

Tr-9: THIS IS A BRIEF REPORT ON THE TEACHING TRIP JACK & JEAN MADE TO JAPAN (9/22 – 12/24, 1979)

Jack & Jean Harlan departed Champaign on Sept. 22, 1979 and flew to Tokyo. They spent the night and took a train to Nagoya. They were met first by Takashi who took them to see Roland Dance of U. Grenoble, “a visiting prof. for a month in Akazawa’s lab. Met with the President of N. U. and signed the contract. After a long day: “Jean had had visitations all day long & was ready to jump out of her skin.” Evidentially they settled into some kind of apartment, because he says that Jean was learning to cook Japanese breakfasts.

On Sept. 27 they find out that the course he is to teach will not start until Oct. 22. It will be 2 hrs (90 min) lectures 8:50-10:20 on Mon & Fri until Dec. 14. “the salary is tax exempt from both sides & is 538,000 yen per month. All expenses to & fr to be paid by Ministry of Education & a small inland travel budget.”

Sept 28 Jean’s first Japanese breakfast. A typhoon is now beginning to blow. Jack had invited Roland for dinner but it fell through.

Sept 29 J&J headed out to the Nittaiji Temple in the rain. Not much fun. Went shopping after that; tempura lunch. More shopping for gifts. Took a cab to Akazawa’s home for a very fine Sukeychi dinner & good conversation. Roland also there. He walked us to the Issyhma station and we split.

Sept 30 Sun. Lounged around then went to station & took private train to Injuyama, the “Rheinland of Japan”. Great number of Japanese who had come down the rapids in boats ... later climbed to the top of the oldest castle in Japan, hiked around, got very tired and came back. Typhoon No. 16 came ashore with minor damage.

Oct. 1 Met with people planning a symposium for Dec. 16. The Dean invited us all to lunch. Later they pack & take a train to Misima. First clear day. They can see Mr. Fuji very clearly.

Oct 2 Meetings about the course (?) lunch in the director’s office. He then gives a very nice description of the area – mountains and lake, etc. “In eve. the Director & Oka came & we went to another place for another feast. A good day.”

Oct 3 “Oka came in morning and jean stayed to shop.” He talks about how expensive it is there. Then they do some work. “Another lunch on him. Then a little tour of Mishima including a Zen Buddhist shrine w/monks & all. Oka drove like crazy, stuck the car twice & etc. Fortunately it only weighs 200 kg & could be lifted & pushed easily. Then back on train & subway to our little home. It was fun.”

Oct 4 He then mentions a number of people he will be dealing with (I will not list them.). I HAVE A PHOTO OF J&J WITH DR. MIRISHIMA, BUT HE IS NOT MENTIONED IN THE ABOVE LIST.

Oct 5 (Fri) Met Yamamoto, head of Agronomy and Takeoka, a younger man with recent experience at U of Mich. Good discussion about evolution in Poecane (?). Then a little library work, “then pick up Jean for another party – a welcome for me & Roland Dance. Beer & goodies that must have cost a lot of time & effort. (4:30-6 pm)

Oct 6 A long story about taking the train to Yji-Yamada, say the shrines and the female pearl divers, etc. but no room at the inn and it was raining, so came back to the app by 9 pm.

Oct 7 (Sun) A day of shopping for presents.

Oct 8 (Mon) Combining work & Jean.

Oct 9 (Tues) “Did a little reading & writing & went home a bit early.” (He must have been at a library or office or something) The next day was to be a holiday, “Jean was distressed to find stores closed.”

Oct 10 (Wed) Hirai of the lab came and took them to see a ceramics show and some more sight seeing.

Oct 11 (Th) “Wrote out my first lecture, then met Jean at Nagoya Station<sup>1</sup> at 11:30.” Went with Jean to another factory or something.

Oct 12 (Fri) Travel agent came and gave them a bad deal on currency exchange.

Oct 13 (Sat) Akazawa party 6:30 at his office (from pocket date book)

Oct 14 “A student of Nishkawa at Gifu she had tickets for us & took us by train & taxis to” a very nice hotel in Gifu on the Nagara River, their room overlooks the river. This is where they do Cormorant fishing, with birds. So, they went down for that and were given the royal treatment. They went out on one of the boats, and a man showed them how they do the birds to catch fish, then had a big feast with fire works and everything. “It was all over by 7:00 or a little later & we were taken to hotel.. Went to roof ??? for a drink & then to room & bed – a great experience.”

Oct 15 (Mon) (He lost a day somewhere) Another excursion to a very nice museum in Kyoto, with room at the Kyoto Hotel. He gave an evaluation of the museum. At end he says: “A good day for me – Jean bored.” But they found a sushi bar and “we repaired after some booze. It was great!”

Oct 16 (Tues) Went down to the Plant Germ Plasm Institute, Faculty of Agriculture, Kyoto U. He names several people. Follows is a long detailed description of what each of them are doing at the facility. They had a great lunch and went back to hotel to go shopping. They didn’t buy very much. “At ca. 4:30 big squalls & sirens & we looked out to see sparks flying a block or so away. Jean panicked, dressed & was going to leave the place. I dragged my feet until the sparks & smoke subsided & we went back to bed, a bit excited but no peril.” (I wonder if mother wanted to go down to see the sparks closer.)

