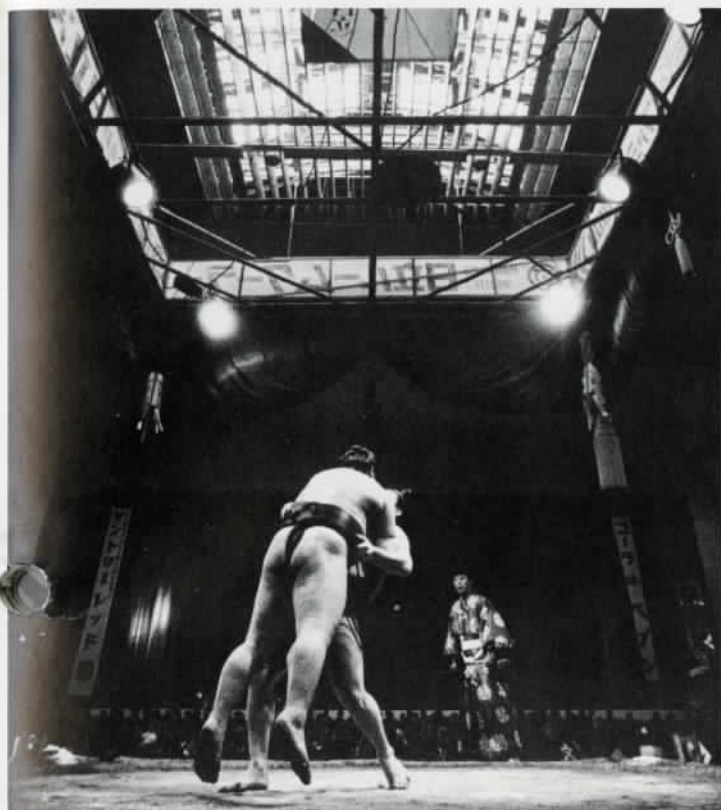


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相撲
SUMO



Tidbits of Japan

That Japan has been influenced by Western ideas and ways, and particularly by U.S. ways, is a favorite topic of those who discuss the "new" Japan.

But, there is another side to the coin.

While the Japanese have been studying the cultures of the western world, the U.S. has been experiencing what is described by U.S. officials as a "Japanese cultural explosion."

The "explosion" is of such large proportions that the number of Americans attending Japanese language courses has outgrown the number of available instructors.

There are more than 50 major universities in the U.S. offering courses in Japanese language, culture and history, but they do not begin to meet the demand of students who desire to increase their knowledge of Japan.

What's it all about?

The answer is simple. Although at the turn of the 20th century the reporters of Japan's worldly ties often predicted that Japan was hopelessly and irrevocably allied with China, the story now is that Japan and the U.S. are vital to each other's future. The result has been a rush by both nations to learn as much as possible about the other.

At this point Japan has the lead. There are currently an estimated 4,000 Japanese students studying in the U.S., while there are only 1,000 American students in Japan. It is a lopsided situation and the current figures undoubtedly show an improvement over past years'.

In explaining one of the reasons for the smaller number of U.S. students in Japan it was noted that the U.S. government financially helps more Japanese students to come to the U.S. than it does U.S. students wishing to study in Japan.

Fortunately, the situation may be in for some improvement.

Two events, one taking place now and one just completed, are indicative of the cooperation between representatives of the two governments.

In Washington the President sent a message to the representatives meeting in the Fourth United States-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange in the Washington area April 3-9.

The President's message in part said, "The problems we are discussing are of immediate and pressing

concern to our peoples. The future of our countries depends not only on the excellence of the education received by our children but also in its relevance to the requirements of our fast changing societies.

"We look to you for guidance in these matters. I hope that your discussions will help to lead not only the United States and Japan but other nations toward the development of educational institutions and concepts suitable to the demands of the exciting time in which we live."

While the meeting was going on in Washington, a group of U.S. governors were on their way to Japan for the 7th Japan-U.S. Governors' Conference. The conference, scheduled for April 9-18, is now going on. It follows the 9th Japan-U.S. Mayors' Conference held in November last year.

