

East Meets West as Berkeley

The Berkeley delegation of students arrived in the sister city of Sakai, Japan, last week after a week's tour of other sections of Japan.

On hand to meet them was Mayor Hanroku Haze, the

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Japanese counterpart of Warren Widener.

The current delegation, scheduled to come home Saturday, is the fourth interchange of students between the two cities since the Sakai-Berkeley sister city relationship was established more than four years ago.

Included in the delegation is student Benjamin Gregg who sent back this report:

JULY 28 — The morning and early afternoon hours were spent in study of the traditional Japanese culture, while the evening hours showed the 20th Century Western influence present today.

We gathered at Nanshuji Temple at 9 a.m. for a tour conducted by a Buddhist priest. Inside were several rooms. The first housed the

small (perhaps 1½ to 2 feet high) wooden statue of Rikyu Sen of Sakai who perfected the Sado, or tea ceremony, in the late 16th century. Among adjoining rooms was the room of temple's ghost-in-residence, a bedroom with a several hundred-years-old painting of the ghost. And of course there was a tea ceremony room.

Outside in an immaculate garden were the small headstones of Rikyo Sen and his students.

WE PROCEEDED to Sakai Municipal Senior High School. Japanese students in Sakai are now on vacation. However, several of the school's girls, in uniform, came to help with the instruction and flower arrangement. The teachers of the high school also attended. While half the students practiced the tea-ceremony, the other half studied Ikebana — the art of arranging flowers.

Later in the afternoon we visited the Prefectural Otori Senior High School, where we observed students of Kendo and of Judo. The Judo students gave us a mimeographed sheet of instructions and demonstrated their lesson. After this introduction

they asked for some of us to be their opponents.

David Hirota, Brandon Gregg, Derek Dang and I volunteered to practice what we had just seen. The Japanese were careful not to hurt the Berkeleyans. For their "bravery," the four students received the black belt of their opponents as a souvenir.

Half an hour later we toured the Hanwa Otori Automobile School. Students of the school use pink Toyota Tyopets. (I don't think we have this model in the U.S.) The instructors all wore what appeared to be military uniforms. The school's cars each had a canvas shield stretched on a square frame and placed over the roof, as protection against the heat of the sun.

From 6 to 9:30 p.m. a youth party (youths under 30 only were allowed to participate), was held in honor of the Berkeley students. After again presenting our program, we danced to American pop music with the Japanese.

JULY 29 — **WE HAD** a variety of things going on this morning including an international baseball game. The Americans won although the score was close.

Students Explore Sister City

Some chose individual activity with their host families.

I was fortunate to be able to study chanoyu — tea ceremony. This ceremony is an esthetic cult in vogue among cultural circles. Not all Japanese know or practice this ceremony, although it may be a part of the school curriculum. My teacher was the grandmother in one of our host families, a professional instructor of this art. Two of her students practiced the 'hostess' role, while we three Berkeley students performed in the role of guest.

This is the guest's rôle: when served the tea, he bows to the person in front of him. He then moves the cup to his right and bows to that person. (The latter bows at the same time.) The same procedure is followed for the person sitting on the left. The guest then places the bowl or cup in front of him, and bows to the maker of the tea. Holding it in a special manner, he raises the cup above his head, then lowers it to his mouth to drink. The custom is to drink noisily. Before drinking, however, one must turn the cup two times clockwise. After

finishing, he turns the cup two times counter-clockwise, and sets it down to rest. Sweet cakes are also served and a specific procedure for eating them is also followed.

THE REST of the day was stimulating, with five groups discussing one of these topics: (1) school systems; (2) the generation gap; (3) culture (4) pollution; and (5) world peace.

July 30 — This was a day of sightseeing in Sakai City. Between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. the students traveled by air-conditioned bus to the old and the new of Sakai.

Our first stop was at the Senbodu or New Town headquarters. Senbodu is a massive complex of apartment houses, parks, schools, and hospitals, which will house, when completed, 170,000 people. It will be the largest housing project in Asia. Located in Sakai, it will have its own train station, plus roads linking it with the rest of Sakai. The purpose of this project begun in 1966 and to be completed in 1974, will be to solve a severe housing shortage. 10,000 people will be in each of New Town's 17 parts, which will have one el-

ementary school and one market at least to each division.

Housing developments as large as Senboku are unusual in Japan — however developments on a smaller scale are to be found throughout Japan.

NEXT WE VISITED the Port of Sakai, a land reclamation project started in 1957 to form the Sakai-Semboku Littoral Industrial zone. Here we saw many large factories covering all of the land reclaimed from the sea. The group was taken by boat out of the Sakai port to view the port from the sea. Later we were taken to the roof of the headquarters of the port to view this vast industrial zone.

On return we visited the very active YMCA and then walked to the main gate of the Mausoleum of the Emperor Nintoku, who ruled in the 4th Century.

FROM HERE on this hot and humid day, the 18 tired Berkeleyans and their hosts visited the University of Osaka Prefecture.

Last on this busy day's agenda was a Rotarian dinner, after which we presented our program again.