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Bon Odori at the O-Bon



WAITING IN THE WINGS WERE THE GATHERED DANCE TROUPE

Bon Odori at the Kintai Bashi O-Bon

Once a long, long time ago, so the legends say, there lived in the land of India a devoted young lad who loved his mother very much. But, as all loved ones must someday go away, so his mother died and was whisked out of this life to the mystic world beyond.

Left behind, the grieving boy knew not what to do but pray. Day after day he spent in intense prayer to his god the Buddha.

Then, one night as the boy sat praying at the newly closed tomb of his mother, the Buddha appeared and asked why the copious tears and the mournful prayers. The legends say that after hearing the boy relate his

story, Buddha was also engulfed with sadness.

Feeling sorry, for the young lad was so fond of his parent, Buddha granted that the mother could come back to the land of the living for three days each year. One promise, asked the god: that the reunion always be a joyous celebration.

Well, the legend spread with the religion during those many centuries past; from India into China, over to Japan and throughout the Far East. And so was born and grew the ancient festival where the departed ancestors and members of a family are reunited with the living for three joyous days of O-Bon.

Although the legend and the original purpose have perhaps faded into the background of pageantry, the summer festival of present day Iwakuni is presented with all the happiness and high spirits that embodied the old. Last



YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE SAT ENTRANCED BY THE BON ODORI

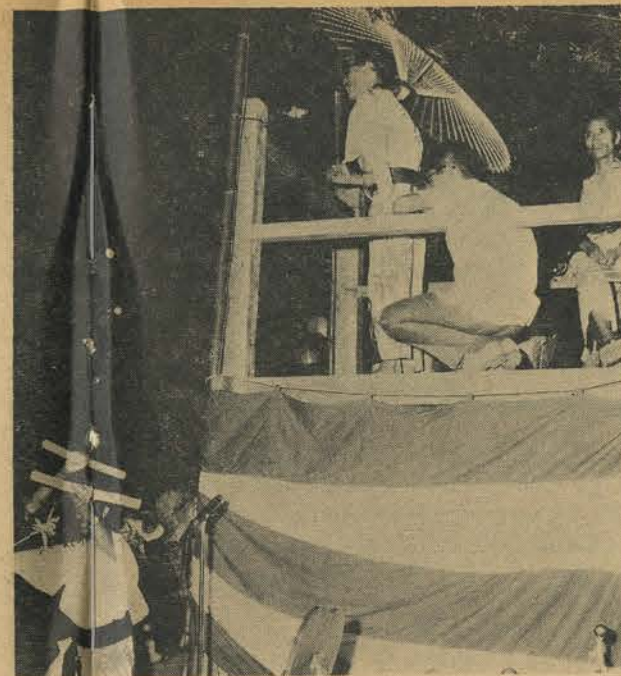


Saturday night, in the Year of the Dragon, over 30,000 persons closed on the banks of Nishiki River at Kintai Bashi (Bridge) to end this year's festival with the Bon Odori festival dances.

As dusk settled over the river-bed dance platform, the final night began with a guest appearance by the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing band from the nearby Air Station, who mixed traditional Japanese music with more modern American sounds.

But when the band retired to applause after their final number the curtain of time re-opened. From then until the early morning hours when the festival broke into individual celebrations the centuries wended by with the dances of Japan's past.

The eve of the O-Bon here is given to contests between dance teams from the nearby areas. Participating this year were the Iwakuni Bon Dance Lovers Society, the Otake Bon Dance



TO DRUMS, THE CHANTER INTONES LYRICS

Preservation Society, the Konuka-Odori Preservation Society with its local folk dances, the Teijin Rayon Company Dance team and the Tsuzu Bon Dance team.

Special numbers were staged by guest groups. From Hiroshima came the Mihara team to perform the Yassa-Odori, followed by the Kagura Dance dedicated to the Shinto Shrine put on by the Yoshiwa Cho Kagura Dance Preservation Society from Kuga County in Yamaguchi Prefecture.

The third day of O-Bans everywhere begins with dancing and merry-making on a community scale. Many events are held to honor and entertain the spirits. Some festivals later differ from the majority though in accordance with local custom.

In Okinawan villages for example, a favorite contest is the tsuna-haki rope pulling game of tug-of-war. The people make a huge rope of dried weeds and straw, about six feet in diameter and nearly 300 yards long.

It takes all day to make such a rope, and as the work progresses the villagers chant and drink festive beverages.

Then, at sundown, the tsuna-haki contest begins. A member of each family in the village must participate, and men, women and children alike join forces at the gigantic rope. During the battle they are accompanied by the rhythm of drums, the cords of the three-stringed samisen and the high pitched voices of the chanters.

Following the tsuna-haki the rope is cut into stalks which are lighted. Men of the villages charge and assault each other with the fire sticks and battle like the samurai warriors of old. The men who end the battle with the most scars are the first to be allowed to the feast table.