The U.S. delegation includes: John A. Volpe, Mass., (delegation leader); Nils A. Boe, S.D.; Don Samuelson, Idaho; John A. Burns, Hawaii; Manuel Flores Leon Guerrero, Guam; Ralph M. Paiewonsky, Virgin Islands; John W. King, N.H.; Philip H. Hoff, Vt.; and Hulett C. Smith, W. Va.

Governors or representatives from 32 prefectures of Japan are also present at the conference.

Although the focus of the conference is on agriculture, the exchange of many ideas and viewpoints on the understanding of the ties between the two societies is also taking place.

U. Alexis Johnson, U.S. Ambassador to Japan, in his address to the conference delegates may have given a good reason for the U.S.'s Japanese cultural explosion when he said, "As Japan, now an economically strong and politically stable member of the family of free nations, assumes more and more of its regional responsibilities in Asia, there is much to be learned from Japan's approach to its own development and modernization."

Rusk Praises Marine Guards

Secretary of State Dean Rusk has commended the Marine Corps Security Guard at Saigon for its "resourcefulness, steady nerves and valor" during the January 31 attack on the embassy.

Addressing graduation ceremonies of the Marine Corps Security Guard School at Henderson Hall, Arlington, Va., Mr. Rusk noted how the Security Guard was "subjected to a vicious surprise attack, with rocket launchers, automatic weapons, grenades and small arms.

"They suddenly were confronted with a situation which called for instant decision, fast action, and steady courage — a situation in which they had to fight to carry out their two-fold mission: protection of classified material and protection of lives and property," he said.

TROPHY WINNERS



MATCU-60 took first place in Station Volleyball and won the CO's Trophy for athletic excellence. To capture the CO's Trophy, the MATCU team took firsts in football, bowling and volleyball and a second in basketball. Members of the winning team are (L to R) W. Koretz Jr., R.A. Kusina, G.T. Hushagen, H.A. Simons (coach & trainer), W. Burbeck Jr., G.E. Reisen, R.D. Stevens and C.H. Waters. Members of the team not pictured are S.D. Dobbins, K.K. Springer, S.J. Cobla and C.C. Smith.

SUMO

Sumo is Japan's oldest traditional sport, allegedly dating back more than 2,000 years. Ancient records give an account of a mythical wrestling match between two gods who were fighting over land.

The first recorded and perhaps most famous match was one that delighted Emperor Suijin in 23 B.C. This legend describes a battle between a 7-ft. 10-in. man named *Nomi-no-Sukune* and another man, *Taema-no-Kegaya*, famous for his exceptional strength.

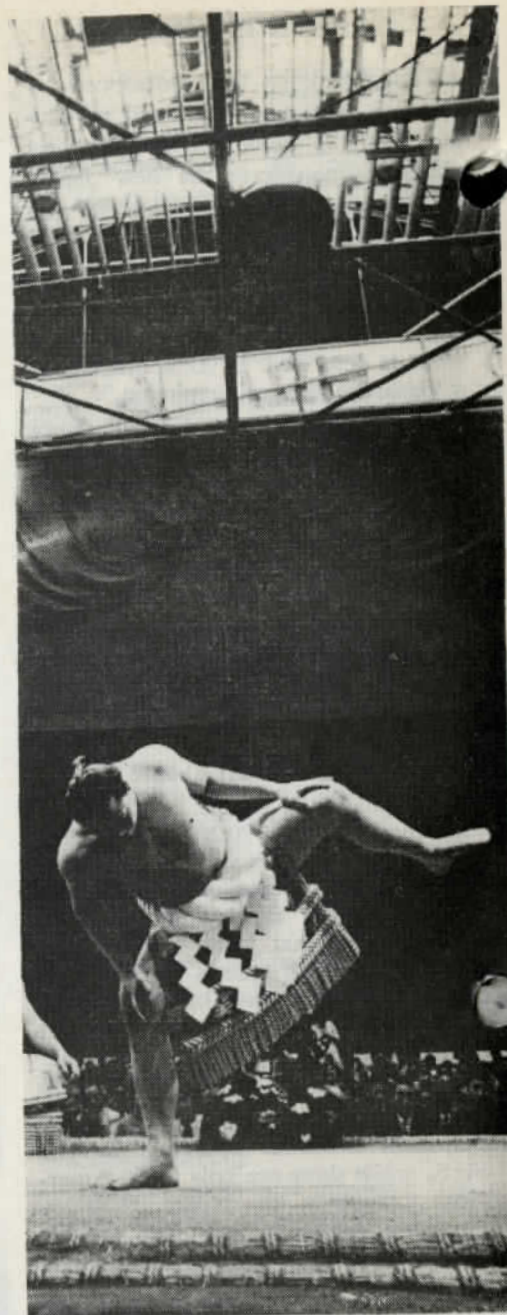
In a no-holds-barred contest, *Nomi-no-Sukune* killed his opponent with two vicious kicks to the midsection.