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<sup>1</sup> Negoya Station is a shopping/restaurant district around a railway/subway station. A very busy & popular place in Negoya, Japan.

Oct 17 (His descriptions are very long and detailed about not much). They went out to the Imperial Palace and then into the country to a pleasant valley and hiked around. In the midst of his other notes he says: "The Japanese terrified of their own bureaucracy – which hasn't been that bad for us." At 2:00 PM they took a tour. "It was very impressive. The conception & execution apparently to arrange nature in better order than it is. Every tree, every leaf, every rock & every building set among ponds & hills to the best perspective...." (THERE IS MORE TO THIS – A GOOD QUOTE) Back at the hotel they stroll around and have another great meal. "back to hotel & TV plus notes." (see, I knew he was writing these notes at night.)

Oct. 18 It is raining because of another typhoon (Tip), but they are taken out again – this time to a Buddhist temple & gardens. He is very impressed by the artistic orderliness of the gardens. Good description. Another great meal. "In aft Sakamoto took us to the Zen Garden of Ryranji Temple" (featured in NatGeo mag.) Very impressive: "carefully placed rocks w. moss. Seen from any angle one rock is hidden." Really great and peaceful, except several thousand school children same swarming in. The rain messed up Jean's last night in Japan.

Oct. 19 Typhoon Tip<sup>2</sup> cancelled their flight plans, so another day in Nagoya.

Oct 20 the weather is clear and Jean departs for airport. JRH called Sakamoto "old faithful" because he was always there to help them. This is part of Japanese hospitality. They treated J&J very well on this trip. As soon as Jean is on the bus to the airport Jack turns to his mission – plant genetics. "Sakamoto took me to Kyoto U & we looked around a little & discussed cooperation on millets, etc." It turns out that Sakamoto is Prof. Sadao Sakamoto, Dr. Agr. Plant Germ-Plasm Institute, Koto Univ. (this astounds me that this professor has been assigned to take J&J around to the Zen garden and all over the place – this is really great hospitality, and also reflects how well respected Jack Harlan is at this point.) They are doing some edge research on wheat. We get into a little on this day. Still on Oct 20 he describes how Sakamoto shows him all around town. As the day war on his feet & legs begin to hurt from all the walking. "We walked down to town & caught a taxi. I thought 'thank god I'm going to the room.' No way. We wound up in downtown in familiar territory & tremendous crowds, etc." This is just too much detail but it keeps going and going. He finally gets to a rest house and after a hot bath & gin he is declaring "It was a good day and they put themselves out as usual. What sweet people! But I was tired"

Oct 21 Sakamoto helped him get a train back to Nagoya and to the apartment he and Jean had shared.

Oct 22 (Mon) Today was the first day of class, but things got off to a slow start. It seems that promptness is not a great virtue amongst Japanese students. (This surprises me HVH2). He spoke slowly and could not tell if he was getting across. They decided that he would write out his lectures for the students. He met with some of them and invited them to get together sometime soon. After lunch "the young man came from the bank & I was paid in cash y for our transportation to Japan y441,000 plus

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<sup>2</sup> Typhoon Tip became the largest most intense cyclone in history. A U-Tube of the satellite imagery shows that the eye came very close to Nagoya on Oct 19, but the eye was already breaking up by then. It had run into a cold front and was moving rapidly to the northeast and breaking up when it passed Japan.

y538,000 salary. In one month I have become a millionaire. Takashi had opened a bank account for me... (somehow he gets another y132,000) I now have a y surplus & may have a problem later. It is getting expensive to buy dollars. In the midst of all this, galleys<sup>3</sup> for the China chapter arrived. Went home ca 4:30 to work on that & not time for next lecture."

Oct 23 He took the galley by Akezawa's office and left it with a girl there. Then he went down to the Nagoya station and met Futsahara. They took the bullet train & in 2 hrs were in Tokyo. He mentions a bunch of people at Tokyo U and then goes to a Japanese style rest house and then out for dinner with the gang, drinking all the way. (No indication as to what he is doing, but it is now Tuesday and his next class is Friday and he needs to write out the lecture.)

Oct 24 (Wed) Tech Talk. Next page has a list of crops and the handwriting is just a little bit shaky. At the top of the page he wrote: "I wasn't drunk, the list of crops was written in moving car." Went to Tsukuba city and met more people who are working on rice – the main crop in Japan. They are "trying to get cozy enough with China to do some collecting." More Tech Talk about wild rice and an amazing robot. Then off to lunch and he notes the names of people present and then describes in some detail what they had to eat. "Throughout it was remarkable so many people knew of H. V. Harlan, M. L. Martini & even some had read Crops & Man."

Oct 25 He visits the Institute at Tsukuba ? More Tech Talk about fruits and corn. "Well I wasn't able to keep up. I eventually gave a little seminar w/o slides on maize x tripsacum & we made our way by car, trains & subway back home. It was ca 9:00 pm & I had to pull slides for Friday a.m."