On the first day of O-Bon the spirits of the dead are welcomed. A great feast and gifts are laid out before the family shrine for the ethereal guests and incense is burned for their pleasure. Food symbolizing



AN ANCIENT DANCE, ENDING THREE JOYOUS DAYS



GUEST APPEARANCE BY WING BAND BROUGHT APPLAUSE

different parts of the body are prepared, including pineapples which suggest teeth, gnarled, jointed stalks symbolizing arms and legs and litchi nuts which resemble eyes.

Fish, meat or fowl is never offered to the spirits.

The second day is for the giving of gifts. This is an important part of the celebration and most persons save all year in order to give amply during the O-Bon. Giving signifies that all is well in this world and that the spirits are not to worry over the welfare of the living.

And it is a festival for the living, notwithstanding the ancient legends. It is a time when the Japanese, from the youngest to the oldest, express their joy at being alive and gratitude for summer's bounty. The O-Bon, one of the gayest and most picturesque festivals in the Far East is an experience to remember and well worth the time it takes to witness.



CG'S SWIMMING AND DIVING CHAMPS

Marines Win Interservice

Marines scored a major upset over Army, scoring 2460-224Vs against 2455-225Vs, to take the final round Wednesday of the 5th Annual Interservice Rifle Championship Match at Quantico, Va.

This was the first year in the history of the 10-man team championship event that the Army has not triumphed.

In second place in this year's finals was the Air Force, close behind the Marines with 2457-225Vs.

Coast Guard shooters also trounced Navy, 2419-176Vs to 2418-158Vs, to take fourth place in still another upset.

VMGR-152 Aqua Champs

Last Monday no one could take a commanding lead until VMGR-152 pulled away in the second half as five teams battled their way through eight different aqua events for the MCAS intramural swimming and diving championship.

VMGR's Brought closed out the final board event with a total of 116.9 points to give the "Refuelers" the overall high total and intramural championship.

Of the five teams taking part in the meet, VMGR-152 grabbed first place with 45 points while H&HS-1, H&HS-17, MABS-17 and NAMD managed second, third, fourth and fifth places, respectively.

Individual meet results were:

100 meter freestyle - Ackerman, VMGR-152, time of 1:07.3; Howard, H&HS-1, second; Merrill, MABS-17 third.

100 meter backstroke - Williamson, MABS-17, time of 1:27; Hamilton, VMGR-152, second.

100 meter breaststroke - Merrill, MABS-17, first; Klienfeldt, H&HS-17, second; Hatfield, NAMD, third; Butler, VMGR-152, fourth.

☆ Left to Right: Richard A. Ackerman, Robert S. Brought, William Hamilton and Larry E. Bloodworth, VMGR-152; John J. Williamson, MABS-17; deputy station commander, Col. R.L. Conrad, Lawrence E. Thompson, John P. Howard Pete L. Goldsby and Edward P. Hall, H&HS-1; David L. Klienfeldt, H&HS-17; and Victor W. Merrill of MABS-17.

200 meter freestyle - Bloodworth, VMGR-152, time of 3:19; Klienfeldt, H&HS-17, second; Thompson, H&HS-1, third.

The individual relay was won by Ackerman with a blazing 3:21.4.

400 meter freestyle team relay - Brought, Hamilton, Bloodworth and Ackerman, VMGR-152, first; Goldsby, Howard, Thompson and Hall, H&HS-1, second.

Two diving events were held. In the one meter match, points went: Hall, H&HS-1, 137.4; Klienfeldt, H&HS-17, 108.4; Brought of VMGR-152, 105.3.

The three meter match saw Hall pull in 152.25 points and Brought 116.9.

CO's trophy points went to VMGR-152, 25, H&HS-1, 19, H&HS-17, 15, MABS-17, 12 and NAMD, 5.

From CMC

Congratulations on winning all Marine Corps volleyball championship. Each member of your team (1st Marine Aircraft Wing) is to be commended for fine competitive spirit, sportsmanship, and outstanding performance. Best wishes for success in Interservice (matches).

All-Marine Golf

This year the annual All-Marine Golf Tournament will be held Aug. 19-21 at MCRD Parris Island, S. C., for the third time in the tourney's ten year history.

The tournament will consist of 72 holes medal play. All entries will play eighteen holes on each of the first two days, while the final day the top 50 players and ties will compete in a grueling 36 hole test of golfing skill and endurance.

Since this is the Marine Corps' largest tournament, golfers seeking entry must have a four-or-less handicap.

This year's contest is expected to be a rigorous test for participants because of the prevailing winds on the 6,575 yard course.

Also expected to be seen at the tourney are some of the Marine Corps' golfing

greats, such as veteran "Champagne" Tony Lema, Phil Rodgers, All-Marine title winner of 1959 and Jerry Harmon and Ross Gatzert, first and second place winners of 1960's tournament.

Golf Courtesy

Golfers using the MCAS course and driving range are asked to observe more than their golfing form.