Although modern sumo rules do not permit gouging, kicking, hair-pulling and other such tactics, it is still a rough sport as evidenced by the bruises and scars the giant wrestlers carry out of the ring after a fight.

The rule on winning is simple: A competitor loses if he steps out of the 15-foot ring, or if any part of his body other than the feet touches the ground inside the ring.

Tournaments (*basho*) that count toward promotion or demotion in the sumo ranks are held in Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka and Fukuoka. Each tournament lasts 15 days.

The sumo rank structure is complicated, but briefly breaks down as follows: The *sanyaku* class, the highest ranking, has the ranks of *komusubi* (junior champion 2nd class), *sekiwake* (junior champion 1st class), *ozeki* (champion) and *yokozuna* (grand champion). Until Sadanoyama's recent retirement there were three yokozuna. The two remaining are Kashiwado and Taiho.



The next rank below the *sanyaku* class is the *maegashira* composed of about 45 of the top wrestlers in 12 numerical divisions.

The *sanyaku* and the *maegashira* combine to form the *makuuchi* group of first class wrestlers who wear the curtain-like device hanging from their waist.

The *makushita* group, next down the line, is a large group of second class wrestlers who have advanced

beyond the novice class. As their name indicates (*maku*, curtain — *shita*, down) they cannot wear the apparel of the upper division.

Tournaments begin early in the day with matches between unranked novices, followed by matches between *makushita* wrestlers, and gradually working their way up to the battle of the grand champions as a finale.



Sakura no Hana

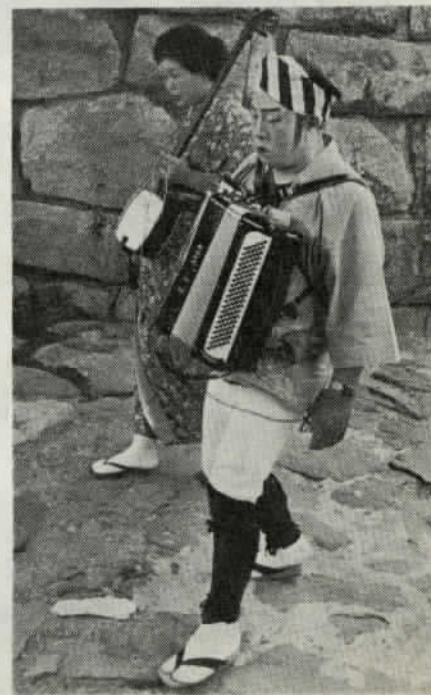
The 3,000 cherry trees (sakura) were in glorious, full bloom and it appeared that half the population of Iwakuni and the nearby communities was also in bloom with the glow of consumed sake.

An official police estimate of the crowd in West Iwakuni was 100,000 fun-loving souls. They lined the banks near Kintai bridge, filled Kikko Park and stood in line for the ride up the ropeway to the castle above; all in a festive mood and extolling the virtues of the cherry blossom and of course the principles of sakemanship.

Perhaps the most festive and most enjoyed of all the special days on the Japanese holiday calendar, the day for viewing the fragrant, delicate and beautiful blossoms of the sakura is not an official Japanese holiday.



**CHERRY
BLOSSOMS
AND
FUN AT
KINTAI**



This year the blooms in Iwakuni made the most of a pleasant, sunny Sunday and drew a "capacity" crowd to be mesmerized by fragile beauty and often the whiff of something stronger.

The day was also one for family outings and many children in gaily colored summer kimono added the ring of their joyous laughter to that of the fun-loving adults.

Perhaps it was the desire not to compete with the exquisite beauty of the sakura, but there were only a few young ladies in the crowd of 100,000 who bedecked themselves in the loveliness of a kimono.

