I went out, "Eiko, do you have a coat or a sweater?" I answered, "Yes, of course". I like swimming, but I've never swum here.

Berkeley is a quiet and beautiful town. There is no cicada, insect or refuse. There is much green and flower and sunshine. The traffic is light and hippies are many. I think Berkeley is a peaceful town.

Hiroko Suzuki

The thing I feel about Berkeley is that the city is very quiet. There are few people on the street and no cars sound their horns. I think these two things are the most different things from Japan. And, whenever I come across with somebody, they smile to me. At first I was very embarrassed that everybody smiled at me. But now, I can smile to everybody with whom I am not acquainted. I think shiny days and kindness of people corrected my bashfulness.

Usually I don't like to go out, and I stay at home on holidays in Japan. But now I think it is very good to go outdoors and get acquainted with somebody. I am very happy and thank the people for their kindness. I don't want to leave here, and I want to live here.

Yuko Yamanuchi

The other day we went to Japanese town in San Francisco. I was very astonished to find a store where they sell "Bon-Sai". Besides I was so surprised to hear that it is very popular in the States. The reason I was astonished is that in Japan, most people are not so interested in "Bon-Sai". I think most Americans are much more interested in Japanese culture and history than we Japanese are. Today, many young Japanese want to be much more American; want to think in American ways and like American fashions. Now I believe that we Japanese should think about Japanese culture much more. Thank you so much for the warm-hearted welcome.

Ichiro Yamazaki

On my way back to my host family's house, I lost my way, so I looked for a public telephone, but could not find one. I went to a gasoline station nearby and asked the attendanct. He was so kind that he phoned to my host family, and I could return to them. In other cases I received such kindness many times.

Haruyuki Zenitani

Though when we left it was a real hot day in Japan, it was an unexpectedly cool or warm day in U.S. Most of the modern buildings in Japan are air-conditioned,

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Though when we left it was a real hot day in Japan, it was an unexpectedly cool or warm day in U.S. Most of the modern buildings in Japan are air-conditioned, but in the S.F. Bay Area I think that they need not to do so.

It is disappointing that most of the Japanese husbands are haughty, but American husbands are not haughty, and when they go somewhere, he always goes there with his wife.

I'm very happy to be able to know about your country. Thank you for your kindness. I shall never forget your kindness. I hope and pray that in time to come we will be such good friends that we will almost be like brothers. I firmly believe that we have a lot in common. Thank you once again, and wishing all of you good health. I can read and write English after a fashion, but I am very poor in conversation. I have written this letter with the help of a dictionary.