Oct. 26 "Did the near east lecture but time too short for good treatment. Wrote on text. Banker came. In eve a small group of students led by Dr. Takeoka" came over and they had a nice little get together.

Oct 27-28 Weekend, worked on lectures & watched TV.

Next several pages have lists of plants, then he met with another group of students and more Tech Talk, page after page of Tech Talk.

Nov 14 More Tech Talk.

Then he says: "Have done a poor job with notes of late – settled into a routine I guess. Much time in writing out lectures. Gave a "Mexican" party at the apt on Sunday Nov. 18", and then he names some people who came and says it was not too bad.

Mon. Nov. 19 "Lecture on O of Maize", etc.

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<sup>3</sup> Is he writing another book? Crops & Man came out in 1975 and would not be revised until 1992. What "galleys" is he working on?

Tues Nov 20: Tried to get to the Univ. by bus, but goofed it up and had to come back & try again. Following this is a long rambling description of several parties he went to.

Nov 21: After breakfast had chat with man with financial problems at Univ. JRH wants to help. After Hot box lunch went to lecture (I thought his classes were Mon & Fri. This must be someone else's class) "Half slept through; half came half way though. Kind of a mess & little discussion." He made some comments on the Biotron facilities then some Tech Talk, then a lab party with lots of booze. It finally broke up and "Osamu Hirota (the poet) took me to the hotel by taxi. We settled the bill with their money & I was left alone (at last). Still, they are beautiful people, so kind and thoughtful. I'll be off in the morning for sight-seeing with Miss Takeda." Then he gives some info on Miss Takeda. Following this are several pages of Tech Talk.

Nov. 22 tour with Miss Takeda then a lot of talk about various people

Nov 23 (Fri) Someone took him to a show & was an excellent host.

Nov 25 Dull Sunday

Nov 27 "Tried to lead a 2 ½ hour seminar on the theory of Crop Evolution with Vretani, both at the same time. It may have worked.

Nov 29 Invited to Futruhoar's house for dinner.

Dec. 1 Invited to Dean Uratani's house for more eating.

Dec. 2 Invited to dinner at Hirai-san's house. Younger daughter, 5-6 yrs old, beat the socks off him in some kind of memory game.

Dec. 3 "Miserably cold in office & library. Started work on the paper for the symposium. It will be pretty light if I don't get some interesting data."

Dec 4 Ditto. Takashi came in late w/ cold and left early.

Dec. 5 Warmer & more comfortable. Then several pages of Tech Talk, and "the People we met", and he lists some people, then tells of a briefing from each w/reprints and a switch of cars, etc. ending up at "their favorite watering hole".

Dec. 15 (Note the skip in dates) Symposium (from pocket date book)

Dec. 16 "Second day of symposium..." he tells about his lecture on the 14<sup>th</sup> and how it went OK, etc. ended with reception.

Dec. 17 "The second day dragged on with people giving their talks in Japanese. Dinner at the end.

Dec. 17 "Tokyo Univ. museum – notes on the museum. (His dates are kind of fuzzy), followed by several pages of Tech Talk.

Dec 18 (Wed) "Faculty meet 1:00 pm make small talk, party – from 6:00 pm on boozier

Dec. 21 "Have not kept up the notes obviously. Two days in Tokyo; said that the previous notes were from a herbarium. He talks about various people and their parties, and in his pocket datebook he lists "the Main Personalities of my visit" 12 people and then adds: "What beautiful people."

Dec. 21 (a second time) "Student's Party for me."

Dec. 22 Got some banking done (transferred y 1,200,000 to Urbana bank.) did some shopping and went to the faculty party.

Dec 20 (he had changed Oct 23 to 20. It seems like he is getting his days mixed up.) This was the day of his dinner party arranged by the Dean.

Dec. 23 Cleaned up the apartment, went out for more sake "late in eve slipped out for a last round at sake house & between that & other drinks – out of control. Called Jean but couldn't remember it next morning so called again. Anyway got straightened out."

Dec. 24 Takaki helped him get his stuff to the subway. 5 parcels: suitcase, attaché case, brief case, slides & wedding present. "Rush hour crowd dense but not too bad. At Nagoya Station Yasho met us with my ticket & they went up to see me off. The last ride on Shinkasem ? 2 hour to Tokyo Station. No red caps & one hell of a struggle by myself & back painful & threatening to give way altogether..." So he describes the typical ordeal at the airport. Eventually he gets back home to Champaign and "it is Christmas and dinner with Mildred and then go on to Macon. This should end the 1978 story" then on next page he lists some of the great people he met in Japan.

Dec. 25 "Got to Macon in eve on schedule" from pocket datebook.

Dec. 31 "New Year's eve party at Sue & Bob, Macon, GA" (Pocket datebook)

Jan. 9, 1080 he has a note in his pocket notebook "Rich & Brenda will be in Japan F4-10 8-9 at Hakamen. Write Oka.