Courtesy and rules of play have become an increasing problem according to GySgt. Thomas, NCO-in-charge.

Rules for play and MCAS Order 11106.2C which covers the operation of the course and driving range, are available in the club house and players are asked to read both on their first visit.

Topping the list of golfing offenses are players not utilizing the rakes placed at each sand trap, to smooth out the trap after blasting out, and players who litter the course with paper and drink containers.

According to GySgt. Thomas, police call is held about three times weekly in order to clear the fairways of debris. "This time could be spent caring for the tees and greens," Thomas said.

Another item which gives Special Services personnel a headache is the number of golf balls missing from the driving range.

"In one three month period 2,400 golf balls have disappeared from the driving range," Thomas said.

The price of a bucket of balls at the range is 25 cents, but this does not give the player permanent ownership. "If we find a player using balls from the driving range on the course he will lose his golfing privileges," Thomas said.

Beginning golfers are encouraged to play as much as possible but they should try and schedule their games when the course is not active.

Golf course hours Monday through Friday are 8 am to one-half hour prior to sundown, while the Saturday and Sunday schedule runs from 7 am to one-half hour before sundown.

MWSG-17 Captures Softball Championship

MWSG-17 shut out MAG-12, 3 - 0, Aug. 9 to emerge as victors of the Commanding General's Cup softball tournament.

The climaxing game came after MAG-12, the only team remaining undefeated up to the semi-finals, failed to outscore MWSG-17 the previous day and threw the tourney into a playoff.

Earl Lehrman, 17's pitcher, threw a terrific one-hit game to wrap up the championship for "Service Group" in just over an hour.

Each team set the other down without difficulty in the uneventful first inning, but in the bottom of the second MWSG's first baseman Ron Wilkins led off by smashing a drive over second into centerfield. When the ball skittered on past the MAG fielder, Wilkins took full advantage of the situation to go all the way and bring in the first run for 17. But MAG's pitcher Bill Newton held control and slammed the door on any rally.

MAG itself went down quickly in the top of the third, but 17 attempted to add another tally in the bottom. Bob Servant banged out a triple with two out but died on base when Dave Lewis hit a ground ball and was thrown out.

After methodical outs through the fourth and half of the fifth inning, 17 decided to call a halt to the actionless game and put the championship on ice.

MWSG's first two men up banded off hits. Newton gained temporary control again and set the the next two batters down with easy outs. With men on second and third, in a scoring



MAG MOUNTS THREAT IN SIXTH

position, but with two outs, it looked as if the bubble were about to burst. Minutes later the fans were roaring.

Lewis, hit-less so far in the game, stepped into the batters box and rapped a scorching double to score both men and bring the run total to three. A succeeding out finished the promising inning.

MAG-12 attempted to rally in the sixth when a double put their runner on second, only to be stranded as following hitters went down in order.

MAG-12's Newton was the losing pitcher, giving up seven hits and three runs.

In winning the championship, MWSG-17 also won a trip to NAS Atsugi to represent the 1st MAW in the COMNAVFORJAPAN soft ball tourney.

They will compete against some 16 other teams from various U. S. Armed Forces facilities and naval units from the U. S. Seventh Fleet.



MWSG-17 KEPT THE BASES EMPTY

In the first game of the tournament Aug. 3, MAG-12 blanked Atsugi's MAG-11, 4-0, while the second game saw MWSG-17 wallop Okinawa's MAG-16, 8-0.

During the second round the next day, MWHG-1 handed MWSG its first defeat, 1-0, in eight innings. Next MAG-16 and MAG-11 battled to a draw in a game called because of darkness.

The Okinawan team dropped from the tourney the next day, 7-0, when the game was re-played. MAG-12 defeated MWHG to remain the only undefeated team.

Next day MWSG scratched MAG-11 off the competitor's list and the next afternoon eliminated MWHG to set the stage for the tournament play-offs.

MWSG-17	AB	R	H	RBI			
Vecchia	2	1	1	0			
Servant	3	0	1	0			
Lewis	3	0	1	2			
Barcholtz	3	0	1	0			
Castlen	3	0	1	0			
Lehrman	3	0	0	0			
Wilkins	3	1	1	1			
Koscinski	3	1	1	0			
Rodriquez	2	0	0	0			
Totals	25	3	7	3			
MAG-12	AB	R	H	RBI			
Tavares	3	0	0	0			
Moore	3	0	0	0			
Ruden	3	0	0	0			
Varricho	3	0	0	0			
Crosby	3	0	0	0			
Davies	3	0	0	0			
Fruge	2	0	1	0			
Folks	2	0	0	0			
Newton	2	0	0	0			
Totals	24	0	1	0			
MWSG	010	020		0-3			
MAG	000	000		0-0			
	I	H	R	ER	HB	BB	SO
Lehrman (w)	7	1	0	0	0	1	1
Newton (l)	7	7	0	0	0	2	3